Weeder's Digest
Craighed County Master Gardeners

May 2016  Volume 11, Issue 5

Next Meeting will be May 5
Social - 6:00 pm - Meeting 6:30
Program: Melinda Smith and Students from the Health and Wellness Magnet School

From the President
Ann Ferguson

I am having so much fun in my garden now that the weather has turned spring-like. To walk through my beds and see small plants beginning to pop through the soil gives me a feeling that counteracts the trauma my body receives from the cleaning, hauling and weeding. I think every gardener experiences this. If they did not, the world would be a drab place because there would be no gardens. I visited a private garden recently that reflects many hours of hard work. I immediately realized that the owner sees it as a labor of love and is thrilled that her garden gives so much pleasure to others. Only a true gardener feels this way and only other gardeners understand.

I am so happy to be a Master Gardener. About twenty members attended the College of Agriculture and Technology Honors Banquet at Arkansas State last week. It is truly heartwarming when the work that you enjoy is recognized and honored by others. Our group received the Distinguished Service Award. This was one of the highest awards presented, and the vote to present it to our group was unanimous. We were given a very nice plaque that will be housed at the Extension Office for all to see. Go by and take a look. I hope that it is as meaningful to all members as it is to me.

Enjoy your gardens and I hope to see everyone at the Plant Sale.

May Birthdays

8 - Becky Phillips
10 - Pam Chafin
18 - Lisa Davis
18 - Debbi Hall
23 - Pat Shirley
24 - Susan Shelton
29 - Debbi Lamb
29 - Ann Ross
29 - Diane Sandberg

National Public Gardens Day
May 6
Controlling Ants

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

Before I get started, I would like to say how proud I am of our Master Gardener group for being honored by the College of Agriculture and Technology with the Distinguished Service Award for supporting scholarships for deserving horticulture students, work at the FFA contest and greenhouse, and care of the display garden on campus. CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!!!

Ants (particularly the black ones) in and around the home seems to be the hot topic this month. The spring and fall seems to be the time we see the most activity in and around the home, especially in the yard. Ants won't harm your lawn, but actually help by providing aeration to the soil. Still, some don't want them in their yard. I use a two step treatment that seems to work pretty well when the annual invasion begins.

Try to stay away from using liquid insecticides in my home if at all possible, so I use a combination of granular baits and bait stations.

Fipronil is a fairly new chemical that seems to work well in controlling ants. Amdro Fire Ant Bait has fipronil as its active ingredient. You apply the granules around the perimeter of your home. The material can be applied directly from the container so you don't have to use your hands or a spreader. Ants are drawn to the bait and they take it back to the colony where they die. It will need to be re-applied after rainfall occurs.

Inside the home I use bait stations containing the same ingredient to get rid of the pests. These stations are enclosed so they are safe to be around. There are a number of ant stations that can be used inside and work well.

Sprays can be used if a quick kill is necessary. Be sure to read the label on all products for safety concerns about pets and in areas such as kitchens, etc.

There are many other products that are recommended for ant control and can be found in the home section of the MP 144. The link on the Craighead County Extension Office webpage is http://www.uaex.edu/publications/mp-144.aspx.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office for assistance.
Minutes of the April Meeting
By Ethel Cole
Photos by Diane Sandberg

The April 7, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Ann Ferguson.

Program – The speaker for the meeting was our own CCMG, Jason Mullins. Jason brought a visual aide with him, Rupert, an angora rabbit. The story of how the very unique Fair Haven Farms came into being was the subject of his presentation. Rupert is only one of the more than 300 domestic and exotic animals that live with Jason and his wife on the farm. Most of the animals were rescued. The Mullins gladly share their menagerie with the public via birthday parties, Easter photos, a “Barnival”, and day camps for autistic children, which has therapeutic benefits for special needs children. Fair Haven Farms has become something of a tourist attraction and is considered part of the agri-tourism business. Jason plans to add “The Rusty Shovel Garden Center” in May. Keep up with this opening and the other activities at Fair Haven Farms on their Facebook page.

Minutes – The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the March newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Neely presented the treasurer’s report which was approved as read.

Old Business – Mimi explained the process for ordering T-shirts from Creative Concepts. Mimi also had numerous County 76 items for sale. The upcoming plant sale was discussed and everyone was reminded to review the guidelines for each member.

Project Reports – Each project chair reminded members of upcoming work needed. Ralph Seay thanked the 45 members who helped with the 92 students who participated in the FFA-CDE activity in March.

