I bet most of you have seen this SCARY spider in your flower and/or veggie garden over the years. If you have, you are one lucky gardener!

Argiope loves to spin large round or oval webs stretching anywhere from 2 to 4 feet across and sits quietly waiting for just about anything to get caught up in his sticky web.

I have one very large one in my back flower bed, and I’m amazed at how he works his food chain! While trying to take a photo one day, I noticed his web begin to vibrate, almost like a big wind came up. This vibration action was his way of warning you to STAY OUT. They also do this so that when “lunch” flies into the web the vibration entangles prey to prevent escape.

I’ve also witnessed this spider spin a cocoon around it’s prey. It happens in a nano second and is amazing to see. After they cocoon their prey it is time for lunch! I’ve seen my spider cocoon good-sized grasshoppers, small honey bees and flies! They are super helpers in my veggie garden; they consume lots of white flies, the tiny white butterflies that lay the cabbage worm eggs and even some tomato caterpillars.

Remember using pesticides kills all insects, so sometimes letting Mother Nature do her thing works best in the long run! So, the next time you see one, say THANK YOU and walk away!

Diane Daniel
One year ago we were in the middle of a very dry time, but this year has been the wettest August I have ever seen in Arkansas. Not only wet, but cool, so no complaints. September has always been an enjoyable time for me -- seasons change and it’s fair time. County fair is around the corner and my time will be spent in the Horticulture Building, Show Barn and the Clover Cafe. I hope many of you have signed up to help at the Horticulture Building. Carol and Kay will need lots of help. They have been preparing for the fair and I’m sure it is going to be great.

Fall army worms have made up the majority of questions I am getting at this time. They especially like fertilized bermudagrass and can seemingly turn your lawn brown overnight. Once the grass is brown it is too late to try to control them. Early detection is important for control. If you have bermudagrass, check early morning or late afternoon for armyworms. The good news is if you have a well-maintained lawn, the damage should not kill the lawn and it should recover. Keep in mind there can be more than one generation, so check your lawn often until cool weather. The reason they are called fall armyworms is because they cannot overwinter here, and it is usually late summer to fall before the moth makes its way here from the Gulf Coast.

Have fun!!
Yards of the Month for August

Between April and October, each month we select 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 GCMGs choose St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church for August. Reverend George Sanders is the pastor.

The landscape facing Whittington Avenue is colorful and inviting. Boxwoods, along with red and white knock-out roses grab the attention of motorists as they drive by St. Mary’s. The boxwoods are neatly trimmed in a circular shape and the liriope add a nice edging to the design. The backdrop includes a dogwood tree nestled between two beautiful Japanese Maple trees and azaleas neatly anchor the end of the knock-out roses. The landscape was installed in 2010 with few minor changes since that time.

From left to right: Terry Doocy, Diane Pollack, and MGs Juneann Greene, Shirley Hicks and Evelyn Worsham. Not pictured Loretta West and Carolyn Davis.

Hot Springs Residential Yard of the Month

A narrow pea gravel walkway leads to another sitting area in the garden that faces a lovely waterfall. This sitting area is surrounded by a lace leaf Japanese Maple, as well as lantana, tiger lilies, and hanging ferns. The lovely waterfall near the center of the garden is adorned with honeysuckle and ivy as a backdrop. On the right of the waterfall are succulents, ornamental grasses, geraniums, knock-out roses, Gerber Daisies, sweet potato plants, and yellow, purple and white impatiens with ajuga as a ground cover. There is also a small building with hanging ferns on the side and a large container of red and white impatiens in the front. The former owner had a small beauty shop located in this building, but Fil has converted it into a retreat/tv room for Angie. They’ve nicknamed it “The Love Nest”. Being selected Yard of the Month has been on Fil and Angie’s bucket list for several years. They were very excited to have their dream fulfilled. Congratulations!

From left to right are homeowners Fil and Angie Griggs; Christen Mangham, Membership and Special Events Coordinator at Garvan Woodland Gardens, and MGs Shirley Hicks, Evelyn Worsham, and Juneann Cotnam. Not pictured – Loretta West and Carolyn Davis.

