Hi Master Gardeners,

Finally we have all had a chance to enjoy some nice spring-like days; I hope we have many more coming up. Makes me wish for a normal winter/spring year. But I must say that after living here for 15 years - I couldn’t tell you what normal is......

I want to welcome our 26 New Master Gardeners. From your bios, I'd say we have a power packed group! Thanks to Barb and Jane (Hospitality) for organizing a wonderful lunch and table decorations, and Carmon and Hilde (Mentoring) for organizing the morning program. It was a long day, but, I think very productive.

Now that we can get out and dig, let’s pot up those extra perennials to take to the plant sale. Remember - circle April 25th on your calendar. Also, be on the LOOKOUT for candidates for Yard of the Month! Residents and businesses are so pleased to be recognized and YOM creates recognition and goodwill for our Master Gardener organization! Call Carolyn Davis with your nominations.

Our committees will go into high gear this month with spring planting, so take care of yourselves. Remember - we do this for our enjoyment! So enjoy!!

Finally, I have good news and bad news to report - good news for Bob Byers - he will become director at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden - a huge responsibility in a very interesting old, well established garden, BUT - bad news - we MG’s are losing the best friend we have ever had. I will surely miss his classes and especially those wonderful garden walks. Congratulations and best wishes Bob!!!

A reception will be held for Bob on April 13 at the Garvan Pavilion from 4 to 7, with presentations at 5:30.

Linda
Morning drives to work have been brightened by the blooming of Bradfords and cherry trees signifying spring has arrived. If you get tempted to plant your warm seasons plants, remember the last average frost date in our area is around the second week of April. New Master Gardener training went well with only one set back with weather causing the postponement of our last day of training to the following week. I have been in touch with Claudette Cooper and plans and dates are being put together for Monday afternoons for New Master Gardeners interested in spending the afternoon with me. She will have information out soon about how to sign up. We have a great new group of Master Gardeners and I am looking forward to an exciting fun year.

Allen

Sunshine Committee
Joy Harms – sympathy
Holly Beason – get well
Leslie Goff – sympathy
John & Sue Hale – get well
Michael Carr – get well
Sharon Dent – get well
Conley Henderson – sympathy
Ruth Siebels – sympathy
Janie Turner – get well
Lynn Harris & Kevin – get well
The Garland County Master Gardeners have 26 new members. They graduated with 40 hours of classroom training on March 3rd, and will now be joining the Master Gardener group in their county-wide beautification and educational projects. As a first year Master Gardener, they volunteer 40 working hours and acquire 20 hours of education.

Front row: Janis McKeone, Kumar Maruthur, Dawn Boudreaux, Doris Ayers, F.T. Eyre
2nd Row: Bernadette Christ, Linda Shay, Vicki Scheddel, Paula Page, Loretta West, Millie Van Brunt, Tricia Freeman, Pamela Eyre
3rd Row: Sheila McLarty, Frank Battese, Karen Battese, Jodi Tooke, Burley Freeman, Jack Christ, Larry Hardin, Darrell Kennedy, Dorelle Hogan
Not pictured: Kathleen Cardinal, Debbie Frenzel, Marianne Johnson, Barbara Mueller

Community Education
The Brown Bag Lunch, DEER RESISTANT PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN was held on April 1st at the Garland County Library. Those attending learned what to plant to spruce up their landscapes and avoid deer damage.

GCMG - County Extension Office
To celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and the bright sunshine, the following MGs performed maintenance work at the landscape office by cutting ornamental grasses from around the landscape, trimming the hedges and plants, and pulling weeds. All were tired and trying to get back in MG shape for the spring and summer. MGs that worked were Susan Deimel, Don Sloyter, Sam Mullins, Jan Hodges, Jeff Finney, Jim Moore and James B. Moore, Jr.
Triangle/Farmer’s Market

We finally got to have a work day for our project after canceling due to snow and rain for the last few months. We had a great turnout with one of our new members, Loretta West, joining us for the first time. We kept hoping that the rain would hold off as there were lots of weeds to be pulled. After we finished all the beds at Farmer’s Market we then headed to the Triangle and attacked those weeds. James met us there with his trusty weed eater and cut the liriope for us. It sprinkled on us, but stopped quickly. We finished up by raking and bagging weeds, liriope and leaves. Thanks to our great crew it really looked better when we finished. Remember we will be changing out the plants next month so we need everyone on our committee to be there if possible. Michael, Gene, Lin

Back left to right:
Henryetta Norman,
Lin Johnson,
Loretta West,
Paula Wallace,
James Moore,
Mary Ann Schnipper,
Sunshine Spielvogel,
Elizabeth McAnally,
Cindy Bright,
Charlotte Anthony,
Sue Bristow

Front: Michael Carr & Carol Scrivner

City Greenhouse

After missing our February meeting because of the bad weather, we then needed to get the baskets ready this month so they can grow out and be ready for hanging downtown for the summer. We had members come in on three different days. Each basket contains 37 petunias: 24 on the sides and 13 in the top. We ended on our regular work day with a large group of members attending and finishing up approximately 150 baskets. GREAT job to all the committee members. Photo is from the last day after we finished.......... Thanks again to our wonderful committee members. Lin & Michael
Garden Therapy Committee

The Garland County Master Gardener’s Garden Therapy Committee met recently at the Caring Place. The Master Gardeners led a program how to make botanical bath salts with the seniors at the Caring Place from 1-2 P.M. The bath salts were "flavored" with herbal scents and food coloring in Epsom salts. All of the seniors enjoyed this program, and they will be able to take the bath salts home and enjoy a hot scented bath soon.

