Next Meeting will be December 5th  
Christmas Potluck - 6:00 pm

Minutes of November Meeting
by
Jan Dupwe

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

Peggy Lane introduced our program, “Yard Art”. Peggy narrated the PowerPoint program she and Myra Jane Biggers created using photographs of yard art in members’ gardens, which displayed the many talents and loves of our members. Many will be reinvented in other members’ yards to be sure!!!!  
Thanks to all members who shared their talents.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT: A report was given by Mike Thompson. There is a change in the new fiscal year for 2014. It will be a calendar year January to December. Dues are $10 and are due by the January meeting and if not received by the March meeting membership will be dropped.

PROJECTS REPORTS

Children’s Learning Garden - Lettuce planted in the greenhouse is being harvested.

ASU Display Garden - 1,000 pansy plants have been planted.

Farmers Market/Deck – The entry looks great and the Farmers Market committee praised the CCMG for the work they have been doing. Educational materials were presented to interested parties on the last Saturday on the deck. This effort will be repeated next year.

City Hall – 24 flats of pansies have been planted.

OLD BUSINESS: Business cards are available. They are $10 for 100 and must be ordered by November 15th.
NEW BUSINESS: Christmas Party will be held next month. Spouses/ friends are invited. A $10 gift or canned goods for the Helping Neighbors Food Program is requested in lieu of a gift exchange.

Members were reminded to document their hours on-line. All hours must be in by December 31 or cannot be counted.

Facebook Page – Melinda Smith discussed ways to access the site she has created for our county.

Monthly board meeting – This meeting is an open meeting. All interested members are invited to attend.

Grant Gift from Janet Carson was presented to the Children’s Learning Garden and accepted by Melinda Smith. A variety of garden tools were presented.

November Birthdays were 6th - Jessie Olsen, 7th - Katherine McCracken, 15th - Vickey Mullally, 16th - Jim Taylor, 19th - George Williams, 22nd - Kim Watkins, 24th - Marilyn Wysocki, 25th - Ditty Mitts and 26th - Mimi Cox.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

November Program

Myra Jane Biggers and Peggy Lane created an excellent and informative PowerPoint program, Art for the Garden, for the November Monthly Meeting. The program, which was presented by Peggy, showed photos of garden art in the yards of our own Master Gardeners. The creativity shown by members provided many wonderful ideas that we can all use.

Art for the Garden
Presentation by Peggy Lane
PowerPoint by Myra Jane Biggers

Hang It Up
Charlotte Hemphill

Birdbaths
Myra Jane Biggers
Donna Bandy

More Signs
Brenda Lane
Marna Diamond

Recycling
Sandy Felkins

Potted Plants
Carrie Ray
Sandy Felkins

Creeping Jenny
Lana Keyes

Potted Plants
Carrie Ray
Sandy Felkins

Vickey Mullally

Sandy Felkins

Carrie Ray
Sandy Felkins
POINSETTIA CARE
by
Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

Poinsettias are traditional plants that are used to add color to our Christmas decorations. If you follow a few simple tips, these plants can last for several months.

1. Poinsettias like lots of bright, indirect sunlight and prefer humid conditions, so you may want to mist your plant if your home is very dry due to heating or climate.

2. Let the soil dry out between watering. The soil should be dry to the touch. Also, be sure not to let the plant’s pot stand in water. A layer of pebbles in the bottom of the tray will keep the plant out of the water and increases the humidity around the plant.

3. Poinsettias are sensitive to extreme temperature, so don’t place your plant next to a heater, heat registers or near drafts from windows or doorways. A daytime temp of around 65 degrees and nights around 60 degrees will provide perfect conditions for your poinsettia.

For those die hard gardeners, poinsettias can be saved and made to rebloom the next year. This process is very involved, so if anyone is interested, contact me for the instructions.

From the staff at the Extension Office, have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a very prosperous New Year.
Photos from P. Allen Smith’s Moss Mountain Farm
2014 Master Gardener Classes Scheduled

Classes will begin Saturday, January 18, 2014 for new Master Gardener students from Craighead, Greene and Mississippi counties and will continue each Saturday through February 15 at the Extension Office. On February 22, the new Master Gardeners from Craighead County will meet with their mentors, the officers and project chairs for a welcome lunch and county orientation.

