May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

Garland County Master Gardeners I am so grateful and thankful for your support in my year as president! You can be very proud of all your accomplishments in 2014. I would like to thank the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, our Committee Chairs, Co-chairs, assistants, and our members for their tireless efforts. I hope you enjoyed this year giving your service to Garland County through horticulture and education, made new friends, and had FUN! Thanks also to Allen Bates, Jimmy Driggers, Patti Tucker and Mary Barrentine at the Extension office. It was wonderful to honor our Lifetime Members and Past Presidents at our November meeting and learn about some of the interesting history of GCMGs.

Interviews of the 2015 new master gardener class will begin soon. so if you know someone would like to join us. have them fill out an application at the Extension Office. Please let me know if you would like to be a mentor to these “newbees” as they will need help in making sure they succeed.

Our committee for 2014 Awards is Ruth Siebels, Barbara Smith, and Jeff Finney. Please contact one of these if you have a suggestion for MG of the year, 2014 new MG, Project of the Year, friend of MG, or agent. They will need to make a decision fairly soon because the applications for the awards are due to state by February 15.

Remember that workers are needed at FL and LH greenhouses for propagating for our spring plant sale. And be sure to ENTER your HOURS before Dec. 31.

There will be no newsletter in January so be sure to mark your calendar for our meeting on the 21st.

Keeping our organization moving forward will be new officers, board members and a great class of new master gardeners in 2015. Please give them the support and assistance as you did for me in 2014.

My husband, Gary and I wish you and your families a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year.

Happy Gardening,
Carmon

Hard to believe 2014 is about gone and 2015 is just around the corner!!

Every year at this time I look back and think about all that Master Gardeners do for our community to make it the great place it is to live. With the passing of each year I am reminded that time is the most valuable commodity we have and for each of you to donate such an enormous amount of hours each year is truly amazing. I sincerely say Thank You for your work and commitment to our Master Gardener program. I am excited about 2015 and all it will bring and am looking forward to working with each of you. Hope you have a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends.

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

December Birthdays

- Dec. 1st: Louise Lee
- Dec. 2nd: Diane Murdock
- Dec. 5th: Hilde Simmons
- Dec. 6th: Sam Mullins
- Dec. 7th: Katie Gibson
- Dec. 7th: Sam Mullins
- Dec. 7th: Caroline Suggs
- Dec. 12th: Joe Yadron
- Dec. 13th: Sarah Harris
- Dec. 13th: Emile Stewart
- Dec. 15th: Sue Jacobs
- Dec. 15th: Debbie Roling
- Dec. 17th: Karen K. Johnson
- Dec. 18th: Valerie Nuckles
- Dec. 23rd: Molly Baldwin
- Dec. 23rd: James B. Moore, Jr.
- Dec. 23rd: Deb Skelton
- Dec. 25th: Roger Giddings
- Dec. 29th: Jane Oliver
- Dec. 30th: Kathy Schmidt
- Dec. 30th: Janice Boyes
- Dec. 31st: Twila Brown

Happy Birthday from the Gang!!

January Birthdays

- Jan. 1st: Keith Blecha
- Jan. 1st: Jeff Finney
- Jan. 1st: Betty Fortner
- Jan. 6th: Shirley Williams
- Jan. 8th: Doris Jones
- Jan. 8th: Ross Sedler
- Jan. 9th: Jim Lockwood
- Jan. 11th: Carrie Ditzig
- Jan. 12th: Marilyn Parks
- Jan. 16th: Sunshine Spielvogel
- Jan. 17th: Carmon Hayes
- Jan. 20th: Paula Wallace
- Jan. 20th: Carole Gray
- Jan. 20th: Sue Tanner
- Jan. 24th: Sharon Dent
- Jan. 25th: Mandy Arce
- Jan. 28th: Gail Eckard
- Jan. 29th: Frank Cusmano
- Jan. 29th: Terry Shepperd

History of Master Gardeners

In 1988 we had the first Master Gardener class with ten Garland County residents taking the course. This group took on keeping the Triangle at Grand and Malvern weeded and planted. They, with the help of the City Parks Department, planted 500 red and yellow tulips and 100 daffodils. In 1989 they planted 1300 tulips along Grand Avenue in beds prepared by a local nurseryman. In May of 1989 he suggested that the Master Gardeners and the 4-H youth adopt the triangle as a continuous project with a sign erected recognizing them as the ones in charge of the beds. Berni Kurz was the agent in charge of this group and he is now Staff Chair in Washington County. In 1990 maintenance guidelines were drawn up and a copy is on file in the Master Gardeners Archives located in the Extension Office. And so the projects began to grow from this.

