

MG WOOD WORKS

Barb Williams: President's Letter

May/June 2022

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Howdy all y'all and welcome to pre-summer!

Spring has sprung! I saw my first copperhead the other night. It was sweet enough to warn me that it was there, and I made a wide berth. However, I still had to water the asparagus. I haven't seen a copperhead on our property for a couple of years now and, honestly, I have gotten a little complacent. When I first took the Master Gardener class in 2017, I was really scared of snakes. So, I attended a couple of talks on venomous versus non-venomous snakes. I am so grateful for the knowledge!!! Now, my awareness is back up and I will definitely be wearing my boots again!

My onions, garlic, and radishes are still going strong. My guess is that by the end of May they will all be put up and the summer veggies planted.

I forgot to save seeds from my Lion's Tail (*Leonotis leonurus*), also known as Wild Dagga, last fall and I'm super happy to see some of the plants starting on their own—even though they are in the middle of the onions! I like to grow plants in my veggie garden that attract pollinators with their showy flowers. It's a bonus if I can use them for medicinal purposes.

Seeing all the wildflowers, butterflies, and bees makes my heart happy!

What unique and interesting plants do you grow?

How do you feel about pumpkins? I've got mixed emotions, and now I'm going to try and grow them again. If you have any pointers, please point them out to me!!! I'd also appreciate it if

y'all would grow some as well for a fundraiser at the Education Series event on October 22, 2022, at the Mineola Nature Preserve. I was told (not research-driven) that to have pumpkins for Halloween—you need to plant on the 4th of July. Any truth to that?

Looking forward to seeing y'all at the graduation ceremony, our monthly meetings, various projects, and possibly a farmers market or two!

And of course, please feel free to reach out to me whenever you'd like. I respond quickest to text messages at 505-321-2817



My asparagus bed where I found a copperhead.

Upcoming WCMGA Graduation Luncheon and Meetings

May 17	WCMGA Graduation Luncheon; Setup 9:30 - 10:20; Start 10:30; Lunch 11:15; Master Gardeners (not graduates) bring a salad or dessert
May 19	Hawkins ISD Award-Winning Bee Project, at the Hawkins City Park Pavilion Bring water and a lawn chair.
June 16	Bats by Boyd Sanders of Tyler State Park

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Reggie Askins: Science Days for Area Third Graders

The Wood County Texas A&M Master Gardeners are pleased to announce the 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 about the 4-H organization, propagation, pollinators, worms, and sensory elements.

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

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

We look forward to seeing the third graders this year!



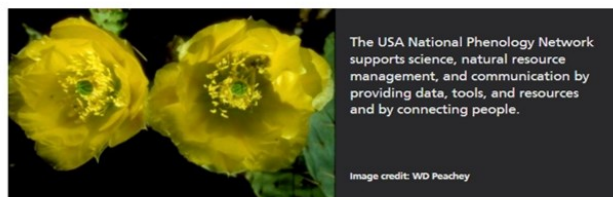
Bumblebee on wildflower. Photo by Kathy Goodman

Dates and Locations

The dates and locations are:

- May 20 – Quitman ISD and Yantis ISD at the Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Garden in Quitman
- May 23 – Winnsboro ISD at the Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Garden in Quitman
- May 24 – Mineola ISD at the Mineola Nature Preserve in Mineola
- May 25 – Hawkins ISD (tentative) at the Mineola Nature Preserve

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



USANPN.org

*Become a certified observer.
It's a terrific way to earn WCMGA
volunteer time.*

<https://usanpn.org/>



Oso Easy Italian Ice Rose

This rose from Proven Winners has beautiful orange buds that open to soft yellow flowers and melt into pink margins. This plant is excellent for home gardens with its strong disease-resistance.

© Kathryn Goodman

WCMGA Meetings

Third Thursday of Each Month

8:30 - 9 am Visiting and Sign-in
9 am Meeting

May 19 meeting at the Hawkins City Park Pavilion
(bring water and a lawn chair)

June 16 meeting at the First Assembly of
God Church

909 E Goode St., Quitman, Texas

Carolyn West: Can't Stop the AgriLife Extension Office Project

Let the motto "Where there is a will, there is a way!" be ours!! One of the projects of the Extension Office Garden team is cleaning up the back of the AgriLife building by getting rid of the unsightly vines, scrubby bushes, and trash.

