Garden Explosion V Rocks Greene County

Garden Explosion V rocked Greene County again this year. Attendees came from across the state to listen to speakers share hot new plants, Ruth Stout, the berry business, and critters in your garden. Vendors were on hand to sell gardening items and plants. Ninety four were in attendance including members and guests.

The day prior to the event was a busy day as well. Plants were prepared for sale, crafts were displayed, spring decorations were added, and tables were readied for the big day.

Greene County Tech High School grew plants in their greenhouse for us this year, and anything left over will be sold at the upcoming plant sale May 7th.

A pallet greenhouse built by David Jones was a silent auction item, and at the end of the day Carolyn Palmer was the lucky winner to take it home. A garden basket was also raffled off and won by Dot Wood of Paragould.

Refreshments were provided throughout the day by members. Crafts and plants were all donated.

The total profit made from plants, crafts, raffle, and silent auction was $315.75.
Greene Garden News

Events Calendar

April 22: Earth Day: Plant a Tree
April 26: GCMG Meeting 6pm, GC Library
May 7: Garden Boutique & Plant Sale, Centennial Park, 9-2
May 10: Brown Bag Lunch, 12-1, GC Library, Dave Freeze, GC Ext Agent, Trees
June 2-4: MG State Meeting, Eureka Springs (Carroll Co)

Presidents Notes

It’s been said that **time is our most precious commodity.** With that in mind, let’s work together to keep our meeting time to a minimum and focus on MG matters and projects only.

By following our agenda and being respectful of everyone’s time, it will ensure a much shorter business meeting and enable us to address necessary MG issues in a timelier manner.

Prior to monthly meetings, the Executive Committee works to streamline what is added to the agenda in hopes of limiting our meeting time to 30-45 minutes. If distracted by unrelated issues, we can quickly lose 20-30 minutes of valuable meeting time.

Personal projects are important to members, but please refrain from speaking about them during our regular business meeting.

If you would like to discuss a MG matter, please let me know and I’ll be glad to add you to the agenda for the next meeting.

If we can make a few adjustments in how we conduct our meetings, everyone will benefit and enjoy a much shorter meeting. Thank you.

Connie

Treasurers Report

Local Account: FNB
Beginning Balance 3/01/16—3/31/16 1913.00

Debits
3/7  Wal-Mart-Gift Cards 150.00
3/7  Insurance 28.00
3/15  Change from GE 100.00
3/21  DFA taxes from GE 27.54
3/22  Donna Jones-Supplies for GE 81.74
3/22  Connie Whitman Office Supplies 44.64

Credits
3/18  Raffle 147 +Change 50 197.00
3/21  GE 281 + Greenhouse 25 306.00
3/21  Dues 15 + Change 50 65.00

Balanced 4/6/16 2049.08

Less Est. Donations for projects. 852.00

Total Working Funds 1197.08

Respectfully submitted 4/7/16
Kenneth E. Fletcher, Treasurer

(L-R) Linda Glickert, Joy Gatlin, Holly Fletcher, Carolyn Palmer, Connie Whitman and Brenda Barr are pictured at Project Coordinators & Committee Leads Meeting Friday, Mar 18th. Pauletta Tobey was also in attendance. Work days & hours generated on each were discussed.

Wanda Howerton designed a beautiful spring bouquet for the refreshment table at GE V

Linda Glickert & Sally Mugford enjoying GE V
Minutes of March 22, 2016

Minutes for Master Gardener Meeting of March 22, 2016
At Greene County Public Library

Our 23 Master Gardener members and seven guests enjoyed some very delicious refreshments provided by MG, Carolyn Palmer. MG member, Kathy Graber, introduced our guest speaker, Hannah Gray, Agri Teacher at the Greene County Tech High School. She is in charge of the greenhouse on the campus, and has given us many plants for our Garden Explosion V, and other events that we are sponsoring. Hannah gave us an overview of what she does in her classes to encourage students to have a great respect for agriculture. Her husband is the Junior High Agri teacher, and teaches "hydroponics", a process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid without any soil. Everyone enjoyed her talk and asked many questions about her agriculture teaching job.

Hannah Gray

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Whitman. The February Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as read in the newsletter.

Donna Jones gave a wrap-up of the Garden Explosion V to our members. The surveys received at the event were all very favorable. A date for the 2017 Garden Explosion VI was discussed, but was not finalized.

The Volunteer Agreement Forms are due, and most of our members have turned them in to President Whitman.

Sign-Up Sheets for Clean Sweep Saturday, April 16th and the Farmers Market Work Days were available for our MG Members to sign.

