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The Birthday Celebration on October 14 includes tours of P. Allen Smith’s Moss Mountain and a speaker from Southern Living Plants That Work. (30 minute presentation will repeat three times during the day – 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. We will have cake and beverage all day to celebrate. Lunch must be pre-purchased and we will have it at the church between 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (or we will hold yours if you are delayed coming back from Moss Mountain).

PLANT * NURTURE * GROW
P – N – G Conference set to motivate

Master Gardeners representing 31 counties have registered for the P-N-G Conference starting in just two weeks! Sessions include county program management and growth, new ideas to revive your program, and also have time to meet other Master Gardeners from all over the state. If you haven’t yet registered, you can still do so as long as slots are available.

Additional details are available on the Master Gardener Only page of the uaex.edu website.

What are your “True Colors”? Make the connection as we continue to build ‘A Bridge to the Future’.

For more information, contact Linda Soffer at lfsoffer@gmail.com.
‘Bon Voyage’ as state MGs set sail on IMGC Alaskan cruise

Many Alaskan communities are accessible only by boat or small planes.

Our intrepid travelers have set sail for International Master Gardener Conference cruise to Alaska September 7-14.

At last count given, 1,000 Master Gardeners from 43 states and 3 foreign countries are traveling the Inside Passage on the Holland America Westerdam to see the beautiful scenery and to hear some of the best speakers from across the country between ports.

Plethora of Peppers

Faulkner County MGs reaped the benefit of a basketful of peppers brought to the August monthly meeting to share.

Arkansas Flower & Garden Show
February 21-23, 2014
Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock

Gardening- That's Entertainment!

Gardening continues to be one of the most popular hobbies in the U.S. and in 2014, the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show will be showcasing just how much fun gardening can be! We'll have speakers giving educational presentations about a variety of gardening topics, amazing indoor display gardens demonstrating how to make the most of your outdoor spaces, a live floral competition between professional florists, and of course lots of shopping for the home and garden. Mark your calendars today and join the fun in February for a weekend full of gardening entertainment!

Greening of Arkansas Grants

The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is continually working to promote gardening and beautification in Arkansas. Proceeds from the show are used to fund our community beautification grant program known as "The Greening of Arkansas." We are currently accepting applications for our 2014 Greening of Arkansas grants. Non-profit and civic groups may apply for grants to fund horticultural beautification projects on public lands. Grants are awarded to non-profit and civic groups for beautification projects on public land. Grant amounts are up to $1500 and 50% of the funds must be used for horticulture (trees, shrubs, and flowers).

For more information, please contact Merilyn Tilley, merilyntilley@gmail.com, or Krista Quinn, krista.quinn@yahoo.com.

The application deadline is September 16, 2013. For more information and to download an application, please visit our website using this link: Grant application.
Baxter County MGs: Developing an Ozarks Green Thumb Seminar

At the 2012 Leadership Conference in Eureka Springs, the Baxter County Master Gardeners (BCMG) hosted a session on how they connect to their community.

The first BCMG class of 1994 developed and presented the first community seminar in 1995. The seminar provides an educational opportunity for area residents to learn about various aspects of Ozarks gardening. We have had a number of exceptional and knowledgeable speakers, many from our own membership.

County Extension Agent, Mark Keaton’s topic will be “Insects in the Landscape”; our own Lucinda Reynolds, a Master Gardener Educator, will discuss “Developing Your Ozarks Green Thumb”; Lori Spencer, author of “Arkansas Butterflies and Moths,” will speak on “Butterfly and Moth Gardening.” In addition, Dr. Tamara Walkingstick will be back to delight us and her topic will be “Invasive Species in Our Urban Landscape”.

The seminar is a huge success each year due to the efforts of the entire group. We set up the seminar rooms and decorate with seasonal blooms, such as daffodils, tulips, forsythia, flowering quince and greenery from member gardens.

The seminar is scheduled to run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, with guest registration at 8:00. Because some guests may arrive as early as 7:30 (as in past seminars), our MGs are requested to arrive no later than 7:00 a.m. wearing their name tags and dressed in BCMG green shirts (if they have one).

The MGs entrance ticket to the seminar will be finger foods all ready to serve. Diabetic foods should be so labeled.

Seminar guests will be informed that Master Gardeners will be those smiling, helpful people wearing green shirts and ready to answer questions.

Watch for Buddy Messages regarding seminar needs for the Horticulture Table, for book donations, and for refreshments and other requests.

How does your county connect to the community?

First Extension work in Arkansas: Boll Weevils & Corn Clubs

Editor’s Note: With the USCES centennial anniversary in 2014, Garden Voice will mark this significant occasion with excerpts from “Farther Down the Road,” an e-book on the history of the

The forerunner of 4-H youth work in Arkansas, the first corn club was organized in White County in 1908. In the spring of 1908, R.C. Davidson, district agent for farm demonstration work, enlisted the help of Lucy Critz, a teacher at Searcy High School, to organize a corn club. Critz was instrumental in enrolling 47 boys.

Each club member was required to plant and cultivate an acre of corn according to recommendations, with their work supervised by Critz and Davidson with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

During the fall of 1912, twelve of the White County club members organized the first corn club exhibit held in Arkansas. Joel Lambert won the yield contest with 45 bushels per acre. For his efforts he was awarded a bridle and saddle. Lambert also won for the best single ear of corn and the best 10 ears. That same year, Lambert was hired as a county agent in White County.

By 1912, Lambert had enrolled 98 members. By 1916, membership in corn clubs in Arkansas had grown to 3,100. There were clubs in almost every county, thanks largely to the support of county school superintendents, who chaired county corn club committees. The county committees worked through rural teachers to enroll boys in corn club work and encourage competition at county corn club shows.

