Advanced Training Classes came about because counties were looking for retention tools for their programs to keep members interested. As members remain in the program, many are interested in obtaining more in-depth knowledge about specific topics and in obtaining an advanced level of certification. To provide such opportunities, the Advanced Master Gardener Training Program was developed.

Baxter County hosted the first advanced training class on Herbs July 27, 2002. The year with the highest number of training classes was 2015 with six. On average only three or four advanced classes are offered per year. With class size limited and only a few offered throughout the state each year, training classes are in high demand.

To be eligible to attend an Advanced Master Gardener Class, you must be an active MG, in good standing in your county program and be a Master Gardener for three years or more (calendar year used). More and more Master Gardeners are eligible for the program each year and are asking for advanced courses.

Master Gardeners have the opportunity to reach four levels in the Advanced Master Gardener Program:

**Level 1** - Complete 5 advanced training classes. *Patti Roberts and Holly Fletcher have reached this level.*

**Level 2** - Complete an additional 8 advanced classes (for a total of 13 completed advanced classes). *Cora Flanery has reached the second level.*

**Level 3** – Complete an additional 10 classes after completing Level 2 (for a total of 23 completed advanced classes), plus write an article for a county newsletter, the Garden Voice Newsletter, or other publication OR give a presentation at a regular Master Gardener Meeting or public workshop. The presentation or written article is to be verified by the county agent and sent to the Advanced Master Gardener Coordinator or record keeper. *The presentation or article is to be submitted for Level 4 at any time between completion of levels 2 and 3. The presentation or article is to be verified by the county agent and sent to the Advanced Master Gardener Coordinator or record keeper.*

**Level 4** - Criteria for Level 4 Advanced Master Gardener will be:

- Completion of 10 additional Advanced Master Gardener classes after completing Level 3 (for a total of 33 completed advanced classes) plus submission of a fact sheet or power point presentation with at least 30 slides and a script. The format for the fact sheet will be available at the state extension office. The submissions for attainment of Level 4 will be subject to the peer review process.

Advanced Training Levels require dedication and time, and prove to be quite an achievement for any member.

For the first time in the history of our program, Greene County will be hosting an Advanced Training Class, Masters for Monarchs. In the last twenty years we have lost nearly 90% of our monarchs due to massive loss of habitat and widespread use of pesticides. It’s time for each of us to stand up and make a difference by learning what we can do to save the monarch and share this information with others. Do your part by attending or helping with this very important event Oct. 21st.

Connie
Help will find you when you least expect it and it’s pretty nice when it does.

One of my goals for the fairgrounds this year was to add beds to each side of the west gate. Beds were added Friday, Aug. 26th, and bordered with edging and white rock to keep everything in place. As I was working, a police officer stopped by and talked to me about what I was doing and commented about how we’re making things look a lot better at the fairgrounds. I thanked him and explained my next step was to add dirt to the beds. He asked where the dirt was and how was I going to get it. I laughed and told him from the dirt pile around the corner, a bucket at a time.

To make a long story short, Tommy, the police officer, made a second stop and asked some guys working on a job next door at the Amory if they would mind hauling some dirt with the front loader on their tractor. They were so nice and the next thing I knew dirt was filling the beds and guys were there helping me spread it. It was wonderful! I might still be hauling dirt if they hadn’t taken time out of their busy day to assist me.

The following Monday I finished planting and started papering and mulching. Halfway through the first bed, Mark came to help again, (with his bosses ok) and we worked to finish papering and mulching. It was pretty hot that day, so afterwards; it was time for a break and a cool down. Those guys were my Guardian Angels for sure.

I want to thank Nancy, Sue, Ann, Brenda, Joy, Holly, David, Donna, Martha, Wanda, Libby, Pauletta, and Dave, for their help with the fairgrounds project this year. I appreciate each of you for working with me on some really warm summer days, and to Wanda and Martha for creating eyes and markers for our butterfly. Together, we made the project shine!

