

Barb Williams: President's Letter

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Happy fall y'all!

I'm sitting outside on my patio watching the rain come down and the pond fill up. My heart is so happy!!!

My mind, however, is curious—what does all of this fresh rain water mean to my veggie garden, bulb bed, xeriscape, the beds around my house, the pop up pumpkin patch in the side yard, and my wildscape? Will I see a growth spurt or water-logged plants?

Side note: Texas is not the place to mimic New Mexico's rock beds! The weeds must be stronger out here!

The forecast looks to be overcast, rainy, and only in the upper 80s during the day, yet still in the 70s at night for the next ten days. Is it a balmy end to a long, hot, dry summer or a breath of fresh air to start the fall?

Thankfully, my husband and I got the place mowed, used the weed eater, trimmed, and weeded before the deluge hit. It'll be much easier to manage the new growth, and it just looks beautiful!

On the WCMGA side of things, we're working on a Budget committee and a Nominating committee. We need a Vice President and a Secretary for 2023. Many thanks to Susan Jarrell and Gloria Jeane Rosewall for their time served!

Our Membership committee has knocked it out of the park and our Education Series committee is on a roll! We have two more promising events scheduled for this year. The events are scheduled for September 17th at the AgriLife Extension Office and October 22nd at the Mineola Nature Preserve. There's lots of great speakers and tons of information to pass on to the public!



View from the back porch

Our project leaders have been stoic and persevered during this HOT drought, keeping most things alive. (It's all a percentage game, right?)

I hope each of you will visit each of our projects at least once this year on a project work day. It's really the only way to know what we offer at each location! Emory is the only one left on my list and I'm looking forward to checking it out!

Lastly, I want to remind you to get your fall garden started... Radishes are delicious and also make wonderful flowers for our pollinators when the plants go to seed! This year I'm going to add some to the wildflower mix I throw out in October.

Please feel free to reach out to me whenever you'd like. I respond quickest to text messages at (505) 321-2817.

Peace, Love and Joy!

Upcoming WCMGA Meetings

| | |
|------------------|--|
| <i>September</i> | Nature Arrangements by Meleena Byram —Meleena will be demonstrating creative ideas with natural elements from outdoors. |
| <i>October</i> | Annual plant exchange —Start saving your seeds, surviving plants, and anything that gardeners love to experiment with. Be creative! |

2022 Officers and Directors



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**To learn how to become a Master
Gardener, contact the AgriLife
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Responsibilities

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Ann Reynolds: Bicycling with Butterflies

We all have our favorite butterfly and for most of us it is the monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). This beautiful butterfly floats on the breeze over our flowerbeds, occasionally resting on a black-eyed Susan to bat her orange and black wings. The regal insect is always on the hunt for a sip of nectar or a milkweed leaf where she can lay her eggs.

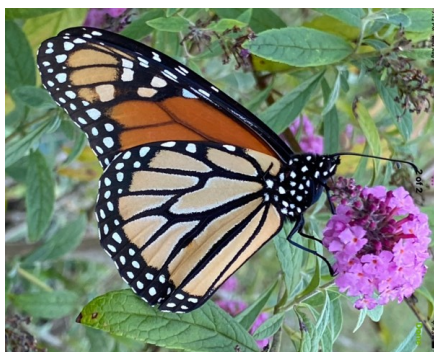


Photo by Suzanne Whitsell

As many gardeners are wont to do, we not only study plants and entertain them in our gardens but we also go so far to study the creatures that visit our flower gardens. We take courses in integrated pest management, so we truly know the good and bad bugs. We seek out the plants that are nectar and host plants. But have you ever thought of following the (wing) steps of your favorite butterfly, the monarch?

A few years ago, outdoor educator and field researcher Sara Dykman decided to do something no one had ever done before—pedal along with monarch butterflies over the entire length of their 10,201-mile migratory journey (Mexico to Canada). She did it alone, on a hand-built bicycle, through three countries.



Photo by Suzanne Whitsell

In her book *Bicycling with Butterflies* (Winner of the 2021 National Outdoor Book Award), Dykman tells of her journey. She wrote about the dramatic ups and downs of the almost nine-month odyssey as she navigated unmapped roads in foreign countries, checked roadside milkweed for monarch eggs, and shared her passion with eager schoolchildren, skeptical bar patrons, and unimpressed border officials. She also met some of the most passionate monarch stewards who supported her efforts, from citizen scientists and researchers to farmers and high-rise city dwellers.

Here is an idea of the monarch migration/life cycle and Sara Dykman's journey. Like so many migrating animals, the monarch leaves Mexico each spring. But unlike the others, she requires two or three generations to complete the journey. Her butterfly grandparent may have been born south of the border in March, to parents who overwintered there, her parents hatched in Texas in April to lay eggs in Iowa in May.

The return trip in the fall is a straight shot, though, with a longer-lived generation forgoing reproduction until they have made it to Mexico. On either end, none of the butterflies, their parents, or grandparents have been to their destination before. Yet their built-in compass gets them there. If you've ever driven on I-35 you have come pretty close to the migration route of the monarch. In fact, six states' departments of transportation have dubbed the I-35 corridor the Monarch Highway in honor of their joint commitment to butterfly conservation.

