President’s Corner

Sometimes it’s helpful, if not necessary, to look backwards in order to proceed forward. We all know that each Spring we are thinking about “last year’s garden”—what worked well and what should be forgotten!

Sitting here in our humble, crowded space in the Garland County Extension Office, surrounded by the bins and shelves filled with our GCMG History Book (my first year). There were so many smiling faces doing what they do best: playing in the dirt and having FUN!

I realized that not much has changed. We have amazing projects, fun bus trips, plant sales, garden tours, and plenty of meetings! One thing that hasn’t changed is our “Meet & Greet the NMGs” each year. It is always a hectic, fun time for us oldies and our new members.

These excited new members with their clean aprons, shiny sharp tools, and new gloves give us oldies a burst of energy as we head out each Spring to pull weeds and create beautiful gardens.

So, as we go forward in 2016, let’s remind these NMGs to be sure to not miss any weeds, secure the petunias in baskets, water and trim correctly, and most importantly share their ideas! These ideas mixed with our past successes will enable us to grow and enhance our community for years to come.

Welcome, Class of 2016!

Diane Daniel

The next Master Gardener Meeting is Thursday, April 21, 2016. It will be held at the Elks Lodge starting at 1:00 pm. You may arrive at 11:30 am to eat lunch if you wish.

2016 Master Gardener Officers and Contact Numbers
Diane Daniel – President – 922-1656 arhogfans@icloud.com
Claudette Cooper – 1st Vice President – 520-5465 catluver72@aol.com
Hilde Simmons – 2nd Vice President – 226-5454 hildesimons@aol.com
Bev Merritt – Secretary – 214-985-9070 bev.merritt.plus4@gmail.com
Dianne Hardin – Treasurer – 915-8281 bdhardin23@yahoo.com
Linda Doherty – Past President – 767-4720 lindadoh55@gmail.com
I’m enjoying Monday afternoons with our New Master Gardeners. If you haven’t signed up and would like to spend an afternoon at our office to meet everyone and learn more about Extension, please contact Hilde Simmons to sign up.

With all the winter annuals flowering, I am getting lots of questions on lawn weed control. Now is **not** the time to apply herbicides to our lawns, as they are transitioning from dormancy to green up. Not only would it be ineffective, because winter annual weeds are maturing, it may actually hinder your lawn’s green up. A better option is keep the lawn mowed and wait and apply fertilizer when your lawn has totally greened up. The best way to control those flowering weeds in your lawn now is to maintain a healthy lawn by following recommendations of a soil test, then apply a pre-emergence herbicide this fall if needed.

April is always a favorite month for gardeners. Hopefully we have seen our last spring frost of the year. Traditionally around the second week of April is our last frost of the year, so wait till after tax day to plant those warm season plants. Get out and enjoy the weather and have fun!

Allen Bates
County Extension Agent—Agriculture

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### April Birthdays

3 – Vicki Scheddel  
4 – Sue Bristow  
4 – Dani Kew  
6 – Gene Lichliter  
6 – Greg Watts  
11 – Sharron Bennett  
16 – Sallye Waddell  
18 – Denise Steinhaus  
21 – Susan Marinick  
23 – Jean Fisher  
27 – Ann Hooper  
27 – Barbara Krone  
28 – Joy Bennett  
29 – Carolyn Sinderson

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### May Birthdays

5 – Mary Ann Jarvis  
9 – Pat Conine  
11 – Sharon Farley  
12 – Barbara Gaunt  
12 – Barbara Smith  
13 – Karen Geiger  
14 – Ellen Majestic  
14 – Don Sluyter  
19 – Sue Hale  
19 – Dee Offerman  
25 – Bev Merritt  
26 – Sherry Asbell  
30 – Barbara Mueller
Recognition for Years of Service
We honored members at the February MG Meeting for 25, 20, 15, and 5 years of service.

Correction to the Lifetime Membership lists published in the March Newsletter:

We wish to apologize for any misunderstanding caused by the error on the Years of Service Credit of present Lifetime Members. If you have any questions about your Years of Service Credit, please contact Margaret Byrd and ask for an explanation.

Years of Service means years in which the required hours were reported. It does not mean Years of listed on the membership roster. Years in which the member was on Leave of Absence cannot be included, and years in which Life Members chose not to report their hours are also not included. Lifetime Members are not required to report hours to continue to be members, but they must report at least 10 hours each year to get "credit" for that year.

20+
GCMGs with 20 or more Years of Service Credit recognized at the February meeting and given new badges to honor their years. These members have had Lifetime Status for at least five years:

Carolyn Harris (25), Paula Wallace (24), Julie Dickson (21), Yvonne Becker (20), Karen Hill-DeGeer (20), Gene Lichlitter (20), Harry Marshall (20), and Lynuel Newton (20)

Lifetime Status
Five New Lifetime Status Members were recognized and their picture was in the March Newsletter. They each have 15 Years of Service Credit.

Joy Bennett, Michael Carr, Anne Fulbright, Kay Shearer, and Don Turner

Other Lifetime Members
Ten were recognized at the February meeting for their Years of Service Credit.

