On a recent rainy day, I had time to look through Jerry Baker's, "101 Great Garden Tips." Here's a few of my favorites:

1. When planting your vegetable or flower seeds, use an old salt shaker to sow small seeds - it will distribute the seeds more evenly.
2. Keep mosquitoes in your neighbor's yard the safe and natural way - by planting marigolds. Marigolds planted in and around your outdoor living areas and vegetable garden will keep mosquitoes away from you.
3. Never transplant a seedling until it has at least 4 leaves. The second set - "True Leaves" - are needed to help withstand transplant shock. And only transplant on a cloudy or overcast day.
4. An old step ladder makes a great herb garden. Simply lay the ladder down on a flat area, fill each rung area with soil, and plant a different herb in each section.
5. Don't throw away your leaky old buckets because they make an excellent slow waterer for trees and shrubs. Fill a bucket, set it near a plant, and then walk away. The water will slowly leak out of the bucket and into the soil, where it will help the plants instead of running off the top.

And finally, this is not a tip, but a request: If anyone has access to Love in a Mist (Nigella) flower seeds, please let me know. I saw these several years ago in Dora McAlister's garden and can't get them out of my gardening mind!
The old saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" seems to fit very well when dealing with diseases. Fungicide applications applied before diseases appear will insure proper plant health. Diseases such as black spot on roses and early and late blight on tomatoes are some that are for certain to appear at some point during the growing season.

Fungicides applied before diseases develop and on a schedule will give the gardener a head start in disease prevention. Other diseases can be controlled after they appear, such as powdery mildew or rusts.

Proper disease identification and fungicide selection is a must when diseases occur. I encourage everyone to utilize our disease lab for proper disease identification. This service is offered free of charge and takes only two to three days to get a diagnosis. You will also receive the recommended fungicides needed to achieve control. The Extension publication, "Arkansas Plant Disease Control Guide", also known as MP 154, (http://www.uaex.edu/publications/pdf/mp154/mp154.pdf) provides lists of recommended fungicides for vegetables, flowers, trees and shrubs and is available free of charge at the Extension Office.

Orange Fluff
From Amanda Hurdle

1 can crushed pineapple in pineapple juice
1 can Mandarin oranges in light syrup (drained and rinsed)
1 large box of vanilla instant pudding
8 oz lite Cool Whip (thawed)

Empty dry contents of vanilla instant pudding mix in large bowl and add can of crushed pineapple and juice. Mix thoroughly until there is no powder remaining. Add Mandarin oranges. Fold Cool Whip into mixture.

Chill several hours or overnight in refrigerator before serving. Enjoy alone or on top of Angel Food Cake or Pound Cake.
Coles Present May Program On Heirloom Seeds

Planting at the ASU Display Garden
Photos by Donna Tolewitzke
From Melinda Smith: With all of the plant sales out of the way, and weed growing time cranking up we will shoot for a work night every other week until August. In August, there may be a few more evenings scheduled to prepare for our 2014/2015 open house.

Three separate plant sales brought us around $4,000! The least monetary profitable sale was the student sale May 2nd, but it exceeded the rewards of watching and hearing their very serious conversations as they shopped. The biggest joy was at 3:05 at dismissal seeing them hit the halls like ants with smiling faces as they carried their plant treasures home!!!

This gives us a cushion for replacing our greenhouse fan that is not acting nice and for our greenhouse heater when it retires. The funds will also allow for the following purchases very soon: soil, potting containers, a few new watering cans, new water hose, garden knee pads, a couple extra wagons and tubs.

A special picnic is being planned at the ASU Display Garden for the 6th grade crew and their families for being dedicated to the gardens during their elementary years. It's always bittersweet to see them continue their educational journey to Jr. High. With the help of CCMG dedication, my hope is that gardening terminally infects their soul and their time at HWES is only the beginning of their love of gardening.

Working at the Farmers’ Market Sale
Plants for Shut-ins

Lesia Pittman, chairman, says, “Thank you to everyone who provided a plant! Thank you also to those that delivered plants.”
From Jason
THANK YOU!!!! This year's plant sale could not have been the huge success that it was without the hard work and dedication of each member. The plant selections were great. Each worker did an outstanding job. Even with adverse weather at the onset of the growing season, everything was perfect. A special thanks goes to the ASU Regional Farmers' Market and to Health Wellness and Environmental Studies Magnet School. We could not have had a better day!!

