Hello GCMG’s,

2015 has flown by - or at least, most of it has.......anyway, this is my last prez letter assignment – whew! GCMG has had another great year - a very busy year. In addition to our plentiful projects, we took on several special ones – helping host the state convention with Saline County, arranging a pre-tour for state convention, hosting MG Appreciation Day at GWG, getting proclamations for GC Master Gardener Week from the city and county to celebrate our birthday and hosting an Advanced Master Gardener class. All events were a great success - special thanks to all involved. I also want all committee chairs, co-chairs and assistant-chairs to know how very much I appreciate all you have done in your respective areas to make this the fine organization it is. You made my job so much easier. Thanks to everyone who works to support your committee chairs!

With my extra time next year, I can begin re-landscaping the barren ground that Gracie has left with me - but am not too sure that Rocket didn’t have a paw in the devastation project too........

Rest up and enjoy Christmas and New Years - we will be back at it all too soon! Break out the catalogs, make plans for next year’s gardens, and hope for “normal” (whatever that is) weather.......  

Linda
Thank you to all who sent Linda and me the cards, emails, and phone calls with the kind words regarding the recent passing of my father. I truly found comfort hearing from all of you, and I very much appreciate your kindness.

As this year winds down I would like to take a minute to thank Linda Doherty for her willingness to step up and take on the role of president. Doing this a year early with short notice was a challenge she amazingly handled very efficiently and professionally. Thank you, Linda, for your dedication to this program.

We will begin to interview our new Master Gardener applicants before we break for Christmas, but there are still openings if you know anyone thinking about joining. Please have them contact the office ASAP. The extension office will be closed December 24th thru January 3rd for Christmas break.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ALLEN’S CORNER

DECEMBER Birthdays

Louise Lee Dec 1
Diane Murdock Dec 2
Hilde Simmons Dec 5
Sam Mullins Dec 6
Katie Gibson Dec 7
Caroline Suggs Dec 7
Joel Unowsky Dec 11
Doris Ayers Dec 12
Joe Yadron Dec 12
Sarah Harris Dec 13
Emilie Stewart Dec 13
Sue Jacobs Dec 15
Debbie Roling Dec 15
Karen K. Johnson Dec 17
Shelly Sims Dec 18
Valerie Nuckels Dec 20
James B. Moore, Jr. Dec 23
Deb Skelton Dec 23
Roger Giddings Dec 25
Jane Oliver Dec 29
Kathy Schmidt Dec 30
Kathleen Cardinal Dec 30
Janice Boyes Dec 30

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Get Well
Les Houston
Marilyn Parks
Neil Thornton
Sarah Harris
Hilde Simmons
Janie Turner

Sympathy
Joy Bennett
Allen Bates
2015 Master Gardener Award Winners

The Awards Committee has chosen the following for the 2015 Master Gardener Award Winners:

Master Gardener of the Year
Linda Doherty

Master Gardener Rookie of the Year
Jodie Tooke

Project of the Year
Habitat for Humanity

Newsletter of the Year
Carolyn Davis

Friend of Master Gardeners
Individual Award
Agri Teacher Lake Hamilton High School
Lewis Hunt

Business or Organization Award
Arkansas Sod & Turf

Agent of the Year
Allen Bates
The Garland County Master Gardeners hosted an Advanced Master Gardener class, “Southern Bulbs and Rhizomes,” on November 6, 2015. We chose to hold it in the EHC Building at the local fairgrounds to accommodate 90 Master Gardeners from around the state. Our lunch and snacks were provided by the EHC Catering group.

Jim Shultz, owner/operator of Shultz Greenhouse, started the day off with his presentation “Forcing Bulbs – Start to Finish.” He also gave away several pots of bulbs ready to be enjoyed and some bulbs ready to be planted.

Our own Master Gardener, Kay Shearer, presented “All about Daffodils.” She even talked a little about showing her daffodils at the State and National levels. Kay has over 500 different cultivars of daffodils and has been an accredited Region 13 Garden Judge for over 5 years.

Janet Carson, who always draws a crowd, was our speaker for “Under-Used Bulbs.” These bulbs are the types that are overlooked by a lot of the big box stores. She gave us tips for planting, soil type, fertilizing, watering needs and what grows well in Arkansas and what doesn’t.

After lunch we learned how to landscape with bulbs and tulips that rebloom in Arkansas. Bob Byers drove in from Ft. Worth, Texas to deliver this presentation to the delight of all of us that miss him at Garvan Gardens.

