

**County 76 is the advisory board for the Arkansas Master Gardeners. It is a volunteer organization promoting 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**

## In This Issue

**Janet Carson:  
MG Online Reporting Hours**

**Co 76 Letter from the  
President**

**Communications Project  
Report**

**Fundraising Project Report**

**PNG Leadership Report**

**RRR Project Report**

**Training Project Report**



## Janet Carson: MG Online Reporting Hours

As time spent in the garden increases so do the number of hours Master Gardeners volunteer. Please remember to report all your volunteer hours you spend on your projects. Your time and work on county projects across the state is very important to the Arkansas Master Gardener Program. Reporting your hours monthly is encouraged so you get in the

habit of reporting hours on a regular basis. Some members report their hours immediately following their volunteer time which is great. Others wait until December to report their hours. If you are one that reports your hours in December, please remember the deadline to report hours for 2017 is December 15, 2017. For those that report their hours daily remember that if you report more than once to the same project on the same date, the last time entry will override the previous entry. If you have multiple work times on the same project on the same date, add those hours up for that one project and report it once on that date. Reporting hours to different projects on the same date is not an issue.

If you need help reporting your hours, contact your county online reporting manager. Your time and dedication to the Arkansas Master Gardener Program is greatly appreciated. Just remember – report, report, report!

## Letter from the County 76 President

Rain, rain, go away – come again another day – maybe July or August!



Here it is April, and weather is still a main topic of discussion. Tornado sirens, flooding rains and more are wreaking havoc around the state. I've talked with many Master Gardeners that are frustrated that sodden grounds are keeping them from preparing or working in their gardens. Let's hope this pattern ends soon so we can all get back out into our yards and gardens and do what we enjoy. Master Gardeners are always busy, but spring is a particularly busy time. Plant sales have been on-going all over the state during April and will continue through mid-May. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of great selections and hardy plants. You will find Master Gardeners ready to answer your questions and provide helpful tips. And don't we all need 'just one more' plant? New in March were District "Dig Ins." Many Master Gardeners took advantage of the opportunity for mentoring and fellowship. The "Dig Ins" are a great addition to the Master Gardeners' line up of educational opportunities. Look for this idea to be repeated next year. Three Advanced Training classes are planned for June and July. The June 9class is being hosted by Madison County, one of our newest county programs. Registration is underway. Pope County will host on June 24, and Hot Spring County on July 14. Remember to watch for registration information. These classes fill up quickly.

It is said, "April showers bring May flowers." Don't forget to be taking photos for the Master Gardener calendar. The rain is hampering things, but it is also making

## County 76 Officers

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**Barbie Luther**

Treasurer

**Janice Dickerson**

Assistant Treasurer

**David Anderson**

Past President

**Jane Burrow**

County 76 Agent

**Janet Carson**

County 76 Coordinator

**Julie Treat**

## Welcome New County 76 Members

Arline Jackson (Pulaski)

Kathy Ratcliffe (Pulaski)

Mike Wilbanks (Craighead)

## 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.

Send to

[mg@uaex.edu](mailto:mg@uaex.edu)

Editors

**Jan Stewart &  
Communications Project  
Team**

Proof Reader

**Jo Anna Parker**

everything green. **June 1** is the deadline for submitting photos.

Make plans to stop by the Fundraising booth at the State Conference Art & Garden Fair, May 21 (1:00-5:00 p.m.) and May 22 (8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) AND the Silent Auction on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the DoubleTree. The Auction will open at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, May 21, and close Monday, May 22, at 12:30 p.m. Items will be ready for pick up beginning at 2:00 p.m. Funds raised support the PNG Leadership Conference (September 26 & 27, Ferndale) and the Janet B. Carson Scholarship Fund.

I hope you will be able to join us for our next membership meeting on Tuesday, July 25. Our program for the meeting will be from the Recruitment, Retention and Recognition (RRR) Project on successfully completing our annual awards packages.

Thank you for your support. Please let me know if you have suggestions. I appreciate your input.

Let's GROW!

Linda

## 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 first quarterly meeting held in Little Rock, January 18, 2017.



**Communications:** We were happy to start updating the "Speakers List" for this year because the new Master Gardener training sessions are almost completed. We will add the speakers from the "Dig Ins" regional sessions and then the summer Master Gardener training session speakers. The state map with photos of County 76 members is being updated to the present. The Power Point presentation for County 76 is being revised to add the new board members and the project chairs. All photos submitted for the Master Gardener Calendar need to be taken with a regular camera and not a phone camera. **Please review submission requirements online. All photo entries are due by June 1, 2017.** "Garden Voice" will continue in its present format, though we are exploring changes to the "Garden Voice." **Beverly Didier**



**Fundraising:** Fundraising has been in high gear during the first quarter of 2017. There were fourteen sales events in the first quarter and seven more by the end of April. The biggest challenge has been having the desired inventory items in the right area of the state on the right date. We have had great results with the Radius ergonomic tools and have even re-ordered Radius items for Mimi Cox in northeast AR for the third time. Proceeds from sales in 2017 thus far have exceeded \$10,000. We look forward to a successful sale at the Master Gardener State Conference. There should be several new items offered as the Fundraising committee reviewed several products that are available to us at wholesale, and we look forward to showcasing them in May at the state conference. We also have new MG visors in four colors for \$10. Several volunteers signed up to work a 2-hour shift selling at the Fundraising booth at the state convention. Open hours are from 1 pm to 5 pm Sunday, May 21, and from 9 am to 3 pm on Monday, May 22. **More volunteers are needed for both the Fundraising Booth and for the Silent Auction.** To volunteer for the **Fundraising Booth**, contact Ouida Wright, 501-730-3292. To volunteer for the **Silent Auction**: Carmon Hayes, [Carmonh1202@gmail.com](mailto:Carmonh1202@gmail.com), 501-984-3219. **Ouida Wright**

**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 your 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:**

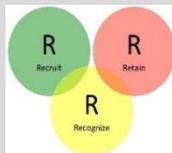
May 21—23, 2017 (AR State Meeting)

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

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



**PNG:** The main part of our discussion was the format for the attendee folder versus a book. This was tabled for further conversation at the next meeting. We discussed how to make parking accessible and getting the attendees checked in and settled quickly and efficiently. We discussed social activities outside in the garden around the fire pit if weather permitting. We talked about Hilde's work on the bios and synopsis. **Joan Howard**



**RRR:** Our RRR Project breakout session was recorded through Zoom, and one of our members was able to watch the session even though she wasn't able to attend the meeting. We started our meeting with a discussion about the state nomination forms for the 2018 State MG Awards. The forms are being finalized and will be sent to Glenda Bell for publication by May 15. It is our hope that having this information earlier in the year will encourage MGs to start the preliminary work on their nominations. The Annual to Perennial subcommittee recommends contacting the new Master Gardeners, their mentors, and the county agents through an email invitation to the August 2017 Annual to Perennial Programs. They would also like to establish a master list or database of Mentors. We also plan to work with Janet to set 2018 A to P dates. Suggestions for celebrating our October MG birthday will be available by July 15. **Meg Fox**



**Training:** Nine enthusiastic members of the training project were in attendance at the April meeting. The group accomplished these tasks:

- Approved procedures for awarding certificates at Advanced Training Classes.
- Approved templates for email announcements of Advanced Training classes and a registration form for Advanced Training. *These will be available on the website soon.*
- Considered guidelines for counties to use in awarding partial scholarships for Advanced Training.
- Considered a template draft for Advanced Training Level V.

Hot Spring County CEA, Rachel Bearden, has submitted an Advanced Training application on the topic *Landscape Design*. Marty Lynch, Garland County, will mentor their committee as they finalize plans for the July 14 event at Malvern.

Other ATs scheduled are:

**Madison County - Wild Foods and Edible Herbs and Flowers – June 9, Huntsville**

**Pope County – Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening - June 24, Russellville**

**Hempstead County – Master Gardeners Growing Healthy Communities – Sept 12, 13 – Hope & Howard County Farmers Market, Nashville**

**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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