Photos of the Plant Sale set-up with Jason directing and at the “bell” when the rush for plants was on!!!
County 76 Connection
We Need Your Garden Photos!

New guidelines for the 2015 Master Gardener Calendar:

The file must be from 1Mb to 5 Mb in size.
High resolution photos are required in order to reprint with clarity.
We need Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall photos.

The jpg file of your photo MUST be named as follows:
first & last name .. two letter County (Craighead County is CG)
and the subject matter in the photo..
For example: BranonthiesseCGazalea.jpg would be the name on Branon’s picture.

Deadline for entries is June 1, 2014.

Please send all entries to gkbell08@att.net
If you have questions, please call the Extension office.

Where is Wally the Worm?

In each issue of the newsletter Wally the Worm will be hidden. If you find him 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.

In May, Betty Nichols was one of the winners of the Wally the Worm contest. She took this picture of the sprinkler she won with Melissa, her five year old granddaughter. Melissa loved the pink and purple sprinkler more than her bubbles, princess ball and the cute swimsuit and up to drop off time all she talked about with the sprinkler.
The minute I saw the title I was hooked. Jamil Shariff’s *50 Green Projects for the Evil Genius* roped me in before I realized we were talking about gardening. The book focuses on guerrilla gardening— the act of productive planting in underused public spaces. My husband has been farming for over 40 years, so we have always considered ourselves environmentalists, and this book is definitely for all stewards of the ground. My favorite section is Project 14: Seed Bombs! Now that I have 4 grandchildren, the idea of taking better care of Planet Earth is even more appealing to me.

Does it ever seem like there’s nothing good to watch on television, even with hundreds of channels from which to choose? Time for a terrific DVD from your Public Library! Why not take home *The Best of Ground Force* produced by Matthew Reindeers. It certainly has some of the best garden rescues you’ll ever see, and is a “celebration of 6 years of garden surprises.” If you’ve never thought of gardening as hilarious, you will after viewing this film.

Who knew that flowers had a secret life? I certainly didn’t until I happened upon Teri Dunn Chace’s *Seeing flowers: Discover the Hidden Life of Flowers*. Chace says “Flowers are an essential part of our visual experience--their beguiling colors and shapes are why we plant them in our gardens.” But in this volume, an entire dimension to flowers that our eyes can’t ordinarily detect is revealed. The exquisite photography is not to be missed, and the engaging essays offer a glimpse of a beguiling world tucked among the blossoms.
The May meeting was called to order by President Peggy Lane. Brenda Lane, Program Chair, introduced the speakers for the evening, Jack and Nancy Cole from Fulton County. They are Master Gardeners and own Hickory Ridge Seeds and they deal only in heirloom and open pollinated seeds. They presented a detailed history of heirloom seeds. Jack gave a brief description of the process used for saving seeds, which is critical to maintaining heirloom seeds. A packet of tomato seeds was given to each member present.

**Business Meeting:**
Minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Mike Thompson presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that the plant sale brought in a substantial revenue.

Jane Jamison, Project Chair, reported on various projects. She thanked the Social Committee for taking care of the snacks for each meeting. Jane commented on the publicity about the plant sale that the MG group recently received in The Sun. There were several articles and pictures published both before and after the sale. Jane also reported that she had heard several compliments on the ASU Display Garden.

- Lesia Pittman reminded the group about the Plants for Shut-ins project on May 10. All Master Gardeners are required to provide a plant and bring it to the Ecumenical Village by 8:30 am.
- Reports were given on the various gardens including the status of the project and upcoming workdays.
- LaVeta Howerton reported on the ASU Plant Sale and Melinda Smith reported on activities of the HWES.
- Jason Mullins reported on the very successful Plant Sale. Jason mentioned several factors contributed to the success - good weather, good location, good plants, and the association with the HWES project.

