Greene Garden News
Greene County Master Gardeners Newsletter

March 16, 2016
Volume 17, Issue 3

Special Interest:
• Plant It Forward
  Player: Nancy Rogers
• March Birthdays:
  March 9:
  Eric Alexander
• Refreshments:
  Carolyn Palmer
• Speaker: Sara Pollard, Lowe’s Garden Center

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Greene County Master Gardeners (L-R) David Jones, Tacie Huffman, and Donna Jones listen to a presentation by Cody Gray, Greene County Tech Jr. High Agriculture Science instructor, on the hydroponics systems he and his students are using as a class project. Hydroponics is the process of growing plants in sand, gravel, or liquid with added nutrients, but without soil.

Cody stated that the vegetables they produce are being sold as a money making project. He said they have been harvesting vegetables that were planted before Christmas and are now starting a second round. They even harvested tomatoes last week! Cody has two systems set up and said they are both fairly inexpensive.

The presentation was given Thursday, March 10th, from 3pm – 4pm.

For more information on hydroponics, contact Cody: cody.gray@gctsd.k12.ar.us
Paulett Tobey

Congratulations Cora Flanery!
Cora achieved Level II Advanced Master Gardener status in 2015.

Cora Flanery
Level Two requires attending an additional eight Advanced Training Classes following the five required for Level 1 for a total of thirteen Advanced Training Classes attended.
Cora received her silver Advanced Training Class Level II pin at the February meeting.

Carolina Jessamine blooming at Centennial Park
Presidents Notes

Spring is almost here and Master Gardeners will be getting busy with all the projects we have. In fact, sometimes we get so busy working on MG projects, it leaves little time to work on our own flowers beds at home. Have you ever thought how nice it would be to have a little extra help just once this spring? Would you consider lending an extra hand to another master gardener in our group? If interested, you could put your name in a hat at the meeting and whoever’s name is drawn would have extra help for a few hours, one day, the following month. Each month a different name would be drawn. Giving your time and energy would be a labor of love to a fellow master gardener. No hours would be accumulated. The benefits would be the comradery you would enjoy from simply lending a hand and working with others in our group. Please give this some thought and we will discuss at the meeting. Thanks.

Connie

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.
Minutes for Master Gardener Meeting February 23, 2016

Greene County Public Library

Delicious refreshments were provided by Connie Whitman and Holly Fletcher for our 23 MG members and one guest.

Lance Blythe, CEA-4-H asked for a few minutes before the meeting to discuss a new program 4-H is implementing called Cloverbuds. The program is designed to help children 5-8 years of age and their families establish vegetable gardens to sustain them throughout the summer months. The extension office will provide raised beds kits, soil, and vegetables to be planted. They are asking us to assist with planting and to provide education as needed. We will discuss this further as a group and make a decision later.

We were happy to welcome two new MG members to our group, Libby Christie and Nancy Rogers.

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Whitman. Kathy Graber, MG member, gave a very informative and interesting presentation about the Alvin B. Samuel Walking Trail located behind the Chateau on the Ridge. Kathy brought a framed drawing of what the trail will be like upon completion later on this spring. Carolyn Samuels and her daughters gave a donation for this Project in memory of her husband, Alvin B. Samuels, who had worked tirelessly in getting the Chateau built several years ago.

The January Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as it was printed in the January Newsletter.

The $15.00 dues for this year need to be paid by March 1st, 2016 stated Treasurer Ken Fletcher. This increase in dues was voted on and approved by the members in January.

It was reported by President Whitman that the 2016 State Convention is full at this time. Stand-bys are being recorded.

Donna Jones gave the members an update on the Garden Explosion V Seminar to be held on March 17th at the Paragould Community Center. Sign-Up Sheets were made available and workers were signed up for decoration, registration, raffle and crafts. All MG members will bring finger food for refreshments on that day. Flyers advertising the Garden Explosion have been printed and put in many locations by our members. There will be many plants for sale at this Event.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement Form was discussed. President Whitman emphasized how important it is to sign this agreement, and get it turned in to the Extension Office by March 31st.

