Time to celebrate! We have two new members, Hannah Riggs and Debbie Walters, and a seasoned member, Susan Youngblood returning after being on leave for several years. All will be honored at our February meeting. The program will be dedicated to them with Basic Training and a review for all! Annual updates will be given to members and volunteer binders will be presented to our new ones.

Five weeks of classes went by quickly and provided a variety of topics on gardening education for anyone attending. Trainees learned about butterfly gardening, water gardens, pesticides, roses; soil sampling and planting shrubs; herbs; plant diseases and insects, botany; composting & organic gardening; soils; lawns; irrigation; plant propagation, shade plants, annuals & perennials; pruning trees and shrubs; and fruits and vegetables. While most of the instructors provided power point presentations, several provided hands on learning activities as well. Even some of our seasoned members provided a helping hand. Patti Roberts (at right) helps a rookie with techniques on propagation.

Our February meeting will be the first official meeting for our new members. Please make a point to introduce yourself if you haven’t already, and make them feel welcome. Kathy Graber will be Hannah’s Mentor this year, and Nancy Rogers will be Debbie Walter’s. There is great satisfaction in growing our MG family.
**Greene Garden News**

**Events Calendar**

- **Feb. 18:** MG Training Ends: Craighead County Extension Office. 8:30-4:30
- **Feb. 21:** Craighead County hosts: Countdown to Spring Seminar, 9-3. Cost=$20.00, SW Church of Christ, Jonesboro.
- **Feb. 24-26:** AR Flower & Garden Show, LR Statehouse Convention Center
- **Feb. 28:** GCMG Monthly Meeting, GC Library Legacy Room. 6 pm
- **March 4:** Union County presents Paul James “The Gardener Guy”. College Ave. Church of Christ, El Dorado, 9-12. Cost 10.00
- **Mar. 6:** MG District Dig In- East AR Community College, Forrest City. 10-2.
- **Mar. 11:** Developing an Ozarks Green Thumb Seminar, Mt. Home
- **Mar. 17:** Spring Garden Seminar, Paragould Community Center, 8-2
- **Apr. 22:** City Wide Clean Up /Earth Day: Downtown Paragould
- **May 6:** Spring Plant Sale: 9-2 Centennial Park
- **May 21-23:** MG State Meeting, LR
- **Sept. 26-27:** PNG Leadership, Ferndale

**Greene County Tech FFA**

The 8th annual FFA Livestock Show Team Scholarship Dinner and Auction is arriving quickly! We have set the date for Sat. February 18th at 5:30 p.m. at the Paragould Community Center. To make our auction successful we need local, regional, and national FFA supporters to donate items for the auction. Each of you will play an important part in making this event a success. The GCT FFA Livestock Show Team travels locally, statewide, and nationally to participate in various shows. With this fundraiser we are hoping to support their efforts as needed. We are trying to collect approximately two hundred items for our auction. Monetary donations are also acceptable and will be used to purchase items for the auction. Anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated!

Donations are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt.

Sincerely, Jason Murray, Hannah Gray, Casey Rogers, & Ben Gander, Greene County Tech FFA Advisors

Jason.murray@gctsd.k12.ar.us
Hannah.gray@gctsd.k12.ar.us
casey.rogers@gctsd.k12.ar.us
ben.gander@gctsd.k12.ar.us

**Presidents Notes**

Welcoming new and returning members into our group is always a shot in the arm for us! They energize us with their enthusiasm; remind us of the day we first joined Master Gardeners, and why we’re still here today.

As stewards of the earth, we’re always eager to dig in the dirt and happy when the daffodils reappear each spring. It’s simply good for our souls; and working and playing together with people of like minds and interest is fun too. With each state meeting and seminar attended there is a wave of people anxious to learn more about gardening, to share that passion with others and to buy another plant whenever possible!

With the many opportunities to learn something new recently, and I want to encourage each of you to take advantage of some of them. Register to attend a seminar, flower show, or meeting, and plan a road trip with a group of members. You’ll be glad you did!

