Writing this column is the hardest part of my duties. Not knowing what you might like to read is always my big question as I sit down to write. I cruised thousands of my photos for inspiration.

I found this year-old photo. In the California Sierra Mountains at my son’s wedding, I came upon this downed giant tree. I snapped a quick four photos and moved on. Today it reminds me of the children’s book *Horton Hears a Who*.

Our gardens are little eco-systems with tiny, mostly unseen, living creatures! Please consider the “Whos in Whoville” and how they almost got wiped out, just because others couldn’t see or hear them, assuming they must not exist.

So, like Horton, I’m sounding an alarm. Each time you reach for pesticides to eliminate a bug, stop and think. You may eliminate a *GOOD BUG*, especially those you can’t see that might be right next to the one you spray dead. I’ve encountered lots of new bugs in my garden this summer and learned that if I wait, Mother Nature will do her job. I CAN stop spraying! I also learned at my son’s farm to SHARE. If you plant a bit more the bugs and you will have plenty. You can also protect crops and flowers (without killing) using floating covers, attracting good bugs into the garden, companion planting, and proper mulching.

I’ve learned many lessons in the past 7 years as a Master Gardener, but the most profound is respect for nature and learning to live both with good and “pain-in-the-neck” creatures—deer, armadillos, squirrels, snakes, crows and even cute little chipmunks!

Have a Great Fall Season. Get out and plant, plant, plant!

*Diane Daniel*
Allen’s Corner

Hope everyone made it to the Garland County Fair and spent some time in the Horticulture Building. I know many of you spent many hours working that week. What a great job our group does every year with the Horticulture Building during the fair. Thank you Carol Scrivner (Committee Chair) and Kay Adams (Assistant Chair) for all your hard work.

Plant, Nurture, Grow (PNG) conference was a great opportunity to meet other Master Gardeners from around the state and sit in on some great training for running our Master Gardener program. If you did not attend, plan to go next year. Janet and Julie and County 76 do a wonderful job.

Our office is receiving lots of calls about the little white bugs seen floating in the air. These are hackberry wooly aphids. The aphids are responsible for the black leaves on the hackberry and the sticky, black sooty mold on everything under the tree. Control is not recommended this late in the year. If you have hackberry trees consider applying a systematic control around the base of the tree next spring to prevent the late summer problem.

Have fun!!

October Birthdays

3 – Lynn Harris
3 – Mary Tom Taylor
3 – Don Turner
6 – Linda Hodges
7 – Kay Caldwell
8 – Gee Cardenas
9 – Karin Grisham
9 – Don Loveday
10 – Elizabeth McAnally
11 – Laurie Lovett
11 – Dolores Quade
13 – Deby Prince
17 – Leslie Goff
20 – Debra Atchison
20 – Millie Van Brun
20 – Judy Fields
24 – Carolyn Harris
25 – Linda Davis
26 – Marilyn Olson
27 – Dorelle Hogan
27 – Julie Dickson
27 – Joyce Field

November Birthdays

3 – Arlene Hodgson
3 – Pamela Eyre
5 – Shelia McLarty
7 – Tom Hayek
13 – Chris Swindle
14 – Ken Johnson
14 – Nelson Ford
16 – Gwen Southard
20 – Sharon Seals
22 – Ruth Siebels
22 – Les Houston
23 – Diane Daniel
24 – Lyn Newton
27 – James Arce
27 – John Slater
29 – Margaret Byrd
29 – Yvonne Becker
29 – Ingrid Planje
29 – Jody Sprague

Find archived GCMG newsletters under County Extension Office at https://www.uaex.edu/counties/garland/newsletter.aspx
Yards of the Month for September
Between April and October, each month we select a Hot Springs Business Yards and Residential Yards from Hot Springs and Hot Springs Village. Those selected have signs in their "yards" for the month.

Hot Springs Business Yard of the Month
The Garland County Master Gardeners chose the newest local office of Arvest Bank located at 2320 Malvern Road as the Business of the Month for September. The bank has a number of landscaped areas on all sides of the office that feature red crape myrtles, autumn glory maples as well as redbud trees. The beds surrounding the building are filled with dwarf loropetalum, grasses, boxwoods, azaleas and Abelia shrubs. Along the back of the parking lot, a row of shrubs will provide an excellent hedge as they mature.