Rita Monsen
Chairperson, Garden Therapy

Left to right: Karen Geiger, Marty Lynch, Kay Ford, Ellen Majestic, Sue Tanner, Rita Monsen

GEMS

This industrious group of dedicated Master Gardeners spread out into Garvan Gardens weeding, cleaning shrubs, working in the greenhouse, and helping with the new topiaries being prepared for this spring. This is always a fun group that shares smiles and laughs with garden employees, guests, and each other. Pictured left to right: Bev Merritt, Linda Doherty, Kathleen Cardinal, Dorelle Hogan, Loretta West, Ross Sedler, Martha Dooley, Betty Fortner, and Wayne Patterson. Not pictured: Hilde Simmons and Kay Adams.

DOCENT COMMITTEE

The Garland County Master Gardeners’ Docent Committee, volunteer to provide guided tours at Garvan Gardens, and are seen here with the newly graduated class of First Year Master Gardeners touring Garvan Gardens. The Docents provided some of the history regarding Garvan Gardens including how it started. The Docent Committee members who participated in the tour include Claudette Cooper, Chairperson, Bev Merritt, Carolyn Sinderson and Hilde Simmons.
The Hot Springs Xeriscape met recently on a beautiful spring like day to weed and clean up the Xeriscape in preparation for spring planting. The master gardeners were assisted by members of the Whitfield Garden Club, who have requested to help work on this project. The original founder of the HS Xeriscape, Amelia Augenbaugh, was a member of both the Master gardeners and the Whitfield Garden Club.


GCMG 2015 OFFICERS
Left to right:
Bev Merritt, Secretary;
Diane Daniel, 1st Vice President;
Dianne Hardin, Treasurer;
Linda Doherty, President
Carmon Hayes, Outgoing President
Claudette Cooper, 2nd Vice President.
Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7 Tuesday 9:30 - 11 AM Docent training</td>
<td>20th Century Garden &amp; Spring Interest Bob Byers</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9, Thursday 9:30 - 11 AM Docent training</td>
<td>Garden of the Pine Wind Bob Byers</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, Saturday 8:30 - noon</td>
<td>Hot Springs County Master Gardener Plant Sale at the H.S. Fairgrounds Malvern</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12 Sunday 1:30 – 3:30</td>
<td>*GWG “Herbs for the Black Thumb” Debbie Tripp Plants for sale. Free members $15 non-members.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13 Monday</td>
<td>*Garvan Gardens Succulents Janet Carson &amp; Bob Byers Workshop $75 members $90 non-members Order lunch $10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16 Thursday</td>
<td>GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30 Meeting 1:00 Awards &amp; Plant Sale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18 Saturday 8:00 - noon</td>
<td>Saline County Master Gardener Plant Sale at the Saline County Fairgrounds Benton</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21 9:30-noon</td>
<td>*GWG Bobwhite, Cardinal, Bluejay, Crow! Members free, $15 non members</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24, all day Friday</td>
<td>Set-up for GCMG plant sale Farmer’s Market 121 Orange St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 25 Sat.</td>
<td>GCMG spring plant sale Farmer’s Market 121 Orange St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26 Sunday 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Greenway clean-up</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2 Saturday 1-4 p.m.</td>
<td>Hot Springs Iris Society Garden Tour at Jim &amp; Jane Bledsoe's home. Call Yvonne Becker for more information. 501-922-3296</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9 Sat. 10:30-noon</td>
<td>Hot Springs Annual Iris Society at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 109 Hobson, Hot Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14-23</td>
<td>** GCL Brown bag “Garden Art You Can Create” demonstrations/displays by Master Gardeners</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 14 Thursday 9:30-2p.m.</td>
<td>France Garden Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18 Monday Board meetings</td>
<td>*GWG Pruning Workshop with John Powell $40 members $55 non-members</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21 Thursday</td>
<td>May 18 MondayExtension office Board meetingsrst United Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28, Thursday 9:30 to 10:30 AM Docent training</td>
<td>GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30 Meeting 1:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4 -6 Thurs. – Saturday</td>
<td>Early Summer Interest Bob Byers + walk State Master Gardener Meeting Saline County Benton, AR Full</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4,Thursday 9:30 to 11 AM Docent training</td>
<td>Flowering Border Bob Byers + walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18 Thursday</td>
<td>GCMG meeting lunch served 11:15 – 12:30 Meeting 1:00</td>
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If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net