Next Meeting will be March 3
Social - 6:00 pm  Meeting 6:30
Program: Nature Jewelry - Kayla Gramling

From the President
Ann Fergeson

World’s Best Flower Arrangement
Just two Daffodils
The First to Bloom

I hope by this time everyone has seen their first daffodils. This happens every year, but I still get a feeling like no other. So far, Mother Nature has been kind to us. She teases us with spring like days and temperatures that lure us outdoors, and gives us an itch to begin our spring rituals. I know that this is not lasting, but I just hold these thoughts until the day comes when I can be outside and enjoy all the wonderful things that make up our spring days.

I encourage everyone to attend our upcoming meeting. We will be introducing our Class of 2016 Master Gardeners. It is an opportunity for all of you to meet the new members and help them feel comfortable. We are so proud of each new member and glad that they have chosen to be a part of our group. We have all been in their shoes and know how good it feels to be included. Peggy Lane, our chairman of the new 3Rs committee has some news that is geared to getting more people involved in our meetings. Come and see what she has in store. This is your meeting and we want all of you there.

Enjoy March and don’t forget to log your hours.
We just recently completed our Master Gardener training class for 2016. One of the topics discussed was the proper way to plant trees. Actually, Fall is the preferred time to plant a tree. However, plants are largely unavailable during this time, so Spring becomes the time when trees are readily available. Trees may come in large plastic pots or wrapped in burlap. However your plants come, the planting procedure is basically the same. After choosing the perfect location, a hole needs to be dug 2-3 times the size of the root ball. In the bottom of the hole, an elevated platform of soil is needed to raise the root ball away from the bottom of the hole to keep it from standing in water. The tree should not be planted any deeper than it was in the original container. If your tree came in a pot, remove it and gently bust up the root ball to encourage roots to radiate away from the tree. Burlap trees need to have any wire or string removed from the root ball. The burlap does not need to be removed but should be slit around the root ball to allow the roots unrestricted access to the soil. About 1/3 of the soil should be added to the hole then watered to remove any air pockets around the roots. Continue this process until the hole is filled. Organic mulch can then be added to slow evaporation and deter weed development. Be sure to remove any tags or plastic wrapping from around the trunk or limbs to avoid restricting the tree as it grows. Slow, deep watering should be performed as needed to eliminate drought stress while the tree develops its root system.
Work Day at ASU Greenhouse
Photos & Story by Donna Tolewitzke

Work Day at the ASU Greenhouse transplanting Sweet Potato vines, and other goodies.

Gramling to Present March Program
Story by Braun Campbell

No stranger to Craighead County Master Gardeners, Kayla Gramling will join us at the March meeting to present her nature jewelry which evolved from a hobby to a full business in 2009. As a horticulturist by training and trade, Kayla uses the inspiration of faith and nature to create beautiful pieces that represent the beauty of the garden and the natural world. Her work can be viewed on a website dedicated to her business, thetinytwigshop.com.

A graduate of Arkansas State University, Kayla currently teaches horticulture classes at the McPherson Unit, a women’s prison in Newport, which also houses a campus of the Riverside Vocational Technical School. While at A-State, Kayla was a recipient of the Master Gardener scholarship (get those plants ready!). A wife and mother of two sons, Kayla’s creative spirit, love for the natural world and energy will offer a great perspective on the natural world of meeting craft and art. She will have some of her work that includes a wide array of necklaces, bracelets and earrings available for purchase.
Standing Committee Chairs

Projects
Jane Jamison

Programs
Braun Campbell

Membership & Retention
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

Minutes of the February Meeting
By Ethel Cole
Photos by Diane Sandberg

The February 4, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:32 pm by President Ann Fergusson.

Program – Projects chairman, Jane Jamison presented the evening’s program on “The Craighead County Sanctioned Projects-Master Gardener Program.” Each of the five primary sanctioned projects was reviewed with photographs and with commentary by each project’s chair. The five primary sanctioned projects are the ASU Horticulture Display Garden (the ASU Farmer’s Market entry garden was added in 2013); the Crowley’s Ridge Nature Center Native Plant garden and Butterfly Garden; the Craighead County Courthouse, City Hall and Extension Office landscaping; and the Children’s Learning Garden at HWES magnet school. Everyone was reminded that each member must sign up for at least one primary garden project.

