

October/November  
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# In The Garden

Arkansas County Master Gardener Newsletter



U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System

ARAKNSAS COUNTY

## KATIE'S KORNER

Hello Fellow Arkansas County MG!!

I hope everyone is doing well and that you have all gotten some of the wonderful rainfall we have been so blessed with this past couple of weeks.

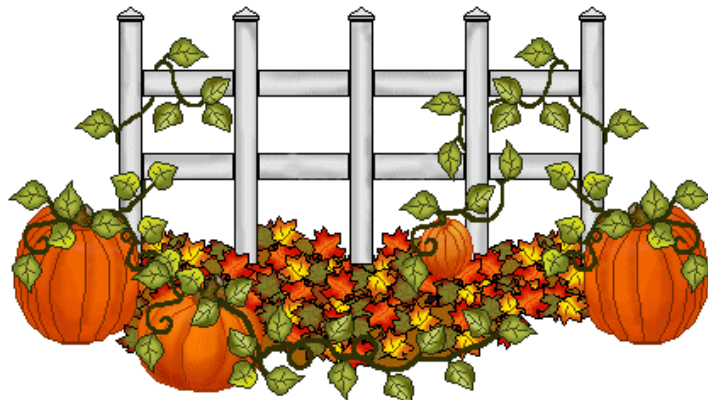
I would like to let you all know that Christmas Party is still on for Monday, November 4, 2013 at Kelly's on the Square at 6:30 p.m.

If you have NOT signed up for this yet and want to come please let Onita or myself know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! My phone number is 870-509-1327

I hope everyone is enjoying fall! This is one of my favorite seasons. I love to decorate with all the pumpkins and mums. This year I have bought some really unusual pumpkins and strange looking gourds. I am planning to save some seeds from these and hope to grow them next year. The pumpkins I have this year were purchased in Counce, TN. They are called Peanut Pumpkins. Very unique!

Thanks again to all those who volunteered to take officers your new positions for the Master Gardeners. I really believe with have a awesome group to take charge come January!!

Sincerely, *Katie*





**Minutes -  
Arkansas County  
Master Gardeners  
Tuesday, September 3, 2013  
Carlee Wellons, Secretary**

We met at the Rice Research and Extension Center. Mrs. Betty said the blessing. We had a plant exchange. Several members brought plants or bulbs to share with the group.

Katie Sollars called our meeting to order. Betty Archer moved we dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the corrected minutes. Shirley Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed. The treasurer's report was accepted. Carlee Wellons moved for acceptance and Lee Bradley seconded. The motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Memorial Plantings:** Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 9 a.m., we will plant Mattie Hatch's tree at the DeWitt Courthouse. We will proceed from there to plant America Jones' pecan tree. Pat Rawls volunteered to get the pecan tree. Michelle Jacobs volunteered to dig the hole. Shirley Jackson moved that we have Michelle and Pat plant Mrs. America's tree. Winnie Cotton seconded the motion. All approved.

**Plaques:** Katie reported that Cooper would have to charge at least \$250. Members volunteered that Mack's Prairie Wings would do it for less. Katie will have more information at the next meeting.

**County Fair:** Anna needs volunteers. You will receive MG hours. Nancy Hudson is doing our fair booth. The Parade will be Thursday September 9, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. Welcome to DeWitt signs: Thanks to Sally Morton and her crew for reading the project. September 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 they will be planting those beds at Airport Road. It was shared that you can go to the Stuttgart Airport with your own truck or trailer and get free compost.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

MG Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens will be September 24<sup>th</sup>. We presently have 4 going. Onita will be taking her car. Please contact her if you are interested in a ride. She can take 6 people but already has some riders. MG Birthday Celebration is October 14<sup>th</sup>. Betty Archer proposed and Frankie Long seconded a motion to send \$100 for the State Meeting.

**Christmas party:** The Christmas party will be at Kelly's on the Square in DeWitt on **Monday, November 4, 2013**. The guest fee will be \$20. Please let Katie know by October the first whether you will attend and if you will have a guest. The committee decided to take donations for the Food Pantry. If you have any questions, call Katie at 870-509-1327.