Jim Bledsoe, a Hot Springs native and President of the Hot Springs Iris Society, presented information on irises. Jim explained when, where, and how to grow, fertilize, divide iris bulbs and treat diseases, insects and pests. He also gave away several of his personal favorite irises to some of those in attendance. The Advanced Master Gardener Class Committee gave away extra bulbs to 5 different counties as a challenge, and as a project, to plant and take pictures next spring when the bulbs bloom to beautify a new project or an existing one. All attendees received over 30 different types of bulbs to plant and enjoy for years to come.

Happy Gardening,
Lin Johnson, Gaye Harper, Yvonne Becker, Janie Turner, Linda Doherty
Gene Lichliter was honored at our Master Gardener meeting for completing his 100th house for Habitat. He began working with Habitat approximately 16 years ago and has chaired the project for MG’s for about 10 years. Cupcakes, decorated with the number 100, were served to all and he was given a golden shovel by the MG’s to commemorate his service. The 100th house was completed on November 3rd, and he began his 101st house on November 13th. Congratulations, Gene!!!

In November, Gene Lichliter, a Garland County Master Gardener, completed his 100th landscaping project for Habitat for Humanity homes. Congratulations, Gene!!! Ten Garland County Master Gardeners assisted with the planting of Hearty Gumpo Azaleas, soft touch holly, Stella De Oro daylilies, nandina, Crape Myrtle and Itea Little Henry Day Lily. The home is located on 130 White Street.

All of the volunteers wish the new home owner the very best as he moves into his beautiful new home. Thanks to all who have volunteered through the years to assist Gene in one of his favorite projects.

Gene Lichliter, Chairperson
Evelyn M. Worsham and Lin Johnson, Assistants

First row left to right: Lin Johnson, Michael Carr, Gene Lichliter, Carol Scrivner, Evelyn Worsham; 2nd row left to right: Kay Adams, Kay Skoog, Jeff Finney, Sheila McLarty and Wayne Patterson.
Entergy Park Committee

It was a great day at Entergy Park. An old saying goes something like “things get better with age” and that is certainly true for this committee.

However, this time of year there wasn’t a whole lot to do. The deer ate all of the pansies we planted last month so it was decided to not add to or replant any of them. Basically we trimmed some of the perennials, cut back two large clumps of grass, and spread Preen and plenty of mulch.

This is probably the last time we visit Entergy Park this year and my last excursion as co-chair. I would like to express my sincere and heartfelt thank you to this group of volunteers for making this such a magnificent committee to be associated with.

Submitted by, Wayne Patterson, Jeff Finney and Jan Hodges

COMO Square Committee

The wonderful hardworking Garland County Master Gardeners COMO committee met on a beautiful Fall day to pull weeds and to give a major haircut to the dwarf nandinas. We were happy with the results of all our work. The pansies and cabbages we planted in October were looking quite good. The willing workers included from left to right: Sharon Dent, Burley Freeman, Laura Young, Sue Bristow, Judy Fields, and Mary Ann Schnipper.

Garden Therapy Committee

The Garden Therapy Committee met recently with the seniors at The Caring Place. The project chosen was to help each one set up narcissus bulbs for forced planting to be enjoyed during the Holiday Season. The bulbs were placed on colorful plastic beads in ceramic pots. They will be filled with water when the seniors take them home. Each project is always taken home by the participants at the end of the day to share with their families.

Best wishes for the Holiday Season,
Rita Monsen, Chairperson

Left to right: Anne Fulbright, Jeff Finney, Jan Hodges, Paula Wallace, Lin Johnson, Mary Ann Schnipper, Carol Scrivner, Burley Freeman, James Moore, Jr., Michael Carr, Karin Grisham, Ellen Majestic, and Don Sluyter. Not shown: John Long and Wayne Patterson

Left to right: Kumar Maruthur, M. D., Rita Monsen and Sue Tanner
MENTORS NEEDED FOR 2016!!

