2013 WCMG Executive Committee

President
Gloria McIntosh

Vice President
Dolores Stamps

Secretary
Patsy Louk

Treasurer
Berta Seitz

Members at Large
Sally Harms
Kitty Sanders
Phyllis Wilkins

GARDEN THYME CONTRIBUTORS
Calvin Bey
Judie Branson
Ruth Cahoon
Sally Harms
Pam Johnson
Judy Smith
Lynn Yenawine

NEWSLETTER STAFF
Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
Susan Pressler
Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:
janellefer@cox.net
gigiluvs6811@gmail.com
Due: 15th of each month

Swallowtail Butterfly - Photo by Sally Harms
Avoid Pesticides in the BUTTERFLY GARDEN
by Jan Lefler

This picture was made at Headquarters House Gardens in August. There has been an abundance of butterflies and bees in the gardens this year. We think it may be that Headquarters House WCMG’s use very few man-made chemicals. Remember folks, butterflies come from caterpillars and caterpillars eat leaves. If you kill all the leaf-eating caterpillars, where will the butterflies come from? Some rules regarding pesticides:

1) Less is more. Spray the plant instead of the garden. In fact, spray the part of the plant insects are after instead of the whole plant. And only spray insecticides if you know the insects are there. Preventative spraying of insecticides is not good.

Continued on Page 3

Part of the program at the September WCMG Meeting includes a Panel Discussion about Gardening by several gardening experts. Bring your garden questions or email them in advance to Joyce Mendenhall — jmendenhall@uaex.edu

WEAR your name badge for useful door prizes!

WCMG Meeting
Sept. 3, 2013 @ 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM
Annual WCMG Business Meeting and Panel Discussion

The proposed slate of officers for the 2014 WCMG Executive Committee will be voted on by membership at the September WCMG meeting. New officers will assume duties at the close of the December WCMG meeting.

PRESIDENT
Dolores Stamps (‘06)

PRESIDENT ELECT
Patsy Louk (‘09)

SECRETARY
Jan Lefler (‘08)

TREASURER
Mike Standrod (‘06)

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE
Glenda Patterson (‘09)
Nancy Sloan (‘12)
Susan Gardner (‘13)

Other nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the elections.
MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS
General Business Meeting of August 6, 2013
Patsy Louk, Secretary

PRESENT: 96

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bus Trip to the MG 25th Birthday Celebration; October 14th; cost is $40.00 for the bus only; deadline to register is August 12th; leave at 6:00 AM from Washington County Extension Office to go to Little Rock; at 10:00 there is a Southern Living Presentation; 11:30 Lunch; 12:30 bus leaves for P. Allen Smith’s Farm; 5:30 dinner at Calico County Restaurant in Ft. Smith; 7:30 - 8:00 arrive back at the Washington County Extension Office. Gloria and Joyce Mendenhall have bus trip registration forms; turn your form and money in to Joyce; if you ride the bus you will need to register online for the birthday party at the State Extension website. Also sign up for lunch and t-shirts at the State Extension website.

BGO-August 13th, 7:00 PM, free concert, Chadwick, a local group with a fun sound.

BGO-September 12th, Chefs in the Garden, BGO’s great fall event.

BGO-September 19th & 20th, Butterfly Days for non-Fayetteville Schools; contact Judy Smith for information, jsmith@bgozarks.org.

BGO-September 24th, 7:00 PM, free concert, 3 Penny Acre.

BGO-October 11th, 7:30 PM, Brent Heath, Heirloom Bulbs for Restoration Gardens; $20 members/$25 nonmembers.

BGO-October 12th, 9:30 AM, Brent Heath, Bulbs as Companion Plants, $20 members/$25 nonmembers.

BGO-October 12th, 12:30 PM, Brent Heath workshop-Living Arrangements, Layering Bulbs in Containers, $45 members/$50 nonmembers, includes container, potting soil and bulbs. Must Pre-register.

The Ask A Master phone-call Sanctioned Project at the Extension Office is an easy fun way to earn hours in the air conditioning. No experience needed.

