Quarterly – Fall 2022

TREE WORK AHEAD



Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

Tone Balls and Trees: A Systems Approach

By Laura Chalus, CEO, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

he old idiom that someone cannot see the forest for the trees used to confuse me when I was younger. With age, though, comes wisdom, and along with it an understanding of the situational enormity which can often be described by just those few words. Tone balls (yes, you heard me right) are just such an interesting case study.

These little balls of tightly packed

lint and other particles are often found inside the bodies of acoustic musical instruments like guitars and violins. Although people might initially find these miniscule dust bunnies inelegant and want to remove them, that act alone might be to the detriment of more melodious notes. In fact, more tightly compact tone balls can be indicative of a well-made instrument, and those little guys vibrating all around inside a cello can actually create richer tones and more mellow tunes. Having the ability to see the bigger musical picture and how these tiny orbs contribute to overall sound quality is one key to creating beautiful music.

Sometimes innocuous items that might not be the most aesthetically pleasing to look at, in and of themselves, when viewed holistically can make for a richer experience. As we assess the dwindling collection of trees and ornamental shrubs in



the Arboretum at Woodward Park, a critical piece of the decision-making process used to increase the number of quality specimens could certainly use a shot of tone ball magic.

While perhaps not the most striking cultivars when viewed in isolation, a native sand plum or Kentucky coffeetree might be perfect additions to an overall collection of specimens with cultural or historical significance. Should it be of value that a particular tree's bark produces showy winter interest, or the fragrance of another permeates the air when spring breezes blow? Did you know that the roots of a Sassafras tree were consumed by the Cherokee for headaches and colds, and even as a flavored beverage?

An Arboretum is a place where trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes, and a collections policy should always be multi-faceted. This is truly where the fun part of the restoration process can emerge as we begin to reimagine an intentional and sustainable future for this historic garden.

Now that expert arborists from Up With Trees have kicked off the initial deferred maintenance work for existing trees and shrubs, we



are taking some time to observe the copious canopy holes and dream of new life for the collective. Being able to see the proverbial forest might admittedly take a little more elbow grease on the front end, but the result will be music (tone balls included) which will be so much sweeter when the fat lady finally gets to sing.



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On cover: Up With Trees working in the Arboretum.

Fall 2022 Newsletter – September, October, November Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park 2435 S. Peoria, Tulsa, OK 74114-1350 | (918) 576-5155

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Teaching Garden Lectures Open to the Public

By Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

ne of the most rewarding parts of my job is to interact with guests in the park. It's easy to get lost in the weeds of emails, staff meetings, next season's plant order, literal weeds—there's always something needing to be done in a 45-acre park! But lately I've had the pleasure to chat with some guests in the Teaching Garden who have become more frequent as the weather improves, and they remind me of why I love doing what I do. To see their eyes light up at every twist and turn makes all the hard work worth it.

One question guests always have is how we manage to keep the garden looking so phenomenal. I love this question because it gives me a chance to brag about incorporated to build upon what volunteers learn in the lecture sessions, and a portion of training hours must be completed outside of the formal class sessions by attending some of our numerous plant society meetings.

Another change I'm excited to announce is that we will be opening the lecture sessions to the public so that those who are not quite ready to commit to a full volunteer program, or who just want to refine their plant skills and knowledge, can still get in on the fun!

We will be covering some great topics this year and I've called on professionals from all over the industry to come help teach. You won't want to miss this!

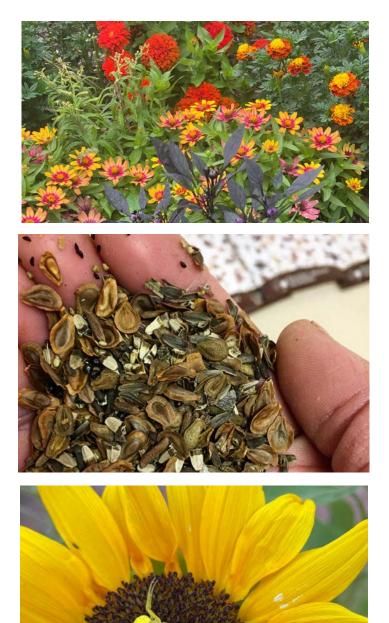
my amazing staff and volunteers. The Teaching Garden would not be what it is without the enormous contribution of volunteer hours week after week. And these volunteers are not just anyone who shows up with a trowel in hand. Teaching Garden Volunteers go through extensive horticulture training so that they not only know what they're doing when they get into the garden, but they can also answer guests' questions and truly embody that Teaching Garden spirit.

