

Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • December 2019



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If you have questions about various and sundry matters of WCMG business, **please do not reply to this email in pursuit of answers.** Your message will be sent to a deep, dark hole and may not be discovered by your newsletter staff for days on end. Instead, try these avenues to ensure a speedier reply:

- Consult your workbook to find the appropriate person to pose your question to.
- Scroll down to the bottom of this newsletter, where you'll find email links for your executive board members and newsletter committee members. All of them are eager to be of help.

Taking Care of Business

These items will be voted on at our December 3 meeting.

November 2019 Meeting
Minutes

October 2019 Treasurer's
Report

December Holiday Party Potluck and Trainee Graduation



Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2925 Old Missouri Road, Fayetteville

That's the corner of Rolling Hills Drive and Old Missouri Road, just a block south of Butterfield Elementary School. There are parking lots on the east and west sides of the church. Look for the luminarias which will guide you to the auditorium where the dinner will take place.

Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, along with a plate, silverware, and drink for yourself and a guest (if you invite one). Arrive any time after 6:00 p.m. for food, fellowship, and honoring our new members. Also, be ready to cast your vote for our 2021 conference theme!

We will be collecting donations for 7Hills Homeless Center. Their needs are many:

- Canned chicken, canned chunky soup, canned vegetables
- Men's boxers, S-M-L; women's briefs, 5-6-7; men's jeans, waist 30 through 36
- Plastic forks and spoons, heavy duty disposable bowls and plates, 8 oz. disposable cups, 13 gallon and 55 gallon trash bags
- Denture cream, Qtips, ibuprofen, Tylenol, Pepto Bismol, disposable razors, cold/flu meds
- Reading glasses, hair brushes, bath towels and wash cloths
- Backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, rain ponchos, flashlights, AA and AAA batteries

Photo courtesy [liz west/flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/lizwest/)

Congratulations, Trainees!

The following 2019 trainees have completed their training and will graduate during the Holiday Party on December 3!

Brad Baldwin, Renee Baldwin, Talya Boerner, Mary Boetel, Heather Burch, Pam Butler, Doris Calleja, Karla Caraway, Carter Carrigan, Trudy Carrigan, Margo Clark, Laura Gallagher, Karen Hanna-Towne, Emily Harper, Margaret Herold, Jenean Hill, Belwalee Jurkovich, Steve Lisle, Vicki Mayo, James McGinty, Susie McKinney, Marilyn Misenhimer, Beverly Morgan, Alan Ostner, Joyce Sattler, Dale Thomas, Jane VanTuyl, Sherry Wallis, Melissa White, Mary Wood, Mel Zabecki

From Your President

SUSAN YOUNG

WCMG 2007



Well, here we are, my final presidential column. I find myself filled with gratitude, and not just because I'm ready (eager is a more accurate word) to pass the torch to our president-elect, Kathryn Birkhead. I'm grateful to have served on the executive committee with some wonderful people. To Tanya Collins, Kathryn Birkhead, Karen Jech, Chris Bell, Ruthanne Hill, Kaleb Allee, Gayle Howard, and Jayne Laster, I say thank you—with all the meaning I can muster—for your wisdom and good nature. You made the work a pleasure. I'm especially grateful to past president

Judy Smith for spending the last twelve months keeping me on track with gentle reminders about deadlines and, most importantly to me, kind words of support.

To Katie Teague, Colin Massey, and Joyce Mendenhall, I'm grateful for your patience and

guidance throughout this year of transition as we all adjusted to Life After Berni.

To our project chairs, I'm grateful that you care enough about WCMG to step up and take a leadership role. And to the members of WCMG, I'm grateful for the time and talents you share. I'm looking at each and every one of you when I say that you are the heart and soul of this organization.

It's been a privilege to serve as president of Washington County Master Gardeners. And now, one more time, here's a poem for you, with gratitude.

Song of the Builders

Mary Oliver

On a summer morning
I sat down
on a hillside
to think about God –

a worthy pastime.
Near me, I saw
a single cricket;
it was moving the grains of the hillside

this way and that way.
How great was its energy,
how humble its effort.
Let us hope

it will always be like this,
each of us going on
in our inexplicable ways
building the universe.

Have You Recorded Your Hours and Paid Your 2020 Dues?



All current, active members need to have at least 20 sanctioned work AND 20 education hours recorded by December 15 in order to retain membership!

Please check your hours totals for 2019 at the bottom of your timesheet to make sure you are in compliance for both work and education hours. The State Office will shut down the website at midnight on December 15, so make sure all of your hours are entered before then!

Annual dues for 2020 are due by December 1, 2019. Your check for \$20 can be brought to or mailed to UA Cooperative Extension Service, 2536 North McConnell, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

*Dues will increase to \$25 on December 2!

If you have any questions about recording your hours please email [Annette Pianalto](mailto:Annette.Pianalto) or call 361-2007. **Please do not wait until the last minute to record your hours and don't forget to pay your dues!**

Photo courtesy [Marco Verch/flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/marcoverch/)



ZOOMing through with Flying Colors



This happy bunch of folks recently completed their Master Gardener training class via

Zoom, a web-based video conferencing platform. This allowed gardening experts from across the state to share their knowledge with trainees from across the state, all in real time. Technology can be a wonderful thing!