Jim Lockwood (17), Carmen Felton (16), Pat Witherspoon (16), Maggie Burks (18), Ann Hooper (17), Lynuel Newton (19), Diane Sims (17), Ann Carrithers (17), Doris Jones (18), and Dolores Quade (17)

If you have any questions about your Years of Service Credit, please contact Margaret Byrd.
Photo by Claudette Cooper

The new Master Gardeners (NMGs) toured Garvan Woodland Gardens with veterans Hilde Simmons and Claudette Cooper on Saturday, March 12.

**2016 New Master Gardeners (alphabetically):**
Tonie Atkinson, Alicia Baucom, Greg Cardenas, Sr., Pam Connor, Juneann Cotnam, Sherry Davis, Linda Foglia, Yetta Freeman, Shirley Hicks, Elizabeth Infusino, Manny Machuca, Karen Mason, Brenda Matthews, Sherry Matthews, Suzanne Mayfield, Pam McCoy, Sandra Morad, Patricia Osborn, Lawrence Philipp, Deby Prince, Marilyn Sherwood, Margaret "Elaine" Sichter, Sheila Springs, Christopher St. Peter, MaryAnn Tomko, Karan Tyner, Mildred Wilson, Paula Zorn
**Entergy Park**

The Entergy Park Master Gardeners met March 2. Thirteen energetic MGs cut back and dead-headed dormant plants. We also weeded and bagged for compost facility. Mulch supplied by the City Parks & Rec was spread around newly planted shrubs, trees, and smaller plants beds.

Front L to R: Lin Johnson, Carol Scrivner, Kay Adams, and Paula Wallace.
Back L to R: Kay Shearer, Jeff Finney, Wayne Patterson, Don Sluyter, Sue Bristow, Pam McCoy, and Mary Ann Schnipper.

Not pictured: Jan Hodges, Jodi Tooke.

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**Courthouse/Police Memorial**

The Courthouse Crew gathered on March 24. We weeded, trimmed lirioppe, bagged, swept, and divided some day lilies. A little fertilizer was applied along with fire ant killer! Many hands made it possible to get these big jobs done in a long morning. The next workday is April 14 at 8:30 am.

Not pictured: Sheila McLarty.

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**Courthouse/Police Memorial**

Linda Doherty displays nipper prowess on a chilly morning at the Police Memorial

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**Education**

**Know It to Grow It**: On Wed, April 6 at GCL, Sharon Dent will present ‘Potatoes’ from 1-3pm. There will be potato dishes to taste as well as demonstrations for various plantings.

**EXPO**: The 2016 MG EXPO will be held Saturday, October 8 from 10am – 3pm at The First Church of the Nazarene on Central Ave.
Garden Therapy

Marty Lynch led “Making Pinecone Bird Feeders” with the seniors. We spread peanut butter all over the pine cones and then rolled them in bird seed. The seniors were very pleased with their project and got to take them home at the end of their day at the Caring Place.

L-R: Sarah Harris, Emilie Stewart, Betty Fortner, Marty Lynch (peeking over Betty’s head), Karen Geiger, Ellen Majestic, Rita Monsen, Debbie Shinn, and Yetta Freeman

COMO Square

A small group met to weed and prepare for spring plantings!

L-R: Burley, Loretta, Rosemary and Carol

Habitat for Humanity

On March 4, fourteen MGs completed the landscape at 305 Belding Street. The flower bed that framed the front is where boxwoods were used as foundation plants and liriope as the border plants. Nandina, Encore Azalea and Stella d’Oro were planted on the side and back of the home. A hearty crepe myrtle was also planted near the front edge of the lawn. We wish the new owners many years of happiness in their new home. Thanks to Master Gardeners and friends for your support.

Participants pictured above: Scott Davies, Don Sluyter, Jeff Finny, James B. Moore, Jr., Jim Moore, Ross Sedler, Carol Scrivner, Kay Adams, Sheila McLarty, Barb Smith, Deby Prince, Shelia Springs, Sherry Matthews, Lin Johnson.
GEMS
Rain outs have been common for GEMS, but we finally helped the horticulture crew on April 1, no fooling! These lovely ladies got their hands dirty working at Garvan Woodland Gardens. The spent tulips were removed to make room for the spring/summer annuals. Crates of tulip bulbs were prepared for resale at the Welcome Center.


Hot Springs Xeriscape
We top-dressed the bed with compost, planted Carolina Jasmine on the arbor and mass-planted lambs ear. A person from the community came by to thank us and said becoming a Master Gardener was on her bucket list.

Plant Sale

Saturday, April 30, 8am – 12am
Hot Springs Farmer's Market, 121 Orange St

The theme this year is “BACK TO NATIVE: Planting for the Environment – Birds, Bees and Butterflies.” Native plants will be included in the collection of Master Gardener grown and propagated plants.

In addition, local horticultural societies and nurseries/greenhouses are joining in the event. Sales will begin at 8 a.m. and continue until noon. Experienced Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer free advice at the Plant Sale.

