Six Greene County Master Gardeners traveled to Fayetteville for Master Gardener Appreciation Day October 10th at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Master Gardeners were admitted free with name badge or membership card. Jean Crossno, Sue Gilmartin, Linda Glickert, Pauletta Tobey, Patti Roberts, and Cora Flaney toured the garden, enjoyed exhibits and demonstrations by vendors, and boxed lunches from Atlanta Bread.

Master Gardener Day t-shirts were available for pick up at the gardens, given by BGO garden staff, Master Gardeners, and community partners. Janet Carson and Sherrie Smith were on hand to answer questions, too.

Vendors included: County 76-MG items; Rain Barrel Demo Flower Arranging; Vegetable Gardening; Raising Chickens; Composting & Vermiculture; Gardening with Children Book sales; Appleseeds Children's Books sales; Monarchs; AR Butterfly House; and Greedy Goats.

MG Tree Sale

Our first fall Tree, Shrub, & Climber Sale was held downtown Oct. 15th in Centennial Park. Members donated items for the sale and made free cupcakes for shoppers in celebration of Arkansas Master Gardener Week October 9th-15th. This year marks 28 years for Arkansas Master Gardeners! The total profit for the day was $147.50.
Monarch at Butterfly Garden

Greene Garden News

Presidents Notes

Fall has proven to be one of the busiest on record for our organization. The Greene County Fair was followed by PNG last month, and in October there have been seminars for members to attend, MG Day at Botanical Garden in Fayetteville, our first fall plant sale, and our first Advanced Training Class.

November will kick off with a Harvest Crafts Fair the first Saturday, and we’ll wrap up the month with our Holiday Dinner on the 29th.

This has been a good and productive year for us, but we still have some work to do before our year ends. Project Evaluations and the End of Year Report are due next month, and Award Nominations will be voted on this month and announced at the Holiday Dinner. The deadline for those will be January 15th.

And last, but not least, please bring your service and education hours current so we will have an accurate total for 2016. They are so important. Thank you.

Connie

Events Calendar

Oct. 21: GC Advanced Training Class, Paragould Community Center, Masters for Monarchs

Oct. 25: GCMG Meeting, 6 pm. GC Library Legacy Room. Officer Election & Awards Nominations

Oct. Oct. 29: Dave & Tammy Freeze Cookout

Nov. 5: Harvest Craft Show, Paragould Community Center-10 am-4pm.

Nov 8: BBL-Landfill Manager, Proper Handling of Yard Waste

Nov. 29: Holiday Dinner Potluck, GC Library Legacy Room, 6 pm

Treasurers Report

Local Account: FNB
Beginning Balance 9/01/16--9/30/16 1238.03

Credits
9/29 Calendar Reimb. By Members 23.00

Debits
9/22 GC CES (MG Calendars) 70.00
9/22 Whitman-Office Supplies & GCFB Pic 89.71

Balance 10/9/16 1101.32

Respectfully submitted 9/13/16
Kenneth E. Fletcher, Treasurer

Fall into Gardening Seminar

Linda Glickert, Patti Roberts, Cora Flanery and Paulette Tobey traveled to Forrest City on October 6th for the St. Francis County “Fall into Gardening” seminar at the Mid-South Health Systems Building on North Washington St.

Lelia Kelly presented “Plants from Grandma’s Garden”; “Fall & Winter Plants” by Janet Carson; Patice Gros, “No-Till Gardening”; and Mitchell King O’bannion, “Turf-from Bottom to Top”. (See Pg. 6)
The August Minutes and Treasurer's Report as printed in our Newsletter were approved by all of our members present.

The Greene County Fair Flower and Plant Entries were recorded and judged on September 3, 2016. There were 9 Master Gardener members who worked that morning helping to get the entries cataloged and ready for the judges. MG Sue Gilmaritn was in charge of the computer for entering each flower and plant.

Agent Dave Freeze asked our group if anyone wanted to help with the Fruit and Vegetable Entries for 2017. They are in need of some volunteers for help with this project.

Holly, Linda, and Dave were just back to our meeting after a trip for the PNG Leadership event. They reported on classes they attended, and felt it was a very educational session for them and our group. The PNG activities will be online soon for all of to enjoy.

The ATC is scheduled for October 21st and we need about 8-10 workers to help that day. A Sign-Up Sheet was sent around the group and several members signed up to help.

Our Tree Sale has been rescheduled for October 15th at the Centennial Park in downtown Paragould beginning at 9:00-2:00. We need trees, shrubs, climbers and lots of publicity to advertise this event.