P-N-G, plant-nurture-grow at The Clarion on Lake Hamilton, Hot Springs, September 23rd & 24th, all active Master Gardeners and County Agents are encouraged to attend. It is not only for current or newly elected officers. Cost is $80.00 which includes lunch and dinner on 23rd and breakfast on 24th plus breaks.

MG Day - September 24th at Garvan Gardens. All MG’s get in free. Events have been coordinated so you will be able to attend P-N-G and MG Day or you may attend MG Day only. Watch for emails this week from Janet Carson regarding this event.

Washington County Fair needs painters and cleaners, Saturday, August 17th at 8:00 AM. Hours count as sanctioned volunteer hours for Washington County Fair.

Washington County Fair, August 27th - 31st, needs volunteers. Contact Mary Crumley at marykay728@gmail.com.

Mary Crumley announced that there are still a few large pots that need to be planted by any of the WCMG committees. They are used for decoration around the Horticulture Building at the Washington County Fair. Your committee’s sign can be put in or on the pot for recognition.

NEW BUSINESS:

Patsy Louk made a presentation about the volunteer opportunities with the Workbook Committee. She and Judy Henbest are Co-Chairs of the committee. It meets from October thru February and is a winter time, non-gardening project. It involves computer work, phone calling, updating last year’s workbook and copying. She passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

Renee Brochu & Dian Holmes made a presentation about the volunteer opportunities at the County Extension Office Grounds. They meet on Wednesday mornings if you are interested in helping take care of the flower beds around the Extension Office. Dian asked for donations of unusual hostas.

Judy Branson presented the 2014 proposed slate of officers: Dolores Stamps, President; Patsy Louk, Vice-President; Jan Lefler, Secretary; Mike Standrod, Treasurer; Members-At-Large: Susan Gardner, Nancy Sloan & Glenda Patterson.

OLD BUSINESS:

None. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.
“Gramma” Beverly Melton proudly shows off her WCMG Life Member Name Tag in recognition for her fifteen (15) years of valuable service to the organization. Beverly has accumulated hundreds of volunteer hours over the years. She has been a leader in our Master Gardener Program from the beginning and volunteers in a number of Projects and Committees. She is best known for her fun nature and bright smile. She has always made certain we all receive the “new innards” of our WCMG Volunteer Workbook.

Bearded Iris
Beebalm (Monarda didyma)
Blackberry Lily (Belamcanda chinensis)
Blanket Flower (Gaillardia x grandiflora)
Bronze Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare 'Purpureum')
Catmint (Nepeta)
Columbine (Aquilegia)
Corydis (Corydalis lutea)
Crocus (Crocosmia)
Daylily (Hemerocallis)
Golden Marguerite (Anthemis tinctoria)
Goldenstar (Chrysogonum virginianum)
Ground Clematis (Clematis recta)
Hardy Bergonia (Bergonia grandis)
Helianthus (Perennial var., H x laetiflorus, H. salicifolium...)
 Hollyhock Mallow (Malva alcea)
Japanese Anemone (Anemone x hybrida)
Ligularia (Ligularia dentata)
Lilies of the Valley (Adenophora lilifolia)
Masterwort (Astrantia major)
Meadow Rue (Thalictrum aestivalifolium)
Mountain Bluet (Centaura montana)
Painted Daisy (Tanacetum coccineum)
Penstemon (Penstemon barbatus)
Peony (Paeonia)
Perennial Sunflower (Helianthus)
Phlox (Phlox paniculata)
Plume Poppy (Macleaya cordata)
Salvia (Salvia nemorosa)
Siberian Bugloss (Brunnera macrophylla)
Sneezeweed (Helenium autumnale)
Solomon’s Seal (Polygonatum odoratum)
Veronica/Spike Speedwell (Veronica spicata)
Wild Indigo (Baptisia australis)
Yarrow (Achillea)

By Marie Iannotti, About.com Guide
Search the above title and more details on "why" it is important to prune these perennial plants in the fall. Information provided by Jan Lefler
Joyce Kilmer said a poem
As lovely as a tree
Was something that she
never thought
That she would ever see

She said that she was just a fool
Whose poems would never be
Good enough to rival with
The miracle of a tree

Even though she wrote these famous words
Back in the “olden days”
I struggle to capture the same thoughts
Just in a different way

The times in which she penned her words
It’s interesting to think
She used some paper made from wood
Along with pen and ink

So when I read again those words
I have to chuckle aloud
She made her words immortal
Using the very trees she was writing about

Avoiding Pesticides in the Butterfly Garden - From Cover Page
(2) Always try to plant disease and insect resistant plants. Native plants usually meet these requirements.

(3) Read organic gardening books and magazines. They will steer you toward the less harmful products.

(4) Mellow out. Unless you are entering your plant in a contest, so what if something has nibbled some of the leaves.

(5) Be vigilant. Walk your garden. Some critters are like gangs of thugs—they wipe out a plant overnight. Benign neglect does not always work.

(6) Don’t exceed the recommended dose. Doubling the strength usually does not help and it may burn the leaves of the very plant you are trying to save. In fact, try using less than the recommended rate.

(7) Water your plants before you spray.

(8) Make the plant taste bad. Certain sprays work on the principle that a plant that tastes bad to an insect won’t be eaten by that insect. The natural gardeners have lots of hints using this approach. But remember that caterpillars need to eat larval plants. Don’t get carried away with this technique.

(9) Do not use systemic poisons. These are chemicals that are placed in the ground and taken up by the plant’s roots to make the entire plant poisonous. Unfortunately, this makes the plant a killer of both beneficial and harmful insects. It also leads to the increase of insects resistant to the systemic.

(10) Avoid bacillus thuringiensis (BT). This is a powder which contains a bacterial pathogen that kills caterpillars. It is often cited favorably by natural gardeners as an accepted biological control because it doesn’t harm most beneficial insects. But it kills caterpillars. Butterfly gardeners need caterpillars to make more butterflies.

Source: Article by Donald Ray Burger on Internet
Last night I read a very interesting post on Facebook. The post was labeled “TIP OF THE DAY.” Basically it said, “Flip bell peppers over to check their gender.” I immediately thought, "DO WHAT?" It went on to say, "The ones with four bumps are female and those with three bumps are male.” About this time, I had visions of shoppers in the produce aisle sexing the bin of bell peppers! The TIP continued...“female peppers are full of seeds but sweeter and better for eating raw and the males are better for cooking.” By now I am asking myself, "Who comes up with this stuff?" So does this mean that if you want to cook stuffed bell peppers, you need to select all male bell peppers? No! Please don’t go to the market and ask for three-bumped male peppers! This is one of those food myths that now has been busted.

Bell pepper plants have perfect flowers, meaning that both the male and female structures are contained in the same flower. Fruits (and in botanical terms, a pepper is considered a fruit) are ripened ovaries of the plant, usually containing seeds. Pepper flowers are androgyrous (both male and female characteristics), and the fruits are genderless. Some plants do have male and female flowers (melons and squash, for example), the female flowers are the ones that bear fruit, but the fruits themselves are genderless. As for the different numbers of bumps on the peppers, the amount of seeds, and the sweetness – all those characteristics are due to selective breeding of pepper varieties and growing conditions in your garden. Four-bump peppers are not necessarily sweeter than three-bump peppers, nor do they always contain more seeds. And now you know the rest of the story.
### Dates to Remember at BGO

**by Judy Smith**

- **Thurs., Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m.** - Kitty Sanders: “Butterfly Gardening – Plant It and They Will Come”; $15 members; $20 nonmembers
- **Thurs., Sept. 12 at 6:00 p.m.** – “Chefs in the Garden” admission is $45 at www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620
- **Tues., Sept. 24 at 7:00 p.m.** – “Free Concert with 3 Penny Acre”; picnics and lawn chairs welcome; BGO sells beverages.

