It’s here again-the 2016 Master Gardener Training Class. I hope everyone will plan on attending at least one of the classes to meet our new interns, Libby Christie and Nancy Rogers. Remember you can get up to 10 education hours for attending the classes, that’s half of your required hours for the year! They’re easy hours and interesting, so take advantage of them.

Craighead County should be commended for providing this opportunity for not only Greene County, but surrounding counties as well. We know firsthand that it takes a lot planning and hard work to make this happen five consecutive Saturdays in Jan. and Feb.

Below are the class agendas:

**Class 1: January 23**

- Master Gardener Overview: Mimi Cox: 8:30-9:15
- Pesticides: Branon Thiesse: 9:15-10:15
- BREAK: 10:15-10:30
- Water Gardens—Rain Gardens—Hydroponics: George Selden: 10:30-12:00

**LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:00 pm**

- Botany: Travis Marsico: 1:00-2:30

**Class 2 January 30**

- Butterfly Gardening: Cheryl Laver: 8:30-9:30
- Fruits and Vegetables: Sherry Sanders: 9:30-10:30
- BREAK: 10:30-10:45
- Fruits & Vegetables (Continued): Sherry Sanders: 10:45-12:00

**LUNCH: 12:00-1:00**

- Propagation: Kim Pittcock: 1:00 - 2:30
- BREAK: 2:30-2:45
- Shade Plants: Kim Pittcock: 2:45-4:00

**Class 3 February 6**

- Composting, Organic Gardening: Dave Freeze: 8:30-10:30
- BREAK: 10:30-10:45
- Roses: Branon Thiesse: 10:45-12:00

**LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:00**

- Woody Plants: Janet Carson: 1:00-2:30

**Class 4 February 13**

- Pruning: Jason Osborn: 8:30-9:00
- Plant Diseases: Sherrie Smith: 9:00–10:15
- BREAK: 10:15–10:30
- Insects, IPM: Glenn Studebaker: 10:30–12:00

**LUNCH: 12:00 - 1:00**

- Landscape Design: Randy Forst: 1:00-2:15
- BREAK 2:15 – 2:30
- Lawns: Mark Brown: 2:30 - 4:00

**Class 5 February 20**

(Agenda Incomplete at this time)

- Soils: Branon Thiesse 8:30-10:00
- BREAK: 10:00-10:15
- Topic: 10:15-11:00
- Topic: 11:00-12:00

**LUNCH: 12:00 – 1:00pm**

- TEST: 1:00 pm
2016 is going to be an exciting year! We'll have new members joining us following the MG Training in February. Greene County Basic Training and a power point will be presented at the February monthly meeting so everyone can introduce themselves and share what they do for our program.

Brown Bag Lunch will provide wonderful speakers each month, the first being Dee Lindsey, Pine Valley Herb Ranch.

March will kick off Garden Explosion V with speakers, vendors and crafts!

The month of May will bring our annual Garden Boutique and Plant Sale.

In June many of us will be traveling to the State MG Meeting in Eureka Springs! Fun! Fun!

We'll work the Greene County Fair in September, and present our first Advanced Training Class in October on Monarchs.

Craft Fair in November? Let's consider that one for sure.

And, I've only hit some of the high points! Just think of all we can do in between those special events! So get ready!

Connie

On 12/18/2015 the bank account under the name Greene County Master Gardeners was closed by request of Kyleen Prewett, Chief Financial Officer-University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

A new account was opened on 12/18/2015 under the name of Master Gardeners of the Delta-Greene County using an EIN number. Signatories on the new account are Ken Fletcher, Treasurer, Connie Whitman, President, and Allen Davis, CEA-Staff Chair.

I would appreciate input from members about speakers for the meetings this year.

Thanks,
Kathy Graber,
Program Chair
Amended Minutes for Master Gardener Meeting October 27, 2015  
Greene County Public Library

Carolyn Palmer provided delicious refreshments for our 19 members and Dave Freeze, county agent.

The Minutes of our September meeting and the Treasurer's Report were approved as written in the September newsletter.

Carolyn Palmer and Agent Dave Freeze shared comments on their recent trip to PNG Leadership October 19-20.

The 2016 MG Officer Nominations were presented by the Nominations Committee and announced by President Connie Whitman. They included all incumbents except Treasurer, Marilyn White, who is stepping down after serving two terms in that office. Ken Fletcher was the nomination for Treasurer. After a motion was made by Jean Crossno and seconded by Ann Bowers to accept the officers nominated, all members were in agreement. Motion carried.