L to R: MGs Sheila Springs, Mary Tom Taylor, Caroline Suggs, and Arvest employees Holly Mays and Katy Montgomery. Not pictured: MG Carolyn Davis.

Hot Springs Residential Yard of the Month
We chose the home of Dr. James and Cindy Humphreys in Arlington Park. The two-year-old lush landscape contains two tiers in the front lawn which features boxwoods, azaleas, hydrangea, knock-out roses and arborvitae with colorful summer plantings of begonia, periwinkle, and lantana. The side yard features a large wall topped with red crape myrtles, iris and summer flowers. The rear garden contains a large Hosta bed with many plants from Cindy’s parents’ home including Japanese Blood Good Maple trees started from seeds. A stacked brick wall with cascading sweet potato vines accompanies dogwoods and canna. Amid other cascading vines, Cindy has a fairy display that her grandchildren enjoy when they visit. They have lovely walking paths to enjoy all the beautiful landscaped areas.

L to R: MG Mary Tom Taylor, Christen Mangham (Garvan Woodland Gardens Special Events Coordinator), home owner Cindy Humphreys, and MGs Sheila Springs and Caroline Suggs. Not pictured: MG Carolyn Davis.

Please contact Carolyn Davis at 276-6449 or cid945@sbcglobal.net to nominate a yard.
Hot Springs Village Residential Yard of the Month

We selected the yard of Gary and Bettie Leisher at 5 Laguna Way. The Leishers have worked hard in the eight years that they have owned the residence, and their labors of love shine through in this quaint yard. A bed of Knockout Roses greets visitors in the front with Crepe Myrtles draping over them. They are back-dropped by a cozy corner with a pergola-style swing framed with Pampas Grass and hanging ferns. A sidewalk lined with trellised Firethorn Pyracantha leads guests to the front door where a bed of azaleas beckons. Mrs. Leisher’s yard gnomes are her official front-door greeters, though.

Mr. Leisher can take credit for the creative woodwork dotted throughout the front and back yards. In the back, he reclaimed his old deck wood and built a wishing well. His new deck railing has exquisite sunray detailing. In the beautiful back flower bed, visitors find his handmade birdhouses also made from reclaimed materials. Below the birdhouses is a bed filled with Crepe Myrtles, Hibiscus, Gardenia, Butterfly Bush, and a beautiful red Mallow (a type of perennial Hibiscus). The back deck is neatly surrounded by a hedge. Though not the focal point of the yard, the side yard is lined with Dwarf Alberta Spruce. This deserves mentioning because these are temperamental plants. The Leishers have outdone themselves and nurtured them into a beautiful hedge.

This is not an exhaustive list and description of the Leishers’ yard. Much more is better appreciated by seeing it in person. Take a drive by and view the beautiful front yard.

To make a nomination for next month’s Yard of the Month call or email Karen Geiger at 501-922-0645 or kg77055@yahoo.com by the first Friday of the month.
To everyone who worked at the Fair…**THANK YOU!**

It was a huge success and everything went smoothly all because enthusiastic master gardeners stepped up and did whatever needed to be done. I truly appreciate that so many of you came out and enjoyed the fun: from painting pumpkins, sweeping floors, watering plants to counting votes…you did a fantastic job!

Thank you again. I hope you’re looking forward to the 2017 Fair as much as I am!

—Carol Scrivner, County Fair Chair

**County Fair Creative and Crafty Contest**
We had 23 creative, colorful, and crafty entries. There were 17 GCMG members participating. The day with the highest number of votes/visitors to the Horticulture Building was Saturday with 704. Thursday was the next highest day with 503 votes. The total number of votes collected throughout the fair was 2,060.

Be sure to attend the MG Meeting on Thursday, October 20 to find out who won the contest!

**Best In Show**

- Eldon Gray - Fresh floral
- Annette Enderlin - Hubbard Squash
- Sheila McLarty - Succulent
- Lin Johnson - potted plant
- Lin Johnson - munk cap
- Gaye Harper - Texas Tarragon
- Val Nuckels - urn with impatiens, wire vine, and mandavilla
- Lin Johnson - hanging basket green jew

**Congratulations!**
Entry to the Horticulture Building welcomed children, gardeners, and fair enthusiasts. It was a popular photo spot for proud parents.

MGs Leslie Goff and Kay Adams compare notes as they accept entries on Monday.

Jackson Hopkins won $50 for peppers.

