June 17, 2016
Volume 2, Issue 20

Greene Garden News
Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

Special Interest:

• Plant It Forward Player: Sue Gilmartin
• June Birthdays: June 28: Tacie Huffman June 29: Libby Christie
• Refreshments: Nancy Rogers & Libby Christie

Individual Highlights:

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2016 Officers:
President: Connie Whitman
Vice President: Holly Fletcher
Secretary: Joy Gatlin
Treasurer:

Gardening on the Rocks, “Creating Beauty in the Ozarks” June 2-4 was hosted by Carroll County Master Gardeners in Eureka Springs. Fourteen members attended from Greene County: Sally Mugford, Kathy Graber, Tabitha McFadden, Connie Whitman, Marilyn White, Ken & Holly Fletcher, Carolyn Palmer, Paulette Tobey, Bonnie Hamilton, Linda Glickert, Cora Planery, Patti Roberts and Brenda Barr. Some members chose to go up a day early and take advantage of several tours while others chose to head out on Thursday. What a surprise for us when we walked in the door!

There were a few issues with some of the meals, but overall the seminars, tours, and guest speakers were very good.

The 2017 State meeting, Gardening, A Capital Idea will be hosted by Pulaski County and will be held at the Doubletree Hotel May 21-23 in Little Rock.

Master Gardener of the Year
Kathy Graber

Rookie of the Year
Bonnie Hamilton

Project of the Year-Greene County Fairgrounds
This was the our first year to win Project of the Year!
It’s so great to have so many workdays going on! Members are showing up to pull weeds, trim shrubs, dig in the dirt and make our projects shine! That’s Teamwork! Please remember to post all your hours. “Time recording is probably one of the biggest chores of the Master Gardener program, yet it is the most important measure by which the Master Gardener Program is evaluated at the state level. Each Master Gardener is responsible for keeping up with and reporting their working and learning hours.”

Copies of current members’ hours will be available at the June meeting. If you are showing 0 or few hours, a friendly reminder will be mailed to you the first week in July asking that you enter those very important hours you may have overlooked. Thanks!

Connie

A new program was started this year to celebrate new members and encourage them to grow from an Annual to a Perennial Master Gardener. This program is being offered at four locations around the state, and open to new Master Gardeners and their Mentors only. Classroom training had to be finished between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016 to attend. Greene County’s group of four Mentees Libby Christie and Nancy Rogers, and Mentors, Bonnie Hamilton and Pauletta Tobey will be attending the half day event in Batesville Wed., June 22nd. Sessions will feature Janet Carson, University of Arkansas Extension Horticulture Specialist, Consumer Horticulture Specialist & Master Gardener State Coordinator; and Dr. Lelia Kelly, Mississippi State University Extension Professor of Horticulture, Consumer Horticulture Specialist & Master Gardener State Coordinator.

Local Account: FNB
Beginning Balance 5/01/16--5/31/16 902.86

Debits
5/6 Cash for Plant Sale 100.00
5/10 Cash for Farmers Mrk. 50.00

Credits
5/9 Return Change 100.00
5/9 Raffle 45.00
5/9 Plant Sale/FM 201.75
5/9 Plant Sale/Park 886.25
5/9 Change/Plant Sale 50.00
5/16 Plant Sale 25.00

Balanced 6/12/16 2060.86

Respectfully submitted 5/8/16
Kenneth E. Fletcher, Treasurer
Minutes for Master Gardener
Meeting of May 24, 2016
Greene County Public Library

Refreshments were provided for our 17 Master Gardener members and 2 guests by MG Kathy Graber, in honor of her granddaughter, MG Tabitha's High School Graduation. Tabitha was presented a gift from our group, a charm necklace with a small trowel, birthstone and initial.

The meeting was called to order by President Connie. The April Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as written in our April Newsletter by our members present.

Marissa Foster, our 2016 Master Gardener Scholarship recipient, and her mother, Lisa were our special guests tonight. Marissa will go on to ASU in Paragould to pursue an Agriculture degree in Wildlife Management.

We were also happy to welcome Sue Gilmartin, a new Master Gardener transferring from Van Buren County to our meeting. She will join our group tonight and expressed the desire to "get to work with us on any of our projects."

Our GE VI event will be held on Friday, March 17, 2017. We discussed having this event at the Reynolds Park Community Building or the Paragould Community Center. We will revisit this decision at one of our later meetings.

