Dian Holmes
2012 Arkansas Master Gardener of the Year
by Jan Lefler

Washington County is proud to announce the selection of Dian Holmes as the Arkansas State Master Gardener of the Year 2012. This very special honor was presented at the Arkansas Master Gardener Conference held in Rogers this May. She is our third State Winner for Master Gardener of the Year since 2000, and what an honor! Dian Holmes has been an active member of the Master Gardener Program for the past eight years. She has dedicated time and hard work to over five different Sanctioned Projects, a number of WCMG committees, mentoring to new master gardener trainees as well as cooperative projects such as Farm Friends and Arbor Day. She volunteered a total of 367 hours (248 Sanctioned Projects and 119 Education) in 2012. She provides leadership in all the projects in which she is involved. She has been an assigned mentor to at least one new master gardener trainee each year since the Mentoring Program was initiated in 2007. She develops close ties to her mentees that continue past the first year of mentoring. Washington County Master Gardeners are so very proud of Dian and congratulate her on this prestigious state award!
More than fifty Washington County Master Gardeners attended the 2013 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference in Rogers. The event provided lots of happy times and fond memories shared by friends and new acquaintances. Seventeen WCMG attendees not in the picture include: Judie Branson, Brenda Embry, Maurita Gray, Sally Harms, Judy Henbest, Dian Holmes, Jill King, Nancy Luther, Susan Pressler, Georgia Ross, Jane Scroggs, Berta Seitz, Robin Selman, Johnny Southerland, Vande Southerland, Dolores Stamps, Truman Stamps.

Moments in Time enjoyed by Washington County Master Gardeners at the 2013 State Master Gardener Conference in Rogers, Arkansas
GARDENING ISN’T A CHOICE
by Pam Johnson

Gardening isn’t just a choice
It truly is a calling
In the dirt on my knees and hands
Whether leaves are green or falling

But nursery plants are like the sirens
Beckoning to come and try them
I have no power against the flower
Heaven help me—I have to buy them

The language that the plants are speaking
Only the blessed can understand
I try not to hear—to cover my ears
And to keep to my list as planned

But here I go spending money
When I really should play it smart
They smell so sweet—good enough to eat
And they end up in my cart

I guess I may as well give up
Against the voices I gave it a shot
Am I blessed?—you should have guessed
When you saw all my empty pots!!

YOUR FEEDBACK IS NEEDED
(in preparation for August 6 - WCMG Program)

My name is Linda Chappell
I am a County Extension Agent- Family & Consumer Sciences
I have worked for the U of Arkansas for 19 years.
The AgrAbility project is a joint effort to keep families and individuals 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 there are resources to assist them to continue.

Please rate the list below with #1 as most interested in and I will focus on the top-rated ones.

Arkansas AgrAbility addresses reducing the risk of developing preventable health conditions or minimizing the obstacles of current health conditions.

1. Sound Ideas addresses noise-induced hearing loss
2. Endless Gardening suggests how to garden in order to reduce the risk of developing arthritis, how to protect your skin, and how to reduce lower back strain. Also, how to make gardening more accessible. i.e., raised beds
3. Lower Back Injury Prevention education and exercises
4. Universal Design addresses designing or modifying the home for accessibility as you age; i.e., installing grab bars, non-slip flooring and wheelchair-accessible doorways
5. Fit-In-10 addresses physical activity in adults and senior adults – specifically balance, endurance, strength and stretching

Please reply with your preference to
ichappel@uaex.edu by June 20. Thanks!

Highlights from the Symphony of Color Garden Tour
PRESENT: 85

President Gloria McIntosh called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Motions were made and seconded to approve the Minutes of the April Meeting as printed in the Garden Thyme. Motions were made and seconded to approve the March Treasurer’s report as printed in the Garden Thyme.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:
Fayetteville in Bloom Treasurer Gayle Howard presented a check for $500.00 to Gloria McIntosh for WCMG Educational Boxes. Gloria explained that the educational boxes are part of a project that the Community Outreach Committee is working on for enabling MG’s to take the boxes to present programs in the area schools.