### Coming up in October

- **Fri., Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m.** - Brent Heath: “Heirloom Bulbs for Restoration Gardens”; $20 members; $25 nonmembers
- **Sat., Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m.** - Brent Heath: “Bulbs as Companion Plants”; $20 members; $25 nonmembers
- **Sat., Oct. 12 at 12:30 p.m.** - Brent Heath: “Living Arrangements” & “Bulb Layering Workshop”; $45 members; $50 nonmembers.

**Workshops are limited to 30. Registrations & advance payment is required for all 3 programs.**

**$10 discount for buying all three programs.**

Brent Heath programs are sponsored by the Botanical Garden, Fayetteville in Bloom and Washington County Master Gardeners. Proceeds benefit BGO and FIB. Register for all classes and workshops at www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620.
MASTER GARDENER DAY (Sept. 24) UPDATE from Janet Carson

Just a reminder that Tuesday, September 24, is our annual Master Gardener Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. This year, we will start a little later - 10:30 a.m. is our official start, but the gardens do open at 9:00 a.m. he reason for the delayed start for our MG appreciation event, is we are tagging this onto PNG- Master Gardener Leadership. PNG is in Hot Springs this year Sept 23 - Sept 24. (Registration for PNG is still open until Sept. 9). We end PNG at 10:00 a.m. so we will head on over to the gardens as we wrap up. The gardens are open until 6:00 p.m. so stay as late as you like. We will have experts out in the gardens through 2:00 p.m.

Once again, all Master Gardeners enter for free with their nametag--agents also are free with their nametag. Guests are invited, but will need to pay normal admission fees.

We will have experts out in the garden. Plant Pathologist Sherrie Smith will have her microscope, so bring plant samples that have problems for identification. This is also a great opportunity to bring plants you need identified. Bob Byers and I will be in the gardens. We also have folks at the wildflower area, and scattered throughout the gardens. John Hopkins our entomologist and Jon Zawislak our bee expert will be in the garden, along with tree and native plant expert Tamara Walkingstick.

Lunch will again be available for purchase when you get to the gardens. The lunch costs $10 and you have two choices: Smoked Turkey on wheat bread with lettuce, tomato, pickle spear, chips and bottled drink or Pimento Cheese on multi grain bread with pickle spear, chips and bottled drink. Lunch is served 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. We would like to know in advance (by Sept 20) if you think you want lunch and which kind, so they can be prepared. Many of the folks who are attending leadership have already prepaid for lunch, and I will be contacting them about their specific meal choice.

Once again, County 76 will be set up selling pro-hoes, garden gloves and other items. All attendees that day will get a free copy of the 2014 MG Calendar. Additional copies will also be available for sale for $1.

If you haven’t been to Garvan Woodland Gardens this summer, September is your last chance to see ‘Splash of Glass’. Splash of Glass is an art glass installation from Pine Bluff artist James Hayes. 225 pieces of glass in 13 different installations around the garden have been in the gardens since May and come down Sept. 30. Don't miss out.
What an incredible past month. The rains ended our long drought, but don’t get too relaxed. September can be very dry. Start watering again, especially trees and shrubs planted within the past 2 years. On the flip side, I have seen trees dying of overzealous watering. Each garden site has its own microclimate, and the best moisture meter to gauge water needs is your index finger. Use it and with a little practice you will have a “blue thumb”.

Fall webworms should be appearing in pecan, hickory, and occasionally other landscape trees this month. This moth caterpillar is more of an aesthetic issue and not affecting tree health. The only situation I would consider any control measures is if the tree is young or a very prominent tree in the landscape. One foliar application of Bt is very effective. We can have multiple hatches and when that occurs make another application.

September is a good time to divide spring blooming perennials. When digging and dividing over crowded irises, only replant the current years rhizome by breaking/cutting off past year’s rhizome and discarding that portion. If you have had rhizome rot issues, consider replanting in a different bed which has better drainage.

Late summer to early fall is the best time of year to spray and kill perennial pesky weeds like poison ivy or any out of control vine like trumpet vine (hummingbird vine). Herbicides such as Brush Killer or glyphosate (ex. Roundup) work well at this time because these perennials, like most all other plants are beginning to move food reserves down into major limbs/trunks and roots. When using herbicides, read the entire label carefully and follow all procedures and precautions to safeguard your health, adjacent plants, and the environment.

This month, make plans to over-seed or completely replant your fescue lawn. As soon as the weather breaks again, with consistent cool night temperatures, be ready to sow. Click on the following link to read up on over-seeding or starting a new lawn from seed, http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FSA-2113.pdf

Garden seeds that are stored in the freezer properly should remain viable for many years. As you wrap up your fall planting, place your surplus seed in tightly sealed freeze bags or glass jar and place in the freezer.

Plant transplants of cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and Brussels sprouts, this month for harvest this early winter. Plant seeds of lettuce, spinach, radish, turnips, etc. later this month and again early to mid September for fresh greens beyond our first frost. Spinach planted early November will overwinter and ready for first picking late March to early April. With cold frames/hot beds, you can harvest all winter long.

Berni’s Hilltop Gardening Tips

Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair

Submitted by Terry Smyers
**Timing.** Right now, while summer crops are in peak production, I am mostly concerned about getting ready for the fall crops. It is time for fall plantings.

For fall plantings, whether the season is dry or rainy, August is still the month of tension. If you plant fall crops too early, insects will often nibble off the tops of things like beets and carrots, just as they emerge. If you plant too late, you risk not having the crops reach maturity. I usually transplant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. during the last two weeks of August or very early September. Chicken Holler has some of these plants available now. The plants are small and would do best if they are transferred to larger pots, kept well-watered for two weeks, and then transplanted to the garden.

**Carrots are by far my favorite fall crop.** Once established, except for thinning and a little weeding, they require little attention. They can stand some cold and will generally continue to grow into December. Fall carrots are especially sweet and tasty, and they keep very well.

Long carrots like ‘Candysnax’ do very well, if you have deep soils. If you have a shallow soil, get a shorter variety. If you have a very rocky soil, think about beets or some of the cole crops.

The key to getting a good stand of carrots is keeping them moist until they have germinated, emerged, and are well established. After planting the seeds, mulch with old straw, and gently water twice a day until they are established. Watch carefully, as the carrots may germinate in a few days. When the carrots begin to germinate, take off most of the straw. In a month, thin carrots to a 3 by 3-inch spacing. If you fail to thin, don’t expect large diameter carrots from most of the crop. Preferably, plant carrots in mid-late August.

**Broccoli and other Cole Crops.** In case you wonder, “cole” refers to any of the crops in the mustard (Cruciferae) family. The reason for most failures with these crops is planting too late. Remember, average first frost date is Oct. 20. You need at least 60 days to get these crops to maturity. As a rule, plant these crops in the garden by Sept 1.

**Summer Squash.** I planted four kinds, all on June 10. Everything must have been near ideal. Initial growth was good and on day 34, from date of planting, I picked the first yellow-straightneck squash. I have never grown squash that fast before. My only change this year was using structured water. It is water with a larger H ion angle, plus fewer water molecules in the water clusters -- thus providing increased plant hydration.

**Cover Crops.** Winter cover crops are good for soil improvement and can make gardening easier for you by controlling weeds. I use oats and Austrian Winter Peas. These are available at the Farmers Coop in 50 pound bags. Most gardeners will not need more than a few pounds. I bought 50 pounds of each and have re-packaged them into small bags, which I have available, for those who want small quantities. Let me know.

---

**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.
WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
NEWSLETTER

U of A Cooperative Extension Service
2536 North McConnell
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Phone: 479-444-1755
FAX: 479-444-1764
State Web Site: www.uaex.edu

DATES TO REMEMBER

September
Tue., Sept. 3 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG
Annual Business Meeting
and Gardening Panel

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

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving!