



Garden Thyme

Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • February 2022

UofA

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System



**MASTER
GARDENER**

Please note! Your email provider may show an abbreviated version of this newsletter, so if you see the words "[Message clipped] View entire message" or something similar at the end of this email, **be sure to click on "View entire message"** so you don't miss important news!

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."**

February Meeting



Tune in via Zoom Tuesday, February 1, at 6:30 p.m. for our always special Annual Awards Program with emcee Joyce Mendenhall. We'll also enjoy bonus mini-programs from two of our own Master Gardeners:

- Joanne Olszewski – Worms in Winter
- Gail Pianalto – Koi Ponds

Colin will send the Zoom link a couple of days before the meeting.

Photo by [tommao wang](#) on [Unsplash](#)

And Speaking of Meetings

WCMG vice president and program chair Linda Morrow has lined up some great programs for us in 2022. Go ahead and mark your calendars!

- **March 1.** "Tropic Paradise Garden with Summer Bulbs" by Brent Heath, co-owner with Becky Heath of [Brent and Becky's Bulbs](#)
- **April 5.** "Fayetteville Square Gardens" by Jenifer Royer, horticulturist with the City of Fayetteville
- **May 3.** "Woolsey Working Farm and Westside Prairie," by Susan Koehler, farmland preservation coordinator with the [NWA Regional Land Trust](#).
- **June 7.** Annual picnic. Location TBA.
- **August 2.** "Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas" by Jennifer Ogle, director of the [University of Arkansas Herbarium](#) and co-author with Theo Witsell and Johnnie Gentry of *Trees, Shrubs, and Woody Vines of Arkansas*
- **September 6.** "Barbecuing Vegetables" by WCMG Jim Sposato.

- **October 4.** "Willow Trees, Honey Bees, and Leaves of Three: A Gardener's Guide to Tombstone Art" by WCMG Susan Young.
 - November 1. "Native Edible and Medicinal Plants in Your Ozark Garden" by Eric Fuselier, president of [Wild Ones, Ozark Chapter](#).
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Taking Care of Business

We will vote on the following at our February 1 business meeting:

November 2021 Treasurer's Report

December 2021 Meeting Minutes

December 2021 Treasurer's Report

From Your President

KAREN HANNA-TOWNE

January Hibernation

It's winter and like most of us I have retreated to the warmth and comfort of inside. There I commune with my house plants, pets and my husband. But I haven't forgotten all the living things in my garden. On the coldest nights I think of the roots, bulbs, rhizomes that I hope are snuggling in their dark world, beneath the mulch that I've carefully provided. Some of the young, tender shrubs are covered in frost cloth against cold and wind. I sleep better thinking that I've done all I can for them. But have I?



Most of my adult life has been lived as a practicing landscape architect and as a professor of landscape architecture. I know a lot about designing for human use of the outdoors, from patios to ballfields to rain gardens. I've taught about design, construction, grading and drainage, irrigation, and much more. While in practice, which was before plant selection software existed, I was careful to study many books when specifying plants to make sure I selected for sun levels, microclimate, soil types, problem roots, anticipated maintenance levels, bloom period, etc. Yet, it was not my responsibility to make sure the plants got established. That took place after my contract ended.

It has been extremely humbling for me to become a gardener. Lacking a degree in horticulture I'm not surprised that there is so much to learn. In addition to the established

science there are all the conditions unique to one's own garden, the vagaries of weather and my own lack of technique. How many plants have failed on my watch? I tried unsuccessfully 34 times to grow *Dodecatheon maedia*, the native Shooting Star, for my rock garden!

How disappointed will I be in the spring? I hope for a full, glorious, plant emergence within my carefully planned beds. However, regardless of what happens, I'll be able to share my joys and my disappointments with my gardening friends. Perhaps I'll receive tips about avoiding the same mistakes next year. Perhaps I can pass on a bit of wisdom in return. That's why I'm so grateful to be a Master Gardener. You understand why all this matters so much!

A Rose by Any Other Name...

JAN LEFLER and AUDLEY HALL

Member Resource Guide Committee Co-Chairs

The Washington County Master Gardener Workbook now has a new name: the WCMG Member Resource Guide (MRG).

The projected publication date for the new MRG is March 2022. It will include all the same information you are accustomed to finding in the workbook. Sections include:

- Introduction
- Officers/Projects/Committee Members and Descriptions
- Membership Addresses and Photo Directories
- Calendars
- Bylaws/Policies and Procedures
- Forms



WCMG volunteers are reminded that all the MRG documents are found on our WCMG website in the "Members Only" section. The website is currently being renovated and will soon be accessible to all.