Jan Lefler made a Power Point presentation about the volunteer opportunities at Headquarters House. WCMG’s have been working at Headquarters House since 1997. It is on Dickson Street across the street from the courthouse. Beginning in March through October, they work on Tuesday mornings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Dian Holmes announced there is planned gardening work each Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. at the Extension Office grounds.

John Gilbreath announced that he has a lot of small containers for collecting plant cuttings. Let him know if you would like some.

Joyce Mendenhall, MG member and president of The Flower, Garden & Nature Society of NW Arkansas, announced FGNS will be having their annual garden tour on Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tickets are for sale at Westwood Gardens (all locations), Bank of Fayetteville, BGO and she also has tickets. Half of the proceeds are donated to BGO and the other half is used to get their meeting speakers. There are eight gardens on the tour and there are pamphlets available on the table.

Mary Crumley thanked those members that purchased plants from Jr. MG’s. She also announced that a new arch was installed in the Jr. MG area.

Joyce Mendenhall also announced that the Perennial Garden Club gave Jr. MG’s $1,000 to be used as needed.

BGO-Greening of the Garden is Tuesday, May 14, and tickets are still available. Purchase online or at the Garden.

BGO Camp will be on Tuesday mornings from June 11 - July 30 for ages 6 - 11. Camp applications are available at jsmith@bgozarks.org or call 750-2620.

IMG Conference registration deadline is June 24.

Try-Cycle Farms will present “Building a Food City and Sustainable Communities.” Featured guest speaker, Jan Spencer, from Eugene, OR, Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1201 W. Sycamore. A $20 suggested donation will benefit the work of Tri Cycle Farms-Community through Soil. Symposium will include an organic lunch and a tour of Tri Cycle Farms.

State MG Convention silent auction items are needed. Any gardening related item is requested. Bring to Joyce at the Extension Office before, Tuesday, May 14. The silent auction helps defray the cost of MG Leadership Conferences.

The June 4 meeting is our Potluck Picnic to be held at Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, 118 W. Johnson Avenue, Springdale. It is outside, so bring lawn chairs, blankets and your favorite dish to share. Plates, cold drinks and plastic ware will be provided. Free parking is available across the street at First Security Bank. Arrive by 6:15 for the surprise entertainment. In case of rain @ 3 p.m., watch for WIMOFLAR email announcement moving the picnic to Shiloh Square on Emma.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Dolores Stamps, Program Chair, then directed the plant exchange. She drew months of the year, and if it was your birth month, you could go pick two plants from the tables outside. When all months were drawn, any remaining plants were available to the group.

WHERE ARE YOUR HOURS?
by Annette Pianalto

Don’t forget to record your work and education hours!!! Only 40 percent of our members have recorded any work hours so far this year. 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.)
HELP WANTED
ASK A MASTER
by Joyce Mendenhall

Master Gardeners PLEASE note all the open times for the month of June!

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. – 12 noon 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 1st thru October 31st

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Bogle Park at the Kindred Spirits Garden Tour

ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST
June 2013

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Please call Joyce Mendenhall at 444-1755 for Changes or Additions
Prune the big leaf or florist hydrangea when the flowers fade.

Remove water sprouts on any fruit trees and crabapple.

Cut off the faded flowers of phlox, Shasta daisy and daylily to encourage a second flowering.

Trim yellowing and dried up foliage of your spring flowering bulbs.

Pinch your chrysanthemums to encourage branching.

Watch the following landscape shrubs for the following insect pests: arborvitae and junipers - bag worm, boxwood and hollies - leaf miner, crape myrtle – aphid, and pyracantha and azalea – lace bug.

Spray the following vegetables if insects are observed: cucumber (cucumber beetle), squash (squash borers and aphids), tomato and eggplant (flea beetle), broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower (worms).

The WCMG Community Outreach Committee THANKS Fayetteville in Bloom for their generous $500.00 donation! These monies will be used to help buy and stock educational toolboxes to help teach Washington County school children the importance of Science.

Keep spraying your tree fruits and bunch grapes with a pest control program.