Be sure to attend the Arkansas State Fair October 14-23 at the State Fairgrounds, 2600 Howard Street, Little Rock.

Additional details at http://www.arkansasstatefair.com/

Neal Cole won $50 for his massive watermelon, and Grace Cole won $50 for fresh flowers.
Extension Office
The landscape is thriving thanks to the committee responsible for its care. We performed general routine maintenance, weeding and trimming.

Extension Office
The turf grass plots are struggling. Sherry and Jan collect soil samples from among the tangled root system to determine if we need soil amendment.

Garden Therapy
The Master Gardeners led the seniors at the Caring Place in decoupage of small gift boxes. The seniors really enjoyed this project, and we all had lots of fun.

Education
HS Ask-A-MG Booth
Kathleen Cardinal and Sherry Matthews fielded questions from a steady stream of visitors who asked about amending soil, mulching, composting, preparing raised beds, and planting fall vegetables.

Diane Gates, a newcomer to Hot Springs, gets information from Kathleen about the MG program.
Ouachita Children’s Center

We had a small break in the heat and rain and a great morning to work. We got all the beds cleaned up and ready for some fall planting next month.

L to R: Tricia Freeman, Pat Osborn and Diane Murdock.
Not pictured: Laura Young and Jan Hodges

Courthouse & Police Memorial

We had a terrific turnout of volunteers to handle the “fluffing” of the beds at both courthouses and the police memorial. This terrific crew handled weeds, trimming, bagging, sweeping, and even went to war on a few fire ants! James and Jeff also took soil samples taken to the Extension Office for testing.

The yellow lantana was in full glory and all the variegated liriope was in full purple bloom, so we just helped it shine another month before we start on fall planting.

L to R: Jeff Finney, Pam Connor, Pat Osborn, Lynn Sherwood, Sandy Morad, Kay Adams, James B. Moore, Jr., Susan Deimel
Kneeling: Sheila Springs and Pam McCoy
Too busy working to pose for photos: Wayne Patterson, Carol Scrivner, Barb Smith, Kay Skoog, and Michael Carr
Photographer: Sheila McLarty

HSV Xeriscape

During September, our diligent crew continued removing branches and hacking down and digging up overcrowded shrubs and yucca. The plantings are looking so much cleaner now that we have taken out some of the excess baggage! Last session we also tidied up the shrubs and daylilies in the three beds closest to the Cortez Pavillon in anticipation of an event planned there for later that day. We’re continuing to watch for signs of bark scale on our many crape myrtles, but so far no one has seen any—and that’s a good thing!

Karen Geiger tends to daylilies
Entergy Park
The crew once again turned a hot muggy day into a day of fun and fellowship. Twelve MGS spent about two hours weeding and deadheading plants in the main and surrounding flower beds. Special thanks to Michael Carr for supplying the trash bags!

Farmer’s Market/Triangle
We finally gathered after two rainout days to pull the pesky and ever-present weeds. It was not too hot even though it is August! We did both locations in about two hours; these MGS are the best! They just showed up and worked until the job was done. Those present were Katie Gibson, Juneann Greene, Shirley Hicks, Jan Hodges, Pam McCoy, Sheila McLarty, Suzanne Mayfield, Barb Smith, Mary Ann Schnipper, Sheila Springs, Sallye Waddell, and Paula Wallace.

Habitat for Humanity
On August 12, fourteen Master Gardeners landscaped a new home located at 410 South Patterson. Beautiful foundation plants of boxwoods, Itea Day Lily, azalea, liriope, and Stella D’Oro Day Lily were planted in raised beds. A hearty crepe myrtle was planted on the north side of the front lawn. The Master Gardeners wish the new owner many years of happiness in their new home. Thanks all who support the Habitat for Humanity Master Gardener project.

Participants pictured at left include: Wayne Patterson, Jeff Finney, Suzanne Mayfield, Kay Adams, Jan Hodges, Pat Osborn, Jodi Tooke, Lin Johnson, Baebbara Smith, James Moore, Gene Lichlter, Sheila Springer, and Don Slayter.

Picture taken by Evelyn Worsham
Education
EXPO:
We host our Garden EXPO on Saturday, October 8th, from 10am – 3pm, at the First Church of the Nazarene at 3804 Central Avenue with about 40 booths and two speakers. FREE ADMISSION!