A beautiful fern bed is proposed to replace the unwanted, untidy mess. We initially had help from county workers who cut the vines at arms' reach. As the vines died higher in the trees, above arms' reach, the unsightly hanging vines became an unbearable sight.

After many conversations about how to get rid of the vines hanging over our heads, the Mays, Musser and West Demolition Crew, LLC was briefly formed for a day and they extracted the vines.

Our power limb cutter was Lori skillfully throwing the cable and letting us pull. Some details we can't share without getting in trouble; so let me just say that our tactics worked, regardless of whether we would do them again.

The mission was to improve the appearance of the back of the building and by golly, we did it. Many thanks to Lori and Michele!

Our next step is to finish the new fern and iron plant bed to bring some natural atmosphere behind the building. Serious work in the next two weeks should make that happen.

We also plan to have the whole property "beautified" by the time we host the Master Gardener Education Series at the AgriLife building.

Join our team on most Thursdays from 10 a.m. until noon. To receive email notices of planned workdays, post our team as your interest on the VMS system.

We do what they say can't be done!



Lori Mays throwing cable to capture dead vines. Michele Musser is in the background.

Lori Mays had a small cable and a very accurate ability to throw it. Michele Musser had incredible climbing and pulling skills. And I (being of strong body but advanced age), provided backup vine pulling and cleanup capabilities.

What a fun and funny day it was to finally accomplish this long-term improvement! We did what others said couldn't be done without a lift bucket. Our lift bucket was me holding onto Michelle's behind as she climbed where she shouldn't have.



Lori Mays and Michele Musser removing unsightly vines from the trees.

Ann Reynolds: Hawkins Gardens Bring Fun and Joy to Many

Besides a date on the calendar and time and temperature changes, another way a gardener notes that the spring season has arrived is by the amount of pollen on everything. And, as good gardeners, we know not to bemoan the amount of pollen because, after all, pollen makes flowers. So just enjoy the color yellow.

Spring in Hawkins, Texas is always beautiful—especially the Master Gardener flowerbeds! The flowerbeds bloom to life, birds sing, and bees buzz. More importantly, families are outside walking the jogging path, having picnics, visiting the library, or playing on the playground. We meet some lovely people and energetic children while working at the park and library. Fun!



The specimen garden at the Allen Library

The specimen garden at the Allen Library is blooming with former Mayor Sam Bradley's bluebonnets (*Lupinus texensis*), assorted daffodils, purple iris, roses, and an amaryllis that someone planted.

The sensory garden now has additional aromatic plants – rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), lemon verbena (*Aloysia citrodora*), and thyme. In the middle is a Gulf muhly grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), and guara (*Gaura lindheimeri*). All that is needed now is some colorful bedding plants.

The pavilion bed is always an unknown as it contains many Texas native spring bloomers. It is hard to tell the rosettes of those plants from weeds, but we are doing our best. Bluebonnets, pink evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*), daffodils, roses, Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja*), and all sorts of other spring-blooming ephemerals are evident.



Colorful bedding plants at the Allen Library

Best of all are the compliments received from the citizens of Hawkins and Holly Lake Ranch. It makes our day when parents and children stop to talk, the police chief waves, or the mayor stops us in the grocery store and gives us a pat on the back. Recently, Norma Hallmark, Director of the Allen Library, passed on this hand-written note of thanks from a citizen of this quiet, little burg in east Texas. Joy!

Dear Master Gardener
The front of the
library looks beautiful
Thank you for all the
work you do
Sincerely
Norma

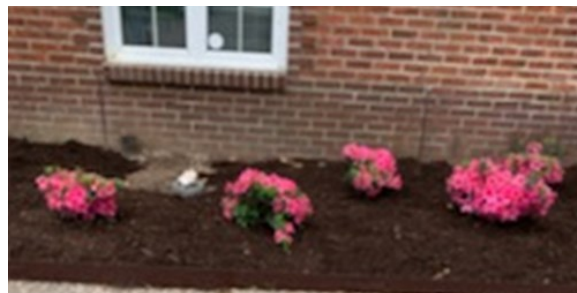
Patt Bauerschmidt: Progress at the Winnsboro Library Project

The Winnsboro Library project is underway. We pretty much started with a blank slate because the few plants that were in the existing beds needed to be removed. The City of Winnsboro Park and Recreation department was kind enough to use their equipment to remove the plants and the landscape cloth. Bob Bauerschmidt (Project Leader) and Stacy Finley (Parks and Recreation Director) have coordinated all the effort. The Winnsboro project is designated as an EarthKind garden. The team of project volunteers weeded the beds and took soil samples in preparation for adding the first layer of compost to the garden. Then we added metal edging to retain the compost.



Winnsboro Library project is making progress.

The design for the garden was a collaborative effort between Jenna Nelson, Lin Grado, Patt Bauerschmidt, and volunteers working on the project. Phil Young consulted with us on irrigation plans.



Winnsboro Library garden has noticeable improvements.

On Monday April 4, we added the first plants. The transformation has been exciting. Visitors to the library have expressed interest in the new direction the gardens are taking. Thank you to our hard-working team of volunteers. Our volunteer day is Monday from 10 a.m. to noon.



Winnsboro Library beds are looking good!

Elaine Porter: Rose Gardener's Disease is Real

Rose gardener's disease (*sporotrichosis*) is an infection caused by a fungus called *Sporothrix*. This fungus lives throughout the world in soil and on plant matter such as sphagnum moss, rose bushes, and hay. People get sporotrichosis by coming in contact with the fungal spores in the environment. Skin infection is the most common form of the infection. It occurs when the fungus enters the skin through a small cut or scrape, usually after someone touches contaminated plant matter. Skin on the hands or arms is most often affected

"It is real," said my cousin. In September of 2021, she contracted rose gardener's disease. She is an avid rose gardener who lives in South Texas and never wore gloves while gardening. She pricked her finger on a rose thorn and then dug around in the soil. She plants her plants in Miracle Grow rose soil.

About a week later she noticed bumps up and down her arm. They were painless red bumps that appeared on her finger, hand, and arm where the fungus had entered through a break in the skin. The bumps eventually grew larger and looked like

an open sore or ulcer and were very slow to heal. Additional bumps appeared near the original one.

Her disease progressed into her lymph nodes, and she was very sick. She went to the doctor and got a blood test and tested positive for sporotrichosis. Thank the Lord that the doctor was familiar with the disease. He put her on antibiotics. Even with antibiotics, it took her a long time to heal. She turned the corner in February and is doing much better today.

How to Lower the Chance of Getting Sporotrichosis

You can lower your chance of getting rose gardener disease (*sporotrichosis*) by wearing protective clothing such as gloves and long sleeves when touching plant matter that can cause cuts or scrapes. Although it is a rare disease, it takes from three to six months to heal. However, as my cousin said, "It is real."

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/sporotrichosis/index.html>

Terri Baker: 2022 Education Series

The 2022 Education Series Committee met on March 25 at the AgriLife Extension office. The schedule was decided, and all speakers have been confirmed!

The Next Meeting is May 6 from 2 pm to 4 pm – at the AgriLife Extension Office. Everyone is invited to attend, volunteer, or just to learn more about the 2022 Education Series.

Education Series Dates and Locations

Tip books will be sold at each event. We may sell pumpkins and ferns, and there will be door prizes at each series! The following dates and speakers have been confirmed.