Our MRG Committee is actively recruiting additional volunteers with interests in collecting, reviewing, and updating the MRG. Our group is responsible for coordinating the design, content, and annual publication of the MRG. Most of our committee work is by email communication. We work with committees and other members in updating and revising to provide the most current information for the guide.

Our current committee members are [Jan Lefler](#), [Audley Hall](#), [Ruth Cohoon](#), [Susan Pressler](#), and [Terry Smyers](#). Please contact any of us with your questions about the

committee and its activities. We would love to have you join this great team!

Photo by Anna Pavlin on Unsplash

Meet the Trainees

OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Teri Kinsey

I moved to Fayetteville four and a half years ago from Amarillo, Texas. One of my daughters and three grandchildren live here, so I moved here to help her with my grandchildren. I still have a daughter and three grandchildren in Amarillo and go back there every two to three months.



I have always loved plants and have over fifty houseplants. I also have a small pollinator garden, and I enjoyed raising monarchs this summer. My mother and my grandmothers always had flower and vegetable gardens, so my love of plants definitely came from them.

Besides gardening, I enjoy hiking, reading, traveling, and painting.

I have really enjoyed my first year as a Master Gardener trainee. Everyone that I have volunteered with has been so welcoming and knowledgeable. I really look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

December Photo of the Month
Public Gardens



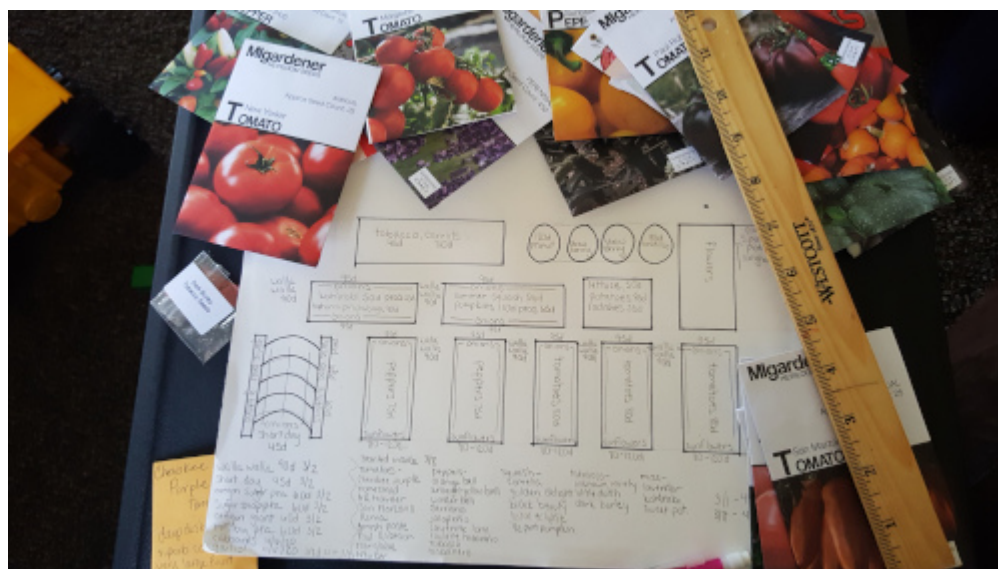
FIRST PLACE CO-WINNER
"Dormant Beauty" by Tanya Collins



