



Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • July 2022



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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."**

July Meeting: *Habitat* at Historic Cane Hill



David Collins, public programs manager at Historic Cane Hill (HCH), stands near one of the gardens installed on the HCH campus by Washington County Master Gardeners. Photo by Linda Morrow

Hope to see you all at our July 5 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office. NOTE: A Zoom option will not be available for this meeting. Our guest speaker is David Collins, the public programs manager at [Historic Cane Hill](#), a position he has held since October 2021. David is from North Little Rock. He has a bachelor's degree in social studies education and two masters degrees in history and public history. After teaching junior high and high school history for around five years, he transitioned to a career in historic preservation and public programming, working for the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism as both a graduate assistant and as a preservation coordinator for four years. His position at Historic Cane Hill blends physical history, Ozarks nature, and folk culture, giving him the opportunity to create rich experiences for people of all ages.

David's presentation will first explain the concept and major phases of Historic Cane Hill's current ongoing nature exhibition, *Habitat*, which is a project developed by the Smithsonian Institution's Smithsonian Gardens. He will illustrate the nuances of building and hosting this exhibition in a historic Ozarks landscape, reveal conservation and education opportunities such a program offers, and highlight the reach of this program's message in our region through partnerships and related programs. Members will see how the exhibition's message, "Protecting habitats protects life," can resonate with anyone who has an abiding interest in the land and all its life.



One of the *Habitat* interpretive panels at Historic Cane Hill. Photo by Linda Morrow

Taking Care of Business

We will vote on the following at our July 5 business meeting.

No June minutes due to picnic
frivolities

May 2022 Treasurer's Report

From Your President

KAREN HANNA-TOWNE

Precious Lives

There are many ways that society remembers its deceased members, and most organizations keep a list of those who have served and are no longer living. The Executive Committee recently made a change in the way we will remember our fellow Washington County Master Gardeners after they have died.

Until 2019, we made a donation from the WCMG Club Account to our Endowment

Account at the University of Arkansas Foundation for the ultimate purpose of funding a scholarship. We donated \$50 when a member passed, and \$25 for the death of a close family member. When we were told that we were no longer allowed to make this type of transfer, we stopped the practice. It seems that the UA Foundation, which holds our endowment account, cannot accept funds from another State Account, such as ours.



Recently, we have received donations from family and friends at the passing of two beloved WCMG members. These donations were designated for memorials to recognize the service of these members at the projects where they worked. We have gratefully accepted these donations and are in the process of fulfilling the wishes of the donors for these two members. However, there are some challenges. Aside from the Extension Office, we don't own any of our sanctioned project sites, creating concerns about ongoing maintenance of these memorials.

After months of consideration, the Executive Committee decided at its June meeting to memorialize our deceased members only on our website. They created a committee to develop a uniform page that will honor those members. I will chair that committee. On the website there is now a list of the members who have died since our inception in 1991. We will continue to list all members at their passing, but with more detail, on the public portion of the website so family and friends can learn about their Master Gardener service and see how we have honored them. No donation will be required.

Ours is a robust organization doing valuable work in our communities. We are grateful for all of our volunteers. We welcome, educate, and value them in life. We will honor them when they are no longer with us.

Don't Procrastinate. Log Your Hours!



Photo by [Zhang Kenny](#) on [Unsplash](#).

The new hours recording site launched in May and is ready to use! To access the site, go to <https://www.uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/default.aspx>. (This is the page you want to bookmark or save as a favorite.)

- Once you're at the UADA webpage noted above, look for the red button that says "Enter Volunteer Hours" and click on it.
- Enter your email address. This will be your username.
- Click on "Forgot Password." An email will be sent to you. Follow the instructions in the email to set your password. (Write your password down so you don't forget it.) You will now be able to access the system with your new username and password!
- To enter hours, click on the button that says "Record Hours." This page works pretty much like the old one but is much faster and you will be able to edit entries if you make a mistake without having to delete the entire entry.

Please set up your password and enter some hours before the end of July so we will know you were successful accessing the new site.

If you have any questions or need help, email [Annette Pianalto](#) or [Kathryn Birkhead](#).

Thank you for your patience while we waited the new website to be completed!

Weed Your Bookshelf for a Good Cause



Photo by Jo Zimny on [Flickr.com](#).

Washington County Fair project chair Doris Cassidy sends the following message:

"Items are needed for the MG sale at the fair. Items that sell are children's toys/games, gardening items, yard art, and gardening books. All donations are appreciated and can be left at the Extension Office. "

Natives Naturally

SARAH SHELL TEAGUE



White Coneflower. *Judy Smith, photographer.*

One Gardener's Wildflower: Coneflowers Are Worth Collecting

Coneflowers are a great summer and fall-blooming native to plant and enjoy. They thrive in full sun and tolerate drought. Their cut flowers shine in arrangements, pollinators love their blooms, and birds eat the seeds off the cones in fall and winter. I wanted to write about all coneflowers (chiefly rudbeckia and echinacea), but this species has so much range and interest that I narrowed it to echinacea.

Sources differ on the origin of its name, from the Greek word for either hedgehog or sea urchin, because of its spiny central cone. As is typical with natives, these prairie plants take poor soil and need no fertilizer. Their assumed medicinal values would fill another column and are the reason for their near-endangered status in many areas, due to overharvesting in the wild.



Pale Purple Coneflower. Sarah Shell Teague, photographer.

WCMG Judy Smith invited me over to show me her coneflowers. She started learning about natives in 2012 from then-head supervisor of BGO, Lissa Morrison. Previously, Smith had found natives messy, top heavy, and eager to go to seed. Morrison introduced Smith to “well-behaved” plants, urging her to choose the right ones in the right place. For instance, according to the Mt. Cuba Center, the tendency of natives to flop can be traced to the soil being too rich.

Smith’s garden, formerly a pasture (and featuring a portion of the Huntsville stagecoach road that linked with the Butterfield line), grows natives, “nativars” (a natural variant found in the wild and brought into cultivation), and a few carefully selected cultivars. While nativars and cultivars might be more colorful, Smith finds they aren’t as long lived. As for their pollinator power, the verdict is out, although Lissa Morrison notes that “the further it gets from looking like the original, the less likely it will attract pollinators.”

Native echinacea is chiefly purple, pink, or white. Species include Purple (*E. purpurea*), Pale purple (*E. pallida*, a spindly form with elegant drooping ray-floret “petals,” and Ozark (*E. paradoxa*), so named because there’s an exception to every rule: it’s yellow instead of purple!



Ozark Yellow Coneflower. *Sarah Shell Teague, photographer.*

Echinacea's enchanting blooms may resemble an umbrella, tutu, or even badminton shuttlecock, the ray-floret "petals" chiefly subordinate to the prominent cone. Also consistent with most natives, if this plant is cut back by 1/3-1/2 early in the season preceding its prime, it will rebloom with vigor. Note that deadheading delays or eliminates a food source for birds. I spied a glorious native stand of pale purple coneflowers driving in north-central Arkansas on Highway 65 north of Pindall (#roadtrip!), at least until mowers tackle the highway shoulders.

Color, little maintenance, drought tolerant, deer resistant, pollinator friendly: add this dependable native to your garden palette.

Sources: Carl Hunter's *Wildflowers of Arkansas* and the [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#).

Sarah Shell Teague is delighted to share Arkansas natives with WCMGs. She welcomes suggestions for favorites and looks forward to reporting on one gardener's weed, which is another's wildflower, from fellow gardeners' yards and memories. [Email Sarah Shell Teague.](#)

The Annual Garden Gate Tour Needs You!