I am so excited about our next class of volunteers! We've implemented some changes in the Fall Training to make the training more accessible and more integrated with the Garden Center's affiliated Plant Societies. All trainings will take place on Saturdays with more hands-on activities



Fall Training Classes Are Now Available!

Register at www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs \$25 for Non-Members or \$20 for Tulsa Garden Center Members. Space is limited.



Introduction to Horticulture and Botany

Saturday, September 10, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Instructor: Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

Horticulture and Botany both work with plants, but what's the difference? Come learn about the key distinctions between the two sciences as we dive into the history of gardens, the many facets of the horticulture industry, and key botany principles that every gardener should know.

Plant Propagation

Saturday, September 17, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Instructors: Ellen Weatherholt, Horticulturist and Flower Farmer & Lori Fry, Nursery Management Expert

The answer to most of life's problems is more plants. Learn how to make more plants out of the ones you already have with an in-depth discussion on the various methods of plant propagation—seeds, cuttings, and more! Ellen and Lori each have over a decade of experience in the horticulture industry and will share their trials and tribulations propagating a wide variety of plant material.

Entomology and Integrated Pest Management

Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Instructors: Sara Wallace, Plant Pathologist, Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Lab at OSU and Alex Harman, Entomology PhD Candidate, OSU

Bugs in the garden—friend or foe? Learn about different pests and diseases common in Oklahoma gardens, how to safely manage them, and how to recognize those friendly insects that are so crucial to our native ecosystems. Following the lectures, attendees will be invited to participate in a Woodward Park BioBlitz, documenting the various pollinator species present in the park.







Soil Science, Compost and Plant Nutrients

Saturday, October 8, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Instructors: Connor Schmitz, Horticulture Masters Candidate, OSU; Leigh Taylor, Teaching Garden Manger and Andy Fusco, Director of Horticulture, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park.

Soil is the foundation of our gardens, and we can do as much to nurture it as we do for the plants we love. Learn about plant nutrients, the composition and structure of soil, and what composting can do for you.

Herbaceous Plants: Perennials, Annuals and Vegetables

Saturday, October 15, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Instructors: Taylor Roberts, Buyer, Southwood Landscape and Garden Center and Leigh Taylor, Teaching Garden Manager, Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park.

Herbaceous plants are where it's at if you want continuous summer color or delicious home-grown vegetables, but they have their problems too. Come learn about the best cultivars for Oklahoma and how to grow them. Learn about the best methods to extend your growing season and get the most out of your garden.

Woody Plants

Saturday, October 22, 9:00 am-11:00 am

Instructors: Mike Perkins, Retired, former Director of Operations, Up With Trees and Urban Forester, City of Tulsa.

Woody Plants are the anchors in our garden. Come learn about how to care for your trees and shrubs, planting and pruning techniques, and the best species for Oklahoma. Mike Perkins will share his decades of experience caring for Tulsa's Urban Forest.

To Be by Tatum Thrasher

To be Black in the garden To be Two Spirit in my heart. To work the land To live and to see that it is art. On hot summer days My soul is caught by the gaze Of a man long gone. A man who questions if my resilience is strong. A man who used science to betray humanity. A man remembered in bronze vanity. The Father of Botany Was a man who could not see That to be Black in the garden Sets me free. I am Two Spirit in my heart And a proud Cherokee. I honor those who came before me By reclaiming what was stolen. Be it our freedom Our hope Or the pleasure of a quiet morning.

The name I was gifted holds a very special meaning It means to be joyful and cheerful So I am. And I hear my people singing. Joy to those who come after us Cheers to those who will laugh for us. We will remember a pain unforgettable Caused by men who were despicable. I may never learn the names of all who came before me But I will always honor them and live joyfully. To be Black in the garden And to be Two Spirit in my heart Is to defy the man who occupies this park. My name is Tatum Thrasher. I am named for joy. I am healing generational hurt and renouncing masters. I am finding peace among the koi. Black in the garden Two spirit in my heart Bless my ancestors who transformed pain into art. Who lived and who fought The reason I am speaking today. Bless my ancestors who made the Earth from clay. Bless my ancestors. Bless them everyday.

