Crystal Clear Reflections by Garland County Master Gardeners

October 2014

Notes from the President

Hope you have/had a Happy Halloween!

It's been another busy month for GCMGs! The minutes in the newsletter gives you the reports of the very successful GWG MG appreciation day, fall social, trip to Jackson, Tennessee, PNG conference and the EXPO.

As for November, the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meet on the 10th and I hope to see you at our annual meeting on the 20th to vote on the budget and elect officers for 2015. Thanks to the officer nominating committee of Jim Moore, Julie Dickson, and Valerie Nuckels the following have been nominated for office for 2015: Glenda Pannell, President; Linda Doherty, 1st V.P. Diane Daniel, 2nd V.P.; Bev Merritt, Secretary; and Dianne Hardin, Treasurer. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

There is no newsletter or meeting in December. Interviews of the 2015 new master gardener class will begin in December so if you know someone who would like to join us, have them fill out an application at the Extension Office soon.

Don’t forget to mark your new calendar for our January 2015 meeting on the 21st. Thank you for continuing to work on our projects and committees.

“Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.” – Theodore Roosevelt

May all of you have a blessed and very happy Thanksgiving!
Carmon

Allen’s Corner

Fall is here and looks like foliage color may be a little slow. Color is slow because the early fall rain has kept many trees green and growing. Things could change real fast with a freeze, so watch the weather. Peak for some trees could be quick, for example, the hickories could go from golden to brown in a week, depends on elevation and aspect of the slope. But a good rule of thumb is the last couple of weeks of October and the first couple weeks of November. Highway 7 north of Hot Springs Village is a great route to travel this time of year. I Have just completed my end of the year program review with my supervisor at the state office and as I look back on all that the Master Gardeners do I am truly thankful. The past 12 months Garland County Master Gardeners volunteered 14,537 hours valued at $327,815 toward the beautification of Garland County. As advisor to the program and as a citizen of Garland County I Thank You for all you do for our community. Get out and enjoy the fall weather and have fun.

Allen Bates
County Extension Agent—Agriculture
Happy Birthday from the Gang!!
November Birthdays

5th  Tom Hayek
7th  Chris Swindle
12th Isaac Pannell
13th Ken Johnson
14th Nelson Ford
    Gwen Southard
16th Dannette Erwin
    Sharon Seals
20th Ruth Siebels
22nd Les Houston
    Diane Daniel
23rd Lyn Newton
    Vonna Cranston
24th John Slater
27th James Arce
    Margaret Byrd
29th Yvonne Becker
    Ingrid Phanje
    Jody Sprague
    Nancy Swening

Notice to all:
Deadline for all articles for the newsletter is the 20th of each month to Carolyn Davis. Patti puts the newsletter together when she finds a few minutes to work on it. If you do not get you article and/or comments to Carolyn by the 20th, they will be held until the next newsletter. Please do not send them to Patti directly. Also, attach the photos to the email. If you include it in the email it cannot be pulled to be used. Anyone who would like to take over assembling the newsletter please let Carolyn or Carmon know and we can get you set up to do it.

History of Master Gardeners

In 1988 four Arkansas Counties, Pulaski, Garland, Jefferson and Saline, started a pilot Master Gardener program. Classes were held at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. Ten Garland County residents took the course. In March and April 1989, Gar-land County held the second set of classes at Garland County Fairgrounds. Saline, Hot Spring and Clark counties were invited to participate. Since 1990, classes have been held every year to the present. At the End of 1993, the group organized and began having officers. The Articles of Establishment and Bylaws were adopted by the membership in November 1997. Carolyn Harris and Paula Wallace, the longest standing members, were members of class 1991.

Remember we are taking applications for the 2015 Class. If you know someone who loves gardening and loves helping others learn, this is the organization for them. Applications can be picked up at the Extension Office or can be emailed by contacting the Garland County Extension Office.

Como Square

The Master Gardeners met at Como Square to get ready for the Fall season. This included removing the weeds and the Spring plants. We then planted pansies and added a few cabbage plants. Hope everyone enjoys this colorful area when they are downtown. A special thank you to all the Master Gardeners who joined in our Fall planting.

Committee Reports

Looking for Mentor Volunteers for 2015

Remember when you were a new MG and felt left out or lost when you came to a meeting or when the clock was ticking as you were frantically searching for that work project site you just couldn’t find?

The 2014 mentorship committee is gearing up for the class of 2015 and would like to establish a mentor pool, so it will be easier to match mentor to trainee as soon as the interview process begins in December. If we are fortunate enough to have more mentors than needed, we will keep you in mind as backup, in case there is a need during the year, or if you’d prefer, you’ll have first dibs for 2016.

All active master gardeners (not on leave or a sustainer), in good standing with hours, are eligible to be mentors.

