Allen, Ken and I have interviewed 35 interns; 34 signed up. We think they will make great Master Gardeners. Please try to meet them and encourage them when you can. Remember our Intern Classes began Jan. 31 and will continue each Thursday in Feb. You may attend any session; however, if you plan to stay for lunch the cost is $10. You must pay by Mon. of that week at the Extension Office.

We are now on-line with the new time-keeping program. Our problem at the meeting was due to the volume of so many trying to get on line at the same time. If you have problems with the new system, please contact Carmon Hayes or me and we will help you.

Valentine's Day - the popular festival of love and romance traces its origin to ancient Roman festivals, and has not been created by card companies as some people believe it to be. There are various legends associated with the festival along with the belief that birds began to mate from this day. Popularity of the Valentine's Day festival stems from the combined effects of all these legends, beliefs and of course the wish to glorify the unparalleled feeling of love. During the Middle Ages, people in England and France held a belief that birds started to look for their mate from February 14. This popular notion further helped to link Valentine's Day celebrated in the middle of the February, with love and romance. Over the period of time, St Valentine became the patron saint of lovers and they began to celebrate Valentine's Day as a day of romance by exchanging love notes and simple gifts such as flowers. Valentine's Day festivals gradually grew in popularity amongst the masses due to the combined effect of all the above said reasons. To mark the day, lovers began to exchange love notes called 'Valentines' with their sweethearts. In the beginning, the trend was to send handmade cards but this was changed at the start of the 19th century and mass-produced greeting cards caught the fancy of the people. In the course of time, Valentine's Day came to be regarded as the festival that celebrates love and not just romantic love. Today, Valentine's Day cards are gifted to teachers, parents, friends, siblings and sweethearts. Popularity of Valentine's Day has spread in countries across the seven continents and is still increasing by the year.
We had our first white Christmas in over 80 years but it came with some cost. I have had many calls on damaged trees with people wanting to know if they can be pruned or should they be cut down and start over. In making this decision we should always consider safety first then look at the viability of the tree. Let me know if you need help. Master Gardener training is beginning January 31st with a group of 34 from Garland County. We have finished interviewing and are excited about this new year with such an enthusiastic group of new interns. Thanks to all of you who mentor them, this is a tremendous help to them. I’m looking forward to 2013 and all that’s happening in our Master Gardener program.

This “plant” (possibly an herb) was purchased at our spring plant sale by one of our MG’s. She stated that it gets the morning sun and afternoon shade. The tips are brown now due to the weather. It is usually green with very little smell. Your input????????

Allen Bates
CEA Agriculture
236 Woodbine
Hot Springs, AR
71901
501/623-6841 – O
501/622-7486 – C
abates@uaex.edu
Answer 1: I don't recognize it. It is so hard to tell from a photo, but hopefully whoever brought it to the plant sale will recognize it when it's in the newsletter. Some of the stems look like they have a purplish color . . . or is that another plant? Yvonne

Answer 2: I thought I knew almost every plant at our sale but this one has me stumped. I have no idea what it could be, hope someone else can answer the question. Marilyn

Answer 3: It looks a little like peacock moss, but it's too large for that I think. I give up. Chappy

Answer 4: I think this is Fenugreek, a herb used in middle eastern cuisine. Heidi

SCORE CARD TO DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experts</th>
<th>Master Gardeners</th>
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DONT FORGET

We are always looking for photographs and/or questions to be submitted for our “Stump the Experts” column. If you submit a photo, please give any available info. Please send direct to cjd945@sbcglobal.net – subject “STE”

CARDs SENT THIS MONTH

Card were sent to the following members who underwent surgery:

Ruth Siebels, John Slater and Sam Mullins

Please be sure to notify Lin Johnson and Julie Dickson if a member is sick, has undergone surgery or has had a death in their family so that MG’s can send them a card.
SCHEDULE FOR LIBRARY CLASSES 2013

Feb 26  6-7:30pm  T  Herbs
Mar 12  11:30-1:30 T  Companion planting
Apr 13  10-12am (Sat)  Pioneer days/National gardening month (children)
May 23  11:30-1:30pm Th  Vertical planting/sq ft gardening
Aug 13  11:30-1:30pm  T  Good bugs/Bad bugs
Sept 26  11:30-1:30pm  Th  Decorative things in the Garden
Nov 12  11:30-1:30pm  T  Hanging baskets

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING

BREAKFAST WILL BE OFFERED AT THE MARCH MEETING FOR ONLY $ 4.00. MENU INCLUDES EGG CASSEROLE, BISCUITS AND GRAVY, COFFEE OR TEA. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRE-PAY SO WE WILL KNOW HOW MUCH TO FIX.

LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT NO COST BUT WE ALSO NEED TO KNOW AHEAD OF TIME. A CHICKEN BASKET WITH FRIES OR A CHEF SALAD WILL BE OFFERED WITH COFFEE OR TEA.

“Hunt and Find”

December NL WINNER
Janie Turner


Our NEW object for February

As soon as you locate the item, send an email to cjd945@sbcglobal.net identifying the location. The first correct response will be our winner!!

WISH LIST/TRADING CORNER

This is a new column in the newsletter for what you need or do not need anymore!! It is a way to share plants, seeds, items, or get information regarding gardening needs.

Suggestions:

Have extra plants, seeds or bulbs you don’t need.

Have gardening tools/items you don’t use or want.

Looking for a special plant/seed or tool?

Send your information to Carolyn Davis and mark subject line as Wish List. If you have a photo you want to include be sure to send as an attachment in jpeg format.

Send to cjd945@sbcglobal.net

REMINDER

We are now doing our time sheets on line. The web site is members.arkmg.org. Complete instructions can be found on GCMG website, under the members only section.

Once you get used to online reporting, it will be very easy.

If you need further assistance, please contact me at either gnchaves@suddenlink.net or 501-984-3219. Carmen Hayes, Lead Manager
Happy Birthday Wishes to our February GCMG – from “the gang”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Neal</td>
<td>Feb. 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne Patterson</td>
<td>Feb. 6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farideh Shelby</td>
<td>Feb. 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Fickes</td>
<td>Feb. 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry Greer</td>
<td>Feb. 9th</td>
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<td>Madalyn Harris</td>
<td>Feb. 10th</td>
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<td>Jennetta Sanders</td>
<td>Feb. 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Robbins</td>
<td>Feb. 19th</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Long</td>
<td>Feb. 23rd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbara Bradstreet</td>
<td>Feb. 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Harrington</td>
<td>Feb. 28th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Master Gardeners helped two families on Highland Street make their dreams a reality just in time for Christmas. What a great way to close 2012! Construction of homes are still under way on Highland Street and two were completed in December.

On December 6th, fourteen Master Gardeners and friends planted foundation plants and laid sod at one of the homes and on December 19th, eight Master Gardeners and friends completed the landscaping for the second home. Beautiful boxwoods, nandinas, dwarf burford holly, variegated liriope, crape myrtle, Stella de Oro day lily and Virginia sweetspire were planted and Bermuda sod was laid at both locations.

Our sincere thanks to all Master Gardeners and friends who worked unselfishly to make life better for others. We look forward to continue our work to help others in 2013. “Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”

Francois-Marie Arouet, aka Voltaire

Gene Lichliter, Chairperson
Evelyn M. Worsham

Pictured L to R:
Shirley Williams, Evelyn Worsham, James Moore, Jr., Lin Johnson, Gene Lichliter, Dee Baker - Not in picture: Jeff Finney, Frank Adams, Sunshine Spielvogle, Sue Tanner

Photographer: Gaye Harper

COURT HOUSE AND POLICE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

The Court Houses and Memorial Committee did not meet in January due to the rainy conditions. We will meet Thursday, February 14th.

Michael and Kay
ENTERGY PARK COMMITTEE

The Entergy Park Committee did not meet in January due to the weather. See you at our scheduled February time.

Wayne Patterson, Chairperson

GEMS

(Garden Essential Maintenance Support)

GEMS wound up 2012 planting tulips and putting soil around the paths at the new Garden Club Garden. Seven MG’s planted over 1300 tulips along the Woodland Walk on a sunny 40 degree day - over 130,000 tulips will be on display this spring. Later in December, we met to plant several trees and build beds along the newly constructed path in the Garden Club Garden. Progress has been steady in this new area and work will resume in early spring. January found us in the Garden of the Pine Wind clearing out leaves and pine needles in preparation of the Gardens re-opening in February. Remember GEMS meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays; call Linda Doherty to get on the e-mail reminder list. Stop out for a walk in the Garden while it is still in its 'winter wardrobe' - a very different but beautiful view of the garden. Linda Doherty, Chair
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

This year the Brown Bag Classes will have a bit of a twist, adding one evening and one Saturday class.

February 26th at 6 pm - "Growing Garden Herbs & Tasting Our Favorite Recipes" will be held on a Tuesday night. This class will be lead by our own MG, Mary Ann Jarvis. The committee members are bringing yummy treats, dips, sauces, dressings and soups made with various herbs for you to sample.

March 12th at 11:30 am - Companion Planting for Better Results

April 3rd at 11:30 am - Exterior Garden Decorating - Fun Things in the Garden with Aileen Petsoldt

SATURDAY: April 13th at 10 am - Pioneer Kids and their Gardens - Hands On for ages:

Celebrating: National Gardening Month

May 23rd at 11:30 - Gardening UP & Efficiently with Vertical Gardens

August 13th at 11:30am - Good Bugs Bad Bugs Knowing the Difference For Healthy Gardening

Please contact the library for reservations.

Diane Daniel, Chair
TRIANGLE/FARMERS MARKET/GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

The Triangle/Farmer's Market committee did not meet in January due to the weather. See you in Feb.

Thanks, Lin, Michael, & Gene

CITY GREENHOUSE COMMITTEE

This month we cleaned out the baskets for downtown, cut the annual grasses and propagated several plants to get a head start on the spring season. At the end of our work session our Master Gardeners were treated to a pizza party for the hard work we contribute to the City's Parks and Recreational Dept. The Garland County Master Gardeners put in over a 1000 hours for the city projects we work on including the Farmers Market, Triangle, Entergy Park, City greenhouse, Xeriscape, and the baskets for the downtown area. Several people were awarded a t-shirt for working 40 plus hours and Lin Johnson was awarded the Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year for 2012.
YOUTH GARDENING COMMITTEES

FOUNTAIN. LAKE YOUTH

In January, Fountain Lake 3rd graders made pine cone bird feeders with the help of Master Gardeners Carolyn Sinderson, Marilyn Olson, Madalyn Harris, Joe Yadron, Joanne Harms, Anne Flueckiger and Sue Tanner. Smearing on the suet mixture and rolling the cone in bird seed was a little educational, a lot of fun, and will help feed the local birds this winter.

In December, Bob Schappek, a beekeeper who lives in Hot Springs Village, spoke to Fountain Lake horticultural students about the art of beekeeping and all the things involved. They had many good questions and were very interested.

HOT SPRINGS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The Hot Springs Intermediate School Garden Club researched what vegetables could be planted at this time of year and made decisions about what they wanted to plant. The students weeded the garden areas, and planted cool weather seeds and plants. They were then shown the proper way to water a newly planted vegetable bed.
FALL PLANT SALE COMMITTEE

Hi Master Gardeners

It is not time for the 2013 fall sale quite yet, but I wanted to let you know that, since we had such a good time last year, we plan to go back to the Garland County Fairgrounds in October when the extension homemakers and crafters from all over the South hold their annual craft fair. We will apply for the same spot we had last year as soon as the application forms are available.

In the meanwhile, I would appreciate if you remembered to save perforated vegetable bags from the grocery store, the ones like those used for oranges, lemons, and potatoes which are solid plastic on one side, perforated on the other, and closed with a little tab like bread wrappers. We can also use the orange netting type from onions and oranges, as long as they are opened on one end, not torn. I want to use them to bundle bulbs and tubers for easier selling. Last year we used regular plastic bags and even though we had cut holes into them, there was still moisture condensation and the danger of root rot. If everybody remembers to save and bring just a few over the course of the spring and summer, we will have more than enough. Thanks for your help.

Hilde Simmons, Chair
SPRING PLANT SALE – 2013

Spring Plant Sale: April 27th 2013

January 18th was our Spring Plant Sale Kick Off at the Fountain Lake Greenhouse. We have several new ideas that we are going to try this year. They include:

1. Barb Smith has begun meeting with MG’s interested in making hanging baskets at the Lake Hamilton Greenhouse. This group will meet once or twice a month to work on the baskets. Contact Barb if you live near the school and or are interested in helping with this project.

2. On Tuesday’s at 9am at the Fountain Lake Greenhouse, Mary Ann Jarvis will be working with MG’s interested in growing herbs! This group will also be making Kitchen Herb Garden Planters that will be available at the plant sale.

3. On Thursdays at 9 am at the Fountain Lake Greenhouse, Joanne Harms will be working with MG’s interested in growing vegetables. This group will be starting "cool weather vegetables" that will be made available for purchase to MG’s at the March meeting - perfect timing to put in your garden. They will then begin "warm weather vegetables" that will be for sale at the plant sale. So mark your calendar for the March meeting to get some wonderful starter plants.

4. On Friday’s at 9am at the Fountain Lake Greenhouse, we will have a general work day for propagation of the all the plants given to us this winter and we will start some new plants that we have not tried in prior years.

Come join us on any or all the days at the greenhouses! Diane Daniel, Chair
Garden Therapy for January 16, 2013

We started off our year with Herbal Bath Salts, a project always successful with our seniors. We fill a plastic container three-fourths full with Epsom salts, herbal essence oil and food color, and stir-stir-stir. Voila! Nice smelling and easy to use (1/4 cup in a tub of hot water), most relaxing and soothing to tired muscles and bones! It was great fun as always, and the seniors really enjoyed this project.

Rita Monsen, Chair

Photos by Kay Ford
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Day &amp; Time</th>
<th>Name &amp; Location of Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2 9:30 snacks 10am program</td>
<td><strong>The Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society</strong> will be meeting at the Garland County Library, 9:30 snacks and visiting, 10am Program: Ruth Etchieson from River Valley Horticultural Products of Little Rock on Hosta Virus. Visitors welcome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 7 Thurs. 8-4</td>
<td>Second <strong>Intern Master Gardener Class</strong> 8-4 at the Garland County Fairgrounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 14 Thurs. 8-4</td>
<td>Third <strong>Intern Master Gardener Class</strong> 8-4 at the Garland County Fairgrounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td><strong>GCMG meeting</strong> Elk’s club-lunch served 11:15-12:30 (no lunch served after then) Program 1:00 pm Program <strong>Jim Shultz</strong>. &quot;Early Bloomers”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21 Thurs. 8-4</td>
<td>Fourth <strong>Intern Master Gardener Class</strong> 8-4 at the Garland County Fairgrounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 26 Tues. 6p.m.</td>
<td>Brown Bag: ‘<strong>Growing Garden Herbs &amp; Tasting Our Favorite Recipes</strong>’ MG, Mary Ann Jarvis, with yummy treats, dips, sauces, dressings and soups made with various herbs for you to sample. ) Garland County Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.28 Thurs.</td>
<td>Fifth and Final <strong>Intern Master Gardener Class</strong> 8-4 at the Garland County Fairgrounds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 2 Sat. 9:30 snacks 10am program</td>
<td><strong>The Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society</strong> will be meeting at the Garland County Library, 9:30 snacks and visiting, 10am Program: Larry Tucker from Southaven, MS Author of “Confessions of a Hostaholic” and other books. Visitors &amp; Guests welcome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 4-5 Mon. &amp; Tue.</td>
<td>The Ouachita &amp; Shade Plant Society will be going to Alexandria, LA and the Doug Young Nursery in Forest Hill. Seats still available. $70 members, $80 non-members. Call Sharon Dent 655-4103 or Lin Johnson 318-0288 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 12 Tues. 11:30-1:30pm</td>
<td>Brown Bag: <strong>Gardening UP &amp; Efficiently w/Vertical Gardens</strong> at Garland County Library call the library at 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 21 Thurs. 8:30-2:00</td>
<td>Breakfast served by the Elks. Egg casserole with biscuits and gravy, bacon, coffee $4.00. 9:30 Power-point for introduction of MG program and committees to 2013 interns. 11:30 Lunch free to all interns, mentors and Master Gardeners who sign-up to attend the 1:00 meeting. 1:00 meeting and introduction of interns by their Mentors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3 Wed. 11:30am</td>
<td>Brown Bag: <strong>Exterior Garden Decorating - Fun Things in the Garden</strong> w/ Aileen Petsoldt Garland County Library call 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 6 Sat. Saline plant sale</td>
<td>Saline County Plant Sale Benton fair grounds, more information later.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26 Set-up</td>
<td>We will be moving plants from the greenhouses and setting up for the plant sale at the Farmer’s Market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27 GCMG plant sale</td>
<td>GCMG Spring Plant Sale at the Farmer’s Market. The Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society and The Hot Springs Daylily Society will be joining us.</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Details</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23 Thurs. 11:30 – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Brown Bag: <strong>Companion Planting for Better Gardens</strong> at Garland County Library call 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 13 Tues. 11:30-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Brown Bag: <strong>Good bugs/Bad bugs Knowing the Difference For Healthy Gardening</strong> Garland County Library call 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7-14</td>
<td>International MG Conference, Alaska (Registration open).</td>
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<td>Sept. 23-24</td>
<td>Master Gardener Appreciation Day at GWG coupled with MG Leadership here in Hot Springs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 26 Thurs. 11:30-1:30 pm</td>
<td>Brown Bag (Decorative things in the garden) Garland County Library call 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 14, 2013</td>
<td>Master Gardener 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Anniversary Party (save the date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12 11:30 – 1:30pm</td>
<td>Brown Bag (Hanging baskets) Garland County Library call 623-4161 for reservations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you have additions for this list please submit them to: linjd@sbcglobal.net

GOLD STAR to GEMS – 1st article submitted for NL

SILVER STAR to Fountain Lake Youth – 2<sup>nd</sup> article submitted for NL

BRONZE STAR to Garden Therapy – 3<sup>rd</sup> article submitted for NL