



Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • September 2022



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Having said all that, *Garden Thyme* may be 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 your newsletter committee as we work 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."

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## Taking Care of Business

**Elections are coming up (for Master Gardeners, that is). Our annual business meeting is set for Tuesday, September 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office. Please join us in person or by Zoom (Colin will email a link) so we can have a quorum to elect these well-qualified and eager individuals to serve in 2023.**

President – Joanne Olszewski

Vice President – Elizabeth (Liz) Hale

Secretary – Kathy Launder

Treasurer – Darielle James

Assistant Treasurer – Glenda Patterson

Members at Large – Nicholas Sammer, Linda Smith, Dale Thomas

**Also at our September 6 meeting, we will vote on proposed revisions to our bylaws.** Please take some time to look them over between now and then. Our current bylaws are available in the Member Resource Guide located in the [Member Portal](#) section of our WCMG website. If you've forgotten the password for the Member Portal section, email [Susan Young](#) and she'll give you the keys to the kingdom.

Proposed Revisions to Bylaws

And per usual, we'll vote on the following items.

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August 2022 Minutes

July 2022 Treasurer's Report

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## September Meeting: Barbecuing Vegetables

**After the voting is done, we'll enjoy a program by our own Jim "Coach" Sposato.** A high school coach in Oklahoma then in Arkansas for forty-six years and many prize-winning BBQ competitions in between led Jim Sposato to another winning career: "Coach Sposato's Bar-B-Q Sauce." On his first try, Jim landed a fifth-place ribbon for BBQ ribs and a fourth-place ribbon for BBQ chicken at the Holiday Island BBQ contest. This was the beginning of many ribbons and trophies.

In 1991, Jim then began participating in fifteen to twenty grilling competitions each year. In 1993, at the World Pork Expo, Coach cooked an eighty-pound whole hog and also pork loin, shoulder, and ribs. He was the first place winner out of ninety contestants that year.

After a few years on the grilling competition circuit, Jim was not very pleased with the BBQ sauce he was using. He entered his own Bar-B-Q Sauce recipe in the Kansas City BBQ

Society contest and came home with the blue ribbon. He began canning the sauce at home, taking it to the high school and selling it to teachers. It went over so well that Jim decided to bottle the sauce at Ozark Mountain Packing.

Today in between catering barbecues for churches and various charitable organizations, Jim continues his annual tradition begun through the Catholic Campus Ministries while his son attended the University of Arkansas, providing a barbecue meal for over 200 university students at the pavilion near Razorback Stadium.



Jim has been a Master Gardener since 2013 and has volunteered at BGO and Ask A Master but mainly volunteers at the Lincoln Community Garden which was the 2016 Project of the Year. Jim was the 2021 WCMG Mentor of the Year.

**BONUS!** [Here are a couple of Coach Sposato's favorite recipes.](#)

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## From Your President

**KAREN HANNA-TOWNE**

### **The Fairies in Our Gardens**

Living in the Ozarks is a mixed bag of delights and challenges. While grass grows on our property there's no way it could be called a lawn or mowed with a mower. It's so steep and rocky that only a weed-eater can bring it down. That's time consuming.

On the other hand, the delights come in many forms. As in most of the Ozarks, birdsong awakens us. We regularly see hawks, crows, pileated woodpeckers, bald eagles, and road runners. On their annual schedule we see migrating American pelicans. We hear the owls many nights, along with the cicadas.



In 2017 we had a family of gray foxes nesting right next to our house. They had six kits! For a few weeks we had the joy of watching the little ones scamper around, knocking each other over. This year on two occasions I found a pair of red foxes sleeping on our covered deck. I think the heat drove them there (I don't feed them).

While building my garden I and my young helpers moved many, many rocks. Picking up a large rock must be done slowly because often there will be a snake sleeping underneath. When we found one, we would carefully put the rock back and leave the snake unmolested.

These were primarily checkered garter snakes, prairie rat snakes, banded snakes, and racers and we do not kill them. They eat lots of insects, especially ticks. Snakes, skinks, toads, and leopard frogs are among the fairies in any Ozark garden.

