There will be no meeting in July.

From the President
Ann Ferguson

In case you haven’t noticed, summer has arrived in Northeast Arkansas. While the heat and humidity are not easy for humans to deal with, the spring rains and summer temps are making our gardens thrive. My plants are putting on a show. On the downside, so are the weeds. Stay cool and pace yourself.

Sixteen members and I have recently returned from the Annual State Master Gardener Convention in Eureka Springs. I can’t say enough about the planning and preparation that went into this meeting. The speakers and tours were informative and enjoyable. If you have never attended one of the state meetings, try to fit one into your schedule. You get to know Master Gardeners from all over the state and being with your own club members in this environment is a good bonding experience.

I hope all of you got a chance to visit Bob McKeel’s daylily garden. His daylilies are spectacular. Thanks, Bob.

Remember, no meeting in July but don’t forget to log your hours. Have a great 4th of July.
Irrigation

By
Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

As we enter the dog days of summer, we receive numerous requests concerning the proper way to irrigate our lawns and flower beds. Multiple, short term irrigations are not the most efficient way to apply irrigation unless you are on a very steep slope. The amount and length of watering depends on plant type, location (in yard or a bed), soil type and topography. Most plants respond to intervals of long, slow watering, with several days in between applications. Realize that a sandy soil will need more frequent watering than other soil types. Apply water to the point of run off to avoid wasting water. Allowing the soil to dry before you begin another application will keep the soil oxygenated and discourage root diseases.

Try to keep the foliage of the plants as dry as possible during watering. The goal is not to subject the foliage to 24 hour conditions of dampness. If you have sprinklers, use them early in the day to allow the foliage to dry at some point during the day. Black soaker hose is a less expensive way to water without getting the foliage wet.

Lawns need at least 1” of water per week to keep them healthy. When temperatures reach the mid-nineties, more water may be needed. Watering early in the morning so the foliage will have an opportunity to dry will help discourage fungal diseases from developing.

As always, please call the Extension Office with any questions that you may have. Stay Cool!!

Show of Hands Event

The Craighead County Master Gardener August Meeting on August 4 will be a special event. We will meet at 5:00 at the ASU Farmers’ Market. At the time of arrival all Master Gardeners will randomly be placed in traveling groups with schedules of project stops. At each stop there will be a quick look at the project area and a draw of a card. All groups will meet back at the market for dinner. All details will be further explained at the 5:00 arrival time.
**Minutes of the June Meeting**

**By Ethel Cole**

*Photos by Sharron Schelin & Diane Sandberg*

The June 2, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:31 pm by Mimi Cox, in the absence of President, Ann Ferguson who was attending the state meeting in Eureka Springs.

**Program** – Branon Thiesse introduced the program speaker, 4-H agent Maleigha Cook. Maleigha demonstrated one of the projects she does with 4-H students—making suet cakes. Song birds need a high protein, high fat diet. Her recipe starts with 1 C peanut butter and 1 C lard. To this mixture she adds 1 C corn meal. The mixture is microwaved for 2-3 minutes and then one to two cups of birdseed is added. This mixture is poured into a disposable container, such as a paper or plastic cup, which has had a hole punched in the bottom to allow a cord or yarn to be threaded through. After filling the container with the mixture, it is placed in the freezer for at least 30 minutes. The container is peeled away and the suet cake is ready to hang.

**Minutes** – the minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the monthly newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report** – In the absence of treasurer, Stephanie Neely, Mike Thompson gave the final tally for the plant sale as a very impressive $5,132.

**Projects Reports** – HWES Children’s Garden now has evening hours; The Native Plant gardeners were treated to breakfast by the Nature Center staff as a show of appreciation; the courthouse, extension office, and municipal building gardens need weeding and watering through the summer; the ASU display garden needs weeding and deadheading; plants left over from the Sunset Gardens project were distributed at local nursing homes; and the NEA District Fair will be held this year, but no commercial vendors will have booths. The CCMG will have a table set up to hand out seed packets and information on becoming a Master Gardener. Members will participate in the floriculture judging as in previous years.

**Old Business** – Members were reminded of the importance of logging work and education hours. The total number of volunteer hours are the basis for next year’s funding.

**New Business** – The August meeting will be a special event celebrating “Back-From-Summer called a “A Show of Hands.” Members will meet at the Farmers’ Market at 5:00 pm.

Member, Carolyn Imboden shared her favorite plant, Salvia black and blue. This hardy plant blooms all summer long, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds, and grows to 36 inches tall.