Corn wasn’t the only focus of early club work. About 5,000 boys had taken part in cotton clubs during that same time.

The success of corn clubs for boys also helped spur rapid enrollment in pig clubs. The pig clubs were begun in 1914 with 125 boys, most of them members of corn clubs. Within a year, membership in the pig clubs had reached 1,000.

The boys’ commodity clubs were strongly supported by local businessmen, especially bankers. The businesses provided generous gifts, including cash and trips.

Jernigan lauded club work in a 1913 circular, Outline and General Rules of Arkansas Boys’ Corn Clubs:

“Such work inspires respect for labor and love of farm

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President’s Message: As The Calendar Turns

Many gardeners will claim the fall season as their favorite time in the gardening seasons. The hustle and bustle of spring with cleaning, planting, weeding and watering is past, the heat of summer is waning, and fall brings a measure of satisfaction to the gardener as summer annuals fade and are replaced by those that hopefully will survive the coming winter. Colors change from pinks and lavenders to shades of orange, gold and red. We take a deep breath and enjoy the fruits of our labors….at least for a brief time

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life, teaches how the farm may be made to pay more, encourages the study of soils, plant life, moisture conditions and plant foods, and impressed the importance of drainage, good preparation, good seed and thorough cultivation.”

Just as importantly, he continued:

“The boy who has engaged in a contest of this kind, whether successfully or not, has gained practical training of far-reaching value and lasting significance. He has been brought in touch with the great natural laws on one hand and with modern science on the other. He has, by his own efforts, demonstrated the relations between the two. He has been led to work and think, to apply knowledge to the most practical affairs of life. By his own effort he has made a crop and dignified himself by accomplishment. He has established in his own mind for all time the relation of theory and practice, the adoption of the abstract to the concrete. He goes back to school with greater respect for his books and with a deeper appreciation of their lessons.

The boys’ clubs also inspired home demonstration work for girls and women.

Another highlight for this fall season is the 25th Birthday Celebration in Little Rock on October 14. Details and registration forms are available on the website, and we hope you will join us for birthday cake and a tour of P. Allen Smith’s beautiful farm. It will be a Super Special event!

With many opportunities for meeting others and learning across the state, we hope to see you soon.

We are in the midst of an exciting International Master Gardener Conference as 1000 Master Gardeners from the US, Canada and Korea tour the inside passage of Alaska on a cruise ship. 162 Arkansans are included, the largest contingent of all. Janet is posting reports on her blog for you to enjoy, and we look forward to hearing from those attending.

Our next MG Biggie is our PNG conference in Hot Springs on September 23 and 24, our Plant – Nurture – Grow opportunity. We hope your county is represented as we share, listen and learn from outstanding speakers and other Master Gardeners new ways to make our county programs stronger, more productive and more fun. Following the conference, Arkansas Master Gardeners are invited to visit Garvan Woodland Gardens as guests for Master Gardener Appreciation Day on September 24. You will enjoy touring the beautiful gardens and visiting with the staff and other MGs from around the state.

Next month: Clubs for Girls & Women

A Pig Club in the early 20th century.

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. – Albert Camus
Master Gardener & Public Garden Event Calendar

September

20  Deadline to turn in meal choice for Master Gardener Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens.
21  “Dreamin’ of Next Year’s Garden” a garden seminar featuring Chris Olsen. from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. at the Izard County Consolidated High School in Brockwell. The cost is $15 for seminar only or $20 for seminar and lunch. The deadline to register is September 1. For information or to register, call 870-368-4323 or 870-670-4699.
21  “At Home in the Ozarks” Susan Young, Outreach Coordinator, Shiloh Museum and Washington County Master Gardener, Meet in Student Center of Northwest Arkansas Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pianalto 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall 479-466-7265. Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR.
24  Master Gardener Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs.
30  Deadline to register for MG 25th Birthday Celebration.

October

4, 5, 6  Garland County MGs Fall Plant Sale in conjunctions with the 45th Annual Hot Springs Arts and Crafts Fair, Garland County Fairgrounds, 4831 Malvern Avenue (Hwy 270 East). Friday and Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Sunday: 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. Free admission and parking, concessions, activities for children, juried show with more than 250 exhibitors. Wheelchairs and strollers will be available. For more information contact Hilde Simmons 501-226-5454 or Hildesimmons@aol.com.
14  25th Anniversary of Arkansas Master Gardener Program Celebration, more info soon.
17  Fragrant Garden Advanced MG Class, Eureka Springs, AR. FULL
19  “Indians of the Ozarks” George Sabo, University of Arkansas Professor of Anthropology and Author of several books on Native American History including Paths of Our Children: Historic Indians of Arkansas. Meet in Student Center of Northwest Arkansas Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pianalto 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall 479-466-7265.
22  County 76 General Membership Meeting

November

12 to 13  Blooms for Sun and Shade Advanced MG Class, Searcy, AR. Application and schedule coming soon.
16  “The Effects of Native and Invasive Plants on Insect Life” Dr. Don Steinkraus, University of Arkansas Professor of Entomology, Meet in Student Center of NWAR Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pianalto 479-361-2198 or Joyce Mendenhall 479-466-7265. Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR.

Would you be interested in communications workshops if free computer programs were available? LibreOffice is a comprehensive professional-quality productivity suite that will work with Windows and Mac OS X. You can learn more about it at www.libreoffice.org. The six programs, which include word processing, spreadsheets, and presentation slideshows, will feel instantly familiar if you’ve used Office before.

One limitation for County 76 communications workshops has been the cost of the computer software needed as the basis for the training. If you would be interested in classes on Powerpoint, Photography, or one that would include writing and newsletter editing, let us know at ArkansasGardenVoice@gmail.com.