



# Garden Voice

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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**

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## Janet Carson: Today Was Amazing

What a year of Master Gardening it has been! We have had 3 advanced training sessions across the state this year: sustainable gardening in Washington County, integrating native plants into the home landscape in River Valley, and then Masters for Monarchs in Greene County. Having just attended and witnessed the enthusiasm and organization of the Greene County training, I have to say how impressed I am. It doesn't take a large county to host an advanced training; it just helps if you have good organizational skills. The speakers were outstanding and the day just flowed. There was a whole lot of education going on! If your county is thinking about hosting an advanced training, we have mentors who can help!

Our state conference sold out in 11 days with 500 people, and the hotel filled up in less than 24 hours! We had excellent educational events, along with some fun and unique activities to showcase Carroll County.

Statewide Saturday training in Bryant attracted 29 new trainees from 7 counties. Overall, 382 new volunteers were trained in 2016.

Our first ever A to P (annual to perennial) event for first-year Master Gardeners and their mentors was a roaring success. We hosted the event in four locations around the state and got to meet, greet, educate and hopefully inspire our volunteers to stay active. This event will be repeated in August 2017.

36 Arkansas Master Gardeners participated in a 12-day study tour of Cornwall and Wales.

PNG (Plant-Nurture-Grow) leadership conference was another glowing example of the quality programs being offered to Arkansas Master Gardeners. Over 170 Master Gardeners from 38 county programs participated in this two-day event at the Arkansas 4-H Center. From problem solving, hosting a plant sale, mentorship, parliamentary procedure, money management and how to conduct a meeting, to forums for officers, and round-table dinner discussions, Master Gardeners left with a whole host of new tools in their box to help strengthen their own county programs.

Governor Asa Hutchison proclaimed the week of October 9-15 as Arkansas Master Gardener week. Events were happening in counties all over the state, but over 500 volunteers were at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks in Fayetteville to walk the gardens, visit with experts in the garden, purchase plants and gadgets, and visit with other Master Gardeners from across the state.

And October 25, we had one of the largest and most organized County 76 quarterly meetings. It was held in Little Rock, and the ideas that were flowing and the things that are planned for 2017 are amazing. Stay tuned; the best is yet to come!

Having recapped all the statewide events, it doesn't even take into account the myriad of things that you are all doing every month in your local county programs. Unfortunately, the hours you are reporting don't even begin to touch the surface of what you are really doing. To help me tell the story PLEASE REPORT! If you are having difficulty getting into the system, please let me know and we can get that resolved. But

## County 76 Officers

President

**Jane Burrow**

Vice President

**Linda Soffer**

Secretary

**Barbie Luther**

Treasurer

**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

James Howard (Faulkner)

Ruth Landers (Pulaski)

Harriette Upshaw (Pulaski)

Debbie Watson (Union)

### Garden Voice

*Garden Voice* is an open-format publication. All ideas and suggested improvements are welcome. Quarterly issues are published in February, May, August and November. Deadlines are the first day of those months.

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what you are doing matters, and the only way we can show what you are doing is if you report it!

Happy Gardening !

## Letter from the County 76 President



The year 2016 has been a rewarding, eventful year for County 76 volunteers. Our quarterly meetings were well attended, and we welcomed new members to County 76 at each of our meetings this year. County 76 members are those "behind the scenes" Master Gardeners from around the state who work with Janet, Julie and Holly to plan, coordinate, and sponsor statewide events such as our outstanding 2016 PNG Leadership Conference (**PNG Project**) and the new Annual to Perennial events (**RRR Project**). County 76 volunteers also work as mentors to counties who provide Advanced Training opportunities for our 3+ year Master Gardeners. This year we had the three outstanding AT courses of Sustainable Gardening (Washington County), Integrating Native Plants into your Home Landscape (River Valley) and Masters for Monarchs (Greene County). Our County 76 **Training Project** is already working with counties who are interested in providing advanced training programs in 2017. Of course, if you have attended gardening events, you have seen our **Fundraising Project** members promoting the Master Gardener program throughout the state by selling many great gardening tools. The **Communications Project** has been busy updating our data bases for the statewide program and providing updates through our *Garden Voice* newsletter.

I am looking forward to my new role as County 76 Past President and anticipate great new leadership under the direction of President-elect Linda Soffer (Jefferson County) and Vice President-elect Patsy Louk (Washington County). Thank you to both of them, as well as the project chairs and co-chairs who have stepped up to lead us into the future.

Happy fall gardening,

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 fourth quarterly meeting held in Little Rock, October 25, 2016. We had four new members join County 76.



**Communications:** The Communications Project discussed all aspects of each project we cover. The *Garden Voice* continues to be the voice of County 76 and should reflect what we (as the state advisory board) discuss and decide. We will continue to report on each project activity at our quarterly meeting. Jan Stewart has agreed to take the notes from each project chairman

and put them in a format for printing in The *Garden Voice*. Since Beverly Didier will be taking over as chair from Glenda Bell, we discussed each area of responsibility. We are still maintaining the county contact list which is posted on the "MG only" website. The new Communications team member, Harriette Upshaw from Pulaski County, suggested we post the day each county has their monthly meeting. We will add the day only to the 1<sup>st</sup> column of our county contact list (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday) and if someone is interested in visiting another county meeting, they can call the president or county agent for more information. Harriette and Carmon Hayes volunteered to contact each county and get their information.