Announcements – The College of Agriculture and Technology Honors Banquet presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Craighead County Master Gardeners will be April 19 at 6:00 pm in Centennial Hall.

Master Gardener of the Month – A certificate of appreciation was presented by Stephanie Neely to Diane Sandberg. In addition to being our newsletter editor, she is working on a pictorial directory.

April Birthdays – Each member with an April birthday received a plant.

Meeting adjourned 7:39 pm
Important Reminders

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.

Dropping Off Plants for the Plant Sale: Plants should be dropped off at the Farmer’s Market on Friday, April 29th, 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. Or you may drop them off on Thursday or Friday morning only at Lana Keyes’ house, 1205 West Oak Street (off of Gee street, next to Hays) For more info call 932-4937 or 253-1942.

Dropping Off Plants for Sunset Gardens: The date is Saturday, May 7 at 8:45 am at 2510 Ecumenical Drive, near the corner of Browns Lane & Windover. This is one of our sanctioned projects and ALL Master Gardeners are expected to provide a potted plant for the residents of Sunset Gardens. This is the day before Mother’s Day, and many of the nurseries and stores have super bargains on plants and hanging baskets, if you want to purchase one. If you want to help deliver the plants on Saturday morning, bring your plant at 8:45 am. If you prefer, you may bring your plant to the meeting on May 5, and chair Margaret Williams will transport your plant on Saturday. If you have questions, please ask! Margaret’s email is mwilliam@astate.edu; her cell is 870-351-5322, home is 870-972-1037. Thank you! Mimi.

CCMGs Receive Award from ASU

CCMGs were presented the Distinguished Service Award for their volunteer service at the ASU Horticulture Display Garden, the ASU greenhouse project, the FFA Career Development Event and providing scholarships for deserving students in the Horticulture Program. We are honored!
Native Plant Garden
Photos by Betty Nichols

Save the Date!
Thursday, August 4 at 5 pm
CCMG 'Back From Summer' Event

A Show of Hands!
Fun, Food and Fellowship
More Information to Come!

Photo by Vickey Mullally of arrangement from her garden.
ASU Display Garden
Cleaning up the verbena and grass bed
Photos by Diane Sandberg
The 2016 CCMG Photo Directory will be distributed at the May meeting. Members will need to sign a roster before receiving a copy.
I really thought that I had seen it all. Nope. not even close. *Living Sculpture* by Paul Cooper is an amazing book! This volume showcases a new art form, using growing plant material to create extraordinary sculptural effects. The book explores techniques such as grafting, shaping, modelling in creating some true masterpieces. I would say look at pages 66, 126, and 143 of this book, but just take it home and look at it in its entirety. I think you will be impressed!

I am not a fan of television, but I do love that show about “Flipping Houses.” Now, “flipping gardens” would be even more fun! And that’s the premise to *Before and After Garden Make Overs* by Vicki Webster. The author selected 40 dismal gardens and photographed their inspiring transformations.

Got any old doorknobs, farm tools or window frames tucked away somewhere? One look at *Salvage Style for the Garden: Simple Outdoor Projects using Reclaimed Treasures* by Marcianne Miller, and you will know just what to do with these jewels! This volume advises you to “uncover the hidden potential in things that other people throw away.” Miller will make you believe, “It’s easy and affordable to transform architectural salvage into beautiful garden projects.”

Penny Swift’s *Build Your own Outdoor Structures in Brick* is as cozy and inviting as your Grandma’s front porch. I know I can’t create these terrific structures, but with the abundance of step-by-step instructions and numbered photographs, you’ve got a great chance at getting it right.

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**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!**

May 8th
Guidelines for Craighead County Master Gardeners
Plant Sale

ASU Regional Farmers' Market
April 30, 2016, 7:30 - 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 resale. 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. Labels are on the following page of this newsletter.

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/monkeygrass. You can bring more but only 2 will be counted toward your 10 plants. 2016 class members can bring 1 liriope/monkey grass.

*Drop-Off - Plants should be dropped off at the Farmer’s Market on Friday, April 29th, 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. Or you may drop them off on Thursday or Friday morning only at Lana Keyes’ 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 7:30 am and continue until 3 pm. Workers should arrive at 7:00 am on Saturday morning. Master Gardeners will be allowed to purchase plants after 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 before that time for later purchase.

*Workers - 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. There will be no food for sale.

*Needed to use on sale day: wagons and boxes. All MGs are welcome to work at the Plant Sale. Just come early! 75% of the buyers will come between 8 and 9:30.

