Next Meeting will be January 5
Program - Blann Britton
Inventive gardening & creative planter/planting techniques.

From the President
Ann Ferguson

Ready for 2017

I hope that everyone is having the merriest Christmas season and that the New Year will bring great things to you and those you love.

I have enjoyed being your president this year and I am looking forward to 2017. You are a good group and being a part of it has made my work fun and rewarding.

Our work has brought us recognition, and our group has built many relationships because of the time spent working together. We have been able to increase our scholarship to horticultural students because our plant sale was so successful. We received the COAT Distinguished Service Award from ASU and our newsletter received The Newsletter of the Year Award at the state convention this year. Our average meeting attendance has increased by 40% and we logged more volunteer hours than ever. Right now we have almost 9,000 hours and you can still log your hours until December 31.

We soon will start our new member’s class, so we have come full circle and ready to begin 2017 events. Be proud of all that you do. Your work is recognized and appreciated.

Stay Warm! I look forward to seeing you at our January meeting.

January Birthdays

5 - Erlene Wise
6 - Lillie Fears
7 - Donna Bachman
11 - Lana Keyes
13 - Glenda Drace
13 - Cindy Morris
14 - Betty Nichols
19 - Pat Finch
19 - Sharron Schelin
19 - Billy Woodruff
21 - Karen Massey
22 - Jan Dupwe
26 - Chad Whatley
29 - Bruce Schelin
31 - Ellen Hester
2017 Master Gardener Training

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

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. Just a quick update about the upcoming Master Gardener training that begins on January 21, 2017. If you know of anyone that might be interested in becoming a Master Gardener, they can go to the Craighead County Website at uaes.edu/Craighead and access the on-line application under the Master Gardener section. The cost for the training is $80.

The program includes so far:

George Selden, Extension Specialist II, will discuss water gardens, rain gardens and hydroponics on January 21 at 10:15 a.m. immediately following the break.

Dr. Sherry Smith from the disease lab in Fayetteville will be here on January 28 at 8:30 a.m. discussing diseases.

Botany will be the topic for the afternoon session beginning at 1:00 a.m.

Dr. Kim Pittcock will be here February 11 beginning at 8:30 a.m. discussing plant propagation, shade plants and annual/perennials.

Janet Carson will speak in the afternoon on trees, shrubs and pruning.

On February 18 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Sherri Sanders, CEA - Agriculture, will discuss fruits and vegetables.

Other topics will be finalized after the first of the year. Members are invited to attend sessions that may be of interest to them but remember, space is limited.

Thank You

I want to say a great big “Thank You” for the gift certificate and card given to me at our Christmas Dinner. The gift certificate was as big a hit with my husband as to me. We both love to eat. The card was very special. The good wishes and signatures make it a special keepsake.

Ann
The December 1, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners followed a wonderful Christmas potluck dinner. A big “thank you” goes to Debbie Tate and her committee for setting up the tables for the large assortment of dishes and cleaning up.

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by president, Ann Ferguson. The program was an awards and recognition evening beginning with recognition of those members who have earned their 5 year, 10 year, 15 year, and 20 year pin. The 20 year pin went to Mimi Cox.

Five year members, Margaret, Susan & Billy
Ten year members, Ann F, Peggy, Ann R. & Eileen
Twenty year member, Mimi
The Master Gardener of 2016 award went to Diane Sandberg.
The CCMG Rookie of 2016 was a tie between Barb Evans and Pat Finch.
The CCMG Project of the Year went to the Health, Wellness, Environmental Studies magnet school Children’s Learning Garden under the supervision of Melinda Smith.

Minutes Continued on page 4
Minutes Continued on page 4

The children’s garden also was recognized recently on a state level by Governor Asa Hutchison for its outstanding nutrition education program.

Craighead County Master Gardeners also received state recognition: the State Project of the Year was the ASU display garden, and our newsletter was named the State Newsletter of the Year.

And the ASU College of Agriculture and Technology, by unanimous vote, selected the Craighead County Master Gardeners as the recipient of the “Outstanding Service Award”.

Also receiving recognition for his dedicated service was Branon Thiesse, who received a gift from CCMG, and President Ann Ferguson was also given a gift in appreciation of her service.

Old Business – The November Master Gardener award was given to Billy Woodruff, who was not present at the November meeting to accept his recognition.

