WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR ENTRIES ARE WELCOMED!

Cut Flowers
Potted Plants
Flower Arrangements

Fruits
Vegetables
Field Crops

Entries must be delivered to the Horticulture Building on Monday, August 26th between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. No entries will be accepted after 7 p.m. Obtain entry tags at the Extension Office.
(complete information for ease in the entry process)
Entries should be in clean containers; ensure that all produce, plants and foliage are clean.

HELP WANTED
Monday, Aug. 26 – Saturday, Aug. 31
WCMGs staff the Horticulture Building continuously from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. each day.

Help is needed on Monday to accept entries. Other times there is judging and monitoring of the building, making sure no one disturbs the displays, watering plants, picking up trash and/or answering gardening questions.

Co-Superintendents, Mary Crumley and Ellen Jones ask for your help in making this another successful year. Signup sheets will be at the August 6 WCMG meeting or contact Mary Crumley
Cell Phone: 870-270-6945 --- Email: crumleymom@yahoo.com.

Linda Chappell is a County Extension Agent of Family & Consumer Sciences at the University of Arkansas. She will be discussing the AgrAbility project. It is a joint effort to help families and individuals in farming and gardening with simple lifestyle changes as they age. The project also helps when an injury forces one to adapt their farming and gardening. The main outreach is to people who receive an income from gardening/farming and the available resources to assist them.
MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
General Business Meeting of July 2, 2013
Patsy Louk, Secretary

PRESENT:  73

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Vice-
President, Dolores Stamps, asked to have a moment of
silence in memory of Marty Gray, who passed away on
June 25, 2013.  She also announced that a gift would
be made to the MG endowment in Marty’s memory.

President, Gloria McIntosh, called the meeting to order
at 6:38 p.m.  Motions were made, seconded and passed
to approve the Minutes of the May meeting as printed
in the Garden Thyme.  The June meeting was the picnic
and there were no minutes.  Motions were made,
seconded and passed to approve the April and May
Treasurer’s reports as printed in the Garden Thyme.

OLD BUSINESS:
None

NEW BUSINESS:
Mary Crumley had a power point presentation about the
volunteer opportunities at the Washington County Fair.
If you work the whole Fair, you can earn 76 hours,
evenings only you can earn 25 hours.  The Fair is
August 27 to 31st and many volunteers are needed.
Cleaning, decorating, checking items in, watering,
checking out items at the end of the fair.  Mary has
sign-up sheets in the lobby after the meeting or email
her at crumleymom.com.

Joyce Mendenhall made a power point presentation
about the volunteer opportunities for Ask A Master.  It
is an easy and fun way to get hours in the air
conditioning. No experience is needed. It is a great
opportunity to learn about plants and talk to people.
There are many resources to get answers for caller’s
questions. Joyce will send around a sign-up sheet.  She
also has Ask A Master books for sale for $12.

Gloria introduced reinstated member, Linda McMath.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MG Leadership Conference, now called Plant-Nurture-
Grow, is September 23 & 24 at the Clarion on Lake
Hamilton, Hot Springs, AR.  All active MG’s and County
Agents are encouraged to attend.  It is not only for
current or newly elected officers.  Cost is $50.00 for the
first 140 registrants; after that the cost goes up to $80.

Arkansas MG Day at Garvan Garden, Hot Springs, AR is
Tuesday, September 24.  All MG’s get in free.  Events
will be coordinated so you will be able to attend all
activities at both PNG and MG Appreciation Day.

BGO Firefly Fling Festival for Families is July 13 from 6-
10 PM.  $7.00 each, families of 4 or 5, $6.00 each or
$5.00 each for groups of 6 or more.  Music by Still on
the Hill, entertainment by Shaky Bugs, Merrily Spins,
Fairy Willow and Night Blossoms and activity stations by
Crystal Bridges, ONSC, Audubon AR, Cox
Communications and BGO.  MG volunteers needed for
station assistants and sales people in the Firefly Shoppe.
Email jsmith@bgozarks.org or call 750-2620.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Dolores Stamps, Program Chair, introduced our speaker,
Fred Paillet, U of A Geosciences Dept.

The following 2013 WCMG trainees have
completed and recorded their required 40
project work AND 20 education hours!
Lois Archer
Cathi Cody
Beverly Didier
Susan Gardner
Pat Mills
Lynn Phillips
Jim Sposato

If you have any questions about your work or
education hours or how to record them, please
contact Annette Pianalto at pianacjp@cox.net.