Master Gardener of the month was Mike Thompson. Mike is a 2009 class member and served as treasurer 3 years.

Members with a June or July birthday were given plants.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm.

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**Reminder**

Our friend, Renee Shepherd, owner of Reneesgarden.com (Renee’s Garden Seeds), is making a wonderful offer for Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary School. If you go to her website and order seed, and use this code when you order: FR556A, she will donate 25% of the price of the seed you order, to the Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary Kitchen/Garden Program. Isn’t that great? So, go to her website and order some seed, being sure to use the FR556A coupon code.
According to the log sheets, as of June 26 the following members are re-certified:

Stan Bachman  
Evelyn Baker  
Donna Bandy  
Braun Campbell  
Ethel Cole  
Mimi Cox  
*Barb Evans  
Ann Fergeson  
Brenda Ferralasco  
*Pat Finch  
Brenda Gray  
LaVeta Howerton  
Jane Jamison  
Peggy Lane  
Karen Massey  
Katherine McCracken  
Ditty Mitts  
Cindy Morris  
Shenia Mullins  
Stephanie Neely  
Betty Nichols  
Reta Ragland  
Ann Ross  
Diane Sandberg  
Bruce Schelin  
Sharron Schelin  
Ralph Seay  
Pat Shirley  
Melinda Smith  
Debbie Tate  
Donna Tolewitzke  
Tim Tolewitzke  
Mike Wilbanks  
Billy Woodruff  
*New Member

It is **VERY** important that members log in their hours regularly!  
If anyone still needs help, please contact Donna Tolewitzke or fill out the time sheets in the Red Notebook and bring to the next meeting.

**Remember:** It is, also, very important that you show up to work in the garden project you signed up to work in. The gardens need all the help we can give them this time of year.
Touring Bob McKeel’s Garden
Photos by Diane Sandberg
Daylilies from Bob McKeel’s Garden

Photos by Bob McKeel
Highlights of the MG State Conference

"Gardening on the Rocks" in Eureka Springs

By Peggy Lane

Seventeen of our members attended this fun and informative conference. Just a few of the events we participated in were: Pre-conference tour of the Dogwood Canyon and College of the Ozarks, art and garden fair, silent auction, photo booth (you may see some crazy pics), cooking demonstrations, making bentwood trellises, tours of fantastic private homes and gardens, the Crescent Hotel and gardens, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Catholic Church and gardens, growing crape myrtles, native plants, annuals and perennials, wonderful meals including cook-out at Blue Springs, and much more. If at all possible, make your reservations now to attend next year’s conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock on May 21-23, 2017. It’s an experience you won’t soon forget.

At the awards ceremony, recognition was given to the following MG’s from Craighead County: Diane Sandberg, Newsletter of the Year (51 members or more); Years of Service Awards: 5 years of service - Donna Bandy, Margaret Gann, Jason Mullins, Carrie Ray, Susan Westbrook, Bobbie Wilson and Billy Woodruff; 10 years of service: Eileen Adams, Ann Fergeson, Brenda Gray, Peggy Lane and Ann Ross; Lifetime Members (15 years): Carolyn Imboden; Lifetime Plus Members (20 years): Mimi Cox.

Thank you for your service to the Craighead County Master Gardener Program. Each one of you has been instrumental in making our organization what it is today and you are greatly appreciated!

Newsletter State Award

By Diane Sandberg

There are so many members that contributed to the award presented to CCMGs for Newsletter of the Year (over 50 members) that it is impossible for me to thank everyone who has helped me along the way. I have always felt that I am NOT and do not want to be a roving reporter but just the person who puts all the items that I am sent together. This is definitely a group effort and award.

I would like to especially thank the presidents who contributed columns every month while in office, Peggy Lane, Ann Ross and Ann Fergeson; the secretaries who provided minutes, Jan Dupwe and Ethel Cole; and of course Branon who provided a column every month since I started doing the newsletter.

My friend, Nechia Whittingham, librarian, has also provide book reviews from the beginning. My two proofreaders, Mimi Cox and Peggy Lane have saved me many times.

Also thanks to Reta Smith who mailed out copies to members without email. Finally to everyone who ever sent me anything or worked on one of our projects, you are what made the newsletter award winning.
Important Reminders

There is not a July meeting.

**Being Respectful:** Just a reminder to be respectful of not only the speakers at meetings but to your fellow MGs. You may think you are talking quietly but voices carry making it difficult for others to hear what is going on during the meetings.