A Continuation of Basic Training was conducted by Committee Leads:
1. Plant Markers-- Martha Chiles, Lead, encouraged all members to give her a list of the plants used in their projects so she can get markers made for them.
2. Scrapbook-----Lead, Carolyn Palmer described our Scrapbook as covering all of the year in pictures and script.
4. Sunshine--The two Leads of this committee, Joy Gatlin and Cora Flannery, send Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well Cards to our members; and Thank You Cards to our Speakers and Others.
5. Hours Management-- Patti Roberts, Lead gave advice and information for our members to use in posting hours online.
6. Publicity, Scholarship, and Awards---Pauletta Tobey, Lead, is in charge of getting announcements and other information about the Master Gardeners to the newspapers and other social networks. She and her other Committee members meet to choose Award Winners for each year, and present Scholarship Applications to the group for approval.
7. Membership-- Connie Whitman who is the Lead of this committee seeks ways to get more members for our group, and to keep all of us active.

Holly Fletcher, Coordinator for the BBL program reported that Bob McKee will be the April Speaker. He will talk to the group about Butterflies.

The May 7th Plant Sale update was given by Joy Gatlin, Lead. She encouraged all of our members to bring lots of plants to sell at this event as this is our best Money-Making Activity.

Richard Yeazel announced that a gentleman will be coming to the Children’s Homes May 6th and 7th to present an educational program called Bucket Kits for Gardening. The Bucket Kit is a simple drip irrigation system designed for vegetable gardens where there is no rain.

A Skin Cancer Awareness Campaign was discussed by President Connie. She suggested that we: Slip on a Shirt, Slop on Sunscreen, Slap on a Hat, and Wrap Sunglasses to protect our eyes. We will wear these to one of our monthly meetings for a photo op or the May Plant Sale.

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Respectively submitted by Secretary Joy Gatlin
**Project Updates**

**South Sign:** Brenda Barr & Pauletta Tobey, Chairs: Work has been done at the south sign to clear away dead foliage and windblown leaves. A workday will be called soon to trim hedge and roses and plant bright colored petunias. The dogwood was planted to late last summer to set buds for this spring but the tree is alive and healthy and we look forward to seeing it next spring.

**Rainbow Garden:** Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: Our Rainbow Garden is just about ready for a planting of lantana. Just as soon as Chris Rogers will let us get them out of his greenhouse we will call a workday and get started planting the lower tier of the Garden.

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Weeded and mulched 3/4. Still like the NE Corner. Daffodils were beautiful this year, dying out, and the roses are beginning to bloom. Dwarf Nandinas are in prime colors along with the barberries. There is also a lime green spider wart that is in its prime on the North side. The obedient plants and the catnip needs to be thinned and the Northeast corner "heated" up. Peonies are going to bloom this year if nothing happens to them. The smoke tree is looking good and the peach roses are beginning to bloom. We almost lost two of the beach roses last year, they were trimmed back allot and so far this year they are looking healthy, just not as large as the third one. The Raspberry Tart tree was trimmed back quite a bit earlier in the spring and it is not coming along as quickly as it did last year. It is alive and just now starting to bud out. The crepe myrtles are all alive and beginning to bud out. Hopefully, we have removed most of the grass and will try to keep it under control this year.

**GC Courthouse:** Patti Roberts Chair: Weeding, dead head, urns cleaned up. Sweet Potato eyes planted in 1 gallon pots to place in the urns once the weather warms. Plans are being made to place 4 benches on the GCCH grounds.

**GC Library:** Ann Bowers & Brenda Barr Chairs: Our spring workday was held on April 7th. Beds were cleaned, grass trimmed and the pots replanted. The removal of invasive grass last fall has really improved the front bed. Now for a great summer!

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden:** Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher, Chairs: looking pretty good and somewhat skimpy with perennials coming slowly.

**Main Street Caboose:** Tacie Flanery, Chairs: The Caboose gardens are looking good. They have been weeded and some new plants have been planted. The Pansies planted last fall are just now beginning to flower.

**Plant Sale:** Marilyn White, Cora Flanery, & Joy Gatlin, Chairs. Getting ready! Members should bring a minimum of 5 plants, 5 crafts or both!

**Committee Comments**

**Sunshine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery: we continue to send our b'day, get well, etc. to our own members and thank you to others. Stamps went down 2 cents!

