Minutes of February Meeting
By Jan Dupwe

The February meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order by President Peggy Lane on February 6, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Brenda Lane introduced our program: Dr. Michael Dougan on “The Heirloom Heritage”.

SECRETARY REPORT: Minutes were presented by secretary, Jan Dupwe and approved as read.

TREASURER’S REPORT: A consolidated report was given by Mike Thompson. Membership was reminded about dues required.

PROJECTS REPORT: President Peggy Lane presented Jane Jamison as new Project Chairman. Reports were given:

NE Arkansas FFA, CDE: Ralph Seay, Project Chair, announced the date of the project as March 4th. There will be a need for 25-30 members to handle all assigned events. Betty Nichols will be getting flowers for judging. Will need 3-5 members to set up on Monday. Team leaders are asked to wear their team leader color so students can easily identify their projects group.

2014 PROJECTS: Project chairs were presented and sign up sheets were displayed for membership to sign. All members must sign for at least one sanctioned project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: New updated MG notebook replacements were available for membership.

February Birthdays:
5th Terri Reno
7th Brenda Lane
15th Mary Hosinski
16th Val Price
18th Judy Strange
20th Paul Schneider

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM
FFA CDE Needs More Volunteers

Ralph Seay thanks everyone who volunteered at the February MG meeting to work at the Future Farmers of America Career Development Events to be held Tuesday, March 4th at the A-State Convocation Center. He has 24 volunteers, but really needs at least five more folks to help.

There will be three additional event “stations” this year, thus the need for more helpers. Although some from the new MG class will probably volunteer he will probably need more!

If you can help and have not yet volunteered to work please email Ralph at arkyhick@gmail.com or call him at 275-7213.

**Note to Volunteers:** You will need to arrive at the Convocation Center Yellow entrance by 8:30 a.m. to become familiar with your event station and receive final directions from Dr. Pittcock. We should be finished by 12:30 p.m. Ralph will send an email to known volunteers as soon as he is able to make job assignments. If you have a preference of where you would like to work, let him know and he will try to comply with your wishes.

Burpee Seed Company sent a box of left-over seed from the 2013 growing season. There are all kinds of vegetables and a few flower seeds. Melinda Smith picked out those seeds her students will plant at the school and the remainder were at our February meeting. MGs were asked to take as many as wanted with the intention of growing the majority for our plant sale in April.

Happy St. Patricks Day
Dr. Michael Dougan Presents February Program on Heirloom Heritage
Assessing Winter Damage

by

Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

From the President
Peggy Lane

The new Master Gardener Class for 2014 is completed, and we welcome those new members to the fold. We’re so glad to have you and hope your experience as a MG will be a happy and fulfilling one.

While we’re on the subject, I wanted to tell you about a new project, which is not a project at all, but an idea that came about recently. In the past, we have had people who would like to attend the new MG classes but felt the cost was prohibitive due to unforeseen family circumstances. At last month’s board meeting, it was decided to set up a fund that will be used for this purpose only. Donations can be made to the account to honor someone or as a memorial and a card will be sent to that person or family. When the need to use this fund arises, the person applying for it will be discreetly interviewed by a panel before the decision is made.

The fund will have a cap of approx. $300 and will be added to the responsibilities of the treasurer. After much discussion, the unanimous decision was made to call this account our "SEEDING FUND" (as in "planting seeds of new gardeners). We hope you will remember this fund and support it as you have the opportunity.

Hopefully we can put the cold weather behind us and look forward to Spring. The long duration of extremely cold temperatures over the past two months has caused some concern over how well our outdoor plants have endured this onslaught.

Many plants look brown and have the appearance that they may be dead. Be patient about removing a plant. It is ok to remove split branches/stems broken by the ice, but resist the urge to do any heavy pruning until a little later, just in case more severe cold returns.

We can determine the amount of damage by scratching the stems and looking for green tissue. This is an indication that the plant is still alive. This might occur in the middle of the limb requiring pruning back to this point. Some plants may need to be cut back severely, while others not so much. I have two gardenia bushes that are not very hardy. I will scratch their bark and prune back as far as I need to locate live tissue. Hopefully I will find some.

