The Advanced Training Class Committee met December 5 to begin strategizing for our October 21st class at the Paragould Community Center. Members of the committee are (L-R): Holly Fletcher, Marilyn White, Agent Dave Freeze, Joy Gatlin, Patti Roberts, Lead and Connie Whitman (not pictured).

The class will be called: Rocking On the Ridge with Masters for Monarch Butterflies. Sub-Committees will include: 1. Speakers; 2. Registration; 3. Decoration, Set up, Clean up; 4. Copy, Binder, Handouts; 5. Lunch & Refreshments; 6. Door Prizes, Gifts, and Plants.

Since we have the date and location taken care of, we're now working to secure speakers. Everything we do, from Application Part A to Application Part B to our speakers, must be approved by the Advanced Training Oversight Committee and County 76. It's so nice we have a guide to follow.

In the coming months we'll all learn what amazing creatures Monarchs truly are, how important milkweed is to them, and what we can do to help them survive.

Connie Whitman

Cold Frame

My son helped me build a cold frame yesterday. Don't know how well it will hold my plants over winter, and let me start some seeds, but here's hoping. It's supposed to.

Materials:
- 2 bales of straw
- Discarded (“up-cycled”) window, (2 may be better for one in front instead of the wood)
- Scrap lumber, scrap black landscape fabric

I placed it against the foundation of my south facing garage (in the backyard). The bales were placed on top of the black plastic fabric, far enough apart to hold the length of the window. I put black fabric against the wall (thus why I had the 2x4 across the back to staple the fabric to hold it up. So black behind, black under, glass on top - to take advantage of good ol’ sol - solar heat. Straw for insulation. Curt went ahead and put the wood frame front and sides for glass window frame to sit on w/o gaps for air infiltration. Today when I lifted the glass to place my plants in, the heat just rolled out. Just like my car on a hot day. I found 99% of the information online. I know from experience how good straw bales are for insulation. Keep your fingers crossed for my success.

Linda Glickert
Greene Garden News

Presidents Notes

As we come to the end of another Master Gardener year and the long winter nights are settling in, you may find yourself with some time on your hands. While you’re enjoying some of that down time, put your thinking caps on and come up with some fresh new ideas for 2016. Jot them down! It’s the new ideas that keep us energized!

We’ll certainly start the year off right! We have a MG applicant signed up and ready for training (hope to have more); State Awards to send in; and a speaker for our January meeting.

Wanda Howerton decided to step down as Program Chair this year, and we thank you, Wanda for the speakers you provided to make our meetings better. Kathy Graber accepted the job, and now she will be busy lining up speakers for our monthly meetings. If you have a suggestion for a topic or speaker, please let Kathy know.

Lastly, let’s plan on doing some things in the coming year just for fun and comradery. It doesn’t always have to be project or goal related.

Remember the words of John Maxwell on success. “Team work makes the dream work.”

Happy Holidays and see you soon!

Connie

Master Gardener Training Class

January 23 - February 20
Craighead County Extension Office, Jonesboro
Cost: $75.00
Registration Deadline January 7th

Treasurers Report

Local Account: FNB
Beginning Balance 3541.03
11/30/15

Credits:
MG Calendars 22.00
Eric Alexander 2015 Dues 12.00
Change/Money Bag for Craft Fair 50.00
Total Credits: 84.00

Debits:
Patti Roberts Reimb-GC Courthouse 62.60
Change/Money Bag for Craft Fair 50.00
Carolyn Palmer Reimb-Ham & Scrapbook 132.15
Total Debits 244.75

Ending Balance 3380.28
* Less Est. Donations for Projects 852.00
Total Working Balance 2528.28

* Less Est. 2016 State Registrations for 15 1500.00

Total Working Balance 1028.28

Marilyn J. White, Treasurer

Events Calendar

Dec. 8: NO BBL
Dec. 22: NO MEETING

Jan 15: Deadline for 2016 State Award Nominations

Jan. 23-Feb. 20: MG Training: Craighead County Extension Office, Jonesboro. 8:30-4:30

Feb. 2016: Early Registration for State Meeting. TBD.

Feb. 26-28 2016: AR Flower & Garden Show. Statehouse Convention Ctr. LR

March 17: GE V: Community Ctr.

June 2-4: MG State Meeting, Eureka Springs (Carroll Co.)

Reminder:
Our next MG Meeting will be January 26, 2016

2015 Friend of Master Gardeners
Diana Brummett
Diana Brummett
Assistant Director of Greene County Library
Minutes for Master Gardener Meeting November 17, 2015
Greene County Public Library

The shortened meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Connie Whitman. The October Minutes and Treasurer’s Report were approved as read in the newsletter by all the members present.

