President’s Corner

What a beautiful fall we’ve had, 70-80 degrees and just a bit of rain … WHAT? That isn’t fall, even in Arkansas! But, last week that all changed, 50’s and rain. I spent Thanksgiving in NW AR, and the drive up Hwy 49 was beautiful—sun coming thru trees of the Boston Mountains was wonderful. Most were dark rust in color, but golden hickory and blazing maples made it picture-perfect. On the way home we traveled the Pig Trail and then cut over to Mount Magazine—again, beautiful!

My winter-blooming Helleborus began blooming in late December 2015. Each year I dig up dozens of babies and repot for the plant sale. Last year’s are now in my sewing room gathering late-afternoon sun and growing like weeds. By late April they should look great! Helleborus like shade—mine are planted on the NE side of the house under Maple trees and do just great.

Well, this is my last “President’s Corner”, and I might be the only one who reads this, but I want to thank each of you for being a GCMG and helping make our program one of the best in the state. Our “dirt” projects are beautiful, our education programs awesome, and luncheons such fun! I look forward to 2017, working with NMGs, the plant sale, the farmers’ market crew on Saturdays and of course the meetings … what fun would it be without the meetings?

Have a blessed holiday season,

Diane Daniel

There is no meeting in December. The next meeting is on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at 1pm.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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
This year has really gone by fast!! The older I get, the faster the year seems to go by. The highlight of this year for me was receiving the Agent of the Year award at the state convention this past summer. This award was possible due to the hard work and dedication of all of you. The impact of this program has few rivals within our state, although we are not the largest program. Garland County Master Gardeners accomplished over 15,000 working hours this last year that converts to over $350,000 of savings to our County, plus over 4,500 educational hours helping to educate our community. As advisor to this program, and a resident of Garland County, I say “Thank You.”

I look forward to next year with great anticipation and working with our new slate of officers. I am very grateful for the leadership by our outgoing officers this past year. They worked very hard and spent many hours keeping our organization running. Again, I thank each of you for all you do for the Garland County Master Gardeners program.

Wishing you a safe wonderful Christmas and a happy new year,
New Officers Elected for 2017

The 2016 nomination committee reviewed numerous members nominated for the executive board positions, made their selections and presented them to the general membership. A huge thank-you to Chair Carmon Hayes and members James Moore, Jr. and Marty Lynch.

L to R: Nancy Morris, Debbie Atchison, Claudette Cooper, Jan Hodges, and Tricia Freeman.

President - Claudette Cooper
I was a realtor and broker for 20 years and before that I worked with AT&T for 10 years and did every non-management job there was from toll operator to climbing poles. I also owned my own Century 21 franchise and ran it for 5 years until I closed my “adult day care center” as Ron and I jokingly called it. I’ve always loved playing in the dirt, and when we moved to Hot Springs I had way more dirt to explore and play in!

1st VP - Debbie Atchison
My career history includes working for Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield and Baptist Health System in the accounting field and I’m currently employed for Rush Wellsite Services, LLC as the CFO. I have been a MG since 2006 and have audited the financial records for the group in the past. I also serve as the treasurer for the Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society. My love for plants and outdoors led me to become involved in the MG program. Instead of venturing into shoe stores, I seem to be captured by nurseries and garden centers.

2nd VP - Jan Hodges
I have 36 years as an educator. A MG since 2013, I chaired the Langston project, co-chaired at Energy Park and worked at Extension Office landscape, Habitat homes, GEMS, Hot Springs Middle School, HS City Greenhouse, Garland County Fair and Ouachita Children Center.

Treasurer - Tricia Freeman
I grew up in Arkansas and moved to Hot Springs in 2013 from New Jersey—it felt like I was coming home. After 40 years in accounting in everything from heavy construction to non-profits, I retired as Finance Manager at Easter Seals, New Jersey. I was also Financial Secretary for 5 years at my church in New Jersey. My MG projects include HS Greenhouse, Southern Inspiration Garden, Ouachita Children's Center and HS Xeriscape. I have enjoyed being a MG for the past 2 years. The projects and education have been fun, but the people I’ve met have been the cherry on top. Being Treasurer is a way I can effectively give back.