At Belvadere, the gardens of WCMG Belvalee Jurkovich, part of the 2022 Garden Gate Tour. *Courtesy Belvalee Jurkovich.*

June 4 was a gorgeous spring day and the Garden Gate Tour was a glorious success. The tour is now a sanctioned project and fundraiser for Washington County Master Gardeners. Because this project takes place in June and requires a great deal of planning, the current tour committee is recruiting new members for the 2023 tour now so that the group can begin meeting in August. We can't wait for the February Project Fair to establish this committee so please read on and consider joining this happy band of MGs. We want to continue to offer this tour successfully year to year and to use the funds raised for educational offerings to the community.

The Garden Gate Tour project needs a chair or co-chairs with serious organizational skills in order to keep the subcommittees on task and on time. Sanctioned projects are required to have a chairperson or two, so this is definitely step one in building the committee for next year.

The project chairs then need to have subcommittee members with specific skills and clear commitments to their assignments. Subcommittees needed include:

- **Garden Selection.** This subcommittee is already at work with Chair Joyce Mendenhall, viewing potential gardens for next year's tour, a job that needs to be done in June. New members will be needed for next year's selection.
- **Secretary and Treasurer.** These are essential members of the committee. The secretary will write up minutes of each monthly meeting and send them out to committee members. The treasurer will help the committee keep track of money spent and received and will work with Debbie in the Extension Office.

- **Publicity.** This subcommittee needs people with some experience in writing press releases and articles for the newspaper and magazines. Publicity may also include scheduling time on KUAF and KNWA. A photographer would be a nice addition too. The *Garden Thyme* editors will be involved in featuring each garden in spring issues.
- **Tickets and Flyers.** These members will get the ticket and flyers designed, printed, and distributed. Colin says it may be possible to set up an online ticket sale through the UA system. Ticket sales may take place at WCMG meetings, at the Extension Office, and at the Fayetteville Farmers' Market. We will not be selling tickets through the local nurseries.
- **Volunteers.** This subcommittee will recruit volunteers to work at the tour gardens in shifts. They will also ask for WCMG members to help with refreshments which will be offered at one garden on the day of the tour.
- **Education.** This year, WCMG Diane Standefer developed QR codes to add an education element to the tour. She has agreed to continue that effort next year.

If you'd like to join the 2023 Garden Gate Tour committee in any of these roles, please email WCMG Volunteer co-chairs [Nancy Sloan](#) or [Regina Gabel](#).

Finally, a big thanks to all who helped make the 2022 tour successful!

Meet the Trainees

OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Kristi Campbell

I grew up in Kansas, the Sunflower State. I have loved growing flowers since I was a little girl. When I was five years old, my grandpa built a playhouse for me. My favorite part of the house was outside where I had a flower garden with morning glories and four o' clocks. I spent summers with my other grandparents on their farm and I have the best memories of them, picking strawberries and admiring their rose garden. As a youth, I was a member of the Model Boosters 4-H Club. I loved 4-H and being a part of the county fair. My love of gardening continued in high school when I worked in a greenhouse that grew carnations and bedding flowers.



After high school, I attended the University of Kansas Medical Center where I received a degree in nursing and a master's in nurse anesthesia. In my new career as a nurse anesthetist, my job was demanding but I always made gardening a priority. I liked visiting nurseries and finding new flowers in my free time.

In 1996 we moved to Fayetteville. It has been a great place to raise our three children. I now have time to pursue my childhood passion of gardening. I'm so happy to be part of the

Master Gardeners program and have enjoyed every minute of the trainee classes. I love working in the gardens and meeting new people. My heart is happy in the garden!

Seth Rahmoeller

My first introduction to gardening was with my great-grandmother. She was an avid vegetable gardener whose success in the soil I will never match. I primarily became interested in the MG program to grow my horticultural knowledge and meet other dirt diggers. My favorite part of gardening is planting vegetables with my 6-year-old daughter. She is keener on eating the vegetables than planting them. Aside from gardening, I love playing hockey and curling.



Judith Reighter

I am originally from Pennsylvania, but more recently I lived in the mountains of North Carolina. I moved to Fayetteville to be close to family. I have four children, six grandchildren, and (at last count) nine great-grandchildren. I come from a gardening family, so I learned most of what I know by osmosis. I joined the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks soon after I moved here and have volunteered with them, especially in the butterfly house. I enjoy swimming, kayaking, reading, traveling, and working in my own garden. I am thrilled to be part of the Master Gardener program.



June Photo of the Month "Native Plants"



FIRST PLACE

"Button Blazing Star" by Kitty Sanders



SECOND PLACE – TIE
"Arkansas Jewel" by Geri Alvis



SECOND PLACE – TIE

"Yummy Yellow Goodness" by Mickey Boetel

A note from your Photo of the Month Committee: Are you aware of the awesome pictures our members take? Please share yours. [Go to this link](#) on the WCMG website for a look at the photography contest information. The theme for July is "Birds in My Yard/Birds in the Garden."

Project Report: At BGO, "Purple Reigns!"



WCMG Jacqueline King proudly raises her paint roller in tribute to the newly painted butterfly wing sculpture in the BGO Sensory Garden. Myra Jane Biggers, photographer.

Here's proof that Master Gardeners are up for any volunteer job needed. WCMGs helped fund the Sensory Garden at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO), so several WCMGs are the weekly garden maintenance volunteers there.

Recently, with temperatures in the mid 90s, Jacqueline King and Myra Jane Biggers painted one of the butterfly wings in the Sensory Garden. They even showed up the next day to finish the job. Myra Jane, Judy Smith, and trainee Lindsay Neely added a second coat the next week but started earlier to avoid the heat. Now the wings match in lovely purple!

The BGO gardeners have planted the wings with summer annuals in a colorful design. Check it out next time you are there. It's "our" garden and we are happy to work there.



WCMG Myra Jane Biggers stands with her tools of the trade next to a freshly painted butterfly wing. *Jacqueline King, photographer.*

Did You Know?

WCMG has two Facebook pages. One is a [public page](#) where we share gardening news and WCMG publicity with the whole wide world. One is a [WCMG members only group](#) where you can trade plants, let WCMGs know about a great sale at a local gardening center, share photos (like Geri Alvis did with her Candid Camera shots from the state conference), brag on your grandkids, etc. You have to answer a few basic questions to be accepted into the members only Facebook group.

And Did You Also Know?

You can sign up to receive emails from the state Extension Office office about Master Gardener and horticulture events statewide. [Click here to join the state email list.](#)

Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

JULY 7, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. PRAIRIE RESTORATION AT PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK. Free. Hosted by Wild Ones, Ozark Chapter. No registration required. [More information.](#)

JULY 7, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: TOMATOES. Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. Free. [Registration information.](#)

JULY 11, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. LANDSCAPE YOUR YARD TO STOP STORMWATER. By Jane Maginot and Eric Fusilier. Fayetteville Public Library. Free. [Registration information.](#)

JULY 14, 5:30 p.m. WATERCOLOR LANDSCAPES. Janet Huckabee Nature Center, Fort Smith. Call 479-452-3993 to register.

JULY 16, 9:00–10:00 a.m. PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP. Compton Gardens Greenhouse, Bentonville. \$10. [Registration information.](#)

JULY 18, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ANNUALS TO PERENNIALS. Annual program, held this year via Zoom, to honor Arkansas Master Gardener graduates and their mentors. Speakers are Dr. David Gibby, founder of the Master Gardener program; and Dr. Dan Scheiman, Plants for Birds program manager with Audubon Delta. [Registration information.](#)

Contact Information

The *Garden Thyme* email address is wcmgnewsletter@gmail.com. Please use this address for submissions and for questions and comments 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; [Sarah Shell Teague](#), 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.

Banner photo of thyme courtesy [Lucy Meskill/Flickr.com](#)



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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