The 2016 Proposed Budget was discussed and a few of the changes were explained to the group by Vice President Holly Fletcher. A motion was made to approve the 2016 Budget, and all of the members approved.

On May 7, 2016, the MG's will hold a Plant Sale at the Centennial Park in downtown Paragould. Prior to this Sale on April 7th, a City-Wide Clean Up will be held to make our city look its very best. Many of our MG’s will participate in this event.

A motion was made and seconded that the MG's will sell plants at the Farmers' Market if it is open at this time. All members were in agreement with this motion.

Our 2016 MG Basic Training Class was held to advise our two new members, Libby Christie and Nancy Rogers, about the Greene County Master Gardeners organization. President Connie gave a power-point presentation of all of our MG Projects. Officer duties, along with standing committees and chairs are found in the new volunteer handbooks. New Member Hours training will be given by Patti Roberts as soon as the new members are added to the roster by the state office. The new members were given MG shirts and name tags to be worn to each meeting and other MG events. A Greene Volunteer Handbook about our group was presented to each one from Sally Mugford, Membership Committee

Ann Bowers provided the Plant It Forward Plant, a lucky bamboo. Nancy Rogers, our new

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Brown Bag Lunch Program
March 8, 2016

Native Plants on the Ridge
Elizabeth Whaley, Crowley's Ridge State Park Interpreter was the March BBL speaker. She explained how the ridge was formed and that the soil is basically derived of sediment know as loess. Flora and fauna are more closely related to the Tennessee hills to the east than to the Ozark Mountain to the west. She discussed the trees and flowers that grow there such as the Tulip Poplar, and Wild Hydrangea. We had 22 people in attendance.

April’s speaker will be Bob McKeel. He will speak about butterflies, and will bring his collection of mounted butterflies. Holly Fletcher

Project Updates

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

**GC Fairgrounds:** Connie Whitman & Joy Gatlin Chairs: No report

**East Sign:** Dr. James Laird & Paulettta Tobey, Chairs: No report

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

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

**Historical Courthouse Herb Garden:** Donna Jones & Holly Fletcher, Chairs: Bed was mulched by the group who does the mulching for all the rest--uniformity. I have done a little dead heading.

**Garden Explosion 5:** Donna Jones & Carolyn Palmer Chairs: GE V Thursday March 17th

**Trellis Garden:** Dr. Laird & Paulette Tobey Chairs: Gazing ball has been replaced.

**Plant Sale:** Marilyn White, Cora Flanery, & Joy Gatlin, Chairs. No report.

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

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

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MG member was selected as the winner of this plant.

Cora Flanery was presented with an Advanced MG Level II pin.

Trowel pins were presented to Perfect Attendance Members announced last month.

With no further business to discuss, the February Meeting was adjourned.


**Committee Comments**

**Sunshine:** Joy Gatlin, Lead & Cora Flanery: No report.

**Crafts + Fundraising:** Linda Glickert, Lead: The crafts committee is humming right along for both the GE V as well as our Fall craft show. With GE V right around the corner all efforts are focused on it. Donna and I visited the GCT greenhouse last week and cannot say enough kind things about Hanna Gray. I was told she wants to work with MG’s, and does she ever! Let me remind everyone who possibly can to come in on Wed., Mar.-16, after 3 PM to help set up. Efforts are underway for plants - either collected blooms, plants in yards, and seeds started for the everlastings in the fall. It promises to be fun! Thanks in advance for all your help!

**Scholarship:** Paulettta Tobey, Lead: No report.

**Awards:** Paulettta Tobey, Lead: No report.

**Scrapbook:** Carolyn Palmer, Lead: “The 2015 scrap book for GCMG is complete. Many newspaper articles for 2016 have been collected. Thanks to everyone for collecting published articles for the scrapbook. Thanks!”

