Next Meeting will be February 6th
Social - 6:00 pm & Meeting/Program - 6:30 pm.
Program: Wildflowers by Dr. Michael Duggan

Minutes of January meeting will be read at the meeting.

2013 Project Chairs recognized at January Meeting.
Top Row: Ralph Seay, Margaret Williams, Edward Pruitt, Billy Woodruff, and Jessie Olsen. Bottom Row: Lesia Pittman, Melinda Smith and Susan Westbrook

Photo by Diane Sandberg

Last Chance to Pay Dues

The February 6th meeting will be your last chance to pay your dues if you want to continue your membership. Dues are now $15.00 for those who did not pay by the January 2nd meeting. If you are unable to attend the February meeting you can mail your dues to Mike Thompson at 1517 S. Madison, Jonesboro AR 72401.

February Birthdays

7th - Brenda Lane
15th - Mary Hosinski
18th - Judy Strange
20th - Percy Stephen
20th - Paul Schneider
Jane Jameson Presents January Program on the MG Alaskan Trip
From the President
Peggy Lane

Burpees has sent us a box of left-over seed from the 2013 growing season. Melinda Smith has picked out those seeds her students will plant at the school, and the remainder will be at our Feb. meeting for you to look at. There are all kinds of vegetables (except tomato) and a few flower seeds. We ask that you take as many as you want with the intention of growing the majority for our plant sale in April. Keep in mind that these are year-old seeds and the germination may not be top-notch.

There was no winner in the Invasive Plant Identification contest last month. The correct names of those plants will be shown on the poster at this month's meeting, and more invasive plants will be pictured in upcoming newsletters.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!!!

Winter Kill
by
Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

With colder than normal temperatures in Arkansas this winter, we are anticipating that some of our turf grasses around the state may suffer from winterkill. Predicting winterkill is hard because turf can suffer low temperature injury in a variety of ways. The three most common ways that turf grasses sustain low temperature injury are:
1. Sustained low temperatures
2. Low temperature spikes
3. Unseasonably warm temperatures followed by freezing temperatures

Sustained low temperatures.
Recently we fell in this category when unseasonably cold temperatures hit and stayed put for several days. Lows during this time were 10-15 degrees below normal. During this period temperatures in Little Rock fell below 10 °F, which is a temperature at which many St. Augustine grass cultivars succumb to winter injury. In northern Arkansas, temperatures fell to near 0 °F in some areas which could mean trouble for some Bermuda grasses.

Low temperature spikes.
In many cases turf grasses can survive one or two nights of very cold temperatures because soil temperatures do not change rapidly. Some turf grass species such as Zoysia grass and Bermuda grass have underground stems (rhizomes) which are insulated from the air temperatures and may allow them to withstand sudden drops in air temperatures. Other grasses like St. Augustine grass only have above ground stems (stolons) and are not immune from low temperature spikes.

Unseasonably warm temperatures followed by freezing temperatures.
Warm-season grasses such as Bermuda grass enter winter dormancy in late October or November and stay in this winter dormancy until March or April. If their winter dormancy is interrupted by unseasonably warm temperatures in November-December or in February-March and is then followed by freezing temperatures, winter injury will usually result. Some grasses such as Centipede grass is especially susceptible to this type of injury and that is why it is only recommended for use in southern and central Arkansas.

Areas with greater possibility of winterkill:
1. North facing slopes
2. Heavily shaded areas
3. Poorly drained areas
4. Areas planted with poorly adapted cultivars
5. Heavy traffic areas
6. Areas with deficient levels of soil potassium (K)
Master Gardener Classes Started

Classes began Saturday, January 18 for new Master Gardener students from Craighead, Greene & Mississippi counties and will continue each Saturday through February 15 at the Extension Office. On February 22, the new MGs from Craighead County will meet with their mentors, the officers and project chairs for a welcome lunch and county orientation.

Current MGs can earn up to 10 Learning Hours by attending classes. Class schedule is listed below. If you plan to attend you need to call the Extension Office and use the chairs around the walls. If you are late please use the back door.