Connie

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**Treasurers Report**

**FNB Beginning Balance**

1/01/17-1/31/17

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- **Kennemore Donation/Dedicated for a New Project** 239.99
- **Total Available Funds** 1594.69

Respectfully submitted 1/11/17

Holly Fletcher, Treasurer

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Please remember all reimbursement requests must be on an Expense Reimbursement Request Form with receipts attached for Master Gardener items ONLY.

Per Janet Carson we can no longer accept reimbursement requests if they are not done correctly. Receipts and form should be turned in within 30 days of cost incurrence and reimbursement checks should be cashed within 30 days. If you have any questions, contact Treasurer Holly Fletcher.
Minutes of January 24, 2017

Greene County Master Gardener Minutes
Monthly meeting
January 24, 2017 at Greene County Library Legacy Room

Refreshments were provided by Donna and David Jones. The meeting was called to order by Connie Whitman, President. The Treasurers Report and Minutes reported in the newsletter had no objections, so the president called them to stand as read.

In lieu of a speaker a PNG Leadership power point was presented, “Making Parliamentary Procedure Work for You”. The power point provided 1 hour of education and can be found on uaex.edu website. Our previous structure for meetings has been “informal”. The educational power point was provided to explain a more structured meeting. It was stated there needs to be more time for discussion on pros and cons; recognition to have the floor, fewer people talking at the same time, and less talking at individual tables. Dave Freeze stated a process is needed to avoid long periods of discussion on a motion; perhaps postponing indefinitely or limiting discussion. It was stated there is more controversy without formal structure and that it’s needed to control conversations. The power point did not address making a motion, but how to answer a motion. Dave Freeze responded that the motion on the floor needs to be what is addressed. The presiding officer can continue the discussion. Sue Gilmartin said amending a motion is to change what is in motion. Richard Yeazel provided an example: amending can be to make a motion to paint something, but change the motion to paint something else. Dave asked who had formal training in parliamentary procedure. Sue and Ann Bowers responded they had with boys club and 4H. Donna Jones said Patti Roberts had been MG parliamentarian years before. Patti was asked to be parliamentarian and accepted. The membership was asked to review options for meetings and advise if a structured, formal format is preferred or continue with the informal structure.

State Award Nominations have been submitted. Awards and scholarship donations for 2017 were voted no due to funding from the Advanced Training Class hosted in October. Carolyn Palmer asked about the dollar amount sent from the ATC to County 76 and was advised it was around $1300.

Connie presented the new Members at Large, Nancy Rogers and Carolyn Palmer, and they will attend Executive Committee meetings and represent the membership.

Master Gardener Training for new members is going on now through February 18th. New members are Hannah Riggs and Debbie Walters. Susan Youngblood has rejoined our group after a six year hiatus.

2017 Proposed Budget was reviewed by Treasurer Holly Fletcher. She explained a net loss between last year and this year. Fundraisers will be needed to cover budgeted funds out of the private account this year and to start next year. The primary reason for the difference was the dedicated $1500 for state registrations. This year nothing is budgeted for the state meeting and registrations will not be paid. Holly advised the $300 amount budgeted for crafts is not for the craft show, but for craft items made for events throughout the year. If a craft requires funding, the Executive Board must be contacted for discussion at the next board meeting. The item and cost must be addressed. Richard Yeazel stated that donations are not a problem because there is no cost. Carolyn Palmer further explained that there should always be a discussion before anything is bought to ensure that the purchase is preapproved. If stepping stones are done, a suggestion was made to donate blocks and materials. Kathy Graber advised she still has supplies for stepping stones from a previous plant sale, and Holly Fletcher has grout.

Regarding budgeted amounts for awards and recognition of members, Libby Christie explained the funds would be used for a gift for the library and others that help our group. Holly Fletcher noted that we should have too much than too little as an estimate of what we’re going to spend, and that we don’t have to spend what is budgeted. Quicken, a simple bookkeeping system was discussed to assist the treasurer with budgeting and the check (Continued, Page 6)
Project Updates

**Rainbow Garden**: Joy Gatlin & Richard Yeazel Chairs: The Rainbow Garden is waiting on spring for planting on the bottom tier. The little green weeds are growing really good because of the warm days we have had recently. We will clear these out, but for now the green looks pretty good.