**Crafts & Fundraising:** Linda Glickert, Lead: Hannah's starting our seeds for the everlastingas as she did for the plant sale. We'll need MG's who will "foster" the seedlings to maturity, collect, and dry the flowers that we'll transform into crafts for the Harvest Fall Crafts Fair. I will be conducting a demonstration (or two as needed) for drying the various types as they bloom. Tacie has already collected a box full of hydrangea blooms for use.

**Scholarship:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: Only had one applicant this year.

**Awards:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: Discussing possibilities for this year.

**Scrapbook:** Carolyn Palmer, Lead: No report.

**Plant Markers:** Martha Chiles, Lead: No report.

**Membership:** Connie Whitman, Lead. Member recognition continues.

**Publicity:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: Working on Plant Sale.

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: No report.

**Advanced Training:** Patti Roberts, Lead: Committee and Dave met with Mimi Cox April 2nd regarding budget and how costs will be paid according to new financial guidelines.
Member Profile

Linda Glickert

What year did you become a Master Gardener? 2015

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it? "My interest in gardening began when my son was a toddler and I took him outside. I needed something more to do than just sit and watch him. :-) It began with a start from my grandmother of a hosta she got before my dad was born."

List experiences working with the community, schools, churches, youth, and senior citizens, etc.

"When I was a stay-at-home mom I felt like a “professional” volunteer-board member Area Agency on Aging, Scout Leader, Blue Bird Conservationist, and PTA. Now that I’m retired, I can get back you’re “it”!

Group affiliations (garden clubs, plant, or flower societies, etc.): “Master Gardeners”

Other information (family or other interests): 'I guess you’d say my gardening is “for the birds.” Going back to when my son was in kindergarten, I’ve been crazy for bluebirds. At that time they were threatened due to loss of habitat and competition with house sparrows for nest sites. So, I love to plant my garden for wildlife-food, nectar, water, nesting, and shelter, and monitor nest boxes. It came late to me as it did for my dad. My daughter is also an avid gardener in Nashville, TN, and has had her yard/garden certified for pollinators by the National Wildlife Federation.

“Masters for Monarchs” anyone?

Member Profile

Bonnie Hamilton

What year did you become a Master Gardener? 2015

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it? “My interest in gardening began when I was about 3 years old and watched/helped my maternal grandfather and other relatives plant vegetable gardens for winter canning. Everyone had flowers: marigolds, daisies, snapdragons, zinnias, petunias, and nasturtiums. I learned about the hardiness of pansies from a great-aunt who planted them every September. My most enjoyment comes from watching the miracle of life when every spring the dormant bulbs, trees, and bushes begin to bloom and leaf out. I love planting all kinds of things and am not afraid to just stick something in the ground to see what happens.”

List experiences working with the community, schools, churches, youth, and senior citizens, etc. “I am a member of Children’s Hospital Greene County Circle of Friends, AMMC Women’s Council, Arkansas Retired Teachers Association (ARTA), City Beautiful Commission, and have been a member of the Greene County Scholarship Committee and the Greene County Museum. I help proctor AP tests for Paragould High School and tutor students for the ACT Test.”

Group affiliations (garden clubs, plant, or flower societies, etc.): “Master Gardeners”

Other information (family or other interests): “After 34 years of teaching, I retired in 2011 and now enjoy reading just about anything (even the car manual if I’m caught without anything else to read), knitting, music, cooking, traveling, and gardening. I love animals and currently have 2 inside and 7 outside cats. My sports interests are baseball (Yankees and Cardinals) and tennis. Our daughter lives in Tulsa and is married to a Frenchman. Life is good.”

Tips for Eliminating Asian Beetles and White Flies

Most of us have been infested with the ‘Lady Bugs’ “wanta be” that swarm our homes. Here is a tip that is a 2 for 1 winner.

Use 2 TBLs of Lemon Lysol added to a gallon of water. Wash around windows and doors inside and out. These little pests do not like this germ killing mix. If you find them in other parts of the house give that area a little scrub there as well.

White flies on house plants: Add a few drops to a quart of warm water and wash the leaves top and underneath of the leaves and the stems as well. Use a fresh cloth and clear water to follow.
Lori Dial’s Chocolate Dessert

1-16 oz. tub Cool Whip
1-1/2 cup Peanut Butter
1/2 cup Powdered Sugar
1 Jar Hot Fudge Sauce
1 Package Oreos

Combine Cool Whip, Peanut Butter, and Powdered Sugar until smooth. Layer Whole Oreos in bottom of dish. Warm the Hot Fudge Sauce and layer on top of Oreos. Then a layer of Peanut Butter Mix and repeat procedure. Crush Oreos and put on Top and Drizzle remaining Hot Fudge Sauce.

Provided by Joy Gatlin