Minutes – Minutes of the January meeting were approved as printed in the monthly newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report – The proposed 2016 budget, based on the 2015 budget, was approved. As of February 4 all members had paid their dues.

New Business – Updated member directories were passed out, as were 2016 membership cards. The new 2016 class has 18 members, each with an assigned mentor. New members will attend the March meeting and everyone is encouraged to speak with them. An orientation class will be held Saturday, February 27 and will include lunch and a tour of the sanctioned gardens.

Announcement - The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is February 26-28 in Little Rock at the State Convention Center.

Birthdays – Each member with a February birthday received a plant.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 pm.
1. Beginning this month (March), we will honor one of our members by nominating a MASTER GARDENER OF THE MONTH. This will be a way to show our appreciation to someone who has gone above and beyond what is expected of them in their role as a Craighead County Master Gardener. We will use the "Homeland Security" phrase in a positive way: "If you see something, say something!" If you know of someone you think should be honored at one of our meetings, please let our committee know (Peggy Lane, Stephanie Neeley, Mimi Cox).

2. 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!

3. Be sure to wear your MG name tag to each meeting and receive a KISS!"

Peggy Lane,
RRR Chair
(Recruitment, Retention, Recognition)
Reminders

**Plant Sale** - Don’t forget to pot up those plants for our annual spring plant sale. Plant Sale guidelines and tags are on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter.

**Sign up for Projects** - If you were not at the February Master Gardener meeting and have not yet signed up for your projects for 2016, please send Jane Jamison (janemjamison@gmail.com) an email with your preferences **BEFORE Friday, February 26**. She will compile the lists and have them ready for your red notebooks at the March meeting. A list of the projects are on the following page of this newsletter.

Every Master Gardener is asked to sign up for at least one "primary" project (ASU Display Garden, Native Plant Garden, Butterfly Garden, Courthouse/Ext.Office/Municipal Building, or Children's Garden at HWES). In addition, you may sign up for any of the secondary projects, which are often of short duration or "as needed."

Please call or email Jane if you have any questions.

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Finalized Plans for FFA-CDE

Ralph had two “back-up” MGs, but has already assigned them to work. If you can help and would like to volunteer as a “back-up,” please email Ralph at arkyhick@gmail.com or call him at 530-9488.

Dr. Agnew has advised he will be furnishing pizza again this year in the Convocation Center, Hanes room, for volunteers from 11:45 until 1:45. We will also have coffee available for MG volunteers when you arrive (hopefully) Wednesday morning. No one will be upset with anyone who would like to bring goodies for all MGs to share.

If you have something come up at the last minute and will not be able to make it to the FFA-CDE on Wednesday morning, March 9th, please call Ralph as soon as possible (phone: 530-9488). He will have to re-assign MGs to get the tasks completed.

**NOTE TO VOLUNTEERS:** You will need to arrive at the Convocation Center Yellow entrance by 8:30 a.m., March 9th, to become familiar with your event station and receive final instructions. We should be finished by 12:30 p.m. Ralph will send an email to known volunteers as soon as he is able to make job assignments. If you have a preference of where you would like to work, let him know and he will try to comply with your wishes.

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Happy Easter
Primary Garden Projects (on-going from March through October)

Crowley's Ridge Nature Center (Native Plant Garden and Butterfly Garden)
We plant and maintain these two designated areas at the Nature Center.
The workday for the Butterfly Garden is every Tuesday morning.
The Native Plant Garden workday is also every Tuesday morning.
Record your hours under Nature Center - Native Plant Garden and/or Nature Center Butterfly Garden.

Craighead County Courthouse, City Hall and Extension Office Landscape
We plant seasonal annuals and are responsible for general maintenance of the beds.
The scheduled workdays are the 2nd Saturday of each month and others as needed.
Record your hours under Courthouse/Extension Office Landscaping/City Hall.

ASU Horticulture Display Garden
We plant and maintain the garden from spring through fall. The project workday is every Thursday morning. This project added the ASU Farmers’ Market Entry Garden in 2013.
Record your hours under ASU Display Garden or Farmers’ Market Entry Garden.
The Deck Presentation/Promotion is one Saturday a month from April through September.
Record your hours online under Presenting Programs, Classes, Seminars.