Secretary - Nancy Morris
I was raised in Hot Springs but lived 12 years in Wisconsin. I retired two years ago from the Health Department after a career as an RN. A MG since 2014, I enjoy participating in HS City Greenhouse, Plant sale, Garland County Fair, and EHC kitchen.
We served cookies for excited staff and students. L to R: Loretta West, Tricia Freeman, Sherry Matthews, Marty Lynch, enthusiastic student, Ann Hiers.

After greenhouse construction and cleaning up the beds, we hosted a reception at Hot Springs Middle School to show off to staff and students on Wednesday, November 16.

Decisions, decisions!

Relaxing in dappled sunlight.

What a beautiful greenhouse!
XERISCAPE: A FLOOD OF FLOWERS AND FRIENDSHIPS

Submitted by: Sharon Seals

It's ironic. The Hollywood Park Xeriscape garden, a term used for landscape design requiring little or no supplemental water and used in arid areas, was wiped out by flood, two weeks before Memorial Day. Karin Grisham took lead of the garden just before the destructive event, at a time when it was lush and beautiful. She stepped in after the good shepherding of Sunshine Spielvogle, who had to step down as the committee chairperson for health reasons.

Because of the extraordinary flood, Grisham had to take extraordinary measures. In a twist of fate (or just good timing), Grisham attended a PNG conference and found interesting discussions on how to build teams of volunteers. “I was in awe of what I learned there,” says Grisham. “They taught about growing not just flowers, but friendships. They taught me that I need to both recruit and retain volunteers by keeping people invested.”

So Grisham found ways to keep the work interesting. She asked volunteers to share ideas, so results reflected a hands-on, shared vision. For instance, volunteers determined siting for plants in bare areas after the flood which washed away plants, mulch, topsoil—even major bushes. She also asked them to share expertise. Ann Fulbright taught Butterfly Bush pruning. Toni Atkinson, an intern, provided a drawing. Jodi Tooke researched mosses, noting, “…although slow-growing, moss thrives in poor conditions and is very drought tolerant.” Says Grisham, “Other volunteers showed up, brought plants, and researched their plants and reported to the group. We incorporated some learning into each gardening day, so volunteers got thirty to sixty minutes of learning credit in addition to their work hours.”

Grisham admits to scrounging. She stole from her own garden, and volunteers shared from theirs. In another stroke of great timing, the Courthouse was re-landscaping, so Grisham snagged the lantana pulled from that site to “repurpose.” With flagstone provided by the city, the committee created a more focused, formal entry into the garden under the arbor. They also used flagstone to link “Amelia’s Bench,” named after the garden’s founder, to the main garden. MG Amelia Aughenbaugh received a grant to start the garden in 2006. The committee planted “anchor” bushes for repetition to visually tie the two areas together after the first planted were washed away.

“Diane Daniel put out an ‘all hands on deck’ call for us, and we worked every day for about two weeks after the flood,” says Grisham. With all that work, Grisham was concerned about including fun. She got creative. “I thought about how the city greenhouse always has donuts for volunteers. It’s nice. So we had warm zucchini bread and lemonade. We had flower cookies in May and then Halloween cookies. We had a Sack Lunch Saturday where we ate by the creek in lawn chairs and admired our garden.” Besides baked goodies, Grisham gave incentive rewards—a gift of gloves or potted plants. And she instituted a “Xeriscape Tip of the Day,” where the members shared tidbits.

In a nod to the election year, Grisham invited members to vote for Most Valuable Player (or perhaps Planter!) of the year. She had early voting, and a real election, albeit with a flower pot for a ballot box. “Almost every member of the committee got a vote, a testament to how good this group is,” brags Grisham. Ultimately, the MVP was Karan Tyner. When the award was given, she was still hauling water from the creek.

To further enliven the work, Grisham set up a Xeriscape Jeopardy game. The losing team had weekly water duty. They developed a Xeriscape plant guide, learning water-hungry plants can be tucked in beneath iris rhizomes which hold water. They learned to create a low water solution for a slope by hauling field stone and interplanting the stones, a technique that Grisham has now implemented in her own garden.