FIRST PLACE CO-WINNER
"Fun at Garvan Gardens" by Nancy Sloan

Sow Intentionally

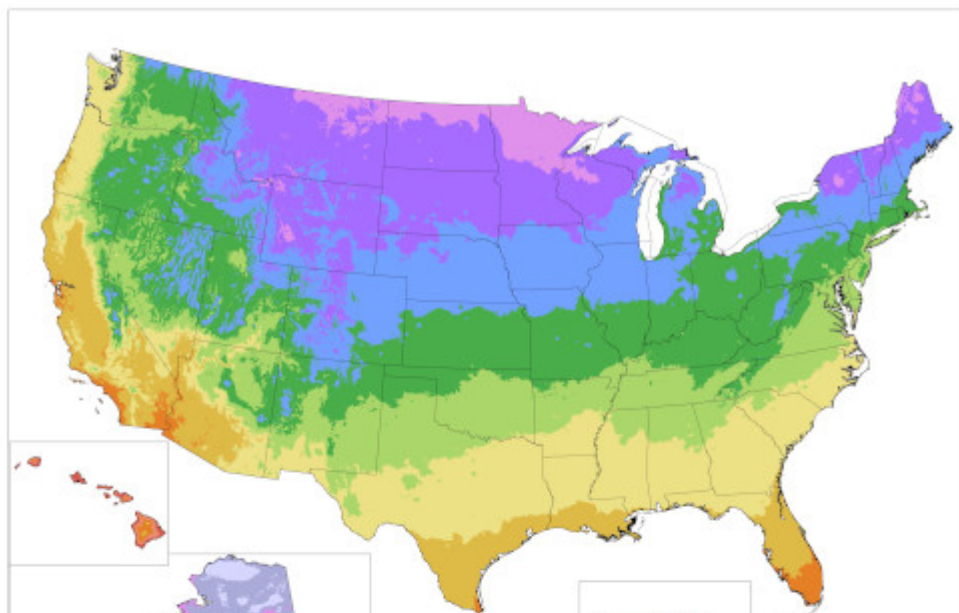
DIANA OLIVER

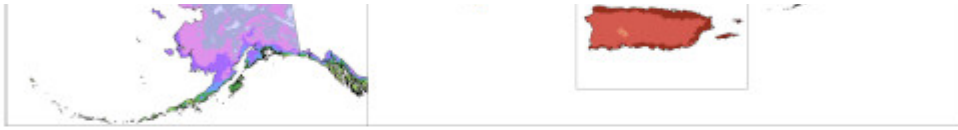


“Anyone who thinks that gardening begins in the Spring and ends in the Fall is missing the best part of the whole year; for gardening begins in January with the dream.”

—Josephine Nuese

Whether it is your first-year vegetable gardening, or you have been doing it for many years, the excitement of a new gardening season never fades. We welcome January with seed and plant catalogs appearing in our mailboxes and creating wish lists of what we may want to grow this new year. For me, once Christmas is over, I automatically start thinking about and planning for the spring garden. Since the beginning of the pandemic many seed companies have seen an increase in people wanting to learn to grow vegetables as a way to be more self-sustainable as well as to avoid increasing food prices. So, when talking about a vegetable garden, here are a few questions you should ask yourself in order to get the most out of your vegetable garden!





Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1976-2005

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -50	1	-51.1 to -45.6
-50 to -40	2	-45.6 to -40
-40 to -30	3	-40 to -34.4
-30 to -20	4	-34.4 to -28.9
-20 to -10	5	-28.9 to -23.3
-10 to 0	6	-23.3 to -17.8
0 to 10	7	-17.8 to -12.2
10 to 20	8	-12.2 to -6.7
20 to 30	9	-6.7 to -1.1
30 to 40	10	-1.1 to 4.4
40 to 50	11	4.4 to 10
50 to 60	12	10 to 15.6
60 to 70	13	15.6 to 21.1

From the [USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map website](#)

1. Determine how many growing days you have according to your growing zone. This one may seem like an obvious one, but when it comes to vegetables, knowing how many days you have to grow is important because it will determine whether you have a long enough growing season for some of those slower growing vegetables like peppers, or winter squash. Once you know your first/last frost dates you can determine what vegetables you have time to grow and when to start them to give yourself the longest growing season possible. [The "Yard and Garden" section of the UA Cooperative Extension Service website can help with this process.](#) I am more of a hands-on, visual learner, and a simple no-frills tool like [Clyde's Vegetable Planting Slide Chart](#) makes this part enjoyable and takes the guesswork out of this stage but is not necessary.



Raised beds in winter. *Photo courtesy Diana Oliver*

2. Will you be growing in an in-ground garden space, or will you be building raised garden spaces? Where you decide to grow will affect the volume of vegetables you harvest during your gardening season and how much preparation will need to be done before you can grow in it. Consider the cost of materials if you are planning to build above-ground growing spaces and the additional cost to get them filled. Growing in an in-ground vegetable garden may cost less but may also require more amending of the soil and more physical labor to prepare before you're able to plant in them. Other popular ways to grow include high tunnels, greenhouses, and hydroponics. These methods require extra work and cost, but can also extend your growing season, which can make them worth the initial investment!



The rewards of good garden planning! *Photo courtesy Diana Oliver*

3. Are you growing to only eat fresh or are you growing to preserve? This will help you determine how big of a growing space you will need, as well as how many plants you need to start, and maybe even determine the variety of plants you grow. If you are growing vegetables strictly for fresh eating, you will not need to grow as densely as if you

are growing with the intent to preserve food and also may give yourself more freedom to try more exotic or rare varieties. If you are growing vegetables to preserve, choosing a variety that is higher yielding or produces a certain texture may be more important, and will need to be grown more densely to put up a desired amount of preserved food.

4. What kind of vegetables do you and your family like to eat? This one may sound silly but, if I could tell you how many times, I grew something because someone else told me it was good, or it looked pretty on the packaging, then when it came time to eat it, I hated it or was disappointed. Now don't get me wrong, I am not saying don't take the risk and try to grow new things, but instead grow one or two of that "new" something so you are not risking too much precious growing space in case it does not go how you had planned or tasted! Really consider the vegetables you and your family love to eat and would like to grow.

Native Plant Gardeners Wanted!



Our faithful native plant columnist, Mel Zabecki, has taken on the big job of state archeologist with the Arkansas Archeological Survey and has retired from writing her educational and interesting "Natural State Natives" column for the *Garden Thyme* (GT). The GT newsletter crew is looking for a new writer or team of writers so that we can continue to feature native plants each month.

If you are a native plant gardener or just getting into native plants or just learning about native plants, we would love to have a column from you. Columns can be about a specific plant or family of plants, how to choose native plants for specific garden spaces, information on how to get into native plant gardening, how native plants promote and interact with native wildlife, interviews with native plant experts, book reviews about

native plant gardening—in other words, you would have lots of topics to choose from.

The typical deadline for the newsletter is the Friday before the last Tuesday of the month. (The last Tuesday of the month is when the *Garden Thyme* is sent out to our membership.) In February, the deadline will be February 25. Generally, the length of our columns are 300 to 500 words and of course, you can include a few photos.

If you would like to submit a column this year, please email [Judy Smith](#) with your topic and month choices.

Photo by Tanya Impeatrice on flickr.com

Doris Says to Plant Those Seeds

State conference decorations chair Doris Cassidy reports that she has enough seeds and an interesting variety of seeds for the conference table decorations in May. She doesn't need any more seeds, so if you have some that you've collected for her, you can plant them instead! Thanks to all who contributed.

Garden Gate Tour Highlight

This is the first in a series of articles about the local gardens that will be featured in the "Garden Gate" tour on June 4. Washington County Master Gardeners have taken on the tour as a sanctioned project and this will be our first effort.



Hosta La Vista

By Judy Hyden

Judy Hyden is the owner of Hosta La Vista and a member of the Washington County Master Gardeners Class of 2015.

I was a Master Gardener in northern Delaware for eight years. The zones are the same and conditions are similar to Northwest Arkansas. I packed up an entire truckload of my favorite plants and moved them to Arkansas. The growing season here is two weeks longer so they have done well.

When we moved into this house seven years ago, there was virtually no landscaping. Since 2014, I have created sunny beds and a part-shade garden. My landscape plan was to design most beds in contours around existing fencing to facilitate easy lawn-mowing. I reserved a large sunny spot in the center of my backyard for a raised bed vegetable garden. The vegetable garden is planted with spring crops such as spinach, lettuce, radishes, and onions. I add tomatoes, peppers, okra, and squash for the summer months.

The shade garden features epimedium, trillium, hellebores, Solomon's seal, and, of course, hostas. Heucheras, some azaleas, brunnera, and hydrangeas complete the beds. The sunny garden includes irises, peonies, daisies, and echinacea. I add poppies, zinnias, marigolds, and geraniums for color.

Due to an erosion problem on the south side of the house, I created a casual rock garden interspersed with grasses that works quite well. I have a hidden compost area.

My back seating area is terraced rock with flowers and shrubs planted at different levels. This contoured area contains a multitude of bulbs in the spring and it's virtually solid with impatiens in the summer and fall. This is my favorite spot to sit and enjoy morning coffee and watch the birds.

And We Did It During a Pandemic

Here are our volunteer hours for 2021.

Committee Work: 2211

State Conference: 1047

Arkansas Air Museum: 210

Ask a Master: 290

Apple Seeds Garden: 153

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks : 3302

Compost Demonstration Site: 199

Community Outreach: 344

Garden Explorers: 14

Headquarters House: 1094

Jr. Master Gardeners: 109

Lincoln Community Gardens: 359

Mock Park: 337

Shiloh Museum of Ozark History: 610

Veterans Community Garden: 301

Washington County Fair: 963

Elkins Community Center: 387
Extension Office Grounds: 558

West Fork Gardens: 201
Winslow Beautification: 3

Total sanctioned work hours: 12,699

Non-sanctioned "other work" hours: 619

Education hours: 8610

Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

FEBRUARY. REGISTRATION FOR ARKANSAS MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE OPENS. Watch your email for details.

