December Birthdays

1 - Nina Peeler
1 - Stan Bachman
1 - Steve Smith
2 - Elizabeth Gersch
3 - Darwin Allbritton
12 - Elizabeth Spencer
13 - Bob McKeel
15 - LaVera Davis
19 - Evelyn Baker
19 - Nick Wysocki
20 - Debbie Tate
22 - Angela Gary
25 - Edward Pruett
28 - Ross Ward
29 - Bobbie Wilson

Next Meeting will be December 1
Program - Christmas Potluck
6:30 pm

From the President
Ann Fergeson

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

It is hard to believe that 2016 is almost gone. I hope that everyone feels as I do that it has been a Good Master Gardener Year. I have been involved with many groups and organizations and I can say that in very few of them, members got along as well as in this one. We work hard but there is a lot of gratification. If we are working or playing, I see smiles. Everyone just seems “Happy to Be Here”. It’s all about a positive attitude. If we can continue to enjoy what we are doing and who we are doing it with, we can accomplish good things for our community.

In some ways, it has been a sad year. We have lost one of our new members, and some of our members have lost family. But we have seen 2 new lives become part of our group. This mimics our work as Master Gardeners. After the cold and barren winter, new life comes forth and the cycle begins again.

Happy Holiday!! I hope that each of you has a really good Christmas and may the New Year bring only good things.

Don’t forget to log your hours and I hope to see you at the Christmas Potluck / Awards Dinner on December 1.
Home Pest Control Safety

By
Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

The following was taken from the
U of A Pest Management Newsletter.

The most effective way to reduce or eliminate pest problems and risks posed by pesticides is to first prevent pests from entering your home. Around the home, pest prevention measures include removing sources of food and water and eliminating pest shelters and breeding sites.

Store food in sealed plastic or glass containers.

Fix leaky plumbing and do not let water accumulate anywhere in the structure. Don't let water accumulate in trays under houseplants.

Don't leave pet food and water out overnight. Also, if you apply pesticides, pet food and water should be removed from the area.

Clutter provides shelter for pests - places for roaches and mice to breed and hide-and makes it difficult to provide effective pest control. Keep the level of clutter down.

Close off entryways and hiding places. For example, you can caulk cracks and crevices around cabinets or baseboards, and use wire mesh to fill holes around where pipes go through a wall, ceiling, or floor.

Check for pests in packages or boxes before carrying them into the home.

Before purchasing or using any pesticide, always read and then carefully follow the directions on the container label. When using pesticides in the home, keep pets and children away from areas where pesticides have been applied until label instructions indicate reentry is allowed.

Only apply pesticides approved for use in homes; the label will list where the pesticide may be used. When disposing of leftover pesticides and pesticide containers, do so properly. Read the label to find out how to dispose of the pesticide and the container.

Never transfer pesticides to other containers. Pesticides should only be stored in their original containers. Poisonings have occurred when someone accidentally consumed a pesticide stored in food or beverage containers.

As always, please contact the Extension Office with all of your pesticide questions.
The November 3, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:30 pm by president, Ann Ferguson.

**Program** – Braun Campbell introduced the speaker, CCMG, Mary Jones. Her presentation was about her experiences growing and drying herbs. She displayed her dehydrator, which she has used for over twenty years, a 50-year-old blender, and some of the herbs she grew in her yard. Various methods for drying herbs include the dehydrator, in the microwave, in an oven on a parchment lined cookie sheet, and air drying in a dry, dark place. The dried herbs can then be stored in an airtight container, frozen in an ice tray or they may be ground and then stored. Mary also displayed some books on drying herbs, a couple of which are in our lending library. I felt encouraged to try drying herbs myself after listening to Mary, and I believe others were too.

**Minutes** – The minutes of the October meeting were approved as stated in the newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report** – The treasurer’s report was approved as stated by treasurer, Stephanie Neely.

**Old Business** - New chairs for several positions will be needed for next year including a program chairman, newsletter editor, FFA/CDE chair, and a projects chairman. Mimi Cox reported from the nominating committee that the current officers have agreed to another term in office.

**New Business** – Brannon Thiesse urged everyone to continue to report all work hours and learning hours. The total number of hours is used by the legislature to calculate funding for the coming year by attaching a dollar value to each volunteer hour. A strong, active membership will indicate an effective organization. Please continue to record your hours online. The two ASU horticulture scholarship recipients, Amber Booth and Victoria Dienst were introduced. Victoria is a second time recipient. Suggested changes to the annual plant sale (which funds the scholarships) include changing the name to CCMG Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale; providing detailed descriptions of the responsibilities of each plant sale worker, adding the positions of managing staff and merchandise; adding scheduled speakers; and improving the quality of the plants offered for sale.