Speakers include Janet Carson, horticulture specialist along with the other specialists in the Extension program. Dr. Kim Pittcock, the county agents, guest speakers and Master Gardeners complete the schedule of excellent training in the core curriculum and electives.

The Master Gardener program in our county and every county is dependent upon volunteers. We need to focus on recruiting prospective members who will complete their payback hours. Good recruiting and good mentoring are the answers to retention of good members in the future.

We have an informative brochure that LaVeta Howerton has placed at area nurseries and the county library. There are other places and organizations where we need to place our information. If you can help do that or have suggestions on locations, please call LaVeta.

The best recruiting tool is word of mouth. If you know someone who is interested, please call the Extension office and ask for an application form to be mailed to that person. Then be sure to follow up with a personal contact to encourage their enrollment in the class.

We have an outstanding group of Master Gardeners in the Class of 2013. The nine active members have already met their payback goals and in record time! We are proud of them and look forward to another great class in 2014.
Wish List for Children’s Garden

The project at the HWES School Children’s Garden can use your help. Funds get tight for supplies for their gardening, cooking classes and other events. Please pick up anything on the list and bring it to the monthly Master Gardener meeting. There will be a box for your donations. The wish list includes:

- Latex gloves – sizes small and medium
- Clorox wipes
- Baggies of all sizes
- Petco gift cards (amounts begin at $5) for food for the garden pets
- WalMart gifts cards (amounts begin at $5) for various supplies to cook with

Thanks for your support of the Children’s Garden. Please check out the HWES Facebook page [https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens](https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens) for pictures and information.

December Potluck

December 5th will be the date of our potluck dinner. Members are asked to bring casseroles, vegetables, salads, meat (such as chicken or ham) or a dessert. Bread and drinks will be provided.

Don't forget a donation of either $10.00 in non-perishable food or money that will go to the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Contest During Potluck

During our December Christmas Party, you'll see a poster displaying some Arkansas invasive plants. Be sure to enter the contest by identifying the plants. The winner will be announced in the January newsletter and will receive a useful gardening tool.

Thirty-six year old Japanese Maple tree in Katherine McCracken's yard. Photo by Sam Hummelstein.

Photo by Betty Nichols of Nasturiums her yard.
This time of the year, “Visions of Sugarplums” might be going through most people’s minds, but I’m dreaming of a gardening oasis. No one will ever accuse me of being a Master Gardener. I have—GASP—weeds growing in my flower beds, leaves are literally knee deep, and the only gardening “plan” I have is to keep my plants alive! But I can dream, and dream I do. Tis the season, so I’m sharing books that I love. Grab a cup of hot cocoa, a couple pieces of fudge (remember, we can work off those calories when we are gardening this summer) and take a break with any of these volumes.

My first selection is Ultimate Guide: Porches by Steve Cory. This lovely work gets right down to business reminding us of the beauty of porches and how it encourages old-fashioned socializing. Need to expand your living space without spending the big bucks? This book has you covered. Trim work, lights, spas, it’s all completely over my head, but I love the pictures!

The front cover of Design Ideas for Decks by Creative Homemaker totally mesmerized me. You’ve got to see this!! A spectacular circular deck—a tiny slice of paradise beckoning the reader to come and enjoy. There are over 200 photographs to help you create, “a deck that you and your family will enjoy for many years to come.” This book contains some of the most beautiful photos I’ve ever seen!

Dream Backyards by Family Handyman has plenty of “gift ideas” to give to yourself. Containing over 30 projects, my favorite section is “Easy for Everyone Projects.” I confess, I’m not going to be lured into trying any of these—even though it uses the two magical words “ease and simplicity” because I know my limitations. But I enjoy thinking of what you Master Gardeners might be creating. The book is full of ideas to help spark your imagination and proclaims, “what are you waiting for?”

Tom Denlick’s The Big Book of Gazebos, Pergolas, and Other Backyard Architecture is a true masterpiece. The back cover features a columned structure, candle lit dining space, and a fireplace all overlooking a lovely lake. Can you say dreamy??!? I enjoyed this book tremendously, but I can tell you these people are on a totally different planet than where I live.

