

# MG WOOD WORKS

## Barb Williams: President's Letter

Howdy y'all and welcome to spring (I hope)!

I finally got my seeds started inside in February. This is several weeks later than I usually start them, but since Easter is late this year, I figure I can be too!

Since I'm not planting squash this year, I decided to fill my round tub by putting a runner bean (with a teepee-type trellis) in the middle and purple tomatillos and holy basil alternating around the edge.

I'm really excited to see how the new layout and the new plant varieties perform this year! See the pictures for the names of the new and the favorite varieties.

I'm cleaning up the outside beds and adding fresh compost. I'm happy to report I got my asparagus planted and even put some strawberry plants in my "lettuce" barrel.

Next, I'll be working on mulching my pathways and upgrading my irrigation system to the one that Phil Young uses. He is our local irrigation expert after all. What is your favorite and least favorite springtime duty?

I'm so excited about our new projects and I am grateful to our extension agent, Emily (Husmann) Castillo, who was able to collaborate with the other groups involved! (See the [WCMGA Project Map on page 3](#).)

I'm really looking forward to our fresh start with clarification about what counts as volunteer hours and what does not. (See [Volunteer and CEU Hours on page 4](#).)

I've reached out to several of our members for help with existing (as well as future) committees.

I really appreciate everyone who has stepped up (sometimes out of their comfort zone) to help our group grow in the community!

Let me know if you'd like me to help you find your niche. Please feel free to reach out to me whenever you'd like. I respond quickest to text message at 505-321-2817.

*Peace, love, and joy!*



*New seed varieties to try this year*



*My favorite tried-and-true seed varieties*

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## Upcoming WCMGA Meetings

March	Landscape: Part II – The “nuts and bolts” of designing your personal landscape
April	Science Day Sneak Peak Overview
May	Hawkins ISD Bees Project

## 2022 Officers and Directors



Barb Williams  
President



Susan Jarrell  
Vice President



Gloria Jeane Rosewall  
Secretary



May Sandison  
Treasurer

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Keith Mullinax, Alternate Director .....	903.613.0331 .....	k_mullinax@att.net
Barb Williams, Alternate Director .....	505.321.2817 .....	atcsjl@gmail.com

### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent Wood County

Emily (Husmann) Castillo  
emily.husmann@ag.tamu.edu

#### Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office

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618 S. Main Street  
Quitman, TX 75783-0968



Emily (Husmann) Castillo

*To learn how to become a Master  
Gardener, contact the AgriLife  
Extension Office for Wood County  
903.763.2924*

### Project Chairs

Emory Park .....	Lannette Beaver .....	903.474.3661 .....	lanetteb@peoplescom.net
Intern Class .....	Emily Castillo.....	903.763.2924.....	emily.husmann@ag.tamu.edu
Hawkins City Park and Library .....	Ann Reynolds .....	903.769.2398.....	ann@etex.net
Mineola Nature Preserve .....	Linda Timmons.....	903.569.3443.....	lindtmms@aol.com
Phenology-Nature Watch .....	Melodee Eishen .....	903.571.2322.....	meishen@airmail.com
Quitman Public Library (After March 8) .....	Jan Whitlock.....	972.978.9054.....	j_whitlock@hotmail.com
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office .....	Carolyn West.....	903.752.2014.....	cwest212@hotmail.com
Winnsboro Library .....	Bob Bauerschmidt.....	817.999.4453.....	bauerschmidt@gmail.com
Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens .....	Lin Grado.....	817.455.6125.....	lingrado@gmail.com

### Responsibilities

Emails .....	Keith Mullinax .....	806.341.0716 .....	k_mullinax@att.net
WCMGA Facebook (Private Group) .....	Linda Timmons.....	903.569.3443.....	lindtmms@aol.com
Newsletter .....	Kathy Goodman .....	214.263.6181.....	kmgoodman0807@gmail.com
Sunshine .....	Elaine Porter .....	361.319.7300.....	porterpettus@gmail.com
Volunteer Management System.....	Linda Timmons.....	903.569.3443.....	lindtmms@aol.com
Website.....	Keith Zimmerman .....	979.299.8047.....	keithzim@yahoo.com

## Barb Williams: WCMGA Projects Map

This map shows the location of each of the WCMGA projects.

See the list below for names relating to the numbers, project chairs, and work days.



## WCGMA Projects

### Current Projects

1. Emory Park (Emory)  
Project Chair: Lannette Beaver  
Work day: Varies
2. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office (EOG)  
Project Chair: Carolyn West  
Work day: Thursday @ 9 am
3. Mineola Nature Preserve (MNP)  
Project Chair: Linda Timmons  
Work day: Tuesday @ 1 pm
4. Hawkins City Park and Library (HCP)  
Project Chair: Ann Reynolds  
Work day: Friday @ 9 am

### Soft Launch Projects (1-Year Trial)

5. Quitman Public Library (QPL)  
Project Chair: Jan Whitlock  
Work day: Monday @ 9 am
6. Winnsboro Library (WINNS)  
Project Chair: Bob Bauerschmidt  
Work day: TBD

7. Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (WCABG)  
Project Chair: Lin Grado  
Work day: Wednesday @ 9 am

Please sign up on VMS for each of the projects you would like an email from so you can receive up-to-date information about a particular project.

### To Sign Up for a Project

1. Sign in to VMS.
2. Select **GENERAL INFORMATION > PROJECTS**.
3. Click an **ID** for a project. For example:



The **PROJECTS** tab opens.

4. Scroll to the bottom. Add **Notes** and click **Volunteer for this Project**.



## Barb Williams: Volunteer Hours and CEU Hours

I have read a lot of information on the TXMG website, in our by-laws, and in our standing rules. I've also talked with our County Extension Agent, Emily (Husmann) Castillo, for clarification. I am confident that this information is correct.

If you have a question about this information or have other information, please text me at 505-321-2817. I am always grateful for your feedback. I prefer text messages.

### Continuing Education Units and Volunteer Hours

Most importantly, continuing education units (CEUs) should be reported in whole numbers. Round volunteer hours up or down to the nearest half hour. (Note that 30 minutes is .5) CEU hours do not include your travel time, but volunteer hours do include your travel time.

Please log in to [vms.texasmg.org](https://vms.texasmg.org) and input your hours when you earn them, once a week, or at the very least by the end of the month. Emily would really appreciate the help!

If you have issues with the system, please text Linda Timmons at 903-705-5439. Linda also prefers text messages.

