



Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • November 2019



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Taking Care of Business

These items will be voted on at our November 5 meeting.

October 2019 Meeting
Minutes

September 2019 Treasurer's
Report

2020 Budget

A Memo from Mr. Massey

COLIN MASSEY

Washington County Extension Agent, Horticulture/Gardening

Dear Washington County MGs,

It's still 2019, but the 2020 Master Gardener Training is underway! Trainees have been in the classroom for three sessions so far, with two more to go ending November 6. The ZOOM recordings, much like you experienced at the October Master Gardener Monthly meeting, have connected new master gardener trainees all across the state, and our experts at the Little Rock State Office have been delivering some great knowledge to our classes.



The sessions start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., allowing time for local speakers and familiarization with the Master Gardener Program. So far, we've taken trainees on a short native plant walk around the Extension Office grounds, my colleague Jane Maginot spoke about stormwater and home landscaping, and this week, several of your fellow Master Gardeners presented volunteer opportunities and project highlights. Our new class got to hear about the Lincoln project, Applesseeds pollinator garden project, and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks project, as well as an overview of committees.

Our last two sessions will see change of venue. On October 30 we'll be at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena. On November 6 we'll close out the training at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, where the new trainees will get another in-person experience with a great sanctioned project.

It has been a busy couple of months, and I'm so very thankful for your support and willingness to contribute. It's a feat to pull off the training, and I couldn't do it without being part of a team of folks like you. I want to send a special shout out to the Master Gardeners who have helped out with trainee interviews, mentoring, and hospitality for our new class so far. Thanks to Kaleb Allee, Geri Alvis, Chris Bell, Kathryn Birkhead, Steve Brizzi, Doris Cassidy, Tanya Collins, Susan Gardner, Karen Hanna-Towne, Ruthanne Hill, Gayle Howard, Karen Jech, Belvalee Jurkovich, Jayne Laster, James McGinty, Mary McCully, Joyce Mendenhall, Chuck And Donilyn Rutherford, Judy Smith, Jim Sposato, Susan Young, and Mel Zabecki. If I left you out, I apologize. Feel free to come give me the what-for.

We will have some time again on November 6 to help familiarize our trainees with sanctioned projects. If you are a project leader and would like to share, please get in touch with me or Kathryn Birkhead to get on the schedule for 10

or 15 minutes. As always, we love it when master gardeners drop by and visit with the trainees, so I hope you'll find time to stop in and get to know your new peers.

From Your President

SUSAN YOUNG

WCMG 2007



I recently discovered several seedlings growing happily in the gutters of my house. I was briefly mortified at what the neighbors must think, until I realized that the gutter-growth was shielded from prying eyes by the limbs of my oak tree. Even so, I knew the gutters must be cleaned out. Hauling out my extension ladder, I plucked the greenery and hosed the muck. At one point I decided it would be so much easier to climb up on the roof with the water hose, where I could sit down and scoot myself along as I washed the gutters.

That was all well and good until it was time to get down. I suddenly became very aware of my creaky old knees and arthritic hips. With nobody there to hold ladder for me, I thought of yelling for help in hopes that a neighbor would hear me. My pride was not quite ready to stoop to that, so instead, I just sat there for a while and enjoyed the bird's-eye view of my yard. It was much like being in a tree house. From that vantage point, I could peer into the thickness of the oak and sweetgum branches, where I spied squirrel nests and sapsucker holes not visible from the ground. A breeze sent leaves fluttering down. Watching from above as cardinals and chickadees made their way to my backyard feeders gave me pause to consider the utter miracle of a bird in flight.

Eventually I summoned my courage and slowly made my way back down the ladder without incident. Once my feet were firmly back on solid ground, I came to the realization that I had most likely just made my last trip up on the roof. Common sense dictates it. I reckon I'll get used to being known in the neighborhood as the old lady with the sprouting gutters.

Here's a poem for you.

Song of Autumn

By Mary Oliver

In the deep fall
don't you imagine the leaves think how
comfortable it will be to touch
the earth instead of the
nothingness of air and the endless
freshets of wind? And don't you think
the trees themselves, especially those with mossy,

warm caves, begin to think

of the birds that will come — six, a dozen — to sleep
inside their bodies? And don't you hear
the goldenrod whispering goodbye,
the everlasting being crowned with the first
tuffets of snow? The pond
vanishes, and the white field over which
the fox runs so quickly brings out
its blue shadows. And the wind pumps its
bellows. And at evening especially,
the piled firewood shifts a little,
longing to be on its way.

November Program

Julie Holland from [Holland Wildflower Farm](#) will be with us on **November 5** to discuss the benefits of planting and growing wildflowers.

Holland Wildflower Farm began in 1986 when Bob and Julie Holland put their botanical/wildlife research backgrounds to practice at their first home, a one-hundred-plus-year-old farm at the base of Thunder Mountain, half a mile from the White River in Elkins. It was here that Holland Wildflower Farm was born and where the Holland family continues to source and grow native seed for mixing and packaging.



Photo: Julie and Bob Holland

Time to Pay Up



It is time to pay your annual WCMG dues! The deadline to pay dues is December 1, 2019. Dues are \$20. After December 1, dues are \$25.