**Don't Forget ....**

**Report your Master Gardener volunteer hours in the online reporting system at [uaex.edu](http://uaex.edu).**

**Master Gardeners are making a difference in our communities and across the state. It is important that our numbers reflect that impact.**

**Tell Your Story – Report you Hours. If you need assistance, please contact your county online reporting manager.**

### **Advanced Training Information**

**If you are considering hosting an advanced training, please avoid the dates two weeks before or after the following events:**

May 21—23, 2017 AR State Meeting)

Sept. 26 & 27, 2017 (PNG Leadership Conference)

Week of Oct. 8, 2017 (Master Gardener Appreciation)

Our Speaker's Bureau seems to be growing. Thanks to the counties for sharing their training information. If anyone knows of upcoming county training, please get the speaker, topic, location and email address to the Communications team. Carmon Hayes has agreed to keep the Speaker's Bureau updated.

The Arkansas state map with photos of all County76 members still needs to be compiled.

We welcome Harriette Upshaw to the Communications Project. *Glenda Bell*



**Fundraising:** Our meeting had three objectives: preview inventory, review "best sellers and non sellers," and review selling sites and upcoming dates where items could be sold. These were the main topics of our meeting.

In reviewing our inventory, we noted the items that had sold out or had low sales and made a list to reorder those. We added items that were suggested by members or requested by others to the order. Those items were caps with visors, denim shirts, and ergonomic tools. These items will be purchased as the budget allows. Members need to look for cost-effective items.

In reviewing our best sellers, we noticed that they fluctuate in different areas of the state. Member will stock inventory popular to their area. Also, we decided to eliminate the items that did not sell from inventory by either offering these as a "sale item" or "free with purchase." This will allow us to focus on the best sellers. Members need to notify the chairman of the best sellers at their area events.

In reviewing selling sites, it was determined that the training sessions are an excellent venue to sell items. Patsy Louk shared a specific idea on how she used training sessions to market an item to the mentors for the annuals. Also, Chris Lalande received a request from incoming Pulaski County president Jo Ellen Board to set up table for sale items at their monthly meetings. Upcoming events include Mimi Cox conducting sales at the Craighead monthly meeting on November 3 and sales during the Jonesboro seminar on February 21, 2017.

The fundraising committee always welcomes comments and suggestions from all county 76 members. *Janet Turnage*



**PNG:** The PNG evaluation from the 178 Master Gardeners from 38 MG groups attending overall was very positive. The programs that were successful and need to be repeated next year are Forums, Mentoring, Advanced Training, Money Money, Project Winners, and Plant Sale. The Silent Auction was very exciting and added more revenue to the Janet Carson Scholarship Fund. Monday night activities were energized by our Master Gardeners playing "Jeopardy."

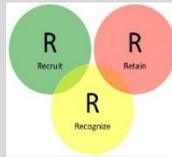
Everyone seemed to enjoy the beautiful location at 4-H Center in Ferndale.

The suggestions for next year were to expand meal time to more than 45 minutes, eliminate evening speaker on the first day, and end the conference at noon on last day. We need to expand from 4 to 5 concurrent sessions and have each one repeated more for availability.

In planning for 2017, our new PNG Chairs are Joan Howard and Gaye Harper; sub-committee chairs as follows:

Programs and Speakers - Joan Howard and Walter Jennings  
Conference Material (Welcome Binder/Folder) - Susie Green  
Table Talk - Debora Carpenter and Charles Oldham  
4-H Center Coordination (Numbers, Meals, Social) - Walter Jennings with Rochelle Nooner and Janis Calaway  
Table Decorations - Judy Woodard and David Anderson  
Speaker Correspondence - Hilde Simmons

We will still need additional volunteers to help with next year's conference. *Walter Jennings*



**RRR:** The RRR project supports the continuation of the “Annual to Perennial” programs designed for new Master Gardeners and their mentors. The dates chosen for the 2017 programs will be August 18-21. The locations will be determined in November. We look forward to tweaking the program to make certain it meets the needs of our newest members. Please let us know if you have any

ideas or suggestions.

The RRR project just finished updating the state award nomination forms, and they were sent out on *Constant Contact* on October 26. The award forms are also on the website along with some helpful tips on writing a winning nomination. We know every MG program has people and projects who deserve to be recognized for the impact they have made. So nominate them! You don't have to enter every category, but we do hope your MG program will send in at least one nomination. Remember, you can't win if you don't nominate! *Meg Fox.*



**Training:** The Training Committee congratulates Greene

County on a very successful and informative recent Advanced Training, “Masters for Monarchs.” There were 79 members who completed the training at the beautiful Paragould Community Center. Special thanks to Holly Fletcher, Joy Gatlin and Connie Whitman for their work in chairing this training and to MG Advisor, Cooperative Extension Agent Dave Freeze for his support. Great speakers highlighted the journey of the Monarch butterfly which encounters many risks as it flies into our gardens on its way to reproduce the species. The group tagged butterflies and released them as the inspirational high point of the day! The participants left Paragould with notebooks in hand ready to help these beautiful creatures in their life's mission.

The Training Committee encourages Master Gardeners to host Advanced Training workshops. These trainings, sponsored by County 76, are much in demand and well attended. It is a great experience for counties which host. If there is interest in hosting an Advanced Training in 2017, we would like to announce those to be held in 2017 in the next newsletter. When scheduling, we should **avoid the dates two weeks before or after the following events:**

- May 21—23, 2017 (MG State Meeting)
- Sept. 26 & 27, 2017 (PNG Leadership Conference)
- Week of Oct. 8, 2017 (Master Gardener Appreciation)

Let Julie Treat, Mary Wells, or a Training Committee member know if you want more information or wish to hold an Advanced Training.

The Training Committee will formulate specific guidelines for documenting the final Level IV requirements for writing a fact sheet or creating a power point. *Mary Wells*

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