Our MG Members-at-Large, Ann Bowers and Sally Mugford, were presented to the group, and all members agreed on their nominations.

It was recommended by the Executive Board and Bylaws Committee to revise Article 9, Section 2 to show the annual budget will be presented by the Treasurer in January instead of October to be in conjunction with the calendar year January thru December. A motion was made by Marilyn White, seconded by Martha Chiles. The amendment will change the presentation of the Proposed Budget to January. All members voted in agreement for the change.

Pauletta Tobey announced our State Award Winners for 2015: Rookie of the Year—Bonnie Hamilton; MG of the Year—Kathy Graber; Friend of the MG-Business—Greene County Fair Board: Friend of the MG-Individual—Diana Brummett

(Continued Minutes, Page 5)
Project Updates

**South Sign:** Brenda Barr & Pauletta Tobey, Chairs: Leaves have been raked and flowers deadheaded. Hope to add some azaleas next spring that will bloom three seasons (spring, summer, and fall).

**Brown Bag Lunch:** Holly Fletcher, Chair: Nothing until January 12th.

**Rainbow Garden:** Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: Eric and his boys in the home cleaned up the lantana. He is going to get mulch to put on the first tier. We will keep watch on the plants this winter and look forward to the spring planting of more lantana.

**Centennial Park:** Bonnie Hamilton & Marilyn White Chairs: No report.

**GC Fair Flower & Plant Booth:** Jean Crossno & Cora Flanery, Chairs: Nothing until Sept. 2016

**GC Courthouse:** Patti Roberts Chair: Annuals in the 2 main beds that were killed by the frost and freeze were removed, bed cleaned and mulch was spread. This was done by Paul the grounds keeper.

**Main Street Caboose:** Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno, Chairs: No report.

**Plant Sale:** Marilyn White, Cora Flanery, Joy Gatlin & Holly Fletcher, Chairs. The date is Saturday, May 7th.

**GC Museum:** Wanda Howerton & Sally Mugford Chairs: We got the old stalks, leaves and fallen limbs cleaned out. The gerber daisies are still blooming—will try to get pine straw over them and see if they make it through the winter.

**Garden Explosion 5:** Donna Jones & Carolyn Palmer Chairs: We have all our speakers, location, and some vendors. Could always use more. Linda is considering crafts & Pauletta, advertising. Decorating and food are still to be considered along with displays. We have a new set of catalogs and I will send out a request for all to save magazines.

**Airport:** Kathy Graber & Tabitha McFadden Chairs: No report.

**Greene Garden News**

**GC Fairgrounds:** Connie Whitman & Joy Gatlin Chairs: Added yellow pansies and Russian sage to the entrance. Planted pansies by the office, added grasses to a couple of beds, asters to the Butterfly Garden, and moved a few plants to other beds.

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden:** Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher, Chairs: Resting nicely. Rosemary, sage, a bit of thyme, and a couple of other plants still looking good. Plan for next year—more plants and some earlier watering.

**GC Library:** Ann Bowers & Brenda Barr Chairs: No report.

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Removed Bermuda grass, replanted Black-eyed Susan’s and Siberian irises, moved several larger plants to a more advantageous area, planted pansies and mums around the north, south and west borders. Added dirt and mulched around transplants.

**East Sign:** Dr. James Laird & Pauletta Tobey, Chairs: Removed dead sweet potato vines; planted daffodils and tulips bulbs; planted pansies around border. Fed with bone meal. (Mums planted last year were more beautiful this year.)

**Who put the Bee in the Butterfly Garden?**

*It’s a nice addition. Thank you.*

**Committee Comments**

**Sunshine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery. We will send b’days, sympathy, thank you, and any others to our members and others.

**Project Review:** No Lead.

**Crafts & Fundraising:** Linda Glickert, Lead: “No report.”

**Scholarship:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Will start work after the first of the year.”

**Awards:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Work in progress. Still collecting information and making first drafts.”

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

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: “Post hours by Dec. 31st”

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

**Membership:** Connie Whitman, Lead: “2016 MG Training starts January 23rd!”

**Publicity:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Reported on the workday at Oak Grove Elementary. Will trying to get write-ups on State Awards.”

**Advanced Training Class:** Patti Roberts, Lead: “Planning for Oct.”

**Fall Planting GC Library**
This is just a short article about the road trip my daughter and I took in mid-October.

It seems my daughter and I like to take road trips, often rather spur of the moment. Our latest road adventure took us to the place of one of her dreams – to see Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in Pennsylvania.