But for me, the greatest thrill occurs in late summer when the pollinators are in a frenzy around the butterfly bushes, thistles, and milkweeds. On any given day one can see great spangled fritillaries, tiger and zebra swallowtails, spicebush swallowtails and red-spotted purples, duskywings and question marks, hummingbird moths, hummingbirds, and an assortment of bees. Nearby I've grown a sheltered patch of basil where I often find butterflies basking. However, it's the Buddleia that's the star of the show. These butterfly bushes have chemical magic exuding an extremely enticing fragrance which draws pollinators from far and wide. It is an aerial display not to be missed!

What are the key ingredients to attracting these garden fairies? The right plants, of course. Planting host and nectar plants ensures that the full cycle of an insect's life can be fulfilled within the garden. I keep small dishes of pebbles and water on the ground so insects and reptiles can reach a drink. There's also a raised bird bath that I keep filled summer and winter. In the fall I remove the fallen leaves from the paths, but not from the beds. Any insects hidden in the leaves can survive through dormancy, undisturbed over the winter. I know that includes the predatory insects as well as the delightful ones. I don't use synthetic chemicals. My deer repellent is made of putrefied eggs, garlic, and cloves. Usually, the public spaces we visit have just as many fairies because their maintenance regimes are quite basic, favoring the bees, butterflies, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Ok, I haven't talked about the deer, the squirrels, the raccoons, the armadillos. In my mind they're the challenges. We have a truce, of sorts. I don't harm them, but I'm not charmed by their presence.

We are blessed to have so many natural places where everyone can see the fairies: parks, lakes, a botanical garden, and wildlife reserves. I love seeing the new life of emerging fern fronds, flower buds opening and changing colors, and seeds forming for next year. But for me the peak experience is watching garden fairies as they flit and fly and run and hop.

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## High Five!



Photo by Joachim Dobler/[Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/jdobler/)

As of August 17, these 2022 trainees had completed over 40 hours of volunteer work on sanctioned projects: Linda Bennett-Smith, Kristi Campbell, Judith Reighter, Karen Smenner, Susan Snell, Aileen Wilson.

Congratulations! ***And thank you.*** Our projects are better because of your work.

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## Where Are Your Hours?



**Actual photo of a WCMG membership committee member looking for folks who are recording their hours in a timely manner.** Ok not really. It's a 1928 photo of a brave soul atop Umbrella Rock at Lookout Mountain in Chattanooga, Tennessee. [Courtesy Library of Congress](#)

Currently, only 50% of our active members have recorded hours so far this year. Now would be a great time to start recording your hours!

Don't forget, we are back to normal volunteer hours requirements: 40 work hours plus 20 education hours for trainees; 20 work hours plus 20 education hours for active members. **The deadline to have all hours completed and recorded is December 1.**

[Here is the hours recording site.](#) Instructions for using the hours recording site can be found [here](#). NOTE: If you do not receive an email when setting your password the first time, look in your spam folder. If it is not found there, email [Annette Pinalto](#) or [Kathryn Birkhead](#).

**If you will not be able to complete your hours this year due to health or other unforeseen circumstances, now is the time to request a Leave of Absence (LOA).** [Here is the LOA form and the LOA criteria.](#) Please send the form and your 2023 dues (\$20) to the office **before November 1.**

If you have any questions about hours, LOA, or the hours recording site, email [Annette](#) or [Kathryn](#).

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## Natives Naturally

SARAH SHELL TEAGUE



**Texas Green Eyes.** Patsy Louk, photographer

### ***Berlandiera texana*: Texas Green Eyes**

How many times have we noticed a new yellow composite wildflower and were unable to identify it, due to the sheer number of that category? There are more yellow composites than any other shape or color, and I have often pored through wildflower journals and online sites, trying to match shape and pattern of petals, leaf particulars, time of bloom, and other deciding factors to learn a new plant friend. Thus, these common sunny flowers are hard to distinguish, but one is easy: *Berlandiera texana*, or Texas Green Eyes. This perky fellow sports a green central disk, hence the name.