**Plant Markers:** Martha Chiles, Lead: No report.

**Membership:** Connie Whitman, Lead: “Continuing with member recognition.”

**Publicity:** Pauletta Tobey, Lead: No report.

**Hours Management:** Patti Roberts, Lead: No report.

**Advanced Training:**

Patti Roberts, Lead: “Committee met Mar. 5th”
There are varieties for shade and varieties that can grow in partial shade. There are mounding types and flatter types in various shades of green. Moss can grow on wood, rocks, and even concrete.

Once established, they are drought tolerant, going dormant in times of drought and springing back when it rains or is watered.

Mosses get their nutrients from the atmosphere and not from the soil, so they don’t have to have really fertile soil.

Pick a site in shade or partial shade and clear debris from the area to be planted. Scratch the soil slightly so the moss will make good contact with the soil. Then press the moss into the soil and mist it well. Then press it again and try to water it every day or every other day until the rhizomes get established. (Yes, moss has rhizomes!) Moss can stay green nearly all winter and add some color to an otherwise “drab” landscape.

Want something different for your garden? Have you thought about moss?

Moss can grow in places where lawns won’t grow and use only a fraction of the water a traditional lawn uses.

Try not to harvest moss from the woods, but if you know of a private landowner that would let you harvest some, slide a spatula underneath the moss trying to get a small amount of soil with it to help hold the moss together. Just remember to prepare the area and water it in well. Be patient and you will have a beautiful green carpet!

Mosses are especially effective when grown near a water garden and give a tranquil feel to a Zen garden.

Moss makes a beautiful container garden. Choose a well-drained container like a plastic drain pan from a flower pot. Use a coffee filter to cover the drainage hole, and then add a layer of gravel to help the drainage. Pour in your soil and add a piece of driftwood or a stone for interest. Now you can add your moss and press down to make a good soil contact. You can add other small plants for even more interest. Water well and cover any bare areas with decorative gravel and place in a shady area.

Just remember – “In the Shade, Moss is Boss!”

For more information, go to: growingagreenerworld.com

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**New Gazing Ball at Trellis Garden!**

**Member Profile**

**Thinking Green** by Cora Flanery

What year did you become a Master Gardener? **2016**

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it? *My father would have me help him in his garden when I was very young, I looked forward to every spring planting and working with him.*

List experiences working with the community, schools, churches, youth, and senior citizens, etc. **Relay for life (Craighead)**

Group affiliations (garden clubs, plant, or flower societies, etc.): **“Master Gardeners”**

Other information (family or other interests): *I enjoy working on my hobby farm with three horses, a cat, and a dog. Hopefully I’ll have some chickens soon, too.*

**Volunteer Agreement Forms**

must be signed and turned in at the next meeting. If you are unable to attend the March meeting, please sign the form and mail it or drop it off at the extension office by March 31st. Forms must be signed to remain active in the Master Gardener Program.

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**Member Profile**

What year did you become a Master Gardener? **2016**

When did your interest in gardening begin and what do you enjoy most about it? *I have been interested in gardening all my life. My parents always had a garden and I was always in it trying to help. I enjoy watching flowers and plants grow!*

List experiences working with the community, schools, churches, youth, and senior citizens, etc. **As a working mother, I volunteered as often as possible. Now that I’m retired, I hope to spend more time on something I love.**

Group affiliations (garden clubs, plant, or flower societies, etc.): **“Master Gardeners”**

Other information (family or other interests): *I’m married with one son, three granddaughters and two great granddaughters.*

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FYI: For anyone, like myself, who didn’t know what a hobby farm is:

**hobby farm (noun):**

**hobby farm:** a small farm operated for pleasure or supplemental income rather than for primary income.
Our youngest member and 2012 Rookie of the Year is graduating!

Way to go, Tabitha!

Congratulations!

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