**Spring Seminar**: Connie Whitman & Executive Board Co-Chairs: Plans finalized. Advertising info has been sent to Sue. Julie will post to Constant Contact soon.

**Historical Courthouse**

- **Herb Garden**: Libby Christie & Nancy Rogers Chairs: Nancy and I met with Sue McGowan at the Chamber and had a very nice discussion about our plans for the herb garden. She explained why we couldn’t have any signage at the garden, but she is okay with marking the types of plants. I think that will be the best place to put a logo and the plant type. Nancy and I are excited to plan out the new layout for the herb garden.

- **GC Fairgrounds**: Connie Whitman & Nancy Rogers Chairs: Ready to get started!

- **Centennial Park**: Bonnie Hamilton & Marilyn White Chairs: Nothing new to report.

- **Main Street Caboose**: Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno Chairs: Jean and I are just waiting for Spring so we can begin implementing our plans for the removing and planting of plants that will give year around interest to the Caboose gardens.

- **Airport**: Kathy Graber & Tabitha McFadden Chairs: Crepe Myrtle and knock out roses have been cut back. Someone sprayed two of the boxwoods for wasps and they have turned yellow, waiting to see if they come back out. Otherwise we will be replacing those. Talked to Roger about doing something around the sign by highway, we need to wait until the utility work is cleaned up in that area.

- **GC Library**: Sue Gilmartin & Linda Glickert Chairs: Hope to call a work day soon.

- **Trellis Garden**: Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Looking good. Things are coming up and budding out. Since we have funds we need to broaden weed and clean and trim; depending on weather, anytime.

- **GC Museum**: Linda Glickert & Wanda Howerton Chairs: Planting south side is needed.

- **GC Courthouse**: Nancy Rogers & Patti Roberts Chairs: The flower bed looks like it went through winter but the Knockout Rose bushes have new buds. Pattie cut back the Muhly Grass and has a list of Clematis that she wants me to look at. A nandina and rose bush are growing to close together so one of them will need to be transfer to another place in the bed. Coral Bells would be a good addition since we have shade in the back of the beds and they will come back every year.

- **Spring Plant Sale**: Joy Gatlin & Ken Fletcher Chairs: Ken and I have talked to Hannah Gray at Tech School last week. She started the herbs and is hoping for good germination. We have lots of pots and potting soil to take to her when she needs them. With this great weather hopefully our MG’s are potting seeds for starters. We will continue to encourage all of our members to bring as many plants as they can give. I know Wanda will have lots for us to pot when the sale time gets nearer. Pray for a beautiful May 6th Saturday.

- **Bland Baseball Park**: Kathy Graber & Sue Gilmartin Chairs: I want to meet with members that want to help with the Bland Park after our meeting on the 28th for just a few minutes. Games begin in April but the big tournament is first of July.

- **East Sign**: Pauletta Tobey & Dr. James Laird Chairs: Contacted city beautiful about plans and they gave me the go ahead since I wasn’t asking for any extra money. Again, as soon as weather permits, ready to get started on new design.

- **South Sign**: Brenda Barr & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Interested in adding more pollinator plants.
What is the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker by the Trellis Garden and why is it there?

After World War II, an American movement was started to pay tribute to the nation’s armed forces by designating various state and national routes as Blue Star Memorial Highways. In 1945 the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc. approved the Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker Program.

The blue star name comes from the blue star in the service flag, and was chosen to symbolize the memorial because it was used during World War II on flags and homes of families that had a son or daughter in the armed forces. This highway system covers thousands of miles across the Continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, and 20 such highways are here in Arkansas.

In 1983, the Trellis Garden Club, the City Chamber of Commerce, and the State Highway Engineering Department joined forces and began work to honor those who have and will serve in the armed forces. A portion of US Highway 49 and Court Street was selected to be Blue Star Memorial Highway. With the assistance of the American Legion Post 17, the American Legion Auxiliary of VFW Post 2242, and funding from the Chamber of Commerce this highway was dedicated May 27, 1984.

(From "A History of Greene County, Arkansas" by Myrl Rhine Mueller)

FOR THE GARDEN OF YOUR DAILY LIVING

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<th>PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:</th>
<th>NO GARDEN IS COMPLETE WITHOUT TURNIPS:</th>
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WATER FREELY WITH PATIENCE AND CULTIVATE WITH LOVE THERE IS MUCH FRUIT IN YOUR GARDEN

Garden Wisdom provided by Patti Roberts
Register, with the cost being taken out of the county account. Holly requested to table this until after the March seminar to determine the process and obtain the final cost of the software; and further explained that the cost can already be absorbed in another account and there is no reason to have a separate line item on the budget for this. Holly will handle the acquisition of software after March. The 2017 proposed budget passed.

The Executive Board agreed to dissolve the Garden Explosion name as the format has changed and is no longer what it was originally set up to be. The new name will be Spring Gardening Seminar. The committee decided to charge a standard $20 fee for everyone and heavily advertise across the state; not just Greene County. Registration fees will have to go to the county account. These funds will benefit everyone in our group and could help with future scholarships and state registrations. Dave clarified the extension policy for public and private account. Education must go to the county account, but it is for Master Gardeners to use. An educational program would fund itself. Paying for speakers was addressed. Holly explained if the speaker is a state or extension employee, the state will pay regular hours and mileage. Non-extension or state speakers cannot be paid fees out of registration money, but we can pay for lodging and mileage from the county account. A $50 gift card would have to come from our private funds. For seminar expenses to be paid, the bill must be sent to the county office. Budgeted money is a buffer for the seminar, as there may be expenses that must be paid before funds are received for the seminar. A fee for a dedicated speaker cannot be paid out of registration funds (county), and would have to come out of the private account. Speakers for this year have not requested payment and are primarily state employees.

Catering cost was covered by the Advanced Training Class registrations last October, but will have to be confirmed for this year’s seminar. There will be no crafts or vendors, but Loice Kendrick-Lacy, the Butterfly Queen, will bring and sell her books.

Libby noted the Facebook page is available: @ARGreeneCountyMasterGardener.s.com. Libby Christie and Jean Crossno are working together to assemble a MG cookbook/pamphlet of recipes to share with members. There would be no cost associated as Libby will find a business that will help with the printing. If there are extras to sell, that would be additional income for the group. Members were asked if they would be willing to submit recipes for the cookbook, and most agreed. Dave suggested working with the EHC as they have a cookbook program. Ann Bowers said her EHC group created 500 cookbooks and sold them for $15 each, the last ones for $10, and they would not do another cookbook as it took several years to sell them all. Marilyn White stated she just googles recipes that she wants; Holly Fletcher believes that cookbooks won’t sell and that they don’t sell at crafts fairs; Donna Jones stated that she has 50 in her garage that didn’t sell, and Paulletta Tobey said she enjoys reading recipes. Paulletta amended the motion that Libby and Jean explore the cookbook idea and table the motion. 20 voted for and 5 against. Motion to table the cookbook passed.

Ken Fletcher met with Hannah Gray at Greene County Tech High School about starting plants for the Spring Plant Sale. They have seeds for herbs and will not charge us for them. They will start strawberries, two types of tomatoes and maybe squash. Joy Gatlin stated the herbs will be cilantro, sage, oregano, parsley, and dill. These will be started in February. Five bags (2 cubic feet each) of Miracle Grow and 160 (3” – 4”) pots are needed. Used pots can be donated, but they must be cleaned (bleached). Hannah will provide liquid fertilizer. Holly offered to wash pots that members donate. Kathy Graber mentioned Lowes is good about donating and that the new manager wants to be involved in the community. Ken says that donations are needed by the last of February or the first of March. Ken stated Hannah/FFA will have a plant sale in April. Joy explained that it benefits the agricultural program. The scholarship dinner is February 18th at 5:30 with a silent auction and entertainment for $10 and is a FFA fundraiser. This will be included in the newsletter. Hannah will be provided scholarship forms so she can recommend someone for the award. No budget is provided for the Plant Sale. All of the plant and craft sale items are donations. Carolyn Palmer suggested moving the plant sale from Centennial Park to the Fairgrounds to be undercover in one of the buildings or the tractor shed. She felt that many people cannot find Centennial Park downtown, but would know where the fairgrounds are located; and being undercover, rain wouldn’t be a problem. She recommended everyone consider the change and discuss it later, noting if we could get it without cost, it would provide a bigger area to work in.