The plant is named for Jean-Louis Berlandier (1805–1851), a French-Swiss botanist and physician, who came to document plants along the Mexico-Texas border for the French. He allegedly sent 52,000 dried specimens back to Switzerland, but his employers were not pleased, and he quit. Of note is Berlandier's service as captain in the Mexican army during the Mexican American War. Thanks a lot, Monsieur Berlandier!

The yellow petals also are unique in that they don't always appear to grow out of the disk; rather they seem to be attached with tweezers and glue to the disk's edges. Through its bloom cycle, the central disk also develops a burgundy crown. When the petals drop, the core more truly resembles "green eyes."

WCMG Patsy Louk suggested this darling. She became interested through MG, speakers, and friends who have become Master Naturalists. In particular, she and friend Gail Pianalto visited a garden tour of the Audubon Society of Tulsa and saw them in gardens and also for sale by vendors. Both gardeners bought them. Louk has enjoyed them, finding them "pretty, cute, and something different." They bloom June–September, a long cycle benefitting pollinators, and they reach 2–2 ½ feet tall. They are listed as part shade to full sun, preferring neutral to alkaline soil. Louk planted them on the west side of her house, but there are trees nearby that shade as well.

Sources claim everything from truly deer resistant to not at all. Experiment yourself! Your neighbors will turn green with jealousy because of your stand of Texas Green Eyes.

Sources: [UA Cooperative Extension Service](#); *Wildflowers of Arkansas* by Carl Hunter

*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](#).*

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## Our Haiku Writing Contest is Back

LINDA MORROW





snow falls silently  
the moon that watches you is  
also watching me  
—Winston Everlast

Courtesy Winston Everlast/[Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/winston-everlast/)

Based upon continued interest from 2021, the haiku writing contest is back and here's the call for submissions. In keeping with our October speaker Susan Young's topic of "Willow Trees, Honeybees and Leaves of Three: A Gardener's Guide to Tombstone Art," the topic of the original haiku should be willow trees, honeybees, or leaves of three. The submissions for this contest should follow the pattern of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the middle line, and again five syllables in the closing line. (See example above.) According to haiku protocol the message should be profound, yet simple. There are numerous online sites giving guidance for writing haiku.

The entries will be reviewed by DeLee Holbert, Leslie Bailey, and Karla Caraway with the top three winners announced at our October 4 meeting and then published in the November *Garden Thyme*. We look forward to your entries and thank Susan Young for inspiring the topics.

**Please submit your entries by September 17:** via email to [Linda Morrow](mailto:Linda.Morrow@farmington.org) or to Linda via regular post, 13438 Little Elm Road, Farmington, AR 72730.

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## Meet the Trainees

## **OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL**

### **Sharon Daniel**

I have had an interest in flowers and landscaping throughout my life, but it's only within the last ten years or so that I have found the time to devote much energy or thought to it. I remember my first efforts decades ago with some degree of embarrassment. In particular, I recall that all my borders were straight and squared off military style. I had no plan, so I'd visit the garden center and come home with one of everything—truly the happy mess style of gardening. My mother-in-law came to visit one year and suggested I curve the borders, group some of the plants, and retire a few suffering specimens. Surely she was a genius. It looked so much nicer!



I wanted to become a master gardener (that word "master" will always feel a little out of reach) so that I can get a bit closer to knowing what I'm doing. Also, I just like hanging around gardens and those who create them. Perhaps oddly, I like weeding and deadheading as they are almost forms of meditation for me. I visit the sad plant rack at Lowe's on a regular basis looking for the poor neglected that might respond to a second chance. It is just so satisfying to try to provide what each of the various plants need and to see them come up in the spring.

My degree is in soil science with an emphasis on controlling runoff and erosion to maintain water quality. I appreciate the value of soil and how vital it is to a successful garden/landscape and, more particularly, to our very existence.

My current project is installing a raised bed. I have wanted a vegetable garden for years, but my heavily shaded postage stamp lacked a sunny place—at least a sunny place unavailable to deer. And the POA here takes its rules and regulations about what can go where very seriously. But a couple of large laurel bushes have gradually succumbed to shot hole disease, creating a perfect spot outside the reach of hungry deer. It took a while to cut all the branches, package them for city pickup, and remove the stumps. I just need to assemble the form and fill it with soil. Sounds easy; it may not be! I understand from the UA Extension Service's *Grow Your Own Groceries* series that I could plant some squash seeds yet this year and have success. Perhaps some arugula and spinach in the fall. I envy those of you who have acres and greenhouses!