To be compliant with the new financial guidelines put in place this year, and according to Kyleen Prewett, DBA, CPA, CGFM and Chief Financial Officer of UA - Cooperative Extension Service, we must close out our current Greene County Master Gardener account at First National Bank, and open a new account with an EIN number. The new account will be listed as Master Gardener of the Delta Program – Greene County. For the year 2016, signatories listed on the account will be Ken Fletcher, Treasurer, Connie Whitman, President, and Allen Davis, CES County Staff Chair.

Several suggestions were given for increasing our MG working funds. One included charging a small fee for Garden Explosion V. A motion was brought before the group that no fee should be charged to attend the 2016 Garden Explosion to be held at the Paragould Community Center. The motion was seconded, and voted in the affirmative by all members present.

Project and Committee Updates not listed in the October Newsletter were given. Evaluations for both are due. Patti Roberts called for a work day on November 13th at 9:00 a.m. at the Greene County Court House. Bulbs and pansies will be planted.

Carolyn Palmer requested that our MG's help with a planting of tulip bulbs by the students at Oak Grove School in honor of Red Ribbon Week. She will announce the work day soon.

The November 10th BBL will feature our MG Patti Roberts. She will present a program on, "Forcing Bulbs" at the Greene County Public Library at 12:00 noon. Holly Fletcher, Lead, asked if the BBL should be given up in 2016 as the majority of attendees are members of our group, not the general public. Pauletta Tobey put a motion before the group to keep the BBL lectures for another year. The motion was seconded and all members agreed on the proposal.

Two $50.00 donations suggested to be given to the State Awards Committee and the Janet B. Carson Scholarship were voted in the affirmative by our members.

Our Holiday Dinner and Awards Presentation will be held on November 17th at the Greene County Public Library beginning at 6:00 p.m. Members will bring Pot Luck side dishes, and Carolyn Palmer will bake a delicious ham for our members and guests to enjoy.

President Connie had some good news to share with our group before ending the meeting. The Butterfly Garden has been officially certified by the North American Butterfly Association.

Our "Plant it Forward" plant, a beautiful Angel Wing Begonia, was brought to the meeting by Tacie Huffman. Kathy Graber was the happy winner of the plant.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Connie Whitman.

Those attending were: Eric Alexander, Brenda Barr, Ann Bowers, Martha Chiles, Jean Crossno, Holly Fletcher, Joy Gatlin, Linda Glickert, Kathy Graber, Bonnie Hamilton, Wanda Howerton, Tacie Huffman, Dr. James Laird, Tabitha McFadden, Sally Mugford, Carolyn Palmer, Patti Roberts, Pauletta Tobey, Marilyn White, Connie Whitman, and Dave Freeze, County Agent.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Joy Gatlin, Secretary
Project Updates

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

Brown Bag Lunch: Holly Fletcher, Chair: I am working on speakers for 2016, and if anyone has ideas for speakers please tell me.

Rainbow Garden: Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: We will go with the yellow lantana again in the bottom tier of the Rainbow Garden. The raised bed is still going each summer with plants and looks good.

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


GC Courthouse: Patti Roberts Chair: No report.

Main Street Caboose: Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno, Chairs: Jean and I are just waiting for the Spring thaw so we can continue to add some new plants for structure and color.

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

Trellis Garden: Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: In limbo until spring.

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.


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

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

Garden Explosion 5: Donna Jones & Carolyn Palmer Chairs: We have all speakers for 2016.

Committee Comments

Sunshine: Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery, “The Sunshine committee will continue as we have gone to send b’day cards, etc.”

Project Review: No Lead:

Crafts & Fundraising: Linda Glickert, Lead: “New ideas and committee meeting coming soon.”

Scholarship: Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Will send out copies information, along with information from Janet’s scholarship either at end of this month or first of next.”

Awards: Pauletta Tobey, Lead: “Committee along with Connie and Holly have completed information and turned over to Dave for review and sending to County 76.”

Scrappbook: Carolyn Palmer, Lead: No report.

Plant Markers: Martha Chiles, Lead: No report.

Advanced Training: Patti Roberts, Lead: “We have confirmed speakers, Janet Carson, Lori Spencer, Arkansas Butterfly Lady, and Butterfly Enthusiasts Ruth Andre and Theia Foley. Tracking resources for milkvweed, discussing refreshments, and door prizes.”

Hours Management: Patti Roberts, Lead: “What a great year we all have had! Thank you each and everyone. Our county is better because of each of you and the dedication to Master Gardener program. This is a new year and we all will start with a clean slate of service hours and education hours. All hours are very important to both state and county. In 2014 Master Gardeners won most volunteer hours reported across the state-more than any other volunteer organization. So when reporting hours whether you have worked 30 minutes or several hours please post them. To our newest MGs, a special thank you to each of you. You jumped right in and worked so hard to get your hours, attended meetings, and met your 40/20. This year 20/20 will be much easier but I know from the hours reported you each have gone above and beyond the call of work and education. Thank you all for going that extra mile. Please, if any of you have questions about anything please ask. Remember there is no silly question. Here is to a very busy 2016 and all that it holds.”