### Continuing Education Unit Hours

Approved CEUs are earned when you learn something horticulture in nature, such as:

- Attending our workshops (1 CEU Hour per speaker)
- Attending other MG associations presentations (1 CEU Hour per talk)
- Attending garden club presentations (1 CEU Hour per talk)
- Watching online presentations (1 CEU Hour per topic)
- Attending the yearly TMGA conference (1 CEU Hour per talk)
- Attending Texas Master Gardener Advanced Training classes (Previously this was called specialist training.) The classes are found at <https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/master-gardener-specialist/> The hours are on the class schedule.
- Attending the MG trainee class on Tuesday mornings (Usually 3 or 4 CEU Hours. If you are not a trainee, check with Emily to sign up to attend a class.)
- Becoming a NPN Certified Observer with our phenology program (1 hour = 1 CEU Hour. Use whole numbers. Do not use decimals. Save up minutes and report when you get a whole hour.)

If you're unsure of a specific event, please text me at 505-321-2817 for clarification.

### To Add CEUs in VMS

1. In VMS, when adding hours, in the **Project** field, select **CEU**.
2. In **CE Hours**, type the number.

3. In **Description**, type the continuing education, such as described previously.

### Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours are earned when you help AgriLife in their mission to educate the public on local, research-based horticulture practices. Volunteer hours include your travel time; however, mileage is just for your personal tax record.

You can find a list of projects on the VMS site.

### To Access the Projects List

Under **GENERAL INFORMATION**, click **PROJECTS**. A list of projects opens.

ID	Project Name	Description
696	ADMIN	Administration
3488	Awards	Selecting, writing, proofing and entering TMGA awards on line. Award submissions are selected based on county awards. State awards must be submitted by January 31st each year so the majority of work is done during December and January.
703	CEU	Continuing Education Units
690	CONF	Conferences WCMGA
1890	COSLT	Consulting with individuals, home owners, or commercial

Each **Project Name** has a blue tab on the left. Click the tab for project that you want more information about. The Project information page opens.

**SCIENCE DAYS**

**Description**  
Plan and implement outdoor, hands-on science presentations for all 3rd graders in Wood County.

**Volunteer Details**  
Currently, we have 3 volunteers signed up for this project.

**Volunteers**

1	Grado, Lin
2	Timmons, Linda
3	Williams, Barbara

**Volunteer for Project**

*Volunteer Hours and CEU Hours continued from page 4*

## Why to Sign Up for a Project

When you sign up to volunteer for a project, you will receive emails from the project lead about the project meetings, cancelations, and work days.

### To Sign Up for a Project

Open the project. (See the previous instructions about how to access the project list.)

In the **Volunteer for Project** section, in the **Notes** box, describe your skill set so the project chair will know how to use your abilities. You can leave the box blank, but you must click **Volunteer for this Project** at the bottom of the screen to add the project to the Project List on your User Profile.

Refresh the screen to see the project in your User Profile or check your email for the welcome message.

## Project Locations to Volunteer

The WCMGA demonstration gardens are located at the Mineola Nature Preserve, Emory, Hawkins, the extension office in Quitman, the Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, the Gilbreath Memorial Library in Winnsboro, and the Quitman Public Library. Most of these locations have certain days and times for you to volunteer.

**Reference:** See the [WCMGA Projects Map](#) on page 3.

## Other Ways to Earn Volunteer Hours

Other options for volunteer hours are:

- Authoring an article for the newsletter (NL). For the writing part, there is a limit of 3 hours per article.
- Researching a topic for the newsletter. (Log that time under Research.) There is no time limit, but you do have to produce an article that will educate the rest of us.
- Participating in the Phenology (PNW) observation, which can be done from your home. Add up your minutes until you get to hour or half-hour increments and log them in VMS.
- Assisting with the Education Series (Ed Series 2022) Committee, Science Days Committee, and May Luncheon (part of Programs and Social Committee - ADMIN), include hours for meeting, gathering supplies, and working at the event.
- Helping at the WCMGA table, which is usually set up at Farmer's Markets and local events.
- Consulting (COSLT) with individual, homeowner, or commercial grower—not doing the work, just sharing information.
- Speaking at club meetings (SPKR), make sure you have the training first. (Check with Barb.)
- Growing vegetables to donate (Vegetables) There is a lot to this one, so if you're interested, please let me know.
- Helping Keith Zimmerman with our website (WEB) Contact him at 979-299-8047 or keithzim@yahoo.com.

More opportunities will arise this year if we have the garden tour, membership committee, budget committee, audit committee, and basically anytime Emily has a need for our help to further Texas AgriLife's mission.

## Texas AgriLife Extension Service Mission Statement

*Working hand-in-hand with its Texas A&M System partners, the state legislature, and the communities it serves, the Texas AgriLife Extension Service mission to serve Texans through community-based education has remained unchanged for almost a century. With a vast network of 250 county Extension offices, 616 Extension agents, and 343 subject-matter specialists, the expertise provided by AgriLife Extension is available to every resident in every Texas county.*

**Reference:** <https://txmg.org/contacts/agrilife-extension>

## Emily Castillo: Introducing the MG Trainee Class of 2022

The 2022 Training Class is off to a great start with 12 new trainees who are well on their way to becoming Texas Master Gardeners. Classes started Tuesday, January 11 and take place every Tuesday, from 9 am - 1 pm.

The class concludes with a final exam that is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3.

The trainees look forward to becoming Texas Master Gardeners and have already begun to participate in the Wood County Master Gardener Association!

Allow me to introduce you to the MG trainees:

### Patricia "Patt" Bauerschmidt



Patricia resides in Winnsboro and has been living in Wood County for the past year.

She is interested in becoming a Master Gardener to give back to the community and to be a part of a community group in Wood County. Patricia has grown violets and orchids as well as vegetables, perennials, and herbs.

### Nancy Kinder



Nancy has lived in Wood County for two years and calls Quitman home.

Her interest in the Wood County Master Gardener Program stems from the useful training, an increase in knowledge, as well as giving back to the community.

Nancy has had a victory garden in the past and has grown herbs off and on since she was young.

### Charla Malek



Charla has been a resident of Wood County for nine years and resides in Alba.

She is interested in becoming a Master Gardener to spend more time outdoors, be creative, and learn and share how to landscape and grow plants for food and beautification.

Charla gets her curiosity for horticulture from her grandmother's love of flower beds and plants as well as her neighbors who grow fruits and vegetables.

### Martha Maurits



Martha has called Quitman and Wood County home for six months.

After moving here from out of state, she was interested in participating in the Wood County Master Gardener Program to become more knowledgeable about local gardening and plant development, as well as meeting people through volunteer projects.

Martha has always had a vegetable garden and enjoys working in her yard.

### Michelle Mickle

Michelle is a resident of Franklin County and has lived there for almost a year. Michelle's interest in the Wood County Master Gardener Program stems from wanting to give back to the community while also increasing knowledge of local plants.