We combined the drive with views of the fall leaf color. Fallingwater is not just the house Wright designed in 1935 as an outgrowth of the terrain, but also of the grounds it commands on a rugged, wooded site. We arrived early before our tour so we could walk the grounds, which are also part of the historical preservation. Paths have been cut to manage the feet of the many visitors, these same paths lead the visitor to fabulous views - our first sight of the house on our walking tour was the classic, iconic view we see in all the books - standing there my daughter teared up to finally see it.

Wright designed the house as an outgrowth of the rugged terrain, literally building it upon a huge boulder that also becomes a shelf in the kitchen. He used the native materials of the area as building materials - flagstone floors, stone walls, walls of glass to take in the view.

The grounds are basically left undisturbed, with little in the way of formal landscaping. As we walked we saw woodland areas, falling streams, ferns growing out of the sides of the hills and rocks.

Our next stop took us that afternoon to Kentuck Knoll, a much later house Wright designed in the mid 1950’s in his Usonian style, only a few miles from Fallingwater. The grounds here are a sculpture garden created by the present owner. (Our Arkansas Crystal Bridges just opened one of Wright's Usonian houses this month for public view). The grounds here are mowed and feature the sculptures on view. Being fall, much was going dormant; workers were planting 50 # bags of tulips on some hillsides close to the house.

Dairy cattle once grazed the fields surrounding the house as the house was designed for a family who raised their herds for their creamery business.
Butterflies in Winter by Jill Staake

With snow already on the ground in some areas and cold winds of winter starting to blow in others, you may be wondering what your beautiful summertime butterfly visitors are up to right now. While most people are familiar with the amazing long migration of monarchs, flying south for the winter isn’t the only option that butterflies have. In fact, many butterflies can and do remain in their northern range, settling in to endure the winter weather in a variety of life stages.

Adults: Butterflies that remain in cold-winter areas as adults find safe places to rest, like cracks in rocks or tree bark, and enter a state known as diapause. This is essentially a kind of hibernation for bugs, where butterflies shut down all their non-essential systems like reproduction and slow their metabolism dramatically. Special chemicals in their bodies work as anti-freeze, and the butterfly remains dormant until warmer weather arrives. These are usually the last butterflies to be seen in an area each fall, and the first to reappear in the spring. Examples include:

Mourning Cloak (Nymphalis antiopa) Comma (Polygonia comma)

Caterpillar: Other species spend the winter as caterpillars, buried deep in leaf litter or soil or rolled into a shelter of leaves. They also enter a state of diapause. In the spring, these caterpillars don’t remerge until their host plants have begun growing, so many of them use early spring wildflowers or budding tree leaves as hosts. Examples include:

Great Spangled Fritillary (Speyeria cybele)

Chrysalis: Butterflies who spend the winter in chrysalis find a sheltered place like overhangs or deep shrubbery. The chrysalis, like the adult and caterpillar, stops development over the winter months and contains special chemicals to keep from freezing. When the warmer weather returns and the days lengthen, development resumes in the chrysalis and the adult butterfly emerges in time for fresh blooms on nectar plants. Examples include:

- Red-Spotted Purple / White Admiral (Limenitis arthemis)
- Tiger Swallowtail (Papilio glaucus)
- Spring Azure (Celastrina ladon)

Egg: Perhaps the most vulnerable species are those who spend the winter as eggs, usually laid in late fall in the leaf litter at the base of the host plant. These eggs will hatch in the spring when the host plant has put on new growth. Examples include:

- Coral Hairstreak (Satyrium titus)
- Purplish Copper (Lycaena helloides)

Migrate or Move South: Any butterfly that is unable to withstand freezing temperatures in at least one part of its life cycle must move south for the winter. Some do so in spectacular long migrations, like monarchs (Danaus plexippus), while others simply shift their populations to the southern part of their range, like common buckeyes (Junonia coenia). Other migrants include:

- Painted Lady (Vanessa cardui)
- Variegated Fritillary (Euptoieta claudia)

How Can I Help? You can help butterflies survive their winters, no matter how they do it, with a few simple actions: * Leave leaf litter beneath trees undisturbed when possible. It’s likely to contain overwintering caterpillars or eggs. * If you find what looks like a dead chrysalis in your garage or garden shed in the winter, leave it there. The butterfly inside may well emerge when spring comes. * Offer nectar plants in your garden in early spring and late fall to help the first and last butterflies of the season.

www.birdsandblooms.com
(Joy Gatlin, Contributor)