We honored Fil and Angie Griggs’ property as the August Yard of the Month. Their home, located at 909 Park Avenue, has a unique garden on the side and behind the house. On the left, as you enter the garden is a swing for two, with a trellis covered with grape vines and Carolina Jasmine.

Please contact Carolyn Davis at 276-6449 or cid945@sbcglobal.net to nominate a yard.
GCMGs chose Debby and Dan Tate’s yard as the August Yard of the Month. Take time to drive by their home at 4 Grado Lane to view their accomplishments! While the front yard displays the ‘Yard of the Month’ sign the real beauty lies in back.

These two worked hard together to make the birds, bees, and the Tates a wonderful and restful place to enjoy. When asked about her favorite plant, Debby said, “Well, all of them, I guess, but Dan is especially proud of the ferns we have potted and feature around our swimming pool.” He has built 10-foot posts for them. Then Debby pointed to her beautiful array of Elephant Ears. Lush beauty can be found in their back yard.

An unfortunate landslide occurred in their back yard in May under their above-ground swimming pool and was a devastating loss. Their hard work has paid off as this area is a favorite place for them now. The swimming pool is a focal point. Mirrors hide the area under the pool and reflect the plants that surround it, creating an intriguing optical illusion. As you walk by certain plants, a motion sensor treats you to sounds of tropical birds.

Impressive is their use of “found” or repurposed yard art in the front yard, especially the mushroom statue made by Debby’s sister-in-law. Plaster foot prints in bright colors lead to the pool area. Shards of mirrors surround several pots and plants very effectively.

One bed in the front near the swing is called the ‘burial ground.’ When asked why, Debby said she starts cuttings there and either they rise up and live to be moved to a new pot or if not, they die there.

Congratulations to the Tates for making their yard a show place for all Villagers to enjoy.

Nominations are requested for September and October. If you would like to nominate your yard or someone else’s, or even a business, please contact Karen Geiger at 922-0645, or kg77055@yahoo.com
Come take a walk in Garvan Gardens on Thursday mornings until November 17th with Garvan Director of Education Rush Fentress.

This conversational hike is through the Evans Children’s Adventure Garden and the Hixson Nature preserve. Be prepared to share your knowledge of native botanical species while you learn. Can you name the tree in the picture?

Rush states he does not consider himself an expert botanist. He believes we should all continually educate ourselves. “The main reason I want to encourage Master Gardeners to join me on Thursday morning walks is to learn from them. Especially for new members, sharing knowledge is one of the strongest methods of solidifying learning.”

Thursday walks are for members of Garvan Gardens only. Enter by the back gate and meet in the Visitors Center at 8am. Expect to be learning until about 9-9:30. This is educational time, so remember to enter your hours.
MGs ready to get the party started!

L to R standing: Carol Stanfill, Tonie Atkinson, Jane Oliver, Pat Osborn, Carolyn Davis, Linda Doherty.

L to R seated: Gaye Harper, Julie Dixon

MGs gathered at the Elks Lodge for food, fun and story-swapping on Saturday, July 17th. Looks like fun!

Trejo’s catered a delicious fajita meal complete with beans and rice. Yvonne Becker led the way in starting the buffet line.

Carolyn Davis awards Larry Philipp the prize from the drawing – an apron!

Sherry Davis and Paula Zorn gather gardening tips from veteran Joy Bennett.
Southern Inspiration Garden

The rain kept most of the area pretty wet, so there were weeds to pull, flowers to dead-head, and foliage to trim.

Entergy Park

Thirteen Entergy Park Master Gardeners braved the hot humid weather Wednesday, August 3rd, and came out to weed and tidy up the beds. Some started earlier to beat the heat. We appreciate the dedicated response every month! We’ve got some real troopers willing to work in adverse conditions. Thanks to all! If anyone has a suggestion, idea, or complaint that enhances or improves our work at Entergy Park, please feel free to let us know. To those Master Gardeners unable to come out, we miss you and hope to see you real soon.

