I have to admit that March is one of my favorite months. So many good things happen in March. Spring begins, along with Daylight Savings Time. We usually see our first Daffodils, Robins are everywhere and even new Master Gardeners are springing forth full of energy and enthusiasm. This will be happening at our March meeting. We will be welcoming 18 new members. Try hard to be there to meet them and make them feel a part of our group.

Our next event is coming soon. We will be working the FFA-CDE event at ASU on March 8. Stan Bachman is leading it this year. If you haven’t signed up to work, get in touch with him. I also encourage all of the new members to participate. Not only is this an opportunity to work closely with seasoned Master Gardeners, but is a great opportunity to learn more about our over-all program. Later in the month, we will begin our work in the Greenhouse. This is fun and our first real opportunity to get our hands dirty. Check to see if work has begun in your “Garden Choice” yet. Some have.

So, we need to hit the ground running. You can probably find as much work as you would like to do. Remember, too, our goal for 2017 is 10,000 working hours. Now is the time to get started on that.

Thank you for letting me be your President.
Logging of Volunteer Hours
By Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair

I have been anonymously asked to comment on the importance of recording your volunteer hours in the online system. The first reason is that the people in Arkansas need to know just how much work the Master Gardeners do as far as community service projects. We have 13 such projects in Craighead County. Our group spent almost 10,000 hours working on these projects which translates to nearly $230,700. However, this number only became available in December, so it was late for the specialists to use it.
Second, program support is based on participation and impact. If numbers run low or has little impact, the program could be eliminated.
Third, when the Extension Service goes to the Legislature asking for additional funding, your numbers are available for the State Specialists to use showing the value of your volunteer hours along with the Family and Consumer Science and Agriculture programs. Increases in funding helps the extension Service provide and maintain programs that otherwise would be cut or lost due to funding reductions.
If you don’t feel comfortable logging your hours, we have people available to log them in for you. It doesn’t get much easier than that. Remember, these numbers are used when Extension seeks funding increases.

WELCOME NEW CLASS

This month we welcome the new members of the Craighead County Master Gardener Class of 2017!

Their names are:
Tricia Brashears, Bob Brashears, Jerry Burson, Kate Burson, Martha Edmundson, Judy Gwinn, John Hansen, Monica Hansen, Joseph House, Toni Inboden, Barbara Johnson, Edie Lancaster, Spenser Lancaster, Karen Lynch, Karen Pearce, Sandy Puryear, Dr. Joe Stain- ton, Breana Watkins.

We are honored to have all 18 of you as members and will strive to make you a welcome part of our organization. Be prepared for fun, fellowship, new friends, and of course, FLOWERS!!

Peggy Lane R-R-R
WHO ARE MENTORS?

They are people who love the Master Gardener organization! They are leaders, encouragers, up-lifters, friendly, enthusiastic people with a positive attitude with a desire to help others! No "sad-sacks" allowed! They make gardening fun! They want people to do more, serve more, share more, and most importantly, enjoy life more! Our mentors are a very special part of our organization and are very much appreciated!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING A VOLUNTEERS HEART!

Our 2017 Mentors

| Paula Smith | Barbara Pitcock |
| Vicky Mullalley | Donna Bandy |
| Ditty Mitts | Ella Ellingson |
| Stephanie Neeley | Cindy Morris |
| Bruce Schelin | Charlotte Hemphill |
| Sharron Schelin | Brenda Gray |
| Peggy Lane | Mike Wilbanks |
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The February 2, 2017 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Ann Ferguson.

**Program** – Karen Massey presented a slide show of the CCMG sanctioned projects and asked each chairman to make a few remarks concerning the work to be done on each:

**Garden Projects:**
*The Forrest L. Wood Nature Center Butterfly Garden will be redone due to overcrowding and the need to improve the general appearance. Members will work on Wednesday mornings this year. Barb Evans and Pat Finch will co-chair this project.*
*The Nature Center Native Plant Garden workers will meet on Tuesday mornings and Ann Ross will continue as chairman. This is a large garden and many workers are needed.*
*The ASU Display Garden and The Farmer’s Market entry are chaired by Susan Westbrook. She noted that the many plants used in the display garden come from the ASU greenhouse. Members will meet and work on Thursday mornings.*
*The HWES Magnet School Children’s Learning Garden is chaired by Melinda Smith. They are in need of help now with planting seeds.*

**Specialty projects** are:
*NEA FFA-CDE chairman, Stan Bachman said he thinks he has enough workers for the March 8, 2017 event and said that past workers were greatly appreciated and complimented for their efforts.*
*Annual Plant Sale chairman, Jason Mullins reminded everyone to be getting plants potted now so they will be a nice size for the sale April 29. This year those who have signed to work the sale will each be given specific descriptions of their duties. Also, this year there will be several educational sessions, one of which will be for kids.*
*Sunset Gardens plants for residents chairman is Margaret Williams. That event will be the Saturday before Mothers’ Day.*
*ASU Greenhouse chairman is LaVeta Howerton.*
*NEA District Fair chairman, Mike Wilbanks said the status of the fair for 2017 has not been determined.*
*The On the Deck project at the Farmers’ Market will run from the 4th Saturday in May through the 4th Saturday in October. Jan Dupwe is Chairman.*

**Minutes** – the minutes of the January meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Stephanie Neely gave the treasury report which was approved as presented.

**Getting to Know You** – in an effort to become better acquainted with our members, Peggy Lane introduced 3 long-time members and asked each to state 3 facts about themselves, one of which would be a lie. Mary Jones, Cindy Morris, and Carolyn Imboden each told some very interesting statements about their younger days, and the lies were not easily discerned. We have a colorful group of members.

**Old Business** – Donna Tolewitzke asked members to send any photos of Jonquils to her for use in the newsletter rather than depending on clipart.

**New Business** – A “Countdown to Spring” seminar is scheduled for February 21 at Southwest Church of Christ, Better Life Center Gym. Scheduled speakers are Janet Carson speaking on “Foolproof Plants for the Garden,” Dr. Lelia Kelly will talk on “Plants from Grandma’s Garden,” and Luci Murray and Maleigha Cook’s topic will be “Creating Art for the Garden from Recycled Materials” and “Making Birdfeeders.” Cost is $20 which includes lunch, snacks, and drinks. Members with a February birthday were each given a beautiful cyclamen plant.
Snap-shots of our New Class

Photos Courtesy of Donna Tolewitzke
Service Awards

5 and 10 year Awards
Carrie Ray—5 years
Donna Bandy—5 years
Jason Mullins—5 years
Brenda Gray—10 years

Congratulations!

Lifetime Membership Award
Carolyn Imboden
Meet Our 2017 Committee Chairs

Mimi Cox– Parliamentarian
Class of 1996– the FIRST CCMG Class!

Favorite Flower or Plant:  My Grandmother’s Sweetheart Rose
Favorite Season:  Summer which is tied with Spring
Favorite Drink(s):  COFFEE and water

Peggy Lane-  RRR
Class of 2006

Favorite Flower or Plant:  Blue Larkspur, Hellebore or Lenten Rose (because it blooms so early)
Favorite Season:  All seasons when the temps are between 70-80 degrees are my favorite
Favorite Drink: French Vanilla Cappuccino

Sharron Schelin– Historian
Class of 2005

Favorite Flower or Plant:  Any plant that grows & adds interest to my yard or greenhouse
Favorite Season:  Love all Seasons
Favorite Drink:  Water. Water may become unaffordable for a third of American households within the next 5 yrs. It is a priceless resource.

Bruce Schelin– Historian
Class of 2014
Karen Massey - Projects
Class of 2015
Favorite Flower or Plant: Like my children, I do not have a favorite plant or flower, love them all!
Favorite Season: Spring
Favorite Drink: Sweet Tea and Tuxedo coffee from Shadrack’s.

Debbie Tate - Social
Class of 2010

Laura Bettis - Programs
Class of 2016
Favorite Flower or Plant: Daffodil
Favorite Season: Fall
Favorite Drink: Water

Photos Courtesy of Susan Westbrook.
Taken at the ASU Display Garden 2017
Standing Committee Chairs

Projects
Karen Massey

Programs
Laura Bettis

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition
Peggy Lane

Historians
Sharron & Bruce Schelin

Social
Debbie Tate

Parliamentarian
Mimi Cox

Executive Committee
The Officers

Members-at-Large
Jan Dupwe
Mary Jones
Erlene Wise
Billy Woodruff

Newsletter Editor
Donna Tolewitzke

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.