June 4, Hawkins, 9 am to Noon; 30 minutes for each topic with 15 minutes for Q&A

The planned topics are:

- **Annuals for Year-Round Color** by Kathi Ladewig
- **Pollinator Beds – How to Set Up and What Plants to Use** by Lin Grado



Hawkins Park flowerbed. Photo by Peggy Rogers

September 17, AgriLife Extension Office, 9 am to Noon; 15 minutes for each topic with 10 minutes for Q&A

The planned topics are:

- **Composting** by Carolyn West and Bob Bauerschmidt
- **SIPS (Sub Irrigation Planter System) Garden** by Nancy McDonald
- **Our Plant Choices – What Worked and What Didn't** by Kathy Goodman
- **Phenology – How to Become a "Citizen Scientist"** by Jesse Mellon



Extension Office flowerbed. Photo by Kathy Goodman

October 22, Mineola Nature Preserve, 9 am to Noon, 30 minutes for each topic with 15 minutes Q&A

The planned topics are:

- **All About Bees** by Linda Timmons
- **Using Natives in Your Landscape** by Linda Timmons
- **Cultivars Using Native Plants** by Melissa Deakins



Mineola Nature Preserve Photo by Linda Timmons

Volunteering Opportunities

In addition to speakers, we need volunteers for set up, take down, and docents to act as guides. Please contact Terri Baker if you would like to volunteer.

For any questions or comments, please contact Terri Baker at terrihbaker@yahoo.com or 214-868-7529.

Publicizing the Events

Kim Mason will be posting on Facebook and Barbara Williams will be posting on Next Door. Terri Baker will facilitate getting the information in all the local newspapers! Tag WCMGA when you see an article!

The mission of the Texas Master Gardeners, Wood County, is to educate the public. So, please share this information with everyone you know.

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>

Ann Reynolds: Ornamental Grasses Enhance a Landscape

Ornamental grass provides rhythm and a soft sound when the foliage moves in the wind. It also creates background and serves as a cornerstone to perennial beds. After the first hard freeze, interesting plumes and straw-colored foliage act as an upright focal point of texture. Everyone should include ornamental grass in their landscape.

One group of popular grasses easily obtained at nurseries is miscanthus, commonly called maiden grass. The many species and cultivars available make this grass popular in the home garden because of its easy care and lack of problems. There are dwarf forms which are 3 to 4 feet tall. Yaku Jima and Nippon are two dwarf maiden grasses.



Gracillimus miscanthus grass

The most common and popular miscanthus is Gracillimus, which has a narrow one-half inch wide leaf and silvery plumes. There are variegated forms such as Variegatus and Cabaret. The foliage has milky white stripes down the center with margins of dark green. In addition, the cultivar, Zebrinus (zebra grass), has horizontal variegation but sometimes exhibits a floppy growth habit.

One of the most beautiful miscanthus grasses, in my opinion, is Morning Light. It has a narrow band of clear white on each leaf margin in addition to a silvery midrib. At a distance the plant appears to glisten in the breeze.

Miscanthus wants good drainage and full sun. The only pest of this grass is the grasshopper! Two balanced fertilizer applications will help the grass to establish the first year. After that the grass does well on its own.

Could this plant be foolproof? The only maintenance needed is cutting it back to the ground in early March to remove the dead



Morning light miscanthus grass

foliage. The plant can be divided every three years or so in late spring.

This plant is best for backgrounds, as a focal point, accent, or as a screen. Miscanthus pairs well with evergreen shrubs. The showy plumes provide seeds and nesting material for some birds too. What more could a gardener want?

Garden on!