With experience working for a commercial landscape maintenance company and having a landscape maintenance business in the past, Michelle is knowledgeable on vegetables, culinary herbs, composting, and perennials. She also has experience pruning roses, trees, and perennials.

### Cynthia "Cindi" Miller

Cynthia has been a resident of Wood County for two years and calls Winnsboro home.

She wants to learn more about gardening from the Wood County Master Gardener Program. Cindi started a flower garden on her farm last year. She has grown plants her whole life, but now has the time to fully invest in learning and applying what she learns.

### Suman Musunuru

Suman lives in Winnsboro and has been a resident of Wood County for three and a half years.

He became interested in the Wood County Master Gardener Program because of a desire to give back to the community, learn more about horticulture, and develop more horticulture skills. Suman currently keeps a backyard garden at his home.

### Lorraine Pedretti



Lorraine calls Hawkins home and has lived in Wood County for one year. She is interested in the Wood County Master Gardener Program and becoming a Master Gardener to increase her gardening knowledge as well as give back to her new community.

Her gardening experience comes from growing up on her parent's ranch where they had vegetable gardens and fruit trees.

### Deneice Scott



Deneice has been a resident of Wood County for one year and lives in Winnsboro.

She loves to learn and wants to learn more about gardening, as well as volunteer more in the community which she is excited to do through the Wood County Master Gardener Program.

Deneice has learned a lot about gardening from her mom, but still considers herself a beginner and is eager to get better at gardening and to learn more.



*MG Trainee Class of 2022 Continued from page 5*

### **Diane Sommers**



Diane has lived in Wood County for eight years and is a resident of Alba.

As a part of the 2022 Wood County Master Gardener Program, she wants to learn the skills to be a successful gardener and wants to pass on the skills she learns to others.

Diane loves growing fresh vegetables and herbs and the beauty of nature and flowers.

### **Lynette Wallace**

Lynette lives in Yantis and has called Wood County home for 14 years.

She became interested in the Wood County Master Gardener Program because of a desire to give back to the community and increase her horticulture knowledge and skills.

Lynette has been gardening for 37 years and her favorite thing about gardening is watching things grow.

### **Patricia "Patti" Yost**

Patti has lived in Wood County for less than a year and calls Quitman home.

Through the 2022 Wood County Master Gardener Program, she hopes to increase her knowledge of gardening in East Texas as well as helping others learn about gardening and getting involved in the community.

Patti has had flower and vegetable gardens (traditional, container, and straw) and has gardened in Michigan, Alaska, and now Texas!

## **Welcome Master Gardener Trainee Class of 2022!**

## **Reggie Askins: Proposed Science Days for Area Third Graders**

The Wood County Texas A&M Master Gardeners are pleased to announce the proposed dates and locations for our 2022 annual Science days!

All third graders are invited to attend this hands-on learning event.

Each Science Day event will have five stations with our experts presenting topics from propagation to pollinators.

The event will be held from 8:30 to 12.

Students may bring a sack lunch for a picnic after the presentations if they want.



*Bumblebee on wildflower. Photo by Kathy Goodman*

### **Locations and Dates**

The proposed dates and locations are:

- May 20 Quitman ISD and Yantis ISD at the Governor Hogg Park in Quitman
- May 23 Winnsboro ISD at the Governor Hogg Park in Quitman
- May 24 Mineola ISD at the Mineola Nature Preserve in Mineola
- May 25 Hawkins ISD at the Mineola Nature Preserve in Mineola

May 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

# Kathy Goodman: Growing Tomatoes This Year

After struggling for years to keep my indeterminate tomatoes staked, I decided this year I'm going to try growing a determinate type of tomato. Determinate tomatoes are often called "bush or dwarf," and they tend to grow around 4 to 5 feet tall. Compared to most indeterminate tomatoes that can grow from 8 to 10 feet. While looking for determinate tomato seeds, I learned that there are also semi-determinate tomatoes. Semi-determinate tomatoes are bushy like a determinate, but will set and ripen fruit over a longer period of time.

If that's not enough to think about, there are hybrid and heirloom plants. Hybrids are crossbred to take advantage of the best traits of the parent plants. Their pollination is carefully controlled. Hybrid is different from GMO (genetically modified organism).

Heirloom tomato plants are open pollinated by insects, and they are at least 50 years old. The heirloom tomatoes often have more flavor than hybrids. It's good to think about how you want to use the tomatoes. Do you want them for salads, slicing, or preserving? The variety of tomatoes seems endless.

**Reference:** The IgraWorld website has a list of unusual tomatoes: <https://www.igra-world.com/types-of-tomato-plants/>

## Types of Tomatoes

In last year's presentation by Michael Alford, he said that the Alford Family Farm grows these tomatoes along with other varieties:

- BHN 589 – Determinate
- Celebrity – Semi-determinate
- Cherokee Purple – Indeterminate
- Early Girl – Indeterminate
- Marglobe – Indeterminate
- Mortgage Lifter – Indeterminate

## What I'm Planting This Year

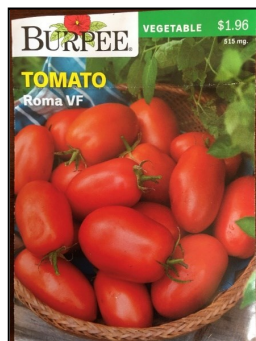
I decided to try one tomato plant of each type:

- Determinate – Roma (for canning)
- Indeterminate – Super Sweet 100 Hybrid Cherry (for salads)
- Semi-determinate – Ararat Flame (for slicing)

### Determinate Tomato – Roma

Determinate tomatoes typically have a shorter time to harvest. Basically, determinate tomatoes have one crop. After the harvest you pull the plant up and discard it. Because the all-at-once crop could be bigger than I can use at one time, I might need to make some tomato sauce or diced tomatoes.

I plan to grow the determinate tomatoes in containers and use the tomato cages from last year that were



too short for the indeterminate tomatoes. I will prune the first few suckers off the main stem up to 6 to 12 inches to help avoid fungal diseases from having leaves sitting close to the ground. I won't prune or pinch off suckers on the determinate plants.

The only determinate seeds that I have found in the store or nursery were for Roma tomatoes. I will try it. These tomatoes are 76 days to harvest. The Roma tomato (also known as Italian tomato or Italian plum tomato) is used for canning and producing tomato paste because of its slender and firm nature.

**Reference:** For more information about determinate tomatoes, see <https://seedsandgrain.com/determinate-tomatoes/>

### Indeterminate Tomato – Supersweet 100 Hybrid

I'm planting Super Sweet 100 hybrid cherry tomatoes that grow in long pendulous clusters of 100 or more. That sounds interesting. This tomato is indeterminate, and the mature height is 5 to 6 feet. That doesn't sound too bad. They are 70 days to harvest, and they grow up till frost.



