Next Meeting will be June 2  
Social - 6:00 pm - Meeting 6:30  
Program: Maleigha Cook from the Extension Office

From the President  
Ann Fergeson

How good it is to be a member of our Master Gardener Group. We have so much going on and so many good people to support us that I think that there could not be many groups better than ours. Of course I am prejudiced. We recently came out in great numbers to participate in the Plant Sale in April and then for the Plants for Sunset Gardens in May. We have a heart for being a part of the community and giving our time and resources to brighten the lives of others.

Also, our attendance numbers are up; our New Members’ Class is one of the largest ever and filled with enthusiasm; our receipts from the Plant Sale were the highest ever; and our work hours are coming in. Keep up the good work.

I will not be at the next meeting because I will be attending the state convention in Eureka Springs. I hope to represent you well. Come and support Mimi as she leads the meeting.

We are planning a special event in June. I know a lot of people have been looking forward to this. Details are not firmed up yet but will be announced at the next meeting.
Officers

President
Ann Fergeson

Past President
Ann Ross

Vice President
Donna Tolewitzke

Secretary
Ethel Cole

Treasurer
Stephanie Neely

Project Chairs

ASU Display Garden & Farmers’ Market
Donna Tolewitzke

On the Deck
Jan Dupwe

ASU Greenhouse
LaVeta Howerton

Butterfly Garden
Brenda Ferralasco

Courthouse, Extension Office & City Hall
Sandra Arwood

NEA District Fair
Ginger Adams-Seeds
Mike Wilbanks-MG Booth
Erlene Wise-Floriculture

NEA FFA-CDE
Ralph Seay

Native Plant Garden
Ann Ross

Plant Sale
Jason Mullins

Plants for Sunset Gardens
Margaret Williams

Extension Office Work & 2016 Basic Training Class
Shenia Mullins

HWES Children’s Learning Garden
Melinda Smith

Managing Diseases

By

Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

The weather is finally beginning to cooperate with warmer temperatures creating excellent growing conditions for our plants. Whether you are a flower or vegetable gardener, the combination of high temperatures and humidity is the perfect scenario for disease development.

The old adage, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” can certainly be used in controlling diseases. Prevention is the key word here. A proactive approach should be used to prevent diseases from becoming established. However, we usually are reactive and begin treatment when diseases are present.

Treating early with Daconil, for instance, can prevent powdery mildew on ornamentals or the blights on tomatoes. Once these diseases are present, fungicides can slow their progression on the plant.

Disease identification is very important when deciding which fungicide we need to use. The Disease Diagnostic Lab in Fayetteville is available free of charge for diagnosing diseases. Samples are submitted through the Extension Office and results are usually available in three days. The diagnosis includes what the disease is and what treatment options are recommended.

As always, we are available to assist you with any problems that arise during the year.

Back from Summer Event

The Craighead County Master Gardener August Meeting on August 4 will be a special event. We will meet at 5:00 at the ASU Farmers’ Market. Teams will be established with teams rotating to each MG garden site to draw playing cards.

We will end at the Farmers, Market to determine the winning hand and for dinner!
The May 5, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:37 pm by President Ann Ferguson.

**Program** – Braun Campbell introduced our own CCMG, Melinda Smith. The program featured students from Health, Wellness, and Environmental Studies magnet school who presented their research on several of the herbs grown in the children’s garden: lavender, thyme, basil, and oregano. The children were delightful and enthusiastic in their presentations. Among the many benefits of herbs are they add wonderful flavors and aromas to many dishes. Members were able to sample some very tasty treats made with herbs grown in the children’s garden. Other benefits have been known for centuries, such as medicinal properties. Basil, for example is a good source of antioxidants, and oregano has been used for digestive problems. These easy-to-grow plants have earned their place in the garden.

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

**Treasurer’s Report** – Stephanie Neely announced the current balance which did not include the money from the plant sale. Jason Mullins reported that the plant sale earned $4,731. This amount increased with the sale of left-over plants to members following the meeting.

**Old Business** – The 2016 Master Gardener State Conference is June 2-4 in Eureka Springs. Also Peggy Lane told about the program for new members only, “Annuals to Perennials” to be held in Batesville June 22. Ann Ferguson displayed the plaque given by the ASU Department of Agriculture and Technology to CCMG for Distinguished Service.