Continue with rose spray program. Black spot is prevalent this year.

Watch for dark brown spots on your tomato leaves. If observed, spray with a fungicide for early blight.

Renovate your strawberry bed after the berry harvest is completed.

Check your 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.

Check container plants daily. Don't let these dry out. Fertilize often as they lose nutrients quickly.

Northwest Arkansas Garden Tour
Flower Garden and Nature Society of Northwest Arkansas will host 16th Annual THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE TOUR Saturday, June 1st 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine) Eight private gardens will be available for viewing (2 in Bentonville, 2 in Rogers, 3 in Fayetteville, 1 in Elkins) Tickets will be sold at the 4 Westwood Gardens locations, Bank of Fayetteville on the Square and on Mission, BGO and all garden tour locations on the day of tour. The tour benefits both the BGO and FGNS of NWAR program series. QUESTIONS? - Contact Tricia Nelson at tn4re2@gmail.com or Ph#935-3068

Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair
May at the Shiloh Museum

by Tiffany Selvey

It's been a beautiful month at The Shiloh Museum. That is, when we could find a dry day to work! Nature may have kept our hands out of the garden a bit, but she has made it up to us by providing lush growth. Pat Mills has been kind enough to take on the challenge of the garden bed by the front entrance. It's looking beautiful! The rest of us have been working on clearing weeds and keeping things tidy. The vegetable garden is coming along with heirloom veggies and it won't be long before we have green beans and tomatoes.

Come see us Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. at the Shiloh Museum of Natural History.

Farm Friends April 2013

Some of the Master Gardener Helpers – Lois Slusarek, Beverly Didier, Ginger Candrilli, Calvin Bey, Mary Crumley, John Borbas, and Lisa Purkayastha

Farm Friends is an annual event in April. It began in 1996 and is sponsored by the University of Arkansas Extension Service. Displays, hands-on activities, farm equipment and live animals are gathered to showcase local farm life. The all-day event welcomes school groups and the general public. WCMG volunteers participate with displays or activity relating to gardening.
When the school year ends and summer is on its way, it’s time for Explore@BGO, our mini-day camp for elementary children. Camp will run from June 11 through July 30, with 8 sessions on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 12:00. Campers will have opportunities to explore gardening, nature, art and healthy foods over the course of the summer. BGO education volunteers and community helpers will conduct the sessions. We are already looking forward to visits from a Devil’s Den ranger and Ozark Natural Foods. A local artist will help the children create art from recycled materials. Campers will be taking a bird walk on the Lake Fayetteville trail and learning to use binoculars, as well as getting their hands dirty by creating herb pots and small terrariums. One session will feature using the senses of sight and sound for observing nature. Butterflies and their host and nectar plants will be a big part of camp as summer heats up.

Applications are available at the BGO office or by e-mailing Judy Smith, jsmith@bgozarks.org. Parents may register a child for 8 sessions for $200; 4 sessions for $110 or single sessions for $30 each. The deadline to register and pay is June 1.

BGO sees Explore@BGO as one of the ways we encourage parents and children to get outdoors and enjoy nature. Other ways are the Little Sprouts preschool programs on Wednesday mornings from May through October; Butterfly Days in the fall and Earth Day in the spring organized especially for K-5 classes, and school field trips. Our summer festival, Firefly Fling, is especially geared with this goal in mind. Firefly, held this year on July 13, focuses entirely on nature play and the arts in nature, coaxing parents and children to play and create together on a magical summer evening at the Garden.

BGO’s outdoor events for children are our remedy for “nature-deficit disorder.” According to recent reports, almost 1/3 of children and teens today are overweight and spend as many as 50 hours a week indoors with electronic media. Camp, Firefly, Sprouts, Butterfly Days and Earth Day emphasize the value of nature and offer children and parents ways to reconnect with the outdoors through active learning. Many of the activities presented during these events can be recreated at home or for clubs and scout troops.

For more information about any of these events, please check our website, www.bgozarks.org or call 479-750-2620 and consider getting your children involved with nature at BGO.
Organic Gardening and More
Whether or not...the Weather

Calvin F. Bey @ CFBey1936@cox.net

The Whether Question: Should I write about the weather? On the one hand, I hesitate, especially to make any summer forecast based on this unusual spring. On the other hand, there are charts and trends to suggest we may be headed for a long-term cold spell. See the book, Not by Fire but by Ice, by Robert Felix, where he describes the myriad of warm/cold weather cycles.

Because gardening is so dependent on weather, it is worth a look at the long-term data, not just models of what might happen. I have been thinking more about how to effectively grow cold-weather crops. Lots of the greens and the cole crops like cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower are relatively easy to grow. Other easy-to-grow crops include potatoes, onions, leeks, garlic, turnips, and radishes. Most of these can be grown in the spring and again in the fall and many can be either dried or frozen. Some do well in mini-hoop houses. As much as anything, I love my fall-planted, easy-to-grow garlic.

Perhaps the best tip of all about growing the cole crops -- buy the plants early, and transplant them to larger pots with a good mineral soil (not a soil-less mix). When garden soil temperature is 50 degrees (or preferably higher), transplant them to the garden. Given good mineral/biological soil conditions, they will grow rapidly and serve you well.

Roundup - the Toxin: Without a doubt, glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, is the most used world-wide herbicide. It kills almost anything that is green. Dr. Don Huber, a retired Purdue University pathologist, who researched the effects of Roundup for 20 years, shows conclusively that Roundup is toxic and not good for the health of the soil or the plants.

Reduced costs since 2000 and the adoption of Genetically Modified Roundup-resistant varieties have led to increased usage world-wide. Glyphosate is now found in our ground-water, streams, and sadly, in our daily diets.

It is sad because there are many studies to show how very toxic it is to human physiological processes. Yet the industry asserts this is not the case. If you want to read a thorough, recent review of the toxic effects see article in Entropy 2013, 15, pages 1416-1463.

Here are some physiological functions that occur with glyphosate exposure.
1. Disruption of gut bacteria and suppression of desirable enzyme system functions.
2. Overgrowth of anaerobic bacteria.
3. Impairment of blood protein function.
4. Disruption of sulfate transport in the body.
5. Impairment of antioxidant protection.
6. Reduction of the absorption of iron and zinc.

World-wide research amply demonstrates that these and many other physiological functions are affected by glyphosate. This is well documented information (286 references in this article) and leads the authors to indict the glyphosate laden Western diet as a causal agent in gastrointestinal disorders, obesity, diabetes, heart disease, depression, autism, infertility, cancer, and Alzheimer's disease.

The question of safety is far more serious than most want to admit. We have been scorched by industry denial and we and our children are paying the price.

The article shows how dangerous this chemical is to our health and to the environment. Those using and promoting Roundup need to STOP and reconsider the consequences.

History teaches us that where societies have not taken care of the soil, the civilization fails. I don’t see the use of Roundup as a debatable issue. It is bad for the soil, our environment, our plants, our domestic and wild animals, human health, and our future. It’s a serious threat to the sustainability of agriculture and food production.

So what is the solution? We know Roundup should not be used! We know it is a serious matter. We know too that the answer begins with what we do in our own back yards. We owe it to our children and grandchildren to do what is right.
THROUGH THE GARDEN GATE
Gardeners in Northwest Arkansas Invite Visitors to Their Private Paradises

by Joyce Mendenhall

“A garden should make you feel you’ve entered privileged space -- a place not just set apart but reverberant -- and it seems to me that, to achieve this, the gardener must put some kind of twist on the existing landscape, turn its prose into something nearer poetry.” These words from Michael Pollen, author of Second Nature: A Gardener’s Education, describe the feeling you get from each of the gardens selected for this year’s annual “Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour” sponsored by the Flower, Garden and Nature Society of Northwest Arkansas. On Saturday, June 1, eight gardens in Northwest Arkansas will open their gates for public viewing. Each garden is as unique as the gardener who created it.

Heartstone Gardens
Heartstone Gardens is a labor of love. All native stone and wood features were handcrafted by owners, Ken Eastin, R.L.A, and his wife, Terry, representing an eight-year journey that began with a blank landscaping pallet.

Hollyhock Hill
The 1904 farmhouse belies the fact that Pamela Cicioni’s home is only a block from downtown Rogers. Pamela bought the home ten years ago and has enjoyed bringing back the historical gardens.

The Generous Garden
Across the street from Hollyhock Hill is Kathy Pendergraft’s garden. Like many of the homes in this historic neighborhood, Kathy inherited some heirloom plants to go along with it.

The Grass is Greener . . . In John King’s Garden
Someone with three degrees in turf management, a researcher and teacher of turf and owner/developer of the first chemical lawn care business should have a large beautiful lawn at his home. Actually, lawns only make up about 15 percent of the landscape.

This ‘n That Garden
Just to the west of John King’s rain garden, Diana and Lloyd Sweat have built a garden full of “a little of this and a little of that.” When the Sweat’s bought the property, there was not a plant to be found.

Providence Garden
Todd and Dana Renfrow wanted to learn to vegetable garden and at the same time teach their children the skills to “make provision for the future.”

Pathways Garden
Just across the alley from the Renfrow’s lies the lovely Queen Anne Victorian home of Janet Rusch. The house is listed as an Arkansas Historic Preservation site.

The Gardens at Crossroads
Moving to Crossroads six years ago Jan Judy chose to try to enhance the natural forest, bluffs, rock formations, springs, and native stone by building gardens among the natural features.

What a wonderful State MG Conference Benton County hosted! I hope all 51 of you who attended enjoyed it as much as I did. It is always nice visiting with other Master Gardeners from around the state and hearing what other counties are doing. The added bonus was seeing Dian Holmes, our very own Washington County Master Gardener, receive the State Master Gardener of the Year Award. Kudos to you Dian. It was well deserved!

While there, Julie Treat handed me my Advanced Master Gardener name tag. I earned this over a period of about two years by completing 5 Advanced Master Gardening training sessions. It really made me realize just how important continuing education is. These are one or two day training sessions hosted by different counties, on a particular subject, taught by gardeners and educators with expertise in that field. My favorites were: how to plant a Butterfly Habitat and identify different butterflies, how to identify and record in a data base, Invasive Plant Species, and all about Hydroponic Systems. These sessions are open to any Master Gardener who has completed three years in the Master Gardener program. Enrollment is limited to usually 40 or 50. Classes always fill up fast, so when you receive the email about the class, register then.

I just found that Johnson County is hosting “Blackberries A to Z,” a one-day session on June 13th. Dr. John Clark, the blackberry breeder from the University of Arkansas, will be speaking on blackberry varieties suitable for Arkansas gardens and conducting a tour of the Fruit Research Station blackberry plot trials in Clarksville. I already have my registration form and will stick it in the mail tomorrow. Why? Because I love to learn and now I think I will go for my Level II Advanced Master Gardener certification.

I encourage all of you that are eligible to participate in the Advanced Master Gardener program. Those of you who are not yet eligible, you have something to look forward to.
DATES TO REMEMBER

**June**

- **Tue., June 4 @ 6:30 p.m.**
  - WCMG Mtg. – PICNIC/POTLUCK
  - Shiloh Museum Grounds - Springdale

- Sat. - June 1st – Annual “Through the Garden Gate Tour” at selected NWA gardens - FGNS Annual fundraiser.

- Thurs. - June 13th – Advanced Master Gardener Class, “Blackberries A to Z” – Clarksville

- Mon-Tue., June 17-18th – America in Bloom Judges in Fayetteville

**July**

- **Tue., July 2 @ 6:30 p.m.**
  - WCMG Mtg. –
  - “Chinquapin Tree Expertise” by Fred Paillet

- Sat. – July 20th @ 9:30a.m. - FGNS Mtg. –
  - “Iris: 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 issue of Garden Thyme)

- Sat. – Aug. 17th @ 9:30a.m. – FGNS Mtg. –
  - “Calling All Birds” by Mary Bess and Kelly Mulhollan - Springdale