Notes from the President

“Kind Hearts are the Gardens” Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The winter has been long and hard, but I see the signs of Spring: crocus and daffodils showing their sprouts; birds singing and frogs croaking. Surely warmer weather is on the way so we can get out and get gardening! I hope you had a chance to enjoy the Arkansas Flower and Garden show, bringing new ideas, knowledge and beauty to life. If you did not make it to the show check out Janet Carson’s blog http://uofacesmg.wordpress.com.

Our 33 interns have completed their training and are anxious to start working and learning. Please come welcome them on Intern Day, Thursday, March 20th at the Elks Lodge. Lunch is provided but you must sign up for one of the meal selections by March 10th. The mentors will be introducing their intern(s) during our meeting which will start at 1 pm.

The following members and project were chosen as our 2013 winners: Jeff Finney, Intern of the Year; Diane Daniel, Master Gardener of the Year and the Courthouses & Police Memorial, Project of the Year!

Happy Gardening,
Carmon

Allen’s Corner

Our Master Gardener training went well without much of a bout with bad weather. Thankfully we were able to have our training and not have to reschedule. Now is the time to prune fruit trees and summer flowering trees and shrubs. Be sure to wait till after flowering to prune those that flower early in spring. To start your indoor tomatoes and peppers transplants from seed, count back 5 to 6 weeks before first frost (about April 10). Thanks to all of you that are helping mentor our interns this is a great help in getting them involved in our program. I am looking forward to warmer weather and all that is coming up in the Master Gardener program.

Allen
County Extension Agent- Agriculture
Happy Birthday from the Gang

March Birthdays

1st  Margie Herrin
    Carol Blecha
    Bill Staton
4th  Dianne Hardin
5th  Dianne Sims
    Kay Ford
6th  Bob Warner
11th Nancy Morris
12th Dayna Carter-Smith
14th Helen Mosley
    Jimmy Jones
17th Jim Moore
18th Pat McCain
    Barbara Stalion
19th Karen DeGeer
20th Lonnie Luebben
25th Kay Shearer
27th Anne Flueckiger
    Karl Eschenlohr
30th Sue Finley
    Joyce Hatfield

New UAEX Website

March 19th is the launch date for the new UAEX website. On it you will be able to see all activities happening in all of the different programs both local and statewide. If you get a chance take a look at it and see what a wonderful job the State Office and those in the county have done. If you have a Master Gardener Activity you would like to see put on here, contact Allen or Patti at the office and they will review the activity and tell you if it is something we can put there. Committee meetings will not be able to be listed on this site.

Also check out the new publications that were added by going to the home page, click on publications at the top, and new publications on the left side.

Timekeeping

The 2013 work project hours Top 12 are:

#1 Plant Sale  2539 hrs
#2 County Fair  712
#3 FL Greenhouse  569
#4 Newsletter  566
#5 HS City GH  503
#6 GEMS  490
#7 Brown Bag Ed  446
#8 Triangle/FM  348
#9 GWG So Ins Gdn  322
#10 Ext Off Lndscp  257
#11 Courthouses  248
#12 Habitat  244

REMINDER-
Time to post your February hours online, don't get behind!
Thanks
Linda Doherty
Brown Bag Library Class

The first Brown Bag Library Class of 2014 was held on Feb. 18 with 54 in attendance. GC/Master Gardener, Mary Ann Jarvis presented an excellent program on "The Making Terrariums". Our next Brown Bag class will be, April 9th @ 11am "Plants for Sun & Shade Gardens". Brown Bag Classes are held at the Garland County Library. Below is the List of Classes and times and dates. These may change Please contact the library to confirm prior to each meeting.

2014 Master Gardener Brown Bag Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>11 to 12:30</td>
<td>Plants for your Sun and Shade Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>11:30 to 1</td>
<td>Creating Summer Hanging Baskets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>2 to 4</td>
<td>Garden &amp; Farm Hydroponic Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>11:30 to 1:30</td>
<td>Native &amp; Invasive Plants of Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 12</td>
<td>11:30 to 1:30</td>
<td>The Lazy Composter, Worm Composting and Building Better Soil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee sent cards to the following members:

Get well cards to:
Don Turner, Jim Moore, Barb Krone, Joy Bennett. Henryetta Martin, Betty Fortner, Annie Crutcher, Katie Gibson, Emily Stewart and Deidre Dudley

Sympathy cards to:
Pat Murphree, Bob Byers, Diane Daniels, Karl Eschenlohr, and Sharon Seals.

Greenhouse Committee

On Wednesday, January 22nd, the Greenhouse Committee with over 26 Master Gardeners and interns met to redo the handing baskets that are placed in our downtown area each year. This required removing all the old flowers, soil and hangers from each basket in preparation for new liners and soil placement prior to being replanted. After this project was completed, cuttings were taken from various plants in the greenhouse and repotted for future use.

