

GARDEN VOICE

County 76 Newsletter Volume 20, Number 2

July 2017

Record Turnout for State Conference in Little Rock



“County 76 is the advisory board for the Arkansas Master Gardeners. It is a volunteer organization promoting volunteer horticulture 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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A message from our president:

Having a Blast! I know it's true because they say "time flies when you're having fun" and over half the year has already flown by.

Master Gardeners are offered fun and educational opportunities on almost a weekly basis. We have programs designed for our first-year members and their mentors (Annuals to Perennials (August 18 – 21), others for those that have been members for at least three years (Advanced Training, Miller County, September 12 – 13) and still many others that are available to all Master Gardeners (Plant, Nurture, Grow) Leadership Conference, Ferndale, September 26 – 27 and (MG Appreciation Day, October 9, South Arkansas Arboretum, El Dorado).

Recently, my granddaughter and I visited Prince Edward Island, Canada. Canada is celebrating its 150th anniversary and the Island is showing its splendor. Geraniums, phlox and petunias adorn public places. Purple, pink and white lupines line the roadways. The red sand beaches and sunsets are spectacular. However, most impressive were the friendly people and teamwork displayed as they worked together to make their island shine.

That's what I experience when attending events around the state. We have a great MG family. It is inspiring to see so many talented MG sharing their time and expertise. I have been having a lot of fun not only discovering various topics, but also making new friends and learning about great ideas that are going on around the state.

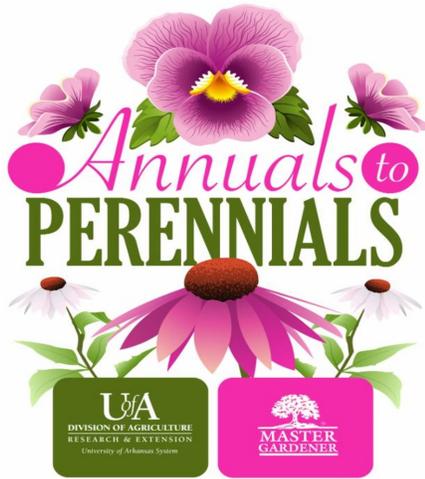
We would like to know about your county's great ideas. Join us for our next membership meeting, Tuesday, October 24-10:00 – 3:00, Little Rock State Office. We plan to include a "Show & Tell" session to highlight some of the great ideas/innovations around the state.

Let's Grow! Linda

Connect. Learn. Grow. Be a part of County 76.



Linda Soffer



Annuals to Perennials

The Annuals to Perennials program is open to first-year Master Gardeners who completed basic training from June 1, 2016 through, August 17, 2017, their Mentors and County Agents only. The deadline for on-line registration or mail-in registration is August 11. You can register online (see Registration Link below) or complete this registration form and mail it to the following address:

Janet B. Carson

Annuals to Perennials Program

2301 S. University Avenue

Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/mgonly/default.aspx>

2017 Annuals to Perennials Program

Just for You...Our New Master Gardeners,

Their Mentors and County Agents

A program to celebrate you and encourage you to grow from an Annual to a Perennial Master Gardener and to recognize the vital roles of mentors and county agents in the Master Gardener Program. This program is open to our new Master Gardeners, their mentors and county agents only. If you finished your basic training or served as a mentor between June 1, 2016 and August 17, 2017 please join us at one of the locations listed below:

Friday, August 18, 2017, Fayetteville, UA Food Science Building Auditorium, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 2650 North Young Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72704

Saturday, August 19, 2017, Batesville, University of Arkansas Community College Batesville, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., 2005 White Drive, Batesville, AR 72501

Sunday, August 20, 2017, Little Rock, U of A, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., 2301 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204

Monday, August 21, 2017, University of Arkansas Community College Hope, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Hempstead Hall, 2500 South Main Street. Hope, AR 71801

Project Reports

Communications: We were delighted to have seven members attending. We introduced the new version of the newsletter. We look forward for this to be a resource each month. (Jan Stewart)

Fundraising: The Fundraising project group reviewed sales since the last meeting in April which have totaled \$6,530. Most of that amount came from sales at the State Convention in May, which netted over \$4,000. The group reviewed some potential new products to sell and also arranged a schedule for selling at the PNG conference in September. Four potential new members participated in the breakout session and will hopefully become permanent members of the Fundraising group. (Ouida Wright)

RRR: It was a busy quarter for the RRR project. In mid-May, we sent out the 2018 State Award package so that county programs could get a jump start on their planning. We also sent out ideas for celebrating the 29th Birthday of Arkansas Master Gardeners. Most of our work was devoted to the planning of the Annuals to Perennials Programs that are planned for August 18-21. We look forward to hosting all new Arkansas Master Gardeners and their mentors at one of our four locations around the state. (Meg Fox)

PNG: The PNG Project worked on making sure we had all the committee duties covered. We assigned people to each speaker to introduce and help them during their speech, we got folks to cover the folders, registration, table décor and table question. We got parking and getting to the rooms hopefully worked so it will be easier to do. We have our silent auction worked out. When people have worked on something this long it is easy to get it pulled together setting future work dates. (Joan Howard)

Training: Drew County's Extension Agent, Steve Kelley and Master Gardeners Don Hogue and Sam Given visited the meeting and plan to make application to host an Advanced Training in Drew County next year. Madison, Pope, and Hot Spring Counties were congratulated for hosting three very successful Advanced Trainings. Master Gardeners may register for Miller County's AT, "Master Gardeners Grow Healthy Communities" on September 12 at Hempstead Hall in Hope; the Howard County's Farmers Market in Nashville, the 13. Advanced Training Level V guidelines have been formulated and were presented and will be recommended to County 76 for adoption. (Marty Lynch—Mary Wells)



Training Session at State Conference

Develop Your Leadership Skill in Five Easy Steps

Why are you a leader? Did you seek the position? Was it thrust on you? Is it an expectation? Whatever the reason, understand that few people are born leaders. Most people develop leadership skill one step at a time.

