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Steven Skattebo
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Joyce Veasey
Lynn Yenawine

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
Susan Pressler
Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:
janlefler@cox.net
gigliuvs6811@gmail.com
Due: 15th of each month

WCMG Meeting
Nov. 5, 2013
@ 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM
“Birds & Butterflies”

by Mike Martin

Mike has been an avid nature and wildlife photographer for over 25 years. He enjoys the challenge of capturing birds in-flight and has a passion for birds of prey. An avid outdoorsman, Mike has coupled his knowledge of the outdoors with photography to capture wildlife in their natural habitats. His photos have been published from coast to coast.

In 2010, one of his photos won the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette's Spotlight contest “People's Choice” award. Later in 2010, one of his photos was selected for publication in a book entitled, Capture Arkansas.

Mike has also authored a photography book entitled, Arkansas Wildlife and Landscapes.

From Your President
by Gloria McIntosh

September 7-14, ten Washington County Master Gardeners and two spouses met up with almost a thousand other Master Gardeners, guests and speakers from all over the U.S. and three other countries for the International Master Gardener Conference Alaskan Cruise. We had 60 exceptional speakers and 120 different sessions, plus keynote speakers, awards programs, and posters of winning projects were displayed during the cruise. But the highlight of the trip was probably the ports of call.

In Juneau, folks went in all directions—to Mendenhall Glacier, Glacier Gardens, helicopter rides, sea planes and salmon bakes. Gloria McIntosh, Jenny Stamps, Betty Swope and Phyllis Wilkins (pictured) visited Mendenhall Glacier where, as an added bonus, we even saw a bear. There was also a garden tour hosted by Juneau Master Gardeners for 120 lucky Master Gardeners who signed up early, including Mike and Jodie Standrod.

Continued on Page 2

Please come and please wear your WCMG name tag!!

Dolores A Stamps
Program Chair

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter
November 2013
Present: 90

President, Gloria McIntosh, called the meeting to order at 6:39 p.m. Motions were made, seconded and passed to approve the Minutes of the September Meeting as printed in the Garden Thyme. Motions were made, seconded and passed to approve the August Treasurer’s report as printed in the Garden Thyme.

Announcements:

BGO-October 5, 10:00 a.m., “Leaf Casting Garden Art Class” with Susan Reagan, $25 members/$30 nonmembers.

BGO-October 11, 7:30 p.m., Brent Heath, “Heirloom Bulbs for Restoration Gardens”, $20 members/$25 nonmembers.

BGO-October 12, 9:30 a.m., Brent Heath, “Bulbs as Companion Plants”, $20 members/$25 nonmembers.

BGO-October 12, 12:30 p.m., Brent Heath, “Workshop-Living Arrangements, Layering Bulbs in Containers”, $45 members/$50 nonmembers, includes materials, limit 30 participants.

BGO-Admission volunteers are needed for Brent Heath on the weekend October 11 & 12.

BGO-If you still need volunteer hours, subs are always needed in the office. Contact Robin Selman or Judy Smith if you can take an office shift.

Ask A Master is a fun easy way to earn hours in the air conditioning. No experience needed.

“Happy Hollow Harvest Moon Festival” is Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 2175 E. Peppervine Dr., Fayetteville Free admission, vendor boutique with food, entertainment, kid zone, educational. Gloria will be taking different herbs for the kids to taste. She needs volunteers to help her.

Workbook photos are being taken before and after the meeting.

Jan Lefler announced for Dian Holmes that the Extension Office WCMG volunteers will have a work day on Wed., October 23, from 8 to 11 a.m., at the Jr. Master Gardener area instead of the Extension Office grounds.

Dolores Stamps announced that someone donated some horticulture science books, and they are on a table in the lobby for the taking.

Jan Judy announced that she brought fresh persimmons, and they are on a table in the lobby for the taking.

Peggy Ford announced that she brought moonflower seeds, and they are in a sack in the lobby for the taking.

