February 15, 2016
Volume 17, Issue 2

Greene Garden News
Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

Welcome 2016 Members

To date, we have over 3,000 Master Gardeners in 67 counties in Arkansas. In 2015 Master Gardeners reported 284,221 hours of community service. With an estimated dollar amount of $23.07 for each of those hours, Master Gardeners across the state contributed $6,556,978.00 of volunteer service. That’s really amazing, and we continue to grow the program every single year.

The Class of 2016 training in Jonesboro totaled twenty; with fifteen from Craighead County, two from Greene County, and three from Mississippi County.

We’re especially proud to have Libby and Nancy attending from our county and they’ll be wonderful additions to our group.

The classes have been knowledgeable and interesting and such a great way to get educational hours.

Refreshments and lunch have been provided throughout the training, making it more enjoyable for everyone attending.

Thanks to Holly Fletcher, Tammy and Dave Freeze, Bonnie Hamilton and Linda Glickert for providing snacks and desserts for the second and fourth Saturdays of training.

Remember we’ll host Basic Training for Libby and Nancy at the February 23rd Meeting.

Connie
The goal this year is to accomplish great things and have lots of fun. Some things we might consider are:

- a movie night
- a plant exchange
- a cookout
- a guided tour at Crowley’s Ridge Park
- a cool ice cream social during the hot, hot summer
- a trip to Pine Valley Herb Ranch

Don’t you have some ideas too? I’d love to hear from you if you do.

Please remember our February meeting will be Basic Training for our new ones. We’ll provide a power point of our projects again and everyone will be asked to share a comment or two.

Volunteer Agreement Forms must be signed and $15.00 dues paid.

See you soon!

Connie
Minutes of January 26, 2016

Minutes for Master Gardener Meeting January 26, 2016
Greene County Public Library

Donna and David Jones provided delicious refreshments for everyone to enjoy prior to the meeting, and Donna added a special touch with her basket of goody bags for members to take home.

2016 Updates, Volunteer Agreement Forms, signup sheets for members attending State Registration and Advanced Training were also made available.

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Whitman. Kathy Graber introduced our speaker, Master Naturalist, Barbara Reng from Jonesboro.

She presented a very informative program on Monarchs, and provided footage and handouts on the anatomy of the monarch, its life cycle, migration routes, and how tagging is done.

Discussion was given regarding the amended October Minutes which included the closing of our old bank account and opening a new one with an EIN number. The new account is now listed as Master Gardeners of the Delta Program – Greene County. The membership was then asked to accept the amended October Minutes, November Minutes, and Treasurer’s Reports from the November and December newsletters as read. Kathy Graber made a motion to accept them, Sally Mugford seconded the motion, and motion carried.

The Executive Board proposed increasing dues from 12.00 to 15.00. Ann Bowers made a motion to increase dues. Kathy Graber seconded the motion and motion carried.

Paulett Tobey, Scholarship Committee Lead, asked if members were open to her sending out scholarship applications to the local high schools soon, so that applications could be received back, presented to the Board and membership by the April meeting, and the award presented to the recipient in May. No further discussion was needed and everyone was in agreement.

Donna Jones provided an update on the Garden Explosion V seminar for March 17th. Crafts are needed as well as volunteers for decoration, registration, raffle, and crafts. All members will provide finger foods for refreshments throughout the day. Donna will bring a signup sheet for the February meeting.

Linda Glickert discussed the Fall Craft Booth as a fundraiser. She asked if members would like to do this again in the fall and stay with garden related items. She offered to serve as lead again. Paulett Tobey made a motion to have the fall craft booth, Tacie Huffman seconded, and motion carried. Linda would like for members to grow, dry and arrange everlasting flowers for wreaths, nosegays, and other items, and suggested a few: herbs, straw flowers, baby’s breath, okra pods, and Artemisia. She will send out more information that will be included in the February newsletter.

Kathy Graber provided the Plant it Forward plant, a yellow lily. Ann Bowers name was selected; she accepted and will be our Plant it Forward player for February.