Gardens are best when shared, so Grisham aimed to expand participation beyond their own garden’s edge. In the vein of keeping things fun and making new friends, they took a field trip to work the Hot Springs Village Xeriscape Garden, hoping to both help them and incorporate their ideas in the Hollywood Park space. “It was hot,” says Grisham, “and we moved a lot of rock. Then we all had lunch together. Two months later, they brought plants to our garden!”

This committee isn’t done yet. Volunteers have “winter homework.” They are working on plant identification markers. Also over the winter, the volunteers are researching what to plant in the three watering zones of the Xeriscape garden—in shade, in full sun on the greenway with rizomes, and underplanting for moisture sharing.

Grisham notes that this is a two-year commitment, and she wants everyone to come back. “The plants are small now. But soon, we’ll have a beautiful garden. Invest in people, and the flowers will come.”
Extension Office
What a lovely, warm November day for planting pansies in the Cooperative Extension Office flower garden. We also trimmed plants and raked leaves to tidy up the landscape.

Gardeners working: Jan Hodges, Loretta West, Ross Sedler, Don Sloyter, James Moore, Jr., Larry Hardin, Susan Deimel, and Jim Moore.

Entergy Park
It was a cool morning to clean up and plant pansies at Entergy Park! A great crew of workers were able to get the job done in no time!

Efficient MGs were Sheila Springs, Burley Freeman, Michael Carr, Carol Scrivner, Kay Adams, Sue Bristow, Loretta West, Maryann Schnipper, Karin Grisham, Karen Mason, Wayne Patterson, Don Sloyter, Suzanne Mayfield, James Moore Jr. & Jan Hodges

Garden Therapy
We led seniors at The Caring Place in setting up paper white narcissuses in glasses with stones at the bottom. We enjoyed this program, and the seniors did a great job in "planting" the bulbs. After our program, we met briefly to plan 2017.

L to R (selfie by Kumar Maruthar, MD): Kumar Maruthar, MD, Pat Osborn, Rita Monsen, Yetta Freeman, Tonie Atkinson, Sue Tanner, Carmon Hayes, and Emilie Stewart.

Langston Legacy Garden
Langston Legacy Garden looks great!

Loretta West, James Moore, Susan Deimel and Jan Hodges pulled a few weeds and planted pansies.
Courthouse & Police Memorial

A big “thank you” to everyone that spread mulch and good cheer at the courthouses on November 10th. It was short work because of terrific participation, and the landscape looks very nice. Fourteen MGs filled and hauled buckets, raked, and swept mulch. The pansies should be happy to be “put to bed” with good fertilizer, good mulch, and good attitudes! The Police Memorial looks very nice with the dianthus and pansies doing well and getting watered. The courthouse is lit for the Christmas season. Go by for some holiday spirit!

Front L to R: Linda Doherty, Mary Ann Schnipper, Jodi Tooke, Sandy Morad, Pat Osborn, Barb Smith
Back L to R: Wayne Patterson, Paula Page, Kay Adams, Jim Moore, Carol Scrivner, Susan Deimel, James B. Moore, Jr.
Not Shown: Sheila McLarty

Ouachita Children’s Center

The Ouachita Children’s Center MG committee joined with the Habitat for Humanity committee to plant trees and lirope to help beautify the OCC campus. Forty-five gallons of lirope were planted under big oak trees. Ten crape myrtles and maples trees were planted to line the sidewalk and enhance the grounds. A special thank you to Gene Lichliter and the Habitat Committee for all the manpower!

Volunteers working: Laura Young, Ann Hiers, Pat Osborn, Karen Mason, Barb Smith, Suzanne Mayfield, Wayne Patterson, Jeff Finney, Larry Hardin, James Moore, Jr., Jim Moore, Ross Sedler, Roger Giddings, Bev Merritt, Don Sluyter, Tom Hayek, Shirley Hicks, Sheila Springs, and Gene Lichliter.
Farmers’ Market and Triangle
Eleven MGs met on a beautiful Fall day to pull the weeds that had shown up since we planted pansies. Then we had a brunch to thank the committee members for all of their hard work this past year, provided by the co-chairs Katie Gibson, Leslie Goff and Mary Ann Schnipper. We ate under the trees in the shade at the Triangle. It was delightful with good food and perfect weather.