New Business – Upcoming events for the New Year include: a new class begins January 21; a seminar is being planned for February; March is the first project of the year, the FFA CDE event at ASU; and the annual plant sale in April.

Announcements – Dues are $10 and are payable now. At the January 5 meeting, dues increase to $15. Members with a December birthday were given a plant.

Meeting adjourned 8:17 pm.

Mentors Needed for the New Class

Remember when you were a new Master Gardener and felt left out or lost the first time you came to a meeting? Remember all the questions you had but were afraid to ask? The mentor program will keep others from feeling the way you did. A mentor helps a new Master Gardener by being a "buddy," by helping the "mentee" feel welcome in the group, and by answering questions about how to report hours, how to get involved in various work projects, or any other questions pertaining to being a MG. A mentor’s purpose is to answer questions about the MG program rather than answer questions about horticulture.

Mentors are needed to work with the new class. Because the training of brand-new MG’s is going to begin soon, mentors are needed to "adopt" a new member. You will be a mentor until the new member feels "at home" with the group - maximum length of time is one year.
If you will volunteer to spend some time and effort to help a new MG feel welcome and part of the CCMG Program, please contact me at 870-935-7649, or email me at wilsonandpeggy@yahoo.com.

Thanks a bunch, Peggy Lane, R-R-R Chair
Congratulations to the Health and Wellness Magnet School

Congratulations to the Health, Wellness & Environmental Studies Magnet School that received a $500 prize through funds provided by Farm Credit of Arkansas for their school gardens in the Arkansas Gardens Contest for the category of Best Nutrition Education Based Garden! Students with teachers, Melinda Smith and Sherri Broadway travelled to Little Rock to represent HWES and received their award from Governor Hutchinson!

Looking for MGs to Help With the New Class!

From Mimi Cox

The Master Gardener Class of 2017 will begin on January 21, and we are hoping for a record turnout! In an effort to keep our costs as low as possible, we are asking our members to provide snacks and desserts for each of the 5 Saturday classes. We like homemade, but that is not required. We need snacks for breaks and try to provide the same kinds that we do for our meetings: salty, sweet, healthy, chocolate! Desserts are served with lunch (that is provided), and whatever you choose is always good!

If you can help, please sign up at the meeting on January 5.....if you have questions, please call or email! Thank you for helping!

Our members are welcome and invited to attend any of the sessions, and you will also have the opportunity to meet the class members. As soon as the schedule is finalized, we will send it to you by email. The classes are available to Master Gardeners and are outstanding learning hours! The dates are January 21 and 28 and February 4, 11 and 18.
It was the inimitable Audrey Hepburn who said, “To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” It is with those happy, sustaining words that I bid farewell to the Master Gardener newsletter. Time is so precious, and I’m needed more all the time to help corral 4 rowdy grandchildren and comfort my aging Mother who has Alzheimer’s.

I grew up in a family of 7, so I’ve always valued my privacy. Landscaping for Privacy: Innovative Ways to Turn Your Outdoor Space into a Peaceful Retreat by Marty Wingate has some lovely solutions for ensuring your idyllic retreat remains out of sight. Whether it’s buffering sound, preventing trespassing, or screening out unwanted views, this volume has some practical information.

When I picked up Felder Rushing’s book, Slow Gardening, a No-Stress Philosophy for all Senses and Seasons, I knew I’d found my holy grail of gardening. Refreshingly simple, it places the gardener “in their own space, at their own pace.” Steve Bender of Southern Living Magazine says of this book, “If gardening isn’t fun, it isn’t worth doing. Try Slow Gardening.”

Garden pools, Fountains and Waterfalls by Debra Prinzing is a delicious visual treat. I’ve always enjoyed water views, and this volume just may inspire you to incorporate fountains or waterfalls into your landscaping. This comprehensive book covers everything from safety and seating, to chemical free options and the best ways to incorporate plants and fish. If you visit your Public Library, this just might the book with which I’m captivated when you enter.

Only the strong thrive in my garden of neglect. Hence, the reason I was intrigued by Tough as Nails Flowers for the South by Norman Winter. The book lists over 170 plants that not only survive, but thrive in the hot and humid south. The book also includes “precise” instructions for maintaining superior flowers, meaning there’s a better chance that someone will drive by my home and exclaim, “Wow! I bet a Master Gardener lives there!”