My Summer Intern Experience at the Teaching Garden and Visitor Center

By Tatum Thrasher, Tulsa Garden Center Summer Intern

y time spent being an intern at the Teaching Gardens during the summer of 2022 has been more magical and fulfilling than I ever dreamt it could be. I knew I would enjoy my work, but I didn't know that I could fall more in love with horticulture than I already was! I come from a family of gardeners, so this is a trade I've been finding myself in since before I could even speak a full sentence. Whether it was spending early mornings at the nursery helping with the chores or spending quality time with my father in our own beautiful garden that he built from the ground up. Literally. So you could probably imagine my excitement whenever I was chosen for the internship position! I was able to add onto my skill set and also dive into a lifelong passion of mine.

Another passion I have is one for technology. I will be attending Tulsa Tech the fall of 2022 until the summer of 2023. I will be working towards a certificate in computer repair and network support. I hope that in the future I am able to combine my love for horticulture with my love for technology. I would like to be able to repurpose old/used technology so that I can offer it for free to people in the Tulsa community who need access to it. Our world is constantly evolving and shifting and it's my goal to make significant contributions for



the betterment of society and for a more eco-friendly environment.

I am beyond thankful for the opportunity I have been given to grow and learn at the Teaching Garden. I feel fulfilled having worked so hard and then getting to see people of the community, and people from other communities across the country, enjoying the garden. Gardening truly brings people together. It promotes curiosity and a sincere appreciation for the natural world around us. It shows you the beauty of coexisting. I will carry this experience and these memories for years to come as they have forever changed me in the best way.

Blooming Fun and Sneaky Learning with the Outdoor Classroom Naturalist Team

By Brian Bovaird, Outdoor Classroom Program Director

Everything is looking up, including flying squirrels (plush not real) launched from imaginative catapults designed by young innovators this past summer during Outdoor Classroom's Summer Fun and Sneaky Learning within the 45-acre Woodward Park learning campus. Flying squirrels were definitely Newton's Laws of Motion in a memorable best!

The past 12 months marked the full return to yearround field classes, keeping our Naturalist Team busy. We facilitated nature-based STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) activities for 881 young scholars last Fall, hosted 1,081 students this Spring, and beat-the-heat with a packed summer of 1,047 campers, for a grand total of 3,009 participants. For the 2023 school year, we have an exciting goal of serving at least 4,500 budding entrepreneurs.

This Spring we expanded our first after-school programming in the Union Public School District to two new locations. We are also charter partners with the STEM Hub North Tulsa at the Tulsa Dream Center and are exploring after-school programming at the Boys & Girls Club North Mabee. This would expand our very popular stream monitoring project on Flat Rock Creek, a nature engagement activity made possible by a grant from Friends of Blue Thumb.

In addition to our traditional public-school students, we hosted 23 spring break campers from the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars program in partnership with Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. We also hosted 17 summer campers with hearing differences who explored the Arboretum, Conservatory, and our Design Lab.

Due to the excitement and success of last year's participants in the Outdoor Classroom program, we are already on track to reach our goal of doubling the number of TPS schools engaging in our program. In the 2022/2023 school year, more than 30 TPS schools will

bring scholars to explore the Woodward Park campus. We were also expanding and targeting our outreach to schools in marginalized and low-income neighborhoods where STEM inequities are real, and mentoring is scarce.

Throughout the summer, the Naturalist Educators Team including Amanda, Zoe, and Caiden, captured that elusive and often ephemeral student engagement connection, quickly adapting to the real needs of our clients. Amanda shared her love of chemistry and Cherokee heritage enthusiastically as students explored our Teaching Garden. Zoe demonstrated her passion for Tulsa Parks, inspired by her Mother, Heather Michaelson-Hale, Director of Horticulture for the City of Tulsa. Zoe and Amanda led their troupes of compass wielding explorers through the historic Tulsa Rose Garden, around the Tulsa Garden Center Mansion, through the Conservatory, and circumnavigated our incredible Arboretum. Caiden spent his summer break from TU and launched our Catapult activity and 3D printing fun.

The Outdoor Classroom Team considers it a privilege to meet and inspire youth on their own terms, and let kids be kids, while nature reveals how STEM really works.

Thoughts from the Naturalist Team:

Nature provides an extraordinary and everchanging classroom. For most of our young innovators a living laboratory is not accessible every day at school. To help remedy this, the Outdoor Classroom at Woodward Park has installed Explorer classroom aquaponics systems in schools across Tulsa. We integrate Next Generation Science Standards to support existing school curriculum which brings science to life and excitement into the classroom, deepening the young scholar's understanding of symbiotic topics and addressing real challenges of hunger in their communities.

Our favorite activity trail is the "Find It at the Park!" scavenger hunt which demonstrates science ideas learned in class. here in Woodward Park. From calculating the volume of water in a park fountain to the logistics of a working compost bin, students get to explore and see that science not only occurs in laboratories but everywhere around us. Whether we are going to the school or bringing schools to us, we encourage everyone to return to the natural classroom here at Woodward Park and share their newly acquired knowledge.

Teaching Garder & Visitor Center



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Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

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CELEBRATE 918 DAY @ **WOODWARD PARK!**

Get a head start on taking part in Tulsa's annual 918 Day with our version of a celebration - PLANT SALES! Visit Woodward Park on Saturday, September 17 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm to support local nonprofit organizations.

- Tulsa Area Iris Society Helmerich Classroom
- Tulsa Area Daylily Society Teaching Garden Barn
- Hosta Connection Teaching Garden Barn
- Tulsa Cacti and Succulent Society Carriage House
- Collector's Garden Teaching Garden Butterfly Garden
 Duck Creek Farms Teaching Garden Butterfly Garden
- Tulsa Garden Center and Tulsa Parks Conservatory Greenhouse

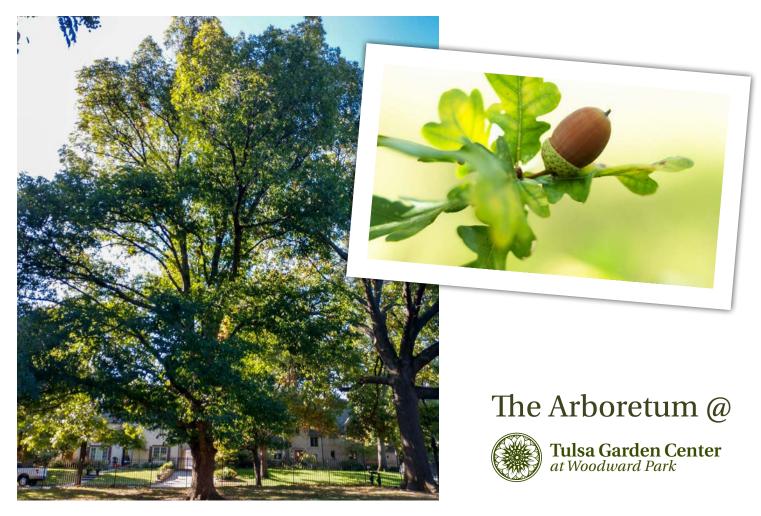


My name is White Oak

(Quercus alba)

Though I am a slow grower, I am especially prized for the strength of my wood. Some would refer to my trunk as short and stocky, but I prefer the term sturdy, and my limbs are anything but short! My leaves provide beautiful color in the fall, and I can grow for centuries, which is what I hope for my time in the Tulsa Arboretum. I was a part of the original 1964 plantings, and I hope to be here for years to come.

My leaves provide beautiful color in the fall.



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My name is Yellow Fruited American Holly

(Ilex opaca f. xanthocarpa)

Some say that I am one of the loveliest trees in the Arboretum! Did you know that holly trees could make yellow fruit? Since I am an evergreen, you can also see my lovely green leaves all year. I can grow up to 50 feet tall, and in 2015 my height was measured to be 47 feet! I am also an Oklahoma State Champion tree and one of the original plantings in the Arboretum, so I have been growing here since 1964!

Did you know that holly trees could make yellow fruit?

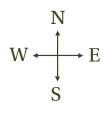


Find Your Spot at Woodward Park



Park Highlights

- 1. Tulsa Garden Center
- 2. Tulsa Rose Garden
- 3. Daffodill Hill
- 4. Woodland Gardens
- 5. Oasis
- 6. "Appeal to the Great Spirit" Statue
- 7. Woodward Wetlands
- 8. Arched Bridge
- 9. Lower Rock Gardens
- 10. Grotto
- 11. Shakespeare Monument
- 12. Overlook
- 13. Upper Rock Gardens
- 14. Anne Hathaway Herb Garden
- 15. Playground
- 16. Park Shelter & Restrooms
- 17. Charles Faudree Memorial Pavilion
- 18 Tulsa Area Iris Society Beds
- 19. Rockford Lawn
- 20. Teaching Garden & Visitor Center
- 21. Carriage House & Outdoor Classroom
- 22. Sunken Garden
- 23. Conservatory
- 24. Arboretum
- 25. Tulsa Historical Society & Museum





