



**GARFIELD COUNTY
EXTENSION**



Master Gardener News

Garfield County OSU Extension Center, 316 E. Oxford, Enid, OK 73701 580-237—1228

SEPTEMBER 2025

Next Meeting Date – September 9, 2025

General Meeting: 5:30pm

**Location: Garfield County OSU Extension
Master Gardener's Demonstration Garden
Program: Picnic**

Message from Janet Coontz Garfield County Master Gardener President

September has arrived with rains and much cooler weather. This is a perfect combination for gardening as well as for the gardener. We may still have a few warm days ahead, but there won't be many. Don't you love the colors of fall? I love seeing the colors of fall beginning to show up in all the stores. Who doesn't love pumpkins, scarecrows, mums and pansies? Be sure to take some time to enjoy in your gardens. Plants that were struggling in the heat will now begin to grow and bloom again in the cooler weather. It is also a good time to decide which seeds you would like to harvest to use next spring. September is going to be a busy month for our group.

The Garfield County fair is coming up September 11th-14th. We voted to have a booth at the fair this fall. Set-up will be on Wednesday, September 10th and tear-down will be Sunday at 4:00. We will need some volunteers to help with manning the booths each day. We will have a sign-up at our picnic. This will give us another opportunity to encourage others to sign up for our new class which begins September 24th. If you are mentoring someone in the new class, please contact them and invite them to our picnic on September 9th at 5:30 at the extension gardens. They do not need to bring anything. We are providing chicken and all the paper necessities. Cold water will also be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Remember we will be having our new class as guests. In case of rain, we will meet inside the building. I look forward to this social time with all of you.

Our Lifelong Gardening classes begin on Thursday, September 4th at 1:00 on the Enid NWOSU campus. Barbie Oliver and I will begin the series with Basic Gardening topics which will include soil, watering, mulching, weeding and other basic topics. On September 11th, George and Louise Milacek will present Vegetable Gardening.

Garfield County Master Gardeners Minutes August 12, 2025 OSU Extension Building

The meeting of the Garfield County Master Gardeners convened at 9:10 AM with 24 members present.

August birthdays were celebrated,

The minutes were approved with one correction. John Jinkerson's name should be replaced with Steve Case.

The Treasurer's Report reflected little activity.
Savings Account Balance is currently \$26,813.31
Checking Account Balance is \$ 1,000.00
Expenses for the month:

Garden Trimming	\$ 743.00
Income: Garden gloves	\$ 10.00

Committee Reports:

Demonstration Gardens: Mike Gwinnup

There is concern about upkeep of the demonstration gardens. There was one workday. Only 8 people showed up to work. We, as a group, voted to use the first and third Tuesdays of each month as a time to convene to work as a team in the gardens. That was not effective. Concerns were expressed as to how to manage the upkeep of the gardens with the workload spread out to many of the members. Ideas were shared. Ideally, people would sign up for an area and manage it without needing to call on everyone to come at the same time since schedules are varied. More ideas will be discussed about this moving forward.

Mike reported that all the mulch we purchased at the beginning of the summer has been spread and we could use more.

Children's Garden: Diane Ford No Report

Newspaper: Kris Vculek All is going well

Radio Program: Rick Nelson/John Jinkerson

Sandy reported the "What's in Your Backyard" segment from Pam Lyon was wonderful. Alan Klepper is out of town, so the upcoming programs will be moved back a week. (Barbie-August and Janet Coontz- Sept.)

Seed Library: Heidi Bender

The needs of this project are sorting and organizing. Any member who has time can come to the office and begin organizing, making sure to write labels including the name of the plant, and the date on the labels. There are envelopes to use. Do not use plastic bags unless you are very sure the seeds are completely dry. Additionally, NOW is the time to make cutting of plants to take in for winter – not after plants have started going dormant.

Scholarship - Cheryl Kephart: No Report

Hospitality – Linda Severin: No Report

The September Picnic was organized by Barbie Oliver passing around a sign-up sheet so people could indicate what side or dessert they would like to bring. It was decided that Chicken and rolls would be purchased as the main course.

Members need to indicate if they are coming and how many guests they will bring so the appropriate amount of chicken can be ordered. The members of the incoming class of Master Gardeners will be invited to come to the picnic. These new Master Gardeners will need to receive an invitation by a personal phone call. This event will take place before their first class.

Educational Outreach – Janet Coontz

Educational Outreach for this fall will be our "Life Long Gardening" class to be taught as a part of the Life Long Learning Institute. The class will be taught each Thursday afternoon from 1:00-2:30 PM beginning Sept 4 and ending October 23.

Janet Coontz and Jenny Gwinnup have formed a list of potential topics to be used during the 8-week class. They asked for additional suggestions.

Teaching volunteers include:

Sept 4 – Gardening Basics: Soil, irrigation, mulching, weeding, pests.

Teachers: Barbie Oliver and Janet Coontz

September 11 – Vegetable Gardening

Teachers: George and Louise Milacek

September 18- Annuals vs Perennials

Teachers: Pam Lyon and Heidi Bender

September 25 – Trees and Shrubs

Teachers – Jenny Gwinnup and Eddie Lou Strimple

October 9 – Succulents and Herbs

Teachers: Barbie Oliver, Eddie Lou Strimple and Pam Lyon

October 16 - Tour of Demonstration Gardens

Teachers: Mike, Jenny, Janet and all.

Possibly have apple cider/pumpkin treats

October 23- Panel Discussion

Teachers: All teachers.

NOTE: Each week teachers might have a "Smarter-Not Harder" tip

Spring Workshop-Jenny Gwinnup No Report

Home Show: Lori Bowers and Kathryn

Redding No Report

Rick Nelson Report: To date there are 7 people committed to the Master Gardener Class. August 1 is the deadline, but Rick will take registrations up to the first class. These new people will be having a background check which is now required of all OSU volunteers. (Current members will have training and a background check in the coming months.) We need to set up a mentorship program Barbie passed a list so these partnerships can be formed. Additionally, one Master Gardener should attend class each week to keep building relationships. This list was created by Sandy Williams, and all class dates are filled. Rick's plan is to have the students tour the Demonstration Gardens and office during the first lesson. Students might possibly choose a garden bed to help upkeep.

The Garfield County Fair: Members should consider entering. There are many categories to consider. The deadline to enter flower arrangements is Sept. 11 at 11:00AM. These arrangements will be judged at 1:00PM Plan to register an entry so that it can be processed prior to the contest. If it becomes not possible to make that entry, it will just be dropped. Vegetable entries are also needed. All deadlines and instructions can be found at the OSU Extension Office or at chisholmtrailexpo.com, looking under Garfield County Fair.

A Master Gardener booth at the fair was discussed. This would be at no cost to this organization. A table will be provided. Set up will begin Wed, Sept 10 with take down on Sunday, Sept 14. Barbie volunteered to take charge and will need helpers. Volunteers will be needed Thursday afternoon, Friday, and Saturday.

Other Business:

The website needs input from members so that the webmaster can continually keep it current. The Expo Center needs our usual meeting room on October 14. A meeting place will be announced before that meeting.

Show and Tell: Beaded Plant Stakes and hanging basket wires were displayed. This is an idea MG may consider for a fund raiser at some point.

Happy Birthday



George Milacek – 9

Karen Boileau – 19

Linda Presa - 20

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Nelson, CED".

Rick Nelson
CED. Extension Educator. Agriculture/4-H