

GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter

February 2011

2011 WCMG Officers

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Jacqueline King
Gail Pianalto
Nancy Umiker

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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.



Welcome to the New 2011 WCMG Class

by Colleen Brown

I did not have to clone myself this year for the 2011 WCMG Training Class due to the fantastic response of WCMG's who have volunteered their time, talents and door prizes.

As for those eligible for door prizes, the minute I announce it's time to pull a name from the bowl for a door prize the room is dead silent as they anxiously await their name to be called. This is especially great for me after break-time when no one seems to hear me say "Sit down – I'm announcing the next speaker!"

I am thrilled with all the volunteers and hate to mention each individual one, fearing there would not be space in the Garden Thyme. All WCMG's who have helped with the class, I give you my personal thanks and appreciation.

I give special thanks to Brent & Becky's Bulbs who donated over 5,000+ bulbs to the Washington County MG program to help beautify our area with white & yellow daffodils and colorful tulips, and also donated several bags to be given as door prizes to class members. Recipients were thrilled to receive them knowing that they will be able to look at them in their yard and appreciate them for years to come. All the other MG's who donated door prize gifts are just as important and appreciated.

This is a hungry class and the volunteers who brought snacks were greatly adored as this class devoured all your goodies. Thank you for all the volunteers who helped with set up, clean up, and everything in-between. You were my lifesavers.

Continued on Page 2 – Bottom 1st column

WCMG Monthly Meeting

February 1, 2011

6:30 pm



Speaker – Tony LiCausi

Topic - "Natural Gardening"

Tony LiCausi is originally from Dallas, Texas, and has been gardening the natural way for about 40 years. He and his wife, Joyce, have a daughter in St. Louis and a daughter with two grandchildren in Dallas. He became a Benton County Master Gardener in 2009 and joined the Bella Vista Garden Club in 2008. Tony has had quite an influence on the garden club members who are trying to follow his natural way of gardening. He was the Organic Gardening Instructor for the Benton County Master Gardener class of 2010 and will again be the instructor in January 2011. He is very fond of roses and is very interested in learning more about native plants for northwest Arkansas. His favorite quote is "Nature is perfectly designed and everything is designed for a purpose, and that purpose is to be of service and to aid us." by Malcolm Beck.





Uncle Mike's Corner...

If you are like me, the cold winter offers us time to review, plan, and prepare for the spring planting season.

**WCMG President
Mike Standrod**

Right after Christmas, seed catalogues seem to multiply in our mailbox *en masse*. I have no choice but to curl up by the fire and drool over new, improved plants and seeds on which to experiment and eventually kill in the coming year. All while my little vegetable beds are happily sleeping, tucked away under mulch or winter cover crops.

I just discovered and downloaded an interesting program on vegetable garden planning in Mother Earth News. It looks like the perfect tool for veggie gardeners who want to plan, design, track and record on computer. It is very, very user-friendly, importing data/planting times, etc. by zip code. I'm looking forward to playing with this new toy. You can download a 30 day version for FREE from <http://www.motherearthnews.com/garden-planner/vegetable-garden-planner.aspx>. After the trial period, the ongoing cost is only \$25 per year. I'm on my free version and will be checking it out.



GARDEN THYME

Jodie and I just returned from a two-day Horticulture Industry Conference in Fort Smith, and heard some wonderful speakers - several from NW Arkansas. Back to the seed catalogues with a vengeance. Visions of sugar snap peas are dancing in my head.

To remind myself, it WILL get warmer; I have get out a photo or two of some "end results" from my itty bitty veggie plot for reinforcement. Yep, the days are getting longer. It won't be long...



In the meantime our winter also offers the chance to observe the backyard wildlife, either directly or by tracks or tell-tale signs. Just before Christmas, while having Sunday breakfast, Jodie suddenly exclaims "There's a hawk looking right at us." Sure enough, right outside our kitchen door was a Cooper's hawk perched on our deck fence. I grabbed my camera and was lucky enough to catch couple of photos, before he swooped to grab his breakfast (one of the many juncos feeding on scattered seeds on our deck). There was something exhilarating in seeing such a creature so close, and witnessing nature's food chain in action.

'Til next month, Happy Gardening!



Continued from Page 1 - "Welcome to New 2011 WCMG Class"
On a serious note, individuals in the class have remarked that 40 hours of education is just not enough! Several have sent emails and asked for more time for speakers and extra time for questions & answers. Obviously, these future MG's take their education hours seriously.

**Watch out, all WCMG old-timers,
this group of 39 dedicated students are going to take us on!**

**MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS' MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2010**

PRESENT: 66 members. Vice President Mike Standrod called the meeting to order at 7:22 p m after members and guests had enjoyed a Christmas dinner.

Judie Branson introduced guest Ron Cox, Executive Director of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Also, joining our membership is a life member of Master Gardeners, JoAnn Hughes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fayetteville in Bloom Committee: Lots of daffodil bulbs are available; they can be planted through January; contact Gayle Howard.

Refreshment Committee: The January meeting is cancelled due to conflicts. Vicki Knight requested that those who were planning to bring refreshments to the January meeting should bring them to the MARCH meeting.

Washington County has two Master Gardeners who have completed Advanced Training – Joyce Mendenhall and Vande Southerland. They encourage more members to go for the training.

Rita Arnold is returning to Fayetteville on February 8; more details in WIMOFLLAR.

2011 WCMG Training: Colleen Brown reported that more snacks are needed for the new MG Training classes.

There will **not** be a January issue of Garden Thyme.

Master Gardener dues are due by December 7, 2010, for the year 2011; contact Dolores Stamps.

Mary Crumley introduced the Junior Master Gardeners and Master Gardener-flutist Debbie Anderson who presented the Christmas program. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

The NEXT MEETING will be February I, 2011. Tony LiCausi from Bella Vista will speak on Natural/Organic gardening.

Shirley Durning



**ASK A MASTER
VOLUNTEERS**
are needed for
FEBRUARY and MARCH
Monday through Friday



Time Slots are
10:00 am to 12 noon
1:00 pm to 3 pm.

Please call to volunteer time!
Jacqueline King
Phone: 751-8690

MG Hours by Project as of 12/31/2010	
Project	Total Hrs. YTD
Committee Work	3,110
Botanical Gardens	2,326
Junior Master Gardeners	1,338
Washington Co Fair*	1,031
Headquarters House	858
Fayetteville City Hospital*	584
Fayetteville (Wilson) Park*	506
Ask A Master Gardener*	450
Battlefield Park*	438
Extension Office Grounds*	305
Compost Facility	227
West Fork Heritage Gardens*	198
<i>Farm Friends - one day</i>	98
Ark Air Museum	78
Devil's Den	61
West Fork Library	52
Mock Park	42
<i>Arbor Day - one day</i>	16
<i>Kid's Day @ Farmer's Mkt - one day</i>	6
Winslow beautification (discontinued)	3
<i>Ready, Set Grow (Jones cntr) - one day</i>	-
*7 Priority Projects	3512 hours
TOTAL HOURS	11,722

Organic Gardening and More

Growing Your Own Vegetables

Calvin F. Bey CFBey1936@cox.net

*This is the time to
do your garden planning*

World population will reach 7 billion this year. The UN reports that food prices are at an all-time high. A serious problem is lurking. As usual, the poorest people of the world are being hit first and hardest. Coupled with the current, world-wide cold weather, floods, and economic downturns, it makes for a sad situation. Without a doubt, those food increases will also have a local impact. Although we complain, on the surface, when compared with many other countries, our food costs are low. I say, "on the surface," because the true cost of food includes the grocery store price, plus the hidden costs for farmer subsidies, unintended environmental costs, plus health costs associated with poor quality food and poor food choices.



A backyard vegetable garden will not solve all these problems, but it could be one small step for your family and a few others. I recommend that every gardener, if you have a sunny spot, raise some of your own vegetables. Start small if it is new for you and don't be afraid to use the more sustainable, organic approach.

Most of the things you do in the garden will not change when you go organic. The big differences are the type of fertilizers you use, and your approach to controlling insects and diseases. In reality, as you get your soil into a healthier state, (by not using high salt fertilizers and chemicals) the insect and disease problems will diminish. This is the time to do your garden planning. In March, when it's time to plant your early spring crops, you will be ready. Getting ready is critical.

The checklist for a new garden includes decisions about location, size orientation, tilling, raised beds, varieties, fertilizers, compost, mulches, timing, labor, partnerships, etc. Don't wait until you are at the garden center to do this planning. You can make adjustments, but have a plan.

If you are just beginning, I recommend:

1. Go organic.
2. Keep the size to 300 square feet or less.
3. Use raised beds, with lots of mulching.
4. Use minimum tillage, no rototiller.
5. Start with a few easy to grow vegetables.
6. Get a soil test. Get a soil test!
7. Get educated on growing vegetables with high nutrient density.
8. Find a partner to share gardening experiences.
9. Expect a good crop, and look for surprises and opportunities to learn.
10. Be gentle on the land – Respect the Designer

I spend many hours each year teaching and helping beginning and advanced gardeners. I do it because there is need to get reconnected to Nature. Our ancestral roots had us in intimate contact with the soil. It's natural that we call this soil and source of energy our Mother Earth. We now know that we literally get a transfer of electrons when we are in physical contact with live plants and the soil. We sense that feeling of energy (the vigor and excitement) when we walk across the grass in our bare feet or are on our knees in the garden.

See my website article on Earthing for details on this, and information on my organic gardening course.

harmonygardens.blogspot.com



Nominations to Recognize Accomplishments of the Washington County Master Gardener Program
due by March WCMG Meeting

WCMG Master Gardener of the Year 2010 Award
WCMG Master Gardener "Rookie" of the Year 2010 Award
WCMG Project of the Year 2010 Award
Friend of Master Gardeners of the Year 2010 Award



Recognizes the most outstanding person or project - includes degree of involvement, educational impact and evaluation.

Directions to submit nominations and forms are located in your WCMG Workbook.

Send to Washington County Extension Office, 2536 N. McConnell, Fayetteville, AR 72704

Contact Joyce Mendenhall at 444-1755 or jmendenhall@uaex.edu for forms or more information.



Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

February 2011

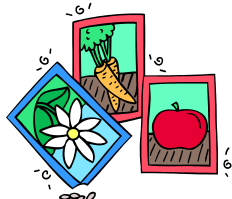
Before too long winter weeds will become very noticeable in our lawns. It's too late to apply preemergence herbicides to control them. If you failed to do this last September, your lawn probably has a thriving population of annual bluegrass, henbit and other undesirables. The game now is one of tolerance or applications of postemergence herbicides to control existing winter annual weeds. Postemergence herbicides are most effective if applied to seedlings less than 3 inches tall. Wait until most weeds are 2 to 4 inches tall before application.

February brings the arrival of home orchard plants at most garden centers, farmer's co-ops, and nursery outlets. Blueberries, grapes, pecans, blackberries, peaches, apples, plums and nectarines are just a few of the choices facing you. Be sure and select a variety that is recommended for our area. Refer back to you MG training manual or call me for specific varieties.

Store wood ashes in sealed, fireproof containers. Apply a dusting around lilacs, baby's breath, asters, lilies, and roses in spring. Do not apply to acid-loving plants. Don't use wood ashes on your garden unless a soil test shows that your soil is below pH 6.2.

When pruning diseased branches, sterilize tools with one part bleach and nine parts water solution in between cuts. Dry your tools at day's end and rub them lightly with oil to prevent rusting.

Now is the time to sow seeds indoors for those early season transplants to the vegetable garden. Be sure to use sterile soil mediums to prevent diseases. As soon as seeds sprout, provide ample light to encourage stocky growth. Keep fluorescent bulbs 5 to 10 inches above the foliage, 12 to 18 hours per day. Apply a liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer after the second true leaves appear.



Inspect fruit trees for tent caterpillar egg masses. Eggs appear as dark brown or gray collars that encircle small twigs. Destroy by pruning or scratching off with your thumbnail.



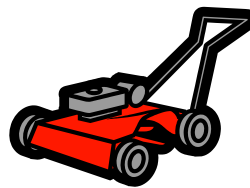
Base fertility needs on a soil analysis. The UA Division of Agriculture and your Washington County Extension Office offers soil testing at no charge. When used as a blueprint for growing, the results are invaluable. For maximum growing effectiveness,

your lawns, gardens, and landscape soil should be tested every two or three years. Call the office if you need instructions in collecting your samples.

Apply dormant oil sprays to scale prone plants and for control of other over-wintering insects. Do not apply to evergreen trees. This is especially an important spray for preventing some insect problems on your fruit trees.

Apply a single spray of Ferbam, Bordeaux, or chlorothalonil to peach, plum, apricot and nectarine trees before buds swell to prevent peach leaf curl and plum pockets fungus diseases in the spring.

Have any lawn mower or related equipment repairs taken care of now prior to the busy Spring season. If you wait until spring you may go without your lawn equipment for weeks.



Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

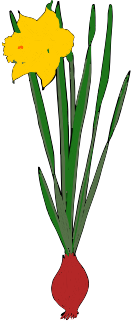
Dian Holmes' February Gardening Checklist



- ✓ Trim lirioppe (monkey grass) with lawnmower or grass trimmer
- ✓ Fertilize azaleas
- ✓ Prune roses and summer-blooming shrubs
- ✓ Fertilize pansies and violas

Fayetteville in Bloom Update

by Cindi Cope



Brent and Becky Heath donated 100 crates of bulbs to Fayetteville in Bloom and to Botanical Garden of the Ozarks; this represents 25,000+ bulbs this year alone. This is the 5th year that Brent and Becky Heath have donated bulbs to Fayetteville in Bloom...probably 150,000 bulbs in total. Brent and I traveled to China and became friends.

He was an America in Bloom Judge the first year. The late Carl Totemeier mentored Brent; they were good friends.

Fayetteville in Bloom purchased and donated approximately 15,000 bulbs earlier this year. Bulbs were planted at Headquarters House, Clinton House Museum, Fayetteville Public Library and the Junior Master Garden. Please support Brent and Becky's Bulbs at www.BrentandBeckysbulbs.com.

VOLUNTEER WORKBOOKS READIED FOR MEMBERS

by Nancy Umiker

The Volunteer Workbook Committee members, Ruth Cohoon, Debra Douglas, Sally Harms, Betty Swope, Nancy Umiker & Laura Wilkins, have been diligently working the past few months to update and prepare the 2011 WCMG Workbooks. The Volunteer Workbooks contain membership, organizational and project information; and are presented at graduation to each new WCMG member. Other members will receive only the inner pages or sections that contain new information. Members will receive the update at the February WCMG meeting. Regretfully, parts of the membership photos have been lost.



CALLING ALL WCMG MEMBERS WHO GRADUATED PRIOR TO 2006

We need your help in updating the membership photos.

If you became a Master Gardener prior to 2006, please come to the February WCMG Meeting for a re-shoot of your picture. The photos were lost due to a computer mishap.

Plantaholic Alert! Garden Program and Fund Raiser for Jr. Master Gardeners and Fayetteville in Bloom

by Gail Pianalto

We have the great privilege of having Rita Arnold, owner of Arnold's Greenhouse; present a dynamic program on New Perennials, Annuals and Vegetables for 2011, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 pm at the Washington County Extension Office.

Rita and George Arnold started their nursery in 1977, with one 10 by 16 foot greenhouse, which has grown to eighty thousand square feet. They are members of the Perennial Plant Association, putting them in the loop about all the upcoming and cutting-edge plants that will be available.

I first learned of Arnold's Greenhouse of Leroy, Kansas, 15 years ago at the Wichita Flower and Garden Show. After picking up one of their catalogs and seeing the vast array of plants that they offered I knew a road trip was in my future. Although it was about a 4 hour trip, it was well worth it and I haven't miss a single year yet. They offer 3,300 varieties of perennials, annuals, vegetables, trees, shrubs, and aquatic plants.

Cost for the two programs is \$10.00. I encourage you to pre-register to guarantee you will get one of their wonderful catalogs. You may register with Joyce Mendenhall. Stop in or mail her a check at the extension office, 2536 N. McConnell Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72704.

This will be the second year that Rita Arnold has graciously offered to do this at no cost to us. All proceeds will go to our Jr. Master Gardener program and Fayetteville in Bloom. I can't think of a better way to spend a winter's evening than enjoying a great program and supporting our kids and the city of Fayetteville. Did I hear someone say road trip?



The Washington County Master Gardener Program
is dependent on our Volunteer Spirit.
It is critical that all our members focus on
and complete our "working commitment" to the communities.

Thank You All for making the 2010 WCMG Volunteer Program so successful!

Total Volunteer Hours for 2010

Sanctioned Project Hours	11,690.00
Other Work Hours	2,168.50
Total Work Hours	13,858.50
Education Hours	9,759.00



Total Work/Ed. Hours 23,617.50

Ruth Chapman, Hours Coordinator

2011 Mentoring Program - Status Report *from Terry Smyers*



Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to Mentor to a 2011 Master Gardener graduates. We are pleased to report that thirty-five gracious and talented folks have signed up to mentor the graduates. Carol Martin and I are working on making the "Meet, Greet and Connect" gathering on **February 4**, a fun and productive event for the Master Gardeners and their Mentors.

With one more volunteer to be a mentor, we will have a one to one ratio. (two families will share a mentor).

