Next Meeting will be April 7
Social - 6:00 pm - Meeting 6:30
Program: Jason Mullins - Fair Haven Farm

From the President
Ann Fergusson

“Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow.”

I recently spent my first hours working at one of the gardens and I can only say that it was a very pleasant morning. I was working at the Native Plant Garden with 12 other Master Gardeners. Six of them were new members. The weather was cold but there was warm fellowship and a lot of energy generated. The garden looked great when we finished. There is still a lot of work to be done, but everyone left with a good sense of accomplishment. When you are called upon to work in your chosen garden “GO”. It is fun and you will leave with good feelings in spite of the stiff muscles. We are Master Gardeners, this is what we do.

I hope that by this time each of you has their plants potted for the Plant Sale. We have only a month to get ready. The more time that the plants have to get established, the better they will look and the more money they will bring. That is what this project is all about. Each year, the sales bring more money than the previous year, allowing us to provide scholarships for deserving Horticulture Students.

Hope to see everyone at our April meeting.
Scale are insects that belong to the order Hemiptera and are usually small insects. They go often undetected due to their size and location on the plant, which is usually on the back side of leaves or on stems deep within the plant. Scale will rarely kill a plant, but if left untreated, they will weaken a plant to the point where other organisms could cause major issues.

One of the first signs of scale is a black substance covering the surface of the leaves which is often mistaken for a disease. Honey dew which is secreted by scale and has a high sugar content, will mold causing the black coating on leaves. The mold can be removed by spraying with water.

Certain scale cover themselves with a waxy substance making it difficult for contact insecticides to be effective. Control measures for scale include using insecticidal soaps (which have problems penetrating the waxy covering), horticultural oils or systemic insecticides. The latter two products must be used on the scale with the waxy covering.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to call the Extension Office.
Helping Dr. Pittcock transplant begonias and other plants. La-Veta had a great group today. Thanks to all our Newbies and of course our "seasoned" members.

“Sweets” From March Meeting

Death By Chocolate
From Peggy Lane

2 boxes Instant Jello Chocolate Pudding Mix
3 cups milk
Prepared chocolate cake, cooled, cut into cubes
3 - 2.8 oz. bars Skor Candy
Large tub Cool Whip
Chopped nuts

Prepare pudding mix and chill. Chop candy bars. Place layer of cake cubes in bottom of large truffle dish. Top with layers of pudding, cool whip and candy. Make second layers of cake, pudding, cool whip, ending with candy and nuts. Cover and refrigerate.

Chocolate Dessert
From Stephanie Neeley

Enough brownie mix to make a 9”x13”pan
1 container marshmallow crème
1/2 container chocolate icing

Bake brownie mix according to package directions. Let cool some before spreading marshmallow crème then top with 1/2 container chocolate icing. I use Sam’s brownie mix but any brand will do.
Minutes of the March Meeting
By Ethel Cole
Photos by Diane Sandberg

The March 3, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:25 pm by President Ann Ferguson.

Program – The program speaker, Kayla Gramling was introduced by Melinda Smith. Kayla is a former ASU horticulture student scholarship recipient. She is the horticulture instructor at McPherson women’s prison. In 2009, during the less demanding winter season, she began creating nature-inspired art. Her unique creations include paper weights and magnets in addition to the beautiful jewelry made with dried flowers, weeds and rice, among many other nature-inspired materials. Her side-business now includes selling her art at craft shows. A new development is preserving floral arrangements from weddings or other events.

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

Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer’s Report was approved as read by Treasurer Stephanie Neely.

New Business – The 2016 class members were introduced by their mentors. Branon Thiesse presented each of the new Master Gardeners with a certificate, name tag, and apron. Each of the 18 new members is enthusiastic and highly motivated to get at those weeds!

Stephanie Neely presented the “Rookie of the Year Award” to Karen Massey. The “Master Gardener of the Month” award was given to Debbie Tate. And the “Master Gardener of 2015 Award” went to Peggy Lane. Peggy’s 100+ hours of volunteer work and the highest number of education hours made her the rightful recipient for this award.

Project reports and announcements were given by each chairman.

Announcement – The ASU College of Agriculture and Technology, by unanimous vote, selected the Craighead County Master Gardeners as the recipient of the “Outstanding Service Award”. Birthday plants were given to members with a March birthday. Branon Thiesse also received a birthday gift from the MGs.

Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm.
Clean-up Day at ASU Display Garden
Photos by Diane Sandberg

2016 Class Orientation
Photos by Diane Sandberg
The County 76 Fundraising Project subsidizes the cost for county Master Gardeners to attend the annual Plant Nurture Grow Leadership activities and helps to support the Janet B. Carson Scholarship. In 2015 County 76 was able to increase our awards from one to 3 scholarships for outstanding seniors in our state.

