

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Installation of Officers and Awards

January 8, 2019

CONVENED: 6:30 pm

PRESENT: 118 Members and 2 Guests (Total = 120)

Prior to the meeting being called to order, Washington County Cooperative Extension Agent Berni Kurz asked the new trainees to stand to be recognized, mentioning that 6 are taking the on-line training and 30 the in-person class. He also recognized the 2018 board and officers and asked for outgoing president Judy Smith's assistance in installing the 2019 officers and board. Using vegetables and abundant puns, he cleverly described each executive committee member's duties.

President Susan Young then called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM. The first order of business was the approval of the November and December 2018 meeting minutes. It was moved and seconded to approve the November and December minutes. The motion passed unanimously. Approval of the October and November treasurer reports was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bylaws Change A proposed change to the bylaws was presented (see attachment.) This change relates to training requirements and credit for years of service for Master Gardeners who transfer from out-of-state. The proposed change has been presented to align our county bylaws with the state bylaws. It was moved and seconded that the amendment be approved. During discussion, Jim MacLean stated that he believed the proposed rules were too strict, and several other members agreed with him. Patsy Louk, incoming president of County 76, addressed concerns about this issue. She explained that the change in the acceptance of years of service from another state was implemented just last year. The goal of the new policy is to ensure that gardeners who have transferred from out-of-state have actually worked in Arkansas gardens for the number of years they're given credit for here. Neta Winston said that this had been discussed at length in the board meeting and that the proposal was put forward to the members in order to comply with state regulations. She mentioned that the main point of contention was the member's status upon transfer. Several members mentioned that they believed that there should be reciprocity between Master Gardener programs from one state to another. Berni explained that although the Master Gardener program exists nationwide, it is a national organization in name only. There is no national governance, nor is there a standard system for governance within or between states. Upon a call for the question, forty-eight members voted in favor of the change to the bylaws and thirty-one opposed it.

Committee reports There were no committee reports.

Sanctioned Project Adoption A pollinator garden at Appleseeds has been proposed as a sanctioned project, with Donilyn and Chuck Rutherford as project chairs. This garden is located at the north end of Gulley Park in Fayetteville. It was moved and seconded to adopt this project. The motion passed unanimously.

Sanctioned Project Chair Change Donna Stout has had to step down as project chair in Winslow, and a new chair is needed. Lisa Owen said that Donna had worked very hard on the project, and she volunteered to take on its leadership to continue Donna's work.

Business Meeting Adjournment It was moved and seconded to adjourn the business meeting at 7:14 and proceed with the awards ceremony.

AWARDS:

Master Gardener of the Year: Geri Alvis

Geraldine (Geri) Alvis was Rookie of the Year in 2015, and she hasn't slowed down. In 2018, she logged 390 hours in 13 different sanctioned projects and 289 education hours. Geri always steps up to fill needs that have been identified, chairing the composting program and recruiting new volunteers to it when the program needed a leader.

Master Gardener Rookie of the Year: Doris Cassidy

Doris Cassidy worked on nine sanctioned projects as a rookie, and four of them nominated her as Rookie of the Year. In those nine projects, she earned 336 volunteer hours, and she earned 239 education hours. The impact that Doris has made can be seen by the accolades her peers have given her. One of her colleagues commented that "Doris' patience, knowledge and garden wisdom add something rich and valuable to our group of volunteers."

Project of the Year: Shiloh Museum

Shiloh Museum was approved as a sanctioned project in 2012, and the WCMG have enhanced the experiences of visitors to the museum by providing historically accurate gardens and native plantings throughout the two-acre campus. With the help of Master Gardeners, Shiloh Museum has established a monarch way station and has promoted the establishment of pollinator-friendly gardens in the community by milkweed giveaways and butterfly education classes.

Friend of Master Gardeners: Terry Gulley

Master Gardener "Yes, I Can": Annette Pianalto

Rookie "Yes, I Can": Mike Mohler

Mentor of the Year: Neta Winston

Two Hundred Hour Awards:

Gayle Howard
Mary Beth Lohr
Geri Alvis
Chris Bell
Patsy Louk
Carol Gulley
Gail Pinalto
Judy Smith

Debbie Gilmore
Jody Miskell
Joyce Veasey
Neta Winston
Bill Cornelius
Doris Cassidy
Lisa Owen
Janice Neighbor

Two Hundred Hours for Five Years or More:

Mary Crumley
Dian Holmes
Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
Truman Stamps
Martha Ward

Beverly Didier
Jan Judy
Kitty Sanders
Carol Butler
Jim Sposato

Perfect Attendance for 2018:

Kathryn Birkhead
Doris Cassidy
Debbie Gilmore
Jaylon Haley
Jan Judy
Jan Lefler

Jody Miskell
Judy Smith
Jim Sposato
Truman Stamps
Susan Young

The meeting concluded at 7:50 pm.

Submitted by Kathryn Birkhead, Secretary

**2019 WCMG Bylaws, Policies & Procedures
for WCMG Membership Approval in January 2019**

Page 5 – State Master Gardener Program Guide (*on uaex.edu/mastergardener website*)

Members Transferring from Another State (Revised 7/18)

Master Gardeners transferring from other states to Arkansas may do so by auditing 50 percent of the Arkansas training instead of having to complete the entire course. They would need to pay for a handbook (if they want it) and name tag but there would be no charge for auditing the training. Years of service from another state would not be counted for Arkansas Years of Service Awards.

2019 WCMG BYLAWS

ARTICLE III

Membership

A. Transfer:

1. A *Letter of Transfer* shall be written by the transferee's County Agent to the Washington County's Extension Agent to verify they have completed MG Training and are a member in good standing.
2. The *Letter of Transfer* shall be submitted by the Washington County Extension Agent to the WCMG Chair of the Membership Committee for a recommendation to the Executive Committee.
3. The Transfer member shall pay WCMG dues.
4. Years of service from another state shall not be counted for Arkansas Years of Service Awards.
5. Out-of-State Transfers may audit 50 percent of the Arkansas training rather than completing the entire course. ~~attend the first available Arkansas MG Training.~~

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2019 WCMG POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

Transfers from Out-of-State MG Programs

1. Shall have completed MG training.
2. Shall pay local (Arkansas) MG dues.
3. Shall not be a lifetime MG in Arkansas even if a Lifetime MG in another state.

4. Shall not transfer Years of Service from another state to be counted for Arkansas Years of Service Awards.

5. Shall complete a transfer by auditing 50 percent of the Arkansas training rather than completing the entire course.

6. Shall pay WCMG applicable fees for a name tag, pay for the Arkansas Master Gardener Handbook (optional); but there shall be no charge for auditing the training.

(See Bylaws Article III Section 1D).