Connie

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**Events Calendar**

- **Sept. 26-27:** Master Gardener PNG Leadership Conference, AR 4-H Center, Ferndale
- **Oct. 1:** Fall Tree Sale: Centennial Park
- **Oct. 10:** MG Appreciation Day Botanical Garden, Fayetteville.
- **Oct. 21:** GC Advanced Training Class, Paragould Community Center
- **Oct. 29:** Dave & Tammy Freeze Cookout
- **Nov. 5:** Harvest Craft Fair, Paragould Community Center
- **Nov. 29:** Holiday Dinner Potluck, GC Library Legacy Room, 6 pm

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**Treasurers Report**

**Local Account:** FNB

**Beginning Balance** 8/01/16--8/31/16 1738.03

**Debits**
8/8 Greene County CES 500.00

**Balance September 1, 2016** 1238.03

Respectfully submitted 9/13/16

Kenneth E. Fletcher, Treasurer

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**One Month until Advanced Training Class**

**Masters for Monarchs**

This class will be beautiful, informative, and inspiring.

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**PNG Leadership Sept. 26 & 27:**

The goals of Leadership Training are to strengthen, encourage and expand the knowledge base of Master Gardeners at the county and state levels with the intent of aiding them as they work toward leadership positions in their own groups.

Current Project Chair: Walter Jennings, Pulaski Co.
Minutes of August 23, 2016

Minutes of August 23, 2016 for Greene County Master Gardeners at Greene County Public Library

Our 22 members and 2 guests enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by MG's Bonnie Hamilton and Linda Glickert.

President Connie Whitman called the meeting to order. The July Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved by all of our members as they were recorded in the July Newsletter.

Our ATC committee will meet on Saturday, August 27th at 9:00 a.m. in the Greene County Public Library. Our application and budget have been approved, and we are working toward meeting the next deadline on September 21st. Our final deadline will be on October 7th for registration.

The Harvest Craft Festival Sign-Up Sheet was passed around for our members to sign for working hours and crafts to be made. The event will be held at the Paragould Community Center on November 5, 2016.

The 2016 Greene County Fair Sign-Up Sheet for the Flower and Plant Entries was passed around for our members to sign for working on September 6, 2016. We will also work on September 11, 2016 for Pick-Up of the plants and flowers.

President Connie had 2 signs made for the Butterfly Garden at the Fairgrounds. One is for Host Plants and the other for Nectar Plants. She also had a picture from the State Convention of the Butterfly Garden for Greene County Fairgrounds-Project of the Year made to present to the Fair Board for display in their office.

Our next BBL will be in September 13th. It will feature our MG member, Richard Yeazel, giving a program, "Extending Your Summer Bounty by Preserving Fruits in Jams and Jellies." This event will be held at the Greene County Public Library at noon.

The PNG will be held on September 26th and 27th at Ferndale. MG's Linda Glickert and Wanda Howerton will accompany County Agent, Dave Freeze to this event.

There will be a workday at the Trellis Garden on Wednesday, August 24th. Pauletta Tobey, Lead, encouraged all members to come and help with this project.

A 28th Birthday Celebration for Master Gardeners will be held on October 10, 2016 at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville. Anyone planning to attend that wants to order a lunch or t-shirt must register online by September 23, 2016.

Office Nominations will be presented at our September Meeting by the Nominating Committee, and nominations may be taken from the floor. A secret ballot vote will be provided in October if there is more than one nomination for any office.

Award Nominations will be presented at the October meeting by the Executive Board upon recommendation by Mimi Cox. This year bios and information will be provided for nominees. Decisions will be made by the general membership by a secret ballot vote, and announced at the Holiday Dinner. Some categories will have more than one nomination presented. No one on the Board will be eligible.

Our "Plant It Forward" plants were brought by David Jones and Wanda Howerton. The "Double Pink" Lily brought by Wanda was presented to Libby Christie, and the blue hydrangea brought by David was awarded to Kathy Graber.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Connie.

Those in attendance were: Brenda Barr, Martha Chiles, Libby Christie, Jean Crossno, Holly Fletcher, Joy Gatlin, Sue Gilmartin, Linda Glickert, Kathy Graber, Cora Flanery, Bonnie Hamilton, Wanda Howerton, Tacie Huffman, David and Donna Jones, Tabitha McFadden, Sally Mugford, Carolyn Palmer, Patti Roberts, Pauletta Tobey, Marilyn White, Connie Whitman; County Agent Dave Freeze and guest, Junior Palmer.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Joy Gatlin

Member Profile

Brenda Barr

What year did you become a Master Gardener? 2015

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it? I have always loved gardening and being outside. My mother planted gardens, and I always tried to help.

List experiences working with the community, schools, churches, youth, and senior citizens, etc. None that are garden related.

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

Other information (family or other interests): Gardening, painting, quilting, and reading.
Linda was delicious!

Richard Yeazel, Greene County Master Gardener, did a presentation for the BBL Tuesday, Sept. 13th in the Legacy Room of the Greene County Library. His topic, Extending the Bounty-Jams and Jellies included the equipment and products he uses.

As he began his discussion, he said that these programs were usually presented by experts in the field, but he made no claim to fame, saying he just followed the directions included in the box of Sure Gel - which proved to him that preserving was for anyone. His presentation took us step by step through the process, with comments as to his preferences and favorite flavors. Following his presentation he opened for questions and comment.

Discussion included: 1. various ways of making jams and jellies, such as Sure-Jell or grandma's recipes; 2. sugar as opposed to sugar substitutes or no sugar; 3. and different types of jellies such as pepper jelly, Kudzu jelly, rose petal jelly, champagne jelly and wine jelly. Richard's favorite part of preserving is sharing the results - Jean said it was delicious!

Linda

Project Updates

**Rainbow Garden:** Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: The Rainbow Garden is ready for Homecoming on the 24th. I know our visitors will enjoy looking at the lantana in full bloom.

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden:** Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher Chairs: Lantana is at last blooming nicely!! Continue to work with sedge...amazing stuff.

**South Sign:** Brenda Barr & Paulett Tobey Chairs: Things are looking good at the South sign. Thanks to Paulett and Ann the old roses were dug out and hedge trimmed lower. The roses were replaced with Double Red Knockout roses which have already started to bloom. New mulch has been spread so the beds are ready for winter. The butterfly bush, mums and liriope are adding some fall color. Much of the brush and trees blocking the sign have been removed.

**GC Fair Flower & Plant Entries Booth:** No Chair: Nine Master Gardeners volunteered to work in the Plant and Flower Booth at the Greene County Fair. After 5 minutes of training on the computer our newest MG, Sue volunteered to do the entries. We did not have a Project Coordinator to guides us so the rest of us tagged, kept the flowers moving to the judges, and finally placing them on the shelves. There were not a lot of entries, but enough to keep us busy. Thanks to Linda, Bonnie, Wanda, Martha, Joy, Sue, Connie, Ken, (and me) for working and to Carolyn for taking pictures. The Flower and Plant Booth is one of our oldest projects, and my favorite. A tasty lunch of grilled chicken, green beans and baked potatoes was served for the fair workers. All in all it was an enjoyable work day.

Lesia Pittman and Earlene Wise from Craighead County were our judges, and for any of you that might not know Earlene suffered a brain aneurysm on Tuesday night and was taken to LR for treatment. Holly

**GC Fairgrounds:** Connie Whitman & Joy Gatlin Chairs: Beds were added and planted to each side of the west gate. Plants added to the Butterfly Garden, beds by main office, across from ticket office, east entrance and pots. Dead bush removed from the south bed. Weed eater cleaned up the BG nicely, walkway reworked, and thanks to Wanda for the eyes and antennae for our Butterfly. Certified and educational signs were added. Everything was ready by fair time! Following the fair, plants were moved from the pots to the beds for more color and curb appeal. Dave and I are working to get pictures and presentation ready for PNG Sept. 26-27.

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Paulett Tobey Chairs: We had a workday at the Trellis and pulled nut grass and large weeds, then went back and troweled round-up on Bermuda grass, trimmed the smoke tree and the Raspberry tree, fed roses and watered. We have information that the property where the Trellis Garden is has been put on the market. Contact has been made with the VFW Commander. More information to follow as it is received.

Committee Comments

**Sunshine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery: Our Sunshine committee is sending lots of September birthday cards to our MG members. It is a pleasure to send one to each of them with our Greene County Master Gardeners signature.

**Advanced Training:** Registration is ongoing and we're looking for a full house.

**Scrapbook:** Carolyn Palmer, Lead. Need newspaper clippings & photos. Nothing new to report.

**Plant Markers:** Martha Chiles, Lead: Have been busy making markers for the Butterfly Garden.

**Membership:** Connie Whitman, Lead. "Recruit, Retain, Recognize" Need leads on potential new members.

**Publicity:** Paulett Tobey, Lead: BBL follow-ups in DP.

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: Post hours.

**Nominating:** Carolyn Palmer and Martha Chiles: Nominations are ready and will be presented at the monthly meeting.

**Main Street Caboose:** Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno, Chairs: The Caboose Gardens are looking good. The HOT dry summer has kept Jean and I busy watering, but there is still some color with the Verbena and the Hyacinth vines in full bloom. The help we received with the weeding has really made the difference in the appearance of the beds.
Anyone who raises milkweed in an effort to attract Monarchs is familiar with the soft-bodied, squishy, orange insects that seemingly take over anything in the Asclepias family. Conditions are crowded, or the plant is old and unappealing (which happens as the summer progresses in our part of the world), the girls grow wings so they can fly away to greener pastures—or in this case, fresher milkweed. Aphids live 25 days and produce about 80 nymphs each. This brilliantly efficient method of reproduction, says Featured Creatures, is one of the reasons "large colonies of oleander aphids build quickly on infested plants."

Small populations of aphids are pretty harmless to the plants, but when you get a large colony, the milkweed suffers. The aphids insert their piercing mouthparts into the milkweed, literally sucking the life out of it as they enjoy the sweet liquid that courses through the plant. The high concentration of sugar in that liquid means the aphids have to eat a lot of it to get the protein they need. That results in a profuse amount of excrement, called honeydew. It is prolific and forms a thin, sticky layer in the leaves of your milkweed, choking the absorption of essential nutrients. It can also cause sooty mold, an ugly dark fungus that can cover your milkweed.

Dr. Chip Taylor, Founder of Monarch Watch states that he had a 3 inch long colony of aphids on one of his milkweed plants and used Windex instead of the 409 Spray bottle he had been looking for. When he later checked his plant; all the aphids were blackened and dead. The plant seemed unaffected by the treatment. Once you have well-established infestation of aphids, the plant just goes downhill. The aphids themselves are also highly appetizing to ladybugs, wasps, and syrphid flies—all insects that eat aphids and Monarch or Queen eggs with equal abandon.

With a serious aphid infestation, a high pressure spray of water to blow the bugs off the plant works well and also simultaneously washes the honeydew off the milkweed, which will deter the arrival of ants and also clean the leaves so they can absorb sun, air, water, and nutrients to fuel their growth. Another method is to "squish" the aphids between the thumb and fingers—your thumb and fingers will turn "squish" the aphids between your thumb and fingers will turn bright gold, but will wash off. Dr Karen Oberhauser of the University of Minnesota and founder of Monarch Larvae Monitoring Project wrote that "detergent treatments will kill any live insects on aphid-infested plants, including Monarch larvae and aphid predators like syrphid fly larvae, ladybug larvae, and lacewing larvae."

Dr Oberhauser, who has decades of experience with aphids, admits "There is really no good way to kill aphids without killing everything else, except by trying to lower the population by carefully killing them by hand."

Another opinion is biological control, Lady beetles or ladybugs feed primarily on aphids. But remember—they also eat butterfly eggs.

Let's take a look at the interesting life cycle of these ubiquitous, annoying insects, known as oleander aphids, milkweed aphids, or by their Latin name, Aphis nerii.

First off, they are parthenogenic, which means they clone themselves and don’t require mates to reproduce. In addition, the clones they produce are always female. Yes, that’s right—all girls. "No boys allowed."

According to the University of Florida’s Department of Entomology and Nematology “Featured Creatures” website, “The adult aphids are all female and males do not occur in the wild." Instead, the aphid moms deposit their all-female nymph broods on the stalks of our milkweed plants. That generation morphs four more times until they grow up to become aphid moms who repeat the process. Even more interesting, under normal conditions, adult female aphids do not sport wings, but get this: if

When Aphids Suck the Life from Your Milkweeds provided by Cora Flanery

Our Butterfly Garden has eyes and antennae now! Thanks, Wanda Howerton!
Greene Garden News

Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

Greene Garden News
Contributors
Joy Gatlin
Paulette Tobey
Ken Fletcher
Cora Flanery
Linda Glickert

Greene Garden News
Editor
Connie Whitman

Submit articles by the 15th of each month to cwhitman@grnco.net

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“Just living is not enough said the butterfly, one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”

Hans Christian Anderson