

Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • October 2021



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However, *Garden Thyme* is best viewed in your browser (instead of viewing it within your email). Formatting within an email often gets messed up (sorry for the technical jargon there), which is a frustration for you and for your newsletter committee that works so hard to provide you with a newsletter lovely to behold. **So, to view *Garden Thyme* in its full glory, just click on the link at the top of this page that says "View this email in your browser."**

October Program: *What's That Story . . .*

Ethobotany, Plant Lore, and More

Our October 5 meeting takes place via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Watch your email for a Zoom link from Colin a day or so before the meeting.

Our October guest speaker is horticulturist Corrin Troutman. She will explore knowledge, usage, and stories around some native and non-native plants. She will also cover how to include these plants in the home landscape, so Master Gardeners too can delight garden guests with these plants and their stories.



A graduate of the University of Arkansas with a degree in horticulture, Troutman began her career as a garden sales rep at Home Depot in Garland, Texas, and moved to Color Spot Nursery as the Northeast Texas sales representative where she improved sales 60 percent in one year. She returned to Northwest Arkansas to take a job as horticulturalist with the Peel Compton Foundation, where she quickly moved up the ladder to serve as executive director.

Taking Care of Business

We will vote on the following at our October 5 business meeting:

August 2021 Treasurer's
Report

September 2021 Meeting
Minutes

From Your President

KATHRYN BIRKHEAD

Dear friends,
Ah, at last we've had some rain, and it's cooler. Glory hallelujah!

After our presentation by Rose Gergerich in September, I have a whole new appreciation for the work that Master Naturalists do to bring us native plants, and I'm trying to figure out what I need and where to put it when the opportunity to buy more plants from them arises again. What happy things to consider!



On Monday and Tuesday of this week, County 76 put on the leadership conference Plant, Nurture, Grow, and our own Liz Hale presented well-thought-out information that first-year Master Gardeners need to know. We need to make sure that's included in all our trainings from now on.

Thinking about Liz and all she does around mentoring made me think of mentors in general. Geri Alvis was my mentor when I was a trainee, and I knew I'd hit it lucky when in the first meeting I attended, she was named Mentor of the Year for the guidance she'd given to the person she'd mentored the previous year. Geri definitely got me off on the right foot. Thank you, Geri!

Everywhere I look in Master Gardeners I find people who are mentors, generously teaching and guiding and sharing their knowledge and passion for gardening and for our organization. Lucky us!

May you enjoy October,
Kathryn

"Lightened Load" by Judy Brown

A threshold
Is designed
To keep the
Wheat from chaff –
To let the wind
Take from us
That which we
No longer need –
The chaff of life.

So when we stand
On one threshold
Or yet another
Wondering what
Will be lost,
We should anticipate
Instead a gift –
The freedom
Of a lightened load.

Our 2022 Executive Committee



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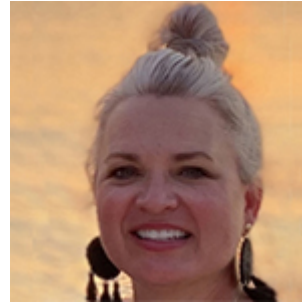
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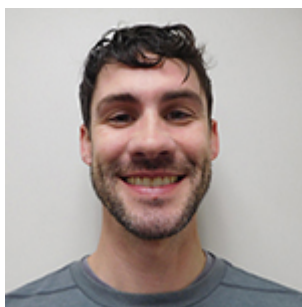
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Awards Time is Just Around the Corner

JOYCE MENDENHALL AND JAN LEFLAR

WCMG volunteers have the opportunity to give special recognition each year to outstanding Washington County Master Gardeners, first-year WCMGs (“rookies”), sanctioned projects, local organizations or businesses, and individuals in the community with annual Washington County award nominations.

Nomination forms are located in your WCMG Member Resource Guide or in the "Members Only" section of the [WCMG website](#). Please provide JPEG photos along with your nominations.

Prior WCMG award winners for all categories are listed in the WCMG Member Resource Guide in the Forms section, pages 3–5.

These awards nominations are at the county and state level:

- **Excellence in Education** – An outstanding WCMG project that demonstrates significant learning of a targeted audience.
- **Friend of Master Gardeners** – An individual (non-Master Gardener) who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program. (Excludes Extension Service staff).
- **Friend of Master Gardeners** – A business or organization who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program.
- **Master Gardener** – A WCMG member who has made an outstanding contribution to the WCMG program, Extension Service and county. (Excludes previous winners).
- **Project of the Year** – The most outstanding WCMG project for the year. Total effort is judged as well as the scope of the project and its impact to the WCMG program, Extension Service and county. (Projects that have won the award during the previous four years are ineligible. Renomination requires significant changes in the project to warrant a new nomination.)
- **Rookie of the Year** – A first-year WCMG who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the WCMG program and/or Extension Service and the community. Eligible trainees are those who finished their MG classroom training and completed their first-year membership certification within the designated time frame.