**Announcements** – A memorial tree will be planted in memory of CCMG, Lyle Lati- more. A $25 donation to the seeding fund will be made in memory of Paula Smith’s mother and Lillie Fears’ father. The 2017 calendars are for sale for $1.00 each. The December meeting will be a Christmas potluck and each member is to bring a dish and a $10 contribution to the food bank. Membership directory forms were made available. A sign-up sheet for refreshments for the new 2017 class starting in January was also available.

Dues of $10 for the 2017 year are now payable to Stephanie Neely.

The door prize went to Debbie Tate.

Birthday plants were given out to those with a November birthday. Hershey kisses were given to those who remembered to wear their name tag.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm.
Congratulations to the Health and Wellness Magnet School

Photos by Melinda Smith

Arkansas Agriculture Department

November 7, 2016

Superintendent Wilbanks,

Thank you for your application to compete in the Arkansas Agriculture Department’s School Garden of the Year Contest. The School Garden of the Year contest began in 2012 and the number of contestants continues to grow each year. As you know, the School Garden of the Year contest is divided into four separate categories: Best Nutrition Education, Best Environmental Based Education, Best Community Collaboration, and Overall School Garden of the Year.

On behalf of the Arkansas Agriculture Department it is my honor to inform you that the Health/Wellness and Environmental Studies Magnet School has been selected as this year’s Nutrition Education Winner! Through funds provided by Farm Credit of Arkansas, you will be receiving a check for $500.

This year we are excited to announce that Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson will be presenting each of the School Garden of the Year category winners with their awards. The formal presentation of awards with the Governor will take place on Wednesday, December 7th at 1:30 pm in the Governor’s Conference Room at the State Capitol. Officials from the Arkansas Agriculture Department and Farm Credit of Arkansas will assist Governor Hutchinson with the presentations at the ceremony.

Due to being selected as the Nutrition Education Winner for 2016, we cordially invite you, your staff, teachers and students to attend the awards ceremony and have your pictures taken with Governor Hutchinson. So that we can plan accordingly, please RSVP with the names and number of attendees by Wednesday, November 23rd.

Congratulations again on this great accomplishment. We are looking forward to celebrating with you on Wednesday, December 7th.

Best,

Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture
CCMGs Touring Steve Pugh’s Garden
Photos by Donna Tolewitzke and Peggy Lane

Fall color on an oak leaf hydrangea and a sumac in Peggy Lane’s garden.

Iris that bloomed November 19th in Diane Sandberg’s garden.
Standing Committee Chairs

Projects
Jane Jamison

Programs
Braun Campbell

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition
Peggy Lane

Historians
Sharron & Bruce Schelin

Social
Debbie Tate

Parliamentarian
Mimi Cox

Executive Committee
The Officers

Members-at-Large
Jan Dupwe
Mary Jones
Erlene Wise
Billy Woodruff

Newsletter Editor
Diane Sandberg

Attention Mentors

If you have not contacted your mentee recently, please be sure to do so today. Some people have not reported any work hours or learning hours. What a shame it would be if this should happen to be your mentee. Remember that you will be evaluated by your mentee at the end of the year. Don’t forget to check on them and let them know we will do everything possible to help them get their pay-back hours before time runs out. Thanks a bunch.
Peggy Lane
R-R-R Chair

December Reminders

Potluck - Our annual Christmas Potluck will be held at the Extension Office on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 6:30. (This will be the night of the Christmas Parade so make allowances.) Spouses are also invited. Please bring your favorite dish. Bread and drinks will be provided.

Also, please bring $10 worth of nonperishable food items or $10 check made out to the Helping Neighbors Food Pantry. Remember that not everyone is as blessed as we are. You will receive a new MG calendar plus additional calendars can be purchased for $1.00.

Dues - Don’t forget the “Early Bird Special” regarding dues. Only $10 up until our January 5 meeting. After the January meeting, the cost will be $15, and if dues are not paid by January 31 the person will no longer be considered a Master Gardener. Try to make Stephanie happy and remember to take care of this at our Potluck.

Changes - If you have moved, changed your email or mailing address, or phone number, please let Mimi know so we can be sure our 2017 directory is accurate. We need to know how to reach you. There is a form for this purpose in the white pages of your red notebook.

Photos - Please take lots of fall/winter pictures to enter the 2017 statewide MG calendar contest. All MGs can submit four photos—one for each season. Fall and winter photographs are always in short supply, so grab your camera now and capture some of the last of the leaves, trees and shrubs! More on this later.

Plant Sale - Don’t forget to pot up those plants for our annual spring plant sale.

