

GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter
May 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
Ruth Chapman
Cindi Cope
Jacqueline King
M.J. Maddox

GARDEN THYME STAFF

Jan Hanks
Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
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.



2010 WC Master Gardener of the Year
Mary Crumley

Mary has been a very active Master Gardener ever since becoming a member in 2007. Her first year, she was very involved in the State MG Conference held here. She is currently Project Leader for Jr. Master Gardeners and the Washington County Fair. Mary has been a 4-H Leader for 26 years. She was recently elected to the Washington County Fair Board of Directors to represent the Horticulture Building. She served one term on the Master Gardener Board of Directors. Mary's involvement with children is evident in her dedication to the 4-H program. When she had the opportunity to help start the Junior Master Gardener 4-H program in Washington County she stepped right up. In the Jr. Master Gardener group alone, she has taught over 70 children and their parents about the importance of gardening, nature and the environment as well as nutrition, responsibility and leadership. Each year at the Washington County Fair she not only helps to create several educational exhibits, but she is always there to answer questions on horticulture, judging or the Master Gardener program. Mary Crumley contributed 452 volunteer hours to sanctioned Master Gardener projects and an additional 125 educational hours during 2010.

WCMG Monthly
Meeting
May 3, 2011
6:30 pm



Speaker
Lori Spencer
Topic
Arkansas Butterflies
and Moths

Lori Spencer holds a B.A in Biology from Central College (Pella, Iowa) and an M.S. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas. Her program will focus on Arkansas' rich butterfly and moth heritage, including their interesting behavior, requirements and identification. She has won several awards, and is a member of several professional organizations. She coordinates the Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival and consults for federal and state agencies on butterfly management. In addition to other projects and programs she serves as President of the Logan County Master Gardeners. *(Continued on Page 2)*





**WCMG President
Mike Standrod**

Uncle Mike's Corner...

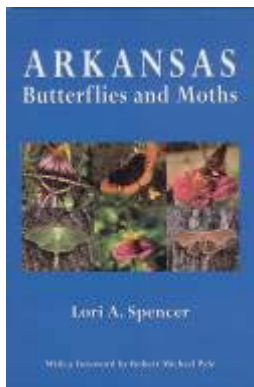
I hope your garden, vehicles, and property survived the surprise hail storm that popped up (Tuesday, April 19) with a minimal amount of damage. The afternoon hail storm started in Prairie Grove

and raced through the Fayetteville area. Jodie and I were driving from Siloam Springs back to Fayetteville and on a whim, decided to stop and check out Frank Sharum's new nursery in south Tontitown. Besides finding some really nice plants, the visit delayed us **just enough** to miss the big hailstorm. What a stroke of luck! Boy is my pickup truck happy about that!

But now I must apologize, as I'm certain that I had something to do with the hailstorm. Just one day earlier I raised deductibles on my vehicle coverage, and my insurance agent and I both joked that my doing so would certainly create a big hailstorm in Fayetteville. It did! That is a bit scary!

I'm contemplating whether "Murphy's Law" was in play (except that we actually dodged the storm), or have I discovered some new, supernatural power. I'll have to try it out on my veggies. Stay tuned...Uncle Mike will keep you informed.

Till next month, Happy Gardening!



(Continued from Page 1)
She travels though out the state presenting programs focused on her award-winning field guide, "**Arkansas Butterflies and Moths**" which will be available for sale (\$22) and signing. She is an interpretive volunteer guide at Mount Magazine State Park and works as a proofreader for Arkansas State Parks' calendar of events. She has a new book coming out in September entitled "**The Diana Fritillary, Arkansas' State Butterfly**".



