

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

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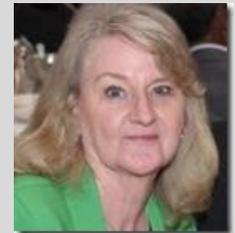
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Janet Carson: Traveling

As most of you know, Janet is on a river cruise to Viet Nam & Cambodia. If you would like to follow her daily travels, please read her blog which is posted on the uaex.edu Master Gardener website.

Letter from the County 76 President



New Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

As I assume the leadership role of County 76 president, I want to thank the membership for this opportunity to serve and for your confidence and support. It is an honor and my privilege to accept this responsibility. Janet has often said, and I agree wholeheartedly, Arkansas has the best MG volunteers anywhere! We are fortunate to have an outstanding 2017 leadership team. Our officers and our project chairs and co-chairs are enthusiastic, engaged, and committed to growing our MG program. With this team and the leadership, guidance, and support of Janet Carson and Julie Treat, I anticipate a great year of continued productivity and growth. We are fortunate that our program continues to evolve.

In the first quarter of 2017, you will see new ideas and plans come to fruition. March will bring a new educational and fellowship opportunity. There will be similar one-day events offered in each of our three districts. These events will be open to all active MGs. Details will be forthcoming. April will see the addition of ZOOM to our County 76 membership meetings. Our Monday, April 24, 2017, meeting will include the addition of ZOOM for some sections of the meeting. ZOOM is new to me, but I have found it to be an excellent option when distance, time or weather prevents participation in person. ZOOM is a great resource for conducting committee, project, or membership meetings. I hope to see you at our next County 76 membership meeting. I look forward to working with you. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me: lsoffer@gmail.com.

Let's GROW!

Linda Soffer

County 76 Officers

President

Linda Soffer

Vice President

Patsy Louk

Secretary

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

Jana Foster (Union)

Ann Schweitzer (Pulaski)

Asa Whitaker (Independence)

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

Editors

**Jan Stewart & the
Communications Project
Team**

Proof Reader

Jo Anna Parker

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: Because of lack of attendance in the Communications Project, we were unable to set timelines. The Speaker's Bureau is complete at this time but will need to be updated after the spring training classes are finished. The state map with the photos of the County 76 members and their counties will be finished, hopefully, during this quarter.

We are excited about ZOOM which will allow us to effectively meet and quickly update our communications work. The "day of the monthly county meeting" has been entered into the database, but we are still lacking some dates. Please encourage your president to send in that information. We encourage new membership to this committee. **Jan Stewart**

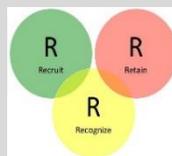


Fundraising: We are pleased and excited to add a new line of tools to our fundraising inventory--the Radius Garden tools, which can be seen at www.RadiusGarden.com. There is a wide variety of quality tools including digging, cutting, pruning, watering and hand tools that are ergonomically designed. These carry a lifetime warranty.

We discussed various tools to offer at fundraisers to complement our line of hoes, gloves, and miscellaneous garden-related items. The Radius tools will allow us to have a dependable source of available stock at a reasonable price. We also discussed numerous upcoming sales events (thirteen currently scheduled for 2017) and asked for volunteers to work at the upcoming Jefferson County Home and Garden Show, February 3-4. **Ouida Wright**



PNG: There are many things that aren't settled at this point, such as cost to register and lodging. The basics and some corrections to things that we did last September were mainly the agenda items. We discussed items that will be in the registration packet that MGs will receive at the conference. We discussed the format of that folder. This includes items such as a map to make it easier to get around, evening entertainment, and the agenda. I realize that this is somewhat sparse; you can call me at 501-516-8732 or email me at msgardeniaflower@yahoo.com. **Joan Howard**



RRR: The RRR Project broke into two committees to continue the planning of the 2017 "Annual to Perennial" programs which will be held in Fayetteville, Batesville, Little Rock and Hope in August. We are expecting more participation this year.

The State Award Committee discussed our efforts to encourage the county programs to nominate the people and projects that go "above and beyond" for

Don't Forget

Report your Master Gardener volunteer hours in the online reporting system at 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)

the betterment of their communities. Towards that end, we suggest you take pictures of your members and projects throughout the year. Next fall when you are ready to write your 2018 state award nominations, you will have plenty of photos from which to choose. Submit photos that support the text of your nomination. We also strongly suggest "before" and "after" pictures that will clearly show the impact you have made at your project. **Meg Fox**



Training: Training Project members encourage counties to host an Advanced Training. The Training Project will assist and support the work of the county group that is hosting. We thank the two counties who have stepped up to host and look forward to these events in June:

June 9, 2017 - "Wild Foods, Edible Herbs and Flowers" – Madison County, Huntsville, Arkansas

June 24, 2017 - "Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening" – Pope County, Russellville, Arkansas

If your county is considering hosting an Advanced Training, the guidelines and forms are in the MG Only section of the Master Gardener program at uaex.com, or simply email Julie Treat at jtreat@uaex.edu or Mary Wells, wellsfarm@cyberback.com, for more information. We hope to hear from your county training project.

We also finalized the requirements for Level IV of Advanced Training. Master Gardeners who are working towards Level IV now have specific guidelines for completing those requirements. Level V guidelines will be put together soon and available to Master Gardeners who wish to work on a Level V of Advanced Training. Level IV specific requirements will be on the website soon under Advanced Training Level IV. **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.

