

Master Gardeners Association of Rogers County

www.mgaroco.com & Facebook

November, 2020



NO FALL FELLOWSHIP/NOVEMBER MEETING DUE TO COVID SURGE

More Fun Options at Park



Ethan Weaver, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 88, has been working since last fall to complete photo opportunities for the Children's Garden at the Teaching Garden in Will Rogers Park. More about Ethan's Eagle Scout projects are on page 2.



Co-President's Corner

There will be no general meeting in November. We usually elect officers and present awards at our November meeting. It has been my honor to serve as your co-president this year, but my term is coming to an end. Anyone wishing to run as an officer, please let Kathy Klawitter know. Election details will be announced later. Awards will be presented later, maybe at our January meeting.

A few days after the national election I wanted to take a break from election and coronavirus news and enjoy the beauty of nature. Bandit and I drove to Winding Stair Mountain and Talimena Bypass to view the fall foliage. I had a couple of two-legged friends back out of the trip but Bandit is always ready to go. Some places were prime viewing, others not so much, although there were some beautiful trees everywhere. It was a great day trip with fantastic scenery, all for a tank of gas and a few hours' time. I did not take any pictures but should have.

Thanksgiving is coming up in a couple of weeks and even though 2020 was a very unusual year, there is still plenty to be thankful for. King David said a few thousand years ago "This is a day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." That is enough to be thankful for, if nothing else.

Butch Kindley, Co-President

Happy Thanksgiving!

I'm disappointed but we felt compelled to cancel our November Fall Fellowship gathering. But like so many other canceled events and activities this year it is better to be on the safe side as we're experiencing another COVID surge. In any event, I wish you all a safe and Happy Thanksgiving. There is still much to celebrate and be thankful for.

Our 2021 calendar is nearing completion! They will be available soon and on sale for \$20.00. You will be notified how to purchase and pick one up. I'm very happy with this project and I want to thank all the contestants and judges for participating. A special thanks goes to Kay for putting it all together. I look forward to expanding it for an even better 2022 calendar thanks to the many suggestions submitted by our members. All calendar photo entries are on the MG website: www.mgaroco.com Click on *Members Only*, then *Click Here* under *Master Gardeners News*, scroll to the bottom of page and find all of the MG photo entries.



We had a highly successful and entertaining October Membership meeting. Thank you Deborah Early and Wild Birds Unlimited for educating us on feeding birds in the fall and winter. I believe the attending members enjoyed the presentation and the fellowship. AND I'm thankful that we adopted the changes to our Bylaws and Standing Rules!

Tom Maier, Co-President

What is a garden without a butterfly?

A perfect photo opportunity has been created on the north side of the Teaching Garden storage shed by longtime Master Gardener Linda Callery. Linda is a multi-talented artist, daughter of renowned Art Deco wood sculptor Willard Stone, sister to artist brothers wood sculptor Jason and metalsmith Dwight. More than a dozen volunteer hours were spent in this generous endeavor and Linda will be involved in another artistic MG project in the near future. This busy woman acts as curator in charge of the Willard Stone museum in Locust Grove and additionally is a certified wildlife rehabilitator. All are invited to have pictures taken with the butterfly—standing on the concrete walkway in front of the body with arms stretched out as part of the wings. A memory--courtesy of Linda Callery, the MGARC Teaching Garden and Will Rogers Park in Claremore.



Photo provided by Carolyn Peterson

Rogers County Master Gardeners Honored by Eagle Scout Service Project

Contributed by Janice Hensley



Master Gardeners in Rogers County and the Teaching Garden in Will Rogers Park are recipients of an Eagle Scout service project. Master Gardeners Association of Rogers County was informed last year we had been selected as the beneficiary of this community service project. Ethan Weaver, Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 88, has been working since last fall to complete an amazing photo opportunity for the Children's Garden at the Teaching Garden in Will Rogers Park. Ethan has created a large rendition of the Dog Iron Ranch with a Will Rogers standee. This fun photo op is perfect as the garden is across the street from the Will Rogers Memorial and in Will Rogers namesake park.