Monarchs winter in the Sierra Madre mountains of Michoacan, Mexico. You have probably seen the internet photos of tens of thousands of butterflies roosting on a tree waiting for spring conditions to signal the long-awaited reproduction cycle. They won't congregate in such density again until they return in September.



Monarch migration map

Dykman said she did not anticipate the emotional weight of seeing the world from a monarch's point of view. Where prairie once thrived, she pedaled past monoculture corn fields and manicured lawns. But school pollinator gardens, the hospitality of her hosts, and the receptiveness of communities to the monarch's story gave her hope. "If you tell someone that milkweed is important," she says, "they'll often stop mowing it down."

Statistics

- 10,201 miles/16.471 km traveled
- Four flat tires
- Number of monarchs on the route:
 - 722 adults
 - 82 car-killed adults
 - 252 eggs
 - 245 caterpillars
- Story told to 9,140 folks

With humor and humility, Dykman offers an educational and informational story that confirms the urgency of saving the threatened monarch migration. It is a great read where science, nature, and adventure come together in this compelling account of a solo bike trip along the migratory path of the monarch butterfly.

Linda Timmons: The Importance of Native Plants

The plants at the Wildscape were, in general, chosen because they are native or adapted to east Texas. However, we're not having normal weather this year. Being adapted doesn't help when the temperatures soar, and the rain stops. As a result, many native plants are suffering.

It's interesting to note the different ways plants react to heat and drought stress. Most plants react to the lack of moisture by wilting. Leaves turn dull then yellow or brown with prolonged lack of water. Some plant leaves appear scorched along the leaf edges. Flower and fruit production slows or stops.

At the Wildscape all the older leaves on a Little Gem magnolia tree located on the edge of the irrigation zone have died. The newer younger leaves near the tips of the branches look normal. The tree is trying to preserve itself by giving all its limited resources to the youngest leaves.

Occasionally a drought-stressed plant reblooms out of season when it does get moisture. The beautyberry shrubs (*Callicarpa americana*) have bloomed for the second time this year. Plants that react this way are attempting to reproduce when in extreme stress.

On a happier note, in the Pocket Prairie area of the Wildscape the flame acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*), passion vine (*Passiflora incarnata*), and the cowpen daisies (*Verbesina encelioides*) are not having any problems and are

blooming without irrigation. Also, at the entry to the Dry Bed area, the coral honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is blooming.

All four of these plants are Texas natives and that fact points out again the importance of native plants in our landscapes.



The beautyberry shrubs are reblooming.

Jessie Mellon: Phenology Project Report

I follow these species for my phenology project:

- **Pokeweed**—The plant has traded verdant green foliage for tones of gold and bronze on burgundy stems. There is no new growth. The plant has begun to droop under the weight of the seed panicles. Many birds feast on the seeds daily, but the plant is "middle aged."
- **Yaupon holly**—Last month, it was unphased by drought conditions. This month at least 50 percent of the berries are missing. I didn't see any seed on the ground, so I guess that the immature berries have been consumed by "critters." Some of the remaining berries have developed dark spots.
- **Passion vine**—Vegetative growth has been fabulous despite drought conditions. There are many large blooms but very few fruits. I assume that the lack of fruit correlated with a lack of pollinators. I read that passion vine can self-pollinate, but pollination must occur under moist conditions as the pollen is too



Black gum tree leaves turned red.

heavy to be spread by the wind. Our conditions have been very dry. The only pollinators I have seen in my garden are bumble bees and black swallowtail butterflies.

- **Black gum (tupelo tree)**—The tree is showing signs of drought stress. The leaves started turning from green to yellow, gold, and red on last year's wood a week ago. The young growth has started to turn color as well. I hope the meager rain showers we have received in the last few days will help.

Drought conditions persist in Wood County. According to the USGS weather station in Winnsboro, only 0.4 inches of precipitation was recorded in the last 30 days.

NOAA calculates an 86 percent probability that La Niña conditions will continue for

our fall season and a 60 percent probability that they will persist in December through February of 2023. I hope this trend continues and the La Niña cycle abates.

Hang in there gardeners!



Texas Master Gardeners Wood County Presents FREE Garden Educational Series

9:00 am – Noon

Saturday, September 17, AgriLife Extension Office

618 S. Main St., Quitman, TX

“Our Plant Choices”

“S.I.P.S. Garden”

“Composting & Our Irrigation Project”

“Phenology (How to become a “Citizen Scientist”)”

Save Future Date

9:00 am – Noon

Saturday, October 22, Mineola Nature Preserve

1860 Co Rd 2724, Mineola, TX

“What We Can Do For Our Native Bees”

“Enhance Your Landscape With Texas Natives”

Q&A

Wildscape Garden Walk about, *weather permitting*



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.