Front L to R: Lin Johnson, Shelia Springs, Paula Wallace, Jan Hodges
Second row L to R: Sharron Bennett, Sherry Matthews, Karen Mason and Anne Fullbright.
Back L to R: Burley Freeman, James Moore Jr. and Jeff Finney.
Not pictured: Carol Scrivner and Kay Adams

Habitat House

On a hot and humid 90+ degree day, MGs installed landscape timber and garden soil around a habitat house. You can tell who worked the hardest based on sweat on one of the MG’s shirt. Thanks to Jeff’s wife who brought water.

L to R: Roger Giddings, Don (late) Sluyter, Gene (Daddy) Lichliter, Larry Hardin, Ross (Doc) Sedler, and Jeff Finney.
Not pictured: James B. Moore, Jr.

Habitat House

Roger places his foot on the landscape timber while Larry shows Gene how to hammer a steel rod in the timbers while setting on the bucket.
Courthouse & Police Memorial
We gathered to weed and trim the thriving landscape this month. Gosh it was hot and muggy! We received a pleasant surprise visit from Garland County Sheriff, Mike McCormick. He and Christy Lane presented the group with a framed certificate of appreciation for our work in tending the Police Memorial. He said, "This is hallowed ground to us." The certificate is signed by our Sheriff and the President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 26, Mike Wright. It is a touching gesture and the crew is pleased to do our part!

We swapped ideas for fall planting and maintenance and cooled off with ice cream & popsicles.

Back, L to R: James B. Moore, Jr., Larry Philipp, Pam Connor, Jeff Finney, Carmen Hayes, Mary Ann Schnipper Front, L to R: Lin Johnson, Christy Lane with the Sheriff’s office, Sheriff Mike McCormick, Sheila McLarty, Paula Page
(Kneeling): Too busy working to take a photo: Wayne Patterson, Carol Scrivner, Pat Osborne, Kay Adams, Mary Tom Taylor, Barb Smith.

Ouachita Children’s Center
We refreshed all the flower beds by trimming, deadheading, and pulling weeds. We started early to try to beat the heat. It was one of those high 90-degree days, but we made it.

Those in attendance were Laura Young, Jan Hodges, Becky Pawelczak, Charlotte Anthony, Karen Mason, Pat Osborn, and newest master gardener Ann Hiers. Not pictured: Laura Young

COMO
We met to continue our war on weeds. Recent rains have weeds and flowers very happy. Those doing their best to 'take the wild out' are: Front Row: Paula Zorn, Becky Pawelczak & Sherry Davis. Back row: Burley Freeman, Sue Bristow, Pam Connor, Mary Ann Schnipper and Laura Young. Not pictured: Stephanie Ballard, Judy Fields and Loretta West.

“One who plants a garden plants happiness”
—Old Saying
Youth Activities
Barbara Smith arranged a day to work with Kiddie Kingdom, a childcare center on Hwy 70 west. The 17 students learned various uses of the aloe vera plant. They had hands-on experience with planting their own aloe vera to take home and care for. The students also identified plants surrounding their school. This was a wonderful opportunity for education. If you are aware of other interested schools, we would be glad to repeat this great learning experience. Please contact one of the ladies listed below.

L to R: Juneann Greene, planting instructor; Sue Finley co-chair & planting instructor, Carol Scrivner gave the lecture, Barbara Smith, co-chair, coordinator and plant ID instructor; Marty Lynch, Youth Activities Chair

Youth Activities
Sue Finley helps bag each child’s plant. Carol Scrivner helps with labeling.

Youth Activities
Juneann Greene explains caring for aloe vera plants to attentive kids.

Roster
Please correct in your roster:

Wayne Patterson new e-mail wayne.patt1937@gmail.com
Henryetta Norman new e-mail henryettanorman@gmail.com
Diane Murdock new e-mail dilomur@gmail.com
New Summer MG Ann Hiers e-mail annhiers@outlook.com
New Summer MG Deanna Henry e-mail dlhbc62@gmail.com
Returning DeAnna Rogers e-mail deannar@cablelynxc.com

remove: Sue Jacobs (moved) and Elaine Sichter (dropped)
Garland County Fair

It’s Fair Time! The Garland County Fair runs **September 12-17.** Get your entries ready! Bring Adult and Youth entries to the Horticulture Building at the Garland County Fairgrounds on Malvern Avenue on Monday, September 12, from 8am – 6pm. Volunteers accept entries and help with classification.

