Next Meeting will be October 6  
Program will be members of the class of 1996  
Celebration of Arkansas Master Gardener Month  
Social - 6:00 pm - Meeting 6:30

From the President 
Ann Fergeson

Happy Birthday 
Master Gardeners

October is the 28th anniversary of the Master Gardener program in Arkansas and the 20th Anniversary of our Craighead County Master Gardeners. I hope that everyone is as proud as I am to be a Master Gardener. Just look around and see all of the good things that our organization has given to this community. Any time that I mention being a Master Gardener, people recognize the group and the good that we do.

We have a great meeting planned on October 6 and I hope to see as many of you present as possible. We have invited some of the original members, so come and get to know them and hear about how our group has evolved. We will have a Birthday Cake and other fun stuff to celebrate.

If you haven’t logged your September hours, be sure and do that. If you are having problems don’t hesitate to ask for help. Don’t stop logging if you have reached your requirement. We would love for this to be a record breaking year.
Armyworms in Lawns

By

Branon Thiesse BS, MS
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

The past month we have been swamped with calls about armyworms in lawns. These insects can be very destructive as far as eating the blades of grass.

Fall armyworms are caterpillars that cause damage by feeding on the leaves of green turf. Larvae are white, yellow or light green in color after eggs hatch and they darken in color as they develop. Mature fall armyworms are 1.5-inches long. Fall armyworms can be identified by the presence of an upside-down Y marking on their head. Larvae can quickly (a few days) turn a green turf into a brown area by feeding on leaves across the area.

This pest can be problematic until a hard frost in late October or November. When scouting for armyworm infestations, you should check early in the morning or late evening. These insects don't care for the light and will hide in debris or thatch to escape the light.

You can control armyworms with several recommended products containing carbaryl, bifenthrin and permethrin. Applications should be made early in the morning or in the evening when worms are active.

Turkey Zucchini Balls

From Vickey Mullally

1 pound ground turkey
3 tbs cilantro
1 garlic clove
2 green onions
2 cups shredded zucchini
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp cumin
Make tablespoon size balls
Place on oiled cookie sheet
Drizzle olive oil on top
Bake at 400 degree for 28-30 minutes
The September 1, 2016 meeting of the Craighead County Master Gardeners was called to order at 6:34 by president, Ann Ferguson.

Program – Braun Campbell introduced the program speaker, Laci Burton. Her very entertaining and informative presentation was on “Composting with Worms.” The focus was on how to have a culture of earthworms, and why. Lacy demonstrated how she prepares a healthy soil bed, using an old 5 gallon bucket with holes drilled in the bottom for good drainage and holes in the sides for air circulation. Suitable organic materials for feeding the worms include shredded leaves, newspapers, egg shells, coffee grounds, and peat moss. The worms convert the organic nutrients into beneficial microorganisms that feed growing plants. This enhanced soil structure produces healthy soil which produces healthy plants, the ideal situation for any gardener.

Minutes – The minutes were approved as stated in the August newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report - The treasurer’s report was approved as stated.

Projects Report – Jane Jamison provided updates from each project chair which included: the ASU Display garden will not need work till the weather cools; the Native Plant garden still needs weeding and volunteers meet each Tuesday morning from 7:00 until 9:00 am.; ASU greenhouse will have a fall mum sale, but the date has yet to be determined; the Butterfly garden looks beautiful; the ASU Farmer’s Market needs volunteers for 2 more Saturdays; NEA Regional Fair still needs a few more workers to sign up and chairman, Mike Wilbanks provided sign-up sheets with 2 hour time slots. Ginger Adams said seed packets have been prepared for distribution at the fair; NEA Fair Floriculture judging event stills needs a few more volunteers. Training for new members will be Wednesday, September 7.

New Business – After a review of the guidelines for college scholarships, the CCMG board recommended that the amount of each scholarship be increased from $1,000 to $1,500 per each horticulture student recipient. A motion was made and seconded to increase the amount and the recommendation passed. The increase was made possible by the highly successful April plant sale.

October is “Arkansas Master Gardener Week.” Several activities have been planned: tables will be placed at local garden centers and “big box stores” during the week to increase public awareness of CCMG and to pass out information on becoming a Master Gardener; magnets advertising the Master Gardener program were available for members to pass out to the public; the October MG meeting will feature founding members from the first class, who will relay some of their memories as Master Gardeners; a trip is being formed for those who wish to participate in touring the Ozark Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville. The trip will be October 10 and the deadline for registering and paying the $54 cost per member for the bus is September 21.

Lucy Murray will lead the formation of an interest group for those who would like to learn how to make “Yard Art.” The main objective will be to make yard art items for fundraisers, and to learn to make art for their own gardens, as well as gifts. Lucy’s number is 870.931.6537.

Ann Ross proposed that Master Gardeners participate in the October 7 Arkansas Science Festival hosted by ASU. Ann asked for ideas for a hand-on demonstration and volunteers to man the demonstration table. The festival is aimed at junior high age and older students.