*Other Items - Members are encouraged to bring garden art, garden magazines or other related items to be sold in a “yard sale” type atmosphere.

Questions? Contact Jason Mullins (870) 974-2606 or by email brojasonmullins@yahoo.com
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*Circle One: Sun/Shade/Partial Shade/Partial Sun*

*Circle One: Perennial/Annual*

**Special Characteristics or Requirements**

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**Special Characteristics or Requirements**
Upcoming Events

April

29 - Marion County Master Gardener Plant Sale - Pavilion in the Park, Yellville - 7:30 a.m. to noon. Linda Boyer, ljboyer@aol.com - Open to the public.

30 - Montgomery County Plant Sale - 8:00 am - 1:00 pm - Heritage Museum in Mount Ida - It features healthy home-grown vegetables, flowers, shrubs, and trees - Contact Grazie Warbritton 870-334-6297 for more information - Open to the public.

30 - The Central Arkansas Iris Show, 1:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church in Little Rock - Open to the public.

30 - Independence County Master Gardener Plant Sale - 8:00 a.m. - noon - National Guard Armory, 1690 White Drive, Batesville - Open to the public.

30 - Craighead County Master Gardener Plant Sale, Jonesboro Opens at 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jason Mullins at brojasonmullins@yahoo.com

May

5 - 6 - Fayetteville - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Public Plant Sale - 4703 N. Crossover Road - Contact Elizabeth Wilhelm, jwilhelm@bgozarks.org (479)750-2620  http://bgozarks.org/


7 - El Dorado - Union County Master Gardener Plant Sale - 407 North Jackson - 8 a.m. - noon. - Email ucmastergarden-er@suddenlink.net for details.

7 - Clarksville - Johnson County Master Gardener Plant Sale - Contact Carol Grimmer, 479-885-2570 for details

7 - Fairfield Bay - Bloomin’ in the Bay - Van Buren County Master Gardener Plant Sale - Ed Leamon Park - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free. For more information call 501-884-6010.

7 - Heber Springs - Cleburne County Master Gardener Plant Sale - 8 a.m. - noon - or additional information contact Darlene O’Connor, 501-825-8014.

7 - Paragould - Garden Boutique & Plant Sale - Centennial Park at the corner of West Emerson & S. Pruett Streets -yard art, garden décor, and a variety of potted plants including sedums, herbs, perennials, and vegetables will be available. Rain date will be the following Saturday at the same time and location. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - For information contact Connie Whitman at cwhitman@grnco.net.

7 - Russellville - Pope County Master Gardener Plant Sale - Pope County Fairgrounds - 8 a.m.-noon. - For more information contact Meg Fox at mmfox@aristotle.net.

7 - Memphis - Hosta Society Sale - Memphis Botanic Garden - North Gate A.

12 - Hot Springs - In the Garden: Tropicals with Janet Carson - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Speaker Janet Carson and friends as they present seasoned tips shared by local and regional Master Gardeners for growing tropical plants. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. $15/members. $30/non-members. Includes garden admission. Reservations required, call 800-366-4664.

14 - Conway - Faulkner County Master Gardener Plant Sale - Conway Expo Center (2505 E. Oak St) - speakers will be Janet Carson and Rand Retzloff - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - For more information contact Faulkner County Extension Office, 501-329-8344.

14 - Hot Springs - Survey Says! With Master Gardener County 76 speaker Gena Stout - Garvan Woodland Gardens Join Gena Stout as she enlightens on a broad survey of topics - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. $15/members. $30/non-members - Includes garden admission - Reservations required, call 800-366-4664.

20 - 22 - Memphis Orchid Society Annual Show & Sale - Memphis Botanic Garden - Phone - 901-324-6388.

21 - Forrest City - St. Francis County Master Gardener Spring Plant Sale - Walgreens Parking Lot - 9:00 am- 1:00 pm.

21 - Springdale - The Creative Herbal Home: Arkansas Medicinal Herbs - Northwest Technical Institute – Student Center The Flower, Garden & Nature Society of NWA program features Tina Marie Wilcox, herbalist & head gardener in the Heritage Herb Garden at the Ozark Folk Center - 9:30 a.m. - Contact Gail Pianalto at 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall at 479-466-7265.

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
Garden Quotes

Sitting in a garden and doing nothing is high art everywhere. The joyful gardener is evidence of an incarnation.

To dig is to discover.
- Michael P. Garofalo, *Pulling Onions*

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/

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

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/".