Washington County
Extension Office
State Master Gardener Project of the Year
2016
Elaine Blowers, Judy Henbest, Dian Holmes
2017 Chairman
Susan Caple Gardner
Master Gardener 2013
Washington County I CAN award 2013
Arkansas Master Florist
Has volunteered over 200 hours per year since 2013
IN THE BEGINNING
Three years ago we began with ten areas that had received minimal amounts of attention for many years. We had a few original plantings, rudbeckia, echinacea, a very small budget and a few ideas.
After the First Spring Planting our Sign looked a little better.

We visited with our Extension Agent, Berni Kurtz, for input. His direction was to “use the areas for education, demonstration and to try some new ideas.”
During the month of January we worked on dividing the areas and giving committee members an area of their own. This gave the members

* A sense of ownership
* Freedom to create their own design
* Freedom to work within their own schedule.
During the winter months we also began researching new ideas
We assessed what was currently planted on the grounds.
We made wish lists of plants we wanted to acquire.
Winter Education and Craft Sessions

We continued to meet in February. We created Valentine cards, made seed packets and continued our plant research. We ordered seeds and plants.
Making hummingbird feeders from wine bottles
Suet feeders and nesting materials
This is where we started
The parking lot islands
We didn't plan it that way but we basically have two shifts. The early shift and the later shift. The later shift consists of folks that have to drop kids at school, drive a ways to the Extension Office, care for loved ones at home or are just not morning people!

Each week we break together at the picnic table and visit before the early shift leaves. We discuss areas that need work and plans for the upcoming week and month.
Early spring we start to shop at local plants sales. High Schools in the area, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks and our local Farmers Market all have excellent varieties to choose from and are easy on our budget. We take advantage of seed Exchanges for free seeds for our beds.
We divided and moved plants we had, participated in Plant rescues, swapped plants with other projects and published wanted plants lists in our Newsletter.
Dian is in charge of our hosta beds. This is what it looked like in the beginning.
The Hosta Garden on the East side of the building was expanded and enhanced with labeled varieties. We added some new varieties this year and added some complementary plants such as ferns and her heuchera.
And this is what it looks like today
Front Entrance
Extension Office
Elaine and Judy are in charge of the flowerbed at the front of the building.
This is what it looked like before.
And now, 2016. They chose a black and white theme, with photos of some of the plants used.
The Front Entrance to the Right of the door before....
And this is what it looks like now.
One of the projects Dian and Susan researched early on was a Dry Creek Bed. The area we chose had a drainage problem from the downspouts on the roof and was a frequent entry point into the building. In fact foot traffic chose our pathway through the grassy area.
Before the dry creek bed
The Herb Garden under construction
The Herb bed and side gardens
Community Service

Plant and maintain pots for the County Fair
Education and Planning
The Butterfly Waystation 2016 addition

Our County asked each project to consider adding a Butterfly Waystation to the existing Gardens. In the Winter we began to plan our addition. We held a small plant sale at a General Meeting to raise funds. After raising over $400 in sales and donations we began prep work.
Construction and Education

Remember

Dial 411

BEFORE

you dig!