Members recognized for 2015 Perfect Attendance were Martha Chiles, Joy Gatlin, Bonnie Hamilton, Carolyn Palmer and Pauletta Tobey. Each was awarded a certificate and a pair of gardening gloves. Joy Gatlin was not in attendance and will receive hers next month.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Members in attendance were: Ann Bowers, Martha Chiles, Holly Fletcher, Linda Glickert, Kathy Graber, Bonnie Hamilton, Tacie Huffman, David and Donna Jones, Dr. James Laird, Tabitha McFadden, Sally Mugford, Carolyn Palmer, Patti Roberts, Paulett Tobey, Connie Whitman, and Richard Yeazel; and guests, Nancy Rogers, and agent Dave Freeze.

Respectfully submitted by
Connie Whitman for Joy Gatlin, Secretary
Water and Rain Gardens

George Selden, Aquaculture Extension Specialist, presented a very interesting and informative program at the February BBL. He told us exactly how to install a water garden or rain bed. We had 7 guests with a total of 20 people in attendance. He held our attention, and one of our members told me later he knew his subject and how to present it. He is also a “plant rescuer.” He was on his way to dig up daffodils before going home. He suggested that we should not pay for plants that you can find in the ditches on the roadway, even some that you would use in a water garden.

Holly

### Project Updates

**South Sign:** Brenda Barr & Pauletta Tobey, Chairs: No report

**Brown Bag Lunch:** Holly Fletcher, Chair: I will continue to try to find new ways to get the word out to the public and find speakers with a topic that the public wants to hear about.

**Rainbow Garden:** Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: Eric and I are keeping the weeds out of the Rainbow Garden even though it is freezing temps they continue to grow. We will plant some pansies at the Entrance to the Home when Chris will let us take them out of the greenhouse. Eric wants to plant different colors of lantana this year and we will do that. It should be beautiful this summer.

**Centennial Park:** Bonnie Hamilton & Marilyn White Chairs: I want to add colorful annuals in spots, keep the herb garden going, and assess current plantings. I'm still learning about the care of many of the plants and haven't felt comfortable about changing much. It's like when you buy a new house in the winter. When spring comes, there are many surprises. I will replace what didn't survive the winter and try to keep the others alive and well.

**GC Courthouse:** Patti Roberts Chair: Mulch was put down by Paul the grounds keeper and he also worked on the edging around the two main beds. The Knock out Roses look freeze dried after several hard freezes. They will be cut back in the next few weeks.

**East Sign:** Dr. James Laird & Pauletta Tobey, Chairs: In limbo until spring.

**Main Street Caboose:** Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno, Chairs: Jean and I inspected the caboose gardens and it appears the plants are doing pretty well so far. It appears the plants are looking forward to spring as much as we are.

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

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Gazing ball is missing again.

**Plant Sale:** Marilyn White, Cora Flanery, & Joy Gatlin, Chairs. The date is Sat., May 7th. A decision was made by the committee to keep the 2016 sale at Centennial Park with an alternate date given in the event of rain.

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

**GC Museum:** Wanda Howerton & Sally Mugford Chairs: No report.

**Airport:** Kathy Graber & Tabitha McFadden Chairs: Nothing to report.

**GC Fairgrounds:** Connie Whitman & Joy Gatlin Chairs: Will present suggestions to the Fair Board soon.

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden:** Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher, Chairs: Garden nicely protected by building should be ready for plants earlier than most gardens. Efforts will be for fuller bed but simple in design as would be fit for the period.

**Garden Explosion 5:** Donna Jones & Carolyn Palmer Chairs: All is ready. Signup Sheets will be available at the meeting.

### Committee Comments

**Sunsine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery. “Cora will be sending birthday cards for the first half of the year.”

**Project Review:** No Lead:

**Crafts & Fundraising:** Linda Glickert, Lead: “Crafts left from the fall craft booth will be on sale for GE V.”

**Scholarship:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Contacting local schools with applications.”

**Awards:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Submitted to State.”

**Scrapbook:** Carolyn Palmer, Lead: “Trying to finish up scrapbook for 2015.”

**Plant Markers:** Martha Chiles, Lead: “Need plant lists.”

**Membership:** Connie Whisman, Lead: “Welcome new members!”

**Publicity:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Working on GE V, Plant Sale, and continuing with BBL information.”

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: “New members hours training to follow monthly meeting.”

**Advanced Training:** Patti Roberts, Lead: “Feb. committee meeting cancelled. Next meeting planned for March.”
The Crafts and Fundraising committee needs your help to accomplish our ideas for the Fall Harvest Crafts Fair held in early November.