We look forward to adding more
names to the list next month!

Gardening Tip from
Jaylon Haley

When using your garden hose
during these hot summer days,
let the water run until cool
before applying it to your
plants or they might get
scalded!
Page 2 - BUYING BULBS

There are lots of places to buy bulbs. The Big Box stores, local nurseries, a local grower and mail order. No matter where you buy them you need to give them a little squeeze to see if they are solid. If not put the bulbs back. If possible peel the dry ‘skin’ off to check for fungus that the heat treatment is supposed to kill. The best choice is a local grower of bulbs and second choice is mail order from growers.

July, August and September is the best time to plan for Spring Bulbs and order them. The sooner planted in the Fall the better chance you will get blooms in the Spring. Some bulbous plants will not bloom for one to two years after planting. I dig and replant bulbs anytime of the year that the ground is not frozen. Growers dig bulbs in the summer, heat treat them and have them ready for shipment in the fall. As I use the dip method I fresh dig them, dip them and ship all year.

All bulbs should have the ‘skin’ peeled off and I soak them in a bucket of one part household bleach to 10 parts tap water for 10 to 15 minutes and air dry them for a day or two. This will kill all bacteria, fungus, and virus just as the heat treatment is intended to do. I use this treatment for all bulbs from an unknown soil source.

You will find a big price difference between the Box Stores, mail order and local growers. Mail order will usually be higher due to catalog and/or web site costs and shipping. Local grower will be more than the Box Stores but you will know that the bulbs will grow in the area and they provide a ready source of information and disease free bulbs. Box Stores will be the cheapest and they order from big wholesalers and some of the bulbs have been out of the ground for over a year. Most of these bulbs come from South Africa, Brazil, Australia and growers here in the USA with Holland in 5th place.

Tulip fungus rot from under the coating
Daylily enthusiasts from all over Region 13 (Arkansas and Louisiana) were welcomed to Bentonville by the Northwest Arkansas Daylily Society for their Regional Meeting on June 14–15. Tours were conducted in two Master Gardener's yards: Judie Branson and Judy Henbest. Other gardens toured included John Holland, Carol Sargent, Bob Stassen, Jean Toegnes, and Doug and Libby Beecher. Lunch was served on Friday at Crystal Bridges and a tour of the grounds and museum was enjoyed by all afterwards. Mt. Sequoyah was the setting for lunch on Saturday. Speakers included Bill Maryott from California, who gave a free 2013 registration plant to all attendees – ‘h. Ozark Garden Gem’ (which was the theme of our meeting). The other speaker, Dan Trimmer from Florida, gave lots of tips on the hybridizing process. Because several of the registrants were also Master Gardeners, we got to ‘double dip’ on our friendships and a good time was had by all.
Place of Birth: Youngest of 12 children born of Cherokee descent at home near Afton, OK, a farming community near Grand Lake.

What attracted me to the Master Gardening Program: My introduction to gardening was as a child growing up on a small farm in Oklahoma. It was necessary to put food on the table for our family with vegetables being the only crop. My mom always had a dozen or more "houseplants" that she kept in pots. I never thought of gardening as a hobby or enjoyable pursuit until later in life. My career was in retail management of a large home center with an extensive lawn and garden department. This whetted my interest and increased my knowledge in plants and nursery stock.

Methods of Gardening: I'm a patient raised-bed gardener who doesn't obsess over getting the first ripe tomato in the neighborhood or the growing of the largest watermelon on the block. I do try to take what Mother Nature gives in the way of growing conditions and work around them.

A favorite plant: From the vegetable side it has to be Clemson spineless okra. From the flower side, I love gladiolas of any color but particularly am most fond of reds which really entertain the eye.

What I enjoy: No joke, I like the physical part of tilling, pulling weeds, dragging water hoses and just the challenge of solving the little dilemmas presented by the weather and pests.

Something I routinely grow and why: A few years ago I planted an asparagus bed in an obscure area of my property as a tribute to a favorite uncle. He always had one in a garden fencrow for his own indulgence. I love it now but did not like its flavor as a child.

