President’s Corner

WOW, February already! January was a whirlwind of busy happenings, meetings, interviews and agendas! I want to thank members of the Executive Committee, the 35 members of the board and their many assistants for all their help in getting this year started. I needed it!

I’ve been asked several times about my goals for 2016. I didn’t think that was a hard question until now, sitting down and trying to find the right words, but I will try. First, I offer some history from my years at Weyerhaeuser as an employee, manager and corporate staff member. We were never allowed to say, “We or I have a problem.” We were, however, allowed to state, “We or I have an opportunity.” That one little word changed everyone’s thinking and outlook on their jobs and the company. It created an environment of positive changes, a safer work place, and happy employees who made the company one of the best wood products companies in the world. Just ONE WORD…

So, my goal for 2016 is, with the help of the membership, to identify our opportunities, empower our members to take charge and turn those opportunities into positive results. If we all embrace opportunities together we can create a GCMG program even bigger and better than any one of us could imagine.

Diane Daniel

The next Master Gardener Meeting is Thursday, February 18, 2016. It will be held at the Elks Lodge starting at 1:00 pm. You may arrive at 11:30 am if you wish to eat.

2016 Master Gardener Officers and Contact Numbers
Diane Daniel – President – 922-1656 arhogfans@hotmail.com
Claudette Cooper – 1st Vice President – 520-5465 catluver72@aol.com
Hilde Simmons – 2nd Vice President – 226-5454 hildesimmons@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
Allen’s Corner

This year’s Master Gardener training is off and going with a great new group of New Master Gardeners. We have 29 New Master Gardeners taking the training for 2016. Hope you can come by and enjoy the training. Remember if you plan to come to the training, call our office by Monday to let us know, and if you eat with us it will cost $10. Be sure to come to the March monthly meeting and meet all our new people. Thanks again to all of you who are mentoring our new members. Pruning time is here and if you need info about how, when, and why to prune, check out our fact sheet FSA 6148. It has some great info. Have Fun!

Allen Bates
County Extension Agent—Agriculture

February Birthdays

1 – Janis McKeone
4 – Rick Chaney
6 – Wayne Patterson
9 – Sharon Fickes
10 – Madalyn Harris
15 – Jennetta Sanders
16 – Claudette Cooper
18 – Burley Freeman
19 – Martha Dooley
23 – John Long
24 – Sue Tucker
25 – Julia Milano
26 – Barbara Bradstreet
28 – Cathy Harrington
28 – Loretta West

March Birthdays

1 – Margie Herrin
1 – Carol Blecha
4 – Dianne Hardin
5 – Dianne Sims
5 – Kay Ford
11 – Nancy Morris
12 – Dayna Carter-Smith
13 – Kumar Marthur
14 – Helen Mosley
14 – Jimmy Jones
17 – Jim Moore
18 – Pat McCain
18 – Barbara Stalion
19 – Karen Hill-DeGeer
25 – Kay Shearer
27 – Anne Flueckiger
30 – Sue Finley
30 – Joyce Hatfield
2016 Garland County Master Gardener Training

Jan. 28, 2016
8:00 - 8:30 Registration
8:30 – 8:45 Welcome by Jeff Finney
8:45 – 9:00 Extension Overview by Ron Matlock
9:00 – 10:15 Annuals & Perennials by Janet Carson
10:15 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 12:00 Color in the Garden by Janet Carson
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 1:45 Plant Pathology by Sherrie Smith
1:45 – 2:00 Break
2:00 – 3:00 Soils by Allen Bates
3:00 – 3:45 Basic Botany by Brad McGinley
3:45 – 4:00 Take Home Quiz

February 4, 2016
8:00 – 8:15 Registration and overview of Day 1
8:15 – 9:15 Aquaponics by Anita Kelly
9:15 – 10:15 Composting by Diane Daniel
10:15 – 10:30 Break
10:30 – 12:00 Bees by Jon Zawislak
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 1:30 Ornamental Grasses by Gene Lichliter
1:30 – 2:15 Worm Composting by Greg Watts
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:45 Basic Entomology by Kelly Loftin
3:45 – 4:00 Take Home Quiz