**2014-15 Officer Nominations** were made. They are as follows:

**President** – Michelle Jacobs

**Vice President** – Becky Stubblefield

**Secretary** – Carlee Wellons

**Treasurer** – *If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact Katie. 870-509-1327*

**Arkansas 4-H Foundation:** The 4-H asked for a donation of \$200. Betty Archer moved and Shirley Jackson seconded a motion for us to give \$100 to the foundation. All approved.

**Certificates:** Certificates will be awarded at the next month's meeting.

**Project Proposals:**

Arkansas County Health Department in DeWitt requested help. Discussion followed. Nancy Hudson moved that we not help. Winnie Cotton seconded the motion. The motion passed. Janet Turnage from Prairie County sent information and an invitation to attend "Bromeliad & Air Plant" at DeWitt this Saturday (Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>) at PCC beginning at 2:00. The presenter is Michael Seal. He will have plants to sell. Chuck Capps is still planning on MG having an opportunity to be available to answer questions at the Extension Office. Dates are forthcoming.

**Personals:**

Please pray Michelle Jacobs passes the Bar.

Seth Henry's wife passed away and he has moved to Benton.

PA has had cataract surgery. If you wish to send him a card, his address is 2014 Maple Stuttgart, AR 72160.

Lindy Rabeneck has had a second knee replacement.

Casey Green is expecting her third child. Her due date is February 22, 2014.

Katie Sollars surgery on her arm is September 17<sup>th</sup>.

July 26<sup>th</sup> Bobby Bennett celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Door Prizes:**

Michelle Jacobs

Betty Archer

Becky Stubblefield



Just wanted to say THANK YOU to all who have called, emailed and sent cards while I was down with my elbow surgery. It has been a slow recovery but I am getting better each day.

I am back out taking pictures again and doing some yard work.

I really appreciate each of you who kept in touch during this time! *Katie*



**Time to Soil Sample**  
 Chuck Capps  
 County Extension Agent –  
 Staff Chair

Now is as good time to take soil samples for several reasons. One is that you need a current sample for any fall garden or fall flowerbed changes you may be making. Samples that were run in the spring after a growing season may be different than what fall or winter plants need. Even if you do not plan on planting things for the fall, the potassium and phosphorus should be fairly stable in the soil once summer crops, flowers, etc. quit growing and taking it up. Phosphorus and potassium can be applied in the winter. Do not expect to get any nitrogen benefits from fall application of a complete fertilizer like 13-13-13 in the spring because nitrogen is very mobile in the soil. The exception is if you do have fall annuals or plants that will continue to grow through winter. But remember, you do not want much excessive growth heading into winter months.

Fall is a great time to apply lime if the soil needs it. This will depend upon what is to be grown or maintained. For example, most plants grow better with a neutral pH while azaleas need a more acidic soil. One thing to remember when applying lime is that you need to apply the whole amount that is recommended for that sample. Sometimes pelletized lime can be easier to work with especially in garden, yard, or flower bed projects. Lime recommendations are based on regular ag lime. If pelletized lime is used, you can cut the lime rate approximately in half. For example, the soil sample recommends 50 lbs. of lime to be applied per 1000 sq ft. Only about 25 lbs. of pelletized lime would need to be applied.

One final and very important reason is that the Soil Lab is not as likely to be backed up with samples as they will be in the spring. Remember that soil sampling only costs time and effort but may result in saving a lot of headaches through proper fertilization.

**RAIN GAUGE**

Extension Office, DeWitt:

August	2.37"
September	4.18"
October 1-8	.60"

Betty Archer Residence:

August	2.15"
September	4.75"
October 1-8	.85"



**MASTER GARDENERS CHRISTMAS PARTY**



**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4 @ 6:00 P.M. AT KELLEY'S ON THE SQUARE IN DEWITT.**

**ON THE MENU**

**SMOKED CHICKEN DINNER WITH BAKED BEANS, POTATOES, SALAD, AND BREAD.**

**DESSERT MENU**

**ITALIAN CREAM CAKE, CHOCOLATE MOUSSE CAKE AND STRAWBERRY CAKE PROVIDED BY CARLA'S SWEET TREATS.**

**SOFT DRINKS, BEER AND WINE ARE AVAILABLE (CASH BAR)**

**GUEST COST IS \$20 -CALL THE EXTENSION OFFICE BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH TO PRE-REGISTER YOU AND YOUR GUEST.**

**870-946-3231 OR**

**KATIE @ 870-509-1327**



**MASTER GARDENER DAY AT GARVAN WOODLAND GARDENS**  
*Submitted by Onita Watson*

Tuesday, September 24 was a great day to visit Garvan Woodland Gardens and view the interesting glass art on display throughout the gardens. The weather was ideal for walking the gardens and visiting with our fellow MG from across the state.