The Master Gardener 28th Birthday Celebration will be on October 9-15th. On October 10th, Patti will pick up our pre-ordered MG Birthday T-Shirts at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Patti, Cora, Pauletta, Linda, and Jean will be attending this outstanding event. Since our Tree Sale is October 15th, we will celebrate by giving out cupcakes at the Tree Sale, taking a Group picture, and other activities during the week. Our own Greene County Master Gardener Organization is 17 years old beginning in 1999.

The Harvest Craft Festival at the Paragould Community Center is to be held on Saturday, November 5th. Linda Glickert, Lead, will be calling work days at her house as time gets closer for the Event.

Officer nominations presented by the Nomination Committee, Carolyn Palmer and Martha Chiles at our meeting were: President--Incumbent Connie Whitman

Vice-President-- Bonnie Hamilton
Secretary--Libby Christie
Treasurer--Holly Fletcher
No other nominations were made from the floor.

Awards 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 on 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.

County Agent, Dave Freeze will present the October 11th BBL Program about "Soil". This will be held at 12:00 noon at the Greene County Public Library.

A Project Workday at the Centennial Park has been called for on Friday Sept. 30th beginning at 8:00 am.

Registration for the 2017 State Meeting in Little Rock will be February 1, 2017. Following PNG, Holly Fletcher reported the Doubletree Hotel hosting the event is almost booked so get your reservations made as soon as possible.

The Greene County Conservation District is having a Nut Sale through October 16th, 2016. A form is available for ordering these delicious nuts.

Dave and Tammy Freeze will host a cookout on Saturday October 29th for the Greene County Master Gardeners. More information will be made available soon.

Plant it Forward Plants were brought to our meeting by Kathy Graber and Libby Christie.

Harvest Craft Show November 5th

We're getting down to crunch time both in the garden and for the craft festival booth! I've been collecting and drying like crazy as have other MGs. Our tree sale is this weekend, then look out! We're on to creating products from our gardens. Carolyn, Holly, and Donna have brought by supplies and flowers to be used for all this beauty and bounty. We are very appreciative of your efforts and sharing - and we're not proud, we'll take anything to challenge our creativity. I'll be calling work days to begin assembling the garden crafts. That leaves us the next week for the final push. So expect the calls for work days that week, Mon. 17th and Tue, 18th, starting at 1 PM both days. Come to one or both. Bring your dried materials, fresh too! (But know some wilts.) Bring along your trimmer, wire cutters, needle nose pliers, pliers, wire, cord, ribbon, foam, lace, baskets, and different containers. Use your imagination and clean out your closet!

Libby's Aster was won by Sue Gilmaritn and Kathy's Double Red Begonia was taken home by Linda Glickert.

As no further business needed be discussed, the meeting was adjourned by President Connie Whitman.

Those members attending the meeting were: Brenda Barr, Ann Bowers, Martha Chiles, Libby Christie, Jean Crossno, Holly and Ken Fletcher, Joy Gatlin, Susan Gilmaritn, Linda Glickert, Kathy Graber, Cora Flanery, Wanda Howerton, Tacie Huffman, Dr. James Laird, Tabitha McCadden, Carolyn Palmer, Patti Roberts, Pauletta Tobey, Connie Whitman and Dave Freeze.

Respectively submitted by Joy Gatlin, Secretary

Linda Glickert
Once again – an outstanding program. Dave had been very rushed that morning and not at all sure he could break away to come do it. But our Dave came through!

He did an all hands on program he developed for working with schools. He calls it a game “The Race Down Under”. He has a bucket of 25 items that he distributes along with 3 clues about each. You are to guess what it is. The packets are soil types, fertilizers and amendments. Once each is revealed, he talks about its place in our soil system. It was fun and very informative!

November BBL speaker is the manager of the landfill. I approached him initially about handling yard waste.

Have some others lined up but no firm dates set yet. One even said “use me when another can’t make it at the last minute.”

Linda Glickert
Can You Dig it?  Story and Photos by Janet Carson, Special to the Arkansas Democrat

(This article was published September 24, 2016.)

**Summer bulb guide tells you which need unearthing, which are winter hardy.**

When you say "bulbs," most people think of spring-bloomers such as daffodils and tulips, but a whole range of summer bulbs grace our gardens....

Some are winter-hardy and grown as perennials, while others are tender and must be lifted and stored for the winter.

Summer bulbs found in many Arkansas gardens include elephant ears, caladiums, dahlias, gladiolus, cannas, and pineapple lilies, lycoris, (surprise lilies) and amaryllis.

**Elephant Ears**
Common elephant ears are winter-hardy statewide, but some of the more decorative varieties with variegated or dark foliage are only moderately hardy. To protect your investment and to ensure you have these bulbs every year, you should lift and store them either before a frost or immediately after one.

Caladiums are closely related but are never winter-hardy. Caladiums thrive in warm soils, so don’t be so quick to replant next spring. If the soil is cool at planting time, they are often slow to establish.