The 2016 Plant Sale follow-up was discussed. It was agreed by all of our members that it was a big success financially. Thanks was expressed to our members who gave demonstrations, brought loads of plants, worked with advertisements, and stayed all day for the sale. It was a beautiful day and we had lots of buyers and lookers. The Raffle Basket that we give each year at this event will be discussed more at our next meeting. We may decide to forego that part of the Sale next year. It was agreed that having plants for sale that day at the Farmer's Mkt. added to our total sales, and was a good idea for us to keep doing. MG Carolyn Palmer reminded us that a group picture needs to be taken that day for this Event, and she would like for us to purchase 2 more banner signs.

The MG State Meeting will be held on June 2-4, 2016 in Eureka Springs, AR. Many of our members will be attending this important meeting.

Plans for our ATC that will be held on October 21, 2016 are coming along well. All of the Speakers for the Event have been secured, and the various Committees are working hard to make sure it is a wonderful class. A Sign-Up Sheet was available for members to sign for attendance and affording help during the day.

We still need a Project Review Committee Lead member, and 2 Committee Members. No one volunteered at this time, but we will continue to work on this project.

Project Work Days need to be scheduled for our members to get their work hours completed this year.

The Welcome Signs and Courthouse Projects were updated to our membership. Funding is now available from City Beautiful to work on the signs. The Courthouse project will have an art piece, benches, and a stepping stone added.

A Fall Tree Sale fund raiser in late September or early October was suggested to the membership by MG member, Tacie Huffman. The number selected by MG Member Dr. James Laird was for our new member, Susan Gilmartin. She accepted.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Those present at the meeting were Brenda Barr, Martha Chiles, Libby Christie, Jean Crossno, Holly Fletcher, Joy Gatlin, Susan Gilmartin, Linda Glickert, Kathy Graber, Wanda Howerton, Tacie Huffman, Dr. James Laird, Tabitha McFadden, Carolyn Palmer, Paulette Tobey, Connie Whitman, Richard Yeazel, and guests Lisa and Marissa Foster.

Respectfully submitted by Joy Gatlin, Secretary
Project Updates

**East Sign:** Pauletta Tobey & Dr. James Laird, Chairs: Have planted the sweet potato vines but they aren’t growing very fast. Look pitiful. Will water and feed.

**Rainbow Garden:** Joy Gatlin & Eric Alexander Chairs: The lantana we planted in the Rainbow Garden is growing and spreading out with all this hot, hot weather. We’ll be watering about 2 times a week to keep up the growth. The petunias at the entrance are looking really good and full now. It makes a lovely bed to see as our visitors drive in to the campus.

**GC Museum:** Wanda Howerton & Sally Mugford, Chairs: Ann & Pauletta trimmed the knockout roses, pulled weeds and watered.

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Pauletta Tobey Chairs: Day lilies are blooming along with the roses. Had a workday this month and weeded most of sections and still like one section. Marilyn painted the Trellis Garden Sign.

**Centennial Park:** Bonnie Hamilton & Marilyn White Chairs: Gina has given the ok for our 2017 Plant Sale on May 6 at the park.

**GC Fairgrounds:** Connie Whitman & Joy Gatlin Chairs: Weeded entrance again and added a dry creek bed. Need 3 more. Sprayed southeast bed-papered and mulched half. Sprayed walk on Butterfly Garden.

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Committee Comments

**Sunshine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead, & Cora Flanery: Cora and I are sending birthday cards, get well, and sympathy cards to our members. We want to be sure to remember our members and anyone else that helps our group.

**Crafts & Fundraising:** Linda Glickert, Lead: “Are we into the dry part of summer now, following all the rain? Wouldn’t you know?! I’ve been able to harvest and start drying some flowers and foliage. For those of you who are ‘fostering’ plants for the fall crafts, I hope your plants are growing better than mine. They’re still wee things, but we have until fall. Feel free to experiment harvesting and drying flowers and foliage, especially the silver and gray plants. Harvest the materials after the dew is off and it’s dry. Some flowers do best for drying at peak and some just before peak bloom because they’ll continue to open. As you cut them, try to leave a stem, bundle the stems, tie the stems with a rubber band, and hang them upside down on a coat hanger. ‘Then hang them in a dry, well-ventilated place out of the way.”

**Advanced Training:** Patti Roberts, Lead: “Met June 11 to review budget and continue planning. A decision was made to add more speakers.”