FEBRUARY 5, 10:00 a.m. FRUIT TREE PRUNING 101. With Washington County extension agent Colin Massey. [White River Nursery](#), Fayetteville. Free. Registration is not required.

FEBRUARY 5, 10:00–11:00 a.m. BIRDS AND BREAKFAST. [Hobbs State Park](#), Rogers. Free.

FEBRUARY 5, 10:00–11:00 a.m. WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY. J. B. and Johnelle Hunt Family Ozark Highlands Nature Center, Springdale. Free. [Registration information.](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 1:00–2:30 p.m. CARNIVOROUS PLANTS. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville. Cost: \$15 BGO member/\$25 non-member. [Registration information.](#)

FEBRUARY 5, 12, 19, 1:00–4:00 p.m. BEEKEEPING BASICS. Three-part series by members of the NWA Beekeepers Association. Fayetteville Public Library. [Registration information.](#)

FEBRUARY 10, 12:00–1:00 p.m. SPRING TREE MAINTENANCE. Zoom program with Faulkner County extension agent Krista Quinn. Free. [Registration information.](#)

FEBRUARY 10, 5:30–7:00 p.m. SNAKES OF ARKANSAS. [Janet Huckabee River Valley Nature Center](#), Fort Smith. Free. Registration is not required.

FEBRUARY 13, 1:00–2:30 p.m. TERRARIUM MAKE AND TAKE WORKSHOP. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville. Cost: \$55 BGO member/\$65 non-member. [Registration information.](#)

FEBRUARY 19, 9:30–10:30 a.m. GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. [Hobbs State Park](#), Rogers. Free.

FEBRUARY 19, 10:00–11:00 a.m. WINTER BIRDING. [Janet Huckabee River Valley Nature Center](#), Fort Smith. Free. Registration is not required.

FEBRUARY 19, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. FOUR SEASONS OF INTEREST: GROWING IN ALL SEASONS Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Cost \$20 member/\$30 non-member. [Registration information](#).

FEBRUARY 19, 1:00–3:00 p.m. WILD EDIBLES. [Janet Huckabee River Valley Nature Center](#), Fort Smith. Free. Registration is not required.

FEBRUARY 26, 10:00 a.m. BIODIVERSITY AND THE ROLE OF DISTURBANCE IN MANAGING NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS. Zoom program by the Arkansas Native Plant Society. Register by emailing ANPS.Programs@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 26, 1:00–3:00 p.m. FAMILY BIRDHOUSE PAINTING WORKSHOP. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Cost \$45 per birdhouse (nonmembers must also pay garden admission.) [Registration information](#).

FEBRUARY 26, 2:00–2:45 p.m. THE OZARK CHINQUAPIN TREE. [Hobbs State Park](#), Rogers. Free.

FEBRUARY 27, 11:00–11:30 a.m. VENOMOUS SNAKES OF ARKANSAS. [Hobbs State Park](#), Rogers. Free.

FEBRUARY 27, 1:00–3:00 p.m. PRUNING YOUNG TREES. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Cost \$20 BGO members/\$30 nonmembers. [Registration information](#).

FEBRUARY 27, 2:00–2:45 p.m. HAVE YOU EATEN ANY SUNLIGHT TODAY? [Hobbs State Park](#), Rogers. Free.

FEBRUARY 28, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: ONIONS. Zoom program with Faulkner County extension agent Krista Quinn. Free. [Registration information](#).

LOOKING AHEAD . . .

MAY 18–21. ARKANSAS MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE. Springdale Holiday Inn and Convention Center. It's an "Ozark Adventure" hosted by the WCMGs. Watch for emails describing the May 18 pre-tour and May 19–21 downtown Springdale welcome event, sessions, garden tours, silent auction, and garden market.

JUNE 4. WCMG GARDEN GATE TOUR. A fundraiser for Washington County Master Gardeners featuring tours of local gardens. Details coming soon!

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.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

[Judy Smith](#), managing editor/submissions; [Mary McCully](#), editor/submissions and videos; [Pam Butler](#), reporter; [Olivia Harrington](#), reporter; [Diana Oliver](#), reporter; [Lynette Terrell](#), reporter; [Susan Young](#), production assistant.

Send all newsletter submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

[Karen Hanna-Towne](#), president; [Linda Morrow](#), vice president; [Lynette Terrell](#), secretary, [Jill King](#), treasurer; [Darielle James](#), assistant treasurer. Members at large: [Alfi Anderson](#), [Jenean Hill](#), [Dale Thomas](#). Ex officio: [Kathryn Birkhead](#), past president; [Randy Butler](#), parliamentarian; [Colin Massey](#), Washington County extension agent.



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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