FFA/CDE

I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered for the FFA/CDE on March 8. We are still in need of at least 5 more volunteers. Please email me at stan.bachman@yahoo.com or call 573-489-2192 if you can help out. I hope to get a few volunteers from the new class but the more the merrier. Ralph will be returning soon and I will sit down with him and work out assignments. The event starts at 9am but we will need to be there by 8:30am. This is a great way to get some hours for the new year. We enter the Convocation Center at the yellow entrance and should be finished by noon. Dr. Agnew will be providing pizza after the event. Thanks again for the help.

March Reminders

Large Plastic Pots: If you know of or have available any XXXL plastic pots (like the ones trees come in) please contact Susan Westbrook as the Display Garden is in need of a few for workdays.

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 50 cents in the jar.
Upcoming Events

February

22 - Fayetteville—Healthy Yard, Healthy Planet: Gardening for Sustainability—Botanical Garden of the Ozarks—Lissa Morrison, garden designer and manager at BGO, encourages and teaches how to landscape for biodiversity and sustainability. Learning how to incorporate native plants in a manicured setting is an important part of this picture. 6-7 p.m. Free admission. To reserve your spot, call 479-750-2620

24-26— Little Rock—Arkansas Flower and Garden Show—Statehouse Convention Center—The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is the largest three-day celebration of gardening in the state. The goal of the show is to cultivate interest in the Natural State through what is grown for beauty and sustenance. Visitors come to learn about gardening and shop for their homes and gardens. Hours: Friday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: $10-$15, children 12 and under free.

March

11— Washington— Gardening Basics for Spring at the Historic Washington State Park. There are many reasons to garden. Some garden for self-sufficiency, some for health reasons, and others simply want to beautify their yard. Join our gardener for a hands-on workshop about the basics of all types of gardening as we prepare for the warmer days of spring. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission: $25. Call 870-983-2684 for more information.

11—Mountain Home— 23rd Annual Spring Gardening Seminar: Developing an Ozark’s Green Thumb Master Gardeners of Baxter County. This seminar features gardening experts Janet Carson, Tina Wilcox, and others. Registration required. Admission: $25 Lunch will be provided. For more information, call 870-580-0276.

15—Fayetteville Vegetable Gardening Throughout the Year. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Explore a full year in the vegetable garden, namely how to extend and smoothly transition between each of the seasons. Topics include preparing for spring, selecting vegetable varieties, succession planting, organic methods, and winter gardening. 6-7 p.m. Free. To reserve your spot, call 4790-750-2620.

17-19— Fort Smith— Arkansas River Valley Lawn and Garden Show: Go Wild Gardening. Fort Smith Convention Center. Hosted by the Arkansas River Valley Master Gardeners and the UofA Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, the 24th annual ARV Lawn and Garden Show will feature outstanding seminars on gardening, landscaping, and other horticulture topics in a family friendly environment. Hours: Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: 12 & older $5/ 11 & under admitted free. For more information, visit fslawngardenshow.com or call 479-629-0250.

17-18 — Memphis— 13th ANNUAL Memphis Area Master Gardeners SPRING FLING GARDEN SHOW & PLANT SALE. 9-5pm. Big Red Barn at the Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Road Phone: 901-752-1207

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
The March birth flowers are the Daffodil

According to the Farmer’s Almanac:
The daffodil stands for unequaled love, so giving this flower to someone expresses quite a lot. With their bright yellow petals, daffodils seem the perfect way to say that the sun is always shining whenever your significant other is around.

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

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Logging Your Volunteer Hours

Master Gardeners can log their volunteer hours and learning hours on their PC, Tablets and Smartphones. Using your web browser and type in: www.uaex.edu

Click on the tab: Yard and Garden
Within the drop down box Click on: Master Gardener

You should now be viewing the Master Gardener page.
Look for Enter Volunteer Hours here (center of your page) and click on this link.

You will now be viewing the Sign-In/Login page.
(at this point, you can ‘bookmark’ this page to your web browser for ease of future access).

Enter your USERNAME (your last name with the first 2 letters of your first name, no spaces)  
Enter your PASSWORD.  
CLICK ON LOGIN.

Once you are Logged in; to the right of your page will be a list of links.  
Look for:  
REPORT HOURS
ENTER HOURS (Click on this)

You will now be viewing a page containing a table with several columns. This is the page where you will be entering your volunteer hours.

The FIRST column is where you report the day you worked.  
If you are reporting hours the same day you worked then you do not need to do anything.  If you worked on a different day click on the CALENDAR then click on the day you worked.