![Photo of a class in progress]

Photos by Diane Sandberg

2014 Master Gardener Class being taught by Branon Thiesse.

### MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE

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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOPIC</strong></td>
<td><strong>SPEAKER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Botany</td>
<td>Travis Marsico</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pesticide Formulations</td>
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<td>Insects</td>
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<td>Roses</td>
<td>Tom Frank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil Sampling</td>
<td>Branon Thiesse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Composting</td>
<td>Dave Freeze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Landscape Design</td>
<td>Bob Byers</td>
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<td>Designing With Color</td>
<td>Bob Byers</td>
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### MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>Craig Anderson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Craig Anderson</td>
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<td>Water Gardening and Ponds</td>
<td>George Selden</td>
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<td>Diseases</td>
<td>Sherrie Smith</td>
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<td>Plant Propagation</td>
<td>Kayla Gramling</td>
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### MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>Herbs</td>
<td>Pam Towery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawns</td>
<td>Jason Osborne</td>
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<td>Soil Fertility</td>
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<td>Shade Gardening</td>
<td>Janet Carson</td>
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### MASTER GARDENER SCHEDULE

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<td><strong>BUTTERFLY GARDENING</strong></td>
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<td>Butterfly Gardening</td>
<td>Cheryl Laver</td>
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<td>Annuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perennials</td>
<td>Kim Pitcock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollinators</td>
<td>Steve Culp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Health & Wellness Magnet School**

**Children’s Garden**

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**Fundraiser for Children’s Garden**

Melinda Smith is asking for volunteers to sew a couple of these type of aprons. The Upcycled Jean Apron Fundraiser Project for the Children's Learning Gardens is trying to build a nice stock of these to sell at their student plant sale and Spring farmers market. If interested contact Melinda at melinda.smith@jonesboroschools.net.

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**Volunteers Needed**

If anyone is interested work hours between 7:30-4:00 please let Melinda Smith know. Volunteers are needed in the greenhouse to work with 2-3 students at a time starting seeds in flats in preparation of our school plant sale. If interested contact Melinda at melinda.smith@jonesboroschools.net.

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**FFA CDE Needs Volunteers**

Ralph Seay is asking for volunteers for the Future Farmers of America Career Development Events to be held Tuesday, March 4th at the A-State Convocation Center. The time has not been announced yet, but we usually get there by 8:00 a.m. to get set up and the CDE begins at 8:30 a.m. We are usually finished by 12:30 p.m. The specific Floriculture events that Master Gardeners help with have not been determined, but will likely be similar to previous years.

We will need 25-30 Master Gardeners to make our part of the FFA CDE successful. Please sign-up at the February meeting or send Ralph an email arkyhick@gmail.com if you can help. If there is a particular area in which you would like to work or have specific expertise, please note it.

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Photos by Betty Nichols taken at the Bonnet House Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, FL
Bacon-Almond Cheese Dip

From Brenda Gray

4 cups finely grated sharp cheddar cheese
2 pkg. real bacon bits
2 pkg. slivered almonds toasted
Green onion (Tops only chopped)

Hellman’s mayo to moisten
Serve with crackers

Invasive Plant Contest

We are beginning a monthly contest to see how many invasive plants you can identify. You can either use the common name or the scientific name but you must correctly identify all the shown plants to receive a prize.

Please send your guesses to dsandberg@suddenlink.net.

At the January meeting no one was able to identify all six of the plants. They were Obedient Plant, Carolina Jasmine, Creeping Jenny, Large Leaf Vinca and Bishop Weed.

Plant 1

Plant 2

Plant 3

Plant 4
Terri Dunn Chase’s *How to Eradicate Invasive Plants* took me completely by surprise. The concept of trying to prevent plants from growing in my garden is completely alien to my way of thinking. I’ve always struggled to coax something, anything to thrive in my yard, containers, garden, etc. Apparently I’m not quite ready for Master Gardener status.

My favorite section of the book is undoubtedly how to identify the plants you don’t want anywhere near your property. I can tell you from personal experience that a few sprigs of innocent looking green stuff can cause quite a bit of excitement! My farmer-husband arrived home this past summer and was alarmed to see what I had dug up near the wood pile and was quiet proudly fostering up against the house. I still don’t know exactly what it was, but the offending species met a dreadful death at the hands of that farmer!

Offering "safe and responsible ways" to use chemicals, this volume examines unique ideas of how to handle kudzu, ragweed, Himalayan blackberry and other plants that would give you nightmares. The book also discusses how these plants are as detrimental to wildlife as to the beauty of your lawn.

Author Chase knows her stuff and succeeds in explaining complicated environmental topics in a way that even those of us with the least of green thumbs can grasp.

This volume and many other great resources are waiting to be checked out at your Public Library.
Standing Committee Chairs

Projects
Jane Jamison

Programs
Brenda Lane

Membership & Retention
Lana Keys

Historian
Ann Dent

Social
Debbie Tate - Chair
Amanda Hurdle - Co-Chair

Parliamentarian
Mimi Cox

Executive Committee
The Officers

Newsletter Editor
Diane Sandberg

Reminders

Renee Shepherd, owner of Reneesgarden.com (Renee’s Garden Seeds), has made an offer for HWES Elementary School. Go to her website, order seed, and use code FR821C and she will donate 50% of the price of the seed you order to the Garden Program.