Now is the time to sign up to become a mentor – 2016 classes begin the last Thursday in January and we need to have you all in place before the start of class. Special thanks to the members who signed on at our October meeting. Recruiting for new Master Gardeners by all would be appreciated. New members are encouraged to participate! Any questions – please call or email me!! Thanks in advance, Linda Doherty, 767-4720 or lindadoh55@gmail.com

Education Committee

The Education Committee met with Cori Williams of the Garland County Library to schedule dates and topics for the 2016 KNOW IT TO GROW IT programs. This is the schedule we decided on:

SAT JAN 16 10-12 POTATOES: RED, WHITE, PURPLE—HOW TO GROW AND COOK THEM
WED FEB 17 1-3 EXTEND YOUR GROWING SEASON—HOME GREENHOUSES, HOOP HOUSES AND LOW TUNNELS
WED APR 6 1-3 GOOD SOIL SECRETS—AMENDING, TESTING, COMPOSTING, AND RAISED BEDS
SAT JUN 18 9-11 GORGEOUS GARDEN PHOTOS WITH YOUR CELL PHONE
SAT JUL TBD CHICKENS IN MY BACKYARD!! GETTING STARTED CARING FOR YOUR FLOCK
WED SEP 7 1-3 WONDERFUL WORLD OF MOSSES
WED NOV 9 1-3 UNDERGROUND WITH BULBS, RHIZOMES, AND CORMS

Ouachita Children’s Center

The OCC committee met November 5, 2015. Laura Young, Becky Pawelczak, and Jan Hodges cleaned flower beds and prepared them for the cold weather. Several flats of pansies were dispersed throughout the beds so they would have some winter color. The center sent us a Thanksgiving Greeting note as a “Thank You” for all our work. We will not meet again until March.

Thank you card from Ouachita Children’s Center.
### Calendar of Events

**GCMG= Garland County Master Gardeners**  
**GCL= Garland County Library Brown Bags**  
Register for classes by calling 501-623-4161 or online at gclibrary.com  

*GWG = Garvan Woodland Gardens*  
*(You can now sign-up for GWG classes on the website go to garvangardens.org or call 262-9300.)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 21 – Dec. 31 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.</td>
<td><em>GWG “Holiday Lights “4 billion brilliant bulbs on 17 acres. Free members, $15 non-members</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 8-9</td>
<td>35th Annual Horticulture Industry Show (HIS), Tulsa, Oklahoma.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 26, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 28, Feb. 4,11,18 &amp; 25 8am-4pm</td>
<td>Garland County Master Gardener Classes, if you know of anyone who wants to take these have them fill out an application soon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Magnolia Garden Thyme, Immanuel Baptist Church (corner of Highway 82 Bypass and Warnock Springs Road) Contact: Debbie Chatelain 870-234-6793, <a href="mailto:debbiel557@suddenlink.net">debbiel557@suddenlink.net</a> OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-6</td>
<td>Jefferson County Home &amp; Garden Show, Pine Bluff Convention Center, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Linda Soffer at 573-253-9774 or <a href="mailto:lfsoffer@gmail.com">lfsoffer@gmail.com</a> OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 10</td>
<td><em>GWG Garden Basics Janet Carson</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17</td>
<td>Green Explosion, Paragould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30 Program 1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net
GOODBYE 2015....

Since this is our last newsletter for 2015, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me to serve as the Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chairperson for the past four years. A special thank you for each one who has served on the Newsletter Committee in the past, and a great big thank you to Carrie Ditzig who has served as Co-Chair for the Newsletter this year. Congratulations Carrie for a great job this year with all the layout and your special effects. I would, also, like to thank each of our Committee Chairs for submitting articles and photos for both the newsletter and for submission to the newspapers. Without your articles and photos, we would have a very brief newsletter and needless to say no community information regarding all our projects.

Jodie Tooke will be taking over as both the Newsletter Editor and Publicity Chairperson starting in January 2016. Please continue to send your articles to her in a timely manner as well as your photos ("jpeg format" – familiar words??). I am sure she will appreciate all your help.

With sincere wishes to each of you for a blessed Holiday Season,
Carolyn Davis

---

2016 Membership Dues

We are currently collecting Master Gardener dues for 2016. Please send a check @ $10 to:

Dianne Hardin  
23 Coraza Circle  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

In addition to your check, please include a signed Code of Conduct form. This form is available from U of A extension website under “mg only” tab. [http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners](http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners)

Bylaws state the deadline is the 1st meeting of year, which is JAN 21, 2016. However, payment by December 14, 2015, which enables Dianne to close out the 2015 treasurer's account in a timely fashion, is greatly appreciated!!

---

The Treasurer’s report was not available in time for this newsletter. It will be emailed when it becomes available.