It is ok to go ahead and prune out the tree limbs that are broken. These may tend to blow in the wind if we have some strong winds and may cause further damage to the tree. These "hangars" could also cause damage to your house or car if they are near. Make sure you make good clean cuts near the trunk so the healing process will be successful.
Health & Wellness Magnet School
Children’s Garden

Student Fairy Gardens

The children's greenhouse is hopping as they are getting ready for their Spring Plant Sale on E- Friday April 18th. They have seeds spouting including Rose Moss, a variety of herbs, marigolds and veggie starters! Finally the temperature is getting warmer so they are beginning to prepare for our spring planting by cleaning out the raised beds!

Reminder to Sign Up for Projects

Jane Jamison, Project Chair, would like to remind you that, if you haven't yet signed up for a project(s), you can email her at janemjamison@gmail.com. You can check the new list of projects to see what you would like to volunteer for if you have not already done so. She will have the new lists of projects and who signed up for them at the March meeting.
Invasive Plant Contest

Below are the March invasive plants for you to identify. You can either use the common name or the scientific name but you must correctly identify all the plants to receive a prize. Please send your guesses to dsandberg@suddenlink.net.

No one was able to identify all of the plants shown in the January issue. The answers are below.

Plant 1: Sweet Autumn Clematis
Plant 2: Devil’s Walking Stick (Aralia Spinosa)
Plant 3: Kudzu (Pueraria Montana)
Plant 4: Trumpet Creeper (Campsis Radicans)
It's coming!!
The snow and ice are stunningly beautiful, but I long to be outside digging in the dirt. Soon we will be out there again. Until then, why not check out some resources from your public library and peacefully daydream about the magical plantings you will create in just a few months?

American Home Landscapes a Design Guide to Creating Period Garden Styles by Denise Wiles Adams, is a worthy of your viewing. I absolutely laughed aloud when I read, "designing an appropriate landscape for a period home can be a challenge." I totally agree, but I must confess, my plantings have basically been selected as to what I thought might possibly survive my lack of expertise. Inside this nifty book you will discover, "helpful suggestions on how to analyze and design the site to specific historical examples." This book is way out of my league, but was certainly written with a Master Gardener in mind! There is some really dry text in the book, but based on all the hoopla I saw during the Super Bowl half-time show, perhaps "dry" is a really good thing. The photography of lovely architecture sprinkled throughout this book makes it worth taking home.

Debra Lee Baldwin's Succulents Simplified (no, I did not make up that name) is a spectacular visual treat. The book has everything you ever needed to know about "growing designing, and crafting with 100 easy-care varieties." I had never considered crafting with plants, but then succulents do have lovely geometric shapes and come in every color. Since I'm always in a hurry, the "quick design tips" totally hooked me. The book claims, "whether you're a novice or veteran, have an acre to fill, or a few pots, let the popular author demystify these low water beauties." The book has some of the most exquisite photography of any book I've seen, and since it lists succulents from "bizarre to beautiful" there's literally something for everyone in this book.

The year's at the spring,
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hill-side's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his Heaven-
All's right with the world!

by Robert Browning

The Year's At The Spring

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Coconut Rum Cake
from Pat Harlan, Class of 2014

1 box DH Butter Golden cake mix
Small box coconut instant pie/pudding mix
4 eggs
1/2 cup Wesson Oil
1/2 cup light rum (I use Malibu Caribbean Rum with coconut liqueur)
1/2 cup water

Combine all ingredients in large bowl.
Grease and flour Bundt pan.
Sprinkle 1/2 to 3/4 cups chopped pecans in bottom of pan.
Pour batter over nuts.
Bake 55-60 minutes in preheated 350 degree oven, checking often, until done.

Glaze

Melt 1 stick of butter in saucepan. Add:
1 cup sugar
1/4 cup rum (or up to 1/2 cup if desired)
1/4 cup water

Bring all ingredients to a boil (don’t boil longer than 1/2 to 1 minute)
Pour hot glaze over hot cake
Let set in pan for 1 hour so rum can soak to top.
Turn out onto serving plate.

Keeps well covered in refrigerator.
February

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 Soci-  
ey 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

1st - 31st - Bigelow - 35th Annual Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival - Wye United Methodist Church  
Call 501-330-2403 for more information.