**Scrapbook:** Carolyn Palmer, Lead: Need newspaper clippings & photos.

**Plant Markers:** Martha Chiles, Lead: Plant Lists Needed.

**Membership:** Connie Whitman, Lead. “Recruit, Retain, Recognize”.

**Publicity:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: Sent group picture of State Conference Will send in awards when I get pictures hopefully at regular meeting. Please bring awards so that we can get pictures at regular meeting.

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: Post those hours! Reminder letters will be going out in July to members low on hours & attendance.
Holly Fletcher, Carolyn Palmer, and Linda Glickert recently attended the Monarchs, Milkweed and More seminar Thursday, May 12th at the State Extension Service Office in Little Rock, hosted by the Pulaski Master Gardeners. The word was that it was simply “outstanding.”

Linda Glickert shared these comments. “It was well done; the facility was wonderful for having a seminar. It was only 4 hours in length with 5 speakers.

The first speaker, Jane Gulley, a Pulaski County MG, was very knowledgeable and funny. Her topic was Pollen, Pollinators, and Plants. She really came down on the neonicotinoids, and provided handouts explaining the many dangers to our bees and pollinators and how it stays in the ground.

One lady in the group told of watching a monarch caterpillar leave the milkweed, travel at least 20’ to a tree and crawl to the top of the tree to form its chrysalis. The speaker (the third) asked her to put that in writing and submit it. The gentleman spoke only briefly and had brought a nice display of plants and photos. He had plants we could pick from, and I took a hyssop. Raising, Tagging, and Releasing Butterflies was presented by Mim Hundley, Little Rock.

She spoke about the value of the native plants for all wildlife. So much habitat has been lost with vast mono-culture farming and urban sprawl, that now they’re depending on reclaiming roadsides for native vegetation, and hope rests on the individual homeowner/landscaper for adding to the general welfare of our native flora and fauna. In that plea is the call for us to report our observations as part of the scientific community.

Susan Hooks, U S Forestry introduced What Have We Learned about Milkweeds and Pollinator Plots. Dr. Don Steinkraus. Professor of Entomology, U of A-Fayetteville presented Monarchs, Milkweeds, Predators, and Beneficials. Monarchs and Migration was presented by Dr, Jim Edson, Professor, Retired, U of A, Monticello.

Holly Fletcher spoke highly of the seminar as well.

“Mimi Cox and I attended Monarchs, Milkweed and More. We were on a fact finding mission because Pulaski County’s seminar was so similar to our ATC class we are hosting for County 76.

It was an excellent seminar, great speakers. It lasted four hours, enough time to keep your full attention. They focused on supplying food and habitat for the Monarchs when they arrive back in the US, and again as they are preparing for the return to Mexico. They did not serve lunch but provided great snacks. Their door prizes were 3 Basswood Trees. Monarchs seem to like them a lot. Each person attending was given either a milkweed plant or a nectar plant on completion of their evaluation.

We learned that we have similar titles but our programs will be different. I learned that a four hour seminar can be very educational, and with 100 people attending @$20.00 each is a great money maker.

I went with the attitude that I could do little to help the plight of the Monarchs, but came away with the knowledge that I can make a difference. We all need to help or we will lose this beautiful butterfly.

I hope each of our members will get on board with the ATC. Of course, you will get education hours or credit toward your advance level, but most of all you will learn that we need to take this seriously. AR is in the flyway, and loss of habitat, and pesticides are the main reason we are losing the Monarch.”
(Continued Projects, Page 4)

**GE VI**: Executive Board Chairs: Date has been set for Fri. Mar. 17. Topic will be Pollinators. Janet Carson & Jon Zawislak have been confirmed as speakers.

**GC Courthouse**: Patti Roberts Chair: No report.

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

**Airport**: Kathy Graber & Tabitha McFadden Chairs: Workday Tuesday June 21.

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden**: Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher, Chairs: Doing well with perennials. Lost basil but more available.

**Plant Sale 2017**: Joy Gatlin, Marilyn White & Cora Flanery, Chairs: Date is set for Saturday March 6.

**Brown Bag Lunch Program**: Holly Fletcher, Chair: No Program June or July.

**Main Street Caboose**: Tacie Huffman & Jean Crossno, Chairs: The Caboose Gardens are looking great. We had our first scheduled work day 6/15 and it was great working and visiting with friends. We got the whole area weeded and watered. It looks even better.

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

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