Proceeds from the fundraising efforts also support the projects and programs of County 76 by recognizing members with pins and certificates for Advanced Training, length of service pins and awards for outstanding achievement by individuals and counties.

The mainstay products of Fundraising are the long-handed and short-handed Rogue hoes. These hoes are made in the USA using the steel of recycled agricultural disc blades. There are several styles of garden hoes available, including an onion hoe to get into tight places and 3 sizes of scuffle hoes which are triangular and ready to cut weeds pushing and pulling. The comparable short-handled hoes are great for planting or weeding. All are very sharp and sturdy and with minimal care will last for many seasons of gardening.

Another favorite County 76 product is the best garden glove on the market – the Atlas nitrile glove in sizes small to extra-large in a variety of colors. They are washable and durable and made of breathable fabric that is comfortable to wear.

We will set up the County 76 table at the meeting next week, with a good supply of both long and short handled hoes, gloves, large insulated Master Gardener totes and small insulated lunch bags, plant labels and copies of *The Southern Gardener’s Book of Lists* by Lois Chaplin.

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**Reminder of Awards Banquet**

The ASU College of Agriculture and Technology will honor CCMG with their Outstanding Service Award at the Awards Banquet on Tuesday evening, April 19. If you would like to attend, you may purchase tickets for $12. Please make your check payable to ASU CoAT and give it to Stephanie at the April meeting. We will purchase the tickets for you and hand them out at the door. We hope there will be a good group of Master Gardeners to attend.

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**From Mimi** – I will be attending the County 76 board meeting in Little Rock on April 11. We are collecting non-perishable silent auction items to take to the state meeting. If you have something to contribute that is not plant material, I will be glad to take it to Little Rock, and it will be transported for you to Eureka Springs. Suggestions are garden art, garden decorations, garden crafts, planters, garden books, tools, arts and crafts, or other items you want to donate. You can bring it to the April meeting. Thanks!
Important Reminders

**Plant Sale:** Remember the plant sale is April 30th and it is time to pot up your plants! Plant Sale guidelines and tags are on pages 12 and 13 of this newsletter.

**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 Neeley 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 Peggy:**

We extend a very special welcome to our new class members, graduates of the Master Gardener Class of 2016. They are: Laura Bettis, Cathy Caldwell, Lise Cater, Pam Chafin, Lisa Davis, Barb Evans, Lillie Fears, Pat Finch, Angela Gary, Terri Inman, Lyle Lattimore, Sasha O’Rourke, Angie Schmidt, Paula Smith, Steve Smith, Ross Ward, Chad Whatley and Gary Woodward.

Many of you have already stepped up and volunteered by working at the FFA-CDE event at the Convocation Center. Thank you for helping to make it a very successful and fun day!

Just a reminder from Branon’s previous message: please give our speakers and those presenting our programs your undivided attention. Talking among ourselves during presentations is discourteous and is a distraction to others. This goes for the business portion of our meetings as well. We want to be as professional as possible so that our speakers will be honored to attend our meetings.

Have you ever wondered which side of a shirt or jacket a name tag should be worn? After an internet search, I discovered that the name tag should be worn above the pocket on the right side of your shirt, blouse or jacket. However, if you are wearing an outfit that tends to hide the name tag, it would make more sense to wear it wherever it is most visible. The key with name tags is to get someone to remember your name, and they can’t do that if your name tag is covered up. Just be sure to wear it to our meetings and receive a KISS!

As the weather warms and we begin to work at the various MG projects, I just want to remind the mentors to contact your mentee to see how they are doing. You might offer to go with them to their first work day and lend them a little support and encouragement. Also, remind them to turn in their hours on a regular basis.

Peggy Lane
Chair, R-R-R
Another Successful FFA-CDE
More from FFA-CDE Event
From Ralph Seay:

I would like to thank each and every one of you for the successful FFA CDE today! I thought our whole Floriculture portion went as smoothly as I have ever seen it go these past five years. We successfully processed 92 FFA students through three timed events each and did it in record time! This would not have been possible without your help and assistance.

Billy Woodruff went above and beyond the call of duty when he analyzed the problem of getting 24-teams through 50-minute, 20-minute, and 10-minute events in a timely manner by drafting a logistics plan for all of us to work through. Thank you, Billy, for keeping us on track!

I also owe a special thank you to Betty Nichols, who coordinated with local florists weeks in advance to obtain the cut flowers we needed for the Plant and Equipment Identification station. Betty followed up on her requests frequently and brought the flowers yesterday for our station set-up! Thank you, Betty, for doing all the leg-work on this necessary task!

I believe our success can fundamentally be attributed to something I have said many, many times about working with Master Gardeners. In my nearly 70 years of life, I have never worked with a group of volunteers who are so willing to “get the job done!” I had the privilege of working with over 40 Master Gardeners today doing a task that is difficult to control at multiple points throughout the morning, but you all came through! If you observed a problem, one or more of you stepped up to the plate and took care of it! Several of you asked me multiple times, “what can I do to help?” All of this is gratifying and confirms my feeling that our Master Gardener group is the best group of which I have ever been a part! Thanks again for all of your help with the FFA CDE!

Craighead County Master Gardeners Are the Best!
Sincerely,
Ralph
Plant Sale Set for April 8th

From Melinda: The school will be having our plant sale Friday, April 8th on our campus, 1001 Rosemond, 7:30 am - 4 pm. We will have herbs, flowers and veggie starter plants. We will also have hanging baskets of flowers and a variety of container types of veggie plants.

We will also feature heirloom tomatoes and a variety of herbs at the Master Gardener sale on April 30th at the ASU Farmer's Market.
I had delusions of Master Gardening-grandeur before I had children. My kitchen housed spectacularly exotic blooms until the day we brought our newborn home. Out went the orchids, and in its place were 2 sleep-deprived parents struggling to maintain sanity. 35 years have passed, but I’ve never lost that love for orchids. Hence the reason The Orchid Specialist by David Squire beckoned me from the shelf. This book has everything for the orchid enthusiast, from “greenhouses for growing,” to tricky sections like” repotting an orchid.” Take a look!

My first introduction into the world of dahlias was a strange one. There was a film on television entitled The Black Dahlia. Not the gardening expose I had supposed, but instead a shockingly, terrifying little feature that had nothing to do with the dreamy dahlia. But Andy Vernon’s Plant Lover’s Guide to Dahlias is a joy. I never guessed there were varieties of this plant named Jitterbug, Sonic Bloom, Soulman, EZ Duzzit and Pink Giraffe. I like to have fun, and reading this volume was just that.

Camellias, the Gardener’s Encyclopedia by Jennifer Trehan could give you eye strain, if you enjoy looking at page after page of stunningly beautiful blooms. The librarian in me always enjoys studying the parts of a book. I soon found myself wading through the appendices at the back of the book. Of course, there was the expected “societies” listed, but I also enjoyed the “Gardens of Excellence” list.

Who knew that there are more than 225 varieties of coleus? Certainly not I! Ray Rogers’ Coleus: Rainbow Foliage for Containers and Gardens is crammed with fanciful pictures and tips for growing this plant. The cover proclaims it is “sumptuously illustrated,” and delicious it is!

For these and other resources please visit your Public Library or view us online at www.libraryinjonesboro.org.
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.

*Droop-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 an 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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Upcoming Events

April

2 - Marion County Master Gardeners “Gardening Through the Seasons”, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 2250 Hwy 62 East, Yellville - Cost is $15.00 and lunch is included. Seating is limited, please reserve early - Deadline is March 31st. Contact the Marion County Extension Office at 870-449-6349.

9 - Nevada County Master Gardeners “Spring...A Time to Till” 8th Annual Garden Show and Plant Sale. 7:30 – 12:00 Central Baptist Church Stokes Center, 615 East Second S, Prescott - Speaker: Chris Olsen. Contact: Betty Jones – 870-887-5312 or bjoness107@yahoo.com - Open to the public.

9 - Franklin County Master Gardeners Plant Sale - 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. - Franklin County Extension Office, 300B Airport Road, Ozark - Contact: Mitch Crosswell, 479-468-6262 / 479-468-2689 - mcrosswell@hotmail.com - Open to the public.

12 - Planting Your Bloomers, Kelley's Restaurant, 425 Hwy 64 West, Wynn - Kay King - 870-238-7573 or 870-588-5232 Kay_king@sbcglobal.net - Open to the public.

16 - Saline County Master Gardener Plant Sale - 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Saline County Fairgrounds, Benton, Open to the public.

16 - Arkansas County Plant Sale and Luncheon - 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Program at 11:30 a.m. - Arkansas County Fairgrounds, DeWitt - For more information contact the Arkansas County Extension Office at 870-946-3231 - Open to the public

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

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 Grazzie 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 - ASU Regional Farmers' Market, corner of Red Wolf Blvd and Aggie Road. Opens at 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact Jason Mullins at brojasonmullins@yahoo.com Open to the public.

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
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/".

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

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