



“And now we welcome the New Year, full of things that have never been”

Rainer Maria Rilke



The 2013 Christmas Pot Luck meeting was held at the First Christian Church in Eureka Springs. Business included reading and accepting minutes and Treasurer’s report and increasing the amount for speaker’s fee for the next year.

The business meeting concluded with the election of Mariellen Griffith as the recipient of “The Silver Shovel” for her efforts on behalf of Carroll County Master Gardeners for 2013.

Others who have received this honor are:

- 2003 Jean Ericksen
- 2004 Will Schell
- 2005 Neta Stamps
- 2006 Lavonna Schell
- 2007 Anita Engert
- 2008 Beth Stafford
- 2009 Mary Knight
- 2010 Anita Rissler
- 2011 Richard Knight
- 2012 Karen Wall



President Dan Ward, who is recognized as an expert wood worker, presented Mary Knight with a special gift.

After the wonderful pot luck (and can our MGs cook!!) Dirty Santa came to visit.



From Mariellen Griffith:

Please share with all Master Gardeners for giving me the honor of nominating me for the silver shovel award. I was very surprised. I feel that the committees that I chair should share the honor of the award with me. Thank you.



2014 Master Gardener Events & Other Events of Interest

January

11 - CCMG meeting 10:00 a.m. at Freeman Heights Baptist Church. Discussion of Sanctioned Projects

18 – North East LA Master Gardeners Annual Spring Ag Expo Gardening Seminar
“Southern Birds & Blooms,” West Monroe Convention Center, 901 Ridge Road from 7:30 a.m.-12:30p.m; fee is \$20.00 Featured Speaker Melinda Myers, Birds and Blooms magazine, will present, “Beautiful, Easy, and Affordable Landscape Makeovers,” plus book signing. Exhibitors, door prizes, and refreshments. Contact LSU AG Center at 318-323-2251 for information and advance registration forms.

February

8 – CCMG Meeting

21-23 – Arkansas Flower & Garden Show: 'Gardening- That's Entertainment! Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock.

March

8 – CCMG Meeting

8 – Union County Master Gardener's Dirt Friends Festival. G. Michael Shoup, Antique Rose Emporium, and Janet Carson, Horticultural Specialist, U of A Extension and Research.

May

28-31 – State MG Conference, "Gardening on the Edge;" Texarkana, TX.



American Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)

The genus name for the American Persimmon means "Fruit of the Gods". This is a reference to the delicious golden-orange fruits that often hang on the tree after the leaves drop in autumn. When ripe, these fruits are very sweet.

Native Range: Much of the eastern and central U.S. south of the Great Lakes region.

<http://www.treetrail.net/diospyros.html>

<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/trees/plants/persimmon.htm>

Ozark folklore is full of interesting and questionable information. Do you believe in them?

From the October 23, 2013 issue of "*The Rattler*":

Persimmon Seeds Predict: Colder Winter, Average Snow Fall in the Ozarks

This is according to this year's persimmon seed prediction.

"It's a cherished bit of Ozarks folklore that the shape of the tiny seedling inside a persimmon seed can predict conditions in the upcoming winter," per University of Missouri Extension Horticulture Specialist Patrick Byers.

Checking out the shape inside the seeds of the mature persimmon fruit is by no means scientific, however it is a fun "tongue-in-cheek" project and a great way to educate people about this unique native Ozark fruit tree."

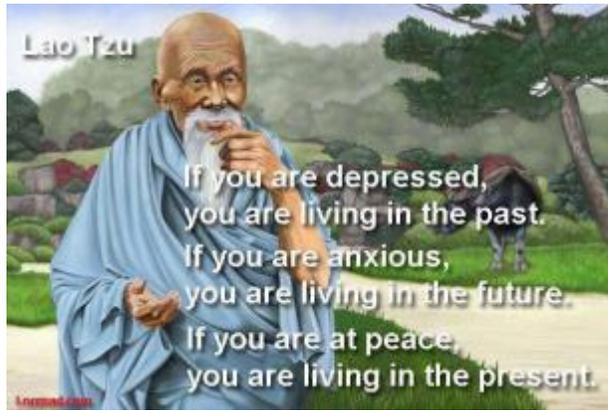
According to Ozarks folklore, a spoon shape on the seed indicates above average snowfall, a knife shape signals colder than normal temperatures and a fork shape means warmer than average temperatures.

