Next Meeting will be October 3rd
Social - 6:00 pm & Meeting/Program - 6:30 pm
Program - Daylilies presented by Charlotte Hemphill

Minutes of September Meeting
by Judy Strange

The September meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order by President Peggy Lane on September 5, 2013 at 6:30pm.

Brenda Lane introduced our speaker Bob McKeel who presented a wonderful program on butterflies entitled 'A Year of Butterflies'. Bob brought several cases of butterflies he has collected and preserved. He shared his love of observing butterflies with the presentation and suggested the best reference for butterflies in our state is 'Butterflies' by Lori Spencer. He also informed us of a Butterfly Festival in June at Mt. Magazine. It was one of the best programs we've had and more so because he is one of our own Master Gardeners.

SECRETARY REPORT: Minutes were approved as presented in the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: A report was given by Mike Thompson.

PROJECTS REPORT: Project Chair Myra Jane Biggers presented reports for the following projects:

ASU Display Garden---Susan Westbrook reported that members have been "keep on, keeping on" with weeding and deadheading. There will be no work session on Wednesday, September 19 due to the fair.

Butterfly Garden---Jessie Olsen reported a slowdown in work during the heat of August but reminded everyone that the committee will be working on Thursday, September 12 at 4:00 pm for more weeding and deadheading.

Myra also reported that the planters at City Hall are doing well.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT: Brenda Lane - chair - announced October program will be "Daylilies " presented by Charlotte Hemphill.

OLD BUSINESS:
The 25th Anniversary of the State Master Gardener Program will be celebrated October 14th, 2013, at P. Allen Smith’s farm.

Garvan Gardens will host a Master Gardeners Appreciation Day September 24, 2013 at the gardens in Hot Springs.
ANNOUNCEMENTS: Peggy Lane reported that Janet Carson sent us two letters thanking us for our contributions to the Cooperative Extension Service in support of the 25 year Birthday Celebration and the 2014 State Conference in support of education.

Five year pins were presented to Lana Keyes, Glenda Drace, Judy Strange, Jessie Olsen and Bob McKeel. Congratulations!

Ann Dent brought the scrapbook to share with members.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

A tour as part of the Arkansas MG 25th anniversary will be held at the farm residence of P. Allen Smith for a charge of $25.00.

Edward Pruitt reminded us of the plant exchange to be held immediately after next month’s meeting. Those who wish to participate should bring two plants to the meeting.

REPORTING HOURS: Judy reported we still have many people who haven’t reported hours for this year. We know most of you have worked them and if you are having trouble bring a paper copy or call her for help. They need to be in by late November or early December for Branon to use in his report. December is the final date for you to get credit for them.

BIRTHDAYS:

September
4th Cleo Thomas
5th Donna Bandy
7th Reta Ragland
11th Delores Adams
23rd Lesia Pittman
24th Margaret Gann
27th Marna Diamond
27th Marcia Patton
29th Donna Tolewitzke

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting concluded at 7:40pm

From Jason Mullins ..... What a strange year of weather we have had! From a mild spring and wet summer to a hot and cold approach to autumn, who knows what will be next?! With that in mind it is the perfect opportunity to prepare now for next spring’s plant sale. Some had difficulty preparing for the last sale due to the unseasonably cold conditions. Now is the perfect time to get ahead with propagations and divisions. Those plants that are potted early are much larger and better quality than those prepared last minute. They require little care during the winter and spring back fast for a great sale item. Remember ten plants is only a minimum. Thank you for all of the hard work you do.

From Melinda Smith ..... Do you know that you can be preparing for our Master Gardener plant sale now and have a gardening project to tend in the winter months!!! Cuttings is the answer! See link below.
http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/14245/

Gardening Tip From Lana Keyes .... Buy a huge plastic bucket (30 gal-?). About this time you can find black ones for Halloween dunking for apples. When your potted plants get really dry, push them down in water in the bucket and hold them there until the air stops escaping, let them soak for 6-8 hours. They will love you for it. Remember a big plant can be really heavy when totally soaked so be prepared. I use my husband for getting those out.
Powdery Mildew

by
Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

Powdery mildew is a common disease on many types of plants. A wide variety of vegetable crops are affected by powdery mildews, as well as ornamental plants. Crepe Myrtles and Dogwood are examples of ornamentals that routinely have powdery mildew. This disease is mainly cosmetic on ornamentals and no harm will result to plants. Powdery mildews generally do not require moist conditions to establish and grow, and normally do well under warm conditions.