Committee Reports

Last Call for 2015 Mentor Volunteers

Good News! At the time of this writing, mid-November, we have more than 20 applications in for next year’s training session.

We are in the process of setting up a mentor pool, so it will be easier to match mentor to trainee as soon as the interview process begins in just a couple of weeks. We have a good number of mentor volunteers already, but it wouldn’t hurt to have a couple more volunteers. 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. To those of you, who have already done so, thank you.

Please contact Hilde Simmons at hildesimmons@aol.com or 501-226-5454.

The 2014 Mentoring Committee
Rosemary, James, Hilde, and Carmon

Como Square

Recently nine hardy ladies met at COMO Square to work. It was cool, windy and misty, but like the Post Office, neither rain, snow, etc. stopped us from our duties. We dug the large, well rooted lantana and bagged it. Then we cleaned the beds, pulled some weeds, and planted large potted pansies. After we cleaned the area we felt good about our work; we even had some drive-bys complimenting us! Those wonderful ladies who were present were Sue Bristow, Judy Fields, Sue Jacobs, Susan Deimel, Sharon Dent, Laura Young, Rosemary Hany, Mary Tom Taylor, and Mary Ann Schnipper.
It was a busy morning at Entergy Park for our seven volunteers. Because of the recent rain we had to defer our normal scheduled meeting by a day to let conditions dry out somewhat. The flower beds were still wet but that allowed the spent summer plants to be removed quite easily. The empty spots were filled with 6 flats of pansies which will permit greenery and color during the bleak winter months. Plus, it's a nice fresh salad bar for the deer.

A hardy thank you to the team members shown here (from the left): Kay Shearer, James Moore Jr., Lin Johnson, Jeff Finney, Paula Wallace, Jan Hodges, and Wayne Patterson.

Master Gardeners Ross (Doc) Sedler, Jim Moore, Jeff Finney, James Moore, Jr. and Jan Hodges (not pictured is Susan Deimel) pulled up summer plants from the planters boxes and replaced them with pansies. Pansies were also planted in the back of the office. The MGs trimmed the St. Augustine and Fescue grass that was replaced last month and dug up the Bermuda and Zoysia grass and replaced them. One of the planter boxes was repaired.

The MGs would like to thank the local nurseries that donated the St. Augustine, Bermuda and Zoysia grass and gave a discount for the pansies.

Garden Therapy met recently at the Caring Place where our great group of Master Gardeners helped the seniors plant paper white narcissus bulbs. We used glass vases, placed small stones in the bottom of them and green moss around the bulbs. We tied the neck of the vases with raffia and had cards attached which described care of the bulbs at home. Our seniors were very pleased with their work and will be taking the bulbs home to a sunny window to bloom over the coming weeks.

Pictured left to right: Kay Ford, Shirley Williams, Sarah Harris, Rita Monsen, Sue Tanner, Max Carter, Emilie Steward, and Ellen Majestic (not pictured Marty Lynch).

Rita Monsen
Chair Garden Therapy
Hot Springs Middle School

The Hot Spring Middle School was having a problem watering their vegetable and rose gardens. The school contacted some of the Master Gardeners and with the help of Ross (Doc) Sedler, Jeff Finney, Jim Moore and James Moore, Jr, a sprinkler system was installed in each of the gardens. This group has now organized a Junior Master Gardener program and Linda Bates, 4-H Agent is advising on this activity.

Courthouse and Police Memorial

The November Court Houses and Police Memorial Committee met to plant the last of the pansies. These could not be planted in October due to the installation of one of the new court house statues. One statue was placed in the bed we usually plant. When we arrived it was 27 degrees and by the time we were there the temperature got up to a whopping 28 degrees. It was sooo cold and windy but the pansies got planted and the liriope will be divided at a later and warmer day.

The amazing and undaunted 9 members present were: Carol Scrivner, Gaye Harper, Barbara Smith, Kay Skoog, James Moore Jr., Shelly Sims, Michael Carr, Susan Deimel, and Sue Hale. Thank you so much for coming and making the job go quickly.

This committee will meet again after the first of the new year. Warmest Holiday Wishes are sent to all the residents from our committee. Happy!

Michael and Kay

GEMS Committee

Goodbye Autumn, Hello Holiday Lights!