A better way: I have become a "mulch disciple" as a result of extreme heat during our summers and I mulch my entire garden and beds.
Dear Master Gardeners and County Agents,

As we prepare to celebrate 25 years of the Arkansas Master Gardener program, we need to reflect on how far we have come. I continually say that Arkansas has one of the best programs nationwide, and by far the best volunteers. You all do an amazing job giving back to your communities across this state.

On Monday, October 14, we will officially celebrate our 25th birthday. P. Allen Smith has given us a hugely discounted rate to come to his garden retreat, Moss Mountain and we have some added educational opportunities which we will host at Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock—our central location where the busses will load and unload. We are committed to charging individual Master Gardeners $25 for the day—$1 per year of our program. (Registration will begin August 1.) We are hoping to have a minimum of 1000 Master Gardeners in attendance, and we want it to be a wonderful event.

Our celebration is going to cost more than $25 per person. Looking at what we have planned, our goal is to raise an additional $10,000. We are working on fund raising ideas and sponsorships. We are asking for your help. If you know of potential sponsors, send their contact information to me. We have already gotten commitments from Southern Living Plants that Work for plants for county programs, and Proven Winners is also on board.

We would like for county programs to consider donating $100 per county towards this event. This is a suggested amount, and we do not want to put an undue burden on any county program, so it is not a requirement, just a suggestion. With 65 county programs, that would be a good start! Individuals can also donate. If each MG donated $1, that would give us $3200. If you want to give more, it is tax deductible, if checks are made payable to UACES.

If you compare the costs of our programs to those in other states, we have the lowest cost for basic training, and we are one of the few states that don’t charge statewide dues—and I would like to keep it that way. We also have one of the lowest charges for a statewide conference—and the largest attendance numbers. I think we have a good track record of trying to keep costs low and giving a quality program. The MG program should not be an elite program which costs a lot of money; we want as many Arkansans to be able to participate as possible.

Annually we have a silent auction that raises money for MG leadership training, to lower costs for attendees. As we move into our next 25 years, I think it would be a good idea if counties could add a $100 in their annual budget to consider sponsorship for the state MG conference as well. Costs continue to go up for busses, facilities and food, and this would be great seed money for each county who offers to host a conference. If your county has hosted a state conference, you totally understand what I am saying. The return on this investment would be huge for our program and all our volunteers.

I am proud of the job all of our County Agents and Master Gardeners do for the Master Gardener program in Arkansas, and how much it has grown and thrived in the past 25 years. Moving into our next 25 years, we need to make plans to change with the times and make sure our program is meeting the needs of our state and our members. With the “can do” attitude of our volunteers, I know this will happen. Thanks again!

Janet Carson
Bagworms are 3 to 4 weeks later this year and they are feeding heavily right now, making up for lost time. Bagworms can kill a needle evergreen if it is heavily infested. Inspect host plants periodically - bagworms seem to like juniper, arborvitae, and pines, but they will attack many broadleaf shrubs and trees such as rose, sycamore, maple, elm, and black locust. Hand-picking for a light infestation works well; applying the bacteria Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) will also take care of the problem.

Fall webworms should be appearing in pecan, hickory, and persimmon trees in mid-to-late August. Controlling the bottom 1/3 of the tree will be quite effective, even though we cannot reach the upper areas. Bt or Carbaryl will stop this nuisance caterpillar. Observe all label precautions on mixing and use. Do not use dust formulations due to the problem with application.

Check tomatoes for blossom end rot on the fruit as it begins to form. This is usually an indication of a calcium deficiency. Place a handful of gypsum in the soil beside the tomato at planting (or later) to prevent this. Foliar sprays such as blossom end rot spray will also help alleviate the problem. Nothing will "heal the fruit with rot on it, so remove and discard them.

Soak shrubs periodically during dry spells with enough water to moisten the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.

Pinch the growing tips of gourds once adequate fruit set is achieved. This directs energy into ripening fruits, rather than vine production.

Plant the following fall vegetable plants this month: beets, bush beans, Chinese cabbage, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, radish, rutabaga, spinach, summer squash and turnip. With the leafy greens, plant a few feet every 2 weeks and you will have greens up to and beyond the first frost.

Spray the following landscape shrubs for the following insect pests: arborvitae and juniper (spider mites), azalea and pyracantha (lace bug).

In late August, prepare the lawn areas for seeding if you plan to have a tall fescue lawn.

Bearded iris look sickly right now. Actually that is normal, as bearded iris go somewhat dormant after bloom. Now is the time to cut them back, divide and reset them. After digging them up, detach the younger rhizomes from the older, woody-looking mother rhizome and replant the young ones. Chunk the old mother rhizome into the compost heap. Choose a sunny, well-drained spot and don’t cover the young rhizomes completely when resetting.

I have used the whack-back, rejuvenation technique on Shasta daisies, rudbeckias and other perennials flowers during mid to late summer. Sometimes, this encourages new bloom, sometimes not, depending on when I do the whacking-back. I would encourage you to experiment with this and make notes of what works for you. Always remember to keep these severely pruned plants adequately watered and give them a weekly dose of soluble fertilizer to spur that new growth. Late summer and fall blooming perennials like the asters, mums, salvias, etc. should NOT be cut back as you will be cutting off, or at the least, delaying the bloom period.

Keeping that mulch thick (4 inches) on perennial flowers keeps you off the water hose duty by retaining the soil moisture. It also keeps you off the hoe duty by reducing the number of weeds.

Plant pansy seed this month in flats for planting in the landscape in September.

Berni’s Hilltop Gardening Tips

August 2013

Bagworms are 3 to 4 weeks later this year and they are feeding heavily right now, making up for lost time. Bagworms can kill a needle evergreen if it is heavily infested. Inspect host plants periodically - bagworms seem to like juniper, arborvitae, and pines, but they will attack many broadleaf shrubs and trees such as rose, sycamore, maple, elm, and black locust. Hand-picking for a light infestation works well; applying the bacteria Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) will also take care of the problem.

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Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

BGO CALENDAR OF EVENTS
by Judy Smith

Tues. - Aug. 13 at 7:00 - Free outdoor concert with Chadwick
Thurs. - Sept. 12 - Chefs in the Garden
Tues. - Sept. 24 - Free outdoor concert with 3 Penny Acre
Fri. - Oct. 11 - Brent Heath program
Sat. - Oct. 12 - Brent Heath container workshop (Brent Heath details in September GT).

A big THANK YOU from BGO and me goes to all the Master Gardeners who volunteered for Firefly.
I was walking around the area at Table Rock Lake dam near Branson recently and came across beautiful flowers and a well-manicured area. I was impressed and surprised; didn’t think the Army Corps of Engineers would keep such an attractive area. Later, I came to the plaque above. Ah-ha - the answer!  

Ken Fladie

WOW! Can you believe it is August already? This means that in five short months, we will be graduating all Master Gardener Interns that have worked and recorded their required Sanctioned Project hours and have fulfilled their Education hour requirements. I stress **RECORDED** because I know many of you have been working hard to fulfill the requirements but some have are not showing any hours **recorded**. These hours have to be recorded in order to graduate. If you are having trouble using the online system, please let Annette Pianalto or Judy Hammond know and they will be happy to show you how. For those who do not have a computer or access to one, they will enter your hours for you.

There is still time to accumulate lots of volunteer hours. The Extension office needs volunteers for Ask a Master and the Washington County Fair is just around the corner. Joyce Mendenhall will be glad to put you on the Ask a Master list. This is a fun and easy way to get hours in the air conditioning. No experience needed!! It is also a great opportunity to learn and talk to people. There are many resources to get answers for caller’s questions. It is as simple as letting Joyce know when you are available to work.

Mary Crumley needs LOTS of volunteers for the fair. It is possible, if you work the whole fair, to earn 76 hours. If you work evenings only you can earn 25 hours. The Fair is August 27 to 31st. Duties include cleaning, decorating, checking items in, watering, and checking out items at the end of the fair. Contact Mary, let her know when you are available and she will be more than happy to sign you up.

For those who need **Education hours**, remember that you can count monthly Master Gardener meetings as two hours. If you still need more, you can count reading gardening books and magazines, watching gardening programs on television or videos, touring gardens (even on vacation), and attending gardening programs put on by local Garden Clubs.

The **Flower Garden and Nature Society of NWA** has a monthly meeting the third Saturday of each month. They meet in Student Center of Northwest Technical Institute at Ford Ave. and Old Missouri Road in Springdale. They always have a very good speaker. These programs count as 2 hours of education. Meetings are free and open to the public and several Washington County Master Gardeners attend each month.