MGs will set up and “man” the Horticulture Building. We'll **need MANY volunteers** to make that week go smoothly—hope you can free up some time on your calendar to come out and join the fun. Judging takes place Tuesday morning, and the Horticulture Building opens to the public on Tuesday and Wednesday at 5pm. Thursday is School Day, starting at 9am. Many children from local schools will explore the fair, and we'll need savvy MGs on hand to answer their questions. The Horticulture Building will be open Thursday and Friday evenings as well as all day Saturday from 10am – 10pm. Participants can pick up their entries on Sunday from 10am – 2pm, and of course there will be cleanup on Sunday as well.

Jodi Tooke will coordinate all volunteers. What a great way to interact with people and show them how wonderful it is to be a GCMG!

**Education**

**Ask-A-Master Gardener Booths**
Booths at HS & HSV Farmers’ Markets can use your help! To sign up for hours:
HS, Sat 8-11, contact Loretta West 501-617-0304 (lorettawest355@gmail.com)
HSV, Thurs 8-11, contact Pamela Eyre 956-655-9378 (pceyre@gmail.com)

L to R: Ann Heirs, Louise Lee, Sharon Dent, Claudette Cooper, Deanna Henry, Sherry Matthews.

**Education EXPO:**
We host our Garden EXPO on Saturday, October 8th, from 10am – 3pm, at the First Church of the Nazarene on Central Avenue.

The theme this year is “Gardening Like the Masters,” so you'll find lots of information from experts in a variety of speakers, workshops, and interactive displays. Jim Shults (Shults Greenhouse) speaks at 10:30am on bulbs and other fall planning for winter, spring, and summer color, and Corrin Troutman (Compton Gardens) speaks at 1pm about native plants. Come learn about gardening!

We also will **need volunteers** to set up, tear down, and shepherd guests through the almost 40 booths that will be featured at the EXPO. This is a great chance to share what you know!

Contact Anne Flueckiger to volunteer.

**Education**

**Know It to Grow It**  Our next program THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF MOSSES will be Saturday, September 7, at 1 pm at the GCL. Kay Caldwell & Jodi Tooke will host. Registration **501-623-4161**
Garden Essential Maintenance Service
Eighteen GEMS met to work at Garvan Gardens. One group worked on Brushwood Dance and the mulch pathway. Twigs were rewoven into the structure and the path was refreshed with mulch. Two other groups did the tedious work of removing brown branches from the junipers in the parking area and the Garden of the Pine Wind. The last group tackled the prolific and abundant Vietnamese weed on Daffodil Hill. Hopefully a small dent was made in the profuse supply of this most bothersome weed.

Garden Therapy
Seniors at the Caring Place painted the backs of various leaves and pressed them onto note cards. Kumar outlined the leaf images. We all enjoyed this program, and the seniors had colorful note cards for home.

Hot Springs Xeriscape
The Xeriscape was hardscaped with flagstone this month to add beauty under the arbor. Toni Atkinson, (not pictured) designed a sketch of our garden that will be included on the new sign we are planning for the Greenway. We had some educational time learning about hesperaloe parviflora after donated beauty berries were planted. Also, "early voting" began for our Xeriscape MVP.
Hot Springs Village Xeriscape

We have an updated GCMG sign in the Cortez Pavilion planting bed. It looks good nestled between two lovely blooming Crape Myrtles. Even though it has rained like the tropics, we had an extra work day in August to catch up on whacking weeds and trimming limbs. Our favorite MG with muscles, long arms and a jaw saw -- Nelson Ford -- was back on the project. We built up a huge load for POA to pick up from trimming many stray branches, removing the burdensome Nandina, and cutting back the long ignored heavy branches on the Rose of Sharon. Glad to have Nelson back. Also a big thank you to Bruce Zorn (husband of MG 2016 Paula Zorn) for stopping by with electric shears and a willingness to expedite our cutting project. Vicki Scheddel has been encouraging a butterfly area near the bench with tropical milkweed, and it's looking good. She would like to add Echinacea to the area. If you have any extra Echinacea—plants, dried heads or extra seeds to share—please contact Vicki at vlscheddel@gmail.com