Working with the Eagle Scout Service Project has been an honor for our organization allowing us to see the amazing dedication and commitment Ethan has brought to his project. We are so pleased to have been a part of Ethan's journey to becoming an Eagle Scout. We are very excited to invite everyone to visit the Teaching Garden and check out the newest addition, *Will Rogers at the Dog Iron Ranch*.

NO FALL FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH—SEE YOU IN JANUARY

A big thank you to all the Master Gardeners who attended the October meeting wearing masks and social distancing. You made the meeting a success!

Unfortunately, because of the tremendous Covid surge we are experiencing there will not be a Fall Fellowship. We hope to meet again in January, 2021.

If anyone from the membership is interested in being a guest speaker at one of our 2021 programs, please contact me. A few of the speakers that Janice Hensley had booked for 2020 had to cancel due to the pandemic and two of them have been booked for 2021. That means there is a need for 6 speakers. So, if you have a specific area of gardening that you are passionate about just give me a call, send me an e-mail or text.

We are a strong, resilient group of individuals sharing a common passion. Reaching out to each other via phone calls, texts, work groups, one to one lunches/dinners. COVID-19 has not and will not knock us down as an organization.

To our newest members, the Class of 2020, what a heck of a way to become members of this wonderful group. Stick around, we will find ways to keep you engaged because you are a part of this Master Gardener family.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving filled with peace, love, family and friends...socially distanced and masked of course.

Miriam Legett
Janice Hensley Co-chairs Development

Caryopteris clandonensis

‘Dark Knight’ Bluebeard Plant with pollinators at the Teaching Garden

Photos and description by Sumathy Vannarth 9/15/2020



Scientific name: *Caryopteris*

Common name: Bluebeard

The MG Teaching Garden in Will Rogers Park has a new plant, “Dark Knight” Bluebeard, planted recently in the Herbal bed under the Maple tree.

Caryopteris is highly valued plant for its late summer flowers when very few other plants are blooming. The name “*Caryopteris*” comes from Greek “*karyon*” meaning ‘nut’ and “*pteron*” means ‘wing’. Winged nuts are formed on this plant. The base petal, made up of bright blue flowers, is elongated and has a beard. This plant originated as an accidental hybrid of *Caryopteris incana* and *Caryopteris mongholica*.

The plants are low maintenance, drought tolerant and will grow in full sun or partial shade. Hardiness zone is 6 to 9. Blooming time is late summer to fall. Clusters of blue flowers are seen in terminal and axillary cymes on current year shoots. Leaves are opposite, ovate, lance shaped, simple to serrate, gray green above with silvery beneath. Leaves and flowers are aromatic. Flowers are nectar producing and very attractive to butterflies, bees, hummingbirds and other pollinators. Pruning is done in early spring.

Propagation: Bluebeard may self-seed and the new plants can be transplanted. Soft wood cutting in late spring may be used to produce new plants.

Gathering Place in Tulsa has terrific fall color

The Gathering Place has a wonderful display of shrubs, grasses, and trees that are all changing color right now!

To prepare for winter, nutrients found in the leaves of trees are remobilized to their stems and trunk for the next growing season.

Chlorophyll, the green pigment that is produced through photosynthesis, starts to degrade. As chlorophyll degrades, beta-carotene and flavonols are more visible. Beta-carotene reflects yellow and red light from the sun, creating a beautiful orange hue. Flavonols are present year-round and contribute to the yellow hues. Additionally, anthocyanins increase production in autumn and provide a blue, purple, red, and brown color. Plants that produce anthocyanins do so for individual reasons including leaf protection and ecological benefits. The Dogwoods in the John Williams Way parking lot are red, the Maples range from red to orange, and the Little Bluestem grasses are a red-brown copper. Check out more lovely fall colors by visiting the Gathering Place on Riverside in Tulsa, or visit the park blog, *Branching Out*, where you can sign up to receive their weekly newsletter about activities and schedules.



I see your anthocyanins! And beta-carotenes!