Some people enjoy dreaming about fancy cars, exotic vacations, or diamond jewelry. My fantasy, regardless of the season, will always be an idyllic outdoor area where I can escape the troubles of the day and retreat to my happy place. Wishing you a 2014 full of fabulous gardening adventures!
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  Ginger Adams  Sandra Arwood
Donna Bachman  Stan Bachman  Evelyn Baker
Donna Bandy  Myra Jane Biggers  Ethel Cole
Mimi Cox  Glenda Drace  Jan Dupwe
Ella Ellingson  Brenda Ferralasco  Brenda Gray
Debbie Hall  Charlotte Hemphill  Mary Hosinski
LaVeta Howerton  Amanda Hurdle  Jane Jamison
Lana Keyes  Brenda Lane  Peggy Lane
Sarita McCarty  Katherine McCracken  Ditty Mitts
Cindy Morris  Vickey Mullaly  Jason Mullins
Shenia Mullins  Luci Murray  Betty Nichols
Jessie Olsen  Becky Phillips  Lesia Pittman
Reta Ragland  Carrie Ray  Fran Robinson *
Ann Ross  Diane Sandberg  Sharron Schelin
Paul Schneider  Connie Seay  Ralph Seay
Neva Shewmaker  Melinda Smith  Elizabeth Spencer *
Amanda Steoeppler  Judy Strange  Jack Sugg
Debbie Tate  Cleo Thomas *  Mike Thompson
Donna Tolewitzke *  Anna Warren *  Susan Westbrook
George Williams *  Bobbie Wilson  Erlene Wise
Billy Woodruff  Katie Wysocki *  Marilyn Wysocki *

* Class of 2013

Congratulations to everyone who has recertified! Several are very close to recertifying, and some need to enter all hours for 2013. The deadline is December. We especially need hours from our Life and Sustainer members if you have worked on any of the projects or have learning hours. All hours are important for the Master Gardener program and Extension in reporting to the state. If you need help, please call Judy Strange or Mimi Cox. Thanks!

2014 Dues are Due

It is time to pay your 2014 MG dues. The fee is $10 if paid by the January meeting, and $15 after that up until the cutoff at our February meeting. You can either pay Mike Thompson at the Potluck or mail it to him at 1517 S. Madison, Jonesboro 72401.

Tips from Members

From Peggy Lane: If you're in the market for new pruners for next season, and if you trust the Good Housekeeping Research Seal of Approval, these sharp pruners make quick work of any outdoor chop job. The Fiskars Powergear Bypass Pruner 8736 is durable but lightweight, thanks to unique super smooth rolling gears that help prevent cramping.

From Vickey Mullally: For inexpensive plant labels try making stakes from plastic mini-blinds. If you don’t have an old blind in your home you can usually find them at thrift stores. The wider each blind is the more information you can write about the plant.
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.

Standing Committee Chairs

Projects
Myra Jane Biggers

Programs
Brenda Lane

Membership & Retention
LaVeta Howerton

Historian
Ann Dent

Social
Debbie Tate - Chair
Amanda Hurdle - Co-Chair

Parliamentarian
Mimi Cox

Executive Committee
The Officers

Newsletter Editor
Diane Sandberg

Photographer
Myra Jane Biggers

Upcoming Events

December

5 - Monthly Meeting Potluck Supper.

For list of Arkansas shows, meetings, etc. statebystategardening.com/ar/calendar/

For information on Memphis events see www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/events.htm

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

Fundraiser for Children's Garden

Melinda Smith is asking for volunteers to sew a couple of these type of aprons. The Upcycled Jean Apron Fundraiser Project for the Children's Learning Gardens is trying to build a nice stock of these to sell at their student plant sale and Spring farmers market. If interested you can contact Melinda at melinda.smith@jonesboroschools.net

Citygarden
St. Louis

Photo by Diane Sandberg

St. Louis Botanical Garden

Photo by Diane Sandberg

Happy Holidays
Garden Quotes

Winter is the season in which people try to keep the house as warm as it was in the summer, when they complained about the heat.

Author Unknown

“From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens - the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind’s eye.”

Katherine S. White

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

HWES School Gardens Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/HWESschoolgardens

CCMG Facebook Page
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Craighead-County-Master-Gardeners/629232630461141?ref=hl

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 2012 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 7,570 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.

Branon Thiesse
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal 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/".