We encourage you to be a buddy to a new trainee, especially if it is somebody you are bringing in, or know already. You will be a mentor until the new MG feels “at home” with the group. Maximum length of time is one year.

Please don’t hesitate to step up and if you have already done so, thank you. Please contact Hilde Simmons at hildesimmons@aol.com or 501-226-5454.
The 2014 Community Education Gardening EXPO was a success thanks to the amazing commitment of all those involved.

Over 325 visitors came on a rainy, chilly day to visit over 50 gardening topic booths. In addition to the Hosta, Daylily, Daffodil and Iris societies, GC/EHC, HS Bee Keepers and several other local and state-wide organizations were there to provide information on their programs.

Over 50 new and slightly used gardening books, 300+ gardening magazines, a beautifully painted rain barrel and dozens of local and state-wide brochures about gardening were given away.

The 100 beautifully sewn and STUFFED goodie bags & information folders were a HIT!!! The dozens and dozens of baked treats, gallons and gallons of hot coffee and spiced apple cider were truly enjoyed by all. The rain did not keep our visitors from walking to the Vegetable Demo Garden to visit with Conley Henderson and learn all about gardening year round in Arkansas! Breshears Nursery, Lynn Harris’s Herbs, Samaritan Ministries, and County 76 had a very profitable day at their booths. Our partners, GC/Library signed up over a dozen new library members, our Ask-A-MG Booth had requests for MANY MG applications (2 of which were filled out and returned on site)!!!! Our EXIT comments were all positive and included lots of "can’t wait till next year" and "thank you".

I can’t possibly name everyone that had a hand in this program.....but be sure that I have your name in my book for NEXT YEAR!

Entergy Park Committee

We had nine hardy volunteers report for duty this morning. They were Jeff Finney, Carol Scrivner, Wayne Patterson, Lin Johnson, John Long, James Moore Jr., Michael Carr, Mary Ann Schnipper, and Anne Fulbright.

Our task today was to continue preparation for Fall planting, which translates to get rid of the weeds and put down a bit of compost. Both tasks were just about completed when it began to sprinkle, then shortly it began a light rain, and shortly after that it began a downpour. Funny how rain can disperse a work group! The good news our objectives were met; the bad news we did get a bit wet.

Due to weather, no picture was taken.

Wayne Patterson and Jeff Finney
Farmer's Market and Triangle

Fall planting time has arrived as evidenced by the 16 Master Gardeners who brought their tools and worked at both the Triangle at Malvern and Grand and the Farmer’s Market. The city crew removed the old plants for us and brought compost. The area was tilled and we planted pansies in 5 beds at the Triangle. The group then moved on to the Farmer’s Market where the city crew again removed the old plants. There we weeded the 7 beds, tilled, and planted pansies in four of these beds. Michael has become our official “tiller”. Thanks to this great crew for all their hard work. Michael, Lin & Gene

GEMS Committee

GEMS committee met to dig up the caladiums on the Woodland Walk. They will be dried, treated and sold as bulbs at the Garden Shop. In their place, mums have been planted for the fall display which will soon be cleared out for the tulips to be planted. Stop out for a walk and see the fall foliage and watch the progress of the holiday lights installation. Holiday lights will open November 22nd.

MG Trip to Jackson, TN

The Garland County Master Gardeners recently traveled to Jackson, Tennessee where they toured The Research Center, their Extension Office, the Morris Garden and Landscape as well as the beautiful personal garden belonging to the Mullen’s. The group also attended the Madison County Master Gardener meeting. The hospitality shown to us was unbelievable. It was a great time of learning, fun, and fellowship with fellow Master Gardeners. No matter what state or county, Master Gardeners are all the same – we share a common love and no one is a stranger. On our way home, we took a detour in Clarendon to visit a small private museum and garden. It was delightful.
City Greenhouse

This hard working group of Garland County Master Gardeners worked at the City Greenhouse to help Daryl get ready for the fall season. We re-potted and cleaned up daylilies and grasses, cut back coleus and upgraded several different plants to larger pots so they have room to grow. Of course lots of weeds were pulled and everything looked better when we left. Thanks to this great crew for their hard work. Michael and Lin

Back row:
Joel Unowsky,
Lin Johnson,
Michael Carr,
Sunshine Spielvogle,
Sallye Waddle,
Mary Ann Schnipper,
Wayne Patterson,
Kay Skoog and
Sue Bristow.

Seen in the photo front left to right:
Janie Turner,
Don Turner,
Barbara Smith,
Heidi Haskins
2014 Master Gardener Officers
Carmon Hayes, Pres.
Glenda Pannell, 1st VP
Linda Doherty, 2nd VP
Mary Ann Schnipper, Sec’y.
Gaye Harper, Treas.