**2010 WCMG "ROOKIE OF THE YEAR"
Robin Selman**

Robin hit the ground running in her first year as a Master Gardener. She answered the phones for the Ask A Master project, being very thorough in the answers she provided. She is always anxious to help others learn. She was one of the first members of the 2010 WCMG class to volunteer for the Ask A Master project. In addition, Robin has volunteered at Headquarters House, Wilson Park and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. She served as the 2010 "new member at large" on the WCMG Executive Board and is currently Secretary for the organization. She has been recognized for her contributions by the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation and the BGO. Robin contributed 262 volunteer hours to sanctioned Master Gardener projects and an additional 400 education hours in her first year as a Master Gardener. Robin enjoys keeping busy and is always cheerful and a pleasure to work with.

REMINDER
Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
Plant Sale
Friday and Saturday
April 29 and 30

Jr. Master Gardeners will have a booth



**2010 Washington County Master Gardener Project of the Year
Fayetteville City Hospital
(Some of the Great WCMG Volunteers)**

In February 2009, Master Gardeners Dian Holmes, Marty Smith, and Jan Lefler met to discuss the proposal with Fayetteville City Hospital about their ideas on ways to enhance the outside environment and promote a positive experience for residents, families, visitors, and staff. There were approximately 15 garden areas found on terraces, patios, porches, parking lots, facility entries, and courtyards. Most garden areas had been neglected for years due to the absence of gardening staff for the hospital. A great deal of damage from Ice Storm 2009 was still evident in most of the garden areas. Tree limbs were hanging or lying in many of the gardens. Gardening activities included installing and maintaining shrubs, perennials, and annual plantings. Hardscape elements such as natural rock edging were added to a number of gardens as well as painting and refurbishing of wooden elevated beds and benches. The pond courtyard renovation included pond expansion and waterfall addition. The projects continue weekly throughout the gardening season from late March until late November each year. The year 2010, included 28 scheduled workdays and 584 hours. A total of 1147 Master Gardener volunteer hours have been dedicated to Fayetteville City Hospital for these first two years (2009 and 2010). A core team of approximately 10 Master Gardeners work regularly. This is a very busy group that welcomes additional volunteers to keep all the garden areas looking their best. 75 percent of WCMG volunteers are new to the program. They continue to learn from the more senior master gardeners about gardening activities such as when to plant, prune, dead-head, water, fertilize and general plant care. The group enjoys working together and 'bounce' ideas off one another and ask questions. Volunteers donating their time and sweat include: Susan Chaddick('10), Herb Disney('10), Patsy Ferritor('10), Peggy Ford('04), Dian Holmes('04), Jean Jacobsen('09), Tom Jacobsen('09), Jill King('10), Vicki Knight('97), Peggy Konert('09), Jan Lefler('08), Susan Pressler('10), Bob Smith('09), Marty Smith('09), Terry Smyers ('09), Truman Stamps ('07), Donna Stout ('09), Janice Waters ('09), and Becky Witte ('10)



**2010 Friend of WCMG Award
Lisa Netherland**

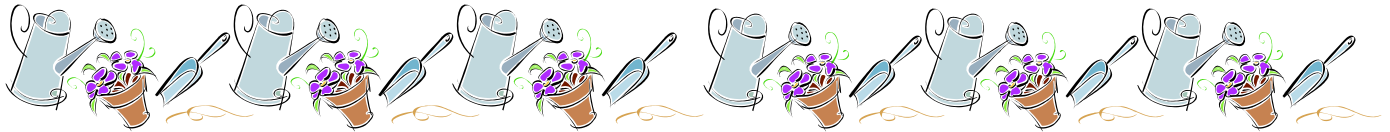
Lisa is the Head Gardener in charge of Fayetteville Wilson Park as well as other city parks. She has always been a huge supporter of the Master Gardener program. Lisa loves her volunteers and treats everyone with respect and appreciation for all they do to help. She works closely with volunteers and educates them to the proper way to plant, prune or whatever the gardening project requires. Each year, Lisa hosts an Appreciation Luncheon for her volunteers. She is responsible for the WCMG organization receiving the Arkansas Recreation and Parks Association Organization of the Year Award for 2009. She was of great help in providing our Arkansas guests a wonderful experience in touring Fayetteville gardens at the State MG Conference held here in 2008. In addition to working with Master Gardeners with hands-on gardening, she has presented a number of programs at our monthly WCMG meetings.



The **"YES, I CAN"** Award has become an annual event bestowed on a Master Gardener who goes "above and beyond" in helping to make the WCMG Program a success. Valerie has volunteered countless hours in so many areas. She attended every single 2011 Washington County Master Gardener class training except for graduation when she had to be at the Botanical Gardens to receive an award from them. Valerie has been a WCMG since 2008 and has contributed many, many hours to a host of projects in the past three years. She was voted the 2009 Washington County Master Gardener of the Year in 2009. She is always willing to do whatever needs to be done and does not ever say no – she can't!

Thank you, Valerie, for all you do!

2010 'YES, I CAN' AWARD RECIPIENT
Valerie Fletcher



WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS' Years of Service Awards

FIVE YEARS

Ruth Chapman
John King
Daniel Kelly
Gayle Howard
Jane Laster
Mary Loughin
Gene Marchbanks
Tommi Perkins
Annette Pianalto
Mike Standrod
Jodie Standrod
Dolores Stamps

TEN YEARS

Tom Cantrell
Don Covey
Jan Hayes
Mary Loftus
Gloria McIntosh
Laura Menees

FIFTEEN YEARS

Catherine McDuffie
Janice Neighbor
Suzy Brooks

TWENTY YEARS

Pauline Keegan
Sue Madison
Nancy Varvil



Fayetteville in Bloom Fundraiser

Brent and Becky's Bulbs has a Blooming Bucks Fundraiser. 25% of your purchase will be donated to FIB through Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. You can order online or toll free number 877-661-2852. First tell the customer service rep you want to participate in the Blooming Bucks, then tell them "Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. FNHA 501 C 3 so we are running the funds through them; or type in www.bloomingbucks.com and Select Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association. Order your bulbs and at the end of the season they will send a check to FNHA who will then issue a check to FIB www.bloominbucks.com.
Contact: Cindi Cope, 521-0934 or copecindi@aol.com with questions.

**MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS MEETING
APRIL 5, 2011**

PRESENT: 100 MEMBERS. President Mike Standrod called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. The minutes of the March, 2011, meeting and the Treasurers Report were **approved**. Members of the new master gardener class and transfer members were recognized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- * International MG Conference will be held October 11-14, in Charleston, West Virginia.
- * Arkansas State MG conference will be June 2-4, in Harrison, Arkansas.
- * Extension Office Gardens work days are scheduled for Saturday, April 9, and 21, at 8:30 am. Bring your own tools.
- * Master Gardener plant exchange will be held Saturday, May 7, 9:00-11:00 am.
- * Lori Spencer will present a program on butterflies and moths at the May 3, meeting.
- * The June meeting will be the annual picnic to be held at the Arkansas Air Museum.
- * Farm Friends is scheduled for April 21. Volunteers are needed for the event and to bake cornbread for dinner. Contact Lisa Purkayastha at lisapurkayastha@gmail.com.
- * Spring Plant Day at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park will be Saturday, April 9, 9:00-11:00 am. Regular work days will be the 16th, 23rd, and the 30th.
- * Fayetteville Tree and Landscape Committee will present "Take out the Invaders," Thursday, April 7, 5:30 pm, at the south end of the Frisco Trail. Learn to identify and eliminate invasive plants in Fayetteville.
- * Janet Carson will speak at the Botanical Garden Thursday, April 7, at 6:30 pm.
- * Skull Creek cleanup, from Wilson Park to Mud Creek will be Tuesday, April 12, 4:00-8:00 pm. Meet at Wilson Park.
- * There will be a public plant sale at Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Saturday, April 30.
- * Gayle Howard will chair the Fayetteville Public Library proposed new sanctioned project.
- * A chairperson is needed to head a committee for WCMG to host a County 76 two day Advanced MG class in 2012. Contact Mike Standrod.
- * Junior Master Gardeners will be having evening work, 4:30 pm till ----. Contact Mary Crumley for the schedule, crumleymom@yahoo.com.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Pam Johnson presented Cindi Cope a daffodil cup in appreciation of her work for the community.
- * Vicki Knight presented an overview of the work needing to be done at the Fayetteville Public Library.

OLD BUSINESS:

- * WCMG Sanctioned Project MG signage is in progress.
- * If anyone has animals they can bring to Farm Friends, contact Lisa Purkayastha or Lavana Fritts.
- * Lavana Fritts will be hosting a cooking class again this year, dates to be announced.
- * There will be a presentation on bats at 10:30 am, Saturday, April 9, at Devils Den State Park, followed by hot dogs.
- * Will Gessler's wife is hospitalized with meningitis. LeAnna Taylor chairs the Sunshine Committee, if anyone is sick, etc.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm, after which, Joyce Mendenhall presented the awards program.

2010 WCMG AWARDS Presented:

Friend of Master Gardeners: Lisa Netherland

Project of the Year: Fayetteville City Hospital, project chairs: Jan Lefler, Dian Holms, Marty Smith.

Rookie of the Year: Robin Selman

Master Gardener of the Year: Mary Crumley

Yes I Can Award: Valerie Fletcher

Recognition of WCMG Newsletter "Garden Thyme" - Jan Lefler and Terry Smyers co-editors; Jan Hanks, Joyce Mendendall, Susan Pressler, newsletter staff.

20 Year WCMG Members: Pauline Keegan Sue Madison, Nancy Varvil

15 Year WCMG Members: Janice Neighbor, Catherine McDuffie, Suzie Brooks

10 Year WCMG Members: Tom Cantrell, Don Covey, Jan Hayes, Mary Loftus, Gloria McIntosh, Laura Menees

5 Year WCMG Members: Ruth Chapman, John King, Daniel Kelly, Gayle Howard, Jane Laster, Mary Loughin, Gene Marchbanks, Tommi Perkins, Annette Pianalto, Mike Standrod, Jodi Standrod, Dolores Stamps

The NEXT MEETING will be May 3, 2011. Lori Spencer will present a program on butterflies and moths.

Robin Selman, Secretary



Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

May 2011

Some of our winter damaged plants are now suckering from below. Once you see growth starting you can prune back to where you have life. If you are dealing with grafted plants and no growth is evident from above the graft but you have growth coming from below, you have a choice to make; to remove or not to remove. Typically, you buy grafted plants for its superior flowers or fruit and the root stock is usually nothing to write home about, so most often the choice to make is to remove the entire plant.

Wrap up planting your marginal to non-hardy bulbs which you dug last fall. Examples include: dahlia, gladiolus, cannas, elephant ears, alocasia, colocasia, caladium, crinum, crocosmia, eucomis, amaryllis, tuberose, asiatic lilies, and calla lilies. If you need some of these, you can purchase most of these as dry bulbs or as potted growing plants.

Last spring I lost a couple of mugo pines due to insect larva consuming all of its foliage. If you are to have a problem with sawfly larvae, it will occur in May. If you have small ornamental pines monitor them for sawfly activity on new shoots and take control measures immediately.



If you received an Easter lily potted plant as a gift, you can plant it outside in your garden after the blooms have faded. Select a location with well-drained soil that receives morning sun and some afternoon shade if possible. It won't re-bloom at Easter next year, but it will reward you with beautiful blooms in June. This is a hardy perennial bulb.

Regularly harvest leaves of spinach, mustard, collards, kale and leaf lettuce. As these begin to bolt and go to seed remove the plants and set out transplants of tomato, pepper and eggplant. Use strips of old panty hose to gently secure tomato plants to a stake, cage or trellis. These ties are as strong as twine and more resistant to weathering. They also stretch as the stem grows; yet hold plants in place without injury.

Spring is here and vegetable gardeners are all anxious to get those warm-season vegetable seed in the ground. Most can be planted at this time but, if you are planting okra, southern peas, or peppers the soil temperature should be at least 75 degrees. This temperature is usually not met until the end of the month.

The strawberries you set out earlier this spring should be settled in and flourishing. Be sure to keep them well mulched or the weeds will quickly take over your beds. The mulch makes a nice pad for your knees as you crawl down the rows later this month picking those berries. It also keeps the berries clean and prevents you from getting a mouth full of grit when you can't resist popping that big strawberry into your mouth.



My seedless grapes are about to bloom. Spraying of bunch grapes is important if you want to prevent black rot. This disease, if not controlled by regular spraying of fungicides, can cause a total loss of your grape harvest. It starts as brown spots on the fruit and quickly spreads throughout the cluster until the entire bunch is brown and shriveling. The end result is a rock-hard bunch of dried raisins. If you have a history of having this problem, spray every 7 to 14 days (up to 14 days if we have no rain) from early bloom until harvest. Use a home garden spray which contains captan.

When dogwoods bloom, someone always asks can I successfully dig a young dogwood tree from the wild and transplant it in my yard. The answer is yes but not often with success. A nursery grown container dogwood will give you rewards quickly and you have some choices of different cultivars as well.

Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Volunteer Hours are due June 7 for the Nov thru May time period. Please bring to the June Picnic or send to the Extension Office by June 7.



Thank You.
Ruth Chapman, Hours Coordinator

Organic Gardening and More

Using Organic Fertilizers

Calvin F. Bey CFBey1936@cox.net

I often get calls saying, "I am ready to plant, what fertilizer should I use?" That's an excellent question, but I can't answer it very well without additional information. I have seen hundreds of soil test reports and it is clear that gardens are extremely variable in mineral content. Without a soil test report, adding fertilizer is just a guess. Even with a soil test in hand, my recommendation is always, "go slow when adding fertilizers." This also applies to the use of compost.

The easiest soils to adjust are those where the original mineral contents are slightly low. This is likely to be the case with our native prairie/pasture soils that have not been fertilized. The hardest, and sometimes nearly impossible adjustments, are those soils where the gardener has added excessive amounts of compost and/or certain minerals.

The goal in gardening is to slowly raise the soil organic matter to about 5 percent, and get all of the minerals to an acceptable level. Once you get to that level, high quality compost may be all you need to add to your garden. Your compost quality will only be as good as the material from which it is derived.

Organic fertilizers are available in the area (Nitron Industries and others) and you have options for what to use for the various elements needed for good plant growth and production. Here are some fertilizer recommendations for nitrogen-N, phosphorus-P, potassium-K, calcium-Ca, and boron-B. The percent of the mineral in the fertilizer may vary with source of material. It will specify the amount on the bag. Unless specified otherwise, the ratios indicate the percent N, P and K in the fertilizer.

Nitrogen: Use alfalfa meal (3-1-2), fish meal (10-2-2), or feather meal (14-0-0).

Phosphorus: Use soft rock phosphate (0-5-0). The 5% is available the first year, and more each year, up to 22%. Soft rock phosphate also contains calcium.

Potassium: Use greensand (0-1-5) or kelp (1-0-8). Many local soils have a near-adequate amount of K.

Calcium: Use high quality calcium carbonate or lime (0-0-0-38 percent Ca). Most local soils will need additional Ca.

Boron: Use Borax, which is 10% boron. Remember this mineral is involved in the plant's ability to use calcium. For local soils that test zero for boron, add 4 Tablespoons of Borax per 100 square feet.

The advantages of these fertilizers are:

- (1) they are slow release and provide long-lasting nutrition for good plant growth;
- (2) they are not detrimental to soil microorganisms, as is the case with some high-salt fertilizers; and
- (3) they are mostly single element fertilizers, which can be tailored to the specific needs defined by the soil test.

For those wanting information describing how organic systems build soils, check out the recent March 2011 USDA Organic Farming Systems Research Conference. Evidence from long-term studies shows the values of the organic approach for the health of the soil, the plant and the consumers.





The Flower, Garden and Nature Society of Northwest Arkansas

Invites you to attend this exciting annual fundraiser

*Saturday
June 11, 2011
9 am to 4 pm*

'Through the Garden Gate' Garden Tours

ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST May 2011			
Mon	5/2	Suzy Brooks	Terry E.
Tue	5/3		Pauline Keegan
Wed	5/4	Tommie Perkins	
Thu	5/5	Linda Flores	Robin Selman
Fri	5/6	Linda Flores	Tom Cantrell
Mon	5/9	Suzy Brooks	Terry E.
Tue	5/10	Linda Flores	Pauline Keegan
Wed	5/11		
Thu	5/12	Lynn Rogers	
Fri	5/13		
Mon	5/16	Suzy Brooks	Terry E.
Tue	5/17	Ann Engskov	Pauline Keegan
Wed	5/18		
Thu	5/19		Robin Selman
Fri	5/20	Linda Flores	
Mon	5/23	Suzy Brooks	Terry E.
Tue	5/24	Phyllis Wilkins	Pauline Keegan
Wed	5/25		
Thu	5/26	Lynn Rogers	Robin Selman
Fri	5/27	Debbie Anderson	Tom Cantrell
Mon	5/30	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY	
Tue	5/31		Pauline Keegan
Please call Jacqueline King, 751-8690, for Changes or Additions			

**MASTER GARDENER
PLANT & SEED EXCHANGE**




WHERE: *Outside on the East side of Washington County Extension Office*

WHEN: *Saturday, May 7, 2011*

TIME: *9:00 am to 11:00 am*

Tables will be furnished. Please be there at 9:00 am to set up. The Exchange will begin at 9:30 am.

Thanks, Program Committee



Farther Afield

Earlier this month, our fellow Master Gardeners, Jean and Tom Jacobsen, assembled a day trip for what turned out to be a glorious spring day, filled with garden delights and beautiful examples of gracious southern living. The destination, P. Allen Smith's Garden Home Retreat and the David Gardener Family's elegant Marlsgate Plantation home, in Scott, Arkansas.



FARM FRIENDS DAY April 21, 2011

FUN!
FUN!!
FUN!!!



LEARNING

Photos by M.J.
Maddox



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

	Master Gardeners	Junior Master Gardeners	Compost Fund	Total Bank Account
12/31/2010 Balances	7,578.23	2,603.24	646.28	10,827.75
Income				
Dues-2011	1,110.00			
Dues-2012	45.00			
Sales		52.00	30.00	
Events/Fundraisers		208.00		
Donations/Gifts	<u>5.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>		
Total Income	<u>1,160.00</u>	<u>285.00</u>	<u>30.00</u>	
Expenses				
Awards	25.11			
Conference	250.00			
Jr Master Gardeners	24.00	462.64		
Newsletter	68.82			
Programs	50.00			
Workbook	<u>34.91</u>			
Total Expenses	<u>452.84</u>	<u>462.64</u>	<u>-</u>	
Net Income	<u>707.16</u>	<u>(177.64)</u>	<u>30.00</u>	
03/31/2011 Balances	8,285.39	2,425.60	676.28	11,387.27

Submitted by Jill King, Co-Treasurer
April 11, 2011

**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

May

**May 3 @ 6:30 pm –
WCMG Meeting**

May 7 – Herbalist Steven Foster
Workshop – Winslow

May 13-14 – 34th Annual Wildlife
Workshop – Chandler, OK

May 21 - FGNS Meeting – Speaker:
Gail Pianalto on 'Luna Lovegood on
Moon Gardening' – Springdale



June

**June 7 @ 6:30 pm –
WCMG Meeting & Annual Picnic**

**June 2-4 – Arkansas Master
Gardener Conference – Harrison**

June 7 – WCMG Volunteer Hours Due
(Nov thru May)

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

June 21 – Summer Begins



July

**July 5 @ 6:30 pm –
WCMG Meeting**

July 16 – FGNS Meeting – Speaker:
Leigh Wilkerson on "Edible
Landscaping" – Springdale