These awards nominations are exclusive to Washington County:

- **Mentor of the Year** – A mentor who has made outstanding mentoring efforts helping their assigned first-year WCMG, MG transfer, or reinstated WCMG member through their first year.
- **“Yes, I Can” Award** – WCMG members and first-year WCMGs who clearly demonstrate a “can do” attitude in all things they do. They go beyond assigned tasks to help fellow WCMG members and to ensure the success of the organization and its projects.

Please submit a digital copy along with digital photos in JPEG format to Washington County Extension Office, Attention: Awards Committee at cmassey@uada.edu no later than November 15, 2021.

Dues Are Due

It is time to pay your 2022 WCMG dues. Please make your check for \$20 out to WCMG and mail to UA Cooperative Extension Service, 2536 North McConnell, Fayetteville, AR 72704

Dues will be considered past due on December 2 and increase to \$25. Save yourself \$5 and pay your dues today!

About Those Hours



Congratulations to the following 2021 trainees who have completed and recorded their 20 work and 20 education hours: Nan Abbiatti, Alf Anderson, Nancy Ballard, Linda Hall, DeLee Holbert, Teri Kinsey, Serenity Lewis, and Kathryn Sampson Stinson.

We look forward to adding more names to the list next month! Don't forget that the deadline for trainees to have their hours completed is November 1 .

Currently, only 15% of our members have completed their minimum volunteer work hours this year. More than 50% of our members have **ZERO** hours recorded.

As a reminder, we are being asked to contribute 20 volunteer work hours and 20 continuing education hours in 2021. The deadline for members to complete and turn in volunteer hours is December 15.

If you are not going to be able to complete your hours this year, now is the time to request a Leave of Absence. The request form can be found in your Member Resource Guide or you can contact Annette Pinalto to request one. The deadline to turn in the request form is November 1.

If you have any questions or trouble logging in to the online hours recording system, please contact Annette Pinalto at annettepialto@gmail.com or 479-409-7874.

Photo by [Alexandre Lion](#) on [Unsplash](#)

We're So Close

WCMGs are close to our \$25,000 endowment goal. [Here is the form](#) to help get us there.

State Conference Decorations Update

DORIS CASSIDY

2022 State Conference Committee



Here's an update on decorations for the May 2022 state conference to be held in

Springdale:

We have 50 trucks and vans for the conference room centerpieces. Westwood Nursery is growing and supplying the succulents for the vehicles. Jayne Laster is moving forward with a backdrop for the stage that depicts a forest, a real bicycle from Judy Smith at one end, a canoe from Martha McBride at the other end, and some greenery. Lynn Sheridan is doing a butterfly person and we are going to construct a photo booth from Patsy Louk's old fence. I have 500 small paper suitcases to pack with Washington County MG seeds. Are you collecting for this trip? Are you excited to be part of this endeavor? We have 45 tables that will be used for breakfast and lunch in the lobby and atrium. Plans are to decorate them using ribboned fruit jars with Queen Anne's lace and fresh flowers so I need fruit jars. Give me a note with your name and number of jars and brand and I'll return to you. Also, if you have flowers in May that you are willing to cut, please let me know what you think you could supply. I can get Queen Anne's lace. Seeds may be put in the blue fair box and jars along the wall in the Extension Office lobby. I go periodically to retrieve.

Questions? Call or text me at 479-684-6833 or email doriscassidy@ymail.com.

On a side note, thank you for all the donations for our Gardeners Shop at the Washington County Fair. We made \$1089.10. Excellent for a limited crowd.

Project Highlight: BGO

GAYLE HOWARD

Project Co-Chair



Volunteering at BGO: Jody Miskell (right). *Photo courtesy Gayle Howard*

The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO) is a busy, happening place despite the pervasiveness of Covid. The whole garden is a Washington County Master Gardener sanctioned project and has been since BGO opened in 2007. There are numerous educational and gardening opportunities for WCMG volunteers. Virtual and in-person classes, special events and fundraisers, Butterfly and Earth days for school kids, hands-on garden work supervised by the horticulture staff, office/reception, Little Sprouts, hospitality needs, Terrific Tuesday evenings in the summer, tours for adults and children, and the popular Butterfly House program are some of the many opportunities for volunteering. Training is available in all areas of interest.