The theme this year is “Gardening Like the Masters,” so you'll find lots of information from experts and interactive displays. Jim Shults (Shults Greenhouse) speaks at 10:30am, and Corrin Troutman (Compton Gardens) speaks at 1pm. Lunch is available for a fee. Many items given away including books, bee houses, and a rain barrel. Come learn about gardening!

We also need your help! Contact Anne Flueckiger afluecki@yahoo.com to help with EXPO.

Education
Know It to Grow It
Jodi Tooke and Alicia Baucom presented “The Wonderful World of Mosses” to a crowd in excess of 60 people at GCL on Sep 7. Jodi provided details on moss characteristics and habitat, and Alicia highlighted creative ways to use moss in the landscape.

Marty Lynch helps participants choose take-home mosses for propagation. Moss grows well in poor soil and is drought-tolerant. Kay Caldwell prepared moss to share.

Education
Know It to Grow It
The next program on Bulbs, Rhizomes, and Corms will be Wednesday, November 9th at 1:00 pm at the GCL. Registration 501-623-4161.

Ask-A-Master Gardener Booths
Booths at HS & HSV Farmers’ Markets can use your help! To sign up for hours:
Hot Springs, Sat 8-11, contact Loretta West 501-617-0304 (lorettawest355@gmail.com)
Hot Springs Village, Thurs 8-11, contact Pamela Eyre 956-655-9378 (pceyre@gmail.com)
Hot Springs City Greenhouse
We had 26 MGs on a beautiful crisp fall morning. That takes dedication, since it would have been so much easier to stay home and work on our own yards! As usual we cleaned up, potted, trimmed and snipped. We learned that coreopsis cuttings can be rooted in water and kept over winter for next year.

Break time—coffee and donuts. MGs swap stories about what works in their gardens and consult each other on nasty pests.

Youth Gardening
We met twice at HS Middle School for major clean-ups from summer growth in raised veggie garden beds and Butterfly garden. After the second day we gathered at Emory Park for McClard’s BBQ sandwiches to show appreciation to the men who struggled with greenhouse construction during the spring.


Hot Springs City Greenhouse
Lantanas pruned last time were in full bloom!

Hot Springs City Greenhouse
Laura Young and Jan Hodges clean up downtown baskets.

Shirley Hicks and Paula Page attack multiple baskets after a long summer.
Hot Springs Xeriscape
We arrived Saturday to find our garden looking pretty sad. Something is really eating it up. We went around the horn and everyone contributed a xeriscape tip so we can learn from each other. Although we were disappointed, we had a good time together.

Jodi Tooke, Patricia and Burley Freeman (pictured) along with Karen Mason, Karin Grisham, Sherry Davis, Sherry Matthews, and Stephanie Ballard, and Ann Fulbright (not pictured) just trying to trim the dead foliage.

Pictured is also our butterfly bush that is usually so beautiful. If anyone has ideas, we’re listening.

Garden Essential Maintenance Service (GEMS)
We enjoyed Carol's delicious cookies after an industrious day working in the Garden of the Pine Wind. Many new plants found a home along the newly paved paths. We are delighted to see all the improvements being made throughout Garvan Gardens.

Pictured left to right: Kay Adams, Sheila Springs, Hilde Simmons, Carol Scrivner, Paula Zorn, and Sheila McLarty.

Education
HS Ask-A-MG Booth

Sherry Matthews ready for questions!

Hot Springs Village Xeriscape
Beautiful yucca plants in bloom!
Inspiring Gr8r Gardening

Submitted by Annette Enderlin

The Marginal Way in Ogunquit Maine

The Marginal Way is one of the North East’s only paved public shoreline pathways. Established in 1925 when the land was donated to Ogunquit, this mile-long path connects the city to Perkins cove. We walked this way to take in the sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and were surprised by the landscaping along the way. It also led to the Lobster Shack!

Vacationing MG Annette Enderlin poses on the coast of Maine with friend Debbie Hayes.

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:

- Oct - Lawn care & weed control
- Nov - winterizing & composting & pruning
- Dec - propagation & greenhouses
- Jan - succulents & houseplants
- Feb - pruning roses
- Mar - soil amending & early plantings

Education Opportunity

Feeding the Future: Building Soil as We Farm, a 5-week lecture series at Garland County Public Library, starting Monday, November 7, 2-4pm. Call 501-623-4161 to register.