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Services
Dept. Of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture
Oklahoma State University

Season Extenders

David Hillock, Consumer Horticulturist

To get the most out of a garden, you can extend the growing season by sheltering the plants from the cold weather in early spring and during fall. Very ambitious gardeners harvest greens and other cool-season crops all winter by providing the right conditions. There are many ways to lengthen the growing season; your choice depends on the amount of time and money you want to invest.

Cold Frames and Hot Beds – Cold frames, sun boxes and hot beds are relatively inexpensive, simple structures that provide a favorable environment for growing cool-season crops in early spring, fall and even into winter months. Some are elaborate and require a large investment but may be the best option for those who are serious about having fresh vegetables during winter.

Cold frames and sun boxes have no outside energy requirements, relying on the sun for their source of heat. Hot beds are heated by soil heating cables, steam-carrying pipes or fresh, straw-filled manure buried beneath the rooting zones of plants. Heat is collected by these frames when sunlight penetrates the sash made of clear plastic, glass or fiberglass.



To ensure good drainage and maximum solar absorption, the ideal location for a cold frame is a southern or southeastern exposure with a slight slope. A sheltered spot with a wall or hedge to the north will provide protection against winter winds. Sinking the frame

Hillock, continued:

slightly into the ground also provides protection by using the earth for insulation. A walkway in front of the frame, adequate space behind the frame to remove the sash and weights to raise and lower the glass sashes make using a frame easier. Some cold frames are lightweight enough to move between sections of the garden. Another possibility is the Dutch light, which is a large, portable, greenhouse-like structure that can be moved from place to place.

Passive solar energy storage is utilized in cold frame design. For example, barrels painted black and filled with water absorb heat during the day and release it at night. The solar pod provides this type of heat storage. Other cold frame designs are very well-insulated and have a high back and a steep glass slope. Some have movable insulation that is folded up during the day and folded down at night or during extremely cold weather to protect growing plants.



A cold frame is also useful in early spring to harden-off seedlings which were started indoors or in a greenhouse. This hardening-off period is important as seedlings can suffer serious setbacks if they are moved from the warmth and protection of the house directly to the garden. The cold frame provides a transition period for gradual adjustment to outdoor weather. It is also possible to start cool-weather crops in a cold frame, either transplanting them to the garden or letting them grow to maturity in the frame.

Fall is a good time to sow some cool-season crops in frames. With adequate moisture and fertilization, most cool-season crops will continue to grow through early winter in the cold frame's protected environment. Depending on the harshness of winter and whether additional heating is used, your frame may continue to provide fresh greens, herbs and root crops throughout cold winter months.

Growing frames can be built with a variety of materials, but wood and cinder blocks are the most common. Wooden frames are not difficult to build. Use decay-resistant wood, such as high-quality cypress, or choose pressure-treated wood. Kits are commercially available and can be easily assembled; some kits even contain automatic ventilation equipment.

There is no standard size for a cold frame. Frame dimensions depend on the amount of available space, desired crops, the size of the window sash, and the permanency of the structure. Do not make the structure too wide for weeding and harvesting; 4 to 5 feet is about the maximum width to comfortably reach across. The frame sash should be sloped southward for maximum sunlight exposure and absorption. Insulation may be necessary if a sudden cold snap is expected. A simple method is to throw burlap sacks filled with leaves over the frame sash at night to protect plants from freezing. Another method is to stack bales of straw or hay against the frame.

Ventilation is most critical from late fall through early spring on clear, sunny days when temperatures rise above 45°F. The sash should be partially raised to prevent the buildup of extreme temperatures inside the frame. Lower or replace the sash early enough to conserve some heat for evening.

It is possible to convert a cold frame to a hot bed. For a manure-heated bed, remove 2 feet of soil (for better drainage, remove more soil and add a layer of gravel). Add an 18-inch layer of straw-filled horse manure and then cover with 6 inches of good soil. For an electric-heated bed, remove 8 or 9 inches of soil. Place thermostatically controlled electric cable in 6 to 8-inch loops on the soil, evenly spacing the cable but not allowing it to cross itself. Cover the cable with 2 inches of sand or soil, and then place hardware cloth on top to protect the cable. Finally, cover this with 4 to 6 inches of good soil.