Those wonderful MGs who worked were Loretta West, Juneann Greene, Shirley Hicks, Lin Johnson, Sallye Waddell, Sheila Springs, Paula Wallace, Carmon Hayes, Katie Gibson, Leslie Goff and Mary Ann Schnipper.

Farmers’ Market and Triangle

Sallye Waddell clears celosia that self-seeded.

Garden Essential Maintenance Service
Election Day found thirteen hard-working GEMS at Garvan Gardens giving their time and talents. Half pulled mums in the parking area and replanted with pansies. Mums were also pulled from the front entrance beds and more pansies were planted around the Holiday Lights musical piano. The other half planted many, many flats of mini-mondo grass along the sidewalk area by Sunrise Bridge. Asian jasmine was planted on the hillside along the waterfall in the same area. Although knees and backs were taxed, no complaints were heard—only good-natured, friendly chatter.

Front L to R: Loretta West, Sherry Davis, Sheila Springs, Kay Adams, and Ann Hiers.
Back L to R: James Moore, Jr., Ross Sedler, Paula Zorn, Carol Scrivner, and Sheila McLarty.
Not pictured: Mary Tom Taylor, Jan Hodges, and Marty Lynch
Hot Springs Middle School

Many MGs came to the rescue of Hot Springs Middle School butterfly and vegetable gardens. This was a heavy-duty work day, and our volunteers were ready with kind smiles, willing spirits and strong backs! This amazing crew replanted the raised beds at the school entrance, added top soil, divided liriope, daylilies, and more. The gardens grew unruly over the summer but were no match for MGs. Our continuing beautification efforts included promptly pruning the wisteria growing to the school roof, taming the lantana, adjusting the drip irrigation system, flooring the greenhouse, dead-heading the zinnias and collecting next year's seeds, rearranging benches for outdoor seating under the pergola, planting pulchritudinous pansies, as well as, weeding and general clean up. What a day!

Top L-R: James Moore; Bev White, laying weedmat; Don Sluyter, directing the limb cutting.
Center L-R: Ann Hiers, weeding; Burley Freeman and Barb Smith replanting beds; Jeff Finney, hauling. Bottom L-R: standing in front of newly planted beds Marty, Shirley, Bev, Jeff, Larry, Sherry, James, Jim, Leslie and seated Karen, Ann, Tricia, Loretta, Barbara; Karen Mason mixing new top soil into raised bed; Jim Moore and Marty hauling top soil to the butterfly garden.
Southern Inspiration Garden
With the cooler weather came pansies, mums and mulch. There are many flowers blooming. Enjoy the garden before the holiday lights!

Education
Know It to Grow It
The final program featured Tom Dillard, a nationally-recognized Daffodil expert. He spoke on Bulbs, Corms, and Rhizomes at the Garland County Public Library on Wednesday, November 9.

Tom Dillard presented information about which daffodils grow well in Arkansas.

Descriptions of various root forms.

Over 50 people attended and all reported enjoying Tom’s sense of humor. We also learned a lot about growing flowers from bulbs. Plant in the fall. They should generally be buried at twice their diameter.

The next program, “Inside Scoop: From Compost to Container Gardening and House Plants,” is Saturday, January 28th at 9:00 am.

Tahiti – popular double daffodil
Garvan Holiday Lights
See 4.5 million brilliant bulbs transform approximately 17 acres into a memorable animated holiday display in one of Arkansas’ most anticipated events. Complimentary hot chocolate will be served. The Chipmunk Café will be open from 3-9 p.m. each day during Holiday Lights.

Open nightly 5-9 p.m.
Closed Christmas Day
NO DOGS ALLOWED AT HOLIDAY LIGHTS

http://www.garvangardens.org/

New Master Gardener Class Dates

Allen reports we have eight people signed up from Garland County for the master gardener classes that start in January. Mark your calendars for Thursdays, starting January 26 and continuing through February 23. Class starts at 8am with a break for lunch at mid-day and continues until 4pm. More details and schedule next month.

Dues Reminder

Annual dues are $10. Please mail a check made out to: Garland County Master Gardeners to Dianne Hardin by January 15th at 23 Coraza Circle Hot Springs Village AR 71909 or pay at the next MG meeting on Jan 19.