The SECOND column is where you report the project or activity you worked.  
-- Click on the down arrow to open the drop down menu and select the project in which you participated. If you have ANY question(s) on which project you should be selecting please feel free to contact Mimi Cox.

In the THIRD column is the HOURS that you worked. The amount of time worked does NOT include travel time.

FOURTH column is optional.

The FIFTH column is ACTION. BEFORE clicking the green UPDATE button check all the information that you have previously entered and make any needed corrections, then click on UPDATE. This is the step that officially has the system log your time.

FINALLY.. click on LOGOUT.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any problems or questions.  
Donna Tolewitzke- dttlewitzke@gmail.com OR 931-8197

Also, if you do not have access to a computer/tablet/smartphone and need your volunteer hours and learning hours recorded please fill out the form you have in your RED NOTE-BOOK with your information and bring to me at our monthly meetings.
Guidelines for Craighead County Master Gardeners
Plant Sale

ASU Regional Farmers' Market
April 29, 2017, 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Plants - MGs are asked to bring a minimum of 10 plants; while our new class members should bring a minimum of 5 plants each. Additional plant contributions are certainly welcome. Members are encouraged to propagate plants from their own gardens. However, they may purchase plants to resell. A four or six pack equals one plant. The public looks forward to our plant sale and we want to provide them with a good choice of quality plants.

Your plants should be labeled with the common name, botanical name, sun or shade requirements and any special care instructions. This information should be clearly written on the printed forms attached to the plant. The information cards should be covered with clear packing tape to prevent it from getting wet.

The Plant Sale committee will be pricing all of the plants on Friday so there is no need to price them...unless you have a special plant that you believe should be priced a certain amount.

A check-off sheet will be posted during the drop-off time. Make certain to sign the sheet in order to receive credit for your plant donations.

In the past, we have asked MGs not to bring liriope/monkey grass. The committee has decided that members can bring a maximum of 2 pots of liriope/monkey grass. You can bring more but only 2 will be counted toward your 10 plants. 2017 class members can bring 1 liriope/monkey grass.

*Drop-Off - Plants should be dropped off at the Farmer’s Market on Friday, April 28th, between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. If you are unable to drop off your plants at this time, please ask a fellow MG to bring your plants for you. If necessary you may drop them off on Thursday only at Lana Keys house, 1205 West Oak Street (off of Gee street, next to Hay’s.) For more info call 932-4937 or 253-1942.

*Time - The sale will begin Saturday at 7:00 am and continue until 3 pm. Workers should arrive at 6:45 am on Saturday morning to be in place for the opening of the sale. Master Gardeners will be allowed to purchase plants at noon at regular price. At the close of the sale a discount will be offered. ***For fairness to all, Master Gardeners are NOT allowed to set plants aside for later purchase.

*Workers - ***In an effort to minimize confusion, signup will be job specific. Please review the attached job descriptions prior to signing up. All workers will have to sign in to ensure all roles are filled. Hours will be credited for those working specific roles.*** All Master Gardeners must wear their nametag and MG shirt and/or apron the day of the sale. Workers designated as "Checkers" should bring a steno pad, pens and a handheld calculator. Workers may bring drinks and snacks.

*Other Items - Members are encouraged to bring garden art, garden magazines or other related items to be sold in a "yard sale" type atmosphere. Needed to use on sale day: Wagons and Boxes

Questions? Contact Jason Mullins (870) 974-2606 by email brojasonmullins@yahoo.com
or Vickey Mullally (870) 926-9571 by email vgmullally@gmail.com
Invasive Plant List

1. Purple Loosestrife
2. Poison Hemlock
3. Water Hyacinth
4. Giant Salvinia
5. Cogon Grass
6. Bamboo (running)
7. Japanese Honeysuckle
8. Teasel
9. Thistle
10. Chinese Tallow Tree
11. Mimosa
12. Kudzu
13. Asian Wisteria
14. Privet
15. Bradford Pear Tree
16. Tree of Heaven
17. Giant Reed Grass
18. Rose (non-native) multiflora
19. Tropical Soda Apple
20. Alligatorweed

Rationale: There is no all inclusive list of aggressive, invasive species. While some of these are plants that trained gardeners are well able to control, plant specimens from our sales do not always leave with those gardeners. This list of plants are those that under the right circumstances could pose a risk to homeowners, wildlife and our agricultural industry as well.