City Greenhouse

Darryl had a long list of duties for the Master Gardeners at the August City Greenhouse session. We trimmed lantana, penta, and coleus in the greenhouse; worked on moonflowers and grasses in the shade house; potted butterfly weeds, Mexican marigolds, figs and butterfly bushes; sorted pots; and did other housekeeping chores.

COMO

COMO committee met to continue our war on weeds. The recent rains have weeds and flowers very happy. Those doing their best to 'take the wild out' are: front row: Paula Zorn, Becky Pawelczak & Sherry Davis. Back row: Burley Freeman, Sue Bristow, Pam Connor, Mary Ann Schnipper and Laura Young. Not pictured: Stephanie Ballard, Judy Fields and Loretta West.
Chap Harper is a Garland County Master Gardener who is well known for growing palm trees. In addition, he authored five novels, three of which have been published. He has always enjoyed writing and published his first novel, *Once Upon a Reef*, in 2013 quickly followed by *Once Upon the Congo* in 2015.

Harper's most recent book, *Beer, Bait, and Ammo*, is an action-filled, fast-paced story set in Hot Springs. The main character is a police detective named Lester McFarlin. Lester is the department's most successful crime solver in spite of a significant disability, dyslexia. Hoping to improve his ability to read, Lester consults a local speech therapist, Debi Green, for help with his problem. While chasing criminals all the way to New Orleans and pursuing Debi, Lester fights battles with drug dealers, gun runners, murderers and crime bosses. It’s an exciting book that you will not want to put down. *Beer, Bait and Ammo* is available online from Amazon and at the Garland County Public Library.

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

**GCMG= Garland County Master Gardeners**  
**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>Aug. 30- Sept. 13</td>
<td>Cornwall/Wales Trip (Full)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 7 Wed. 1-3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“Know It To Grow IT” GCL (see above to register) Wonderful World of Mosses: how to cultivate and use native mosses in your garden and your home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 12 -17 County Fair</td>
<td>County Fair will at the Fair Grounds and GCMGers will man the building all week. Sign-up sheet at the meeting.</td>
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<td>Sept. 15 Thursday</td>
<td>County Fair – no GCMG meeting (School Day)</td>
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<td>Will need extra Mgers for the kids.</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 20 Tuesday 9 –</td>
<td>GWG Docent training: Early Fall Interest (see above to register)</td>
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<td>11 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 24 Sat. 9:30 social</td>
<td>The Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society meeting at the GCL. Program: Judy Groover “Hostas. Guests are welcome.</td>
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<td>10:00 meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Arkansas Orchid Society's Annual Orchid Auction at 2nd Presbyterian Church, 600 Pleasant Valley Drive in Little Rock (near I-430 and Cantrell Road)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 26-27 Mon.- Tuesday</td>
<td>PNG Leadership Conference, Ferndale Registration on line.</td>
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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</td>
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<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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counts as education or work for GCMG</td>
<td>More information and to volunteer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 9 Sunday 2 day trip</td>
<td>Leaving HS early a.m. Returning Mon. p.m. late, cost for GCMG $25 guest or spouse $50</td>
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<td>Bus trip to Fayetteville</td>
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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10 Monday</td>
<td>MG Appreciation Day Botanical Gardens, Fayetteville Wear your MG name tag to get in free.</td>
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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</td>
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<td>Oct. 15 Union Co. MG Bulb Sale</td>
<td>More information later.</td>
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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20 Thursday</td>
<td>GCMG monthly meeting lunch served from 11:15 – 12:30 Program 1:00 Susan Harper will perform her rendition of Mrs. Garvan and give us some great history on the gardens</td>
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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</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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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</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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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</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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<td>Counts as education for GCMG</td>
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If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net