4th - NE Arkansas FFA, CDE - Convocation Center - For more information contact Ralph Seay at  
arkyhick@gmail.com or call him at 275-7213.

7th - 8 - Camden - 2st 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.

8th - El Dorado - Union County Master Gardeners Dirt Friends Festival - College Ave. Church of Christ  
Family Life Center, 1817 N. College El Dorado, AR. Featured speakers will be G. Michael Shoup of Antique  
Rose Emporium in Brenham,TX & Janet Carson - 9:30am - noon - $10 per person - register by contacting  
Charlotte Abbott, 205 Meadow Hills Dr. El Dorado, AR 71730 or email eldoabbst@yahoo.com or 870-862-  
1099

14th-16th - Washington - 46th Annual Jonquil Festival - Historic Washington State Park  
Thousands of jonquils welcome craftspeople, entertainers and visitors along with unique crafts and  
delicious food - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday & Saturday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday - for more information, visit  
historicwashingtonstatepark.com or call 870-983-2684.

15th -April 19 - Hot Springs -Tulip Extravaganza - Garvan Woodlands Garden - tens of thousands of  
fragrant hyacinths and daffodils and over 130,000 tulips - for more information, call 501-262-9300 or visit  
www.garvangardens.org

17th -19th - Mountain View - Herbs Hands On! - Ozark Folk School - taught by Susan Belsinger, culinary  
herbalist and author - three-day herbal intensive workshop - $375; $60 due at registration - fee includes  
materials, art supplies and a hardcover journal - registration deadline: March 1. For more information, call  
870-269-3851 or visit ozarkfolkcenter.com.

19th - Hot Springs - Spring and Summer Annuals Workshop - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Join U of A  
agent Janet Carson & Garden Associate Executive Director Bob Byers to learn what it takes to have that  
summer garden you’ve always wanted - advance registration & prepayment required - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
$35, members; $45, nonmembers. For information, visit garvangardens.org, or call 501-262-9300.

21st - 23rd - Fort Smith - Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Flower Show - Fort Smith Convention Center  
“Here We Grow Again” is the theme of this year’s show featuring professionally designed interpretive gar-  
dens, vendors, seminars, mini-demos, flower show, education booths and exhibits, large supply of plants  
and more. $5 per person - for more information, call 479-285-0148 or visit fslawngardenshow.com.

26th - 30th - Little Rock - National Daffodil Convention & Daffodil Show - Doubletree Hotel  
The Arkansas Daffodil Society will host the National Daffodil Convention &nd Daffodil Show, featuring sev-  
eral distinguished speakers, including Ian Tyler, Keith Krider and Brent Heath. There will be seminars,  
tours, photography show and more. Email Lianne@arkansasdaffodilsoociety.org or RoseJ673@aol.com, or  
visit arkansasdaffodilsoociety.org for more information.

27th - Little Rock - Your Urban Garden - State Cooperative Extension Building Auditorium - $15 per per-  
son. Must register by March 19th. For more information please contact: Kathy Ratcliffe,  
kathy.ratcliffe@att.net, 501-912-0989.

Reminders

Renee Shepherd, owner of Reneesgarden.com (Renee’s Gar-  
den 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.
"But each spring...a gardening instinct, sure as the sap rising in the trees, stirs within us. We look about and decide to tame another little bit of ground." -- Lewis Gant

Spring makes its own statement, so loud and clear that the gardener seems to be only one of the instruments, not the composer. " - Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

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**Fun and Useful Links**

Arkansas Gardener Magazine Articles  
[http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/News/Arkansas_gardener/default.htm](http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/News/Arkansas_gardener/default.htm)

Arkansas Master Gardener Program  
[http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/master_gardener.htm](http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/master_gardener.htm)

CCMG Facebook Page  

Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson  

HWES School Gardens Facebook Page  
[https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens](https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens)

Janet Carson's Blog - In the Garden  
[http://uofacesmg.wordpress.com/](http://uofacesmg.wordpress.com/)

Jim Long's Blog  

Public Horticulture Events  
[http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/upcoming_events.htm](http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/upcoming_events.htm)

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension  
[http://www.uaex.edu/](http://www.uaex.edu/)

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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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**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/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/)".

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