If you have any questions, please contact the committee chairs: Bev Merritt, Loretta West, or Gwen Southard.

Farmer’s Market/Triangle
Thirteen MGs met March 16 to pull weeds and spruce up. After all the rain and heat, there was a lot to do. Then we moved over to the Triangle. Those working were Paula Wallace, Sallye Waddell, Carol Scrivner, Brenda Matthews, Sheila McLarty, Sue Bristow, Loretta West, Michael Carr, Sheila Springs, Cindy Bright, Jan Hodges, Pam McCoy, and Mary Ann Schnipper.
Hot Springs City Greenhouse
Under the direction of Daryl Edwards, greenhouse supervisor, we completed 150 hanging baskets of petunias to be displayed along downtown Central Avenue starting in May. We had a special session on March 9th to make up for the cancelled normal session. Twelve Master Gardeners attended, although it was pouring rain. We lined baskets to ready for planting. Brian Fisher asked for more help the week of March 28th to push forward quickly with planting the baskets. MGs sorted plants on Monday, and others planted on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Volunteer response to our committee is overwhelming with almost a hundred! Due to our large numbers and limited working space, we cannot all work at the same time. Michael Carr and Lin Johnson organized various work groups on certain days and shifts to include as many members as possible with the planting. Kudos to Michael and Lin for their help in guiding planting and to all MGs for a job well done!
Garden Club Tours

The Hot Springs Council of Garden Clubs will host a garden tour on Saturday, May 14, from 10:00am - 3:00pm. Rain date is May 15, 12:00pm - 5:00pm.

Six local gardens will be featured.

On the tour will be two very unique Japanese gardens with a variety of unusual oriental plants and koi ponds. Two beautiful gardens designed by Bob Byers can be seen in the Driftwood and Eastgate neighborhoods. Design by Landscape Architect, Liz Williams, can be seen on the tour also.

Several of the gardens have been recognized in Arkansas garden publications.

Tickets can be purchased at Crye Leike Realty on Central, Shultz Nursery, or any garden club member. Proceeds will benefit the Ouachita Children's Home.

Contact Jennifer Jennings: jenniferjennings1973@gmail.com

County 76 Seeks Winter Photos for Calendars
It is time to begin submitting your photos to gkbell08@att.net

Entrants may enter only one photo taken in Arkansas for each season (totaling as many as four).

Files must be between 1Mb and 5Mb, in .jpeg format, and named with your name, description, county and season (e.g., GlendaBellFApetuniasSu.jpeg)

Deadline is June 15.

We had two photographers featured last year; let’s share our creative gardening eye with the State!

Send Newsletter submissions by the 21st of each month to garlandcountymgnewsletter@gmail.com
# Calendar of Events

GCMG = Garland County Master Gardeners  
GCL = Garland County Library  
**Register for Know It to Grow It classes online at gclibrary.com or call 501-623-4161.**

GWG = Garvan Woodland Gardens  
*Sign-up for GWG classes online at garvangardens.org or call 262-9300.*

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<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
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| April 5 Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG Docent training: Woodland Walk, Spring Interest |
| April 6 Wed. 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | “Know It to Grow IT™” GCL (see above to register) Potatoes: Red, White, and Purple: How to grow and cook delicious potatoes. |
| April 9 Saturday | Franklin County MG Plant Sale  
More information later. |
| April 14 Thursday 10 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG “Meet the Horticulturist” Minnie Shelor- Tickled Pink (& Blue & Purple & Red…) |
| April 16 Saturday | Saline County MG Plant Sale  
More information later. |
| April 21 Thursday  
Counts as education for GCMG | GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30 Program 1:00 Awards |
| April 22-24 Memberships fees are $15 per year  
Counts as education for GCMG | The Arkansas Native Plant Society's Spring Meeting & Field Trips will be held in Hot Springs. More details later. |
| April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
You must register since they serve lunch | County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office |
| April 28 Thursday 10 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG “Meet the Horticulturist” Minnie Shelor- Contain Your Excitement-gardening in small spaces. |
| May 3-7 Thur. – Sat.  
Counts as education for GCMG | Garland County Master Gardener trip to Cheekwood Botanical Gardens in Nashville and the Memphis Botanical Gardens and Dixon Gallery & Gardens in Memphis. |
| May 3 Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG Docent training: Garden of the Pine Wind |
| May 12 Thursday 9:30-3:00  
Counts as education for GCMG | *GWG Tropicals, Janet Carson & friends  
$15 members $30 non-members |
| May 14 Saturday 10a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG Survey Says! Gena Stout, companion plants, edibles in the landscape, phenology, shade gardening & square foot gardening. $15 members $30 non-members |
| May 19 Thursday  
Counts as education for GCMG | Instead of a meeting we will have Garden tours. More information later. |
| May 19 Thursday 10 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG “Meet the Horticulturist” Minnie Shelor- Fertilizer Basics |
| May 24 Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG Docent training: Early Summer Interest |
| May 26 Thursday 10-11 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GWG “Meet the Horticulturist” Minnie Shelor- Cut flower Gardening |

If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net