Kathy Goodman: Reggie Askins' Talk about Microclimates

Reggie Askins presented an excellent and timely program for the July WCMGA meeting. She talked about the importance of being mindful about microclimates. It is important to know your area. What works for your neighbor may not work for you. Plants will be productive if you put them in the right place. Always amend the soil and consider the availability of water.

Microclimates Around Reggie's Property

The west side of her property is home to a desert garden. The northwest side is a cottage garden with roses and daisies. The east side gets the morning sun and the shade of the house. Hydrangeas do well there. A shed blocks the bitter wind from the north and provides conditions for oleanders. The southeast side, with its retaining walls, is home to Peruvian lilies and crinum lilies. The west side stays totally wet and is home to vines, monkey grass, and Louisiana swamp iris.

Heat and Drought Conditions

For successful gardening in heat waves and drought conditions, focus on plants that love the heat. That includes icicle grass, coreopsis, weeping yaupon, crinum lilies, knock out roses, and succulents.

In the summer, many plants may drop blossoms and stop setting fruit when the temperatures exceed 90 degrees. It is important to keep plants together that have similar water requirements.

As a rule, she recommended that you keep plants well-watered by watering deeply to a depth of 6 inches, once a week for clay soils and two times a week for sandy soils. It is best to use a trowel to check that the water has soaked to 6 inches deep—don't guess.

Avoid surrounding beds with crushed stone, brick, or concrete paths. They are heat absorbers. In your gardens, space plants farther apart. You double your watering needs if plants are close together. If a plant is droopy in the morning, it is telling you that it needs water.

Keep your garden well-weeded. The vigorous root systems of weeds compete with your preferred plants. Avoid using tall raised bed gardens because the soil dries out quickly and is warmer than surface gardens. Also avoid growing large plants on trellises because they lose moisture quickly. During the hot summer, mow the grass at 3 inches.

Reference: Rachel Oppedal, University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener

Lin Grado: What's in a Name?

Have you ever been talking to a fellow gardener, debating the toxicity of moonflower, only to discover you weren't talking about the same plant? Or you trade for a start of a plant that's new to you – 'September morn' – only to find out that it's obedient plant.

Yes, many plants can have the same common name, and a plant can have many common names, but a plant has only one botanical name.

Botanical names are formal, standardized scientific names for algae, fungi, and plants. One of the first lessons in the Texas Master Gardener program concerns *binomial nomenclature*, a system of naming organisms with a two-part name: genus and species.

At the time Carl Linnaeus first published his work on classifying plants (1753), it was based on observable characteristics of plants (such as size and shape of leaves, roots, stems, and flowers). There are rules for writing a botanical name: it should be *italicized*, and the genus should be capitalized while the species is lower case. Thus, moonflower could be *Datura wrightii* (the Texas native perennial) or *Ipomoea alba* (the vine).

So once you're learned the botanical name, you're set, right? Not quite. We live in times of scientific discoveries and advances. These can lead to changes in classification which occur as technology provides more precise information about plants. Thus, my beloved blue butterfly plant with flowers that

look like tiny blue butterflies is no longer *Clerodendrum ugandense* but rather *Rotheca myricoides*.

So why use botanical names? They allow people to communicate with accuracy about plants – not only within our group, or locale, but across the world. You can see how important that could be on social media. The language used is the same world-wide, separate from the local language and is usually based on Latin or Greek terms.

Many people avoid using botanical names, because they don't know how to pronounce them – but you're probably not talking to a linguist so just sound it out the best you can. Who cares if you pronounce 'Kalanchoe' as 'kah-LAN-cho', 'KAL-an-cho', 'kah-LAN-ko-ee' or 'kal-an-KO-ee'? I say give it a Texas twist and have fun with it!

Moonflower?



Ipomoea alba (the vine). Photo from internet



Datura wrightii (the Texas native perennial) Photo by Kathy Goodman

Lin Grado: Hot Times at the Arboretum

In Texas, it's August, not April, that is the cruelest month (apologies to T.S. Eliot)—with unrelenting heat and little rain for most of the month, the result of a La Niña weather pattern over the state. But there are plants in the Arboretum that not only survive the heat, but actually shine through the summer.

Caveats for Plant Success

Here are the caveats for the Arboretum's plant success:

- The gardens are well-mulched, typically using shredded tree trimmings over a layer of cardboard. The City of Quitman provides wood chips and composted leaves for our use in the beds. We had some help in June from a church camp group whose volunteers spent six hours over three days spreading mulch in several gardens, and our volunteers have done the rest.
- We have an automatic irrigation system. Thanks to Master Gardener Phil Young, our irrigation system remains in top shape throughout the summer, keeping even newly-planted gardens well-watered.
- Volunteers weed almost every week and top off mulch as needed. If you provide water, weeds grow just as well as (or better than) the plants you want. Preen is helpful at preventing some annual weeds, but the best thing is a heavy mulch to prevent the seeds from getting the sun they need to sprout.