**Minutes continued on next page…..**
Minutes of May Meeting continued:

**New Business** – Each member was given a copy of the new pictorial directory created by Diane Sandberg. Melinda Smith described a change for the August meeting: it will be a “mixer” to help members become better acquainted with other members and have an opportunity to visit all sanctioned gardens to view the results of months of dedicated volunteer work.

Donna Tolewitzke announced that two of our new class members, Barb Evans and Pat Finch have completed their working hours.

**Projects Reports** – Chairs reviewed the status of their gardens and projects. Melinda Smith said that in June members needing evening work opportunities can work at the Children’s Garden at HWES magnet school.

**Announcements** – The 2016 Master Gardener State Conference will be June 2-4 in Eureka Springs.

**Master Gardener of the Month** for May is Jason Mullins. Jason took on the challenge of chairing the annual plant sale in 2012, and each year the sales have increased. Great job, Jason.

Members with May birthdays were given plants.

Meeting adjourned 7:50 pm.

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**Important Reminders**

**There is no July meeting.**

**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.

**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.
From Melinda: Evening work times will begin at the children’s garden starting June 13 at 6:30. We should be able to gauge after that how often we need to meet.

New Calming Center in the Sensory Garden.
Daylilies from Bob McKeel’s garden.

Special Event to be held in June

Be sure to attend the June Meeting to learn of a special event to be held in June. Many have asked for tours of Master Gardeners’ gardens so be sure to attend the meeting to see what garden has been selected.
Photo Directory Available at June Meeting

The 2016 CCMG Photo Directory will be available at June meeting for those who have not yet received their copy. Members will need to sign a roster before receiving a copy.
Native Plant Garden

Photos from Betty Nichols and Ann Ross
More Native Plant Garden
Photos from Betty Nichols & Ann Ross

Planting at the Farmer’s Market
Photos from Donna Tolewitzke & Jane Jameson
ASU Display Garden
Photos by Donna Tolewitzke
Setting up Plant Sale
Photos by Diane Sandberg

Happy Workers at End of Successful Sale
Photos by Diane Sandberg
“A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” 
From Shakespeare’s _Romeo and Juliet_

The Public Library offers programming to over 30 adult senior centers in the area. One frequent topic of discussion is the love of growing things. When asked, “what is your favorite flower,” the overwhelming winner is always “rose.” You know I have had numerous gardening disasters, but for many years one lone rosebush survived my clutches. It has finally succumbing to blackspot. Hence, roses have always had a special spot in my non-green-thumb heart.

**Right Rose, Right Place** by Peter Schneider is a pure visual delight. It teasingly leads me to believe if only I will select the correct rose, I too, can be a rose connoisseur. There are chapters on growing roses in harmony with other plants, and the very unique perspective of “a rose for every purpose.” John Dickman, editor of American Rose Magazine says of this work, “it’s well indexed and just plain fun reading as well.”

Andrea di Robilant’s book, **Chasing the Rose** is one I’ve previously mentioned. It’s appropriately subtitled “An Adventure in the Venetian Countryside,” and what an adventure it is! This book is a “delightful hybrid of history and horticulture tracing a single flower’s journey halfway across the world.”

If you like roses, (and who doesn’t?) you will wear the pages out inside **Antique Roses for the South** by William C. Welch. This walk down memory lane made me smile and swept me back to previous gardening excursions with my Dad and grandmother. Of special interest to me, was the appendix listing approximate dates that specific roses were originally cultivated.

I had to include Peter McHoy’s sturdy volume, **The Essential Rose Garden.** It predictably includes pruning, health-care, ramblers and teas. But this book deserves a glance through, to at least gape at the 2 page photo spread “Growing Better Roses.” Absolutely delicious.

For these and other resources, please visit your Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library.
Upcoming Events

June

2 - 4 - State Master Gardener Conference, Eureka Springs, AR. Hosted by Carroll County.

4 - Memphis - Through Our Garden Gates - Sponsored by Memphis Area Master Gardeners - for more info http://memphisareamastergardeners.org

12 - Memphis Daylily Society Show and Sale - Memphis Botanic Garden - For more info - 662-895-9495; 901-752-6662.

24-25 - Logan County Master Gardeners plant sale. During the Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival.

July


26 - County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

Gardening is cheaper than therapy and you get tomatoes.
Author Unknown

Gardening is about enjoying the smell of things growing in the soil, getting dirty without feeling guilty, & generally taking the time to soak up a little peace & serenity.
Lindley Karstens, noproblemgarden.com

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/".

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