For these and other resources please visit your Public Library 315 West Oak Avenue or www.libraryinjonesboro.org. If I can be of assistance, you may email me at nwhittin@libraryinjonesboro.org.

Happy Gardening! Keep planting those happy seeds, because you know the harvest will come!
January Reminders

Dues - Don't forget the “Early Bird Special” regarding dues. Only $10 up until our January 5 meeting. After the January meeting, the cost will be $15, **and if dues are not paid by January 31 the person will no longer be considered a Master Gardener.** Try to make Stephanie happy and remember to take care of this as soon as possible.

Changes - If you have moved, changed your email or mailing address, or phone number, please let Mimi know so we can be sure our 2017 directory is accurate. We need to know how to reach you. There is a form for this purpose in the white pages of your red notebook.

Photos - Please take lots of fall/winter pictures to enter the 2017 statewide MG calendar contest. All MGs can submit four photos—one for each season. Fall and winter photographs are always in short supply, so grab your camera now and capture some of the last of the leaves, trees and shrubs! More on this later.

Plant Sale - Don’t forget to pot up those plants for our annual spring plant sale.

Other Reminders

Logging in Hours: If you are having problems logging hours and/or would rather Donna log them for you please email her at dtolewitzke@gmail.com. Please include where you worked, the date and the amount of time you worked. And let's not forget, include your learning/education hours!

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.

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.

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.
New MG Class Begins January 21

Building a strong MG program starts with recruiting volunteers who are interested in horticulture. Notice the stress on volunteers. If we only recruit people who are interested in gardening, they will not stay with the program long, and our county program will not grow.

Recruits need to know from the beginning that they are joining a group and will be expected to fulfill service hours. The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet the needs of home gardeners while providing an enjoyable and worthwhile service experience as we volunteer in our community.

Recruiting the right people to take the training and become part of our Master Gardener program will go a long way toward building a strong and growing group.

Prospective members can apply online at: https://forms.uaex.edu/counties/Craighead/MG-application.asp

Prospective members can view information about the Craighead County program at: http://www.uaex.edu/counties/craighead/CCMG%20Projects%20Outline%20202016b.pdf

Please be an active MG recruiter!

Happy New Year!!
December

Now-December 31 - Hot Springs - Brushwood Dance: An Art Installation by W. Gary Smith - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Smith is a nationally known landscape architect and artist who employs a very collaborative design process to create site-specific art installations crafted from materials harvested from the site - 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. - 800-366-4664 for more information.

Now - Dec 31 - Hot Springs - Holiday Lights - Garvan Woodland Gardens - See 4.5 million brilliant bulbs transform approximately 17 acres into a memorable animated holiday display in one of Arkansas’ most anticipated events - complimentary hot chocolate. The Chipmunk Café will be open from 3-9 p.m. each day during Holiday Lights. 5-9 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). Members free, $15 adults, $5 ages 6 to 12, free ages 0 to 5. Golf cart tour $15 per person additional. No reservations. For more information call 501-262-9300.

January

13 - 14 - Fayetteville - 36 Annual Horticulture Industries Show - Chancellor Hotel - Building healthy economies with local and regional food systems will headline the topics presented - this year’s theme is “Local Foods, Farms, Gardens and Success.” - HIS has continually provided growers and the public with the latest information on vegetable and fruit production, Christmas trees, farmers market crops, Master Gardeners Volunteer programming and public gardening issues - open to the public - Full conference schedule and registration information is found at www.hortindustriesshow.org/2017-show

14 and weekly on Saturdays in January - Memphis - Dixon Gallery and Gardens - Woodland Garden Tours - Tours begin every 30 minutes starting at 10:00am.

21, 28 & Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 - CCMG New Members Class - Jonesboro Extension Office - The program includes so far:

George Selden, Extension Specialist II, will discuss water gardens, rain gardens and hydroponics on January 21 at 10:15 a.m. immediately following the break.
Dr. Sherry Smith from the disease lab in Fayetteville will be here on January 28 at 8:30 a.m. discussing diseases.
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Other topics will be finalized after the first of the year. Members are invited to attend sessions that may be of interest to them but remember space is limited.

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
"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."
Hal Borland

"It is deep January. The sky is hard. The stalks are firmly rooted in ice."
Wallace Stevens, *No Possum, No Sop, No Taters*

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