Master Gardener Association of Rogers County General Membership Meeting, October 19, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Butch Kindley at 5:15PM.

Approval of Minutes

The September 21, 2020 minutes were printed in the newsletter prior to the October meeting. Jerry Henry made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Meeting minutes, continued:

Committee Reports

Events: No report

Communication: No report. Tom Maier acknowledged that Kay Waterman did a great job on the directory which followed with applause.

Volunteer Development: Miriam Legett stated that the November general membership will be for elections and awards. There will be no food or speakers.

Garden Development: JoAnn Lynch said the Courthouse landscape will require a final cleaning. She will notify membership of the date. Tom Maier also said that a final landscape cleanup of the County Building is necessary and he will notify the membership of a date.

Promotion: No report

Recorder: No report

Old Business

Tom Maier read the Bylaw/Standing Rules changes for the third and final time and answered all questions. Jerry Henry made a motion to approve the proposed Bylaw/Standing Rules changes: motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Tom Maier announced that they had received 31 entries for the calendar contest. There will be 12 winners and some honorable mentions. He will be announcing the winners shortly. The calendar will be 12 X 16 and will be on sale to the membership. Great Christmas gifts!

Kathy Klawitter discussed that need for nominations for current Board positions. Currently Tom Maier will remain as Co-President for the final year of his two-year term. Trudy Hedgpath has volunteered to run for the second Co-President, which will be for two years. Butch Kindley has volunteered to run for the Vice President, which will be for one year. Carolyn will remain as Treasurer for one more year as this position is for two years. Penny Curry has volunteered to run as Secretary for one more year.

New Business

Tom Maier reported for John Haase, OSU Extension Agent regarding the current status of the new Master Gardeners class which generally starts in November. The classes will start January 7, 2021 and be for 12 to 13 weeks. Most of the classes will be virtual with more homework than usual and possibly gathering weekly to discuss questions. He needs mentors, so contact John to volunteer.

Jerry Henry made a motion to adjourn at 5:34PM: motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penny Curry, Secretary



GARDEN TIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Lawn & Turf

- Fertilize cool-season grasses like fescue with 1 pound nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft.
- Continue to mow fescue as needed at 2 inches and water during dry conditions.
- Control broadleaf winter weeds like dandelions (HLA-6601).
- Keep falling leaves off fescue to avoid damage to the foliage.

Tree & Shrub

- Prune deciduous trees in early part of winter. Prune only for structural and safety purposes.
- Wrap young, thin-barked trees with a commercial protective material to prevent winter sunscald.
- Apply dormant oil for scale infested trees and shrubs before temperatures fall below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Follow label directions.
- Continue to plant balled and burlapped and containerized trees.
- Watch for arborvitae aphids, which tolerate cooler temperatures in evergreen shrubs.

Flowers

- Tulips can still be successfully planted through the middle of November.
- Leave foliage on asparagus, mums, and other perennials to help insulate crowns from harsh winter conditions.
- Bulbs like hyacinth, narcissus and tulip can be potted in containers for indoor forcing.

Fruits & Nuts

- Delay pruning fruit trees until next February or March before bud break.
- Harvest pecans and walnuts immediately to eliminate deterioration of the kernel.

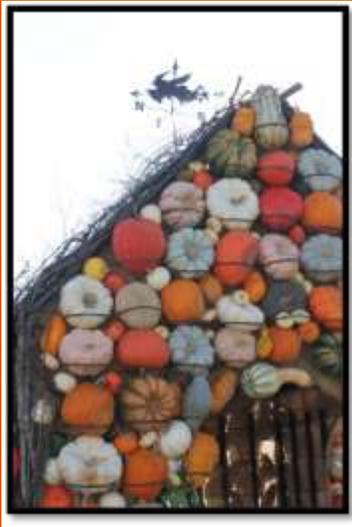
Miscellaneous

- Leftover garden seeds can be stored in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer until next planting season. Discard seeds over 3 years old.
- Gather and shred leaves. Add to compost, use as mulch or till into garden plots.
- Clean and store garden and landscape tools. Coat with a light application of oil to prevent rusting. Drain fuel tanks, irrigation lines, and hoses. Bring hoses indoors.