Photos for MG Calendar

Sherry Matthews sells 2017 calendars at MG meeting.

Take photos for MG Calendar, especially now!

We had photos featured in December from GCMGs this year. Let’s get more next year!

- 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

DEADLINE is June 15. See uaex.edu under MG Only for details

Monthly MG Radio Show

Listen in to Dick Antoine’s ‘Talk of the Town’ on KZNG 1340 AM from 8-9am on second Mondays. GCMGs will address a variety of topics:
Dec - propagation & greenhouses
Jan - succulents & houseplants
Feb - pruning roses
Mar - soil amending & early planting

Send Newsletter submissions by the 21st of each month to garlandcountymgnewsletter@gmail.com
On a beautiful sunny morning in October, fifteen members of the Vegetable Garden Forum, organized by Sharon Dent, met at Leslie Goff’s six acre farm to learn about her new beehive and watch two informative videos. Leslie, a Master Gardener, has long been aware of the declining bee population. Since it is estimated that one third of the food consumed worldwide has been pollinated by bees, this decline is a growing concern.

Armed with this information, Leslie began researching beehives and learned about the Flow Hive which was being developed in Australia. Requiring over a decade of research, this hive simplifies beekeeping. The beekeeper no longer has to crack open the hive, pull out the frames, stress the bees and cut the wax in order to obtain honey. With the Flow Hive, you simply turn a tap with a key and watch clean, pure honey flow from the hive. Leslie received her hive in the spring and ordered about 30,000 bees which she placed in the hive herself. She admits that she is more interested in preserving the bee population than she is in producing honey, but the ease of obtaining the honey is certainly a benefit. She can see into the hive, check the colony and know when the honey is ready. And the bees certainly have a lot of plants to pollinate at her house! She has many beautiful flowers and raised beds for her vegetable garden.

In addition to her bees and extensive gardens, Leslie also raises chickens and currently has eleven. They seem to thrive in their state-of-the-art chicken coop with a large pen in which to roam. With four children, Leslie and her husband have plenty of help on their small farm.

If you missed the Vegetable Garden Forum field trips this year, you will have another opportunity to attend next summer. These are not only fun but also very educational.
### Calendar of Events

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<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
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| Nov. 19 – Dec. 31 2016  
Open nightly 5-9 p.m.  
Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day | GWG Holiday Lights  4.5 million lights |
| December | No GCMG meeting. |

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| Jan. 13 -14  
Counts as education for GCMG | Horticulture Industry Show Fayetteville (more information later) |
| Jan. 15, Sun. 2 p.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | The Arkansas Orchid Society will meet at the Christ Episcopal Church (6th & Scott) in Little Rock. |
| Jan. 19 Thurs. Lunch served from 11:15–12:30, Meeting 1 p.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GCMG meeting at the Elks Lodge 132 Abbott Pl.  
Program: Jean Wallace HS Parks and Trails Department |
| Jan. 24 Tues. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. | County 76 meeting State Office Little Rock (more information later) |
| Jan. 28 Sat.  
Counts as education for GCMG | Columbia County Master Gardeners Garden Thyme  
(more information later) |
| Feb. 1 registration open | State Master Gardener State Conference at Doubletree Hotel Little Rock, May 21-23 (more information later) |
| Feb. 11 Sat. 10 a.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | The Hot Springs Daylily meeting at at the United Methodist Church Christian Life Center Shelton Room 1100 Central Ave.  
Program: Region 13 tour pictures. |
| Feb. 12 Sun.  
Counts as education for GCMG | Museum Garden Club Seminar Jonesboro  
(more information later) |
| Feb 16 Thurs. Lunch served from 11:15–12:30, Meeting 1 p.m.  
Counts as education for GCMG | GCMG meeting at the Elks Lodge 132 Abbott Pl.  
Program: |
| Feb. 21 Tues.  
Counts as education for GCMG | Craighead County Seminar-Jonesboro (more information later) |
| Feb. 24-26 Friday-Sun.  
Counts as education for GCMG | Arkansas Flower & Garden Show- Little Rock You can also work. (more information later) |

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