



# Garden Voice

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MAY 2016 COUNTY 76 NEWSLETTER

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**County 76 is the advisory board for the Arkansas Master Gardeners. It is a volunteer organization promoting volunteer horticultural education and service to the community. Members are graduates of the Arkansas Master Gardener program administered by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service**



## Janet Carson: Advanced Master Gardener Training

County 76 has much to be proud of in strengthening and supporting the Master Gardener program statewide, but one program has continued to be the shining star: the Advanced MG program.

Many years ago as we were looking at issues in the MG program—and researching volunteering in general—we discovered that many volunteers begin to lose interest after three years in any volunteer program. We wanted a way that would keep our volunteers engaged. The Advanced MG program was begun. The first training was in Mountain Home in the summer of 2002, and it was on herbs. It was a roaring success. We found over the first several trainings that to be advanced, the topic needed to be somewhat specific, not too general, or it became too similar to basic training.

To participate in advanced level classes, volunteers must have been active in their local county program for a **minimum of three years**. We stick with those guidelines since the entire reason for starting the program was to have something special for volunteers three years and older. This allows volunteers to get new training on topics they are interested in and reenergizes them in their volunteer role.

Since 2002 we have had 45 classes on a diverse range of topics from vegetables to butterflies, roses to blackberries, and all topics in between. Over 838 Arkansas Master Gardeners have taken at least one class, and we now have 159 Master Gardeners who have achieved their Level One advanced status, which requires participation in five advanced classes. There are 39 Master Gardeners who have attained Level Two by participating in an additional eight classes. Seven Master Gardeners achieved Level Three status by participating in a total of 23 classes. **Two superstars have already achieved Level Four** status by participating in a total of 33 advanced training classes. Both Level Three and Level Four require additional commitments: Level Three aspirants must write an article for a newsletter or make a formal presentation on a gardening-related

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**Mimi Cox**

County 76 Agent

**Janet Carson**  
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**Julie Treat**

### Welcome New County 76 Members

Melinda Akins (Crittenden)  
Regina Gabel (Washington)  
Susie Green (Pulaski)  
Rochelle Nooner (Pulaski)  
Charles Oldham (Prairie)  
Jennifer Van Norman (Pulaski)

### Garden Voice

Garden Voice is an open-format publication. All ideas, contributions, and suggested improvements are welcome.

Quarterly issues are published in February, May, August and October. Deadlines are the first day of those months.

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topic. Level Four requires a PowerPoint® presentation or fact sheet.

Large or small counties can easily **host a day-long Advanced Level Training** class for 50 or more participants. Hosting a **state conference** is now more limited to bigger counties who can house and feed upwards of 500 people. Whether your county is considering hosting or you want to attend a class, the advanced Master Gardener program is a win/win for our state. Find information on the Master Gardener Website.

## Letter from the County 76 President



It's hard to believe that we are already well into the year of 2016. What a beautiful spring we have witnessed with all the plants appearing appreciative of our mild winter. As I am sure it is for you, it is hard for me to stay indoors when the outdoor "chores" are calling me. Besides our gardens, our Master Gardener projects, Master Gardener training, Master Gardener programs, and Master Gardener plant sales, many of us also have those special baseball or soccer games to attend to watch our grandchildren "play ball." Spring is truly a beautiful but busy time of the year.

With all that said, please take time to look at the many splendid articles in this edition of the *Garden Voice*. Your County 76 Projects are active, and many activities and events are planned for the year. The Training Project is helping assure that several Advanced Training programs will be offered (two of which have already occurred). PNG is well on its way to finalizing the program for this year's PNG Leadership Conference (September 26-27 at Ferndale). The Communications Project is providing this wonderful newsletter, updating resource information on the website and collecting photos for the MG calendar photo contest. The RRR Project is busy organizing our first "Annuals to Perennials" Event for new members and their mentors. The County 76 Fundraising Project members have already been participating in many of the events throughout the state and are scheduled to sell their famous items (Pro-Hoes, gloves, etc.) at many other 2016 events.

Even though many wonderful things are going on in the MG world, we have also been saddened by the passing of some of our wonderful County 76 current and past members the last few months, i.e., Leroy Fry (River Valley), Ron Robinette (Pulaski County), and Janie Turner (Garland County). They were each such a blessing to the many lives they touched and will be missed.

Hope all of you are taking time for yourself to enjoy the beauty around you,

Jane Burrow

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## **County 76 Project Reports**

At the April County 76 Meeting in Little Rock the

following projects continued

planning the year for Arkansas Master Gardeners. County 76 volunteers donate their time and energy to ensure that all Master Gardener counties benefit from the planning and implementing of state-wide functions and events. They represent you. What is decided in these project meetings affects your MG county and you. The following is a report of our Project activity:



### **Advanced Training Project – Darlene O’Connor, Chairperson**

- Evaluated the upcoming advanced trainings for 2016
- Discussed the pros and cons of having more than one class in a given month
- October 21, 2016, Greene County, “Masters of Monarchs”

We have a “save-the-date” from Montgomery County for July 22, 2017, in which they will provide a Train-the-Trainer session teaching counties how to provide a five-day in-house training course on how to replicate “Tasty Acre,” the completely organic garden. It includes a set of all the participant workbook materials, facilitator guide, and a 100+ slide PowerPoint for each participant in the Advanced Training day.

### **RRR Project**

Plans are underway for the upcoming Annuals to Perennials programs for the newest Master Gardeners. The programs will be held at four locations around the state to make it accessible to each new Master Gardener and his/her mentor.

El Dorado, Clarksville, Little Rock, and Batesville are the chosen locations for the programs. Janet Carson and her counterpart from Mississippi, Lelia Kelly, will speak to our “annuals,” educating and encouraging them to become “perennial” Master Gardeners. These programs are only open to Master Gardeners who finished their basic introductory training between June 1, 2015, and May 31, 2016. Each “annual” (newest member) is

encouraged to invite his or her mentor to participate in the program. Mentors may not attend alone.

RRR asks that other County 76 members be available to help implement our plans at the closest location. Look for details and the registration form being sent out through Constant Contact.

### **PNG Leadership Project Report:**

Our PNG Project discussed the details for the September 26-27 Leadership conference.

1. Created a detailed agenda for PNG Leadership conference.
2. Signed up for various duties at the PNG Leadership Conference
  - Facilitation
  - Hospitality
  - Registration
3. Discussed and assigned sub-committees to
  - recommend table topics at meals
  - decide hospitality duties
  - choose food menu

### **Communications Project Report, Glenda Bell and Kim Hughes, co-chairs:**

#### **I. 2016 Master Gardener Calendar**

A. The 2016 MG Calendar was so popular that it completely sold out.

B. Please observe the strict guidelines for submitting photos:

- Photos only taken in Arkansas, .jpg stipulation, size constraints, submission requirements, one photo per season per entrant (see article in this newsletter)
- June 1 is the deadline for all photos

**II. County contact list** has been entered into the MG Only site and continues to be updated. (This is an entire committee effort.)

**III. Speakers Bureau** list continues to be refined and grows. Kim Hughes requests that each county send a list of their 2015 and 2016 program speakers and topics.

#### **IV. Garden Voice**

1. Co-editors Leslye Buol and Grazzie Warbritton are working together to learn the WordPress system
2. Need articles to be sent by small and large counties about what is the current focus of that county. Don't worry about writing; they will edit and get it to publisher—just need your descriptions of what is happening in your county.

#### **Silent Auction (State conference)**

1. Several carloads of donations were brought to the Quarter 2 meeting. Others can be brought to the State conference. Examples of donations include plants, gift certificates, books, art, bird houses, bat houses, unique cooking utensils, anything unique that is garden related, anything unique that is not garden related that would make a joyous gift for oneself or a friend
2. Will be held only the afternoon of day one of the conference.
3. Helpers needed. Please sign the signup sheet for jobs.
4. Minimum purchase price is \$5.00.

#### **2016 AR F&G Show Results!!**

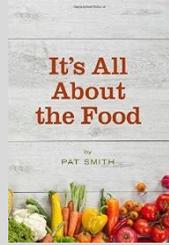
Total attendance at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show was 10,371. It was awesome, and it took Arkansas Master Gardeners to make it that way. Thank you! [Read more](#)

#### **Featuring Mimi Cox: A County 76 Treasure**

This month we feature Mimi Cox, a much beloved Arkansas Master Gardener. Janet Carson describes Mimi as "an integral part of the success of the AR MG program, serving for many years on our original ten-member advisory board and continuing on in the new format when we changed to an open statewide membership of County 76." Linda Soffer characterizes Mimi as "the epitome of mentorship. M - e - n - t - o - r spells Mimi Cox." Jane Burrow says, "Mimi Cox is one of those amazing folks who makes an immediate impact on those with whom she comes in contact." [Read more of Mimi's story](#)



## Pat Smith, Montgomery County MG, Authors Book--*It's All About the Food*



Pat Smith is a living treasure of the Montgomery County Master Gardeners. She is the mastermind behind the Tasty Acre Sanctioned Project which, according to Janet Carson, epitomizes what Master Gardeners is all about. Pat is the chairperson of the Montgomery Food Pantry as well as a leader in a number of other organizations. This busy lady has also authored a valuable book you must read. [Read more](#)

## Learning Fields

The Learning Fields at Chaffee Crossing in Sebastian County invite you to visit and enjoy our gardens. You can host your own event or activity. Spaces available for use include the Isaac Witt education building, an open air pavilion, over twenty garden and lawn areas, wild flower meadow, arboretum, walking trails, and the honeybee hive and pollinator (bat houses and bird houses) habitat and sanctuary area. [Read more](#)



## County 76 Fundraising, Past and Present

Mimi Cox describes the County 76 Fundraising Project that has come a long way from the spontaneous silent auctions at the early meetings of the group. Then, we enjoyed bidding on the homemade jams, preserves, plants and whatever the members could bring to share to provide some funds for a bank account yet to be established! [Read more](#)

## 2017 Master Gardener Calendar Photo Contest



winter

fall

summer

spring

The deadline for entering this exciting contest is June 1st. The RULES HAVE CHANGED!! So read them carefully, please. [Read more](#)

## **Southern Inspiration Garden**

Early morning. Quiet footsteps heard between joyous bird songs. Then more soft footsteps are accompanied by quiet greetings you hear exchanged by good friends. Master Gardeners are gathering as they do each Monday to work at Garvan Gardens' Southern Inspiration Garden in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Not only is it a stunning garden room, but it is also a teaching garden displaying primarily perennials and their companion plants that do particularly well in central Arkansas. [Read more](#)

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, age, color, religion, gender, disability, veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments  
Cooperating