

# GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter  
March 2011

## 2011 WCMG Officers

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Mike Standrod

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**Secretary**  
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## GARDEN THYME CONTRIBUTORS

Calvin Bey  
Pam Johnson  
Jacqueline King  
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Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:  
[janlefler@cox.net](mailto:janlefler@cox.net)  
[gigiluv6811@gmail.com](mailto:gigiluv6811@gmail.com)

Due Date:  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month

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



## Fayetteville Horticulturist – Lisa Netherland and Community Gardens Project

Lisa has been the city Horticulturist for Fayetteville Parks and Recreation for the past 15 years. She also has a new deep seated interest. Besides her other duties with the city she is busy working on a committee with the Fayetteville Community Garden Coalition. She is a certified Arborist and after graduating from the U of A with a degree in Horticulture she owned and operated Creative Gardens, a hands-on design, installation and landscape maintenance business. She was also the founder of the American in Bloom program in Fayetteville and served on the original Board of Directors for the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks.

WCMG Monthly  
Meeting  
March 1, 2011  
6:30 pm



**Speaker**  
Lisa Netherland

**Topics**  
Community Gardens Project  
and  
Fayetteville Parks and  
Recreation



**Master Gardener  
State Conference  
June 2 - 4, 2011  
Harrison, Arkansas**

Important Information on

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## *Uncle Mike's Corner...*

**WCMG President  
Mike Standrod**

A BIG welcome to our newest (and maybe the most enthusiastic) class! Several "firsts" have occurred with this class:

The first time THREE classes were canceled for snow; The first time two consecutive MG meetings were canceled (January: Sugar Bowl, February: Snow); the first time the U of A Fayetteville canceled classes more than 3 days in a row. What's next?

As I write this, we've gone from a 20+ inch snow and minus 18 degrees, to 60 degree springtime weather in just 5 days. Our plants must be as confused as we are. But don't be fooled! The box stores will have warm weather plants for sale right away.....just so they can sell plants two or three times to early bird planters. Don't fall for it! Remember the frost date: TAX TIME, around April 15!

The only blooms at our house right now are Jodie's beautiful Amaryllis. During the blizzard our fish pond fountain was a giant iceberg. Our running bog/waterfall kept the water oxygenated and the fish safely hibernated 4 feet below the ice.



If you haven't already registered for the June 2-4 State MG conference in Harrison, do so quickly. The early registration closes March 1, and it is filling up fast. Another conference to consider is the International MG Conference in Charleston, West Virginia, October 11-14. Several NW Arkansas MGs are going, and a bus is being sponsored from central Arkansas. Go to <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/registration> for info.

I hope you'll take advantage of some of the many educational programs this spring. Between the many Master Gardener programs, BGO programs, FGNS and Fayetteville Tree/Landscape Programs, getting your continuing education hours should be a snap. Do it early and often!

Barring another blizzard, we have a great meeting planned for Tuesday, March 1. **Lisa Netherland**, Fayetteville Parks Horticulturist will make a presentation on our local community garden movement. Hope to see you there!

**Till next month, Happy Gardening!**

**MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENERS' MEETING**

**No January or February Meetings  
March Meeting Minutes will be  
in April Garden Thyme**

**Free Public Seminar**

**Earthing: Reconnecting to Mother Nature**



**Presenter: Calvin F. Bey**

Thursday March 10, 2011  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Ozarks Electric Community Room  
3641 Wedington Drive  
Fayetteville, AR

As a gardener, you probably appreciate the value of being in contact with the soil of the Earth. Whether a gardener or not, I think you will find this topic interesting and pertinent. The simplicity, value, and practical applications of Earthing will be discussed and demonstrated.

**Come and bring friends**

**ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST  
March 2011**

DATE	10 -12 noon	1-3 p.m.
Tue 3/1		Pauline Keegan
Wed 3/2		M.J. Maddox
Thu 3/3		Robin Selman
Fri 3/4		
Mon 3/7	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tues 3/8		Pauline Keegan
Wed 3/9		M.J.Maddox
Thu 3/10	Lynn Rogers	
Fri 3/11		
Mon 3/14	Suzy Brooks	Terry Evers
Tue 3/15		Pauline Keegan
Wed 3/16		M.J. Maddox
Thu 3/17	Lea Anna Taylor	Robin Selman
Fri 3/18		
Mon 3/21	Suzy Brooks	
Tue 3/22		Pauline Keegan
Wed 3.23		M.J. Maddox
Thu 3/24	Lynn Rogers	Robin Selman
Fri 3/25		
Mon 3/28	Suzy Brooks	
Tue 3/29		Pauline Keegan
Wed 3/30		M.J. Maddox
Thu 3/31		Robin Selman

Please call Jacqueline King, 751-8690,  
for Changes or Additions

**Washington County Master Gardeners  
Treasurer's Report  
January 1 - January 31, 2011**

	Master Gardeners	Junior Master Gardeners	Compost Fund	Total Bank Account
<b>12/31/2010 Rev Balance</b>	<b>7,488.23</b>	<b>2,277.24</b>	<b>646.28</b>	<b>10,411.75</b>
Income				
Dues-2011	420.00			
Dues-2012	45.00			
Donations/Gifts		<u>25.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>465.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>		
<b>01/31/2011 Balance</b>	<b>7,953.23</b>	<b>2,302.24</b>	<b>646.28</b>	<b>10,901.75</b>

Balances Preliminary subject to Audit of 2010

Submitted by Jill A. King, Co-Treasurer  
February 14, 2011

# Organic Gardening and More

## The Roundup Story

Calvin F. Bey      CFBey1936@cox.net

Few things in life are simple and gardening is no exception. Answers to questions on garden design, plant selection, soils, fertilizers, mulches, compost, cover crops, and rotations can become complex. To help simplify, I promote practices based on ecological rules. None of us would knowingly consume arsenic, simply because we know that poisons are bad for our health. A similar guiding ecological rule exists for gardening. "If a substance is toxic, i.e. not healthy for the soil, do NOT use it on the garden."

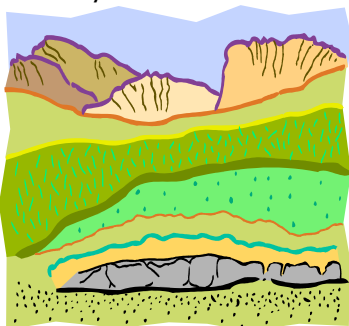
What about the use of Roundup? Chemically known as glyphosate, Roundup kills almost anything that is green. Lawn, horticulture, and agriculture folks debate whether Roundup is safe.



At the recent AcresUSA meeting, Dr. Don Huber, spoke on the topic, "Understanding Glyphosate." Huber is a retired Purdue University pathologist, who has researched the effects of Roundup for 20 years. His findings, and that of many others confirm the fact that Roundup is toxic and not good for the health of the soil or the plants.

Roundup was patented in 1974. The same product was patented 10 years earlier as a simple chelator, i.e. a substance that immobilizes or grabs and holds other compounds. So Roundup gets into the soil and grabs the elements, especially manganese and other micro nutrients.

Monsanto, the manufacturer, claimed Roundup was biodegradable. Oops. You don't see that on the label anymore.



In a French Court, it was proven that it did not fully degrade in the soil. Studies show that the negative effects of Roundup last for more than 10 years.

Worse than that, research studies from many places are showing reduction in vigor and yield, increased chlorosis, mottling, leaf distortions, bud and fruit abortion, plant infertility, increased attack by insects, and more. Other key consequences of using Roundup are:

1. It robs plants of nutrients, i.e. reduced uptake of manganese and other nutrients. This effect carries over to animals that consume the plants.
2. It reduces nitrogen fixation.
3. It increases the virulence of some pathogens and makes crops more susceptible to disease.
4. It kills beneficial soil organisms, and poisons the soil for all plants.
5. It increases lodging in crops.
6. It produces unfilled kernels in corn.
7. Weeds are becoming resistant and super-weeds are developing.

Huber showed examples in commercial production where glyphosate damage was severe, including crops where Roundup had not been applied for several years. In MN, 1000 acres of

seed potatoes could not be certified because of excess glyphosate in the tubers that came from growing Roundup Ready soybeans and spraying with Roundup the previous year. Lawsuits against Monsanto are in process in MN and ID regarding potatoes.



History teaches us that where societies have not taken care of the soil, the civilization fails. I don't see the use of Roundup as a debatable issue. It is bad for the soil, our environment, our plants, our domestic and wild animals, human health, and our future. It's a serious threat to the sustainability of agriculture and food production.

So what is the solution? We know Roundup should not be used! We know it is a serious matter. We know too that the answer begins with what we do in our own back yards. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to do what is right.

Have questions? Check out "Roundup" on the net and see for yourself. Read the 2010 Institute of Science in Society report, "Glyphosate Tolerant Crops Bring Diseases and Death." It is replete with up-to-date references.

## 'Grow Your Own Vegetables'



### Natural (Organic Gardening) Courses

Instructor: Calvin F. Bey

This course covers 30 topics from site selection, seeds, cover crops, weeds, and fertilizers, to mulches, companion planting, paramagnetic rock, soils, and much more.

March 3, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm at Harmony Gardens

March 12 or 19, At Ozarks Electric Coop Community Room

Pre-Registration is required.  
Contact [CFBey1936@cox.net](mailto:CFBey1936@cox.net) for details, or see [harmonygardens.blogspot.com](http://harmonygardens.blogspot.com).



### CALLING ALL WCMG MEMBERS WHO GRADUATED PRIOR TO 2006

We need your help in updating the membership photos. If you became a prior to 2006, please come to the March WCMG meeting for a re-shoot of your picture. The photos were lost due to a computer mishap.



## ***MARCH IS A TEST MONTH***

*by Pam Johnson*

I figured it out. March is a test month.

For some reason, Mother Nature feels as though she has to make sure all of her systems are working during March. This could explain why we can have tornado watches, hail, record-breaking high and low temperatures, as well as snow, wind, flooding, and thunderstorms within a few days of each other (and sometimes we can have more than one of these tests in a single day)!!

It could be argued that March isn't so bad. It's the beginning of spring when bulbs are sprouting/blooming and trees are budding/leafing/blooming—you know, the nice things that we look forward to after we have endured a long, cold winter; but then, Mother Nature has to throw in some allergens and mold and pollen. Get the picture?

Remember that old saying about March coming in like a lion/out like a lamb (and vice versa)? What that was trying to tell us is that March is a wild card. The phrase, "wild as a March hare" proves it. We will have all kinds of weather from one extreme to the other during the month, not just at the beginning and at the end, so hold on, it's going to be a bumpy ride.

Then there is the warning: "Beware the Ides of March." What? The warning should be, "Beware the MONTH of March." It has taken me a few years to figure out how to prepare for the March tests, so I'm sharing it: always carry around an antihistamine, an umbrella, a snow shovel, gloves, galoshes, a weather radio, an extra coat, a wide-brimmed hat, sandals, sunglasses, a swim suit, and sunscreen. That should cover it.





## Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

**March 2011**

February's cold temperatures have left some landscape plants looking pretty rough. Don't rush to do any pruning just yet. Let's wait a month or two to assess damage by scratching bark and visually looking for bark splits, and signs of buds pushing.

Heavy structural pruning of evergreen shrubs may be done this month. Always prune so the top is narrower than the bottom to allow light to reach the lower branches and to keep the plants from being top heavy. Be careful when pruning narrow leaf evergreens not to prune beyond the foliage on any branch. Typically, narrow leaf evergreens will not sprout foliage from bare branches, unlike broadleaf evergreens. Prune only dead, broken, or wayward limbs on shade and flowering trees. Wait until after flowering to prune spring flowering shrubs such as azaleas, forsythias, and spireas.

Finish pruning roses as soon as possible. Climbing roses like 'Blaze,' 'New Dawn,' and the climbing hybrid teas should be pruned by thinning out the older canes leaving the long, young branches, which produce the best blossoms. Continue planting dormant bare-root roses through this month. Container-grown roses can be planted this month.

The spring vegetable garden comes alive in March. Plant peas, lettuce, radishes, mustard greens, turnips, Irish potatoes, spinach, & onions (seeds and sets) outdoors.

Plant beets, carrots, parsley seeds outdoors. Set out broccoli, cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Chinese cabbage, & cauliflower transplants into the garden.

Start seeds of tomatoes, peppers, & eggplants indoors.



To help reduce Iris borer, clean up and destroy old foliage before new growth begins.

Loosen winter mulches from perennials cautiously. Gradually start to pull back mulch from rose bushes.

Cut ornamental grasses back sometime this month and definitely before or just as the new growth begin.

Things to do this month with your fruits include:

- ✓ Push mulch from the tops of strawberries early this month to the plants side.
- ✓ Apply more mulch as needed for weed prevention. Finish pruning grapes early this month. Bleeding causes no injury to the vines.
- ✓ Continue pruning apple trees and be sure to complete this job as the flower buds start to show color.
- ✓ Burn or destroy pruning's to minimize insects and diseases.
- ✓ Apply dormant oil sprays to all fruit trees. Choose a dry day when freezing temperatures are not expected.
- ✓ Spray peach trees with a fungicide for the control of peach leaf curl disease. Peaches and nectarines should be the last fruit to be pruned. They are more cold sensitive than other fruits from pruning wounds.

Speaking of fruits, plant blackberries, raspberries, strawberries, grapes, and blueberries this month.

Refer to your training manual for specific cultural requirements or give me a call at the extension office.



**Berni Kurz**  
**County Extension Agent**  
**Staff Chair**



**Nominations to Recognize  
Accomplishments of the  
Washington County Master Gardener  
Program  
Due Now**

**WCMG Master Gardener of the Year 2010 Award  
WCMG "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](mailto:jmendenhall@uaex.edu) for forms or more information.

**WHO'S WHO  
IN  
MASTER  
GARDENERS**

*by Jan Hanks*



**MARTHA WARD (2003)**

Martha Ward was born in a farmhouse in Taverswood, Arkansas. She finished schooling at the U of A, moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where, after 40 years of the cold, cold north she moved back to Arkansas.

Martha always had an eye for nature's beauty. "Our yard in Minneapolis was 40 by 40. You can imagine how small it was." Yet, she gave a small plot to her daughter, and taught her how to grow vegetables and flowers and nurture the earth.

When Martha and Mike moved to Fayetteville they knew they were *home*. "Fayetteville is *magical*; there's so much to do here and many wonderful people to know. Everything we need is here."

She graduated from the Master Gardener's program in 2003, and has been happily working at Wilson Park and the Botanical Gardens ever since. Her favorite gardening chore is, are you ready for this—weeding--and she's known as the Princess of weeding at Wilson Park. Martha considers Jacqueline King the Queen, and they love working together.

Martha would rather talk about the friends she works with: Gloria McIntosh, Vickie Knight, Valerie Fletcher, Tom Marshall (who saved her yard when she was recovering from shoulder surgery) Jacqueline and Martha Barton. She and Martha picked up trash along the roadside and weeded the wild flowers at the eventual site of the Botanical Gardens. They were dedicated to what they knew would someday be there, after the corn maize was a memory.

Native plants are her present interest and she's looking forward to converting a portion of her back yard to them this spring. Right now, she's enjoying the hellebores, crocus and snowdrops. She recently found all three in full bloom.

She states, "I find the snowdrops so brave, and I intend to plant more for next year. Spring is such an exciting time."



## *Meeting, Greeting & Connecting with WCMG's*



### **A Big Thank You To All the participants in the Meet, Greet and Connect**

Carol and I were very pleased with the enthusiastic participation of our new members and those that volunteered to mentor them at "Meet, Greet and Connect" event that took place on February 13.

The method used to connect our new members with their mentors was a timed mixer that allowed people to identify with each other based on a few pieces of information about themselves (displayed on a tag they wore).

Many happy pairs came to the table to record their union as Mentor and Mentee, and by the comments made, it was a great success.

The connection for some was their passion for one particular plant they like to grow, an interest in herbs or organic vegetable gardening and even proximity.

Many thanks to you all for your commitment and support and not allowing the ice and snow to dampen your enthusiasm and spirits.

Every mentee that attended left knowing their mentor for their first year as a

Washington County Master Gardener.

Here's to friendships formed over living, growing things!

*Carol Martin and Terry Smyers*



## Master Gardener State Conference June 2 - 4, 2011 Harrison, Arkansas

Basic registration covers all seminars, Thursday garden events, trade show and the following meals: dinner Thursday night, lunch and dinner Friday, and light breakfast on Saturday. Friday garden tours are an additional \$10 fee for each tour which covers bus expenses.

The conference site is the Durand Center in downtown Harrison, 303 N. Main Street.

This meeting is only for active Master Gardeners, Sustainers, Master Gardeners on leave of absence, and their spouses or one guest per Master Gardener. We consider this conference a privilege of being a Master Gardener—it is not open to the general public.

This meeting is sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and the Boone County Master Gardeners with support from Carroll, Marion and Baxter Counties.

*The Master Gardener program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status or any other legally protected status. The Cooperative Extension Service is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.*

Convention Begins: **Thursday, June 2**

1:00 pm – 8:00 pm Registration – Durand Center, 303 N. Main Street, Harrison

**Friday, June 3: Tours and Seminars**

Convention Ends: **Saturday, June 4**

11:45 am Closing Comments

The 2011 Arkansas Master Gardener State Meeting is limited to the first 400 applicants. All tours and educational seminars will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

**Open registration for Active MG's only is February 1 - February 25, 2011. Cost is: \$96.00**

**Early Registration continues February 26- March 25, 2011 with the addition of Sustainers, Leave of Absence, Spouses and Guests.**

**Each MG may register and pay to bring a spouse or guest, if space is available. The early registration fee is \$96.00 and must be postmarked by March 25, 2011.**

**Final registration period is March 26 – May 6, 2011 and the cost will go to: \$116.00**

**Full Details are found on Master Gardener Website.**

**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](http://www.uaex.edu)

## Dates to Remember

### March

**Mar 1 @ 6:30 pm –  
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 pm –  
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

### May

**May 3 @ 6:30 p.m. –  
WCMG Meeting &  
Spring Plant Exchange**

May 21 – FGNS Meeting



June 2-4 Arkansas Master Gardener  
Conference, Harrison