

GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter

November 2010

2010 WCMG Officers

President

Judie Keck

Vice President

Mike Standrod

Secretary

Shirley Durning

Treasurer

Dolores Stamps

GARDEN THYME CONTRIBUTORS

Debbie Anderson

Calvin Bey

Cindi Cope

Valerie Fletcher

Dian Holmes

Pam Johnson

Annette Pianalto

GARDEN THYME STAFF

Jan Hanks

Jan Lefler

Susan Pressler

Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:

janlefler@cox.net

gigiluv6811@gmail.com

Due Date:

15th of each month

All materials are subject to review by the GT staff and edited for content, clarity and space.



Guest Speaker - Janet Carson



WCMG Monthly Meeting

November 2, 2010
6:30 p.m.

Program

"Goodbye Summer, Hello Winter"

Janet Carson will be presenting the program for November. Since 1992, she is the Extension Horticulture Specialist at the State Office of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. Janet serves as Coordinator of the Arkansas Master Gardener Program. There are over 2,700 MG Volunteers in Arkansas. In addition to the Master Gardener Programs, she is also the consumer horticulture specialist, responsible for providing information to the 75 Arkansas counties for all areas of horticulture related to home gardening, with an emphasis on ornamentals. Media work includes radio shows, television shows as well as newspaper and magazine contributions. She is the 2003 recipient of the John White Award for Excellence in Extension Education and 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Extension Educator for the American Society of Horticulture Science.

She started the first Arkansas Master Gardener Volunteer Program in 1988. She is married, with two almost grown children.

Her first book, *In the Garden*, was released June 2010. Copies of her book will be available for purchase at the meeting.



Cultivate a New Master Gardener Become a Mentor!

Help to educate and guide a future 2011
Washington County MG graduate

All it takes is

- ✓ A little time;
- ✓ The ability to communicate regularly;
- ✓ A willingness to share your knowledge and experience



**A Sign-up Table will be at the
November 2 WCMG Meeting**

**Mentor Committee Chairperson
Terry Smyers**

E-mail – gigiluv6811@gmail.com

Phone – 582-5822

(leave a message with your name)

CLASSIC BASIL PESTO

by Debbie Anderson

½ cup basil leaves
 1-4 garlic cloves, optional
 1/3 cup shredded Romano or Parmesan cheese
 3 Tbsp. pine nuts
 2 Tbsp. minced parsley
 ½ tsp. salt
 ¼ cup + 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil

Put first 6 ingredients in a mortar. Pound until smooth, then add olive oil and mix 'til smooth. Or, whirl all ingredients in a blender or food processor. If a thicker consistency is desired, omit extra tablespoon olive oil. *I accidentally left out the garlic when preparing this for a Jr. Master Gardeners meeting and got rave reviews, therefore I have indicated the garlic as an optional ingredient.

LET ME IN

by Pam Johnson

Open curtains in dim-lit rooms
 Candles push back the dark
 Sunset coming round too soon
 Swaying tire swing in the park

Rising up a harvest moon
 A chill blows past the cracks
 Whistling as it plays a tune
 To the fire they turn their backs

Kitchen filled with a joyous mood
 A table set for five
 Heads bowed low blessing food
 With thanks to be alive

Pets outstretched beside the hearth
 Happy to be inside
 A close little family they're a part
 No room for such as I

I press my face against the glass
 The sill holding up my chin
 Oh don't just walk on past me now
 Please someone let me in

Chores are done and off to bed
 One by one the lights go out
 Not a word to me is ever said
 Nor am I thought about

I turn to wander into the night
 Sad not to be a part
 I pull my coat around me tight
 And head off into the dark.



Attention —
 All Washington County
 Master Gardeners

New Master Gardener Blog

Berni Kurz has started a Washington County Master Gardener "blog" to post lots of information such as garden program announcements from outside Washington County, etc., that has previously been sent to you via WIMOFAR.

So when you **do** get an email from WIMOFAR, it will contain important LOCAL information, which may require a response from you.

Starting now, go to the blog site
<http://wcmastergardener.blogspot.com/>
 Let Berni know what you think. You may email him at bkurz@uaex.edu. He started site on October 8.

There is already posted information. Bookmark this as one of your Favorites and check it out daily or at least weekly to keep up with what is being offered around the state for all Master Gardeners.

Organic Gardening and More

Season Extension and Winter Gardening

Calvin F. Bey CFBey1936@cox.net

The growing season can be extended using various type of covers. I use plastic mini-tunnels (Nov-Feb) to grow lettuce, radishes, spinach, mache, bok chow, and more. There are several ways to design a mini-tunnel system. Berni Kurz has designs for a sturdy tunnel using reinforcing wire. I use the following supplies to make a 4x25-foot tunnel:

1. 6 mil clear plastic. It comes in 10-foot wide strips, 100 feet long.
2. 18 reinforcing rods, each piece 24 inches long, 3/8-inch diameter.
3. 9 pieces of 3/4 -inch (inside diameter) plastic tubing, each piece 7 feet long.
4. Boards/rocks to hold down the plastic.
5. Optional: Heat absorbing material inside the tunnel. I use one-gallon glass or plastic jugs, filled with paramagnetic rock. The jugs absorb heat during sunny days and dissipate it into the soil and tunnel at night. They also increase the magnetic energy for better plant growth.

Construction of the tunnels is easy:

1. Pound the reinforcing rods about 18 inches deep into the soil on 3-foot spacings, along each side of the bed. Slip the tubes over the rods,
2. Place the 10-foot strip of plastic over the tubes. Allow about 5 extra feet on each end for good anchoring.
3. Securely anchor the plastic on both sides with straw, boards, and rocks. Don't leave any place for the wind to get under the plastic. I like 4 inches of straw in the pathways for easier working in the winter. See harmonygardens.blogspot.com for more details.



According to Eliot Coleman, a tunnel of this type will effectively move you to a climate that is 500 miles to the south. For us that means a climate like mid-Louisiana. One real advantage on the mini-tunnels is the ability to get started at least a month earlier in the spring. If you get serious about winter gardens, I suggest you see Eliot Coleman's books, *The New Organic Grower*, and *Four-Season Harvest*. Coleman lives and farms organically in Harborside, Maine. His books are excellent sources for all the details about winter gardening.

Cultivate a New Master Gardener



Become a Mentor!

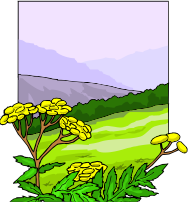
Help to educate and guide a future 2011 Master Gardener graduate.

All it takes is a little time, the ability to communicate regularly, and a willingness to share your gardening knowledge and experience.

Look for our Sign-up table at the November 2 WCMG Meeting

or E-mail Terry Smyers at gigiluv6811@gmail.com

or call 582-5822 and leave a message stating your name



Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

November 2010

- Dead stalks and other debris left in the garden provide good locations for insects and diseases to overwinter. Remove and destroy any infested material and add the rest to your compost pile.

- Wrap the trunks with tree wrap or use white plastic protectors to prevent sunscald and frost cracking on young, thin-barked trees, such as maples. These materials will reflect the warming rays of the sun so the tree bark doesn't heat up on winter days, only to be suddenly cooled when the sun sets and the temperatures plummet. The plastic protectors also prevent rodents from gnawing on the trunks.

- Take some time this fall to get your mower and other power equipment ready for storage. Wipe off any dirt and debris, especially loose wet grass that may have accumulated on the deck or caked underneath it. This can rust the deck over winter, shortening the life of the mower body. If reaching under the deck, make sure to disconnect the spark plug first so the engine has no chance of starting. Then you can store with the fuel tank empty or full. If storing with fuel, add a stabilizer, then run the machine for about 10 minutes. Store mowers in a dry location, or if outdoors, wrap in a waterproof tarp.

FAYETTEVILLE IN BLOOM DAFFODIL SALE

FIB will be selling bags of daffodils from Brent and Becky.

This is their special perennial mix.

Gorgeous bulbs; many with multiple noses. Available at the November WCMG Meeting.

\$5 for 7 or \$10 for 15

Large Orders at Special Pricing.

Contact Cindi Cope
copecindi@aol.com

- Every year I get numerous calls on when is the best time to transplant a particular tree and shrub. My answer typically starts as ... "well, that depends on the plant and how much effort you want to expend over the next year caring for your plant". Fall and winter are the best times of year for moving plants. Transplant deciduous trees and shrubs when they are dormant. Evergreen trees or shrubs, however, may be transplanted earlier in the fall, before they go dormant. You can transplant trees and shrubs in early spring, just before bud break, but this will require more attention to the plant. Transplanting perennials is a whole new subject with many variables.

- After chrysanthemums are killed back by frost or as soon as chrysanthemums are through flowering, remove the stalks to within a few inches of the ground, cut them down in preparation for winter. Apply a 2 to 3 inch layer of loose mulch.

- Move outdoor containers with live plants to a protected spot, if possible. Protect the roots by covering the soil and the container with a thick layer of straw or leaves. Check the moisture level of the pots every few weeks, and water if needed.

- Clean up rose beds. Be sure all diseased leaves are raked up and destroyed. Spring (before the plants start active growth) is the preferred season for pruning roses. Do not cut off canes in the fall. It is better to stake and tie extra long canes in fall to prevent winter wind damage.

- Keep your shears and loppers in good working order. Wipe them with a rag dipped in paint thinner to remove sticky resins. Sharpen and oil thoroughly. To clean garden tools, put warm water and a tablespoon of dishwasher detergent into a bucket. The detergent helps detach soil clumps from metal blades. When clean and dry, use a broad file to sharpen shovels and hoes for next season. Tools sharpened on a power grinder heat up and lose their tempering, making the metal prone to breaking. To make your tools last longer, get a broad file and learn the age-old art of blade sharpening this winter.



Who's New in Master Gardening

by
Jan Hanks



Herb and Mentor Dian Holmes

Herb Disney, a quiet, soft-spoken man, joined the Washington County Master Gardener Program in 2010 after completing the training classes.

Herb was born in Lincoln, Arkansas, where his family lived for five or six years. His father's job required the family to move frequently. Perhaps that's why he likes to travel today. Herb loves to get in his car and go sightseeing. He states, "You miss too much of the beautiful scenery if you don't drive".

He purchased a 140-acre farm in Elkins thirty years ago, and found his love for gardening. He stated his farm was once a large nursery. In his travels, he looks for nurseries that have a large selection of trees. He found one with a pecan grove that had 4,000 trees. "That was one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen", he said.

Herb's favorite tree is the persimmon because he loves the fruit. But, for beauty, he thinks the buckeye is the prettiest; its red flowers bring hundreds of hummingbirds to his yard to keep him entertained.

When asked about his garden, he said, "It's naturalized chaos. I don't really have a garden as such. I mow 7 acres and have tried to naturalize flowers around the yard by the house. I just throw seeds or clippings out and let them grow. That way, I don't have to worry about each little bush or flower".

I asked him if he had any advice on gardening. He said with a chuckle, "Don't!"

Then he asked me if I needed iris's because he had a thousand or more, and about as many daffodils.

Herb's favorite projects are Fayetteville City Hospital and the Washington County Extension Office. He stated, "I really like the people in Master Gardeners. Dian Holmes is a joy to work with; and everyone is so helpful. They are some of the nicest people I have ever met. And then, there's the fellowship." He paused..."And the potlucks. I really like the potlucks. Those ladies really know how to cook!"

MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' MEETING OCTOBER 5, 2010

PRESENT: 59 members. President Judie Keck called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. The minutes of the September 3 meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

- Treasurer Dolores Stamps is collecting dues for next year, the dues need to be paid by **January 1, 2011**.
- Janet Carson will be our guest speaker for the November 2 meeting, and there will be a Christmas program in December.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fayetteville in Bloom: Fayetteville was awarded the Environmental Awareness Award this year.

Membership: Ruth Chapman reminded the membership that volunteer hour sheets are due November 2; USE THIS YEAR'S FORM.

New Master Gardener Training: There are 80 applicants for the training sessions that begin in January and extend into February.

Mentoring: A new chairperson is needed because Judie Branson is stepping down. Thank you for having been chair, Judie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A gardening calendar is available for \$10; Dolores Stamps' photography is featured in September.
- Check the newsletter for work schedules; much work needs to be done to put away the gardening for the winter.
- The Washington County Historical Society will be hosting a brunch for Headquarters House volunteers on October 26.
- Lynn Rogers has to move plants from her yard due to the coming widening of Highway 265; check to see if you can still help.
- A community garden in Springdale, off Hwy. 412, is in the beginning stages. "Winter Gardening with Cold Frames", workshop. For more information—contact Julie Sheffield and Dennis Womack.
- Kudos to Joyce Mendenhall and Gail Pianalto for their butterfly workshop with 4-H youth. The business meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. and the plant exchange began.

Shirley Durning

Want to Know More about Master Gardener Mentoring?

by Jan Lefler



The Washington County Mentoring Program began in 2007. It supports new members by helping them to feel welcome and helping them become more involved in Sanctioned Projects and other activities of the organization.

Responsibilities of the Mentoring Committee include:

- Enlist current members-in-good-standing to serve as mentors to new members (i.e., trainees, reinstated members and transfers) during their first year as Washington County Master Gardeners.
- Gather information from mentors and new members to aid the committee in matching those with similar interests.
- Assign mentors during the January WCMG Training classes.
- Assign mentors to reinstated or transfer members at the time they are accepted into the organization.
- Solicit feedback from participants each year about the mentoring process to assess its effectiveness.
- Collect and categorize skills and interests of new members for reference in the WCMG office.

A Mentor's responsibilities should include:

Phone Calls
Personal Visits
Invitations to meetings and workdays
Introductions to other members
Specific help with training

The mentoring should continue until such time that the new member feels comfortable or until work hour requirements are met.

Terry Smyers is our 2010 chairperson of the WCMG Mentoring Committee.

*Join in the fun
and
fulfillment of mentoring!*



VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGS
DUE
NOVEMBER 2

Please use the newest version of the Hours Log found in this edition of Garden Thyme. Many of the Project/Committee codes are changed and accuracy in crediting hours is important to our organization. If you can't attend the November meeting, drop off your Log Sheets at the county Extension office or mail it in by November 2.

2011 DUES ARE \$15 and can be paid when you turn in hour Log Sheets or attach your check to the Sheet when mailed.

Thank You for your Cooperation and Promptness!

The Membership Committee

The Morning Herb Club of NWA regularly meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month @ 10 a.m. at BGO in Fayetteville

November 11 Meeting
Guest Speaker: Susan Young from Shiloh Museum
Topic: Ozark Herb Lore

The Evening Herb Club of NWA regularly meets the last Thursday of the month @ 5:30 p.m. at the Pontiac Coffee House in Springdale

Contact Information

Morning Herb Club: Annette Williams – annette.williams11@gmail.com

Evening Herb Club: Michelle Ahrents – ahrents1@dluxlink.com



Did You Know???

From Dian Holmes

Time-release fertilizers such as Osmocote will not activate when temperatures fall below 50 degrees. Keep this in mind when feeding your pansies this fall and winter.



A Modest Bird Sanctuary

“Even one elderberry bush or a single dogwood tree can constitute a bird sanctuary and, if near a window, may afford greater pleasure to the observer inside than a woodland preserve covering acres would to its owner if he took no interest in birds. I have a handsome dogwood tree just off my sun porch which is visited by birds every day in the year.”

Herbert Durand
Wild Flowers and Ferns
 1925

Recipe

Moth Destroyer



- ½ pound dried rosemary
- ½ pound dried mint
- ¼ pound dried tansy
- ¼ pound dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons fresh ground cloves

Mix together and store in a well-closed box. Scatter lavishly among fur, blankets, and clothing as they are stored and no moth will go near them.

Mrs. Marian Cran
The Garden of Ignorance
 1913

OLD-TIME WISDOM

A proper timepiece for gardeners. A sundial is calm time, old time, beautiful spacious time in a garden; it is slow waltz time—time that flows like a shining twist of honey, sweet and slow. A sundial can trance and forget; it lets the green hours glide.

J.H. Yoxall
The Villa for Coelebs
 1914



**Washington County
 Master Gardeners
 Treasurer's Report
 September 16, 2010 to October 19, 2010**

CMG Checking <u>Account</u> Balance forward	\$ 8,493.79
Receipts:	
(1) Dues for 2011	180.00
Total Income	180.00
	\$8,673.79
Expenses: (9)	
(1) #1186 J Mendenhall Jr MG	64.12
(2) #1187 AgDevCouncil Scholarship fund	1,000.00
(3) #1188 B Ezell Preservation class	58.62
(4) #1189 Carol Martin Food Class	15.37
(5) #1190 L Fritts Foods class	578.95
(6) #1191 J Mendenhall JMg ink	29.00
(7) #1192 Pam Johnson Foods class	43.66
(8) #1193 M Crumley Jr Mg supplies	72.89
(9) #1194 J Mendenhall JrMg	24.71
Total Expenses	\$1,887.32
<hr/> Current Balance, October 19	\$6,786.47
<u>Extension Account</u> same	
Balance Forward	\$66.36
 <u>WCMG Training Class of 2010</u>	
2010 Class registration, plus balance fwd	\$00

Reserve for expenses of Jr. Master Gardeners program
 \$1,015.23

Dolores A Stamps, Treasurer
 to Garden Thyme by email
 October 19, 2010

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
NEWSLETTER**



U of A Cooperative Extension Service
2536 North McConnell
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Phone: 479-444-1755
Fax: 479-444-1764
State Web Site: www.uaex.edu

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Dates to Remember

November

**Nov 2 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting**

Nov 2 – Volunteer Hours Logs due on
or before meeting for
June thru October period

Nov 16 – County 76 General
Membership Meeting – Little Rock
(MG's only)

Nov 20 – "Botanical Latin"
FGNS of NWA - Springdale

Nov 20 – Digital Photography/Editing
Workshop – Fayetteville

Nov 30 – Sanctioned Projects' Annual
Reports due to Extension Office

December

**Dec 7 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting &
Annual Holiday Party**



January

**Jan 4 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting**

Jan 4 – Annual Dues are paid

2011 Wash. Co. Master Gardener
Training (6 wks. – Evening Classes)