The Children's Learning Garden at HWES magnet school
We work in the gardens and greenhouses to plant and maintain the gardens, working with the MG teacher/leader and the students. Record hours under Children's Learning Garden.

Secondary Projects (Specific times during the year)

NE Arkansas District Fair – September 19-24, 2016
We construct, decorate & staff a Master Gardener booth during the fair week to promote the MG program. We also collect and package seeds to be given away to visitors to our booth.
Floriculture – Receive and organize the horticulture specimens for judging. Working hours are scheduled for Sunday afternoon before the fair, Monday morning of fair week and Sunday afternoon after the fair closes.
These 2 project activities are both recorded under NEA District Fair.

Plants for Sunset Gardens – May 7, 2016
We provide gift plants for residents of Sunset Gardens on the second Saturday in May. Each Master Gardener provides one small (6” to 8”) plant or dish garden. You may construct your own or purchase a plant or hanging basket. Record your hours under Plants for Sunset Gardens.

MG Basic Training – Last 2 Saturdays in January, plus 4 Saturdays in Feb., 2016
We assist with interviews, breaks, refreshments, mentoring new class members and as requested in other ways to assimilate the class into the Master Gardener program. Record your hours under MG Training for New Members if you sign up to work.
If you attend the classes, those hours are recorded under Attending Classes, Programs and Seminars for learning hours.

Spring Plant Sale – April 30, 2016
This is our fundraising project, which supports our scholarship and our program expenses. Master Gardeners supply plants and sponsor a sale for the public. Record time for committee meetings, potting plants to sell, and working at the sale on Friday and/or Saturday under Plant Sale.

NE Arkansas FFA, CDE – March 9, 2016
We are in charge of Floriculture in this one-day competitive event for high school FFA students in the Northeast Arkansas district. Record hours under NEA FFA Career Development.

ASU Greenhouse - Various days at various times as needed by Dr. Pittcock
We plant seeds and re-pot seedlings when needed. We also assist with the Plant Science Club plant sales in spring and fall. Record hours under ASU Greenhouse

Craighead County Extension Office and NEA District Fair Education Exhibits
New members are required to work 8 hours either at the Extension office or by taking home projects to complete for the office. Other MGs who need to work inside may also volunteer to work when needed.
We assist with registration of the Extension Education Exhibits at the fair on Monday of fair week and with the return of exhibit materials on Sunday afternoon after the fair closes.
These 2 projects are recorded under Extension Office and Fair Education Exhibits.
President Ann Ferguson with MG basket, put together with donations from board members. The basket (bucket) was auctioned off at the 4-H Scholarship Chili Supper on February 20th.
If “home is where the heart is” reflects truth, we all know our hearts and our homes are also in our gardens and yards. The space outside my home is truly an extension of my living space, and actually it is the best, most serene part of my home. With this in mind, I’ve selected books with lovely homes surrounded by inspirationally beautiful plantings.

Perhaps we all have dreamed of that vacation retreat, where we can slip away on weekends to enjoy those things that we have put on the back burner all week. Dale Mulfingers’ *The Getaway Home* feeds into this fantasy. Thumbing through these pages I see myself walking the pathways, I see myself on that deck staring out into the mountainside, and I see myself leaning against the balcony rail overlooking the fields. This book is so peaceful, it’s downright therapeutic. 728.7 Mu89

*Key West: A tropical Lifestyle* by Leslie Linsley has an abundance of lush, delicious, plantings that will leave your mouth watering for more. This volume showcases many species that live happily here in our climate. If you are looking for a visual to help spur you in a new gardening direction, this would be a great sourcebook. 728 Linsl

I’ve always loved the water. I spent my teenage years lifeguarding at the local pool, and then struggled through the early years of my empty-nest syndrome by kayaking regularly. So it’s no surprise I’d be drawn to *Lake Houses by John De Visser* with its front cover of turquoise blue water. That spectacular blue water makes the perfect backdrop for leafy and evergreen trees, vibrant potted begonias, and window boxes overflowing with tomato-red geraniums. 728.7 De49