Pollinator Paradise Garden Blooms

The Pollinator Paradise garden has plenty of blooms for bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Several salvias have continued to bloom (and are favorites of hummingbirds): black and blue salvia (*Salvia guaranitica*), sky-blue sage (*S. uliginosa*), and the electric purple salvia (*S. guaranitica* x) that we started from cuttings from my yard at the end of last season.

Black and blue salvia is an aggressive spreader, so give it room or contain it. Sky-blue sage with its light blue flowers forms a nice clump, and electric purple salvia is large (3-4' tall and wide) but very well-behaved. On the opposite end of the color wheel is 'Goldsturm' black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*, a



John Fanick tall garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) and goldsturm black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia fulgida*)

Coming Soon
Fall Plant Sale – Wood County Arboretum
 175 Gov Hogg Pkwy, Quitman
 Saturday, October 15
 from 8 am till 2 pm

Friends of the Arboretum can shop
 Friday, October 14, from 4 pm till 6 pm

Annual color, perennials, grasses, and shrubs,
including Texas natives

Texas native). Some rudbeckia are annuals or short-lived perennials, but goldsturm has been long-lived in our gardens. The butterflies' favorite flowers are the tall garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) – we have masses of John Fanick and Victoria, both of which are Texas superstars. This mass planting is key to attracting pollinators. Bees also like the clusters of flowers on the phlox and salvia, and the composite flowers of Rudbeckia.

Best Summer Shrub Blooms

For shrubs, the best summer blooms are found in the sunny shrub border: the smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) and the panicle hydrangeas (*H. paniculata*), both are fairly sun tolerant (needing protection from the afternoon sun), while the smooth hydrangea also performs well in shade. The smooth hydrangea blooms early in the season, but the blooms age to a nice bright green that contrasts with their foliage. The panicle hydrangeas (which include varieties such as Limelight and Little Lime) are in full bloom now. Their blooms age to pinks, mauves, and even reds by fall. This bed also contains 'Whiz Kid Purple' crepe myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*), a dwarf plant with purple blooms.



Victoria tall garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) and elephant ears in background

Hot Times at the Arboretum continued on page 8

Hot Times at the Arboretum continued from page 7*Siam Shadow' tulip ginger (Curcuma alismatifolia X rhabdota)**Smooth hydrangea (Hydrangea arborescens)*

Shady Perennial Garden

We're also using some tropical plants in the shady perennial garden, either as annuals or with the intent to overwinter indoors. Katie Carter donated 'Siam Shadow' tulip ginger (*Curcuma alismatifolia X rhabdota*) earlier this year, and they are show-stoppers. Their purple blooms held high on long stems have lasted for months in a garden that gets dappled morning sun.

*Frog in a Blender caladium (Caladium bicolor)*

Close to them is a foliage favorite of mine, as much for the name as for the color: Frog in a Blender caladium (*Caladium bicolor*), with mottled green leaves reminiscent of Mojito elephant ears. While I usually grow caladium as annuals, I searched so long for this variety that I may dig them up before the first frost to overwinter.

This bed also contains a few upright elephant ears (*Alocasia spp.*) that are not reliably hardy here: one variety was labeled Black Stem, which is huge, and nearby is an all-green variety called 'Borneo Giant'.

The adjacent sunny border is home to hardy elephant ears, all varieties of *Colocasia esculenta*. 'Maui gold' (chartreuse) and

'teacup' (black stems and veins with cupped green leaves) are looking great, but 'Maui sunrise' has been uprooted repeatedly by an armadillo, so it's struggling.

Shrubs With Glorious Foliage

Don't forget shrubs that can provide glorious foliage in the heat. Year-round favorites in the Shades of Green garden are chartreuse-leaved varieties of Florida anise (*Illicium parviflorum*) that provide a bright spot in the shadiest of gardens. We have two varieties, Florida sunshine and BananAppeal, each with a little different growth habit. The oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) are past their bloom cycle, but the flower heads are drying to great shades of pinkish tan that complement the exfoliating bark.

Walk About in Your Gardens

The best advice for having a great summer garden is to get out in your garden as the heat permits—early in the morning or at dusk. Plants can quickly get too dry if a critter moves the sprinkler (or the mulch), or if weeds sneak in and steal the water away from your plants.

Be sure to start your gardening time with a walkabout in your gardens. As the Chinese proverb says, "the best fertilizer is the gardener's shadow."

*Limelight panicle hydrangea (H. paniculata)*

Carolyn West: Water Progress at the Extension Office Project

"Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink."

That quote is from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, as you probably remember. However, it applies to our new irrigation system at the AgriLife building. After many months of planning, the system is finally in – almost!

Ken West, his crew, and I worked last week to install the system and hit a hard stop. The temperature was 102 degrees, the soil was as hard as concrete in many areas, and digging was awful.



The area by Hwy 37 was the hardest to dig and it was hot!

Pricing for the materials and parts has more than tripled in the post-Covid inflation period. What a shock when we purchased the PVC alone! Ken contributed many fittings, supplies and necessary items, plus his crews' labor; however, when the need for the anti-siphon valve was realized, we hit a hard stop,

On Saturday we met with a master plumber and arranged to buy the very expensive valve and have it installed as is required by the City of Quitman. Next, an inspection by a certified plumber must happen, a certificate must be issued, and I will take it to the City of Quitman for their inspection.

The plumbing will happen next Saturday, so we should have a working system by September 1, 2022. Something that I thought would be a walk in the park has become a big challenge. The silver lining is we will have a super system that will reduce our time holding a single water hose trying to keep our landscaping alive. So, there will be water, water everywhere! Plus, I can stop talking about when the irrigation system will be completed!

Speaking of water, who could have imagined that the Heavens would open and end the drought for us, all in one day! The



Making way for the water system beside the Extension office.

ground is saturated, and our plants should begin to recover and grow as we head into the fall season. I am excited about creating a lot of fall colors.

Saturday, September 17 is the date for the Education Series at the AgriLife Extension office. We will be teaching SIP Gardening, Plant Selections, Composting and Irrigation, and Phenology. We look forward to sharing information with the attendees. A special thank you goes to our members who are volunteering to help make this a successful event.



Kathy Goodman: Drought and Heat-Tolerant Plants

Special thanks to Lin Grado, Jessie Mellon, Jan Whitlock, Linda Timmons, Barb Williams, Cindi Miller, Susan Jarrell, Meleena Byram, Ann Reynolds, and Elaine Porter for their time and contributions to this article and the list of drought and heat-tolerant plants.

In extended times of drought with temperatures in the 100s some plants managed to survive or thrive with sparse or minimal watering. To get an idea of what plants did well or survived the drought and heat of 2022, I requested input from the Wood County Master Gardeners Association (WCMGA) members. The compiled list will help you choose plants that may survive heat and drought. We can all learn from each other during these difficult gardening times.

In Reggie Askins' educational topic for the July WCMGA meeting, "Being Mindful of Microclimate," she reminded us that each planting area in your yard or Master Gardener project has its own microclimate. Over time you will learn what works best for your areas. However, what works for your next-door neighbor may not work for you.

If you are on a water-restriction schedule, don't want high water bills, or you want plants that are not extra fussy, check out the *Drought and Heat Tolerant Plants for Wood County* list. That document lists some drought-tolerant plants that survived for your fellow Wood County Master Gardeners. Many of these plants are adapted to dry climates and minimal watering. Some plants survived the July and August 2022 heat and drought with no added watering.

Note: Please refer to the *Drought and Heat Tolerant Plants for Wood County* list for the scientific or botanical names of the plants in this article. See the full list on the WCMGA website: <https://txmg.org/woodcounty/drought-and-heat-tolerant-plants-for-wood-county/>

Lin Grado's Wisdom from the Waterwise Garden

The Waterwise Garden at the Wood County Arboretum and Botanical Garden was established by the Master Gardener classes of 2013 and 2015 to showcase plants that need little to no supplemental water once they're established (after their first year in the garden). There are native and adapted plants in this garden so the Waterwise Garden is a great place to see what can be accomplished with little to no hand watering.

Lin Grado, the Wood County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens project chair and Garden Manager for the Arboretum, provided an excellent list of plants from the Waterwise Garden. The plants get full sun, no water, and are all



Maximilian sunflower by Lin Grado

well-established in the spot. She said, "They're all looking quite well, either blooming or preparing for their late-season blooms (fall aster and Maximilian sunflower). The crossvine and iris bloom in the spring, but the foliage looks very good in the garden right now. I only consider plants as drought-tolerant if they receive no supplemental water."

Here is Lin's explanation about establishing plants in the Waterwise Garden: "We generally water them as needed the first year, especially if it's dry (not more than once a week, if that, since I try not to make extra trips just to water). I try to plant in the fall in this garden, so I don't have to haul water. There are some exceptions – we haven't watered the grasses or the Texas sage we planted in the fall. The Texas sage is okay, but the grasses are prematurely brown, so we'll see if they survive. Others like the self-seeding gomphrena and the zinnia are on their own from day one."

Other Arboretum Plants that Survived the Heat with Supplemental Watering

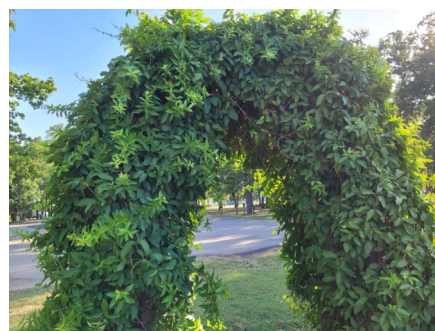
For heat-tolerant plants (with supplemental watering), the Arboretum has some perennials and shrubs that continued to shine. Some plants, such as elephant ears and Florida anise, provided glorious foliage in the heat.

Perennials that really shined in the heat can be seen in the Arboretum's Pollinator and Monarch Demonstration Gardens.

Note: See Lin's article [Hot Times at the Arboretum on page 7](#) for more information about Arboretum plants.