February 11, 2016
8:00 – 8:15 Registration and Overview Day 2
8:15 – 10:00 Vegetables by Bruce Schrader
10:00 – 10:15 Break
10:15 – 11:00 Vegetables by Bruce Schrader
11:00 – 12:00 Tree Pruning by Alison Litchy
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 2:30 Landscape Design by Bob Byers
2:30 – 2:45 Break
2:45 – 3:45 Pesticide Safety by Jimmy Driggers
3:45 – 4:00 Take Home Quiz

February 18, 2016
8:00 – 8:15 Registration and overview of Day 3
8:15 – 9:15 Dealing with Pesky Wildlife by Rebecca McPeake
9:15 – 10:00 Trees for AR Landscape by Allen Bates
10:00 – 10:15 Break
10:15 – 11:15 Plant Propagation by Lin Johnson
11:15 – 12:00 Daylily/Iris by Yvonne Becker
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 1:45 Backyard Greenhouse by Lin Johnson and Yvonne Becker
1:45 – 2:30 Hostas by Gene Lichliter
2:30 – 2:45 Break
2:45 – 3:45 Wildflowers by Theo Witsell
3:45 – 4:00 Take Home Quiz

February 25, 2016
8:00 – 8:15 Registration and Overview of Day 4
8:15 – 9:00 Turf Management by Mark Brown
9:00 – 9:45 Irrigation by Mark Brown
9:45 – 10:00 Break
10:00 – 11:00 Fruits by Ron Matlock
11:00 – 12:00 Herbs by Mary Ann Jarvis
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch (provided)
12:45 – 1:45 Butterfly Gardening by Pat Gipson
1:45 – 2:15 Timekeeping by Hilde Simmons
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:30 Final Exam Preparation
3:30 – 4:00 Final Exam/Graduation

All Classes are open to current Master Gardeners. You will receive education hours for any session you attend. If you are planning to attend without food or drinks you may call the Extension Office at 623-6841 and let them know. If you would like to attend and have meals, you will need to bring a $10 Check to the Extension Office at 236 Woodbine before Wednesday of the week you would like to attend.
**Garden Therapy**

L to R. Kumar Maruthar, Don Sluyter, Rita Monsen, Ellen Majestic, and Marty Lynch

We helped seniors at the Caring Place with stamped greeting cards with botanical-themed stamps. The seniors took the cards home to their families at the end of their day. What an enjoyable program!

**Courthouse/Police Memorial**

Participating: (back row) Lin Johnson, Michael Carr, James Moore, Jr., Jane Oliver, Barb Smith (front row) Linda Doherty, Carol Scrivner, Kay Adams (not shown) Sheila McLarty

We tackled leaf removal and liriope trimming at both courthouses and the Police Memorial. It was cold at 8:30 a.m., but the day was sunny and pleasant soon after. We are grateful for the nine folks who kicked off the new year with rakes, brooms, and smiles!

**Education**

**Know It to Grow It**: On Jan 15 at the Garland County Library, Marianne Johnson and Allen Bates presented ‘Soil Secrets,’ and we shared video produced by Diane Daniel on the ‘Lazy Composter.’ Kay presented a goody bag with “tools of the trade” as a door prize. Fifty-six people attended and several expressed interest in becoming Master Gardeners! Join us for the next program on “Greenhouses” on Wed, Feb 17, 1-3pm.

**HS Xeriscape**

We met on a cool day to cut back plants, clean up debris and prepare the area for Spring. Two workers braved the elements: Karin Grisham and Sunshine Spielvogle. This hard work will prepare our project to look again like it did this past spring.

Marianne opened the Know It to Grow It program on ‘Soil Secrets.’