Our idea is to keep with Garden ideas for our products where and when possible. For this coming fall's project, we'd like to grow, dry, and arrange "Everlastings" – with your help now. Everlastings are typically annuals grown often along with your vegetables to collect and dry, and then made into wreaths, sprays, nosegays, hat decorations, and arrangements.

Here's a list of flowers that are often classed as "everlastings" because they dry so well: Strawflowers, Globe Amaranth, Statice, Cockscomb, Baby's-breath.

Other plants to collect to dry and/or use include:
- Roses
- Lavender
- Larkspur
- Silver King Artemisia, any Artemisia as well (perennial)
- Hydrangea
- Goldenrod
- Sumac
- Magnolia stems and leaves
- Holly stems and leaves
- Wheat Stems and seed heads
- Okra

Sea Holly
Photo by Audrey JM 529 under the Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0.

Once we get our plants up and growing, we'll have a program on collecting and drying these materials for use in the fall. It has been so long ago that I can't remember if these seeds need to be started indoors this winter, or sown directly into the soil. To have enough to make for projects in our booth we need several people helping us grow flowers. You could grow one kind or try your hand at a couple of them. Just let us know if you will help and we'll make a plan. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Linda, Bonnie, Patti, Donna, and Holly

Strawflowers.
Photo by Carl E. Lewis under the Creative Commons Attribution License 2.0.

You'll no doubt find others to try as you look over the seed catalogs – plants like nigelia, sea holly, etc.

Arkansas Community Gardens

Your local county extension office is loaded with resources on gardening. From fact sheets on each vegetable we grow, to a garden calendar telling you what to grow when, there is a lot of information on the website: http://www.uaex.edu.

You can also have your soil tested free of charge at the county office, and if you do have problems, agents are available to help diagnose the situation, or send it off to our disease diagnostic lab. Many counties also offer classes on vegetable gardening.

Vegetable gardening is cool again! Local food movements, back to earth, whatever you want to call it, people of all ages want to try their hand at growing vegetables. This is actually the third year of an increased trend in edible gardening nationwide.

Some community gardens are just that—they are growing all produce to be donated to soup kitchens or food banks. In Jefferson County, a huge vegetable garden is used as a teaching garden, where Master Gardeners work with school children to show them how to grow vegetables. Canning and food preservation workshops teach families what to do with the produce once they get it.

How do you get started with a community garden? First, you have to find a spot with an available water supply with full sun. Arrangements need to be made with the landowner over what is expected and who is paying the water bill. You need to find interested gardeners.

Linda, Bonnie, Patti, Donna, and Holly

(Continued Page 6)
**Member Profile**

Holly Fletcher

What year did you become a Master Gardener? **2000**

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it?

“I started gardening as a child. I grew up on a farm where my parents grew a large vegetable garden, and it was a family affair. We all worked in it. My school sold boxes of seeds every year as a fund raiser. They cost a dime a pack, and Dad would buy the box. We planted every seed. We also saved seeds, and even after I was married and lived in a different state he would send me seeds in Prince Albert tobacco tins. My father knew about herbs and plants that were used for healing, and my mother grew lots of pretty flowers. Our house always had vases of fresh flowers in the summertime. They taught me the beauty and the necessity of gardening. I like being outside, and the planting and harvesting.”

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

“My first year as a Master Gardener I helped with the plant beds at Oak Grove Elementary School. As a Master Gardener I worked on a couple of projects for Habitat for Humanities. I am Horticulture Supervisor for the Greene County Fair. That means I get to enter the veggies at the fair. I also work in the flower booth at the fair.”

Group affiliations (garden clubs, plant, or flower societies, etc.):

“Dee Lindsay and I started the Northeast Arkansas Herb Society. I was a member of The Herb Society of America. I have taken enough additional classes to reach the first level as an Advanced Master Gardener.”

Other information (family or other interests):

“My husband Kenneth Fletcher is also a Master Gardener, and we don’t always agree on how it should be done, but it works for us. Ken calls me the Dr. Kevorkian of the plant world because a lot of plants have died in my care. He tells people I belong to the Secret Society of Ditch Diggers and Plant Scavengers, because I always want to stop and dig up something.”

**Greene Garden News**

Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

**Greene Garden News Editor**

Connie Whitman

Submit articles by the 15th of each month to:

cwhitman@grnco.net

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.”