Send Newsletter submissions by the 21st of each month to garlandcountymgnewsletter@gmail.com
The Vegetable Forum

Recently the Vegetable Forum, whose membership consists of Master Gardeners and other interested vegetable gardeners, visited Lewis Hunt's pumpkin patch near Sunshine. Mr. Hunt, a teacher and coach at Lake Hamilton School District, has 35 acres where he grows pumpkins, watermelons, crepe myrtles, apple trees and other edibles. He discussed growing and marketing pumpkins and shared some of his experiences for about two hours. Research indicates that pumpkins can be grown throughout Arkansas but should not be planted until the danger of frost has passed. They are susceptible to powdery mildew, cucumber beetles and squash bugs, but apply any insecticides sparingly and in late afternoon or early evening to avoid killing any bees, which are necessary for pollinating! Pumpkins also need some irrigation during dry periods. Once Mr. Lewis' pumpkins are ready to harvest, he sends out an email and has more pickers than pumpkins. Mr. Hunt encouraged all of us to pick some from his two fields, and everyone eagerly began selecting pumpkins. The mini pumpkins in all shapes and colors were most popular. The group of about 15 garden enthusiasts enjoyed the morning and came away with lots of pumpkins!

In June the Vegetable Forum visited the Elmore's Ouachita Mountain Blueberry Farm where they picked buckets of berries and purchased plants.

In September they gathered at the library to share lessons learned and tips for fall and winter planting.

The next trip will be to Leslie Goff's home on October 21 at 10:00 to see her new bee operation. Sharon Dent, who organizes all of the field trips, reports that Leslie and her family have a 6-acre mini-farm with chickens and bees. Leslie is trying out the new Flow Hive from Australia. This will be an interesting and informative morning, so please contact Sharon Dent at skpdent2000@yahoo.com if you are interested in attending.
# Calendar of Events

**GCMG** = Garland County Master Gardeners  
**GCL** = Garland County Library  
**GWG** = Garvan Woodland Gardens  
**GCL = Garland County Library**  
**GWG = Garvan Woodland Gardens**  
**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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 8 Saturday</td>
<td>Garden EXPO, The First Church of the Nazarene on Central Ave. Jim Shults speaks at 10:30 and Corrin Troutman speaks at 1 pm. Contact Anne Flueckiger for more information and to volunteer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 10 Monday</td>
<td>MG Appreciation Day Botanical Gardens, Fayetteville Wear you MG name tag to get in free.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Union Co. MG Bulb Sale More information later.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20 Thursday</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting at Elks Lodge. Susan Harper will perform her rendition of Mrs. Garvan and give us some great history on the gardens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21 &amp; 22, Friday hours are noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Show and sale of African Violets &amp; other Gesneriads at North Little Rock Community Center, 2700 Willow Street in North Little Rock. Admission is free; for more information contact Danny Tidwell - <a href="mailto:dantwell@yahoo.com">dantwell@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 22 Sat. 9:30 social 10:00 meeting</td>
<td>The Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society meeting at the GCL. Program will be Allen Bates, County Extension Agent “Shade Plants.” Guests are welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 25 Tuesday</td>
<td>County 76 Quarterly Meeting, LR. More information later.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 1-5, All day</td>
<td>Southern Regional MG conference Ft. Worth, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 5 Sat.</td>
<td>GWG “Hydroponic Gardening” How to become a hydroponic gardener. Nolen Buffalo of the Water Buffalo in LR will construct &amp; demonstrate use of different styles. $15 members $20 non-mem (see above to register)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1 Tuesday 9 – 11 a.m.</td>
<td>GWG Docent training: Fall/Winter Interest (see above to register)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 7 Monday</td>
<td>GWG “Fall &amp; Winter Plants” Janet Carson $15 members and $30 non-members (see above to register)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 9 Wed. 1-3p.m.</td>
<td>“Know It To Grow IT” GCL (see above to register) Bulbs, Corms, &amp; Rhizomes: how to tell the difference between them, when to plant, and how to care for them.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 12 Saturday</td>
<td>The Hot Springs Daylily Society will meet at the First United Methodist Church Christian Life Center, Grand and Pratt, one block west of Central Ave. at 10 a.m. Program: Lin Johnson “Region 13 Highlights”. Guests are welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 17 Thursday, lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30 Program 1:00</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting. Adam Webb &amp; Tiffany Hough from the library will be talking about our seed library.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.</td>
<td>No GCMG meeting.</td>
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If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net