Zebrinus (zebra grass) miscanthus grass

Jessie Mellon: April Weather and Pokeweed Facts

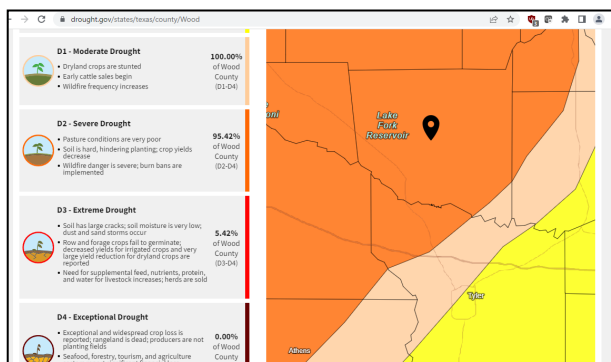
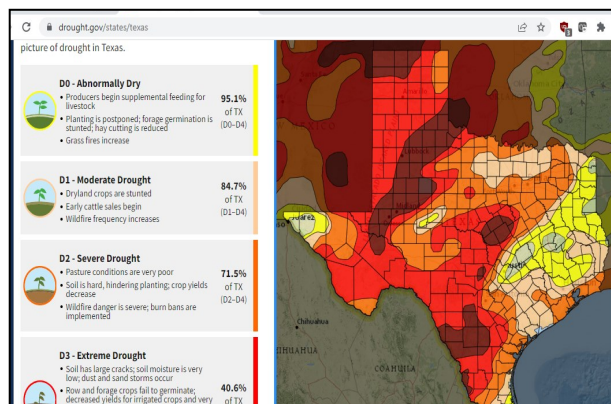
Spring is here. I can tell by the number of strong storms we have had recently.

On April 16, we saw a full moon. Temperature charts showed increasingly warm days and night time temperatures in the mid 40's. That wasn't exactly "tomato weather" but cool season greens should do well and, in fact, the cover crop of turnips and radishes I sowed in a new garden bed were doing quite well at that date. Our hickory trees leafed out and our slumbering black gum tree finally was leafing out. As of April 19, there was only a 10 percent chance of freezing temperatures, so my seedlings were safe.

As for rainfall, we remained in severe drought conditions. Last year in April and May we received 5.29 inches and 11.63 inches of rainfall, respectively. This year, the Winnsboro USGS weather station recorded only 1.04 inch for the week of April 7 through April 14.

Drought Conditions Continued

According to the Texas drought map, Wood County was still in severe drought conditions. Our streamflow conditions were lower compared to historical data. As temperatures rise, naturally, we can expect drier conditions. The following screen shots from the www.drought.gov site show the drought conditions in Texas.



Reference: <https://www.drought.gov/states/texas>

La Niña conditions will persist again this year. Let's encourage long tap roots by watering deeply and remember to MULCH, MULCH, MULCH!

My Nature Watch: Pokeweed

As part of the WCMGA Phenology Project, I record Phenophases of American pokeweed (*Phytolacca americana*) and have uncovered some interesting information in my readings.

Wikipedia describes Pokeweed as "a poisonous herbaceous perennial plant." Although many people consider it an invasive weed, I think its lush, vibrant broad leaves on colorful stems lend a tropical feel to my garden. I am amazed at its growth rate. On April 1 the newly emerged plant was 12 inches tall. Seven days later it was 24 inches tall and by April 13 it was 31 inches tall. That's a 19-inch growth in 13 days! I'll have to search for growth rates of the taproot.

So far, the pokeweed is laughing at La Niña drought conditions and that's a good thing because this vigorous native is a buffet for wildlife.

In Nancy Lawson's article, "Pokeweed: Something to Write Home About" (November 21, 2019), she notes that pokeweed is a natural wildlife feeder.

Reference: <https://www.humanegardener.com/>

It provides forage or serves as a host plant for a diverse list of animals. Deer relish it all season long and even snack on the dried leaves in winter. It is food for seed eaters such as mockingbirds, mourning doves, cardinals, brown thrashers, and cedar waxwings. Ruby throated hummingbirds tank up on flower nectar from its delicate white blossoms. The plant draws insects and invertebrates which feed bluebirds, robins, and other insectivores. It is a host plant for giant leopard moth (*Hypercompe scribonia*). Opossums and raccoons enjoy the fruit and insects it provides. Foxes also visit in search of a meal.

Pokeweed, as well as a host of other native plants, plays a pivotal role as a food source for migrating birds along the eastern migratory corridor of the United States. According to Susan Pagano, a researcher at the Rochester Institute of Technology, non-native plants don't attract the number of invertebrates needed to fuel their migration. This lack of "fuel" deprives migrating birds (especially passerine birds which only fly at night) of a valuable food source. Her research has identified a diverse mix of native plants on which these migratory songbirds rely. Among these plants are native viburnums, Virginia creeper, native dogwoods, serviceberries,



Pokeweed growing fast

Kathy Goodman: Lori Mays, Certified Master Gardener



Lori Mays, Emily Castillo, and Barb Williams

At the April 2022 WCMGA meeting, Lori Mays received her Texas Master Gardener certification. Emily Castillo, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent for Wood County, presented her certificate. WCMGA President Barb Williams and all the attending Master Gardeners congratulated Lori for completing her study and volunteer service.

Lori is class of 2021. She is a cheerful and enthusiastic participant in all the projects in which she volunteers. She has helped out by volunteering at the Extension Office Project, Winnsboro Library Project, Phenology Project, and by writing *Wood Works* newsletter articles.

Lori, we are happy to have you as a certified Texas Master Gardener and Wood County Master Gardeners Association member! Congratulations!

April Weather and Pokeweed Facts continued from page 9

elderberries, spicebush, chokeberries, and chokecherries, blueberries, and pokeweed.

Another study revealed that “catbirds stopping in the fall to feed in spaces dominated by non-native plant species had a lower body mass and poorer immune status than those who frequented areas filled with native plant species.”

We can help migratory birds and other wildlife visiting our gardens by including native plants.

Pokeweed seed is available from several commercial sources. If you want to collect your own, each seed pod contains 10 seeds with a tough outer coating that will preserve viability for 40 years. Germination requires cold stratification at or below 40°F for three months. The plant has an extremely long taproot making it very drought hardy. This is a perfect survivor of La Niña weather cycles.

The Value of Native Pokeweed

Every part of pokeweed contains a toxin called saponin. A saponin is a bitter-tasting, usually toxic, plant-derived compound that has a foamy quality when agitated with water. An example of the toxin is the foam that forms when beans are soaked or boiled. This toxin can cause nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal pain and may even be lethal. Ruminants, however, often consume small amounts of the mature leaves with no ill effects.

Although early settlers reportedly rendered young pokeweed greens safe for consumption by boiling the greens with three changes of water, I haven't tried it, yet.

Insects sequester saponins ingested from pokeweed in their

bodies as a chemical defense, making the insects unpalatable or lethal to predators. This is the case with the giant leopard moth caterpillars.

Historically, native Americans used pokeweed berry juice to paint their ponies or dye leather or fabric. They also used it in a salve to cure rheumatism. Civil war soldiers used pokeberry juice as an ink for letters from the field.

Today, compounds from pokeberry are being investigated as a cancer treatment and for possible antiviral properties that could protect human cells against HIV infection and AIDS.

Currently, Wakeforest University researchers have discovered that a dye derived from pokeberries doubles the efficiency of fibers used in solar cells.

Ironically, the plant so many of us consider an invasive weed is featured as a specimen plant in European botanical gardens.

I have newfound respect for this humble native, the American pokeberry.

References:

<https://weatherspark.com/h/m/146054/2022/4/Historical-Weather-in-April-2022-at-Mineola-Quitman-Wood-County-Airport;-Texas;-United-States#Figures-PrecipitationProbability>
<https://etweather.tamu.edu/rainhistory/>
<https://www.drought.gov/states/texas>
https://waterdata.usgs.gov/tx/nwis/uv/?site_no=325736095164800&PARAMeter_cd=00045
<https://etweather.tamu.edu/monthly-rainfall-1968-2021/>
<https://www.usanpn.org/>

Betty Stark: Darling Dahlias

When I was a young girl, my mother cooked for a very wealthy family who owned sheep farms in Massachusetts and Australia. In the summer, I accompanied mother to their farm in Massachusetts.

When the lady of the house wasn't feeling well, I was sent to the lower flower garden to cut a bouquet of dahlias to cheer her because she loved them. This was my first exposure to dahlias, and I thought they were absolutely beautiful.



Dahlia. photo by Kathy Goodman

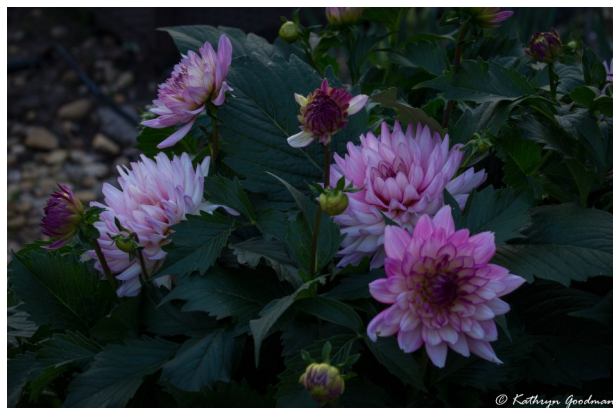
Dahlias Come in Many Sizes and Colors

Dahlias are native to Mexico and their blossoms come in every flower color except clear blue. Their sizes range from miniatures less than an inch across to giants more than a foot in diameter.

The dinnerplate dahlias are some of the most spectacular flowers I have ever seen. They bloom from midsummer until frost. The flower heads grow on stiff stems up to 7 feet tall.

Dahlias Grow From Tubers

Dahlias grow from tubers (shaped like a sweet potato) but can also be referred to as a bulb. You only need one tuber with an



Dahlia. photo by Kathy Goodman



Dahlia. photo by Kathy Goodman

"eye" to successfully grow a plant. The "eye" is similar to what you find on a potato or sweet potato. The tubers multiply each year.

How Dahlias are Sold

Dahlias are sold in four forms:

- Root divisions, which should be divided in the spring.
- Pot roots, which are grown in pots to make small tuber clumps with the pots buried in the soil. This form helps to protect and regenerate more roots.
- Green plants, which are young plants, 4 to 6 inches high that have been grown from stem cuttings.
- Bare roots or tubers sold in plastic bags, by retailers such as Walmart, Lowes, and other garden centers.

Caring for Dahlias

Plant your dahlias in a sunny location, in well-drained soil and work the soil to a depth of 8 to 12 inches. Place the tuber 4 to 6 inches deep with the side having the eye facing up.

Water well and fertilize the plants during the growing season but avoid high nitrogen fertilizers which might cause poor flower production.

In windy areas you may need to stake your plants and also pinch off the top of the stems to produce low growing stocky plants.

Cut Flowers for Bouquets

When cutting flowers for bouquets inside the house, dip the ends of the stems in an inch of boiling water for a second or sear with a candle flame. This makes the blooms last longer without wilting.

Saving Dahlia Tubers

To save your large dahlia tubers you can dig them up, cut the green portion off and store them over winter in dry vermiculite at 45 to 50 degrees.

I have planted two types of dahlias this spring and I can't wait to be surprised.

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.



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 (until the MG graduation on May 17) and then @ 9 am
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

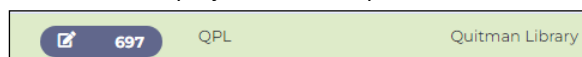
Work day: Monday @ 10 am

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

Please sign up on the Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Management System (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 Texas Master Gardener VMS at https://vms.texasmg.org/sec_Login/
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** to indicate that you want to offer a particular skill, and then click **Volunteer for this Project**. You will receive an email verifying your sign up.

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

WCMGA Meetings

Third Thursday of Each Month

8:30 - 9 am Visiting and Sign-in

9 am Meeting

May 19 meeting at the Hawkins City Park Pavilion
(bring water and a lawn chair)

June 16 meeting at the 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

Please send newsletter articles, suggestions, and interesting information to newsletter editor Kathy Goodman at kmgoodman0807@gmail.com.

Note: For writing articles, you can count up to 3 hours as Project: NL volunteer hours in VMS. Put the number of hours for research under Project: Research in VMS. 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

WCMGA Private Facebook Group

This private Facebook group is for the Wood County Master Gardeners Association members. To join, contact Linda Timmons at 903.569.3443 or lindtmms@aol.com.

<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.

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.

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.