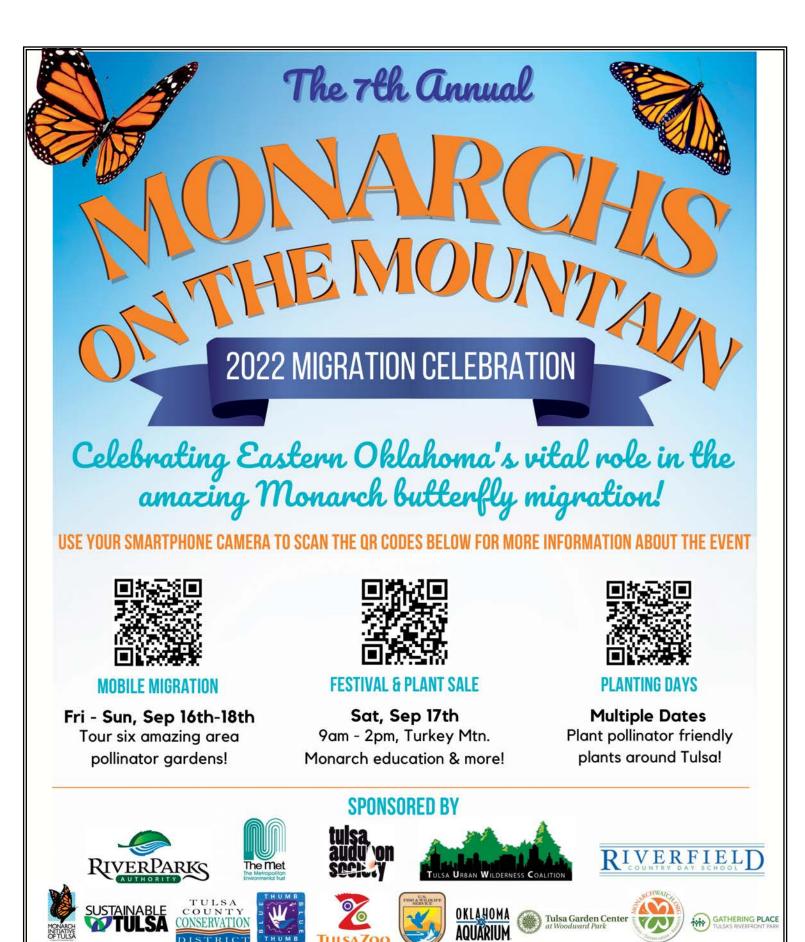
My name is Amur Maple

(Acer tataricum subsp. Ginnala)

I am native to eastern Asia, and because of my ability to produce quite a prolific number of seeds, I should be planted with care. I do make an interesting specimen in smaller yards and can tolerate light shade, and colder temperatures than any other maple. Like most maples, I put on quite a show in the fall with my ember like shades on full display.

I put on quite a show in the fall!





UP WITH

PLANTING, PRESERVING & TRIBAL ALLIANCE PROMOTING Okies for

MONARCHS

YPROS

CLASSES AND EVENTS

WEEKLY RECURRING EVENTS

Every Tuesday – Tulsa Herb Society member activities. 9:00 am–11:30 am (all weeks except 2nd week of month.)

Every Thursday – Let's Talk Gardening! 12:00–1:30 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Tulsa Area Daylily Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

Cacti and Succulent Society of Tulsa, monthly meeting. OFFSITE, 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Tulsa Herb Society Plant Exchange. 9:00 am-11:30 am.

▶ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Introduction to Horticulture and Botany Class. 10:00 am–12:00 pm www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs

► SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 Tulsa Orchid Society meeting. 1:30 pm.

Tulsa Rose Society meeting. 2:00 pm.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
 Oklahoma Native Plant Society Meeting.
 6:30 pm.



Green Country Bonsai Society Meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Tulsa Herb Society, Monthly Meeting. 11:00 am.

Green Country Water Garden Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

Hosta Connection meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Tulsa Area Iris Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

Tulsa Perennial Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Plant Propagation Class. 9:00 am-11:00 am. www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs



7 BIG PLANT SALES!! 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Multiple Woodward Park locations. Come out for an early 918 Day Celebration!