Jessie Mellon's Plants That Flourished with No Watering

Jessie Mellon, Phenology-Nature Watch project chair, had some plants that did well with no watering during the 2022 summer drought. She said a cenizo Texas sage that was planted in a "hell spot" in sugar sand near the edge of the road and was shaded by pines in the late afternoon received no care



Cross vine by Lin Grado



Barberry, coleus, and cosmos by Lin Grado

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Drought and Heat-Tolerant Plants continued from page 10

except an occasional encouraging word.

She also said that an established Spanish dagger yucca required no care and flourished in full sun in a field of adversity. In addition, an established passion vine flourished with no care other than being trained on a trellis, which was overrun this year.



Crinum lily by Jessie Mellon

Jessie got a pleasant surprise when a crinum lily bloomed in an area that gets no supplemental water. She said it had gotten 0.7 inches of rain the previous week. Those miracle crinum blooms popped up as an encouragement to Jessie in the bad weather situation.

Mineola Wildscape Successes

If you want inspiration for wildflowers and other adapted plants that will grow in drought and heat conditions, walk around the Mineola Wildscape. Many plants there are growing with no or sparse water. The passion vine at the Wildscape is host to the Gulf fritillary butterfly. Other native plants attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and native bees.

Mineola Nature Preserve project chair, Linda Timmons said, "Flame acanthus, beautyberry, coral yucca, crossvine, fall aster, goldenrod, Maximilian sunflower, Turks cap, black eyed Susan, Texas star hibiscus, yarrow, and Texas rock rose are all successfully growing at the Wildscape." Linda recommends growing Texas native plants that are adapted to survive with little care.



Flame acanthus by Jessie Mellon

One hardy native you'll find at the Wildscape is frog fruit. The plants are low growing to about 3 to 5 inches in height. It prefers dry soil with good drainage. Another favorite native at the Wildscape is the cowpen daisy, which is in the aster family. Cowpen daisies are an important source of nectar for our Texas native bees, which are dear to Linda's heart.

Note: See Linda's article, The [Importance of Native Plants on page 4](#).

Jan Whitlock's Favorites

Jan Whitlock, project chair for the Quitman Library, has limited direct sunlight in her home gardens which limits her plant selection. She has been gardening on her land for 35 years. Her

sprinkler system went out for three weeks in June and July, so she had to hand water her plants. Despite the drought and heat wave, the plants she added to the list did beautifully. Jan's well-established rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan) with sparse water and sun to partial shade has beautiful blooms for many weeks, no pruning needed, stays green through most winters. It is disease resistant, and it came back



Cockscomb (Celosia) by Jan Whitlock



Crocosmia by Jan Whitlock

after the deer stripped it of all foliage in May and June. That's one tough plant.

She also likes zinnias (there are many varieties to choose from) which get full sun and regular watering. They have colorful blooms from June to October. A plus, the deer have never bothered these. Jan grows them from packaged seed, from saved seed, and they

always reseed themselves. It is a great cut flower. During times of drought and high heat, the deer are looking for something to eat. Jan recommends more plants that deer do not disturb, such as salvia, spider flower, crocosmia, and cockscomb.

Susan Jarrell's Heat Survivors

Susan Jarrell is the WCMGA vice president. Her plants that have survived the heat are rosemary, lantana, foxtail fern, asparagus fern, moonflowers, bridal wreath spirea, and snow ball viburnum. Some of her favorites are the bridal wreath spirea and the snow ball viburnum. She likes the rosemary for cooking and fragrance.



Moonflower (datura) and bridal wreath spirea by Susan Jarrell

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Cindi Miller's Plants That are Doing Well in the Heat

For Cindi Miller, the following plants did well in full sun with supplemental watering: Halberd-leaved rose mallow hibiscus bush, lobelia, zinnia, and roses. She said that in partial shade and with regular watering, marigolds, rose of Sharon, bougainvillea, pink indigo, yarrow, and four o'clocks did well in the heat.



Halberd-leaved rose mallow hibiscus by Cindi Miller

Barb William's List of Plants

Barb Williams, WCMGA president, provided an extensive list of interesting plants that survived the heat with sparse water.

They included the following plants: witch hazel, Santa Rosa plum, wisteria, smoke bush, fiber optic button bush, false indigo, frost weed, iron weed, bridal wreath spirea, pomegranate, fire spike, rose of Sharon, firecracker flower, and palms. Barb's land has lots of sun and room for experimenting with plants.

Barb said the firecracker flower was so beautiful that it took her breath away. The flowers of the fiber optic button bush look like Sputnik. The smoke bush flowers are a gorgeous dark plum. In addition to loving interesting and beautifully colored blooms, she finds medicinal and edible plants interesting.



False indigo by Cindi Miller

Ann Reynolds Successes

Ann Reynolds, project chair for the Hawkins gardens, said that at her home the hummingbird bush and moonflower (Datura) did well with sparse watering.

The hummingbird bush did as it was named. It attracted hummingbirds. In addition, the moon flower attracted the hummingbird moth. Her Russian sage survived with no additional watering. The black-eyed Susan required sparse watering.