Master Gardener of the Month – Peggy Lane selected 2 new members, Barb Evans and Pat Finch. Both members have gone above and beyond in fulfilling their responsibilities as master gardeners. Barb has already worked 129 hours and has 53 education hours, and Pat has 129.5 working hours and 27.75 learning hours. Both have worked in all gardens. They were given certificates of appreciation and gift certificates.

September Birthdays – Members with a September birthday were given a plant.

Door Prize – the door prize was given to Bruce Schlein.

Meeting adjourned 8:03 pm.
MGs Working at the Fair

Mike Wilbanks at the MG Booth.

Sharron and Bruce Schelin at the Floriculture Display.

MGs checking the list at the Floriculture Display.

Working on the deck at the ASU Farmer’s Market.

Neva Shewmaker on the MG trip to Wales and Cornwall
Photo from Janet Carson’s Blog
Health & Wellness Magnet School

Sorting Seeds
Photos by Melinda Smith
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

Leadership Conference

Photos and Story by Peggy Lane

Sept. 26 and 27 some of our members attended the PNG (Plant-Nurture-Grow) Leadership Conference held at the beautiful setting of the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. We heard many excellent speakers on subjects such as Mentoring, How to Grow Volunteers, Running a Successful Plant Sale, and Conflict Resolution. Each of these speakers are experts in their field, and their purpose is to help us learn ways to strengthen our Master Gardener program. We met lots of other gardeners from across the State and enjoyed hearing how their programs work. We will be sharing some of these ideas with you soon, and hope you will plan to attend this conference next year.

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.

Do You Tweet/Twitter?

Twitter is a social media vehicle that has been around for a while now. Most businesses as well as common folks use Twitter and tweet tidbits of information to those who follow them.

Janet Carson has picked up tweeting this week. If you'd like to follow her on Twitter you can find her @JanetBCarson

We are looking for someone to set up a Master Gardener Tweeter Account to feature pictures of local gardens and news about our events. It could be on the order of Janet Carson’s account. We would like to use it to publicize Master Gardeners and solicit new members. We will talk more about this at our September meeting or you can contact Braun Campbell for more info.
We are forming a new interest group for all of you crafty types. Luci Murray will be leading this group and is inviting anyone who is interested to get in touch with her. The main objective of the group will be to make “Yard Art Items” for our group to sell as fundraisers. We will sell them at the Plant Sale and other functions.

Luci is very excited and is gathering ideas for items to make. While working with this group you will be learning to make art for your own yard, as well as gifts. Contact Luci at 870.931.6537 or lucim_98@yahoo.com.
Important Reminders

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.

Re-certified Members

According to the log sheets, as of September 28 the following members are re-certified:

Eileen Adams
Ginger Adams
Donna Bachman
Stan Bachman
Evelyn Baker
Donna Bandy
*Laura Bettis
Braun Campbell
*Lise Cater
Ethel Cole
Mimi Cox
Ann Dent
Glenda Drace
Ella Ellingson
*Barb Evans
Ann Fergeson
Brenda Ferralasco
*Pat Finch
Brenda Gray
Debbie Hall
Carolyn Henry
Mary Hosinski

Laveta Howerton
*Terri Inman
Jane Jamison
Lana Keyes
Peggy Lane
Linda Light
Karen Massey
Sarita McCarty
Katherine McCracken
Ditty Mits
Cindy Morris
Vickey Mullally
Shenia Mullins
Stephanie Neely
Betty Nichols
Becky Phillips
Reta Ragland
Ann Ross
Diane Sandberg
Bruce Schelin
Sharron Schelin

Connie Seay
Ralph Seay
Susan Shelton
Neva Shewmaker
Pat Shirley
Melinda Smith
Debbie Tate
Mike Thompson
Donna Tolewitzke
Tim Tolewitzke
Susan Westbrook
Mike Wilbanks
Margaret Williams
Bobbie Wilson
Erlene Wise
Billy Woodruff
Katie Wysocki
Marilyn Wysocki
Nick Wysocki

*New Members

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.
Road Trip to Celebrate Master Gardener Day

CCMGs will attend MG Day at the Botanic Gardens of the Ozarks on Monday, October 10 by bus, leaving from the Extension Office at 6 am and returning at 8 pm. The cost will be $54 per person. Guests are welcome, if there are vacant bus seats. Contact Mimi for more information.

October Plant Swap

Don't forget to bring a plant (or 2 or 3) to exchange at our October meeting. There will be a table set up to place your plants on; then see Peggy to get a ticket for each plant you bring. At the end of the meeting, we will randomly draw numbers and as your number is drawn, you will be able to choose a plant. We will continue drawing numbers until all tickets are drawn. If you bring two plants, you will take 2 different plants home.

This is a great way for us to share plants of all kinds. Labeling your plants is a good idea - most people don't like surprises! And placing your plants in an attractive pot or basket makes them more attractive.