Both these plants thrived during this mild, moist summer and gardeners have some of the largest plants we have seen.

**Dahlias**
Dahlias come in many sizes with many shapes of blooms. Occasionally they will overwinter in a mild winter. Since they are native to Mexico and Central America, they like a fairly mild winter.

To guarantee they will come back, it is best to dig the bulbous tubers in the fall. Dahlias grow from a fibrous root system of fleshy stalks radiating from a central stalk.

**Tough Guys**
Lycoris (surprise lilies). Canna lilies, and pineapple lilies (Eucomis) are considered winter-hardy in Arkansas and can be left in the ground from year to year. If you have cannas that need division, they can be divided as they emerge in spring, or you can lift the bulbs this fall and store for winter, then divide and replant in spring. Other lilies that are too crowded can also be dug, divided and then immediately replanted in fall.

**Storing Bulbs**
Digging and storing tender bulbs requires some work, and you will need to consider your storage space.

I usually treat some of these tender summer bulbs as summer annuals, planting new ones each year. I always buy new caladium bulbs, and if an amaryllis comes back on its own, that is a bonus. But this is your decision. You can save them all or only save bulbs that are expensive or hard to find.

How cold winter is determines the survival rates, and there is no way of predicting that. So, if you want to guarantee their return, to be on the safe side, you need to lift and store the more tender bulbs.

If you want to take your chances, leave them in the ground. Wait for a killing frost and then pile on an extra layer of mulch, but not too quickly. You want the plants to be dormant before you cover them. If you add extra cover while they are still actively growing, the bulbs will not have a chance to go dormant. They might rot.

To store bulb, you have several options.

You can begin to dig them as the leaves begin to decline in the garden, but if they are still showy and growing well. Wait until frost is in the forecast or immediately after a frost.

Cut off the spent foliage and dig up the bulbs. Use caution that you don’t injure them as you dig.

Don’t divide the cluster of bulbs as they go into storage. Next spring you can divide them before you replant.

Before storing the bulbs, you want to air dry or cure them. Lay them in a single layer on top of newspapers in a cool, shady, dry place for several days—up to a week.

Shake off as much dried soil as possible and store the dried bulbs in a breathable container.

(Continued on Page 6)

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**Improvements at the South Sign**

As many of you know the trees and bushes have obscured the view of the South Sign for quite some time. A driver would have to be almost to the sign before actually seeing the sign.

With help from PLWC that problem has been resolved! The undergrowth and trees have been removed, opening up the entire area, providing a wonderful panoramic view of the South Sign for passersby to enjoy. Talk about curb appeal!

Another issue recently caused concern with the South Sign. The worry was that utility poles would be put directly in front of the sign. As soon as Carolyn Palmer heard of the problem, (both a MG and City Beautiful member) she went directly to the mayor’s office. After speaking to the mayor, the mayor called the head of PLWC, who then made a trip to the site to see exactly what was going on.

Happy ending, no utility poles will be put directly in front of the South Welcome Sign.

Thank you, Carolyn, Pauletta, Mayor Gaskill, and the guys at PLWC for following up!
(Continued Bulbs, Page 5)

They cannot be stored loose as the spring-blooming bulbs such as crocuses, tulips and daffodils. Summer bulbs must be stored in a material that protects them from totally drying out, which can injure or even kill the bulb.

A cardboard box with a layer of dry peat moss, vermiculite, shipping peanuts, or shredded paper works well.

Don’t store bulbs in a non-breathable plastic container, and don’t crowd them or they can rot during storage.

Once you have them in the container, store in a cool place that will not freeze. Re-plant in spring after all chances of frost have passed.

**An Exception**

Various gladioli are available in Arkansas, and some are harder than others.

As with caladiums, some gardeners treat their gladioli as annuals and plant new corms each spring. But, they too, can be lifted and stored for winter.

But they are treated a little differently from other summer bulbs. Gladiolus corms can be stored in the open, without the protection of peat moss or other filler. The corms can be dug at any time after the foliage has died back. Let them air dry for two to three weeks, then store them loose in a paper or a mesh bag.

**Amaryllis**

Many gardeners stock up on amaryllis bulbs before Christmas.

The showy, large bulbs are not supposed to survive our winters outdoors, but we have been having more and more success these days.

Shake off as much dried soil as possible and store the dried bulbs in a breathable container.

Others lift the bulbs as fall is ending as and cut off the foliage. They take them indoors, pot them and store in a cool, dry place. Then they wait for new growth. Once bulbs begin to sprout, begin watering and move the pots into a sunny spot. Typically, they will bloom within six to eight weeks indoors.

Most of our summer bulbs are still growing strong, but others have begun their decline. Knowing how to handle, store and/or divide them will allow you to make the most of the plants you grow.

*Article provided by Martha Chiles*