Following the work session, the City Parks Department provided pizza, soft drinks and cake for the workers. They do this once a year as a token of their appreciation for all the volunteer hours we provide in the City Greenhouse. A “goodie bag” was given to each worker. We would like to thank all the wonder Master Gardeners who serve on this committee. It would be impossible to do all the work that this group does in the City Greenhouse without your assistance.

Thanks so much.
Lin and Michael

The GEMS has gotten off to a very slow start due to all of our unusual winter weather. We did get one January session in, and planted some of the several thousand or so tulips to complete the project. Soon, we will be able to enjoy the 135,000 that will bloom this year. Join us, we meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday, e-mail Linda Doherty lindadoh55@gmail.com to sign up.

Lake Hamilton Greenhouse

Lake Hamilton High School Instructor Louis Hunt and his students worked to move Iris’ from a school construction site to the greenhouse while the LH Greenhouse MG group took care of greenhouse duties. Master Gardeners Barbara Smith, Barbara Bradstreet, Jerilynne Loy, Jane Oliver, Sue Finley, Bev Merritt, Kay Skoog and her intern, Gail Eckard, re-potted Coleus, propagated numerous plants and tidied up hanging baskets.

Barbara Smith
Sue Finley
Hot Springs Middle School Youth Gardening Club Receives Grant

Hot Springs Middle School Youth Gardening Club members met to cut back knockout roses and other plants in their Reading Garden. Garland County Horticulture Extension Agent, Allen Bates, and Garland County Extension Agent for 4H, Linda Bates, met with the group to observe their ongoing projects and inform them of the opportunities provided by the 4H Program. Garland County Master Gardener's presented the Hot Springs Middle School, with various gardening materials. The materials were part of a 25th birthday gift to the GCMG from the State Master Gardener Association. MG members present were Barbara Bradstreet, Sue Finley, Henrietta Martin, Bev Merritt and Barbara Smith.

2014 Master Gardener Interns
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location of Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 1. Sat. 9:30</td>
<td>Ouachita Hosta &amp; Shade Plant Society meeting at the GC Library Speaker: Jan Spann “Hosta Possibilities”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 4</td>
<td>GWG Free members/$10 non-members. Call the Gardens at 501-262-9300/800-366-4664 to register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 8 Sat. 10:00 AM</td>
<td>HS Daylily United Methodist Church Christian Life Center Shelton Room 1100 Central Ave. Program Linda Winberry, “Hybridizing Daylilies”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 11-12</td>
<td>Hosta trip to Dallas/Ft. Worth gardens and nursery. Call Lin Johnson 318-0288 or 870-942-6040 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 22 9:30 am-11:30am</td>
<td>GWG 101 &quot;Not Your Grandma's Hydrangeas&quot; Bob Byers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25 - 10:00 – 11:30 am</td>
<td>GWG &quot;Winter Weed Control &amp; Prevention” Master Gardener Janice Boyes, local gardener and experienced horticulturalist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22 9:30am-11:30am</td>
<td>&quot;Great American Gardens: The Virtual Tour&quot; Bob Byers take you on a guided tour of the best botanical gardens and nature centers in the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5-6 Saturday from 12-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas Orchid Society Show &amp; Sale at the Benton Events Center in the Hickory Square Shopping Center near Tinseltown Theatre in Benton.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29-31</td>
<td>State Master Gardener Convention-Texarkana more information Feb. 1 later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29 All day</td>
<td>Master Gardener Appreciation Day more information later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 6-7 Tue. – Wed.</td>
<td>Plant-Nurture-Grow (Leadership)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21-24 Schedule</td>
<td>Southern Regional Master Gardener Convention Baton Rouge, LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Call to order: 1:00

*Carmon Hayes welcomed the group to a new year of gardening. She said she had attended a meeting of County 76 in which President John Richardson urged the leaders present to set goals for their groups, be result oriented and get all the members involved in the MG activities.

*Glenda Pannell introduced the program on worm castings. Charlotte Yorkson of Paris, Texas, spoke about her family’s verm composting company. She stated that worm castings are great for the garden. The product is full of nutrients, won’t burn plants, helps retain moisture, and has no odor. The castings can be blended into soil, be used as top dressing for soil or can be mixed with water and sprayed on plants for wonderful results.

*Carmon explained that an improper procedure was used to approve the budget at the January GCMG meeting. Therefore after discussion, the question was called by Diane Daniel and seconded by Sharon. Carmon asked all those in favor of the call to end discussion to stand to be counted. The vote was 70 for. Those opposed stood to be counted; the vote was 24 against. Therefore the motion passed. Jim Moore moved to accept the 2014 budget with Diane Daniel seconding. The motion was approved.

*The minutes of the January meeting were approved as amended.