New Business:

Jane Bryant and Jan Hayes made a presentation about the volunteer opportunities at the West Fork Library Project. They meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday mornings.

Marty Powers made a presentation about the volunteer opportunities at the Shiloh Museum. They meet on Wednesday’s at 9:00 a.m. or come by any time during the week to work.

Old Business: None

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Dolores Stamps, Program Chair, introduced our speaker, Dawn Denton, garden designer. She presented a program on “Thinking Spring in the Fall.”

Continued from Page 1 - "From Your President"

The second day we were in Glacier Bay. We had two naturalists on board describing the glaciers and what we saw. Several of us, including Nancy Sloan, were brave enough to go out on deck in the cold to take pictures. We even saw sea lions, seals and a few whales.

In Sitka, the local Master Gardeners had a gardening display and met with us to talk Alaska gardening. It was misting rain; but one brave soul led several of us on a walking tour of Sitka gardens. Plus, we caught a glimpse of Sitka National Historical Park, Sheldon Jackson Museum, and the Russian Bishops’ House. Others went wildlife viewing in the rainforest. I heard they saw a mamma bear and a couple of cubs.

Ketchikan has the world’s largest collection of standing totem poles, and several of us rode the trolley out to Saxman Totem Park to view the totems. Ketchikan is also known as the Salmon Capital of the world. The salmon were spawning and dying in Ketchikan Creek, which flows through town. Needless to say, the town smelled a bit fishy (dead fishy, that is). But they had some great stores for shopping!

The last stop was Victoria British Columbia and a visit to Butchart Gardens. By the time we got to the gardens, it was dark. Even though it was advertised to be well lit, in most areas it was very hard to see what a gardener wants to see. I must say that the “Sunken Gardens” and fountains were breathtaking, even at night. Alaska was a wonderful place to visit; but the best part of the cruise was sharing it with hundreds of Master Gardeners.
WHO'S NEW IN WCMGs
by Terry Smyers

Your name: Lois J. Archer (2013)

Place of Birth: Blytheville, AR

Why and when did you become a Master Gardener? I wanted to become a Master Gardener because I love working outside in the yard and garden. I thought it would help me improve my garden and it would also be an opportunity to meet people with the same interest. I attended the 2013 WCMG Training Classes.

What is your gardening style? Natural to semi-formal.

What is your favorite plant? Mandevilla - but I cannot grow them!

My favorite thing to do in the garden: Mulch and plant.

What would you consider the best garden spot on earth? Any garden spot or area next to a waterfall.

What do you always grow in your garden? In my vegetable garden, there are tomatoes. In my flower garden, there are roses, marigolds, hostas and ferns.

What chore would you like to avoid or find a better way of doing? I would like to cut down on keeping things watered.

What is the best gardening advice you have received and from whom did you receive it? My friend Evelyn told me to "plant what you love!"

What is something you learned in your own gardening experience that you like to share? Most gardeners know, but get the plants you like, even if you have to move them a few times to find the right spot.

What is your worst or funniest gardening mistake? I dug a small pond in my garden and I did not get it level.

What piece of advice would you give a new gardener? Enjoy gardening and do not be stressed. Like life, just learn from mistakes. Start one small spot at a time.

What is a gardening triumph you have had? Getting my pond water clear!

What is one word you would use to describe your garden? Progressive.

Do you have a dream garden in mind? I would love to have trellises of Mandevilla and Wisteria and have something blooming in all seasons.

What has being a Master Gardener meant to you? It has helped me not to be so hard on myself. Trial and error is part of the process.

WCMG MEMBERSHIP DUES

We will be collecting dues at the November WCMG Meeting. Dues will again be
$15 if paid by Tuesday, December 3
or
$20 if paid after December 3

LAST CALL - Need a New Nametag?

Nametags will be ordered for the New WCMG Trainees (who have completed their hours) in November. If other WCMGs have a lost or damaged nametag, this is your chance to also purchase a replacement.

Call 444-1755 or email (jmendenhall@uaex.edu) and let Joyce know if you want to order.

Magnetic is $10 Pin-on is $8.
Washington County Master Gardeners
Treasurer’s Report
September 1 through September 30, 2013

Bank Balance 9/1/2013 $10,972.64
MG Balance $6933.38

Income
- Gloves 7.00
- Bus trip to LR 1360.00
Total Income 1367.00

Expenses
- Bank Fee 5.00
- Memorial 50.00
- Leadership Conf. 245.26
- International Conf. 711.44
Total Expenses 1011.70
MG Balance 7288.68

Designated Funds
- Jr MG 1346.97
- Compost 938.25
- Fair Improvement 761.25
- Fair Premium 774.79 + 141.15
Total 915.94
- West Fork Library Fund 218.00
- MG Funds 7288.68

Bank Account Balance 9/30/2013 $11,469.09

Washington County Extension Service holds $994.04 of WCMG funds and owes an additional $450.00 for Class of 2013, bringing total in account to $1444.04.

Prepared by Berta L. Seitz
10/10/2013

Arkansas Forestry Commission Seedlings
by John Gilbreath

Place your orders early to be sure you will get them.

Order for February Delivery
John has order sheets at 479-300-6200 or at the

AR Forestry Commission Office
2752 N. Garland Avenue
Fayetteville, AR

11 varieties of Oak
2 varieties of Pine
9 varieties of other hardwood

The pictures are of The Bloedel Reserve on Bainbridge Island in Washington (a short ferry ride to the west of Seattle). I had the opportunity to visit with Erica Glasener, host of the popular Home and Garden Television’s “A Gardener’s Diary”, when she spoke last spring to the Northwest Arkansas Flower Garden and Nature Society. Ms. Glasener’s program was about gardens she had visited, highlighting some of her favorites. At lunch with the group of attendees, I asked her about any well-kept secrets in Washington state, as I was planning a trip there to see my son. She told me about the Bloedel Reserve; it was not to be missed. It is one of her absolute favorite gardens, one she has visited in all seasons. Mr. Bloedel, a lumber magnate, was very active in the planning of the gardens which begin with a path that takes one through a meadow at the edge of the forest, into the forest, edging a marsh, then leads to the picture (shown here) of what is the Bloedels’ front yard.

A rolling hill behind the home leads down to the picturesque Puget Sound.

Other features are a moss garden (pictured here) with a row of Skunk Cabbage, an attractive plant with a sturdy upright habit.
Building Commercial Bulb Beds

by John Gilbreath

The first thing to do is test the ground area for rocks to a depth of 8 inches; this is the depth that will be tilled. I have found that land with less than a five-degree slope halfway down the sloping area may relatively free of rocks to the desired depth. It is best to till once to 6 inches the first year and then till to 8 inches the next year. This gives the ground a chance to heave up rocks for one winter so that they may be removed by hand before tilling again.

Do a soil test the first year and again the second year. You should aim for a ratio of N-P-K of 1-2-3 or as close as you can get. The second year, you will need to wait until you get at least a 2-inch rain, so you will not be creating a "Pig Pen" dust cloud. You will want at least two dry days after tilling to get everything in order for planting.

After the tilling is done, construct "back-drag" mounds leaving 8 feet at the fence edge and about 8 feet between the mound rows. In the pictures above and on the left, note the lack of rocks. Next, level the mounds and clean scoop the 6-foot wide alleyways. (pictured below, left). Next, rake out the beds to 4 feet wide and add any soil you need to make them 6-8 inches tall and 4 feet wide. This is also the time to rake out any grasses and weeds. Do Not Use any pre-emergent herbicide; a Round-up type can be used if necessary.

We use a wire gauge to plant on 4-inch centers, and we pre-make holes. Just drop bulbs in and rake a cover over them. The wire is 4 feet wide and 8 feet long, and it is moved after the holes are made and moved down the row. This gives us 288 holes to each use (pictured below, right).

Our rows are 4 feet wide with 6 feet between the fence and also between the raised beds for tractor use. Rows run against the slope; so the 6-foot wide tractor acts to catch the rain and hold it against the next row so the water does not run off the slope. We have 5 rows that are 200-foot long. Four rows are for narcissus and one for Historical Iris. Each 200 feet row will hold about 7,200 bulbs; and four rows will hold 28,800 bulbs.

We invite everybody out this spring to see the commercial beds and the field with three historical daffodils, and have your picture taken sitting with them. Also, our new Victorian addition should be completed and ready for touring.
This past week some of us had a great learning experience with Brent Heath. It was well worth the $75, although Brent was talking about the soil and climate in the Tide Water Basin of Virginia. Almost all 'Bulbs' must have a well-drained media (soil). All of my beds, both private and commercial, are elevated.

My peonies and day lilies are in 12-inch elevated corner beds along with Iris and Crinums. I have 9 corner elevated beds for various bulbs. This also eliminates mowing into a corner with a mower or with a round blade.

Notice the cement blocks with “Muscari Armeniacum” in the centers and "Crinum - Ellen Bosanquet" peeking into the picture. These blocks are porous yet hold enough water for bulbs and enough insulation for about minus 20 degrees.

I have left out all the usual flower pots, nursery pots, hanging baskets and others to show other containers for bulbs (and other plants). Next are bulb troughs (6 inches wide and deep and 6 feet long (3 sq. ft.)) with handles. "Lycoris Radiata" seems to love the troughs and bloom nicely.

"Lycoris Radiata" Blooms in Troughs

Corner Beds

Bulb Troughs with Handles

Cement-mixing Tubs

I also use black cement mixing tubs, one is 2 feet by 2½ feet by 6 inches, the other is 2 feet by 3½ feet.

The troughs and tubs have drainage holes drilled and covered with fiberglass screen to allow drainage and keep out insects.

All of these containers grow any type of bulb EXCEPT Amaryllis belladonna, hippeastrum and all Crinums. This is due to the size of their bulbs.
GARDEN THYME

Dates to Remember at BGO
by Judy Smith

Saturday, Nov. 2, at 10:00 a.m. “Taming the Wild: Using Native Plants in the Home Landscape” with Lissa Morrison; $20/25 - register and pay at www.bgozarks.org

Tuesday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 p.m. “Wiring Techniques for Floral Arrangements” with Julie Sanders; $25/30, (fee includes materials; limited to 12) - register and pay at www.bgozarks.org by Nov. 15.

Register for all classes and workshops at www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620.

Congratulations!
by Annette Pianalto

Congratulations to the following 2013 trainees; they have completed and recorded their required 40 work AND 20 education hours!

Lois Archer
Elaine Blowers
Tamara Burnett
Cathi Cody
Beverly Didier
Susan Gardner
Teresa Genz
John Gilbreath

Carole Jackson
Karen Jech
Cindy Lester
Talbert Malone
Pat Mills
Lynn Phillips
Jim Sposato
Joyce Veasey

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 and seeing everyone at graduation on December 3rd!!

2014 Washington County Master Gardener Training
by Colleen Brown

2014 WCMG Training is scheduled for the week of January 13-17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a possible snow make-up date of January 21.

Wednesday, November 20 from 9:30 -11:30 a.m., will be potential WCMG class attendee interviews and a general overview of the WCMG program.

Monday, January 13 - Class registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The first speaker will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Janet Carson is scheduled to speak on Thursday, January 16, 2014.

2014 Class Coordinators
Colleen Brown
Tamara Burnett
Cindy Lester

Attention - Master Gardener Trainees
Time is Running Out!
by Joyce Mendenhall

Your permanent nametags will be ordered in November for the December WCMG meeting. Please notify Joyce Mendenhall at (479-444-1755) immediately about your preference of a pin-on or a magnetic tag and the correct wording (spelling, nickname, first and last name) on how you want your name to appear.

If you have not entered your hours on-line (40 work hours and 20 education hours), you will not receive your name tag and will not be a certified Master Gardener. It does not count if you do the hours and do not enter them online. If you are having trouble with entering them, please contact Annette Pianalto at 361-2007 immediately. There are now sixteen of the thirty in the 2013 WCMG Training who currently qualify to become official Master Gardeners. Most of these trainees have turned in many more hours than the required amount -- we really appreciate your efforts.
If you are seeing 1-2 foot twigs on the lawn, you might be seeing the results of an insect called twig girdler at work. This can be confirmed with close inspection of the base of the twig revealing even, conical cuts, as if produced by a miniature beaver. Rarely seen adults are about \( \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{4} \) inch long and grayish-brown with long antennae and a light-colored band on each wing cover. Females deposit 3-8 eggs singly beneath bark in slits in a terminal or lateral twig and then she proceeds to girdle the twig by chewing a V-shaped groove around its circumference causing the twig to break off. Eggs hatch in fall, and larvae remain dormant inside the fallen twigs. In the spring, the larvae feed on the woody portion of the twig while tunneling toward the broken end. Common hosts of twig girdlers include hickory and pecan, as well as numerous other shade, nut and fruit trees. You can prevent future damage by picking up and disposing of the fallen twigs. Of course, if your neighbors don’t pick up fallen twigs, you will have some of those adults visit your trees again next fall.

Consider planting plants with berries to add interest to the fall garden. Examples include: American Beautyberry, deciduous Holly, bittersweet, strawberry bush, Burford Holly, Chinese Holly, Foster Holly, Nellie R. Stevens Holly, Nandina, Pyracantha, Washington Hawthorn, and Dogwood.

At this writing, we have had spotted frosts. After we get our first hard killing frost, 28 degrees, garden cleanup gets into full gear. Perennial flowerbeds get a fresh look once cleaned and with a new layer of mulch, being careful not to cover crowns of perennials. Asparagus need to be cut back and bedded in with a fresh layer of compost or well-rotted manure. Strawberry beds need a cleaning as well. Mulch strawberry beds to prevent winter weeds, but be careful not to cover its green leaves and crown.

Our weather conditions are giving us a later fall color in the Ozarks, which I hope will run into mid November. One of my daughters is getting married at Cooper Chapel in Bella Vista on Nov 16, and with all the glass, the trees with fall color will make for a beautiful affair. Hybrid red maples are in full glory now. If you have one of these and you planted it in the past 3 years, you need to take preventative action this fall so you will not end up with South West injury. This trunk injury happens because these young red maple hybrids have very thin bark which allows the trunk to warm up with the sun striking the trunk on the SW side. The cambium layer on that side starts to divide and grow on a warm winter day thinking spring is near, but subsequent low temperatures are sure death to this portion of the cambium. Once these trees get some age on them, the bark becomes thicker and corky which will prevent cambium from starting to grow prematurely. So, you can give your young red maple “fake bark” by wrapping the trunk up to or beyond the first limbs. Tree wraps need to be removed at spring green up. Repeat this each fall for up to 3 years to protect young trees from being scarred for life.

This month, rake up leaves and fallen rotten fruit from around fruit trees to help control insect populations and remove disease-causing organisms that overwinter on leaf and fruit debris. If you had peach leaf curl this past spring, you can make your first winter application of chlorothalonil or a copper-based spray as soon as all the leaves have fallen. Then make a second application before spring bud swell on a warm day in late February.

It is last call to dig caladium bulbs, dahlia tubers, elephant ear corms, and ornamental sweet potato tubers for winter storage. Dahlias and elephant ears can overwinter in place if they are heavily mulched. Once they are dug, air dry for a couple of weeks before wrapping and storing in a dry cool place.