Volunteering at BGO (from left): Gayle Howard, Anita Backus, and Pat McKeown.
Photo courtesy Gayle Howard



Meet the Trainees

OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Christy Erwin

I am a native to the state, and I grew up in rural southern Arkansas. I slowly moved up the state until I settled in Northwest Arkansas in 2013. I am a single mom with a thirteen-year-old boy, Aristotle, and a fifteen-year-old girl, Kaiya. They both attend the Arkansas Arts Academy in Rogers and keep me pretty busy. I am a laboratory scientist, and I work locally at a hospital performing medical diagnostic testing. If there has ever been a need for a relaxing plant hobby to counter the stressful situations I face professionally, 2020 was definitely the year.



When I was a child, my family spent most of our free time at my grandparents' house. They were avid gardeners, hunters, and foragers, using our state's many natural resources to provide for our family. It instilled in me a love and respect for nature and for small local living, but I got busy and let these practices fall away from my daily life. Although here and there I would give an attempt to growing a random herb or vegetable, my thumbs seemed gray at best.

A few years ago, I made a couple of big life changes that allowed me to reestablish my priorities and I began to see native plants and gardening as not only a fascinating hobby but also as a viable solution to so many community issues as well. In 2019, I was finally at a place to have spare nurturing energy so I bought myself one houseplant. It was a learning process, and it didn't always thrive. But much to my surprise it lived and it gave me hope to try more. That one plant became a few, and soon after I realized an apartment wouldn't sustain my hobby for much longer. Over the past two years growing plants, they have shown me so many of life's simple truths about patience, resilience, and self acceptance. Working with them brings such peace, and it really feels like the perfect balance of therapy and scientific learning. The learning is what brought me to the Master Gardener organization. This group somehow touches on so many of the different aspects of gardening—you can learn composting, pest control, plant biology, food supply, and more, all alongside people in our own local community, and I am just excited to be a part of that.

**August Photo of the Month:
"Sanctioned Projects"**



FIRST PLACE

"Posing" by Kitty Sanders (BGO sanctioned project)



SECOND PLACE

"Somewhere Over the Zinnias" by Judy Smith (BGO sanctioned project)



THIRD PLACE

"Urban Cabin" by Mike Standrod (Shiloh Museum sanctioned project)

Natural State Natives

MEL ZABECKI



A hedge apple, fruit of the Osage orange tree. Photo courtesy Mel Zabecki

A tree, *Maclura pomifera*, is the native plant I chose to talk about this month, as it's hedge-apple-dropping time (see photo above). Osage orange is a lovely tree that likes to lounge around the landscape with its windy multiple trunks and braided bark. It can grow proper, too, but the ones I most often see are just a lazy mess of wood. It's often referred to as "bois d'arc" (French for "wood of the bow"; pronounced locally as "bowdark") and it has a long history of being used by indigenous peoples for hunting bows. By the way, most people don't realize that bows and arrows were only adopted just over 1000 years ago, so the wood's use doesn't cover all of this region's history, but it was an important trade material when bows did finally take up usage.

There has been a lot of research on the tree's history of distribution in the southeastern U.S. See <https://thesga.org/archive/2010/04/botanical-lesson-osage-orange/> and <http://nebula.wsimg.com/60b0077ac0c67b23605d3a6e72ec6051?AccessKeyId=9AAAD04E50673640FOA1&disposition=0&alloworigin=1> for two honest-to-goodness archeological discussions of Osage orange. The first one references Frank Schambach, a former Arkansas archeologist, who just passed away recently. The second link has a bibliography at the end that will make you a complete expert on bois d'arc, no kidding.



Osage orange heartwood. Photo courtesy Mel Zabecki

While the wood is great for bows, it's also great for dye! I learned from the school of hard knocks that it's not the easiest dyestuff to get a hold of with only hand tools. I'm sure it's easier with industrial items, but I wanted to figure it out basically, so I got a hold of a spokeshave (a woodworking handtool) and whittled the branch down to the heartwood,

which I didn't understand the meaning until I got down to it myself (see photo above), and shaved the bright orange wood down, soaked it in warm water for a few days, and came up with a beautiful light orange dye (see photo below). Very pretty.



Yarn dyed with Osage orange heartwood. *Photo courtesy Mel Zabecki*

Nowadays the wood is used in fence posts and for heating. The color is prized by woodworkers. The horse apples, hedge apples, or basically the fruit/seeds, are unfortunately not edible but I hear that they can act as a sort of insect repellent in the house, so try it! Look around now for the hedge apples and get to know the look of the tree. Enjoy!

Native Plants Revealed in Haiku

KAREN HANNA-TOWNE



Maidenhair fern. Photo courtesy Great Smoky Mountains National Park on [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsmnps/)

In August we had a haiku writing contest to get us thinking about September's topic of native plants. Our speaker, Dr. Rose Gergerich, gave us some very useful information on how to select and grow native plants from seeds. Many thanks to DeLee Holbert for suggesting a haiku contest and to all the haikuists who contributed their writings.

The review committee included President Kathryn Birkhead, Vice President Karen Hanna-Towne, and one of our own poets, Carter Carrigan. A total of 22 haiku were submitted from 15 Master Gardeners.

First Place: Karla Caraway

Sweet maidenhair fern
Looking from a rocky cliff
Nods to my canoe

Second Place: Leslie Bailey

The cool Spring mornings
Reveal white dogwood blooms like
Snowflakes suspended-

Third Place: DeLee Holbert

Has ever a bee
resisted the beckoning
Of Black-eyed Susan?

The rest of the haiku contest entries are available for your reading pleasure [in this pdf document](#).

Busy Morning at Cane Hill



Volunteering at Historic Cane Hill: Erin Tilley (from left), Jane Van Tuyl, and Jayne Laster.
Photo by Mary McCully

A bunch of WCMGs made the journey west to Cane Hill recently to plant dozens of bulbs and native perennials in newly created flower beds on the campus of Historic Cane Hill (HCH) as a community service project organized by Chris Bell. HCH director Vanessa McKuin and HCH director of arts and culture Lawrence McElroy extend their sincere thanks to Kathryn Birkhead, Chris Bell, Keri Fultz, Regina Gabel, Teri Kinsey, Jayne Laster, Mary McCully, Susie McKinney, Terry McElroy, Betty Nichols, Nancy Sloan, Erin Tilley, Jane Van Tuyl, and Susan Young.



Volunteering at Historic Cane Hill: Nancy Sloan (from left), Teri Kinsey, Keri Fultz, Chris Bell, Susie McKinney, and Regina Gabel. *Photo by Mary McCully*

Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

October 5, 6:30–8:00 p.m. SUCCULENT PUMPKIN WORKSHOP. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO) program with Lee Witty, garden designer. \$65 BGO member/\$75 non-member. [Registration information](#)

October 7, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: GARLIC. Zoom program with UADA extension agents. Free. [Registration information](#)

October 9, 10:00–11:30 a.m. DEMYSTIFYING HYDRANGEAS. BGO Zoom program with Megan Lankford, BGO horticulture supervisor. \$10 BGO member/\$15 non-members. [Registration information](#)

October 13, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER APPRECIATION DAY. "Birds, Blooms, and Butterflies" Zoom program with Norman Winter, southern gardening specialist. Free. [Registration information](#)

October 14, 6:00–7:30 p.m. BUTTERFLY BEHAVIOR AND ECOLOGY. BGO Zoom program with Dr. Erica Westerman UA assistant professor of comparative invertebrate biology. Free for BGO member/\$10 non-member. [Registration information](#)

October 17, 6:30–8:00 p.m. SUCCULENT PUMPKIN WORKSHOP. BGO

program with Lee Witty, garden designer. \$65 BGO member/\$75 non-member.

[Registration information](#)

October 18, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER MONDAY. Zoom program.

Free. Registration information not available at press time; check the [Master Gardener section](#) of the UADA website for updates.

October 22, 9:30–11:30 a.m. HIKE LOGAN SPRINGS PRESERVE. Osher Lifelong

Learning Institute (OLLI) hike with Mike Slay and Kim Dutton. \$25 OLLI member/\$40 non-member if you drive yourself or \$40 OLLI member/\$55 non-member with

transportation provided. [Registration information for driving yourself](#); [registration information for transportation provided](#)

October 22, 1:00–3:00 p.m. A BRIEF HISTORY OF PLANT EVOLUTION. OLLI

program with Eric Fuselier, president of the Arkansas Native Plant Society. Drake Field, Fayetteville. \$29 OLLI member/\$44 non-member. [Registration information](#)

October 26, 6:30–8:00 p.m. SUCCULENT PUMPKIN WORKSHOP.

BGO program with Lee Witty, garden designer. \$65 BGO member/\$75 non-member.

[Registration information](#)

October 28, 6:00–7:30 p.m. PUTTING YOUR GARDEN TO BED FOR THE

WINTER. BGO Zoom class taught by Roslyn Imrie, BGO director of education. \$10 BGO member/\$15 non-member. [Registration information](#)

Contact Information

The *Garden Thyme* email address is wcmgnewsletter@gmail.com. You may use this address for submissions and for questions and comments that are specific to the newsletter. For other needs, please contact the appropriate officer or chairperson as listed in your WCMG Member Resource Guide.

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Send all newsletter submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

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WCMG Facebook Group (private)



WCMG Facebook Page (public)



WCMG Website



UA Cooperative 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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