A few individuals made requests for new master gardeners they already knew and we were happy to honor those requests. Initially, our objective is to match people that have reasonable proximity to each other and share an interest and quite possibly a choice of sanctioned projects. Beyond that, we want to make our new master gardener's feel welcome. A primary goal is to help the new master gardener navigate their first year and accomplish their commitment to the organization.

Through mentoring, it is our hope they will embrace the on-going educational opportunities, engage in the fun, fellowship and experience the sense of satisfaction that comes from improving and beautifying our corner of the planet!

For any mentor that cannot attend, please E-mail gigiluv6811@gmail.com or call one of the numbers below.

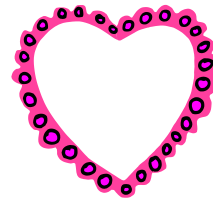
Once again, we would appreciate one more volunteer! If you are that person, please call:

Terry Smyers at 530-7090 or

Carol Martin at 479-595-8012.

**Washington County Master Gardeners
Treasurer's Report
Jan. 1, 2010 - Dec. 31, 2010**

	Master	Jr Master	Compost
	Gardeners	Gardeners	Fund
INCOME			
Dues - 2010	795.00		
Dues - 2011	2,166.00		
Donations/Gifts	79.00	2,375.00	
Classes/Workshops			
Registration Fees	1,405.00	1,016.00	
Expenses	<u>(1,612.93)</u>	<u>-</u>	
Net	(270.93)	1,016.00	
Sales	191.00	525.00	
Prizes		<u>45.00</u>	
Total Income	<u>3,023.07</u>	<u>3,961.00</u>	
EXPENSES			
Awards	224.10		
Conference	500.00		
Dues	150.00		
Gifts			
Jr Master Gardeners	1,000.00		
Scholarship Fund	1,000.00		
Hospitality & Décor	683.34		
Items for Sale	105.40		
Jr Master Gardeners		1,106.80	
Meeting Programs	602.53		
Postage	41.15		
Supplies/Repairs	86.24		
Training	55.00		
Workbook	<u>89.28</u>		
Total Expenses	<u>4,537.04</u>	<u>1,106.80</u>	
NET INCOME	<u>(1,513.37)</u>	<u>2,854.20</u>	
Transfer from Compost Account			646.28
12/31/10 Balance	6,920.70	2,748.02	646.28
Preliminary Draft, subject to Audit			
		Jill King -Co-Treasurer	



Here's to You

By Pam Johnson

*Outside it's growing frigid
A snowstorm blowing in
But inside it's warm cozy,
An evening with special friends*

*A toasty fire is welcoming
As it hugs each in the room
Candles flickering brightly
With a hint of sweet perfume*

*On the table bow-topped surprises
Boxes holding chocolate hearts
Bud roses scarlet red
With sentimental greeting cards*

*Glasses raised to share a toast
With Burgundy and Chardonnay
For those who've helped me through the year
Here' what I want to say:*

*"If I can make you smile this year
While reading my published rhymes
Please accept it as my giving back
To you through "Garden Thyme"*

*Master Gardeners have been the best
Helping me heal as I've fought back
I no longer feel that I'm alone
Growing in the sidewalk crack*

*I hope you will accept this wish
As these gifts cannot convey
What you have meant to me my friends
So, enjoy this Valentine's Day!"*



**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

February

**Feb 1 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting**

*Feb 1-2 Advanced MG Class
"Vegetable Gardening" – Searcy

Feb 4 – WCMG Mentor/Mentee Mtg.

Feb 10 – Four Seasons in the Garden
Workshop – G.G. @ Hot Springs

Feb 12 – WCMG 2011 Class Graduation

Feb 19 – FGNS Meeting

Feb 25-27 Arkansas Flower and Garden
Show – Little Rock



March

**Mar 1 @ 6:30 p.m. –
WCMG Meeting**

Mar 1 – 2010 Awards Nominations Due

Mar 1-2 Garden Voice Training
(Powerpoint) – Ferndale

Mar 7-8 Garden Voice Training
(Graphics/Design) – Ferndale

Mar 14-15 Garden Voice Training
(Digital Photography) – Ferndale

Mar 19 – FGNS Meeting

Mar 21 – Arbor Day

Mar 25-27 River Valley Lawn & Garden
Show – Fort Smith



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

Farm Friends (Date pending)



More details on
<http://www.uaex.edu/washington/>;
link to
Washington County Master Gardener
Blog Site