Powdery mildew first appears as white, powdery spots that may form on both surfaces of leaves and sometimes on flowers and fruit. These spots gradually spread over a large area of the leaves and stems.

Vegetable leaves infected with powdery mildew may gradually turn completely yellow, die, and fall off, which may expose fruit to sunburn. On some plants, powdery mildew may cause the leaves to twist, buckle, or otherwise distort. Powdery mildew fungal growth does not usually grow on vegetables or fruits, although pea pods may get brownish spots. Severely infected plants may have reduced yields, shortened production times, and fruit that has little flavor.

The best method of control is prevention. Planting resistant vegetable varieties when available, or avoiding the most susceptible varieties, planting in the full sun, and following good cultural practices will adequately control powdery mildew in many cases. However, very susceptible vegetables such as cucurbits (cucumber, melons, squash, and pumpkins) may require fungicide treatment. Several least-toxic fungicides are available but must be applied no later than the first sign of disease. A list of these can be obtained at the Extension Office.
October Master Gardener of the Month
by
Myra Jane Biggers

As a retired business owner, Paul Schneider missed the interaction with people. Joining in 2008, Craighead County Master Gardeners gave him the opportunity to fill that void while sharing his love of plants and flowers. A lifelong resident of Jonesboro, Paul’s inspiration comes from his dad. Paul said, “He (Dad) raised a garden to feed a large family but always had time for flowers or something pretty.”

Photographing and identification of wildflowers is his favorite hobby. He organizes these pictures in scrapbooks and if you have a plant you need help identifying, Paul has earned the reputation of being the guy who can help.

While roses are his favorite flower, he enjoys growing herbs… rosemary, sage, basil, oregano, and parsley. He finds they are both easy to grow and rewarding in the kitchen. Paul shared one of his favorite recipes for using herbs.

**Chicken with Herbs**

3 to 4 pounds of chicken, split (smaller chickens are best)
Combine the following in a blender and process until herbs are chopped
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- Juice and zest of one lemon
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup of fresh herbs (or more)
  - basil, rosemary, sage, oregano, parsley or a combination of these herbs
- 1 tablespoon honey

Put mixture and chicken in Ziploc bag and marinate in refrigerator 6 to 24 hours.
Cook at 375 to 400 degrees until done. Usually one to one and a half hours.
Also cooks well on outdoor grill.

Most of Paul’s gardening is done in raised beds which he finds much easier to maintain. There is no shortage of color in his garden and he says “the more color the better.” He considers his biggest challenge to be white flies. His greenhouse is used for giving plants an early start and overwintering tropicals. He advises to always make sure plants are disease and pest free before taking them into your greenhouse.
Fran Robinson Reports

We talked about tomatoes & how to tell when they are ripe, comparing the regular red tomatoes & heirlooms. I explained that the tomatoes would feel firm but not hard. They all felt a ripe heirloom. We also looked at the little ones & I showed them how the ripe one came off the stem easily. We also talked about seeds & the different ways they "travel". It was fun!! They were interested & enthusiastic!

Melinda Smith Reports

Herb has been the word for all 220 1st and 2nd graders this week in the Sensory Garden! Pineapple sage, Hummingbird sage, rosemary, basil, thyme, Lemon mint and lavender!