The 2014 Master Gardener Scholarships were presented to two ASU students who are studying horticulture - Jacy Arkless and Kelsey Jackson.

In other business, two members found "Wormy" in the newsletter - Jane Jamison and Betty Nichols. They were presented with a water sprinkler for the lawn.

Peggy reminded everyone about the State Master Gardener Convention in Texarkana, May 29-31.

Lesia announced that the gardens at the Adams Estate in Leachville would be open to the public on May 10, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ginger Adams reminded members to begin saving seeds for the District Fair.

Branon announced that Gloria Eubanks plans to retire July 31, 2014.

Plants were presented to seven members having May birthdays. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
May

29 - 31 – Arkansas Master Gardener Conference, Texarkana Convention Center, Texarkana, TX. To view the list of speakers and merchandise available for sale, see the link below. http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/conferences.aspx

31 - Polk County Master Gardeners Presents a Hands-on Workshop with Lee Coates teaching how to make Papercrēte Pots There will be two classes Basic, at 1:30 ($20) and Advanced at 4 ($30). Class size limited to 30 each class, with pre-registration and pre-payment required. Checks should be made out to PCMG, and sent to the Extension Office, 211 De Queen Street, Mena, AR 71953, ATTN: Linda Elliott. Contact Linda Elliott (479) 234-5099 for more details.

June

June 1-August 31 - Mystic Creatures 2014: “Topiary Art Meets Imagination” - Garvan Woodland Gardens - Hot Springs - Garvan Woodland Gardens is pleased to present Mystic Creatures, a summer extravaganza showcasing the newest trends in the ancient and celebrated art of topiary. Visit garvangardens.org for details.

7 - A Bloomin’ Good Garden Walk - Bella Vista Homes & Metfield Pavilion - Bella Vista - This year, the of the Bella Vista Garden Club’s garden walk will include six residential gardens, a garden center and an “Eat and Meet” stop. Before the walk, tickets can be purchased from club members, Arvest Bank and Village Garden Center for $8. On the day of the event, tickets will be $10 and can be purchased anywhere on the walk. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, visit bellavistagardenclub.com.

7 - Ornamental Gardening Workshop - Historic Washington State Park - Washington - Ornamentals aren’t just flowers anymore. Join our park gardener for a discussion and hands-on workshop with plants that may be grown for the aesthetic value of their flowers, foliage, scent, fruit, bark or anything else that beautifies your landscape. 10 - 2. $20, fee includes noon meal at historic William Tavern. Space is limited to 20 participants, minimum of 6. Reserve your slot early by calling 870-983-2684.

7 - Through Our Garden Gates - East Memphis and Lakeland - Memphis - This garden tour by Memphis Area Master Gardeners features three master gardeners’ home gardens in East Memphis and two in Lakeland. There will be onsite experts, plant lists, demonstrations and Ask a Master Gardener. Donations are appreciated. 9 - 4 –Contact the Memphis Area Master Gardener office at 901-752-1207, or visit memphisareamastergardeners.org or facebook.com/MemphisAreaMasterGardeners for more information.

12 -14 - 58th Annual Bradley County Pink Tomato Festival - County Square - Warren - The Grand Daddy of Arkansas Festivals features beauty pageants, arts & crafts, tomato-eating contest, live entertainment, parade, heirloom tomato testing, All-Tomato Luncheon, plus much, much more. For more information, visit bradleytomato.com or call 870-226-5225.

17 - Moonflowers & Mojitos - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks - Fayetteville - Mojitos and hors d’oeuvres will be served amidst the garden at the height of its summer bloom. 5:30-8 p.m. Members, $20; nonmembers, $25. Reservations recommended. For more information, call 479-750-2620 or visit bgozarks.org.

20 - 21 - Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival XVIII - Mount Magazine State Park & Downtown Paris - For more information about the park’s program, call 479-963-8502. Contact Linda Hixson at 479-963-2244 for information about the downtown celebration.

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://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/events.aspx
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/".

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

Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June.
Al Bernstein

Sun shining so bright
Birds singing a summer song
A splendid June day
Matthew Horstkotter

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.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/upcoming_events.htm

University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension
http://www.uaex.edu/