As you work at developing your leadership skill, these five simple processes can [speed you to your goal](#). Soon you will feel confident in your leadership role. You will know how to motivate, communicate, [build teams](#), and help them focus on and achieve their goals.

Desire. Start with your desire. While you may have come into leadership through a variety of means, if you want to succeed, you need to passionately want to [do a great job of leading people](#). If you have this key ingredient, you can master all the rest. Because desire is linked to commitment and success.

•**Commit.** Commit yourself to a course of action. To be a great leader, you must gain the skills that make people want to follow you. Winston Churchill said that leadership is getting people to do what you want because THEY want to. So, commit to taking the time to learn and train. Be willing to make life changes and skill changes that will make you that kind of leader.

•**Assess.** Take stock of who you are right now. What qualities do you have right now that are leadership qualities? Are you excellent with communication... or do you sometimes have work undone or done wrong because your directions or expectations were unclear? Are people enthusiastic or reluctant to follow your direction? Can you get your co-workers to agree with you and can you build consensus? Make a [list of leadership skills](#) you have and of those you want to develop.

•**Learn.** Once you know where you want to improve, start learning your new skills one at a time. If you try to learn them all at once you will be fractured and overwhelmed. Don't rush it. Take time to observe others and how they do it. But don't try to clone them. You have your own unique strengths and talents you bring to the equation. [Learn your personality type](#) and how it helps you become a leader that feels natural to you. You may find [books, coaches, and articles](#) useful in learning each leadership skill.

•**Apply.** Create a "Skill of the Week Club" for yourself and for one week focus on developing that particular leadership skill. Post a note with the skill in a prominent place. Read about that skill each morning before you begin the day. Evaluate your progress each evening. Journal your efforts. Be kind to yourself. Understand that mistakes are a learning opportunity, too. Analyze the error and find ways to fix it and do better next time. Record your thoughts. Soon you will find that developing leadership skill comes almost naturally. The process becomes part of your work week and the skills become part of who you are.

(Joel Garfinkle)

A Note from Janet Carson



Every time I meet with our County 76 board or general membership, I am so impressed with your dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to our Arkansas Master Gardener program. You truly want to make an outstanding program even better. We are entering into some exciting months with some of our largest events for Master Gardeners across the state.

First up are 4 identical A to P events—we will start in Fayetteville, Friday, August 18, then, head to Batesville on Saturday, then, Little Rock Sunday and end, Monday, August 21 in Hope. These events are for the first year Annual members who we hope will become Perennials. We also welcome our perennial mentors and county agents.

For September, we have our PNG – Plant, Nurture, Grow Leadership Conference at the Arkansas 4-H Center September 26 & 27. I truly credit these leadership conferences for strengthening our programs at the county and state level. We truly do want each county to send at least one or two members. Please register, you won't be disappointed.

Then, we head into our MG Week, October 8 – 14. We have an exciting MG Appreciation Day planned Monday, October 9 at the South Arkansas Arboretum in El Dorado. Union County has been working hard, and there are so many exciting things happening that day in and around the gardens. They will have tree walks, demonstrations on propagation, bulb planting, native plants and more. Shop for plants, crafts and art. And, try a local favorite – Spud Nuts. Lunch will be available if you want to eat at the gardens, but they will also give you a list of places to explore in El Dorado. The event will be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. so plan now to come and join us. If you live far away, we will send a list of hotels you can come down and stay the night before or after. Bring all your members to this outstanding MG project and gem of a garden in South Arkansas. Registration information (the event is free, but there will be optional t-shirts and lunch options) will open soon, so stay tuned.

To round out our MG week, we end with a sold out bus tour to Mississippi from October 11 – 14.

So much is happening and these are just the statewide events. Arkansas Master Gardeners ROCK!

Happy Gardening!

Janet

Events, Workshops and Classes

July 15-Aug 5, 2017	Saturday Summer MG Training Class Hope, AR
August 18, 2017	Annals to Perennials Meeting, Fayetteville, AR 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
August 19, 2017	Annals to Perennials Meeting, Batesville, AR 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
August 20, 2017	Annals to Perennials Meeting, Little Rock, AR 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p, m.
August 21, 2017	Annals to Perennials Meeting, Hope, AR 9:30 to 12:30 p.m.
September 26-27, 2017	PNG Leadership Conference, Arkansas 4H Center, Ferndale, AR
October 9, 2017	Master Gardener Appreciation Day, South Arkansas Arboretum, El Dorado, AR
October 11-14, 2017	Master Gardener Trip to Mississippi Gardens



Welcome New Members– July 25,2017

Susan Colles, Pope County

Belva Cook, Pulaski County

Sam Givhan, Drew County

Nancy Griskelis, Garland County

Jan Hodges, Garland County

Valerie Hohenberger, Faulkner County

Joyce Mendenhall, Washington County

Chris Weems, Prairie County

Tip of the Quarter:

Set up a state award committee in your county program and begin planning early in the year so that come November the work isn't overwhelming.

County 76 Officers

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Garden Voice Editor—Jan Stewart

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