Garland County Master Gardeners worked at Garvan Woodland Gardens to help finish the fall/winter annual plantings. Pansies and dianthus were added to the main entrance, welcome center and the flowering border around the Great Lawn where they will add color during the winter months. Tulip planting will begin soon - but the main event - Holiday Lights will begin November 22nd at 5pm. Make plans to see this 4 million light display.

Real or Fake???

You would like to have a real tree in your house for Christmas but don't know what to do with it afterwards? There are so many things that can be done with them. The National Christmas Tree Association has many uses for them located on their website. You can also contact the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission or the US Army Corps of Engineers to donate them to be used as fish habitat. Go online to check out how to decorate a real tree so it can be reused.
Financial Statement for November 2014

Diamond Bank Beginning                                          18,490.31

Income:
   No Deposits

Expenses:
   Ck. 1104  Diane Daniel, Soil Plant Sale       158.35
   Ck. 1105  Elks Lodge, Nov. Mtg                 50.00
   CK. 1106  Barb Smith, Youth 179.83; gloves,   225.69
             hose, tarp, trash can. 45.86 Plant sale soil
   Ck. 1107  Carmon Hayes, gifts for Life Members 20.00
   Ck. 1108  Sue Finley, Youth 25.00 Butterfly Book,
             Plant Sale 22.60 Soil                  47.60
   Ck. 1109  Diane Daniel, Plant Sale perlite, vermiculite 64.76

Ending Diamond Bank  Balance
17,923.91
(includes 500.00 Scholarship Fund)

Extension office Balance 2,418.06
(Donations in the Amount of 112.00 in memory of Robin Braun received)
# Calendar of Events

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<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
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| Nov. 22-Dec. 31 2014    | **Holiday Lights** Open 5-9 tickets $10 cart rides $15  
See 4 million brilliant bulbs transform approximately 17 acres into a memorable animated holiday display in one of Arkansas’ most anticipated events. Complimentary hot chocolate. The Chipmunk Café will be open from 3-9 p.m. each day during *Holiday Lights.* |
| **2015**                |                                              |
| Jan. 15, 2015 Thursday  | GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30  
Meeting 1:00 Bob Byers GWG |
| Jan. 31 Saturday        | “Garden Thyme” Magnolia, AR |
| Feb. 19 Thursday        | GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30  
Meeting 1:00 |
| Feb. 20-22              | Flower & Garden Show Little Rock |
| Feb. 26 Thursday        | Garvan Gardens Propagation Workshop  
Janet Carson & Bob Byers $75 members/$90 non-members Order lunch $10 |
| March 19 Thursday       | GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30  
Meeting 1:00 |
| March 20-22             | River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Ft. Smith  
'Modern Tools and Technology for Growers and Marketers' |
| April 13                | Garvan Gardens Succulents Janet Carson & Bob Byers Workshop $75 members/$90 non-members Order lunch $10 |
| April 16 Thursday       | GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30  
Meeting 1:00 |
| April 24, all day       | Set-up for GCMG plant sale |
| April 25 a.m.           | GCMG spring plant sale |
| May 14-23               | France Garden Tour |
| May 21 Thursday         | GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30  
Meeting 1:00 |
Call to order: 1:05
*Carmon welcomed the members and guests to the last meeting of the year.
*She introduced and thanked the life members and asked each to say something memorable about his or her GCMG years. Those honored were from 1991, with 23 years of service, Carolyn Harris and Paula Wallace; Jim Lockwood from 1994, with 20 years of service; Julie Dickson and Pat Witherspoon from 1995 with 19 years of service; Yvonne Becker, Maggie Burks, Karen DeGeer, Gene Lichliter, Harry Marshall, Lyn Newton, and Diane Sims from 1996 with 18 years of service; Ann Carrithers, Doris Jones, Delores Quade, John Slater and Ruth Siebels from 1997 with 17 years of service; Sarah Harris, Margie Herrin and Kay Holland from 1999 with 15 years of service. Carmon also recognized the GCMG past presidents and asked each to speak briefly on his or her memories. Those honored were 2000-2001, Julie Dickson; 2004-2005, Janie Turner; 2006-2007, Gene Lichliter; 2007-2008, Yvonne Becker; 2008-2009, Joe Yadron; 2009-2010, Bill Staton; 2010-2011, Charles Harper; 2011-2012, Sharon Dent; 2012-2013, Lin Johnson; 2013-2014, Ken Johnson.
*Allen Bates, GC extension officer, read a letter of resignation from Patty Stranahan. He said there have been 27 applicants for the 2015 new MG class. Interviews will begin in December. He also told the group of the impact statement he files at the end of each year. GCMG volunteered 14,537 hours which translates into $327,815 saved by the county.