Upcoming Events

February

1st - 28th Hot Springs - “Fabulous Fibers” Art Exhibit - Garvan Gardens - Darlene Garstecki, award-winning artist from Hot Springs Village. Her fiber art combines her passions for nature, travel and photography. She incorporates her photographs into realistic fiber art. For more information, call 501-262-9000 or visit garvanguardens.org.

5th - Hot Springs - Edible Valentines - Children’s Program - Garvan Woodland Gardens - For children ages 3-12 who are accompanied by an adult. For more information, visit garvanguardens.org or call 501-262-9300 to register.

8th - Pine Bluff - 26th Annual Home and Garden Seminar & Show - Pine Bluff Convention Center - Shop for plants, herbs, crafts and other items and listen to distinguished speakers on various horticultural topics. How-to sessions will be held throughout the day. There will be door prizes, a kids’ corner and youth activities as well. Free. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call 870-534-1033 or visit uaex.edujefferson.

10th - Hot Springs - Garvan Gardens
9:30 - 11:00 - Gardening by the Moon: When to Plant, Prune and Harvest - Associate Executive Director Bob Byers will discuss the theory behind the calendar and how the phases of the moon can help you create a productive garden.
11:00 - 11:30 - Spa City Co-Op: Fresh Produce From Local Growers Is As Easy As 1,2,3! - Market Manager Karen Holcomb will tell you how this “online farmers’ market” works and the benefits of buying from your local farmers. With orders placed every two weeks and pick up downtown, this is convenient for all families of the Spa City.
Both programs are free for members and $10 for nonmembers. Preregistration required. For more information, visit garvanguardens.org or call 501-262-9300 to register.

14-16 - Little Rock - Wildwood’s LANTERNS! Festival - Wildwood Park for the Arts - Celebration of the first full moon of the lunar year with a profusion of lanterns, entertainment, gourmet treats and warm beverages. Lighted walking paths and fire pits along the lake take visitors into winter woodlands to discover vistas representing a variety of eras, cultures and geographical locations. $10, adults; $5, ages 6-12; free, ages 5 and under. Visit wildwoodpark.org or call 501-821-7275 for more information.

Feb. 15 - Mar. 15 - Hot Springs - Daffodil Days - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Approximately 200,000 daffodils, in various shades of yellow and white, are scattered throughout the gardens. Open daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. $10, adults; $5, ages 6-12; free ages 5 and under. For more information, visit garvanguardens.org or call 501-262-9300

18th - Hot Springs - Reading Your Soil Test Results: Basics of Soil Science - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Join Bob Byers for a closer look at the information soil tests provide and learn how they tell you about the basic characteristics of your soil. 9-11:30 a.m. Preregistration required. Visit garvanguardens.org for more information, or call 501-262-9000 to register.

21st - 23th - Little Rock - 23rd Annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show - The Statehouse Convention Center - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. $8, adults; $6, seniors; free for children 16 and under. Three-day pass $12. For more information, call 501-821-4000 or visit argarden-show.org.

Feb. 28th - Mar. 2 - Fayetteville - Orchid Society Show and Sale - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Hosted by The Orchid Society of NWA, the show includes judged exhibits in beautiful displays and a wide variety of orchids for sale. Members offer classes on orchids over the weekend. Proceeds benefit the Society and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. $10 for reception; $5 for show and sale. For times and more information, call 479-750-2620 or visit bgozarks.org.

March


7th - 8 - Camden - 21st Camden Daffodil Festival - Downtown Camden - For more information, call 870-836-0023 or visit camdendaffodilfestival.com.

8th - Washington - Gardening Basics for the Spring Workshop - Historic Washington State Park - For more information, visit historicwashingtonstatepark.com, or call 870-983-2684 to register.

For list of Arkansas shows, meetings, etc. statebystategardening.com/ar/calendar/
For information on Memphis events see www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/events.htm
For Master Gardener events list see www.arhomeandgarden.org
Garden Quotes

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."
by Luther Burbank

"O my Luve's like a red, red rose, That's newly sprung in June"
by Robert Burns

Fun and Useful Links

Arkansas Gardener Magazine Articles
http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/News/Arkansas_gardener/default.htm

Arkansas Master Gardener Program
http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/master_gardener.htm

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

Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson

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.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/upcoming_events.htm

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

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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 Service and Craighead County officials to provide beautification projects and horticultural information to the residents of the county. In 2013 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 6398.25 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.

Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

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