State Meeting Registration starts February 1st. Patti Roberts offered information that it is being held at the Doubletree and that it is currently full.

A Project Proposal was presented for Bland Baseball Park with pictures attached for the membership to review. The beds are small, and the sponsor would like the lower beds finished by June for a tournament. The project would have to have a coordinator, water is onsite, and funding is available with $300 promised by Adams Nursery. Kathy Graber volunteered to serve as coordinator but asked for at least three people to commit to helping her. Sue Gilmartin offered to step up as co-chair. Several members agreed to each take a bed. Holly suggested taking it as a one-time project, but the sponsor asked that it be maintained as an ongoing project. Kathy motioned to take the project as sanctioned; Sue seconded the motion. Vote: In favor – 20; against – 6. Motion carried to accept Bland Baseball Park as a sanctioned project.

A Fall Plant Sale was discussed and would need a coordinator and be heavily advertised. The membership expressed interest in having the fall sale. Financial guidelines state a group can have three plant sales per year without paying taxes. Ken Fletcher suggested a Fall Plant Sale with crafts and not participating in the Craft Fair at the community center. The group would save the fee for the booth and not pay taxes.

Crafts would be garden-focused. There was a motion to table discussion until the next meeting and passed by the membership. Linda offered to chair the Harvest Craft Fair if there is interest. It was motioned and passed to table the Harvest Craft sale until the next meeting.

Plant It Forward projects were provided by Tacie Huffman and Martha Chiles. The Plant It Forward Plant, provided by Tacie was a Rex begonia and accepted by Connie Whitman. Martha’s jade plant was accepted by Debbie Walters as a door prize.

$15.00 dues were paid by check and accepted by Treasurer Holly Fletcher.

Bonnie Hamilton announced the upcoming downtown City Wide Cleanup April 22nd and suggested that members work and protect MG projects from other volunteers that day.

Members in attendance were: Joy Gatlin, Nancy Rogers, Connie Whitman, Bonnie Hamilton, Donna and David Jones, Linda Glickert, Martha Chiles, Richard Yeazel, Sally Mugford, Susan Gilmartin, Libby Christie, Dr. James Laird, Brenda Barr, Ann Bowers, Patti Roberts, Marilyn White, Holly and ken Fletcher, Kathy Graber, Wanda Howerton, Carolyn Palmer, Paulletta Tobey, Cora Flanery, Tacie Huffman, returning member Susan Youngblood, trainee Debbie Walters, and agent Dave Freeze.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Paulletta Tobey and seconded by Libby Christie. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Libby Christie
Greene Garden News

(L-R) Linda Glickert, Bonnie Hamilton, Sue Gilmartin, & Nancy Rogers at Project Coordinators & Committee Leads Meeting Jan. 21 and below (L-R) Libby Christie, Carolyn Palmer, & Holly Fletcher. Those not pictured were Pauletta Tobey, Tacie Huffman, Joy Gatlin, Brenda Barr, & Connie Whitman.

(Second from left) Greene County Member Jean Crossno, and (Fourth from left) Craighead County Member Neva Shewmaker Touring Ho Chi Minh City with other Master Gardeners before boarding ship/first day on AmaDara Cruise to Vietnam

The Daffodils

William Wordsworth, 1770 – 1850

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o’er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A Poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

(L-R) Connie Whitman, Holly Fletcher, Sue Gilmartin & Linda Glickert attend Janet Carson’s ASU presentation on Native Plants Sun. Feb. 12th
Greene Garden News

Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

Greene Garden News

Contributors

Libby Christie
Holly Fletcher
Patti Roberts
Joy Gatlin
Janet Carson
Dave Freeze
William Wadsworth

Greene Garden News Editor

Connie Whitman

Submit articles by the 15th
Of each month to:
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