*The minutes of the October meeting were approved as written.
*The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. Gaye Harper said that $500.00 will be sent to County 76 to be used to buy awards and offset other expenses at the annual state meeting. She also said that any monies coming to GCMG from the memorials to Robin Braun will be put into the education account at the Extension Office.
*Glenda Pannell asked for help in securing a GC Fair Committee Chair.
*Linda Doherty said that most GCMG were certified. The MG year ends at midnight on December 31 for all but the new MG whose year ends on March 1, 2015.
*Ken Johnson said that the Elks Lodge did a huge $275.00 worth of lunch business today!
*Carmon thanked the nominating committee consisting of Jim Moore, Julie Dickson and Valerie Nuckels. Jim read the slate as proposed by the committee: President- Glenda Pannell, First Vice-President-Linda Doherty, Second Vice-President-Diane Daniel, Secretary-Bev Merritt, and Treasurer-Dianne Hardin. MSP by Hilde Simmons and James Moore to accept the slate as read. Carmon asked for nominations from the floor for President. There being none she asked Glenda if she was prepared to accept the nomination; she said yes. Carmon then asked for nominations from the floor for First Vice-President. There being none she asked Linda if she was prepared to accept the nomination; she said yes. Next she asked for nominations from the floor for Second Vice-President. There being none she asked Diane if she was prepared to accept the nomination; she said yes. Then she asked for nominations from the floor for Secretary. Helen Mosley and Michael Carr nominated Carolyn Davis. Each candidate was asked if she was prepared to serve if elected; she said yes. Each spoke briefly on her background and qualifications to do the job. A secret ballot was called for. After the vote was counted by the nominating committee and Allen, it was announced that Bev Merritt had won. Lastly, Carmon asked for nominations from the floor for Treasurer. There being none she asked Dianne Hardin if she was prepared to accept the nomination; she said yes. The slate of officers as presented was duly elected by show of hands.
*The free lunch was won by Carmon.
*Door prize numbers were drawn.
*Carmon asked the class of 2014 to stand; Carol Scrivner has already volunteered over 200 hours and three others have almost done the same. Each MG class was asked to stand as a group consisting of Gaye, Glenda, and Linda.
Minutes Con't....

Unfinished Business
MSP by Roger Giddings and Bill Staton to accept the 2015 budget as written. Carmon thanked the Budget Committee consisting of Gaye, Glenda, and Linda.

New Business
*Wayne Patterson proposed a $1000.00 (or 2 $500.00) annual GCMG scholarship to be administered through 4-H. The scholarship would be for GC students with at least a 2.0 grade point. Advertising of the scholarship and interviews of potential candidate for the scholarship would be conducted by 4-H. Motion made and seconded by Wayne and James Moore to accept the proposal. After much discussion, the question was called. That motion was passed. The vote was then taken and passed to fund a GCMG scholarship.

Announcements
*The 2015 International MG meeting will be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa.
*Carmon asked anyone who is interested in helping with the 2015 pre-tour to speak with her.
*She said that the MG trailer is at Lyn Newton’s home. It may be checked out at the Extension office by showing a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.
*Diane Daniel said she needs help at the Ft. Lake greenhouse on any Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 9-12 am and 1-3pm. Barbara Smith will be working at the Lake Hamilton school greenhouse on the second Wednesday.
*Carmon announced the members of the Awards Committee. They are Ruth Siebels, Barbara Smith and Jeff Finney.
*Carmon thanked the members for her experiences this past year and for the help given to her in carrying out her duties as President.
*Meeting adjourned at 2:35.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Schnipper, Secretary
Garland County Master Gardener Lifetime Members were recently honored at the November meeting. They received certificates and new 2015 Calendars. Those present were: Yvonne Becker, Ann Carrithers, Julie Dickson, Sarah Harris, Margie Herrin, Kay Holland, Doris Jones, Gene Lichliter, Harry Marshall, Paula Wallace. Those not present are: Maggie Burks, Karen DeGeer, Carolyn Harris, Jim Lockwood, Lyn Newton, Dolores Quade, Ruth Siebels, Dianne Sims, John Slater and Pat Witherspoon. All together they have over 360 years with Master Gardeners. Also honored that day were the Past Presidents.

2014 Master Gardener Officers
Carmon Hayes, Pres.
Glenda Pannell, 1st VP
Linda Doherty, 2nd VP
Mary Ann Schnipper, Sec’y.
Gaye Harper, Treas.