Specialist Beyers collected fruit from trees in Lawrence, Stone, Wright and Webster counties (in Missouri). From a random selection of 15 seeds, he found 21% had a knife shape, 29% had a fork shape with 50% a spoon shape!

"Looks like Ozarkers better dust off those snow shovels and get a warm coat" said Byers. (Well I believe we can agree that we HAVE had snow and it HAS been cold, so maybe the old stories which came across the pond from Scotland and Ireland through the Appalachians to Northwest Arkansas and Southwest Missouri may have some basis in fact!)

An interesting lore from ***Ozark Superstitions*** by VANCE RANDOLPH found at:

“Hillfolk more or less seriously forecast the weather for many months in advance by splitting open a persimmon seed in autumn. If the little growth at one end, between the two halves of the seed, looks like a spoon, it means that the next summer will be moist and warm, and that everybody will raise bumper crops. But if the seed carries a tiny knife and fork, instead of the spoon, the growing season will be unsatisfactory and many crops will fail. “
(Now, that is a new one to me!)



EUREKA SPRINGS HERITAGE GARDEN



The gardens were established in late 90s and early 2000s. The Eureka Springs Garden Club also donated money for a water feature and plants to be established in the new Heritage Garden. Georgette Garner, Historical Museum Board member and other volunteers planted and maintained the garden. Following Georgette's work in the garden, Ginny Miller,

<http://www.eurekaspringshistoricalmuseum.org/>

former Director of the Museum, maintained the garden until her retirement in 2012. In the summer of 2012 Carroll County Master Gardeners made a request to continue planting and maintaining the garden. The request was granted and a plan and procedures were put in place.

January Birthdays:

3rd Donna Sartoris

4th Marie Swenson

9th Anna Matthews



January Birthdays:

16th Jean Ericksen

23rd Shirley Clark

26th Michael Rissler

PEANUTS: A NUTRIENT DENSE “SUPERFOOD”

Well, I will confess – for those who do not know - - I am an out and out peanut fan. Raw peanuts are my very favorite. Imagine my pleasure when I found the following article in the December 11th issue of *The Rattler*. (No, I am not from Shell Knob, but this paper just seems to jump into my hands when I am at the hospital.)



(NAPSI) If you are looking for affordable ways to get more energy-boosting protein in your diet, you may want to try peanuts and peanut butter.

Peanuts with 7 grams of protein per serving have more protein than ANY other nut! They also contain more than 30 essential vitamins and nutrients. Many food experts consider peanuts to be a “superfood” capable of providing lasting energy and are a smart addition to your diet any time of the day.

Increasing numbers of families are finding that peanuts and peanut butter – with their nutrition and flavor – offer both value and versatility.

ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.

Rhonda Spilman's Coffee Punch

- 2 oz. Instant Coffee
- 1 cup water (boiling)
- 3 cups sugar

Mix the coffee and the sugar and then add the boiling water to dissolve the instant coffee

Let this cool

Pour the cooled mixture in punch bowl and

Add: 1 gallon whole milk (not skim or low percent)
then add the gallon of milk.

Then add the ice cream and stir slowly

- 1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 gallon chocolate ice cream

. It is really good when some of the ice cream melts into the liquid.

Note: Really liked this punch and requested the recipe from Mary Knight. Thanks Mary! Neta

All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the County Extension Office (or other appropriate office) as soon as possible prior to the activity.

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Neta Stamps, Editor