I saw an interesting hint from Craig LeHoullier who wrote the book: *Epic Tomatoes: How to Select and Grow the Best Varieties of All Time*. He said when you remove suckers from indeterminate tomatoes, put them in water or soil and start new plants. In addition, he said to leave a couple of suckers lower on the plant to increase your chances of a bigger yield.

He suggested cutting the top of the plant off when it gets to the top of the staking system. That seems like a good idea because, last year, not many tomatoes ripened off that last 2 or 3 feet of growth. Probably because that growth was at the end of the season.

### Semi-Determinate Tomato – Ararat Flame

Hoping to find more types of determinate seeds, I searched online and found the Adaptive Seeds website with a list of all types of tomato seeds. On that website, I found some larger tomatoes that are semi-determinate.

**Reference:** See the Adaptive Seeds website <https://www.adaptiveseeds.com/seeds/vegetables/tomatoes/>



Photo from the Adaptive Seeds website

After reading about several types of tomatoes, I ordered a pack of Ararat Flame tomato seeds. They were a bit expensive, in my opinion, with the added shipping costs. However, if I like the tomato, I can save some seeds for next year. This tomato is 60 days to harvest, and the fruit is medium-sized.

Continued on page 9



## Ann Reynolds: Hawkins Project

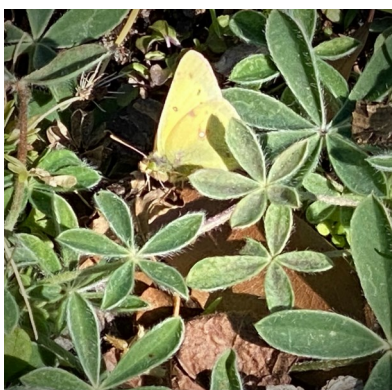
The saying “no news is good news” certainly applies to the City of Hawkins Master Gardener project. The beds are just waiting for the temperatures to even out and new growth to begin.

The task of identifying weeds and wildflower growth has been difficult because there is a fine line between the two. It is, however, a good exercise in plant and rosette ID for those gardeners new to Texas natives.

The roses have been trimmed in the specimen garden at the Allen Memorial Library. There was one lone black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia goldstrum*) in bloom two weeks ago. The plant gets radiant heat from the brick exterior of the building, so we assume that is the reason for the blooming. Soon, starts of blue-black salvia (*Salvia guaranitica*), summer phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) and black-eyed Susan will be potted up to be given to library patrons.

The Sensory Garden is waiting for the addition of new plants after the makeover and mulch. Ideas are needed for appropriate plants to add to this flowerbed near the playground and splashpad.

Most all of the bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*) that reseeded outside of the Pollinator Garden have been given to volunteers who work at the project. Recently, an orange sulphur butterfly (*Colias eurytheme*) was spotted sunning itself on a bluebonnet. The caterpillars of the orange sulphur butterfly



Orange sulphur butterfly sunning itself among the bluebonnets.

feed on low-growing ground cover such as legumes. These larvae have smooth, green bodies and a thin, white line runs along each side of the caterpillar near the feet. This species remains in the larval or pupal stage over the winter and is one of the first butterflies to emerge as a winged adult in the spring.

I will be meeting with the Hawkins City Council and the Hawkins Economic Development Corporation in the near future to give them a status update of the project and what the future plans are for the flowerbeds.

If you have not visited the Hawkins project, I urge you to do so. The Pollinator Garden is directly behind CNB Bank and the Bluebonnet bed and Sensory Garden are a little further down the jogging path in the park. The Allen Memorial Library is located at 121 East Blackburn Street – only three blocks east of the park.

A good time to visit would be during the annual Pancake Festival to be held April 23, 7 am to 3 pm at the pavilion. There will be a pancake breakfast, arts and crafts, a parade, a celebration of the life of Lillian Richard, a pancake eating contest, and a decorating contest. Lillian Richard, born in Hawkins in 1891, was an actress best known for portraying Aunt Jemima.

Garden on!

### Growing Tomatoes This Year continued from page 8

After doing more research, I read that these tomato plants die once the weather gets hot. So, this tomato may not be the best choice for East Texas.

**Reference:** For more information about the different types of tomatoes, see the Bonnie Plants website <https://bonnieplants.com/blogs/garden-fundamentals/what-are-the-different-types-of-tomatoes>

### Growing the Tomatoes

I'm using winter sowing to start some seeds. I will transplant the tomato plants deeper this year to allow the plants to make more roots. After I transplant the tomatoes to their home containers, I plan to use the Neem oil drench method again. Last year, I did not have a problem with tomato horn worms and I added fertilizer to the drench.

This year, I plan to fertilize with organic chicken manure while planting the tomatoes. I'm hesitant about how much to fertilize because I don't want more leaves and less fruit.

**Reference:** The article about Neem oil drench is in the *MG Wood Works* May/June 2021 newsletter: <https://txmg.org/woodcounty/newsletters/> Also, you can find more about soil drenching here: <https://morningchores.com/soil-drenching/>

### Advice from Michael Alford

Last year, at the September 2021 WCMGA meeting, Michael Alford had this to share about growing tomatoes:

The Alford Family Farm grows both determinate and indeterminate varieties. When planting, he uses an organic chicken manure fertilizer. Then, he sprays the plants with a mixture of molasses, fish hydrolysate (cold processed) with Chilean nitrate, and sea weed extract. He sprays this smelly concoction on the tomato leaves at night for the best absorption.

He uses the Florida weave method to support the tomato plants. And because the heirloom tomatoes grow up to 8 feet tall, he tops them off at 5 feet.

### When to Pick Tomatoes

Craig LeHoullier said to pick a tomato when it starts to blush with color. The tomato will continue to ripen when you bring it inside. Just don't put it in the refrigerator. If you don't pick the fruit at that time, you risk losing it to pests, birds, or other problems. He says that you can't tell the difference between the taste of a tomato that you ripen inside and one that ripens on the vine.

## Linda Timmons: Helping the Bees Survive

Native bees are getting in the news more these days. Unfortunately, they are in decline just like the non-native honeybee. Gardeners need to be aware of what we can do to help native bees. The more we know and understand the bees, the more we can do, or NOT do, to help them thrive.

Texas native bees include solitary bees and bumblebees. Ninety percent of native bees are solitary. The solitary female mates and then lays her eggs in small tunnels or cavities with provisions for the larva. Solitary bees do not swarm and do not protect their nests so they rarely, if ever, sting. Like the well-known honeybees, native bumblebees are social insects. They live in small colonies, usually underground. The colony consists of a queen, female worker bees and some males. A full hive can number from 20 to 400 bees.

