Weeder’s Digest
Craighead County Master Gardeners
January 2016 Volume 11, Issue 1

Next Meeting will be January 7
Social - 6:00 pm Meeting 6:30

From the President
Ann Fergeson

To everything there is a season....
Ecc 3:1 King Solomon

As we begin this new year, I would like to thank the nominating committee and our board of directors for the opportunity to serve as leader of our group for 2016. I am proud to be a Master Gardener. Membership brings such a respect from the community.

I would also like to reflect a bit on 2015. Last year, our group donated almost 7000 hours of community service work. Our many, many projects brought a lot of attention to our work. We were recently honored at “The City of Jonesboro Volunteer Appreciation Gala”. We were recognized for our work and presented a commendation certificate signed by Mayor Perrin. Be proud of the hours of service that you perform. We cannot measure the pleasure that we bring to the community through our work. We impact people that we don’t know in ways that we will never see.

An important 2016 project coming soon is our new member class. We all need to become a part of this. Let these new members know how glad we are that they have chosen to join our group. Develop relationships with them as they go through their training, and work to earn their hours. The more they feel like a part of the group, the more the likelihood that they will become long term members. Retention is the future of any group. Work hard to make them know how important they are.

2015 was a season of worthwhile things accomplished. I am looking forward to 2016 being a time of building friendships and relationships while we work toward making our area a better place for so many people.

I wish everyone a Blessed New Year.

January Birthdays
5th - Erlene Wise
7th - Donna Bachman
11th - Lana Keyes
12th - Jerry Beal
13th - Glenda Drace
13th - Cindy Morris
14th - Betty Nichols
19th - Sharron Schelin
19th - Billy Woodruff
21st - Karen Massey
22nd - Jan Dupwe
29th - Bruce Schelin
31st - Ellen Hester
Poinsettia Care

By
Brannon Thiesse BS, MS
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 plants pot stand in water at the plants base or saucer (A layer of pebbles in the bottom of the tray keeps 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.
Annual Christmas Party
Photos by Diane Sandberg
Recruiting for the 2016 Class
Story by Mimi Cox

The Master Gardener program is a volunteer organization and depends upon its volunteers. We seek to recruit those who will find the program rewarding and will fulfill their commitment to volunteer in our projects and program. We also want to keep our members who complete the training and will continue to make CCMG strong and one of the best in the state.

Everything you do as a Master Gardener is a promotion of the program. Create interest in MG by sharing information enthusiastically about our projects and activities. Invite those who might be interested to come to our meeting on January 7 with you. Our members are our best advertisement!

The new class will begin on Saturday, January 23 and continue each Saturday through February 27. You are welcome to attend to get learning hours for 2016. Mentors will be needed for new class members, so please consider volunteering to help. Thank you for your support and assistance with the Class of 2016.

Reminders for January

**Changes** - If you have moved, changed your email or mailing address, or phone number, please let Mimi know so we can be sure our 2016 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 or you can email Mimi.

**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.
Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree!
Thy leaves are so unchanging.
from a German Christmas Carol

Tis the season, and I couldn’t miss the opportunity to share a few books about one of my passions: Trees. My husband and I once had a minor wreck because of a tree. It was in the fall. We were driving down a hill and there on the left was a magnificent Gingko tree. Unfortunately, on the right side of the road was a stop sign, but we weren’t looking to the right.

*The Tree* by Colin Tudge explains “the natural history of what trees are, how they live, and why they matter.” After reading this book, I’m not sure I will ever look at a tree in the same way. When you close the book you will see a tree and think, “That’s not just A TREE—it is a STORY. For example “there are redwoods in California that were ancient by the time Columbus first landed, and pines still alive today that germinated around the time humans invented writing”. Much food for thought! Call number for this book is 582.16 Tu 81.

Bill Vaughn’s *Hawthorn: the Tree that has Nourished, Healed, and Inspired through the Ages* was a surprise for me. Prior to stumbling onto this volume, I’m pretty sure I’ve never even heard of a Hawthorn Tree. If you are looking for a book with stunning photos—keep looking, because there are none in this book. What you will find is an intriguing little story about this ancient species and how it has been used for medicinal purposes, as an impenetrable living fence, and in Christian iconography. This book is located at 583 Vaughn.

*The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Trees of the Americas* by Tony Russell has so much terrific information packed inside. I might not be much of a gardener, but I’m an excellent student. There is a fascinating section covering roots. And who knew there was such a thing as an endangered tree???? The call number is 582.1609 Ru91.

