August Birthdays

3rd - Sarita McCarty
4th - Mary Lou Wood
10th - Katie Wysocki
11th - Eileen Adams
15th - Peggy Lane
18th - Brenda Ferralasco
21st - Neva Shewmaker
21st - Carolyn Henry
29th - Shenia Mullins
29th - Margaret Williams
31st - Carrie Ray

Eileen Adams recently gave me a copy of “The Weeder’s Reader,” which I have really enjoyed. One of the articles discusses traits of an "obsessed gardener, which I confess describes me to a tee (and probably you as well)! Here's just a few.....

NORMAL GARDENER

You won’t leave town when your, tulips are in bloom
You invest in fine gardening tools.
You value all living things, great & small.
You have a compost heap.
You can’t believe you ordered so many bulbs this fall.
You are proud of your baby carrots.
You love to grow & and cook your own vegetables.
You would never kill a ladybug.
You know the pH of your soil.

OBSESSED GARDENER

....or your daffodils, your lilacs, your roses, your wisteria, your clematis, your lilies.
You keep spare tools in your car for gardening emergencies.
You cheered when Bambi’s mother died.
You take its temperature every day.
It wasn’t enough.
You carry pictures of them in your wallet.

COOK? Who has time to cook?
You bring them inside for the winter.
All your neighbors know the pH of your soil.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our August meeting - it’s been a long time since we were together.
Meeting Etiquette
by
Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

I would like to start by saying that we have one of the best Master Gardener programs in the state. This is due to the hard work and pride each one of our members puts into making this organization the best that it can be.

With that being said, I would like to address a situation that was brought before our board concerning our programs and speakers. Many of our presenters take time out of their busy schedules to come and give us valuable information that will make us better gardeners and to better appreciate the joy of gardening.

They deserve our complete and undivided attention. Talking during the presentations is not very courteous and is a distraction to others. This goes for the business portion of our meetings as well. We need to treat others as we would want to be treated if we were the ones giving the presentation.

Cell phones should be placed on vibrate so others are not disturbed. We all have situations that arise that may require us to take a call during the meeting and that is understandable. All that we ask is you leave the meeting room to take your call.

I hope that each of you will assist us with this problem to continue to make our organization better. As always, my door is always open to anyone that has any issues they would like to discuss.

Seeds for the Fair

The NEA fair is in September and Ginger Adams, project chair, will need your seeds and volunteers to help prepare the packets to distribute. Please bring your seeds to the August meeting.

Farm Family of the Year

Congratulations to the David and Kim Watkins and family for being named the Craighead County Farm Family of the Year. Kim has been a Master Gardener since 1996 and was one of the original members.
Next garden work night August 11 at 6:30
Volunteers also needed for August 12 at 5:40 for our school’s open house to greet and show parents and students the gardens!

Renee Seeds continues to be a strong community partner of the HWES Children’s Learning Gardens by donating seed and by fundraising money being sent to us by percentage of sales of others when using a special code when ordering seeds. To show appreciation, we sent blue jean aprons made by HWES friends to Renee. The following picture and note from Renee came after delivery:

"Just wanted to share – we had our annual Renee’s Garden Seeds sales representa-tive lunch and today and we used the kids wonderful aprons that you sent as door prizes! Here’s a photo of the happy winners"- Renee Shepherd
Missouri Botanical Garden
Photos by Betty Nichols

The David B. Litchenstein Foundation

Why a pincushion garden?

Pincushion gardens were first introduced in the 1800s at Putneyidge, Nuy in Harlestone, England when an avenue of circular beds or “pincushions” were arranged symmetrically along a path. In the 1890s, pincushion beds were featured here at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Two circular beds were planted just inside the main entrance at Spire Pavilion and contained each and succulents from the Garden’s collection. This type of garden most likely gets its name from its round, mound-like shape and also because plants could be “stuck” into the beds like pins in a pincushion. To maintain historical accuracy within the Victorian District, succulents have been chosen and planted in the intricate carpet bedding designs popular in Henry Shaw’s time.

What’s underneath?

To increase drainage around the plants, each planting bed was excavated to a depth of 12 feet. The holes were filled with layers of materials that allow water to move away from the plants:

- Mixture of sand and crushed rock
- Deep irrigation tubing
- Landscape fabric
- Slag
- Perforated pipes
- Subsoil

Boerner Botanical Gardens - Wisconsin
Photos by Betty Nichols
ASU Display Garden
Photos by Diane Sandberg

Project chair - Susan

Watch Dog

Tree Frog on Day Lilies

Cleaning Up the Day Lily Bed
Miss Huff Lantana is beginning to show her color! This is one of Jessie’s favorite plants in the garden. She planted one in her garden last year. It is a perennial but did not survive the winter at her home. She said "I tried but it died!" She will look for another one next year.

Jessie reminds everyone that the next work day at the garden will be next Monday, July 28 at 8:00 am. If anyone needs hours, we’d love to have them come join us.

Glo is Retiring!

Gloria Eubanks, Administrative Support Supervisor, is retiring after 42 years at the Extension Office.

Her last day will be July 31, 2014. A retirement reception will be held that same day from 4 to 6 pm at the Extension Office.

Everyone is invited.

Wally is back from vacation and is sorry he has missed all the cool weather. If you find where he is hidden in this newsletter email Diane Sandberg at dsandberg@suddenlink.net with the page and location. A random drawing will be held of those with the correct answer and that person will receive a prize. Also the winner from the June newsletter will be announced.
I visit lots of area senior centers discussing my passion for libraries. Invariably, the question eventually arises, “What’s your favorite type of flower?” Oh my! Let me ask you first, what’s your favorite type of flower? Isn’t that almost like asking a preacher what’s his favorite Bible verse? There’s simply so many good choices! With that being said, surely roses rank among one of the top 10 favorite flowers to grow, based on my totally unscientific polling of my friends.

Tom Christopher’s *Easy Roses for North American Gardens*, grabs me with that alluring first word, "Easy." Yes, I’m well aware of the dreaded black spot, and other maladies that can afflict roses, but they most certainly have some ease built into their longevity. Hence the reason I’ve had some success with them. Christopher assists the reader by recommending varieties based on climate, soil, and garden style. With a gallery of more than 80 pages showcasing these spectacular blooms, it’s worth taking home.

*Passion for Roses* by Peter Beale leaves me feeling guilty. If only I had the passion for housekeeping that I do for digging in the dirt! But alas, rather than washing windows and scrubbing floors, I’d much rather peruse this handsomely illustrated volume. Beale claims over 50 years of experience with roses, and has been labeled the “world’s most acclaimed professional rose grower.” If you are looking for an expert to help you with successful rose gardening, you’ve just found it.

And now, for the perfect excuse to sit and reflect on your gardening adventures: take a look at *Antique Roses for the South* by William C. Welch. Can we say "scrumptious?” I love, love, love these beautiful photographs, but it’s the chapters on arranging roses and using roses as crafts that leave me mesmerized. Touted as "a book to be treasured by any gardener,” and I totally agree!

For these and other resources, please visit your Public Library, open 7 days a week for your convenience.

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**From Melinda Smith**

Our Master Gardener Facebook page is in need of regular pictures of cool things from your personal gardens and pictures of all project areas. We have collected a nice following of community members that will keep CCMG in the public relations loop. We have the settings now where anyone can post. If you have any problems posting, please contact Melinda Smith at melinda.smith@jonesboroschools.net.
Upcoming Events

July

25 - 26 - Altus - 31st Annual Altus Grape Festival - Altus City Park and Area Wineries - Celebrate the grape at the Altus Grape Festival! Public grape stomping, wine tasting, arts and crafts booths, music, amateur winemaking competition, food and fun. Free. Visit altusgrapefest.com or call 479-468-4684 for more information.

25 - 26 - Clarksville - The 75th Annual Johnson County Peach Festival - Courthouse Square Enjoy eclectic peach-themed eclectic foods: peach cobbler, jam and jelly cook-offs. There will be arts and crafts, contests, scavenger hunts, a 4-mile run, parade, live bands and more. Free. Email cjccofc@centurytel.net for more information.

26 - Powhatan - Canning and Preserving Workshop - Powhatan Historic State Park Courthouse - Putting up fruits and vegetables in your home is as easy as pie. If you would like to enjoy fresh ingredients from your garden year round, join us to discover the nearly forgotten arts of home canning and preserving food. Please bring a sack lunch. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. $15. For more information or to register, call 870-878-6765.

August

1 - Rice Expo

1 - Deadline to register for the Drought and the Urban Landscape Advanced MG Class held in Harrison, AR.

2, 9 - Saturday Statewide Master Gardener Training Classes - State Extension Office, Little Rock, AR.

16 - Advanced MG Class, Drought and the Urban Landscape - hosted by Boone County (Harrison, AR). Deadline to register for the class is August 1. Space is limited to 100 people

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

Reminders

Renee Shepherd, owner of 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.

Dr. Travis Marsico with his Wildflower Class at the Native Plant Garden.

Photo by Betty Nichols
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

Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson

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/

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Craighead County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Craighead County officials to provide beautification projects and horticultural information to the residents of the county. In 2013 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 6398.25 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.

Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

Garden Quotes

"Do what we can, summer will have its flies."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Grass is the cheapest plant to install and the most expensive to maintain."
Pat Howell

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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