### Bumblebee Lifecycle

The bumblebee lifecycle is only a few months. At the end of each summer, the original queen, the worker females, and the male drones die. The new queens leave the nest to find mates, then search for a place to hibernate through the winter.

When a new queen emerges in the early spring, she has two immediate needs; pollen to renew her strength and a place to start laying eggs to establish the new colony. Gardeners can help, often by doing nothing.

### Pollen Diversity is Best

Those early spring flowers that so delight gardeners mean life for a queen bumblebee coming out of hibernation. Some of our earliest flowering plants in East Texas are trees. Wild black cherry, redbud, Mexican plum, and black willow are all native here and are early sources of pollen. Plants like dandelions, henbit, and deadnettle that gardeners disparage, and label “weeds” are excellent sources of pollen.

Studies have shown that the young queen does best with a diversity of pollen sources. Pollen is what the young queen feeds her offspring and, like with humans, pollen diversity provides a variety of nutrients essential to colony growth.

Save yourself some time, help the bees, and don't pull the early blooming weeds.

### Protected Nesting Site

The second need of the emerging queen is a nesting site. The best thing a gardener can do to help her with the nest is nothing.

The queen will be searching for a protected spot in the ground or low to the ground. She will look for an existing space that will provide a dry shelter and shade to help regulate temperature. Favorite spots are old rodent burrows; piles of leaves, rocks, and wood; tall grass; or even a compost bin. Our spring gardening urge to clean up our yards may be exactly the wrong thing to do. Try leaving some wood or rocks undisturbed by the back fence or plant some native bluestem or switch grass to provide potential nesting spots.

At the end of the summer, again it may be what you don't do that will help the young bumblebee queens survive.

The new queens will be looking for a protected spot just big enough for her. Leaf litter left in place under a shrub could be what she needs to successfully make it through the winter and start a new nest in the spring.

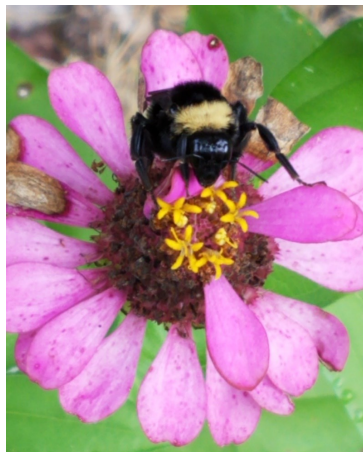
As gardeners, we seem to have lists of things to do during each season. It seems kind of nice to take a few chores off the list “to help the bees”!

### Bee Haven at the Wildscape Garden

At the Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape garden we are currently working to create a “Bee Haven.” Our goal is to provide a habitat for native bees and to educate the public on what can be done, and not done, to help native bees thrive.

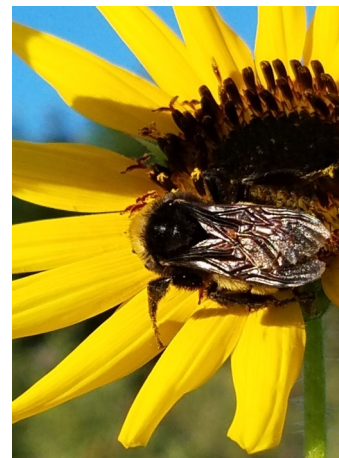
**Reference:** For more information about Texas bumblebees see:

<https://txmg.org/resources/pollinators/the-secret-life-of-bumblebees>



*It may be what you don't do that will help the young bumblebee queens survive.*

*Pollen diversity provides a variety of nutrients essential to bee colony growth.*



Photos by Kathy Goodman

# Ann Reynolds: Planning a Biblically Themed Garden

Now that you have spent all winter in front of a cozy fire drinking hot cocoa and reading seed catalogs, it is time to get out there and work the garden! Winter is the best time to see the “bare bones” of your garden so hopefully you have made plans to design, move, and plant shrubs, trees, and flowers.

Have you ever contemplated planting a themed garden? This type of garden tells a story through your plantings. There are many kinds of garden themes, such as fairy, Shakespeare, apothecary, herb, and fragrance gardens. You could even design a friends and family garden with plants of the same name as your friends or family members. Maybe you could make a garden consisting of pass-along plants with memories of who gave you the plant. How about a moon (all white) garden which looks beautiful at night?

## Researching Biblical Garden Landscape

One of my plans is to plant a biblical garden room in my landscape. Many of the plants grown in the Mediterranean area can grow quite well here in east Texas.

This project is an exercise in researching the plants of the Bible, their history in the Middle East, and their symbolism. While researching, I learned that the Madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*) is one of the oldest plants in cultivation. It has been around for more than 3,000 years!

You could also pick plants that have biblical common names such as Jacob’s ladder (*Polemonium caeruleum*), Job’s tears (*Coix lacryma-jobi*), rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) or burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*).

## Plants From Biblical Lands

Here is a partial list of plants from biblical lands:

- Flowers
  - Anemone (*Anemone blanda*)
  - Narcissus (*Narcissus tazetta*)
  - Yucca (*Yucca gloriosa*)
  - Hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*)
  - Poppy (*Papaver Rhoeas*)
- Trees and Shrubs
  - Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar orientalis*)
  - Fig (*Ficus carica*)
  - Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles japonica*)
  - Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)
  - Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)
- Herbs or Food
  - Sage (*Salvia Judaica*)
  - Thyme (*Thymus serpyllum*)
  - Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
  - Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*)
  - Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*)

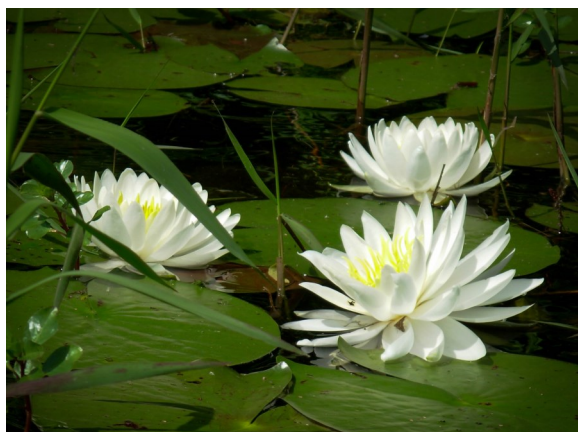
- Onion (*Allium cepa*)
- Grape (*Vitis vinifera*)
- Water Plants
  - Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudocorus*)
  - Water lily (*Nymphaea spp.*)
  - Papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*)
  - Cattail (*Typha latifolia*)

## Label Plantings and Share the Story

Be sure to label your plantings and share the story with others. Add some garden art to enhance the plantings. Along with art, the two most common features of biblical gardens are pathways and benches.