Bob McKeel

Presented the September Program on Butterflies
Recipe from August Meeting

**Cowboy Caviar**

*from Judy Strange*

1 can black beans - drained  
1 can black-eyed peas - drained  
4 Roma tomatoes - chopped  
1 can shoepeg corn  
1/2 medium onion - chopped  
1 Bell pepper - chopped  
1/2 chopped pickled pepper (Jalepena) or more to taste  
1/2 teaspoon garlic salt  
1 cup Italian Salad Dressing  
3/4 cup chopped cilantro  
3 or 4 chopped avocados

Mix beans, peas, tomatoes, corn, onion, and bell pepper in a large bowl. Season with garlic salt; add avocado, cilantro and salad dressing. Best if made the night before. Refrigerate for 20 minutes or until ready to serve.
The new 2014 Master Gardener calendars are out and on the market! Those who attend the MG Appreciation Day at Garvan Gardens will receive a free copy. We will bring some home for purchase at $1 per copy. Our MG program will also buy copies as gifts for all of our county officials.

The photographs are outstanding as always. Craighead County Master Gardeners are represented by Jason Mullins for his apple blossoms in March and in the collage on the back cover by Sharron Schelin, witch hazel; Jane Jamison, white peony; and Donna Tolewitzke, blue hydrangea. Congratulations to each of you!

This year (2013) is the 25th Anniversary of Master Gardeners in Arkansas with programs in 65 counties and over 3200 volunteers. 2014 will celebrate 100 years of Extension Education, and there is interesting information about each program. Also included is a MG application form that you might want to give to a friend to recruit them for our training that begins in January.
“Shine on, Shine on harvest moon
Up in the sky,
I ain't had no lovin' since January, February, June or July,
Snow time ain't no time to stay outdoors and spoon,
So shine on, Shine on harvest moon for me and my gal.”
Lyrics by Nora Bayes and Jack Norworth

Autumn is the ideal season to reflect on the harvest of your hard summer toiling, as well as making plans for the next sensational season of gardening. Your Public Library has some great offerings to get you in the right frame of mind.

We begin with Katherine Whiteside’s *The Way We Garden Now*, which contains “41 pick-and-choose projects for planting your paradise large or small.” Some of the sections are an absolute hoot! Inside, you’ll find: Don’t be a tool fool, Build a Dad-jo patio, Root for autumn vegetables, Plant perfumes for PM, and much much more!! Whether it’s how to install a tricky deer fence or how to bury summer treasure, you will find this sourcebook a genuine joy.

Homegrown harvest: a Season-by-Season Guide to a Sustainable Kitchen Garden by Rita Pelczar, offers unique tips and techniques on how to grow a year-round supply of heart- healthy fruits and vegetables. From early spring to late winter, there’s information on kitchen gardening and fruit culture. My favorite parts are the sections on how to grow less familiar native fruits such as pawpaws, Juneberries, elderberries and beach plums. Delicious!

Now that I have 2 grandchildren and 2 more on the way, I look at life totally differently. *Gardening with Heirloom Seeds*, by Lynn Coulter, beckoned me from the book shelf promising me “tried-and-true flowers, fruits, and vegetables for a new generation.” Such happy thoughts with magical talk of larkspur, Heliotrope, Cosmos and Amananth, and the lyrical Kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate. This volume is a true celebration of seeds!

It’s the cover that reeled me in and forced me to pick up Chris H. Olsen’s, *Five Seasons: Unique & Stylish Ideas for Your Home & Garden*. There’s an enchanting front door surrounded with spectacularly blooming potted front plants that I will never be able to duplicate. The scene features plump pumpkins, happy mums, mystical gourds and things that I can’t identify. Boasting of inexpensive tips and projects for updating your home and garden throughout the year, this book should keep my nose in it and out of the Halloween candy.