*Carmon appointed an ad hoc committee to make recommendations on how the committees could spend their allotted money. The members are Ken Johnson, Linda Doherty, Barbara Smith, Michael Carr and John Goodwin.

*The secretary read the board recommendation that an Intern Training Committee be formed consisting of 3 members appointed by the president. They will serve for 2 years after which one will drop out after drawing straws to determine which one and a new member will be appointed. In the discussion that followed Allen Bates, GC agent, explained that he started in October organizing the Intern training session speakers and topics; he would welcome the help given by the proposed committee. MSP by Marvin Burt and Dianne Hardin.

* Carmon appointed a by-laws committee of Yvonne Becker, Linda Doherty and Carolyn Davis to look over the by-laws to determine if any changes need to be made.

*The treasurer Gaye Harper said she had closed out the Regions Bank account. All GCMG money is now in Diamond Bank. The balance is $17,405.43 including $500.00 of scholarship money. The account balance at the extension office is $2371.06. Gaye explained the board proposal that all receipts be turned in to the treasurer by 90 days after the expenditure or there would be no reimbursement. A beginning 30 day grace period was added to the proposal. MSP by Gaye Harper and Barbara Smith. Helen Mosley reminded the committee chairs to keep up with their expenses and to try to stay within their budgets.

*Glenda Pannell asked for help in securing possible gardens to tour in May or June. The March meeting will be the intern introduction and luncheon and the April meeting will be devoted to awards.
*Linda Doherty asked all GCMG to keep up with their hours; mentors should do the same with their interns.

*Carmon read 2 thank you notes: one from Diane and Russ Daniel on the death of Russ’s mother and one from Patty Stranahan on the death of her husband.

Committee Reports

*Sharon Dent, chair of awards committee, read the names of the winners. The MG of 2013 is Diane Daniel. The Rookie of 2013 is Jeff Finney. The project of 2013 is the Courthouses and Police Memorial Committee. MSP by Carole Gray and Carolyn Davis to accept this report.

*Hilde Simmons stated that 33 interns will graduate soon. There will be a special tour of GWG on March 1 for interns and their mentors. The March meeting of GCMG will begin at 9:30 at the Elks Lodge for the purpose of introducing the committee chairs to the interns to explain the various jobs that GCMG does in our community. Lunch will be provided. The regular meeting will begin at 1:00.

*Carolyn Davis said the newsletter will be in email format. Articles need to be turned into Carolyn by the 23rd of each month. Photos need to be sent separately from the article. Any newspaper article and photos of the committees at work need to be sent to Carolyn Davis.

*Anne Flueckiger of the Brown Bag Series said that Mary Ann Jarvis recently did a program on terrariums. The April program will be on plants for sun and shade. The October GCMG Expo will be held at the Nazarene Church; more information will follow.

*Diane Daniel, chair of the Spring plant sale, said the sale will be on April 26 at the Farmers Market; set up day is April 25. There will be a Trash to Treasure section again; it was very successful last year. Diane said that the new Ft. Lake Greenhouse is still not ready for GCMG to use. Pots and trays are available at the Extension Office.

*Barbara Smith took the raised beds and tools given to our group in honor of the MG birthday to the Hot Springs Middle School and the Lake Hamilton Greenhouse.

Unfinished Business

*Debra Atchison stated she hoped the audit of the GCMG books would be completed by March 1.

Announcements
*Kay Schearer was present to retake MG photos for the yearbook.
*Lin Johnson was available for MG t-shirt orders.
*Carmon reported the state MG meeting will be held in Texarkana, Texas, in May.
*Glenda Pannell’s name was drawn for the free lunch at the April meeting.
*Names for door prizes were drawn.
*Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Schnipper,
Secretary
Financial Statement for March 2014

Financial Statement (Diamond Bank)
Month ending February Balance 17,405.43

Income – Dues J. Hatfield, J. Jones 15.00

Expenses

Glenda Pannell 2012 fair 112.78
Mary Tom Taylor 2012 fair 32.25
Glenda Pannell office expense 34.00
Barbara Smith Spring Plant Sale soil 40.38
Garvan Gardens memorial Alice Eshenlohr 25.00
United Meth. Church Meeting exp. 50.00
Charlotte Yorkson speaker exp. 75.00
UAEX donation to host county convent. 100.00
Julie Dickson-Sunshine Comm. 20.15
Elk’s club meeting exp. 50.00
UAEX Allen Bates convention 98.00
Jimmy Jones (refund pd. Dues twice) 10.00

Ending Balance Diamond Bank (includes 500.00 Scholarship fund) 16,772.87

Extension Office Acct 2,380.06
2014 Master Gardener Officers
Carmon Hayes, Pres.
Glenda Pannell, 1st VP
Linda Doherty, 2nd VP
Mary Ann Schnipper, Sec’y.
Gaye Harper, Treas.
Ken Johnson, Past Pres.