Shirley Jackson, Marsha Heien and myself traveled to Hot Springs and met up with Betty Archer and Bobbie Bennett after they finished up with MG Leadership Conference.

The colorful glass sculptures in various shapes and designs were an added feature displayed in the ponds and nestled among gardens and walking trails.

Workers were busy pulling out the summer annuals in preparation for fall plantings. Lights were being strung in trees and along the walkways for the upcoming Christmas display.

Each visit to the gardens offers something new that has been added, or something I have previously overlooked. We are now looking forward to visiting Moss Mountain as part of the MG 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.





*President*

Katie Sollars  
[jksollars@gmail.com](mailto:jksollars@gmail.com)

*Vice-President*

Tana Beasley  
[Tkmb96@suddenlink.net](mailto:Tkmb96@suddenlink.net)

*Secretary*

Carlee Wellons  
[chwellons@aol.com](mailto:chwellons@aol.com)

*Treasurer*

Bonnie Wilbanks  
[bdlgg@yahoo.com](mailto:bdlgg@yahoo.com)

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**Chuck Capps**  
**1009 Liberty Drive**  
**DeWitt, AR 72042**  
**[arkd@uaex.edu](mailto:arkd@uaex.edu)**

*County Extension Advisor -*  
*Staff Chair*

Chuck Capps  
[ccapps@uaex.edu](mailto:ccapps@uaex.edu)

**Ark. Co. Extension Offices**

1009 Liberty Drive  
DeWitt, AR 72042  
870-946-32319 or 673-2346  
Fax: 870-946-3061  
Email: [arkd@uaex.edu](mailto:arkd@uaex.edu)

2900 Hwy 130 E  
Stuttgart, AR 72160  
870-673-2661  
Fax: 870-673-4317  
Email: [arks@uaex.edu](mailto:arks@uaex.edu)

**“LEADERSHIP – A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE”**

*Submitted by Bobbie Bennett*

**Leadership – A Bridge to the Future**– was the theme for the Master Gardener Leadership Conference at the Clarion on Lake Hamilton, Hot Springs September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Betty Archer and I represented Arkansas County at the conference. Our first speaker was Janet Carson whose topic was **Understanding the New Volunteer**. She stated the length of a volunteer’s service is three years and today one-third of volunteers do not return after one year. She stated that some of the reasons for the dropout are: (1) Not matching volunteer’s skills with assignment. Not every MG wants or is able to ‘dig in the dirt’. A good photographer should use that skill to promote the MG program. (2) Not measuring the value of volunteers and their work. Arkansas MG contributed \$2,640,000 worth of work valued at \$20/hour. Several other reasons were also discussed. We should be recruiting new volunteers all the time by personal contacts, placing signs at projects, identifying plants at projects and letting people know what our program is about.

Following the opening presentation, our agenda listed several topics from which to choose. My first choice was **Simplified Parliamentary Procedures** led by Stacey McCullough. Her recommendation was to keep things simple but follow your plan.

My first afternoon session was **Effective Meetings** which was led by John Richardson who is from Nevada County and was chosen 2012 MG of the Year. He suggested that since most MG groups meet monthly, the meetings should be as effective as possible. Members should have the agenda before the meeting, start the meeting on time and make good use of the time. Members should be participants, not just attendees.

A session was conducted by Dawn Jackson who has taught Certified Network Management and Microsoft Office courses. She graduated from Pulaski MG, but is currently Recording Secretary in Faulkner County MG. She is a strong supporter of the use of audio visual aids and encouraged borrowing equipment if purchase is not possible. Her advice is to always check equipment before use and have a back-up plan. She suggested that the speaker’s comfort is considered.

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**Come Garden With Us!**