I enjoyed Jim Fraiser’s *The Garden District of New Orleans*, because it serves as a reminder that landscaping has a history, just as surely as we do. It’s fun looking at these estates and seeing how these plans compare to modern lawns of today. The one common denominator I felt when viewing these pictures is that in almost every picture I felt like I needed to trim the hedges. Take a look and see if you agree. 728 Frais

For these and other resources, please visit your Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library, open 7 days a week!
Guidelines for Craighead County Master Gardeners
Plant Sale
ASU Regional Farmers’ Market
April 30, 2016, 7:30 - 3:00 pm

*Plants - MGs are asked to bring a minimum of 10 plants; while our new class members should bring a minimum of 5 plants each. Additional plant contributions are certainly welcome. Members are encouraged to propagate plants from their own gardens. However, they may purchase plants to resale. A four or six pack equals one plant. The public looks forward to our plant sale and we want to provide them with a good choice of quality plants.

Your plants should be labeled with the common name, botanical name, sun or shade requirements and any special care instructions. This information should be clearly written on the printed forms attached to the plant. The information cards should be covered with clear packing tape to prevent it from getting wet. Labels are on the following page of this newsletter.

The Plant Sale committee will be pricing all of the plants on Friday so there is no need to price them...unless you have a special plant that you believe should be priced a certain amount.

A check-off sheet will be posted during the drop-off time. Make certain to sign the sheet in order to receive credit for your plant donations.

In the past, we have asked MGs not to bring liriope/monkey grass. The committee has decided that members can bring a maximum of 2 pots of liriope/monkeygrass. You can bring more but only 2 will be counted toward your 10 plants. 2016 class members can bring 1 liriope/monkey grass.

*Drop-Off - Plants should be dropped off at the Farmer’s Market on Friday, April 29th, between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. If you are unable to drop off your plants at this time, please ask a fellow MG to bring your plants for you. Or you may drop them off on Thursday or Friday morning only at Lana Keyes’ house, 1205 West Oak Street (off of Gee street, next to Hay’s.) For more info call 932-4937 or 253-1942.

*Time - The sale will begin Saturday at 7:30 am and continue until 3 pm. Workers should arrive at 7:00 am on Saturday morning. Master Gardeners will be allowed to purchase plants after noon at regular price. At the close of the sale an discount will be offered. ***For fairness to all, Master Gardeners are NOT allowed to set plants aside before that time for later purchase.

*Workers - All Master Gardeners must wear their nametag and MG shirt and/or apron the day of the sale. Workers designated as "Checkers" should bring a steno pad, pens and a handheld calculator. Workers may bring drinks and snacks. There will be no food for sale.

Needed to use on sale day: wagons and boxes. All MGs are welcome to work at the Plant Sale. Just come early! 75% of the buyers will come between 8 and 9:30.

*Other Items - Members are encouraged to bring garden art, garden magazines or other related items to be sold in a "yard sale" type atmosphere.

Questions? Contact Jason Mullins (870) 974-2606 or by email brojasonmullins@yahoo.com
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February

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

March

1 - 31 - Wye - 38th Annual Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival - For more information visit Wye-Mountain.org.

3 - 6 - Fayetteville - Orchid Show & Sale - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks - Visit BGOzarks.org for more information.

1 - 12 Camden - Camden Daffodil Festival - Visit CamdenDaffodilFestival.com for information.

7, 14, 21, 28 - Little Rock - Landscape Design I by Christy Marvel, Arkansas Extended Learning Center - Contact Mary Evans for more information. argardengoddess@att.net


17 - Paragould - Garden Explosion V - Paragould Community Center - Greene County Master Gardens for Garden Explosion V. The theme this year is “Garden Lore: Old Farmers Tales.” There will be several speakers (including Janet Carson) vendors, door prizes, refreshments and nurseries showing their current wares and plants. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Contact Donna Jones at naoues@hotmail.com for additional information.


19 - Fayetteville - Gardening with Essential Oils - Botanical Garden of the Ozarks - For more info contact: GOzarks.org.

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
Garden Quotes

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.
Charles Dickens

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/

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

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/". 