

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

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Janet Carson: Annual to Perennial

I was thrilled with the success of our first Annual to Perennial events around the state. A big thanks to County 76 members for helping to organize the

activities at our four sites and providing refreshments. I think we can safely say from all the evaluations that we accomplished our goal of reconnecting with first-year members. We are now ready to begin planning next year's events.

One of the strongest messages I got from the event was the importance of mentoring. Assigning a more seasoned MG friend to a new member is a great way of welcoming them into our program and helping them navigate the waters to find out where they fit in. If your county does not have a mentoring program, I would encourage you to investigate the options. There is a great deal of information on our website under County 76.

You can learn more about the mentoring program at the upcoming PNG (Plant, Nurture, Grow - Leadership) program at the Arkansas 4-H Center Sept 26 & 27. You still have time to register, but time is running out—the deadline is August 26.

Happy Gardening!

Letter from the County 76 President

It is the time of year that we begin to see yellow school buses, participate in county fairs, plant fall gardens and anticipate the cooler weather. Please remember that many great County 76-sponsored activities are planned for the remainder of 2016, including PNG Leadership Conference September 26-27; Master Gardener Appreciation Week October 9-15; MG Appreciation Day at the Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville on October 10th; Fourth Quarterly County 76 Meeting on October 25th; an Advanced Training Class planned for October; and the County 76 Board Retreat November 14-15. I hope you will make plans to participate in as many of these activities as your schedule allows.

As I approach the last few months of serving as County 76 President, I am mindful of all who have made this "job" easy. A special thanks to the Board members with whom I serve: 1) to Linda Soffer for her great organizational and leadership skills that have helped us to continue to move forward; 2) to Barbie Luther, who keeps all of our minutes and plans on paper in such an accurate, timely manner; 3) to Janice



Vice President

Linda Soffer

Secretary

Barbie Luther

Treasure

Janice Dickerson

Assistant Treasurer

David Anderson

Past President

Mimi Cox

County 76 Agent

Janet Carson

County 76 Coordinator

Julie Treat

Welcome New County 76 Members

Kitty Sanders (Washington)

Jan Stewart (Union)

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.

Send to

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Editors

**Communications
Project Team**

Proof Reader

Jo Anna Parker

Dickerson and David Anderson for continuing to improve the method that we use to be fiscally sound and accountable; 4) to Mimi Cox for her support and for her leadership, without which I could not have done my job; 5) to Janet, Julie, and Holly for their dedication to the Arkansas Master Gardener Program; and 5) to all of our wonderful project chairs/co-chairs and their project members who have selflessly given of their time and energy to get their job(s) done. I would also like to express a special word of thanks to Grazzie Warbritton, who served as Editor of the *Garden Voice* but had to resign her position due to medical issues. Grazzie and her team did a wonderful job in providing us with a professional, informative newsletter and her leadership will be missed. Lastly, a big thanks is shouted out to all of you Arkansas Master Gardeners. You are the BEST and the reason the Arkansas Master Gardener Program continues to grow and bloom!!

Jane Burrow

County 76 Project Reports:

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 are the project reports from the County 76 third quarterly meeting held in Little Rock, July 26, 2016.



Communications: The Communications team continues to update the Speakers' Bureau and the County Contact lists which are posted on our UAEX web site.

Leslye and Casper Buol are currently working on the

Arkansas state map displaying photos of all current County 76 members. The *Garden Voice* continues to be in an ever changing mode. We are moving from using Word Press to having all information on our UAEX web site. Each project will be reporting its activity each quarter, and that information will be published in the *Garden Voice*. The communications team is making the creation of the *Garden Voice* a team effort. *Glenda Bell*

Fundraising: Review current inventories and re-order popular

items to sell at upcoming events: aprons, plant labels, plant label pens. Check for prices on vests, t-shirts, caps, adjustable rakes. Be selective in accepting venues to sell items.

Some have not been productive enough to justify the travel, set-up and time involved. Price items to average a 25%-35% profit margin. Produce a graphic display to show how the hoes are made (from recycled agricultural discs). At future state MG conferences, try to avoid vendor competition. We were set up near other garden tool vendors.



Upcoming sales events for the Fundraising Committee include:

PNG Conference, Ferndale – September 26-27

Garland County MG Expo, Hot Springs – October 8

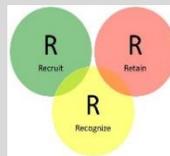
MG Appreciation Day, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks – October 10.

Ouida Wright



PNG: Although you might not have registered early, **you can still register for this year's PNG on September 26th and 27th.** This year's presenters and programs have been expanded based on your feedback from our November questionnaire. If you look at the [Agenda](#), you can see the full line of internal "how to" and outside speakers on topics that you requested. The full Agenda and registration are on line at the MG only section of the Extension web site.

The PNG Committee is working hard to finalize preparation and to insure the conference meets the needs of our members and County MG organizations. **It will be a fun event and sure hope you will join us.** *Walter Jennings*



RRR: The RRR project discussed the 2016 Annual to Perennial programs, how they were received, as well as improvements that can be implemented for the 2017 programs. August 18-21, 2017, have been chosen for next year's Annual to Perennial programs, so save the dates! More information will be coming in future issues! Remember, these programs are designed for our newest members and their mentors, if they have one. The RRR project encourages all counties to have mentors for their new members. Each county has a RRR notebook with mentoring information. There is also mentoring information on our website, and if you want even more help with mentoring, you may contact the RRR project and a member will work with you. There are also 2 mentoring workshops scheduled during the PNG Leadership Conference this September. These PNG workshops will be taught by Mimi Cox, our local expert on mentoring.

Our MG birthday, October 13th, is just around the corner. We hope all members will attend the birthday celebration at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks on October 10th. Your county may want to celebrate our birthday on a local level, and we will send you a list of interesting and creative ways to celebrate. The list will be sent to the county presidents in early August so you can start your planning. We would also like to hear how you celebrated in past years so we can include your ideas on the list.

Finally, we are working on rewriting the state award nominations to reflect consistent wording and alleviate confusion. We hope you are thinking about which project, rookie, and Master Gardener your county wants to nominate. We hope every county will nominate in all categories.

You may contact Meg Fox at mmfox@aristotle.net if you have questions or need help with setting up a mentoring program in your county or if you want to share how you celebrate your birthday in your county. *Meg Fox*



Training: Greene County will host an advanced training, Masters for Monarchs, on October 21, with Lori Spencer, author of *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths*, leading off this event. This will be the county's first such training, and we are enthusiastically waiting for the registration information which will be sent out soon. Two counties, Miller County Red Dirt MGs and Montgomery County MGs, have expressed an interest in hosting during 2017. The training committee is reviewing the application forms and check lists and making minor revisions to clarify application information to be submitted. This will make the application process easier for a host county. *Mary Wells*

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.

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