Cut faded chrysanthemums and asters to 3 inches above ground. Mulch up around them like other perennials. Newly planted mums and asters will need winter watering occasionally.

Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

Phyllis Wilkins, Mike Standrod, Jan Hayes and Jaylon Haley at the unusual pumpkin display at P. Allen Smith’s Garden Retreat
Fall Fun. As the days get cooler and the physical work tapers off, fall can be an enjoyable time in the garden. Hopefully, your weeding and clean-up are complete, and the garden is put to bed -- either mulched or growing a cover crop. It has been a good fall for growing cover crops of oats and Austrian Winter Peas. By end of October, they should be 12 inches tall, and looking very attractive. Mid-September planting is the key to getting good growth for these cover crops.

Water. A couple of inches of rain is nice, but not enough when we have had a drought. Trees will likely be just fine this fall; but your shrubs will probably need some extra water. Keep them watered and healthy throughout the winter.

New Books. When someone recommends a book, I often buy it. As a rule, I look for gardening/farming/water books that are outside the mainstream. I like books that deal with novel ways to garden, as well as those with processes that mimic the natural system. Many times these books deal with concepts and practices that are historical, tried-and-true, and often not known by conventional gardeners. Here are a couple relatively new books which meet these requirements. Both concentrate on how we can take advantage of subtle energy for more effective gardening and farming.

Stone Age Farming --Tapping Nature’s Subtle Energies for Your Farm or Garden, Allana Moore, 2012. This is a well-written book with some interesting and practical advice for gardeners.

It features the influences of subtle energies, including paramagnetic rocks, magnetism, radionics, dowsing, modern biodynamics, rock formations, structured water, and more. For a book that contains so many topics, Moore does a great job of covering the key ideas. This book may take you into unfamiliar territory and is likely to be an eye opener for many.

Dancing with Water -- the New Science of Water, M.J. Pangman and Melanie Evans, 2011. Don’t be misled by the title. This book blends the most recent advances in science with water wisdom that has survived the ages. It provides insight into water’s unique qualities and gives advice for creating full-spectrum living water. It is well referenced and is appropriate at the lay and professional level. Underlying the many questions about water today is the fact that most water on the planet has been robbed of its life force. It no longer has the potential to sustain life at its full potential. As such, we all suffer.

Pangman does a wonderful job of connecting the dots and making some of the technical stuff come to life. Gardeners should be concerned about using quality water, and this book is an excellent place to start. It is one of the best I’ve read lately. Go to my web site www.harmonygardens.blogspot.com for more information on this topic.

Mother Earth News Fair
by Steven Skattebo

On October 12-13 my wife (Nora) and I attended a Mother Earth News Fair in lovely Lawrence, Kansas. This was the first time this fair has taken place relatively close to Arkansas, so I thought it might be worth checking out. Thousands of interested people gathered in a city park where there were more than 150 workshops on natural living, many of them related to gardening, and also dozens of exhibitors promoting their products. I especially enjoyed conversing with Barbara Pleasant, co-author of the textbook we use in our Master Composter training.
DATES TO REMEMBER

November
Tue., Nov. 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
“Birds and Butterflies”
by Mike Martin

Tue.- Wed. – Nov. 12-13 – “Blooms for Sun and Shade” – Advanced MG Class – Searcy

Sat. – Nov. 16th @ 9:30a.m. – FGNS Mtg. –
“The Effects of Native and Invasive Plants on Insect Life” by Dr. Don Steinkraus, UofA Professor of Entomology - Springdale

December
Tue., Dec. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG
Christmas Potluck,
2013 Class Graduation and Entertainment

January
Tue., Jan. 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
“What is it About Those Orchids?”
by Steve and Cathy Marak

Mon.- Fri. - Jan. 13-17
@ 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
2014 WCMG Training Classes

Sat. – Jan. 18th @ 9:30a.m. - FGNS Mtg. –