**Master Gardener of the Month Nominations:** Nominations wanted for MG of the Month. This will be a way to show our appreciation to someone who has gone above and beyond what is expected of them in their role as a CCMG. If you know of someone you think should be honored at one of our meetings, please let our committee know (Peggy Lane, Stephanie Neely or Mimi Cox).

**Sign In!** As you arrive at the MG meeting each month, be sure to SIGN IN! The sign-in sheet will be on the table to the right as you come in the door. At the end of each meeting, we will draw from the attendance sheet for a door prize!

**Name Tags:** Be sure to wear your MG name tag to each meeting and receive a KISS! Otherwise put a quarter in the jar.
Native Plant Garden
Photos by Diane Sandberg

A to P Batesville Program
Photos by Mike Wilbanks
ASU Display Garden
Photos by Diane Sandberg
When I stumbled upon *The Wreath Recipe Book* by Aletha Harrampolis, I was horrified. I mistakenly thought it was about cooking and gardening, two areas in which I am not stellar. But it turns out this lovely little book is full of ideas of how to use the bounty from your flower garden. Wreaths? They are in there. Swags? Yep. And the author showcases everything from using a cherry branch to a pokeberry stick. Interesting reading and photos.

*Bring the Outdoors In* by Shane Powers is filled with garden projects for decorating and styling your home. American businesswoman Martha Stewart says the book contains “project after project of fascinating, creative ideas.” I’ve seen a lot in my six decades, but I can tell you I saw some things in this book I’ve never seen before! There’s gilded bonsai vitrine and floating pressed botanicals. What more can I say?

Picking up Paula Pryke’s book, *Flower School* is exactly like my picking up a Bride’s Magazine. I’m not getting married again, and I’m not planning to learn how to do floral arranging, but both are fun to look at. I will tell you I was completely enchanted by the exquisite designs in this book.

If your home caught on fire, and you could only grab one book from your gardening shelf to save, *Veranda: The Romance of Flowers* by Clinton Smith just might be that book. If you enjoy stunning beauty—and I know you do since you are Master Gardeners—you will fall in love with this book. Page 81 quotes James Barrie, “God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December.” Wait till you see the roses illustrating that quote! This is one of my all-time favorite volumes.

For these and other resources, please visit your Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.
Upcoming Events

July

9 - Powhatan - Canning Workshop - Powhatan Historic State Park - Putting up fruits and vegetables in your home is as easy as pie. If you would like to enjoy fresh ingredients from your garden year round, join us to discover the nearly forgotten art of home canning. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. $20. Call 870-878-6765 for more information.

14 - Jackson, TN - Summer Celebration - Garden Talks, Speakers, Vendors, Dining - $5 for adults - West TN AgResearch & Education Center - 605 Airways Blvd - For more info http://west.tennessee.edu/events/summerceleb.asp

16 - Springdale - How Homeowners Can Reverse the Loss of Native Plants and Wildlife - Northwest Technical Institute – Student Center - The Flower, Garden & Nature Society of NWA meets the third Saturday of the month - July’s program features Warren Fields, president, NW Arkansas Master Naturalists. 9:30 a.m. Free. For more information call Gail Pianalto at 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall at 479-466-7265.


26 - County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.


For list of Arkansas shows, meetings, etc. see statebystategardening.com/ar/calendar/
For Master Gardener events see http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/events.aspx
For information on Memphis events see www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/events.htm

Photo Directory Available at August Meeting

The 2016 CCMG Photo Directory will be available at the August meeting for those who have not yet received their copy. Members will need to sign a roster before receiving a copy.
“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece”
Claude Monet

Fun and Useful Links

Arkansas Master Gardener Program
http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners

CCMG Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Craighead-County-Master-Gardeners/629232630461141?ref=hl

HWES School Gardens Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens

Janet Carson’s Blog - In the Garden
http://uofacesmg.wordpress.com/

Jim Long’s Blog
http://jimlongsgarden.blogspot.com/

Public Horticulture Events
http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/events.aspx

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension
http://www.uaex.edu/

Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Weeder's Digest is the official newsletter of the Craighead County AR Master Gardener Program.

Please contact the newsletter editor at dsandberg@suddenlink.net with your articles, ideas, photos and suggestions.

Newsletters are Adobe files and require the latest Adobe Reader to view. You may download the latest Adobe Reader at "http://get.adobe.com/reader/".

Craighead County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Craighead County officials to provide beautification projects and horticultural information to the residents of the county. In 2015 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 6914.25 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.

Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

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