*The Firefly Encyclopedia of Trees*, edited by Steve Cafferty is pretty predictable, but that’s not a bad thing. I actually ENJOYED the first section, which focuses on form, structure, growth, and ecology of trees. These are things I would have learned in high school biology if I hadn’t been more interested in the cute football player sitting behind me. The book has a terrific index, which appeals to the librarian in me, plus some great leaf examples for identification purposes. And as the book states, “Trees—they inspire us, soften the urban landscape, and help to keep us in tune with the changing seasons”. This book is located on the shelf under 582.16 Fi59.

For these and other resources, please visit your Public Library or view our catalog at www.libraryinjonesboro.org.
Master Gardeners Re-certified for 2015

The following CCMG members have fulfilled the working and learning requirements for 2015 AND reported them online:

Eileen Adams
Donna Bachman
Donna Bandy
Debra Boyles
Mimi Cox #
Glenda Drace
Brenda Ferralasco
Debbi Hall
Pat Hester*
Amanda Hurdle
Mary Jones
Peggy Lane #
Katherine McCracken
Ditty Mitts
Vickey Mullally
Stephanie Neely
Becky Phillips
Reta Ragland
Ann Ross #
Sharron Schelin
Ralph Seay #
Pat Shirley
Elizabeth Spencer
Cleo Thomas
Tim Tolewitzke
Mike Wilbanks *
Erlene Wise
Marilyn Wysocki
Ginger Adams
Stan Bachman
Laura Bassham*
Braun Campbell
LaVera Davis
Jan Dupwe
Kyoko Graham*
Charlotte Hemphill
Mary Hosinski
Carolyn Imboden
Lana Keyes
Brenda Layne
Bob McKeel
Mary Montgomery*
Jason Mullins
Betty Nichols
Barbara Pitcock*
Carrie Ray
Diane Sandberg #
Paul Schneider
Susan Shelton*
Kelly Simmons
Judy Strange
Mike Thompson
Anna Warren
Margaret Williams
Billy Woodruff
Nick Wysocki
Sandra Arwood
Evelyn Baker
Myra Jane Biggers
Ethel Cole
Ann Dent
Ann Fergeson
Brenda Gray
Carolyn Henry
LaVeta Howerton
Jane Jamison
Linda Light*
Sarita McCarty
Karen Massey*
Cindy Morris
Shenia Mullins
Jessie Olsen
Val Price
Terri Reno
Bruce Schelin
Connie Seay
Neva Shewmaker
Melinda Smith
Debbie Tate
Donna Tolewitzke
Susan Westbrook
Bobbie Wilson
Katie Wysock

83 Craighead County Master Gardeners have recertified for 2015, including 9 from our MG Class of 2015! Congratulations to you all!
Please enter your 2015 hours soon. The deadline for entering online is December 31. If you need help recording your hours, call Judy Strange or Mimi Cox. Thanks for all of your support of our projects!

* Class of 2015 – Recertified
# Master Gardeners with more than 100 working hours

Health & Wellness Magnet School

From: Melinda Smith  No pictures but our BIG seed order has been placed. The seeds will be planted in the greenhouse to get ready for our student plant sales! Start your new year Master Gardener hours with us in January!!! If you can work any hours Monday-Friday between 7:30-2:30 email Melinda Smith! The greenhouse is warm!
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
Jane Jamison

Programs
Braun Campbell

Membership & Retention
Lana Keyes

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

Upcoming Events

January

8 - 9 - Tulsa, Oklahoma - 35th Annual Horticulture Industry Show (HIS).


23, 30 & Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 - CCMG New Members Class - Jonesboro Extension Office.

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

30 - Magnolia - Magnolia Garden Thyme - Immanuel Baptist Church (corner of Highway 82 Bypass and Warnock Springs Road) - Contact: Debbie Chatelain at 870-234-6793 or debbiec1957@suddenlink.net

February

5 - 6 - Jefferson County Home & Garden Show - Pine Bluff Convention Center - Feb. 5th from 9 am - 5 pm and Feb. 6th from 9 am - 3 pm - Contact Linda Soffer at 573-253-9774 or lfsoffer@gmail.com

7 - ASU Museum Garden Club Seminar - 2:00 p.m - Janet Carson, speaker - topic "Hot Stuff for Leap Year" - Free and open to everyone - ASU Agri Building - Jonesboro - Contact: Mimi Cox for more information

26 - 28 - Little Rock - Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, 25th Anniversary - Statehouse Convention Center - 101 E Markham St, Little Rock. - The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is the largest three day celebration of gardening in the state. The goal of the show is to cultivate interest in the Natural State through what is grown for beauty and sustenance. Visitors come to learn about gardening and shop for their homes and gardens. Friday: 10 am – 7 pm, Saturday: 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday: 10 am – 4 pm - for more information visit http://argardenshow.org

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

For Master Gardener events see http://www.uaex.edu/yardgarden/master-gardeners/events.aspx

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18
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 2014 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 7257.5 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.

Branon Thiesse  
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair