2013 Headquarters House Gardens & Community Outreach

Great fun and community outreach was part of the experience at the Annual Statehood Day Celebration and Ice Cream Social held at the Headquarters House Gardens in June. Washington County Masters Gardeners hosted their 1st Annual Heirloom Plant Sale. Other WCMG community outreach activities included coloring pages in the gardens, garden tours, written plant care information and general education about plants found in the gardens and plants purchased at the sale. A big THANK YOU goes to all Master Gardeners who helped make it such a success!

WCMG Meeting -- July 2, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.
PROGRAM: “Chinquapin Tree Expertise”
Speaker: Dr. Fred Paillet

Dr. Frederick L. Paillet is Adjunct Professor of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Arkansas. His research interests include the hydrogeology of fractured bedrock aquifers, in situ measurement of permeability, groundwater flow modeling, and scale analysis in aquifer characterization. He recently co-authored a study and published “Reconstructing the development of two Ozark chinquapin (Castanea ozarkensis) stands in the pre-blight forests of northwest Arkansas”, in the Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society. The wood of the Ozark Chinquapin, like the American chestnut, is very durable and rot resistant. Because of this it was sought as a source of durable railroad ties and fence posts in the past. As a result, hardwood for most of the Ozarks’ virgin forest were cut. By looking at old photographs and listening to first-hand accounts the landscape in much of southern Missouri looked like a sea of stumps. By the late 1920’s the land was deforested and timber companies moved on. The study involved the trees growing in 1955, immediately before chestnut blight pandemic first arrived in the area.
WCMG’S 2013 PICNIC POTLUCK

by Dolores Stamps

Many thanks to all who attended -- 53 MGs and guests. Plenty of food, good music, entertaining floral design genius, Glenn Schnetzinger, from Organic Creations, and the amazing Picnic Committee. Special gratitude to Berni Kurz for acquiring FREE ice and hauling it to our picnic.

It was a grand success.

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**Washington County Master Gardeners**

*Treasurer’s Report*

May 1 through May 31, 2013

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Prepared by Berta L. Seitz

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No WCMG Meeting Minutes for June 2013
due to Picnic

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WHERE ARE YOUR HOURS?

by Annette Pianalto

Don’t forget to record your work and education hours!!!

Please do not wait until the end of the year to start recording your hours. You may forget what you have done or lose your written records!

We encourage you to record your hours as you do them or, at the very least, once a month.

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact:

Annette Pianalto (361-2007 or pianacjp@cox.net) or

Judy Hammond (306-4349 or juhammond@yahoo.com.)

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Friends, Flowers and Food Galore!
Lisa Purkayastha

Place of Birth: Huntsville, Texas

Why and when you became a Master Gardener? In 2005, I went through MG training in Houston. When we moved to Fayetteville the following year, I decided to repeat the training because the growing conditions are different here, plus I wanted to meet other people who were interested in plants and gardens. I was in the class of 2007.

What is your gardening style? Areas of chaos mixed with areas of control. The chaos includes my large perennial beds where I broadcast seeds of all types and leave it to the survival of the fittest. The areas of control are my herb beds, small patches of mowed grass, and rock gardens. I love succulents so my front porch has several zinc containers with sempervivums, sedums, aeonium, and echeveria. As I’ve learned the importance of insects, I’ve made peace with all bugs except chiggers so I’ve quit using anything that might kill or harm them, including Round-up, exterminating my house, and insecticides. I have nibbles in some of my leaves but I don’t mind. For the most part we all get along.

My favorite plant: Don’t make me choose.

My favorite thing to do in the garden: Sit and admire it.

The best garden spot on earth: I really miss my citrus trees and tropicals from my time in Texas. But I love that I can now grow peonies. In 2007, after we had moved to NWA and were still looking for a house, I was on a committee to view and select gardens for the 2008 MG State Conference. I told Charles Barbee on the bus one day that I wished I could find a place that had established plantings. A month later we found our place off North Street, near Lake Lucille, and I inherited half an acre with hundreds of plants cultivated by the two previous owners. Our neighborhood is heavily wooded and feels like you’re out in the country, but we’re right in the middle of town.

What chore would you like to get out of, or find a better way to do it? Weeding.

What I always grow in my garden: Herbs. I also haven’t given up on my beloved citrus -- I have a dwarf Meyer lemon in a pot. If I didn’t have to bring it in during the winter, I’d have more than one.

Something you learned in your own gardening experience that you like to share: We should all cultivate beauty and emphasize the process of growing and evolving. You cannot work in the garden and stay mad. I wish everyone would garden to relax.

My worst or funniest gardening mistake: When I had a more formal garden in Houston, one of my prized topiary standards died and turned brown overnight. I was hosting a dinner that evening, so I sprayed the top part pink with floral paint.

What piece of advice would you give a new gardener? Do as much of the work yourself as you can. It will connect you emotionally.

Have you visited a particularly memorable garden that you could say a few words about? I visit gardens and plants wherever I go. My husband is originally from India, and he has been patient with my insistence on visiting botanical gardens, farms, and nurseries on our many trips there and to Canada, Australia, and Europe, and all across the US. About 15 years ago, I went to London for the Chelsea Flower Show, which reframed my world. I cried all day because I could not believe what I was seeing, and that I was finally there. I’ve now been five times, loving every minute of every day. On that first trip, I also visited Vita Sackville-West’s home, Sissinghurst, in Kent. To see her famous gardens was like living a dream. When I saw the first rose that she and her husband, Harold Nicolson, had planted after their marriage, I about died. It was a "Mme. Alfred Carrière", the same variety that my husband and I planted as our first rose in our first house. Twenty-five years later, I don’t really miss that house, but I miss the rose. In England there is a deep tradition of gardening and growing, and I respect that very much. But it’s not grandeur that moves me; it is seeing the gardening efforts of people who are deeply connected to their land and the natural world, and to the cultivation of flowers and plants. Seeing Gail and Virgil Pianalto’s place moved me because they are so connected to their land and their place is so personal.

What has being a MG meant to you? I’m grateful for what I’ve learned and the friends I’ve made through Master Gardeners. I still have so much to learn and incorporate into my garden.
I would like to start the column just as I did in Corpus Christi for the master gardeners there. First - a little about my experience. I started growing, propagating and breeding bulbs in 1971 in West Fork. This is where I started breeding *Hippeastrum* Amaryllis and growing them outdoors year round. I also acted as “The Bulb Dr.” for South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. I planted a 1400 square-feet bulb bed at the Gardens, complete with underground watering system and French drain. I consider corms, tubers, tuberous roots, rhizomes and true bulbs as “bulbs” or “bulbous” plants.

I like bulbous plants for their ability to take up water and hold it through summer droughts and longer if necessary. I grow heritage bulbs just for this reason. There are some bulbs here in NW Arkansas that date back to 1611 and have survived here without extra water, fertilizer or care for generations. These bulbs need to be saved and moved to commercial beds or gardens where they can be looked after and cared for properly. Some of the bulbs found here have wonderful histories and can tell stories about the history of Arkansas and the people who came here.

Early settlers’ wives would welcome new arrivals with a group of bulbous plants like daylilies, daffodils, lycoris or iris. These wives were the carriers of bulbs because they were good for months out of the ground. These were not hybrids that only last a few years; they were all foundlings from Turkey, France, Spain and other European countries that lasted forever. Disease, insects and animals will not bother them.

The wives would give them a common name of “lily” though most are not lilies at all. Examples are daylilies, surprise lilies, and many other that are not lilies. True lilies have a bulb with overlapping scales almost like a fish. Any bulb like this is a lily. Amaryllid bulbs have outer ‘skin’ which when gently pulled apart will look like spider web. Any bulb that does this is an “Amaryllid”.

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### ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST

**July 2013**

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**Please call Joyce Mendenhall at 444-1755 for Changes or Additions**

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**ASK A MASTER**

**Master Gardeners**

**PLEASE note all the open times for the month of July!**

**We need your help!**

Ask a Master is a very important part of the Master Gardener program. In fact, it is why Master Gardeners were organized in the first place. County Agents are very busy people, answering questions about everything from farming to food preservation and water quality to backyard chickens and much more, not to mention horticulture! Having Master Gardeners available in the office to help answer the horticulture questions is a huge help. Please consider signing up for one of the ten two-hour shifts each week (10 a.m. – 12n and 1-3 p.m.)

Call Joyce 444-1755 or email her at jmendenhall@uaex.edu to schedule a time.

This project runs from March 1 through October 31.
America in Bloom Update
by Cindi Cope

The America in Bloom Judges were in Fayetteville June 17 & 18. Their visit included some locations where Master Gardeners volunteer such as Wilson Park, Headquarters House and Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Other sites they visited were the Bio-solid Drying Facility, Eco-Modern Flats, community gardens, Solid Waste, Happy Hollow Elementary School and many more. Each criterion is divided into Municipal, Business and Residential Efforts.

Awards and Evaluations will be presented at the America in Bloom Symposium in September.

West Fork Community Outreach
by Jan Hayes and Jane Bryant

As part of the Ozarks Water Watch, on June 8, the Master Gardeners of West Fork hosted a Rain Garden Walkabout in downtown West Fork. Three new rain gardens were toured, two at West Fork Library and one at the Renewable Resource Center. Master Gardeners were on hand to discuss the process of building a rain garden as well as share information about the plantings at each site. Informational handouts were available which included the trifold pamphlet developed by the Master Gardeners. Signup sheets for a rain barrel workshop and becoming a Master Gardener were available. A successful plant and book sale were held at the RRC. A ‘big tip of the spade’ goes to Highland Farms in Farmington for donating great plants, signage and help. Musicians, Francis Harderson and Ali and Miranda Baker provided music on the porch of the Recycle Center. Farmer’s Market was open on the route. A wonderful salad luncheon followed at Jane Bryant’s home.

America in Bloom Judges Use Six Criteria

- Floral Displays,
- Landscaped Areas,
- Urban Forestry,
- Environmental Efforts,
- Heritage Preservation,
- Overall Impression

Master Gardeners reaching out to their Community
News from Janet Carson

Birthday Celebration: Please do a "Save the Date" for Monday, October 14. The Arkansas MG program is hosting our 25th Birthday celebration a day late—(our actual birthday is October 13, but that is a Sunday). We have arranged with P. Allen Smith to do a tour of Moss Mountain. We will have a bus shuttle running all day from Fellowship Bible Church in Little Rock to Moss Mountain and back. We are also planning other events that will go along with this, so stay tuned! My chairmen are Judy Woodard and Ouida Wright, so you know it is going to be great. The fee for the bus ride and tour will be $25 per person—a huge discount on what they normally charge. Mark your calendar and plan to come. This event will only be for Master Gardeners in Arkansas.

State Meeting Hours: We sent this information out earlier, but we are still getting questions about reporting how many education hours to count towards the state MG Conference. 13 hours count for Friday and Saturday. Count the hours you were doing events on Thursday. Wednesday pre tour would be 7 hours. The bulbs we passed out are “Liatris spicata”, commonly called gay feather or blazing star. (A full sun plant with purple flower on spikes in the center of the plant).

MG Leadership Training — September 23 & 24: MG Leadership registration information went out several weeks ago. The deadline for early registration is June 30, with an early limit on 2 per county. After June 30, we will take all comers until we are full. Funds raised at our annual silent auction help defray the cost of registration for the first 140 attendees. Discounted registration is $50. After our 140 limit registration rate will go up to $80. The event will be in Hot Springs at the Clarion Hotel. We strongly encourage every county to be represented at this event. This year as a bonus, we will end as MG Appreciation Day at Garvan Gardens begins, so you can drive down once and get two events. The dates are September 23 & 24 (Monday and Tuesday).

Happy Gardening!

Janet
Berni’s Hilltop Gardening Tips

I have not seen many Japanese beetles this year. Be on the lookout because this pest will defoliate plants in short order. If you find an infestation, use a garden insecticide for chewing insects (acetamiprid or carbaryl). If you postpone control measures, the presence of a few will attract more and then you will be the place to go for the neighborhood Japanese beetle party. Observe all label precautions on mixing and use. Do not use dust formulations due to the problem with environmental concerns.

Weather conditions this past spring were ideal for the bacterium *Erwinia amylovora*, to survive and express its presence in our landscape. We know this garden problem as “Fire blight”. The disease cycle begins in the spring with the infection of blossoms or shoots, providing a future source of the bacteria in “holdover cankers” on infected plants. During wet weather in the early spring, bacteria ooze from these cankers and attract insects that spread the bacteria to other susceptible plants or plant parts. The bacteria is commonly carried to the blossoms, fruits, shoots and leaves by flying or crawling insects, including honeybees. Spread of the bacterium may occur by insects feeding and people using contaminated pruning tools. This infection process continues throughout the summer and into the fall. In the home landscape, resistant cultivars and selective pruning are the best methods of control for ornamental pears and other woody ornamentals. Chemical control is usually not successful since timing and coverage are very important for control. Because of the widespread occurrence of this disease on ornamental pear, one needs to consider an alternative tree for the landscape.

A common occurrence on oak trees is the formation of gall growths or deformities on leaves, twigs, buds, flowers, bark, stems, and even acorns and roots. It has been a banner spring for gall activity. Fortunately, most galls are harmless to trees. Oak galls are caused by a group of small insects known as gall makers. Galls are a part of the insect’s reproductive cycle and provide a protected enclosure for development of offspring (larvae). The gall is formed by the tree in reaction to insect-released chemicals or other stimuli, which incite plant hormones to form the gall. The inside of the gall is rich with protein and provides a source of concentrated food for the developing larvae. The types of galls and the insects causing them are specific to various types of oak. Some galls are round or lumpy, some spiny, others flattened and dish shaped. Sizes can range from a fraction of an inch to several inches in diameter. Often, the larger galls will grow together on stems forming large masses that weigh the branch down. The majority of gall makers are tiny wasps, though some are fly species. There have been more than 700 species of gall wasps documented in North America. Each species causes a distinct type of gall on a specific plant part. In some species, this habit skips a generation, with the offspring forming a different shaped gall on a different plant part, similar to its grandparent rather than its parent.

To many, these galls are unsightly, but they are a part of the natural system associated with oak species which we have in the landscape. As part of the natural system, there will be high and low population cycles of gall maker insects. And, perhaps in a few years, these galls will be less prevalent than they are now.

**Why is my oak tree dying?** A quick answer is that the 2 consecutive years of drought did them in. The more complex answer is that a disease caused predominantly by the fungi *Hypoxylon tinctor* and *Hypoxylon atrupunctatum*, is killing them. This disease is called Hypoxylon canker. These fungi are not considered aggressive “killers” but instead take advantage of stressed or declining hardwood trees. Infected trees can be in various habitats, including recent or well established residential areas and forest trees. Tree infection may occur as early as the seedling stage but can go unrecognized for years until the tree becomes stressed. Bark sloughs off the affected tree revealing a thin, powdery, greenish charcoal look. There is no cure for this disease, but stress avoidance is the most effective management strategy. The key ingredient to canker free trees is prevention. It is important to avoid tree wounds. Construction injury, herbicide damage and site related stresses (drought, etc.) contribute to disease onset. Homeowners need to promote vigorous plant growth by keeping trees well hydrated. Ideally, soak trees weekly simulating a one inch rainfall.

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**Berni Kurz**  
County Extension Agent  
Staff Chair

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**FireFly Fling at BGO**

**Saturday - July 13**

6 – 10 p.m.

_by Judy Smith_

**The Summer Festival for Families** - Saturday, July 13 from 6 to 10 p.m. Admission is $8 for individuals; $7 per person for groups of 4-5; $6 per person for groups of 6 or more; children under 3 are free. For tickets in advance, www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620 or buy at the door.

FireFly Fling includes music, dance, art, drama, crafts and outdoor fun at the Botanical Garden. Entertainment will be presented by Shaky Bugs around 6:30 and by Still on the Hill at 7:30. Fairy Willow will hold court in the Shade Garden and Merrily Spins will invite all to try out hula-hooping. Crystal Bridges, Cox Communication, Audubon Arkansas, ONSC and others will have crafts and activity stations around the garden. After dark, visitors can gather on the lawn for black-light dancing by Kaleidoscope; fire spinning by Night Blossom and a special grand finale. The Firefly Shoppe will be selling wings and things. Tropical Smoothie will have food and smoothies. PedalPops will be offering frozen treats and BGO will sell water and soft drinks. Picnics and lawn chairs are welcome.
SUMMER HAS ARRIVED and Washington County Master Gardeners have been busy with events, work days and I am sure, recording numerous volunteer hours on sanctioned projects, education hours and other work. If you have not yet recorded enough hours, you have plenty of opportunity this time of year. Speaking of sanctioned projects, I stopped by the Arkansas Air Museum a couple of Saturdays ago while Glenda Patterson and her crew were working. They were busy making a new bed by the Air Museum sign which was previously weeds, rock, and compacted soil. It is going to be a great improvement when planted. I was very impressed with an area by the fence on the north side where they have inter-planted daffodils, iris and daylilies for an extended bloom time. They have truly taken ownership of their project but few volunteers show up to help and they can really use more hands. The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks has monthly events scheduled throughout the summer plus Little Sprouts on Wednesday mornings. Plus they always need volunteers for the office. One of NWA’s favorite family events, the Firefly Fling, is Saturday, July 13th, at 6:00 pm. They always need several volunteers for that. Remember, any job you volunteer for at BGO counts as Sanctioned Project hours. Judy Smith, volunteer coordinator, will be happy to find a spot for you. Headquarters House hosted their annual Ice Cream Social in June. I am sure many Master Gardeners were busy sprucing up the gardens beforehand. A little bird told me that Susan Caple Gardner created the lovely arrangements that dressed the tables for the event. What a fun way to get volunteer hours. The Flower Garden and Nature Society held their annual fundraiser in June, “Though the Garden Gate” garden tour. Lois Slusarek and I earned “Other Hours” working the ticket table at Jan Judy’s garden that morning and then “Education Hours” visiting John King’s and two other gardens that afternoon.

Continued above

I know many Master Gardeners volunteered that day plus Jan and John can count the hours they spent showing off their gardens to the public that day. Don’t forget to record your hours for that event.

If you have had a hard time scheduling a time and place to volunteer, mark your calendar for August 27-31. You can get all your required hours for the year working at the Washington County Fair. Mary Crumley will tell you how at this month’s Master Gardener Meeting. She will need LOTS of volunteers for this fun Sanctioned Project. No previous experience needed!

Summer Has Arrived and Washington County Master Gardeners have been busy with events, work days and I am sure, recording numerous volunteer hours on sanctioned projects, education hours and other work. If you have not yet recorded enough hours, you have plenty of opportunity this time of year. Speaking of sanctioned projects, I stopped by the Arkansas Air Museum a couple of Saturdays ago while Glenda Patterson and her crew were working. They were busy making a new bed by the Air Museum sign which was previously weeds, rock, and compacted soil. It is going to be a great improvement when planted. I was very impressed with an area by the fence on the north side where they have inter-planted daffodils, iris and daylilies for an extended bloom time. They have truly taken ownership of their project but few volunteers show up to help and they can really use more hands. The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks has monthly events scheduled throughout the summer plus Little Sprouts on Wednesday mornings. Plus they always need volunteers for the office. One of NWA’s favorite family events, the Firefly Fling, is Saturday, July 13th, at 6:00 pm. They always need several volunteers for that. Remember, any job you volunteer for at BGO counts as Sanctioned Project hours. Judy Smith, volunteer coordinator, will be happy to find a spot for you. Headquarters House hosted their annual Ice Cream Social in June. I am sure many Master Gardeners were busy sprucing up the gardens beforehand. A little bird told me that Susan Caple Gardner created the lovely arrangements that dressed the tables for the event. What a fun way to get volunteer hours. The Flower Garden and Nature Society held their annual fundraiser in June, “Though the Garden Gate” garden tour. Lois Slusarek and I earned “Other Hours” working the ticket table at Jan Judy’s garden that morning and then “Education Hours” visiting John King’s and two other gardens that afternoon.

Continued above
Organic Gardening and More

It’s a Berry Good Year

Calvin F. Bey @ CFBey1936@cox.net

Spring Crops. Most of us struggled with spring vegetable crops this year. Below average temperatures for at least three months and late freezes were the culprits. When things warmed up the last two weeks of May, spring crops grew like gang busters. Unfortunately, it did not take long for them to bolt. Remember that plants are sensitive to temperature and to the number of hours of daylight (photoperiod effect), thus some of the bolting.

It is time to remove some of the spring veggies, and still ample time to still plant the summer crops. Tomatoes have grown quite well, and are now benefitting from warmer days and nights.

Stress. Remember that, in general, bugs are attracted to weak plants. The cold spring provided some stress for several crops, and could even effect tomatoes, peppers, okra, and eggplant that love the heat. We can’t do much about the weather, but do watch for aphids and other bugs. Use the least toxic materials for controlling them. If you are not familiar with Diatomaceous Earth (DE) and Bacillus thuringenesis (BT), consider them before trying others. For aphids, first try spraying with some slightly soapy water. It may be all you need.

It’s a Berry Good Year -- Blackberries. Berry production looks good this year. I have “Doyle” and “Arapaho” blackberries and it looks like a bumper crop. During early June, the 50-feet row of Doyle berries has been alive with the music of bees. Great tune - and every bee is right on pitch. I hear scary stories of the continuing die-off of bees again this year. Among others, the spraying of chemicals is a strong causal suspect. As go bees, so goes the production of many fruits and vegetables. Think about that when you get out the sprayer. My “Arapaho” variety of blackberries bloomed in May, and has turned red (mid-June). Final production is still weather dependent, but they are off to a great start. Blackberries are relatively easy to grow, and you won’t need to spray.

Blueberries. The early varieties are in production (mid June), and they look very good. They are generally not subject to bugs, but the birds and squirrels can decide how many reach the house. Birds and squirrels are already at work, having been waiting on the sidelines, for the day the first one turned blue. Wildlife netting stretched over some plastic tubes offers some hope; but it takes some work to install and then picking is a challenge. Regarding construction, I used one 10-feet piece of 3/4-inch plastic tubing, with a 3-feet extension on each end. I fit those tubes into metal or plastic tubes driven into the ground, and covered that with the wildlife netting. Blueberries dry very well, so I planted a few more this year. My preference is to use plants derived by the tissue culture process, and are virus-free. Berries Unlimited in Prairie Grove have many varieties in stock. They also have a field of 10,000 blueberry bushes for pick-your-own blueberries. Let me know if you want more information on this topic.

Raspberries. If you love the tart taste of raspberries, you will bear the burden of their fine “thorny” stems and other challenges. The Heritage variety that I planted last year is lush and full of berries. Once I pick the first crop (in July), I will cut out the old stems and let new shoots develop for a second, late summer crop. Sometimes, the second crop lasts well into fall. Though not as productive as some other berries, they are worth the effort to those of us who love the tartness.

A BIG THANK YOU to all Washington County Master Gardeners who participated (volunteering, attending, promoting) in the Flower, Garden, & Nature Society’s “Though the Garden Gate” garden tours.

You are So Appreciated!

From Tricia Nelson
DATES TO REMEMBER

July
Tue., July 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
“Chinquapin Tree Expertise” by Fred Paillet
Sat. – July 20th @ 9:30a.m. - FGNS Mtg. –
“Irises: Rainbows in the Garden”, by Lynn Rogers, WCMG – Springdale

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 WCMG - Springdale
Mon. & Tues. - Sept. 23rd - 24th – Master Gardener Leadership Training – Hot Springs

Tues. – Sept. 24th – Master Gardener Day – Hot Springs