- Tulsa Area Iris Society Helmerich Classroom
 Tulsa Area Daulity Society – Teaching
- Tulsa Area Daylily Society Teaching Garden Barn
- Hosta Connection Teaching Garden Barn
 Triles Costi and Cusculant Costiants
- Tulsa Cacti and Succulent Society Carriage House
- Collector's Garden Teaching Garden Butterfly Garden
- Duck Creek Farms Teaching Garden Butterfly Garden
- Tulsa Garden Center and Tulsa Parks Conservatory Greenhouse

▶ MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Oklahoma Mycological Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.



▶ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Tulsa Area Azalea Society monthly meeting. 5:30 pm.

Tulsa Audubon Society Meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Entomology and Integrated Pest Management Class. 9:00 am–11:00 am. www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
 WINE & ROSES. 7:00 pm-9:30 pm.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Tulsa Garden Club Meeting. 11:00 am Green Country Bonsai Society Meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Tulsa Area Daylily Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

Cacti and Succulent Society of Tulsa monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.



Benefits of Membership

Reasons why it pays to be a member:

Become a member or gift one to a friend at: www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join

Subscription to the quarterly Tulsa Garden Center E-Newsletter: *In The Garden*.

Free or discounted admission to American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Gardens (ahsgardening.org): FREE admission to Myriad Botanic Garden in OKC, Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden, and hundreds more!

Discounts on Tulsa Garden Center programs and events: A Tulsa Garden Center member would save nearly \$150 on the Native Plant Certification Program

Invitations to Special Members-only Events

Discounts at localnurseries

Become a member or gift one to a friend at: www.TulsaGardenCenter.org/join





CLASSES AND EVENTS continued from page 21

> SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8

Soil Science, Compost and Plant Nutrients Class. 9:00 am-11:00 am.

www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs



African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa Fall Sale. 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

▶ SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9

Tulsa Orchid Society monthly meeting. 1:30 pm.

Tulsa Rose Society monthly meeting. 2:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Tulsa Herb Society monthly meeting. 10:00 am.

Green Country Water Garden Society Meeting. 6:30 pm.

Hosta Connection monthly meeting. OFFSITE 7:00 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

Herbaceous Plants: Perennials, Annuals and Vegetables Class. 9:00 am–11:00 am www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs



MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Oklahoma Mycological Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Tulsa Area Azalea Society monthly meeting. 5:30 pm.

Tulsa Audubon Society Meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

Tulsa Area Iris Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

Tulsa Perennial Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

▶ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Woody Plants Class. 9:00 am-11:00 am. www.tulsagardencenter.org/adult-programs



Green Country Bonsai Society – Fall Show. 10:00 am–4:00 pm

▶ SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

FREE Woodward Park Docent Training. 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

www.tulsagardencenter.org/volunteer

Do you love Woodward Park and all it has to offer? Become a Park Docent and help others fall in love with it too. From the 1934 Rose Garden to The Tulsa Arboretum dedicated in 1964, there's so much to discover in the park's 45 acres. During this program you will learn all about the history of Woodward Park, take a tour to become familiar with its many points of interest, and learn about the role Public Gardens play in improving our lives. Completion of this course certifies you to become a Docent Volunteer and sign up for Docent shifts at the Visitor Center. This training includes classroom activities as well as a complete walking tour of Woodward Park. Please wear comfortable shoes and dress

accordingly. Training is free, but attendees are expected to commit to further volunteer service in the park.

▶ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Tulsa Area Daylily Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

Cacti and Succulent Society of Tulsa, monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7
 Tulsa Garden Club Meeting. 11:00 am

Green Country Bonsai Society Meeting. 7:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Tulsa Herb Society monthly meeting. 10:00 am.

Green Country Water Garden Society Meeting. 6:30 pm.

Hosta Connection monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Tulsa Orchid Society monthly meeting. 1:30 pm.



Tulsa Rose Society monthly meeting. 2:00 pm.

▶ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Tulsa Area Azalea Society monthly meeting. 5:30 pm.

Tulsa Audubon Society Meeting. 7:00 pm

▶ THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Tulsa Area Iris Society monthly meeting. 6:30 pm.

Tulsa Perennial Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Oklahoma Mycological Society monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.

African Violet Society of Greater Tulsa monthly meeting. 7:00 pm.



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