Even though time has flown by this year, there is still time to get your hours and get them recorded. I want to see every one of you at graduation and hand every one of you your official Master Gardener Name Tag.

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<th>Washington County Master Gardeners</th>
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Prepared by Berta L. Seitz
7/12/2013
Biochar. Much like making charcoal, biochar is made by heating organic matter in the absence of oxygen. Biochar is being promoted as a soil additive that improves growth and yield. Research over the past 10 years has shown that it can be made in your back yard or in huge commercial facilities. Here at U of A, Dr. David Longer is conducting studies with biochar. His early results are positive.

Some biochar studies have shown no differences, but were likely not performed under the “correct” soil conditions. As researchers have come to understand how biochar functions, they also understand the conditions under which it is effective. First, the biochar must be micronized into very small particles. Very fine biochar particles generate a huge surface area, which allows the water, ions, and bacteria in the soil to penetrate the biochar.

Like soil organic matter, biochar has the ability to gather and store ions, both positive and negative. Ideally, the major minerals added to the soil should also be micronized, so they can effectively attach to the biochar.

The next step is to be sure the soil contains a full spectrum of trace minerals, like those found in sea water. Adding sea solution in the biochar cooling process is effective for getting the trace minerals attached to the biochar.

The last major step in the process is to add life to the biochar, i.e. to add bacteria. The bacteria don’t eat the biochar, but live in the pores and work in many ways to make minerals available for plant growth. Along similar lines, I recently found a product called Transplant Formula, from Mineralized Gardens that looks interesting. It was developed at International Ag Labs. I am trying it on several crops and I encourage others to do the same. Keep me posted on your results. The web site for the product is www.amazon.com/Transplant-Formula-Vegetables-Perennials-Biostimulant/dp/B00CHFJSFY/

Weather and Water. Despite the unusually cool weather, your garden and your trees are using vast amounts of water. Here in early July, oaks are producing their second flush of growth. That takes a lot of water, and if we don’t see relief soon, they will begin to exhibit stress symptoms. If you want ideal plant health, don’t wait for wilt symptoms in your garden or trees, before you water. Dig in the soil and check the dryness. If not moist, add water.

The Perennial Topic of Squash Bugs and Japanese Beetles. I have heard mixed reports, but for me and some others, the squash bug population is down this year. The J. beetle population was down in 2012 and is greatly reduced again this year. Dr. Donn Johnson, UofA Entomologist, attributes this to the droughts of 2011 and 2012. The ground actually gets so hard that the adults cannot emerge from the soil.

Don’t Forget the County Fair coming up in August. Bring in your vegetables, fruits, etc. The public deserves a good display.

Grow Your Own Vegetables!
Natural (Organic) Gardening Course
Date: Saturday, September 14, 2013
Time: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Ozark Electric Community Room
3641 Wedington Dr, Fayetteville, AR
Course emphasizes growing NUTRIENT DENSE produce.
Pre-registration is required.
Contact: cfbey1936@cox.net or see http://harmonygardens.blogspot.com for details.
DATES TO REMEMBER

August
Tue., Aug. 6 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
"Ergonomics in the Garden” by Linda Chappell
(complete survey in June - Garden Thyme)
Sat. – Aug. 17th @ 9:30a.m. – FGNS Mtg. –
“Calling All Birds” by Mary Bess and Kelly Mulhollan - Springdale
Washington County Fair Week
Aug. 27-31st

September
Tue., Sept. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG
Annual Business Meeting
Sept. 7-14 – "International Master Gardener Conference” - Alaska
Sat. – Sept. 21st @ 9:30 a.m. – FGNS Mtg. –
"At Home in the Ozarks” by Susan Young, Outreach Coordinator @ Shiloh Museum and a WCMG - Springdale
Mon. & Tues. - Sept. 23rd - 24th – Master Gardener Leadership Training – Hot Springs
Tues. – Sept. 24th – Master Gardener Day
– Hot Springs

October
Tue., Oct. 1 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
“Garden Design” by Dawn Benton
Mon. – Oct 14th - 25th Anniversary of Arkansas Master Gardener Program
Celebration – Little Rock
Sat. – Oct. 19th @ 9:30a.m. - FGNS Mtg. –
“Indians of the Ozarks” by George Sabo, UofA Professor of Anthropology – Springdale