If you did not receive your free 2016 Master Gardener Calendar, please let me know.

Connie

Greene Garden News
Growing Hope

Babbette Jaquish loved a lot of flowers, but sunflowers were her favorite. So when she passed away from cancer at 66, November 16, 2014, her husband Don Jaquish planted nearly 400 acres of sunflowers for her. “She was as beautiful on the inside as she was on the outside,” Jaquish said.

It took Jaquish -- who planned to sell the sunflower seeds and donate a portion of the proceeds to hospitals, research and patient advocacy -- a week to plant the sunflowers that lined Wisconsin’s Highway 85 in Eau Claire, June 2015. Whatever land wasn’t his, neighbors rented to him for a reasonable price. After a 75-day growing period, the flowers finally bloomed the following August. “She got to be known as the sunflower lady of the community” Jaquish said, “So after she passed away, I thought it would be a tribute to her to plant 4.5 miles of sunflowers on each side of Highway 85.”

After Babbette was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2006, they planted several hundred acres of sunflowers around their property. A few years later, Jaquish said his wife had the idea of raising sunflowers and selling sunflower seeds in part to benefit cancer research.

Babbette had 22 different cancer treatments through the years, many of which were through clinical trials, Jaquish said. “She realized the importance of research in clinical trials. She went from being expected to live two weeks to two months to nine years,” said Jaquish. “Her attitude was everyday I can stay alive I’m one day closer to a cure.”

“Unfortunately her health just kept declining over the years, and it got to be too much to start and operate a business when she was so sick.” One month after Babbette passed away Jaquish and daughter Jenny White made Babbette’s dream come true and started the company Babbette’s Seeds of Hope.

To benefit families dealing with illness, Babbette’s Seeds of Hope will donate a portion of the proceeds from their products to hospitals, research, and patient advocacy.

“I think she would be smiling,” Jaquish said. “We’ve had an amazing response.”

www.babbettesseedsofhope.com

Brown Bag Lunch
January 12, 2016

Dee Lindsey, Pine Valley Herb Ranch, presented a program on Herbs that Heal.

A handout was provided with the names of several herbs that can be used for medical purposes. Herbal oils were passed around for us to see and smell. Dee explained how to mix the herbs with water or juice so that they could be taken.

There were 4 guests, 11 Master Gardeners, and Dave Freeze, Advisor in attendance.

Holly Fletcher
Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens
By Linda Glickert

My daughter and I like visiting botanical gardens when we travel. One of the side trips we made last fall when we took our fall color trip to the Northeast and Falling Waters was to the Pittsburgh Botanical Gardens. Reviews were mixed, one even called it "awful". But we ventured out to see it, not having any idea what to expect.

The Garden only opened to the public last April, after spending the last twenty years (yes, 20!) trying to get it suitable for the public. It seemed it had at one time been a coal mine, later it became a strip mine when all the trees were clear cut. Next in its history it was sold for farm land. In the informational video about the property they interview an elderly woman who grew up on the property. She tells of not being allowed to play outdoors for fear she'd fall into one of the pits (mine subsidence) and never be found. They had to go to town to get their water as theirs was not safe to drink or use. Eventually it was sold to public endeavors that failed before finally becoming the land for the gardens. Twenty plus years ago, few trees attempted to grow there – only 6 varieties of the many native trees of the region. Wildlife was absent, most notable was the lack of birds.

But first they had to stabilize the ground (tunnels) and clean the water. An overseas company was brought in to remedy the water that bubbled out of the tunnels. Today it's clean and clear, wildlife has returned.

The water flows into a large pond with a Japanese bridge across it before it tumbles down the rocky slope. Surrounding the pond is the site for the planned Japanese contemplation gardens. It won't be the typical one, as every six years they have to drain the pond and clean out the filters and chemicals needed to purify the water.

Grants and volunteer groups have made it possible to replant native trees (which all have to be circled with little fences to discourage deer). Trails wander through the sixty acres (of the 460 acres) now open to the public. Areas for families and children are interspersed along the paths – a sleeping dragon here, a mini-castle there, a fairy house around the bend, wooden toadstools just right for taking a break and storytelling here and there. The hillside pasture is now the dogwood glen and bluebird nest box trail. The gardens now host birders on their annual bird count surveys. In their efforts to restore the devastation from years of coal mining they now focus on using native plants that are more likely to thrive in the region and to help restore the balance of the ecosystem. We enjoyed our time there and look forward to the time visitors wouldn't call it "awful".