

GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter

April 2011

2011 WCMG Officers

President
Mike Standrod

Vice President
Judie Branson

Secretary
Robin Selman

Co-Treasurers
Jill King
Annette Pianalto

GARDEN THYME CONTRIBUTORS

Calvin Bey
Pam Johnson
Jacqueline King
Gail Pianalto
Judy Smith

GARDEN THYME STAFF

Jan Hanks
Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
Susan Pressler
Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:
janlefler@cox.net
gigiluv56811@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.



2011 Arbor Day Activities included Master Gardeners, Junior Master Gardeners and 4-Hr's Planting Trees at Washington County Fairgrounds



WCMG Monthly Meeting

April 5, 2011
6:30 pm



Program MASTER GARDENERS ARE PROVEN WINNERS!

"And the winner is ??????"
by Joyce Mendenhall

Even though we are all winners, just by being a Master Gardener, once a year we take time to honor a few outstanding people and projects for their contributions to the organization.

Find out who the 2010 Master Gardener of The Year, Rookie of The Year, and Project of The Year are when these and more honors are announced at our April 5 meeting.

**Due to space limitations, this will not be a potluck as previously announced.
Dessert will be provided by the Awards Committee.
Guests are cordially invited to this Annual Awards Ceremony.**

Uncle Mike's Corner...



**WCMG President
Mike Standrod**

Lady Spring is finally tiptoeing in, and Jodie and I are playing in the dirt again! Our cool-weather veggies are planted/transplanted and are reaching for the sunshine!

The goldfinches are getting their color. The chickadees, bluebirds and wrens are shopping for bird-house real estate. Warmer temps and longer days beckon us to our backyard garden hideout in the afternoons till our pond frogs start their evening chorus. Life is sweet!

This March has brought to our house a renewed thankfulness for what we have. After watching the horrible devastation in Japan and the massive uprisings in the Mid-East, we need to realize how good we have it here in America. Most importantly we can work, play, travel, speak, worship, and pretty much live as we please, with no fear for our safety. So much of the world's population does not enjoy such freedoms. Let's not take them for granted.

Now, for the practical side...start a small veggie garden. (Or expand what you have.) With the rising fuel prices and rising food prices, anything grown at home will: (1) Save money, (2) Taste better, (3) Be fresher, and (4) Cut fossil fuel consumption. And as Jodie often reminds me, "Gardening keeps you out of the bars!"

Till next month, Happy Gardening!



Cooking with Fresh Herbs and Other Things

by Jan Hanks

I am sure I saw many of you at the FGNS meeting on "Growing Fresh Herbs." I was the one in the corner going oink-oink over the incredible Lemon Basil Shortbread Cookies, among other goodies. I refuse to tell you how many were on my plate. I tracked down the baker, Vande Sutherland, and begged for the recipe for the shortbread. (I would do most anything, well almost anything, for a recipe this good!)

Having a passion for basil helps: Pasta Pomodoro, Basil Pesto, Bruschetta with fresh basil, tomatoes and fresh mozzarella cheese. You get the idea. Thanks to Vande for this recipe from *Sunset Magazine*, 2006.

LEMON BASIL SHORTBREAD COOKIES

INGREDIENTS:

1 c. butter at room temp
½ c. plus 2 T. sugar
1 t. grated lemon peel
1T. lemon juice
2 ½ c. all-purpose flour (Vande swears White Lily flour is the only flour to use. I found it at Harp's on Crossover.)
6 T. cornstarch
1 T. fresh basil leaves (minced)



PREPARATION:

Preheat oven to 300*. In food processor whirl butter, ½ c. sugar, grated lemon peel, lemon juice, flour, cornstarch and basil leaves until smooth.

Press dough into 2 – 8" cake pans with removable rims. Press tines of a fork around edges to make a ridge pattern, then pierce dough with fork in parallel lines an inch apart.

Bake until firm to touch and slightly browned, about 45 minutes (40 minutes in a convection oven). Sprinkle hot rounds with 2 T. sugar. Remove pan rims and cut each round while still warm into 12 or 16 wedges. Let cool completely on pan bottoms on racks, then remove wedges and serve or store airtight up to 1 week.

Makes 24 to 32 wedges.

Enjoy. I certainly did!!

Anyone have a recipe to share using fresh herbs or vegetables and fruits in a special way?

Email me, isew44@hotmail.com.

**MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS' MEETING
MARCH 1, 2011**

PRESENT: 99 members. President Mike Standrod called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm. The minutes of the December 2010 meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved. The members of the new MG class, their mentors, and transfer member were acknowledged.

OFFICER REPORTS:

Mike Standrod urged all members prior to 2007 to have their pictures made for the directory.

The State Leadership Conference will be in Harrison, June 2-4.

The International Master Gardener Conference will be in Charleston, West Virginia, October 11-14.

Vice President Judi Branson reported that Lori Spencer from Mount Magazine will be our guest speaker in May. In June, we will have a picnic at the Air Museum.

The Program Committee needs two more members. Volunteers need to contact Judie Branson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Projects: Sarah Campbell reported that a chairperson is needed for the Fayetteville Public Library project.

Workbook: Nancy Umiker reports the committee is in need of a person who is computer literate with photos. Members pick up new insides for notebooks. Please use new Volunteer Hours forms.

Junior Master Gardeners: Mary Crumley advised that background check forms are available for volunteers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Borbas announced a work day at the compost site Saturday, March 26, at 8:00a.m..

Mike Standrod announced Farm Friends is scheduled for April 21.

Mike Standrod notified the membership that starting next month; any announcements must be e-mailed to him (mstandrod@earthlink.net) by the Friday before our monthly meeting.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m., followed by a presentation on community gardens by Lisa Netherland.

Robin Selman, Secretary

ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST April 2011		
DATE	10 -12 noon	1-3 pm
Fri 4/1	Angela Caquelin	
Mon 4/4	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tue 4/5		Pauline Keegan
Wed 4/6	Martha Haguewood	Marsha Davis
Thu 4/7		Robin Selman
Fri 4/8	Debbie Anderson	
Mon 4/11	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tue 4/12	Marty Gray	Pauline Keegan
Wed 4/13	Dorothy Rae Bein	Marsha Davis
Thu 4/14	Lynn Rogers	Robin Selman
Fri 4/15	Angela Caquelin	
Mon 4/18	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tue 4/19		Pauline Keegan
Wed 4/20	Dorothy Rae Bein	Marsha Davis
Thu 4/21	Lea Anna Taylor	Robin Selman
Fri 4/22	Debbie Anderson	Tom Cantrell
Mon 4/25	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tue 4/26	Marty Gray	Pauline Keegan
Wed 4/27	Dorothy Rae Bein	Marsha Davis
Thu 4/28	Lynn Rogers	Robin Selman
Fri 4/29	Terry Smyers	
Please call Jacqueline King, 751-8690, for Changes or Additions		

Washington County Master Gardeners Treasurer's Report January 1 - February 28, 2011				
	Master Gardeners	Junior Master Gardeners	Compost Fund	Total Bank Account
12/31/2010 Final Balance	7,578.23	2,603.24	646.28	10,827.75
Income				
Dues-2011	1,095.00			
Dues-2012	45.00			
Events/Fundraisers		208.00		
Donations/Gifts	5.00	25.00		
Total Income	<u>1,145.00</u>	<u>233.00</u>		
Expenses				
Jr Master Gardeners		425.25		
Programs	50.00			
Workbook	34.91			
Total Expenses	<u>84.91</u>	<u>425.25</u>		
02/28/2011 Balance	8,638.32	2,410.99	646.28	11,695.59
Submitted by Jill A. King, Co-Treasurer March 18, 2011				

Organic Gardening and More

Raised Beds and Tilling

Calvin F. Bey CFBey1936@cox.net

Let's hope that the real cold weather is behind us by April 1, but don't count on it. Some of you remember the frosty white, 18 degree morning on Easter, April 8, 2008. Remember that our average last spring frost occurs about April 10. If you not yet started, you can still plant all of the spring crops in April. There is also still time to start new beds. One of the first decisions is whether or not to use raised beds.

Raised beds have some real advantages. They are better aerated; they drain better after heavy rains, and warm up faster in the spring. I recommend using 4-foot



wide beds, double-dug, with a 2-foot pathway. Coupled with close-spacing, raised beds can make more efficient use of your garden.

Raised beds are also appropriate if you bring in soil for your stony site. In either case, you do not need side boards for your beds (unless the site is on a steep slope.) Raised beds or not, you next need to decide on your method of tilling.

Tillage. After double-digging, and adding a one-inch layer of compost and appropriate minerals (based on a soil test), many gardeners think that the tiller is the next tool to use. **It is not necessary to use a tiller** and it can be easily argued that it does not fit in the "going sustainable" model. A tiller can actually destroy good soil structure, especially in working heavy soils. In these soils, tilling can decrease the soil water holding capacity. A garden fork is all you need to gently twist-in fertilizers

and compost. Using a tiller is somewhat of a guy thing – a show of macho power and control.

The first question concerning tilling is often, "then how do I control weeds?" It is simple – mulch and cover crops will take care of most weeds. The photo shows the dense crop of Austrian winter peas and oats, and how it can suppress any weeds. The next question is, "But how do I loosen the soil?" That is primarily the work of the soil organisms, working for you 24/7, when the biological conditions are right. That, too, is simple. Avoid the chemical toxins (pesticides and chemical fertilizers.) Of course, the compost, minerals, and moisture will contribute to good microbial occupation. Remember that the basic idea about gardening is to build a healthy soil. You simply cannot do it while adding toxic pesticides. See my article in the March issue of *Garden Thyme* on the deleterious effects when using Roundup.

A very good reference on bed preparation and all aspects of gardening is *How to Grow More*



Vegetables, by John Jeavons. It speaks volumes on the issue of sustainability – something that will only increase in importance as we find growing our own vegetables more and more of a necessity.



2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS SANCTIONED PROJECTS		
PROJECT	CHAIRPERSON (S)	WORK SCHEDULE
2008 *Arkansas Air Museum (Drake Field)	Daniel Kelly Glenda Patterson	1 st & 3 rd Saturday Mornings (Starts Mar 19)
1992 *Ask A Master	Jacqueline King	Every Weekday (Starts Feb 1 thru October 31)
1998 Battlefield Park (Prairie Grove)	Judie Branson Richard Cooper	Saturday Mornings 9:00-11:00 am Some Mondays 5:00-7:00 pm (Starts April 2)
2000 Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks	Betty Swope & Joyce Mendenhall	Every Wednesday 9:00-11:00 am
1999 *Compost Demonstration Site	George Loucks	2 nd Thursday & Last Saturday Mornings
2006 Devil's Den State Park	Steve Cattaneo	2 nd Friday 9:00 am (Starts Mar 11)
2009 Fayetteville City Hospital Gardens	Dian Holmes, Marty Smith & Jan Lefler	Wednesday Mornings 10:00 am (earlier time with heat) (Starts Mar 30)
1998 Fayetteville City Parks	Betty Swope & Charles Barbee	Every Friday Morning 9:00 am (at Wilson Park Greenhouse) (Starts March 18 th)
1997 Headquarters House Gardens	Dian Holmes & Jan Lefler	Tuesday Mornings 10:00 am (earlier time with heat) (Starts March 29)
2008 Junior Master Gardeners	Mary Crumley & Gail Pianalto	2 nd Saturday 1:00 pm
1980's Mock Park (Prairie Grove)	Lorraine Heartfield & LaDeana Mullinix	Every Monday 8:30-10:30 am (earlier with heat)
1991 *Washington County Extension Office Grounds	Lynn Yenawine	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays Mornings
2003 *Washington County Fair Horticulture Exhibits	Mary Crumley & Joyce Mendenhall	Fair Week in Late Summer
2006 West Fork Library	Jan Hayes Jane Bryant	2 nd Wednesday & 4 th Saturday Mornings (flexible)
2009 *West Fork Heritage Gardens	Frances Hime	Flexible Hours 6 days a week

* Designated as "Target" Sanctioned Projects for 2011



Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

April 2011

Delay pruning plants which you suspect some winter cold damage. Allow enough time for new growth to begin and then prune back to those new growing points.

Last call to remove old foliage from liriopse. If they have started to grow for you, you will need to use scissors to remove the old damaged foliage. If yours have not started to grow, you can use a weed eater or lawnmower on high setting to get the job done.

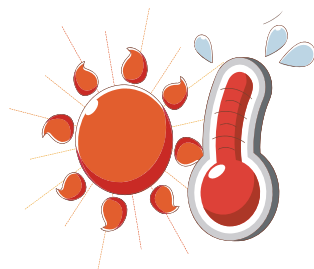
Pecan trees are often zinc deficient. This can be compensated by applying zinc to pecan tree foliage as the first leaves begin to develop. Mix 1.6 ounces of zinc sulfate in 5 gallons of water applied after 1 inch of new growth in the spring and repeated every 3 to 4 weeks.

Forsythia, quince and other spring flowering shrubs will finish blooming this month. As bloom period ends prune out 2 to 3 of the oldest canes to the ground to rejuvenate these established plants.

Control tent caterpillars on fruit trees and other plants with a Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) insecticide. Bt is only harmful to leaf feeding caterpillars.

As your Bermuda lawn greens up this month and you find circular spots that stay brown, you may be seeing Spring Dead Spot disease. Do not spray fungicides, but manage damaged areas correctly to minimize the problem. Call me if you are having this problem.

Wait until all chance of freeze damage has passed before installing warm-season annuals for color which is typically around April 15.



Don't be in a hurry to plant peppers in the garden. For seeds to germinate well, soil temperature needs to be at least 80 F. For transplants to perform well, garden soil needs to be above 70 F. We usually don't see these soil temperatures until mid May. Plants set out into cold soil will be stunted and are prone to several soil borne root rot diseases. This is true for okra and southern peas as well.



For those of you who have Alberta Spruce and other spruces like Colorado Blue, you are always fighting with needle cast disease. This disease causes needles to drop which can progress to the loss of entire limbs and then the whole tree. If you have to have one of these spruces, you will need to spray as the new needles emerge in the spring with a fungicide (Daconil or

Kiocide). Spray 3 times: as needles begin to emerge and twice more at 2 week intervals. A permanent solution is a chain saw and the planting of a native tree.

Berni Kurz
County Extension
Agent
Staff Chair

Get Ready for the 2011 Gardening Season

ON SALE at the April WCMG Meeting!!!

Gardening Gloves (L and XL



only)

MG short-sleeved T-shirts in assorted colors but limited sizes



MG sweatshirts in navy (one in forest green)

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

by Judy Smith



It's great to hear that many new Master Gardeners want to volunteer at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. There's always room for more and work to be done. One of the nice things about volunteering at the Garden is the variety of work to do.

As a Master Gardener Volunteer, you can:

- get your hands dirty on Wednesday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m.;
- hold down the fort in the office on a morning or afternoon shift;
- guide children or adults through the gardens; or
- help out a special event.

If you want to work in the office or guide tours, the Garden offers special training sessions throughout the year so that you will be able to answer questions and handle requests. Until you attend one of those sessions, you can get one-on-one training with MGs Valerie Fletcher or Martha Ward for the office and with MG Judy Smith for tours. We also have a Garden Host manual you can borrow from the office and read to learn the history and story of the Garden.

When you come to the Garden the first time, please fill out a Volunteer Information form so that we can add you to our database. You'll get V-bulletins and e-mails that will keep you up to date on volunteer opportunities. We also have our own hours accounting system. You can add a page to our Volunteer Logbook and keep track of the work you do at the Botanical Garden. Twice a year, the Extension Office will send us your BGO hours but we like to have our own records as well.

Thank you for volunteering at BGO.



CALLING ALL PLANT NERDS!

By Gail Pianalto

I am not ashamed to admit that I am probably right up there at the top of plant nerdism. I am, after all, a Master Gardener. Isn't being a plant nerd a prerequisite for becoming a member?

Thanks to Cindi Cope, we have the privilege of having Dan Heims give not one, but two talks. For those of you who have not yet attained your nerdiness when it comes to the who's who in the plant world and are unfamiliar with Mr. Heims, I'll give you a little of his background.

Dan Heims is America's premier plant guru who travels the world seeking out the newest perennials. He is president of Terra Nova Nurseries and a member of the Perennial Plant Association. Terra Nova is noted for introducing 700 new plants to horticulture. If you have Campanula "Blue-Eyed Blonde," Coreopsis "Moonlight," Echinacea "Tomato Soup" or "Mac 'n' Cheese in your garden then you have some of Terra Nova's plant introductions.

The programs will be Saturday April 2 at the Global Campus (across from Arvest on the square), 2 East Center Street, Fayetteville.

"Garden Gems" will begin at 10:00 am. You will learn about some of the newest and most exciting perennials, tropicals, and woodies. This is the program that will satisfy the nerd within. **"Right Plant-Right Place" will begin at 11:30 am.** If you have problem spots in your garden, Dan will give you the plants that will thrive in those hard to plant spots.

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance for both lectures, \$25.00 at the door. One lecture will be \$15.00. You may contact Cindi Cope at copecindi@aol.com for advance tickets.

Mr. Heims book "*The Garden Clerk's Dictionary*" will be for sale. A limited number of catalogs will be available. Register early to ensure that you get one.

***Proceeds will benefit
Washington County Junior Master Gardeners
&
Fayetteville in Bloom***



Who's Who in Master Gardeners

by Terry Smyers



Carol Martin (2007)

Julie, Julia.....Carol?

OK, Carol Martin was not in the movie "Julie, Julia" that was about Julia Child, but when I visited her at her home in West Fork for this interview, I was the recipient of a delectable lunch and good conversation. I recall the movie because on the kitchen counter, I noticed an open, well used, yellowed, dripped on and tattered copy of "*Mastering the Art of French Cooking*," by Julia Child. That cookbook has not been sitting on the shelf collecting dust! The potato, sorrel and leek soup we savored at lunch, had its beginnings in that particular cook book and in the early offerings of a burgeoning spring garden. The accompanying freshly made focaccia was fragrantly laced with rosemary from Carol's garden, and was the perfect complement to the savory soup. All, I can say is "simply delicious!"

Carol grew up in New York City. Noting that her mother was a so-so cook, with a limited repertoire, Carol explained her quest for good food and that she began gardening as a young wife and mother. Carol's current garden clings to a sharp slope on the west side of her house, with small foot paths and terraced beds that look easy to access. She explained that it beats mowing, and I will add that it is quite attractive and good use of the land. Perched on it, is a large cage, a bird cage to keep the birds out! In the cage, berry bushes are protected from voracious bird appetites. Carol gave up growing tomatoes; her thinking is they simply attract too many pests.

How Carol found northwest Arkansas, is the result of a "Top Ten" list and a road trip. Fayetteville was #10 on the best places to retire in 2005; and Carol is one testament to the fact that people do sit up and take notice of those lists. Carol struck out in search of a place to land and with the help of a friend she met traveling, her quest ended here. When Carol arrived with her two cats, her first weekend here was along with several thousand bikers and she had quite a time finding a place to spend the night.

While her home was in process of being built, Carol was able to choose elements that made it very much her own. She has a wood burning stove that heats most of her home that is decorated with treasures found on her travels abroad. Through the house are rugs from Turkey, (the favorite of all the places she has been).

Listening to her describe her adventure on the Turquoise Coast can make the winter weary slip into a Turkish dream. Good light comes in the house and Carol has planted the grounds outside of her windows with plants she likes to gaze upon, but beyond her landscape is a neighborhood that she quickly grew to love.

Carol noted that her way of getting to know the folks that live around her was to throw a party. That is the spirit of Carol Martin: she offers a glass of wine, something good to eat and enjoys the opportunity to make new friends!

The Good Old Days

by Pam Johnson



Take me back to the good old days
When the hills I faced seemed too much.
Take me back to my innocent ways when
I believed in things I couldn't touch.

Take me back to my schoolgirl years
When pencils and erasers were both worn short.
Take me back to the time in life
When having little, meant having more.

Take me back to my grandma's farm
Where rusty metal tubs bloomed full of life.
Take me back to a place in time
When my grandpa loved his wife.

Now walking 'round the old homestead
Where wavy-glassed windows and weathered wood,
Have long ago fallen into a pile
Where my grandma's old house once stood.

All the old folks have long since passed
And few remember back in time
When grandma's walkway was in bloom
Yet old daffodils still form a line.

The abandoned farm is all grown up
As have the grandkids--moving further yet
Their backs to the past, with their futures to meet
But the daffodils won't forget.

*Dedicated to Cindi Cope
"The Daffodil Lady"*

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

by Joyce Mendenhall

Master Gardeners celebrated Arkansas Arbor Day on March 21 by purchasing and helping to plant two Shumard oak trees at the Washington County Fair Grounds. Robin Selman, Master Gardener Secretary, presented a short history of Arbor Day to 39 4-Her's, parents and leaders. Master Gardeners attending the activities were: Dian Holmes, Jan Lefler, Robin Selman, Mike Standrod and Mary Crumley along with Junior Master Gardeners – Chloe and Lizzie Mabry.

The Shumard Oak

Shumard oak (*Quercus shumardii*) is one of the largest species in the southern red oak group. It is a fast-growing tree used widely for commercial lumber, interior trim, cabinetry and furniture. Shumard oak is also an excellent shade tree because of its broad, rounded canopy.

The fruit is an important component of the diets of numerous species of songbirds, wild turkeys, waterfowl, white-tailed deer, and various species of squirrels. White-tailed deer utilize the twigs and leaves for winter browse as well.

BENEFITS FROM TREES

- Trees clean the air.
- Trees buffer loud noises.
- Trees improve water quality.
- Trees provide wildlife habitat.
- Trees protect the soil from erosion.
- Trees give us over 5,000 useful products.



**Master Gardeners helped celebrate
Arkansas Arbor Day on March 21**

WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
NEWSLETTER



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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

Dates to Remember

April

**Apr 5 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting &
2010 Awards Celebration**

Apr 6 – P. Allen Smith/Marlsgate
Plantation with Jacobsen Tours

Apr 16 – FGNS Meeting - Springdale

Apr 21 - Farm Friends – Fayetteville

Apr 23 – River Valley MG Plant Sale –
Fort Smith

Apr 26 – Earth Day at the Garden –
BGO in Fayetteville

Apr 30 – Public Plant Sale -
BGO in Fayetteville



May

**May 3 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting**

May 21 – FGNS Meeting - Springdale

More details on
[http://www.uaex.edu/washington/;](http://www.uaex.edu/washington/)
link to
Washington County Master Gardener
Blog Site

June

**June 7 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting & Annual Picnic**

June 2-4 – Arkansas Master Gardener
Conference – Harrison

June 7 – Volunteer Hours Due
(November thru May)

June 11 – FGNS "Through the Garden
Gate" Tours – Washington County