Autumn-time or ANY-time is a wonderful time to visit your Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library!
Master Gardeners Re-certified for 2013

The following CCMG members have fulfilled the working and learning requirements for 2013 AND reported them online:

- Eileen Adams
- Donna Bandy
- Glenda Drace
- Brenda Ferralasco
- Mary Hosinski
- Lana Keyes
- Ditty Mitts
- Shelia Mullins
- Becky Phillips
- **Fran Robinson * **
- Sharron Schelin
- Ralph Seay
- **Elizabeth Spencer * **
- Mike Thompson
- Billy Woodruff
- Sandra Arwood
- Myra Jane Biggers
- Jan Dupwe
- Brenda Gray
- LaVeta Howerton
- Peggy Lane
- Vickey Mullaly
- Betty Nichols
- Lesia Pittman
- Ann Ross
- Paul Schneider
- Neva Shewmaker
- Judy Strange
- **George Williams * **
- **Marilyn Wysocki * **
- Stan Bachman
- Mimi Cox
- Ella Ellingson
- Debbie Hall
- Jane Jamison
- Katherine McCracken
- Jason Mullins
- Jessie Olsen
- Reta Ragland
- Diane Sandberg
- Connie Seay
- Melinda Smith
- Debbie Tate
- Erlene Wise

* Class of 2013

Congratulations to all! Several others are very close to recertifying, and this list will be updated each month, either in our newsletter or at the meetings. If you need help recording your hours, please call Judy Strange or Mimi Cox. Thanks for working hard on our projects!

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**MGs Working at The NEA District Fair**

Photos from Connie Seay
More Photos from the NEA District Fair

Photos from Connie Seay
Smith & Seay in Delta Crossroads

The current (Fall) issue of Delta Crossroads [deltacrossroads.com](http://deltacrossroads.com) features an article about the Health and Wellness Magnet School gardens and Melinda Smith. There is also an article by Ralph Seay on “Planting your own fall harvest”.

Both articles are extremely Interesting and highlight the talent of our Master Gardeners.

Upcoming Events

**October**

1 - Nov 15 - Fall Flower Days - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Hot Springs - Fall at Garvan Woodland Gardens offers a rainbow of colors and shapes from just one plant: the chrysanthemum. Hundreds of hardy cultivars provide an array of colors and bloom shapes, making mums the divas of the autumn garden. Regular admission applies. Call 501-262-9300 or visit garvandgardens.org for more information.

4 - 5 - Herb Harvest Festival - Ozark Folk Center - Mountain View - Nationally known and regional herbalists, local herbal merchants and plantmen are sharing their knowledge during this annual event. This year’s festival focuses on connecting herbs of the Middle East to Western herb gardening and Ozark herb cultural traditions. Call 870-269-3851 or visit ozarkfolkcenter.com for more information.

11 - 12 - Conifers with Southern Charm - Dixon Gallery and Gardens Memphis [www.dixon.org](http://www.dixon.org)

14 - 25th Anniversary of Arkansas Master Gardeners Celebration.

19 – “Indians of the Ozarks” George Sabo, University of Arkansas Professor of Anthropology and Author of several books on Native American History including *Paths of Our Children: Historic Indians of Arkansas*. Meet in Student Center of Northwest Arkansas Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pianalto [479-361-2198](tel:4793612198) or Joyce Mendenhall [479-466-7265](tel:4794667265).

22 - County 76 General Membership Meeting

**November**

12 to 13 – Blooms for Sun and Shade Advanced MG Class, Searcy, AR. Application and schedule coming soon.

16 - “The Effects of Native and Invasive Plants on Insect Life” Dr. Don Steinkraus, University of Arkansas Professor of Entomology, Meet in Student Center of NWAR Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pianalto [479-361-2198](tel:4793612198) or Joyce Mendenhall [479-466-7265](tel:4794667265).

For list of Arkansas shows, meetings, etc. [statebystategardening.com/ar/calendar/](http://statebystategardening.com/ar/calendar/)

For information on Memphis events see [www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/events.htm](http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/events.htm)

For Master Gardener events list see [http://mgonly.uaex.edu/calendars/cal_events.htm](http://mgonly.uaex.edu/calendars/cal_events.htm)

Reminders

Renee Shepherd, owner of [Reneesgarden.com](http://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.
The flower is a Sedum maximum var. atropurpureum.

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

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/

Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson

Autumn Garden Quotes

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."
- Albert Camus

"Autumn is a season followed immediately by looking forward to Spring."
- Anonymous

"October's poplars are flaming torches lighting the way to winter."
- Nova Bair

The flower is a Sedum maximum var. atropurpureum.