**EXPO**: The 2016 MG EXPO will be held SAT OCT 8 from 10-3 at THE FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE on Central Avenue
Hot Springs City Greenhouse

Sphagnum moss and soil flew furiously, as 31 Master Gardeners, including one new trainee (Paula Zorn), worked on hanging baskets for downtown Hot Springs National Park under the watchful eye of Darryl Edwards, the greenhouse supervisor. The highlight of the work session was Brian Fischer who honored last year’s greenhouse crew and top performers. Lin Johnson, with 43 hours for the city, received a beautiful solar wind chime. Those who worked more than 21 hours received a t-shirt. Brian thanked all who participated last year and over the course of many years, remembering long-time committee member Janie Turner who passed last month. All attendees were treated with a pizza and cupcake lunch party.

Hot Springs City Greenhouse

Pictured L to R: Claudette Cooper, Loretta West, Susan Marinick, Bev Merritt and Diane Daniel.

Hot Springs City Greenhouse

Jane Oliver and Sue Tucker lead the basket assembly line.

Hot Springs City Greenhouse

Shelia McLarty and Tricia Freeman mix soil.

Roster

The new 2016 roster is coming soon! If you have any changes for the roster, please send them to Lin Johnson  linjd@sbcglobal.net  or 318-0288 ASAP. Thanks to those who have already done this. We will take pictures at the EHC building on Feb 18th and 25th starting at 10 a.m. and at noon. If you would like a new photo for the roster, you may come out then. Kay Shearer will also take photos at the March meeting.
Southern Inspiration Garden
14 members met to plant 450 tulip bulbs. Hilde led a tour out to the Wild Flower Meadow after the work at SIG was complete. Many enhancements, including a fabulous waterfall, are underway.

Southern Inspiration Garden

Sue Jacobs pitches in to help co-chair Hilde and Henryetta with the urns.

Southern Inspiration Garden

Becky Pawelczak protecting her knees while she deadheads spent flowers and shrub blooms.

Southern Inspiration Garden

Roger Giddings and Betty Fortner cut back variegated Liriope.

The short, dark winter days cause me to suffer from S. A. D.:

Seed Acquisition Disorder
William “Bill” Howard Staton (March 1, 1940 – August 3, 2015)

Bill had a true passion for gardening and dedicated much of his time and energy to the Garland County Master Gardeners. He had wonderful leadership qualities and was truly a gentleman. He became a Master Gardener in 2002.

Bill was president from 2009-2010 as well as involved in many committees. The Hot Springs Community Garden Network was one of his pet projects. He was president when the Community Garden was started and worked to get the Master Gardeners to provide the $1,000 seed money that got it started. Then he served for three years as its president. He also had a passion for the County Fair and was involved every year to ensure recognition for youngsters as well as the old masters. He offered sage advice and the fairs always went smoothly. Bill was king of the donut fryers in the EHC kitchen for the County Fair and Arts and Crafts Fair (fried the most). Bill was the Garland County Master Gardener Member of the Year in 2008.

We will miss Bill. He was an amazing gardener and dedicated to helping others.


Janie was everyone’s friend! She was gentle, kind and fun. Meet her once, and you instantly were drawn to her. She was truly a happy soul. Janie was the go-to for many Master Gardeners seeking advice. She taught others as much as she knew! Janie was a Life Member of the Master Gardeners, having completed 15 years of service (she became a Master Gardener in 2000).

Janie was president from 2004-2005 and in charge of many committees. One that truly stands out is City Greenhouse. While chair, she was the first to work on the Central Avenue hanging baskets. She handpicked members to work on these baskets; all had to know exactly what and how to do it. She started the Awards Committee as we know it and also headed up the Triangle project for years. She was always there for anyone, whether you needed help or just someone to listen to you. She also worked hard in County 76 and everyone from all over the state loved her. Janie was a trainer and leader for the EHC Strong Women Program. She was a ball of fire! She loved to travel and had many stories about the places she’d been and people she’d met.