Peggy Lane
R-R-R

From Peggy Lane R-R-R Chair:

In October, Craighead County Master Gardeners will be celebrating our Twentieth Year! We have several special events planned such as: several members of the very first CCMG class speak about some of their fond memories of being a Master Gardener; a plant swap; a delicious MG birthday cake; and a couple of other special surprises to honor our Motivated, Marvelous, Magnificent Master Gardener volunteers!

During the week, we also plan to have tables set up at local garden centers, Walmart and Farmer’s Market to promote our organization, answer questions and give away freebies.
I can smell Autumn dancing in the breeze, the sweet chill of pumpkin and crisp sun burnt leaves.

copied from Pinterest

I love fall, primarily because it brings back so many happy childhood memories. This month’s selections cause me to reminisce about my early recollections of plants.

Stephen Buchmann's *The Reason for Flowers: Their History, Culture, Biology, and how they Change our Lives* has no lovely pictures to lure the reader. But it does pose an interesting question: Flowers are beautiful and they smell good, but is there more to their purpose? I was expecting a treatise on their role in weddings and funerals. Instead, it is an unique volume on the "interplay of flowers with insects and other animals."

*Black Plants: 75 Striking Choices for the Garden* by Paul Gonine captured my attention while strolling through the shelves. As newlyweds, we were always searching for unusual color combinations. This book claims, "these dusky denizens of the plant kingdom are irresistible to gardeners." Included in the volume are Devil's Tongue, bat Flower, Voodoo Lily, Snakeshead Iris, Dracula Orchid and much, much more.

I've always been fascinated with dogwoods. When I was a kid growing up, I remember my Dad heading to the woods to dig up dogwoods and transplant them to our yard. He'd tell me, "you gotta keep your dogwoods watered, or they will up and die on you." *Dogwoods* by Paul Cappiello features the reasons why this spectacular tree is a superstar in any garden.

I guess one reason I have always loved hydrangeas is because they have such long lasting blooms. Well, that plus the fact that when I would visit my grandma during the summers she had a huge hydrangea bush. *Hydrangeas for American Gardens* by Michael A. Dirr explains which type hydrangea is best for which region of North America. He also provides "a futuristic glimpse of the species and hybrids that will be making their way into nurseries in the years ahead."

For these and other resources, please visit your Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library or check us out online at www.libraryinjonesboro.org.
October

1 - Brinkley - Fall Into Your Yard - Monroe County Master Gardeners - Brinkley First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 404 W. Ash St., Corner of Ash and New York St - 9:30 A. M. - 2:00 P.M. - "New Plants" with Janet Carson, "How To Build A Five Star Hotel In Your Back Yard For Butterflies and Birds" with Jane Gulley Pulaski Co Master Gardener, Movie - "Wings of Flight" a Disney Production about the monarch Butterfly's annual flight, "Planting of Fall Pots" by Jackie Johnson Owner of Lauren's Gardens in DeWitt & Stuttgart Pre-Registration Preferred: $15.00 which includes lunch - Registration at Door $20.00

6 - Forrest City - St. Francis County Seminar "Fall into Gardening" - Mid-south Health System Building - for more information contact Delma “Butch” Murray 870 339-2929 bmurray48@me.com

9 - 15 - Master Gardener Week (to celebrate Arkansas MG Birthday which is October 13)


15 - El Dorado - Union County Master Gardeners Annual Bulb Sale - South Arkansas Arboretum - 9:00 am to noon.

15 - Springdale - Pink Hates Chartreuse: Some Thoughts on Color in the Garden - Northwest Technical Institute - Student Center - The Flower, Garden & Nature Society of NWA meets the third Saturday of the month. This month’s program features Tom Dillard, historian of all things Arkansas, retired archivist, University of Arkansas and gardener. 9:30 a.m. Free. For more information contact Gail Pianalto at 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall at 479-466-7265.

21 - Paragould - "Masters for Monarchs" - Advanced Master Gardener Training by Greene County Master Gardeners - Paragould Community Center, 3404 Linwood Drive - deadline October 7. Open to Master Gardeners who have been in good standing in the county program for at least three (3) years (since 2013) - No refunds will be given after this date. Registration may be transferred to another MG but that person must submit a separate registration form and you must notify us - $65 - Includes training materials & lunch.

21 & 22 - North Little Rock - Show and sale of African Violets & other Gesneriads - North Little Rock Community Center, 2700 Willow Street - Friday hours are noon to 5:00 p.m., Saturday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for more information contact Danny Tidwell - dantwell@yahoo.com

25 - Little Rock - County 76 Quarterly Meeting - State Extension Office - 10:00 to 3:00

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
October is Nature's funeral month. Nature glories in death more than in life. The month of departure is more beautiful than the month of coming—October than May. Every green thing loves to die in bright colors.

Henry Ward Beecher (1813–1887)

October's the month when the smallest breeze gives us a shower of autumn leaves. Bonfires and pumpkins and leaves sailing down.

Author unknown

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