Front row, from left: Jennifer Siedschlag, Baylea Cantrell, Kelly Dickens-Hoffman, Phyllis McGinty. Second row: Katherine Jones, Alexis Power, Leslie Bailey, Audley Hall, Brad Neidecker, Terry Hedden, Teresa Youngblood. Third row: Kevin Manning, Randy Butler, Keith Blowers, Lynette Terrell, Washington County Extension Agent Colin Massey.

Meet Our Trainees

MEL ZABECKI

WCMG Trainee 2019

Jenean Hill

I moved to Arkansas in 1997. After living in Fort Worth, Texas, my whole life, I figured it was time to branch out after my children left for college. I have a son, Mark, who works at Lockheed as an aeronautical engineer and my daughter, Christian, also works for Lockheed as a logistics specialist. I met my husband Keith here in Arkansas, which proved to be a great move! He grew up helping his grandfather at his farm and like myself acquired a love for gardens and farm animals.



My husband and I spend most of our time working in our garden and taking care of goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, cats, and dogs. Everything we grow, scrap, and recycle is food for the animals or mulch for the plants. We also raise bees and our new direction for our landscaping is "Bee Food"! Some of my fellow gardeners have helped with this by giving me starters of bee balm, milkweed, etc.

I retired five years ago and decided I needed to find a hobby. My friend, suggested I join the Washington County Master Gardeners and have not looked back! I currently work at the Headquarters House with just a wonderful group of ladies and gentlemen. It was a wonderful choice to join our Master Gardeners as my husband and I have learned and loved with this group!

Margaret Herold

Growing up in a suburb fifty miles north of New York City with avid-gardener parents, I never pictured myself becoming a gardener. I loved being outdoors and was able to enjoy summer and winter outdoor sports. My dream when I was young was to tour with the Ice Capades, and I trained hard beginning with lessons at Rockefeller Plaza Skating Rink.

Then when we bought our first home, I went on a home garden tour and met the owners. The wife considered their garden her summer canvas, where she could use colors, textures, and shapes to design their gardens the same way she used her paints and canvases in the winter. This awakened the gardener in me, and I started my life-long interest there, which put skating on the back burner, as I grew everything I could in my garden.



When I moved to Fayetteville three years ago to be near family and bought a new home, I had the opportunity to start landscaping my new canvas from scratch. I was thrilled to see there was a strong master gardener program and couldn't wait to sign up. I love growing my own vegetables and having flower beds.

I have learned and enjoyed tremendously working at the VA garden, the Extension Office, and Headquarters House. I'm grateful to Susan Gardner, Jan Lefler, and Steve Brizzi for their wonderful enthusiasm, leadership, and knowledge. I think my avid-gardener parents would be proud to see the enjoyment I'm getting from gardening, just as they did. I do believe the gardening gene is strong and is passed on.

2021 Conference Update

JUDY SMITH

WCMG 2011

After an effective presentation by Steve Brizzi at the November general meeting, the Washington County Master Gardeners in attendance voted to host the 2021 MG state conference. Washington County last hosted the conference in 2008.

Steve outlined what he, conference co-chair Patsy Louk, and state extension consumer horticulture specialist Berni Kurz have determined so far. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Springdale. They are looking at Thursday through Saturday dates in mid-May of 2021.

Based on a survey conducted by Steve in October, members have been asked to serve on the steering committee that will organize and implement the conference. Each area of work will have a chair and co-chair. Their first meeting will be in early January, 2020. Each area will need lots of volunteers as the plan for the conference progresses.

Garden Thyme will include monthly updates in 2020 so that members will be well informed about how the planning process is proceeding and where volunteers are needed.

So keep in mind mid-May 2021, when we will have a great opportunity to showcase our projects, our county, and Northwest Arkansas.

Shiloh WCMGs Call It A Wrap for 2019

MARY McCULLY

WCMG 2015



Shiloh Museum groundskeeper and WCMG 2012 Marty Powers (left) was presented with gifts from his crew at the end-of-season potluck lunch gathering recently. Special guest was WCMG's fearless leader, County Agent Colin Massey (right). Marty said this team of master gardeners and trainees was reaching 1,000 hours of volunteer hours for this sanctioned project 2019 year.

Start Planning Your Wildflower Garden!

Here's a handout provided by our November guest speakers, Bob and Julie Holland of Holland Wildflower Farm.

Growing Wildflowers in Your Landscape

Dates to Remember

December 6 – Deadline to apply for 2020 online training

December 15 – Deadline to enter 2019 hours (hours earned December 16-31 may be recorded in January 2020.)

December 16 – Executive board meeting, 5:30 p.m., Apple Blossom Brewing Company

January 6 – 2021 conference steering committee meets, 6:30 p.m., Washington County Extension Office

January 7 – Annual awards meeting, 6:30 p.m., Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences

Contact Information


NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

[Judy Smith](#), managing editor/submissions; [Mary McCully](#), editor/submissions and videos; [Mel Zabecki](#), reporter; [Susan Young](#), production assistant; [Tanya Collins](#), consultant.


Send all submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

[Susan Young](#), president; [Tanya Collins](#), vice president; [Kathryn Birkhead](#), secretary; [Karen Jech](#), treasurer; [Chris Bell](#), assistant treasurer; [Judy Smith](#), past president; [Ruthanne Hill](#), parliamentarian. Members at large: [Kaleb Allee](#), [Gayle Howard](#), [Jayne Laster](#).

 WCMG Facebook Group (private)

 WCMG Facebook Page (public)

 WCMG Website

 UA Extension Service Website

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.

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