Meleena Byram's Favorites

Meleena has some pretty plants that bloom at her home amongst the piney trees. Meleena also has a love for flower arranging and will be demonstrating nature arrangements at the September WCMGA meeting.

Her list of flowers that received supplemental water included: blanket flower, canna, cast iron plant, coreopsis, cosmos, creeping Jenny, daylily, hyacinth bean vine, lantana, obedient plant, penstemon, and prairie sunflower.

Elaine Porter's Favorite Plant

Elaine Porter's favorite heat-tolerant plant is her bougainvillea. Her beautiful plant is three years old. It gets five to six hours of sun and sparse water.



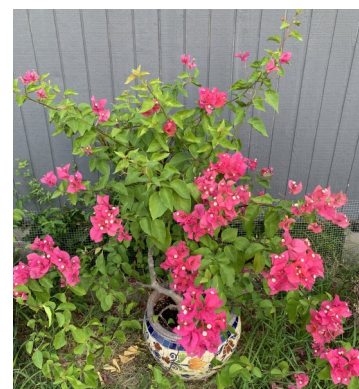
Blanket flower by Meleena Byram

Survivors in Kathy Goodman's Yard

In my (Kathy Goodman's) yard, I watered sparsely two times a week. My favorite plants are lantana, variegated agave, lambs ear, tall phlox, miniature roses, Angels trumpets (*Brugmansia*), vinca, Confederate rose, and bronze fennel. I gravitate toward the tried-and-true plants because I don't have good soil and haven't done extensive amending in many areas. I love hearty perennial plants, native plants, and plants that reseed.

I was surprised at the number of plants that the Master Gardeners said did well in the harsh summer weather. During the hot, dry period of the summer of 2022, it was encouraging to see the names of plants that were surviving and some that were thriving.

Reference: *Drought and Heat Tolerant Plants for Wood County* on the Wood County Master Gardeners website for a complete list of all the Master Gardeners' plants: <https://txmg.org/woodcounty/drought-and-heat-tolerant-plants-for-wood-county/>



Bougainvillea by Cindi Miller



Tall phlox by Kathy Goodman

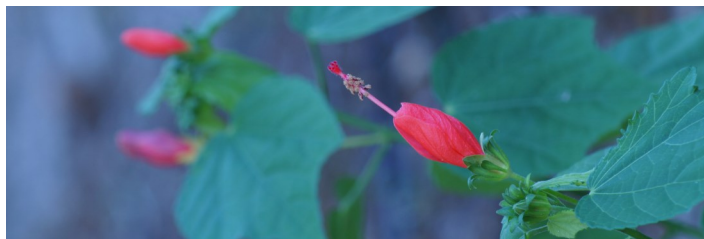


Miniature rose by Kathy Goodman

Plants that Survived with No Supplemental Water

The Master Gardeners reported that the following plants survived with no supplemental water during the drought and heat of the summer of 2022.

Reference: For a list that includes plants that got supplemental water, refer to the *Drought and Heat Tolerant Plants for Wood County* spreadsheet that lists all the Master Gardeners contributions: <https://txmg.org/woodcounty/drought-and-heat-tolerant-plants-for-wood-county/>