Ways to Pay

- Dues may be paid at the November monthly meeting.
- You may also pay at the Extension Office during regular business hours.
- You can mail your check to U of A Cooperative Extension Service, 2536 North McConnell, Fayetteville, AR 72704.

December Holiday Party Potluck and Trainee Graduation

Note change in location

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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 925 Old Missouri Road, Fayetteville

Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and plate, silverware, and drink for yourself (and for a guest, if you invite one). Come enjoy food and fellowship as we honor our new members!



Compost Happens



Starring the Crooner of Compost, our own WCMG Steve Skattebo.

Congrats, Trainees!

The following 2019 trainees have completed and recorded their required 40 work and 20 education hours:

Brad Baldwin, Renee Baldwin, Talya Boerner, Mary Boetel, Pam Butler, Doris Calleja, Carter Carrigan, Trudy Carrigan, Margo Clark, Karen Hanna-Towne, Margaret Herlod, Jenean Hill, Belvaley Jurkovich, Steve Lisle, Marilyn Misenhimer, Beverly Morgan, Joyce Sattler, Dale Thomas, Jane VanTuyl, Melissa White, Mary Wood, Mel Zabecki

Trainees, don't forget that the deadline to complete your hours is **November 1!**

If you have any questions about your work or education hours, please contact your mentor or [Annette Pianalto](#), 479-361-2007.

Uncle Mike's Veggie Garden Tips

MIKE STANDROD

WCMG 2006

November: Enjoy your fall vegetable garden. What? You don't have one? REAL gardeners have a fall vegetable garden. Few of us are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse; but a few simple tricks may extend your cool-crop season in Northwest Arkansas.



Cold Frame

Fancy or simple, a cold frame needs to protect from freezing temps, yet not overheat when a sunny winter day comes around.

This means you must either monitor temps closely to vent the cold frame, or have an automated system to do so.

- A simple and cheap cold frame is to circle a bed with bales of straw (great insulators) and cover across them with old windows/storm windows.
- A cold frame with thick or well-insulated walls (straw bale method qualifies) can protect crops by 15-20 degrees.
- The “fancy” cold frame uses a thermostatically controlled lever/mechanism which will raise the frame to vent when the temperature rises.

Low Tunnel

- Similar to the cold frame, cover a bed with hooped/bended pvc or plastic pipe or similar and cover with a plastic row cover. You can protect a fairly large garden bed by about 10 degrees. However, you can't go off on a three-week cruise and expect good results. As temps increase on sunny days (lots of solar heating under plastic) you must roll up or vent the cover, then secure in late afternoon as temps begin to fall. I discovered the hard way that you can “burn” your winter crop if you don't pay attention to daytime temps.

Night Covers

- By simply covering on frosty nights with a cloth or plastic, you can protect your cool-season crop from frost by five degrees or so. With a late fall and mild winter this might extend your crop by several weeks. But once it hits the mid-20s, forget it.

Containers

- You can plant greens in containers and bring inside on freezing nights. A window-box type planter can brighten a kitchen window.



Celebrity Sightings at MG Appreciation Day



Meet Our Trainees

MEL ZABECKI

Heather Burch

I have two kids at home, Cat (15) and Nate (12). We like hiking and taking road trips. I am the district manager for Waffle House in Fayetteville and Siloam Springs. Within ten years I'd like to turn my fifteen acres into a self-sustainable permaculture property and retire to it.



Joyce Sattler

I have always enjoyed raising vegetables and flowers. It is my time to relax. I have also been growing plants in a greenhouse the last few years. Now I only raise enough vegetables to eat fresh and spend more time on different kinds of flowers. I live in Kingston and did my Master Gardener training online, so I did not get to meet the other trainees during classes. I have really liked getting to know the other Master Gardeners while working at projects. I work at Headquarters House and at the compost demonstration site. When not gardening, I spend my time playing with my five grandchildren.



Jim McGinty

I grew up in Neosho, Missouri. My grandmother introduced me to gardening and composting. I was the helper and she was the gardener, teacher, enabler, and loving grandmother who shared her passion for making things grow. In 1969 I moved to Fayetteville to finish college and was distracted from gardening for many years. After getting married and starting a family, I tried my hand at vegetable gardening. It was a hit and miss affair; flowers were predictable but tomatoes were not. My wife, Phyllis, grew up on a farm and encouraged me.



Now that I'm retired I have the time to garden again. My time now is split between helping at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (plants and butterflies), composting at the Extension

Office, gardening at the Arkansas Air Museum (weeding bermudagrass), helping Doris Cassidy with County Fair plans, and gardening at home.



Happy birthday, Reuben! Master Gardeners at Shiloh Museum recently celebrated MG Reuben Blood's 85th birthday with his favorite "cake," which is coconut cream pie. Reuben and Truman Stamps introduced MG (and Shiloh Museum groundskeeper) Marty Powers to the idea that the museum should become a sanctioned project, and Pat Mills joined the team shortly afterward. Since then, everyone who volunteers there is grateful that Reuben and Truman saw the potential for that beautiful space.

Front row, from left: Pat Mills, Reuben Blood. Second row: Mary Ann Bardwell, Jayne Laster, Martha Sparkman. Third row: Mariette Spidel, Marty Powers, Glen Robillard, Linda MacLean, Truman Stamps

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

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