Reminder

Our friend, Renee Shepherd, owner of Reneesgarden.com (Renee’s Garden Seeds), is making a wonderful offer for Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary School. If you go to her website and order seed, and use this code when you order: FR556A, she will donate 25% of the price of the seed you order, to the Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary Kitchen/Garden Program. Isn’t that great? So, go to her website and order some seed, being sure to use the FR556A coupon code.
Re-certified Members

According to the log sheets, as of November 21 the following members are re-certified:

Eileen Adams
Ginger Adams
Donna Bachman
Stan Bachman
Evelyn Baker
Donna Bandy
*Laura Bettis
Debra Boyles
* Cathy Caldwell
Braun Campbell
*Lise Cater
Ethel Cole
Mimi Cox
Ann Dent
Glenda Drace
Ella Ellingson
* Barb Evans
Ann Ferguson
Brenda Ferralasco
* Pat Finch
Kyoko Graham
Charlotte Grant
Brenda Gray
Debbie Hall
Charlotte Hemphill
Carolyn Henry
Pat Hester
Mary Hosinski
Laveta Howerton
* Terri Inman
Jane Jamison
Mary Jones
Lana Keyes
Peggy Lane
Brenda Layne
Linda Light
Karen Massey
Sarita McCarty
Katherine McCracken
Bob McKeel
Ditty Mitts
Cindy Morris
Vickey Mullally
Shenia Mullins
Luci Murray
Stephanie Neely
Betty Nichols
Connie Seay
Ralph Seay
Melinda Smith
Susan Shelton
Pat Shirley
Melinda Smith
Debbie Tate
Mike Thompson
Donna Tolewitzke
Tim Tolewitzke
Anna Warren
Susan Westbrook
Mike Wilbanks
Margaret Williams
Bobbie Wilson
Erlene Wise
Billy Woodruff
* Gary Woodward
Katie Wysocki
Marilyn Wysocki
Nick Wysocki

It is VERY important that members log in their hours regularly! If anyone still needs help, please contact Donna Tolewitzke or fill out the time sheets in the Red Notebook and bring to the next meeting.

Important Reminders

Logging in Hours: If you are having problems logging hours and/or would rather Donna log them for you please email her at dtolewitzke@gmail.com. Please include where you worked, the date and the amount of time you worked. And let’s not forget, include your learning/education hours!

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.

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.
New MG Class Begins January 21

Building a strong MG program starts with recruiting volunteers who are interested in horticulture. Notice the stress on volunteers. If we only recruit people who are interested in gardening, they will not stay with the program long, and our county program will not grow.

Recruits need to know from the beginning that they are joining a group and will be expected to fulfill service hours. The program is designed to recruit and train volunteers to help meet the needs of home gardeners while providing an enjoyable and worthwhile service experience as we volunteer in our community.

Recruiting the right people to take the training and become part of our Master Gardener program will go a long way toward building a strong and growing group.

Prospective members can applied online at: https://forms.uaex.edu/counties/Craighead/MG-application.asp

Prospective members can view information about the Craighead County program at: http://www.uaex.edu/counties/craighead/CCMG%20Projects%20Outline%202016b.pdf

Please be an active MG recruiter!

Volunteer Help Wanted

We are planning our new year and have need for a Newsletter Editor and a Chairman for our FFA-CDE event at Astate in March.

Diane Sandberg is giving up her position as editor of the Newsletter after four years. She has done a wonderful job and is willing to help anyone who replaces her in getting the first edition out. Her replacement needs to be skilled in Word and/or Publisher. Most of the articles are written by our members and the bulk of the time is spent on layout.

We have an award winning newsletter. It was presented the “Newsletter of the Year” award at the State Convention in Eureka Springs this year. We are all very proud of it and will be willing to help in any way.

The FFA-CDE is our first big event of the year. While preparation is pretty intense, it is one-and-done and when it is over, it is over. Preparation involves gathering materials (plants, flowers, tools), and items needed to create displays and solve problems. All of this is done under the direction of Dr. Kim Pittcock. Set up is the day before the event and is the busiest time. There is always plenty of volunteers as this is the first opportunity for the new class member to earn working hours. It is also a fun event as we get to interact with FFA members from all over this area.

Either of these openings would be good for any member who has health issues that might limit working in the gardens or being exposed to extreme heat.

If you think that you might be interested, contact Ann Ferguson - ann@amgmail.net.
December

Now-December 31 - Hot Springs - Brushwood Dance: An Art Installation by W. Gary Smith - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Smith is a nationally known landscape architect and artist who employs a very collaborative design process to create site-specific art installations crafted from materials harvested from the site - 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. - 800-366-4664 for more information.

Now - Dec 31 - Hot Springs - Holiday Lights - Garvan Woodland Gardens - See 4.5 million brilliant bulbs transform approximately 17 acres into a memorable animated holiday display in one of Arkansas’ most anticipated events - complimentary hot chocolate. The Chipmunk Café will be open from 3-9 p.m. each day during Holiday Lights. 5-9 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). Members free, $15 adults, $5 ages 6 to 12, free ages 0 to 5. Golf cart tour $15 per person additional. No reservations. For more information call 501-262-9300.

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
"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st, and ends on December 31."
  Marie Huston

"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 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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