P. Allen Smith welcomes visitors to his Moss Mountain farm home

By Kay Waterman

My sister Carol and I toured the Moss Mountain Farm Home of P. Allen Smith, north of Little Rock in Arkansas, in mid-October. Allen hosts a Garden Home/ lifestyle TV show on Saturdays on PBS.



The week-long rain had given way to sunshine for a perfect fall day. About 130 people on the tour gathered for coffee and a walk-about before docents and leaders divided the group for the guided tour.

We were welcomed into the farm home, three stories of hand-made brick, built in the 1840's Greek Revival Style. A naturally-weathering buttermilk glaze is gradually exposing the color of the bricks.

A pumpkin hut—check out the weather vane.

Our docent described the many pieces of fine art and classic sculptures and pointed out the hundreds of books displayed throughout Allen's

gracious home. The Garden Home studio kitchen, a screened-in sleeping porch and the third story balcony all gave sweeping views of the Terrace Garden, the



Hidden Rose Garden, Hydrangea Allee and the Vegetable Garden, leading to the Arkansas River below. The farm itself encompasses 650 acres, with 50 acres actively maintained.



After a morning of tramping the beautifully arranged gardens, we gathered in a tent on the lawn for a lunch of fresh spinach salad, topped with roasted sweet potatoes and chicken breast. AND buttermilk pecan pie for dessert. Allen answered questions, some



of which concerned his passion for his foundation, the Heritage Poultry Conservancy. He is an amiable host.

Watch out for your head—gourd alley sports long-necked clunkers.



Following the meal, pictures and book-signing, visitors were free to explore the Poultry Palace where Allen's prize heritage chickens, ducks, geese and swans are pampered. In the turkey pens, we heard regular choruses of laughable gobbling, as the boys were trying their best to strut their stuff before the unimpressed lady turkeys. Dozens of birds of all sizes and colors were basking in the sun's warmth.

It was a memorable day. If you are interested in upcoming holiday tours at Allen's Garden Homes, you can make reservations through his website

<https://pallensmith.com>

6:00 p.m. Fellowship
 6:20 p.m. Meetings
 7:00 p.m. Speakers
 9:00 a.m. Board Meetings

2020 Events Calendar

January		February		March		April	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
14	Board Meeting	11	Board Meeting	10	Board Meeting	2-5	Home and Garden Show
21	General Meeting — Pizza and sign up for 2020 Committees (Note: Tuesday night)	18	John Kahre — Program Director Horticulture, Dick Conner Correctional Center (Note: Tuesday night)	16	Jared McClure — Green Valley Nursery, "Creating a Secret Garden"	14	Board Meeting
						18	Spring Plant Sale
						20	Carol Puckett — Tulsa MG and President Hosta Connection, Tulsa, "Hosta Varieties"
May		June		July		August	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	No Meeting		<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
12	Board Meeting	6	Safenet Garden Tour			11	Board Meeting
18	Spring Fellowship	9	Board Meeting			17	Diane Peacock— Philbrook Gardens
		15	Lisa Merrell, Tomato Man's Daughter — "Preserving Seed, Heritage Tomatoes"				
September		October		November		December	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	No Meeting	
8	Board Meeting	TBD	Fall Festival	10	Board Meeting		
14-20	Rogers Co. Free Fair	13	Board Meeting	16	Fall Fellowship		
21	Mark Andrews — Greenleaf Nursery, "Trees for Fall and Garden Debut's Canopy Collection"	19	Deborah Early — Wildbirds Unlimited, "Feeding Birds in Fall and Winter"				

Unless otherwise announced, all general, program and Board meetings are at the Rogers County Building 416 S. Brady in Claremore, OK. For more information call Janice Hersley, Program Director, at 918-638-7149.



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EXTENSION