If you have the space, a labyrinth is an interesting focal point. This type of garden encourages people to linger, sit, use their senses, and often meditate.

Garden on!



Water lilies. Photo by Kathy Goodman



Yellow flag iris. Photo by Kathy Goodman



## Carolyn West: AgriLife Extension Office Project Plans



*Spring is on the way. Photo by Kathy Goodman*

I've been on constant watch for signs of spring and, once again, our neighbor Jane was the first to have blooming daffodils. As I walk with my two dogs, I know when I see Jane's daffodils blooming, spring is on the way.

However, listening to the current weather forecast results in a dampening of my spirit!

As we yoyo back and forth, the best I can do is anticipate a beautiful change in the weather and

a time to appreciate God's glorious and colorful time of year.

The AgriLife Master Gardener team has worked throughout the winter to maintain healthy beds. After each freeze, we pulled, pruned, and picked damaged plants. We have maintained a super compost pile, which has a healthy mixture of nutrients that will be used to build better beds. Recently, a volunteer used a backhoe to completely turn the compost pile, while adding more manure and mulch.

The compost and mulch will be used to install a new fern bed attraction at the back of the AgriLife building where we will take advantage of shade while enhancing the "view from the back of the building." Michelle Musser's idea will become a reality!

Our team's additional big project will be the installation of an automatic watering system. Approval from the Texas Highway Department was obtained last summer with a nod to "anything that actually improves the environment and enhances the view

of motorists." We will follow the safety codes and input an 811-code request to identify utility lines buried in the area. Our only source of water is through the kitchen wall and that requires a plumber. We have volunteers to dig the holes and scope the placement of the sprinkler, spray, and soaker heads. I consider the project underway, and I am anxious to guide this to a completed project.

As a bonus, a friend of the Wood County Master Gardeners made a generous donation to our AgriLife project. The \$1,000 will be used to fund this lasting watering improvement.

The following tasks are on our list of things to do this spring:

- Installing a sprinkler system
- Creating a fern bed
- Reworking the SIP troughs
- Planting bluebonnets
- Reworking our two long flower beds at the property line and against the building
- Pulling weeds, pulling weeds, and pulling weeds!
- Transitioning from spring to summer to continue the color

This weekend I had an occasion to talk with County Judge Lucy Hebron. One of the nicest compliments from Judge Hebron was her recognition of the transformation of the AgriLife property.

When someone recognizes the change, the process of getting to this point is so rewarding. My personal thanks to a great team of Master Gardeners who made it happen.

*The love of gardening is a seed  
once sown that never dies.*

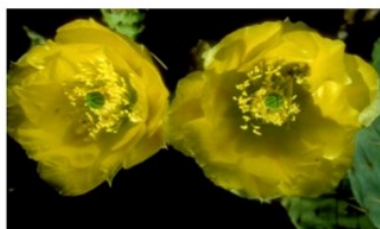
*– Gertrude Jekyll  
Garden designer, artist, editor (1843-1932)*

*Become a  
certified  
observer.*

*It's a terrific  
way to spend a  
chilly day and  
earn volunteer  
time.*

<https://usanpn.org/>

**USA npn**  
National Phenology Network



The USA National Phenology Network supports science, natural resource management, and communication by providing data, tools, and resources and by connecting people.

Image credit: WD Peachey

**USANPN.org**

# Jessie Mellon: Phenology Project Report

February isn't my favorite month in the garden. I usually spend my time by the fire drooling over seed catalogs. This year, however, I've discovered something different. I joined a phenology project sponsored by our Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Wood County Master Gardner Association.

Phenology is the study of cyclical and seasonal changes in plants and animals in relation to climate. This study piqued my interest since I want to learn about how our plants and animals relate to each other and how they are affected by our local weather.

## The National Phenology Network

I logged on to the National Phenology Network at USANPN.org to find out more. The National Phenology Network organization brings together volunteer observers, citizen scientists, educators, students, government agencies, and non-profit groups to observe and record changes in plant and animal life in response to climate changes. This website is packed with information about more than 1,000 species of plants and hundreds of species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals.

I learned that these observations can be used in many ways, but one example caught my eye. The observations are used to interpret information collected by satellites and aircraft. Have you ever seen a mysterious radar signature that turned out to be a swarm of grasshoppers? The information collected by you and me may help explain how weather conditions contribute to a seasonal plague of grasshoppers or an onslaught of fall army worms. If we can predict such events, we may be able to protect our gardens and crops.

Insects aren't the only species that are of importance to us. A host of species interact to make up our ecosystem. I want to know more about how all the species affect each other. Each is a puzzle piece in the whole.

I learned how to become a certified observer and contributor to the database, and it turned out to be lots of fun! I can make a valuable contribution to the eco-knowledge of our area right from my homestead.

I recommend that you take a look at this phenology project. Log onto <https://usanpn.org/> and become a certified observer. You might have as much fun as I do and learn a lot too. It's a terrific way to spend a chilly day and earn volunteer time.

## Number of Freezing Temperatures for 2022

Last year during winter storm Uri we experienced more than 200 hours of below freezing temperatures from February 11 to 19. This year, we experienced less than 50 hours of below freezing temperatures for the same time span. I'll take that!

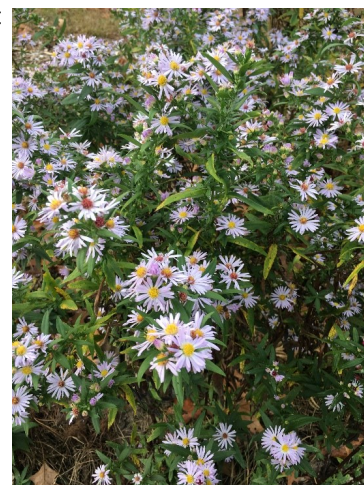
## Cedar Waxwings

I follow cedar waxwing birds as one of my phenology species. So far, they haven't come to their favorite holly tree. Although a few have been seen in the area, the flocks of 20 to 50 have yet to be seen. I'll keep an eye out for them.

## Pollinator Garden

I canvassed the area and most of the species are still dormant. However, the elderberries have broken buds and new leaves are emerging. Tender leaves of bee balm have emerged above the mulch.

The most vigorous growth is evident from the relentless rhizomatous spread of a winter blooming aster. This aster was given to me by my lab partner, who received it from landscape architect, Michael Parkey. He warned her that once established, it would be almost impossible to eradicate. He was right. I have found that this aster likes to creep downhill, provides a profuse cold weather source of pollen and nectar to diverse pollinators, and helps prevent soil erosion.



*Winter blooming aster likes to creep.*

## Pecan Trees Tell When It's Safe to Plant

I'm told that pecan trees are never fooled by a false spring. Pecan tree buds will only swell after the last frost has come and gone. I'll keep looking for swelling pecan tree buds to tell me when it's absolutely safe to plant. Spring can't come soon enough for me!

## Precipitation Records

Melodee Eishen reports that the total precipitation for the first half of February 2022 was 2.71 inches as recorded on her weather station. The total precipitation in East Texas for February 2021 was 2.33 inches. The following chart shows rain records from 2019 to 2021.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Yearly Total
2021	4.06	2.33	4.14	5.29	11.63	2.34	5.43	4.20	0.55	2.09	2.36	2.39	46.81
2020	5.50	7.13	5.44	5.45	4.51	3.89	3.68	1.55	6.79	1.35	0.85	6.46	52.60
2019	3.34	2.17	2.44	9.88	9.87	7.12	0.73	1.07	3.60	4.05	0.53	1.13	45.93

**Note:** The source for 2021 and older rainfall records is <https://agrilife.org/etweather/rainhistory>. All weather data collected at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton may not reflect temperatures or rainfall amounts for other areas of east Texas. These are not "official" records, nor should they be used for legal or insurance purposes. These records are provided for your information.

## Lori Mays: Phenology–Really, It’s Not Boring

When I signed up to do the Phenology Project, I did it as a way to get some volunteer hours at home. It wasn’t because I thought it would be fun, interesting, or exciting. Sorry Jessie. However, now that I am registered and starting to do observations, I am finding out I was wrong. I am following three birds, a perennial, and a tree at my house and one plant at my brother’s home.

### Observing Birds

So, I stare at the birds for a while and then check the plants. Doesn’t sound exciting, but actually it is. While I’m staring at the birds, I’m paying attention to which ones are there, how many, how they are behaving, and their interactions, while just enjoying the sight. It is very relaxing.



*Female and male cardinals visiting the feeder.*

I even get some surprises, such as when I saw a female Painted Bunting a few times. Now I’m on the lookout for her and, hopefully, the male. If you have never seen a Painted Bunting, you are missing out.

I also noticed that I have a female and a male red-bellied woodpecker. If I weren’t paying attention, I may have missed that since they are in and out quickly. Also, I have only seen them at the same time once. Now that I have a better idea which ones are visiting my feeders, I will be watching for courting and more.

### Observing Plants

The plants I am observing are still dormant. However, depending on the plant, I could be seeing changes soon. How many times have we planted seeds and then checked them daily, or more, looking for signs of life?

I know I get excited when the plants break through and change daily. All you plant nerds know that is true. So, think about your plants outside.

I can’t wait to see the first signs of life from my butterfly milkweed. One thing I learned from the Nature’s Notebook app is that the first sign of this plant may be new sprouts from the ground. The app will help me know what to look for next and how to spot it.

### Nature’s Notebook App

I am excited about the Nature’s Notebook app. You can look at a plant or animal and the app has all kinds of information about it, including a great picture, description, range, and more. For example, it tells me the fruit colors I might see on the

beautyberry and what color it will be when ripe. It also explains each phenophase.

**Note:** A phenophase is an observable stage or phase in the annual life cycle of a plant or animal that can be defined by a start and end point. Phenophases generally have a duration of a few days or weeks. Examples include the period over which newly emerging leaves are visible, or the period over which open flowers are present on a plant.

Registering on the app can be a little confusing, but once you start adding your plants and animals it is more self-explanatory. You can have more than one observation site and multiples of the same plant, bird, and animal.

The Nature’s Notebook website has several short training lessons about how to use the website. For Master Gardeners, these training sessions count as CE hours and the time spent observing counts as volunteer hours.

### Getting Started on the App

To start, go to the <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/become-observer> website. Then, sign up for Nature’s Notebook. Fill in the information but note that we are not part of any of the Partner Groups. Jessie Mellon is available to help if you have questions.

**Note:** The Nature’s Notebook Mobile app module is also available from your mobile phone. So you can capture data on your phone instead of on paper and then transferring the information to the computer app.

**Reference:** <https://www.usanpn.org/nn/mobile-apps>

Please join us in observing birds, insects, and plants.



*Red-bellied woodpecker male. Photo by Kathy Goodman*

*My extravagance is my garden – it’s the first thing  
I look at every morning when I wake up.  
It gives me so much pleasure.  
– Ina Garten, author and host of  
the Food Network program Barefoot Contessa.*



# Lori Mays: My Favorite Drought-Tolerant Annuals

I really do not want to be in Texas in August. For those of us who have the opportunity to be somewhere cooler or who don't want to water, water, water; I created this list of drought-tolerant types of annuals that I like:

- **Celosia:** These unusual looking flowers come in reds and yellows in plumes or cockscomb shapes. Most people love them or hate them. It depends on my mood that year. They hold up well in the heat and drought.
- **Coleus:** The leaves are gorgeous, and it comes in many colors and patterns. My coleus survived five weeks while I was gone last July through August. However, it did bolt and then fell over. So, it is drought resistant, but it needs someone to stay home and trim those bloom stalks.
- **Coreopsis:** This showy plant doesn't like rich soil. It also has that wildflower look so it would not work in a "landscaped bed." Pollinators love it, so I may have to find a place for it. It is drought and heat resistant and may reseed. Be sure and check labels for heights and other information. The EarthKind rating is 9 – 10 depending on the type.
- **Cosmos:** This is another plant that comes in different heights. Bright flowers show off and are available in many colors. It is drought and heat resistant once established. They often self-seed.
- **Ornamental Sweet Potato:** This sprawling vine is planted for the leaf color. It comes in a yellow-green, purple, or tricolor. It can really spread in the right conditions. My brother uses it a lot and mixes the green and purple. If you leave the tubers, it may come back. Its EarthKind rating is 10.
- **Passionflowers:** I have never planted this vine. It is heat and drought tolerant, plus has showy blooms. Since it is a vine, I would put it next to a fence. It may become weedy. Its EarthKind rating is 10.
- **Phlox:** This pretty bloomer comes in many colors. Some varieties can be drought resistant. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds love these.
- **Portulaca (Moss Rose):** Moss Rose is a low growing plant whose pretty blooms close up at night. It is listed as heat and drought resistant once it gets established. I had assumed that because of its leaf type, it needed lots of water. Live and learn.
- **Salvia:** In our area some types salvia are annuals. Although they are heat and drought resistant, they need to be dead headed to keep them blooming. Its EarthKind rating is 10.
- **Sunflowers:** I wouldn't want to forget these gems. Just



Phlox

make sure you pick the variety for the height you want. These are easy to grow from seeds. I am planting a few of these just for the birds.

- **Verbena:** This plant comes in many colors. It is a low water usage plant, so may work for me, but it may suffer in the major heat. Its EarthKind rating is 7.
- **Vinca (aka Periwinkle):** This pretty plant comes in so many colors. It is supposed to be very drought and heat tolerant. Its EarthKind rating is 9.
- **Zinnia:** Some of my tall Zinnias did well while I was gone. These flowers come in a variety of colors and heights. I will choose the shorter ones this year since they look less wild.



Vinca (Periwinkle)



Zinnia - Photos by Kathy Goodman

## EarthKind Index Value

Each plant in the EarthKind database is rated for heat tolerance, drought tolerance, pest tolerance, soil requirement, and fertility requirement based on region.

The EarthKind Index value (which ranges from 1 – 10) is a measurement based on all five of these resource efficiency categories.

The higher the number, the more resource efficient a plant is in that region. Plants with an EarthKind Index value of 8 or higher are considered to be extremely resource efficient and are generally heat tolerant, drought tolerant, and pest tolerant, with minimal soil or fertility requirements for the selected region.

**Reference:** For a complete list of plants with an EarthKind rating of 8 to 10 for the East Texas area, see this website [http://ekps.tamu.edu/quicklist?region=zone\\_c](http://ekps.tamu.edu/quicklist?region=zone_c)

## Ann McKelroy: Food Pantries for Vegetable Donations

Thank you for helping feed the hungry! Please track the number of pounds that you donate for the year.

All the pantries that we contacted are pleased to accept donations of fresh vegetables. There may be other programs that are not widely published. So, if you discover a program that is not on this list, please let me know so that I can update the list. damckelroy@gmail.com.

*Note from Kathy Goodman: Please also copy me on updates to this list of donation sites. For convenience, I plan to post this list as a regular part of the newsletter. My email is kmgoodman0807@gmail.com*

### Tracking Vegetable Donations

Please include the following information when you donate vegetables to a program:

Your name

Texas Master Gardener-Wood County

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension System

Also, please create a vegetable donation record by tracking how many pounds of fruits and vegetables you are producing per square foot or acre of your garden and track every time you harvest or donate. For Wood County Extension Agent Emily (Husmann) Castillo's reports for the year, she needs the total pounds of produce grown by Wood County Master Gardeners as well as the total pounds of produce donated.

So, each time you donate, please record:

- Estimated pounds harvested during that donation period
- Estimated pounds donated

Then, at the end of the season, please total each amount and give that information to Wood County Extension Agent Emily (Husmann) Castillo.

emily.husmann@ag.tamu.edu

Extension Office: 903.763.2924, FAX: 903.763.2092

### Wood County Master Gardener Association Meetings

#### Third Thursday of Each Month

8:30 - 9 AM Visiting and Signing In  
9 AM Meeting

First Assembly of God Church  
909 E Goode St., Quitman, Texas

### Area Food Pantries

The following food pantries accept donations of fresh vegetables.

#### Alba

##### Alba-Golden Food Pantry

245 E. Holley Street, Alba (903) 765-2471

Friday 9 AM - 11 AM

Service Area: Alba-Golden School District

##### Lake Fork Baptist Church Feed My Sheep (Pantry)

9483 W FM 515, Alba (903) 473-9523

Second Tuesday 1 PM - 3 PM

Service Area: All counties

#### Hawkins

##### Hawkins Helping Hands (Pantry)

320 W. Front St., Hawkins (903) 769-4357

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: Hawkins ISD

#### Mineola

##### Bread of Life Ministries (Pantry)

1001 E. McDonald, Mineola (903) 405-0064

First and third Tuesday 8:30 AM - 4 PM

Service Area: Wood County

##### Kindness Kottage (Pantry)

316 E. Broad St, Mineola (903) 569-9197

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 3 PM

Service Area: Mineola ISD

##### Rose Hill Food Pantry

1420 CR 2460, Mineola (903) 312-3256

Second and fourth Wednesday 10 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: Wood County

#### Quitman

##### First United Methodist Church (Senior Box)

406 E Lane St, Quitman (903) 597-3663

Second Friday Participating Clients: 9 AM - 10 AM

Waiting Clients: 10 AM - 11 AM

Service Area: All counties

Note: Enter on N. Goldman St.

##### Mercy Mall (Pantry)

104 Bermuda, Quitman (903) 497-0684

Every Saturday 10 AM - 12 PM

Service Area: All

#### Winnsboro

##### Winnsboro CRC (Pantry)

115 W. Broadway, Winnsboro (903) 342-3287

Tuesday & Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

Service Area: Winnsboro ISD



As you read the WCMGA newsletter, you can learn about:

- Educational seminars and classes
- Garden projects
- Advanced training speakers at educational forums
- Classroom instruction for county ISDs
- Educational articles written by Master Gardeners
- Community outreach events
- Resources such as our website and Facebook pages

Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to newsletter editor Kathy Goodman at [kmgoodman0807@gmail.com](mailto:kmgoodman0807@gmail.com).

**Note:** You can count time spent writing articles as volunteer hours. Please understand that all articles will be edited to fit the newsletter style or for spacing needs.

## WCMGA Information and Educational Opportunities

### MG Wood Works Newsletter Photos

Unless otherwise noted, all photos in this publication were taken by the author of the article in which they appear.

### Texas Master Gardener, Wood County Website

<http://txmg.org/woodcounty> up-to-the-minute news and scheduled events, back issues of the newsletter, and seasonal videos. Send new content for the website to **Keith Zimmerman**: [keithzim@yahoo.com](mailto:keithzim@yahoo.com)

### WCMGA Private Facebook Group

This private Facebook group is for the Wood County Master Gardeners Association members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1534107646899295/>

### Volunteer Management System

At this time, VMS is accessible by phone, but not all features are accessible by phone. It is most user-friendly when using a computer, iPad, or tablet. The system has some nice features, such as copying a previous entry and changing the date and hours. Please add your photo, volunteer hours, mileage, and CEUs. <https://vms.texasmg.org/> If you have problems entering your hours, please contact Linda Timmons at 903.569.3443 or [lindtmms@aol.com](mailto:lindtmms@aol.com).

### Associate Roster

You can find email addresses and contact information for other Master Gardeners in the Volunteer System.

**Please update your profile in the Roster.** Check your listing to be sure your contact information is up-to-date. Have you uploaded your photo? <https://vms.texasmg.org/>

### Advanced Training

Visit the **Texas Master Gardener Advanced Training** website (<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/master-gardener-specialist/>) for information about advanced training topics and opportunities.

### Sunshine

Know of a member who needs a get well, warm thought, or sympathy card? Contact Elaine Porter at 361-319-7300 or [porterpettus@gmail.com](mailto:porterpettus@gmail.com).

### Become a Master Gardener

To learn about how to become a Master Gardener contact the Wood County Extension Office at 903-763-2924.

*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.*