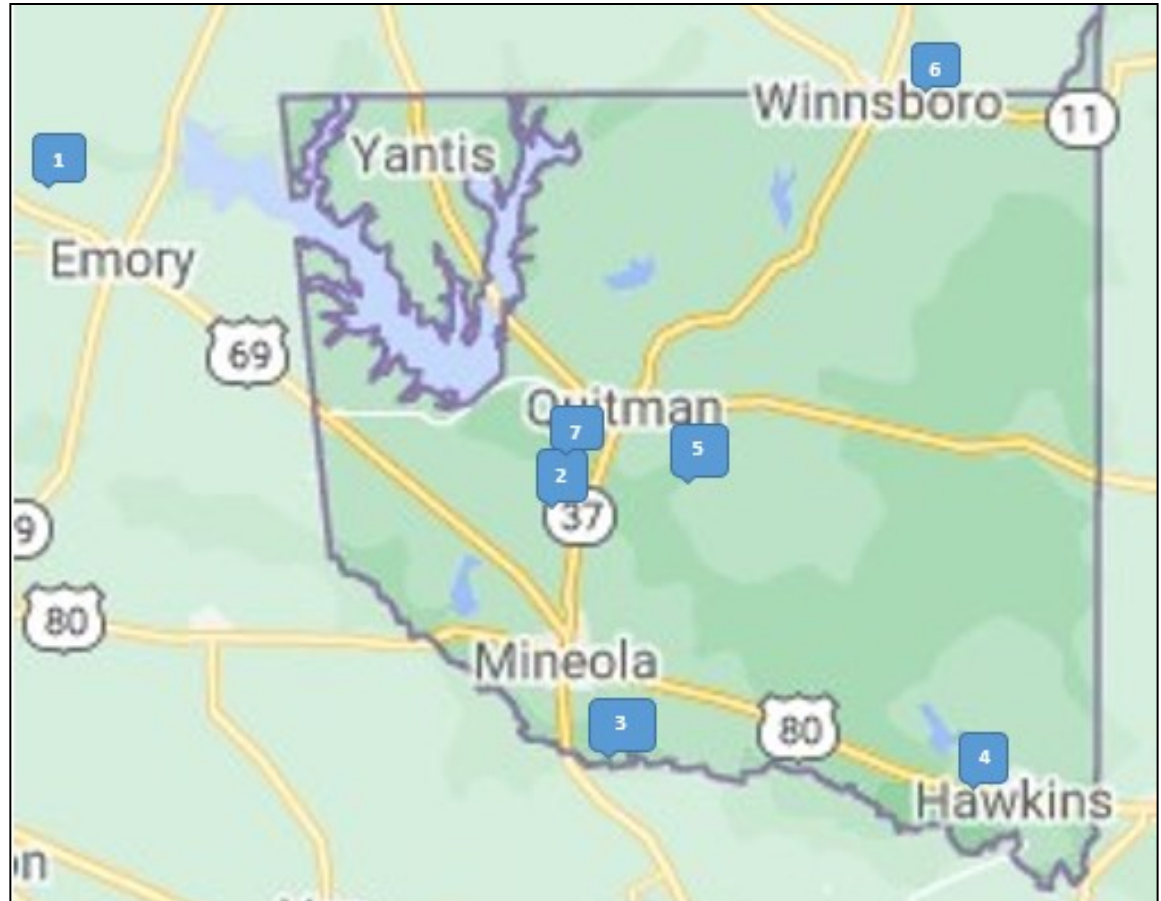
Turks cap by Kathy Goodman

| Common Name | Botanical or Scientific Name (Genus, species) | New or Established | Sun or Shade |
|--|--|-----------------------|---------------|
| Acanthus, flame (aka hummingbird bush) | <i>Anisacanthus quadrifidus</i> var. <i>wrightii</i> | Established | Sun |
| Aster, fall | <i>Symphyotrichum oblongifolium</i> | Established | Sun |
| Beautyberry shrub | <i>Callicarpa americana</i> | Established | Sun |
| Blanket flower | <i>Gaillardia pulchella</i> | Established | Sun |
| Coreopsis (aka tickseed) | <i>Coreopsis</i> spp. | Established | Sun |
| Crepe myrtle | <i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> | Established | Sun |
| Crinum lily | <i>Crinum</i> spp. | Established | Sun |
| Crossvine | <i>Bignonia capreolata</i> | Established | Sun |
| Datura (aka moonflower, loco weed, angel trumpet, devil's trumpet, Jimsonweed) | <i>Datura wrightii</i> | Established | Sun |
| Desert willow | <i>Chilopsis linearis</i> | Established | Sun |
| Fireworks gomphrena | <i>Gomphrena pulchella</i> 'Fireworks' | Established | Sun |
| Goldenrod | <i>Solidago</i> spp. | Established | Sun |
| Honeysuckle, coral | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> | Established | Sun |
| Indigo bush, false | <i>Amorpha fruticosa</i> | Established | Sun |
| Iris, bearded | <i>Iris germanica</i> | Established | Sun |
| Lily, surprise or resurrection (aka naked ladies) | <i>Lycoris squamigera</i> | Established | Sun |
| Partridge pea | <i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i> | Established | Sun |
| Passion vine (aka passionflower, may pop) | <i>Passiflora incarnata</i> | Established | Sun |
| Rain lily, copper | <i>Habranthus tubispathus</i> | Established | Sun, part sun |
| Rock rose, Brazilian | <i>Pavonia braziliensis</i> | Established | Sun |
| Rosemary | <i>Salvia rosmarinus</i> | Established | Sun |
| Sage, Russian | <i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> | Established | Sun |
| Sage, Texas (aka cenizo, Texas rain sage, Texas silverleaf, purple sage) | <i>Leucophyllum frutescens</i> | Established | Sun, part sun |
| Sunflower, Maximilian (aka Max sunflower) | <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i> | Established | Sun |
| Turks cap | <i>Malvaviscus arboreus</i> var. <i>drummondii</i> | Established | Sun, part sun |
| Vitex, chaste tree | <i>Vitex</i> spp. | Established | Sun, part sun |
| Whirling butterfly (aka Indian feather, pink gaura) | <i>Oenothera lindheimeri</i> | Established | Sun |
| Yucca, coral and red | <i>Hesperaloe parviflora</i> | Established | Sun |
| Yucca, Spanish dagger | <i>Yucca gloriosa</i> | Established | Sun |

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 @ 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

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



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> This website contains 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

VMS 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.

Associate Roster: You can find email addresses and contact information for other Master Gardeners in VMS. Please update your profile and add your photo in the Roster. Check your listing to be sure your contact information is up-to-date.

If you have problems entering your hours or updating your information, please contact Linda Timmons at 903.569.3443 or lindtmms@aol.com.

<https://vms.texasmg.org/>

Advanced Training

Visit the **Texas Master Gardener Advanced Training** website for information about advanced training topics and opportunities.

<https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/master-gardener-specialist/>

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.