We will miss Janie. She was a great friend and mentor.
A Note from our Past President: I want to thank all the GCMG’s for the Lowe’s gift card! I appreciate the thought and will have fun buying this year’s garden “stuff”! Linda Doherty

Southern Inspiration by Kathleen Cardinal

Shortly after dawn the masters begin their work. With southern inspiration they tend to the beauty born within their hearts, the cultivation of dreams now arising from the soil, the delicate flowers so gently planted, now blooming, and dancing with the wind upon the sun rays, that warm the minds and souls of those who pass and nurture the dreams now real, as the masters who till each week have learned that dreams can come true, as “Southern Inspiration Garden” was born at Garvan for all to enjoy as they walk the paths of dreams born by “Verna” in decades past.

Parks & Recreation Announces 2015 Master Gardener of the Year

Lin Johnson and Brian Fisher
During the annual City Greenhouse Appreciation Luncheon, Garland County Master Gardener Lin Johnson was named 2015 Master Gardener of the Year for the Parks and Recreation Department by Brian Fisher, Landscape Superintendent for the Parks and Recreation Department.

County 76 Seeks Winter Photos for Calendars

Cooler weather offers a chance to get some really neat photos of your plants in the garden. Please be on the lookout in February. I found this camellia blooming in my yard earlier this month! Details on how to submit photos will be in the next newsletter or can be found at www.uaex.edu.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 1</td>
<td>Registration opens for State MG meeting, Gardening On the Rocks - Creating: More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-6</td>
<td><strong>Jefferson County Home &amp; Garden Show</strong>, Pine Bluff Convention Center, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact Linda Soffer at 573-253-9774 or <a href="mailto:lisoffler@gmail.com">lisoffler@gmail.com</a> <strong>OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13 Saturday</td>
<td><strong>The Hot Springs Daylily Society meets at the at the United Methodist Church Christian Life Center Shelton Room 1100 Central Avenue Program:</strong> Yvonne Becker Adv. MG “How to Prepare Your Daylilies for Spring.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17 Wed. 1–3 p.m. Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>“<strong>Know It To Grow IT</strong>” <strong>GCL (see above to register)</strong> DIY Greenhouse, Hoop-houses &amp; Low Tunnels Extend your growing season.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 18 Thursday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30. Program Tana Beasley - is a project facilities manager for AGFC and is the only person currently holding a banding permits in the whole state of AR for hummingbirds. She will be talking about how and why they band the birds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 27 Saturday. Refreshments 9:30 Meeting 10:00 Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>Ouachita Host and Shade Plant Society meeting at the GCL Speaker: Bill Goodwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28 at 2:00 p.m. Sunday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>Hot Springs Iris Society Meeting</strong> Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 109 Hobson Speaker: Robert Treadway from Carlisle, AR “Louisiana Iris”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 10 Thursday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>GWG Workshop on Garden Basics</strong> More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15 9 – 11 a.m. Tuesday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>GWG Docent training:</strong> Garden Orientation, History, Early Spring Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17 Thursday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting 10:30 each committee chair will talk about committee. Program: 1 pm introductions of new GCMG. <strong>Lunch will be provided if you sign-up only.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17 Thursday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>Green Explosion, Paragould</strong> More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 18 - 20 Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>River Valley Lawn &amp; Garden Show, Ft. Smith</strong> More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5 Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m. Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td><strong>GWG Docent training:</strong> Woodland Walk, Spring Interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6 Wed. 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>“<strong>Know It to Grow IT</strong>” <strong>GCL (see above to register)</strong> Potatoes: Red, White, and Purple: How to grow and cook delicious potatoes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9 Saturday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>Franklin County MG Plant Sale More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16 Saturday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>Saline County MG Plant Sale More information later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 21 Thursday Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30 Program 1:00 Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 22-24 Counts as education for GCMG</td>
<td>The Arkansas Native Plant Society's Spring Meeting &amp; Field Trips will be held in Hot Springs. More details later. Memberships fees are $15 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You must register for lunch</td>
<td>County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*GWG = Garvan Woodland Gardens
*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.

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

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