During the non-gardening months, I enjoy caning chairs, sewing, listening to audible books/podcasts, home repair projects, and spoiling my two mutts. I'm grateful to be plugged in with the Master Gardeners.

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### **Aimee Payne**

Having always been drawn towards nature, gardening has become my passion. Before I moved into the well-manicured house of my dearly departed grandmother, I'd only been caring for a lone philodendron for several years. That was roughly the extent of my plant

care knowledge. In my grandmother's honor, I was determined to learn how to care for all of her plants, trees, shrubs, etc. In doing so, I not only discovered that I have a bit of green thumb, I discovered how much joy I found in the hobby. Six years later, I have expanded her landscaping tenfold and I'm not finished!



While managing the greenhouse at Tractor Supply Co. in Farmington, I met WCMG Pam Johnson. We immediately hit it off and she told me all about the Master Gardener program. I'd heard of it and had been interested, but she really sold me on getting involved. I love the volunteer opportunities, the amazing group of people, and the community as a whole! I'm grateful and proud to be a part of such a wonderful network of people.

My favorite part about gardening is enjoying the fruits of my labor, literally and figuratively! I love to listen to plants and see if I get things right. I love having dirty nails and a sore back because it means that things look beautiful outside (and inside—I'm running out of room! Ha!).

My other hobbies and interests include spending time with my new husband (married 10/3/21!), raising my hens and lone duck, skill shooting, sports, fishing, camping, loving on my dog, and spending time with my parents and niece and nephew at our cabin while wakeboarding on Table Rock Lake.

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### **Susan Snell**

When you grow up with gardening parents, you may sprout a green thumb yourself! Wherever we went, near or far, Mom would want to learn all about the plants she saw, whether in a friend's backyard or Rocky Mountain National Park. She and Dad always had a sizable vegetable garden. After I was out of the house, Dad would write to me about strawberries in June and having them with shortcake for breakfast, a treat I was able to have as well when I was growing up. Mom was a member of the Missouri Botanical Garden for decades, and also a member of the local garden club. Part of Dad's overall duties in overseeing a dozen electrical substations in the St. Louis area was to make sure they were landscaped to obscure their loveliness as much as possible. So, although I may not have displayed much interest when Mom said, "Susan, look at the (insert plant scientific name here)," it seeped in.



After college I moved to Chicago and went on to work in marketing, marketing communications, and sales and did a little gardening here and there depending upon where we were living. After moving to a house in Libertyville, Illinois, suddenly I had a full canvas to work with. I had changed jobs and was really excited about the new company, but after almost two years of disappointment I quit. I decided to change careers. I got a

temp job working in customer service for Motorola and thought I'd get another similar job while I started taking horticulture classes at the local college. But I met the director of grounds of a nearby museum and gardens in class and she offered me the opportunity to intern there, where I got a crazy, wide range of experience from greenhouse gardening, to pruning 500 roses, to creating seasonal décor in the mansion, and much more.

I continued to take classes and moved on to a job as a horticulturist/foreman for a large landscape construction and maintenance company serving Chicago's North Shore (rich people, who I have to thank for having the landscaping budgets to give me a wide range of experience in designing, installing, and maintaining seasonal containers, perennial beds, small versions of prairie uplands and wetlands, tree and shrub pruning, and more). The company had a horticultural standards manual and part of the job was to train the labor force to these standards. This is where I started to learn about the use of native plants.

After a few years I started working for a smaller company whose main focus was using natives. The owner/chief designer was a magician with choosing native trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants, and layering them so that the effect was spectacular in all three of the seasons. We had clients with (small) prairies, and I learned how to plan and carry out prescribed burns.

It was all hard work but lots of fun. I ended up with two horticultural A.A.S. degrees, one in landscape management and the other in natural areas management. From a physical standpoint this may not have been the smartest pick as a second career, but the experience was worth it all.

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## August Photo of the Month

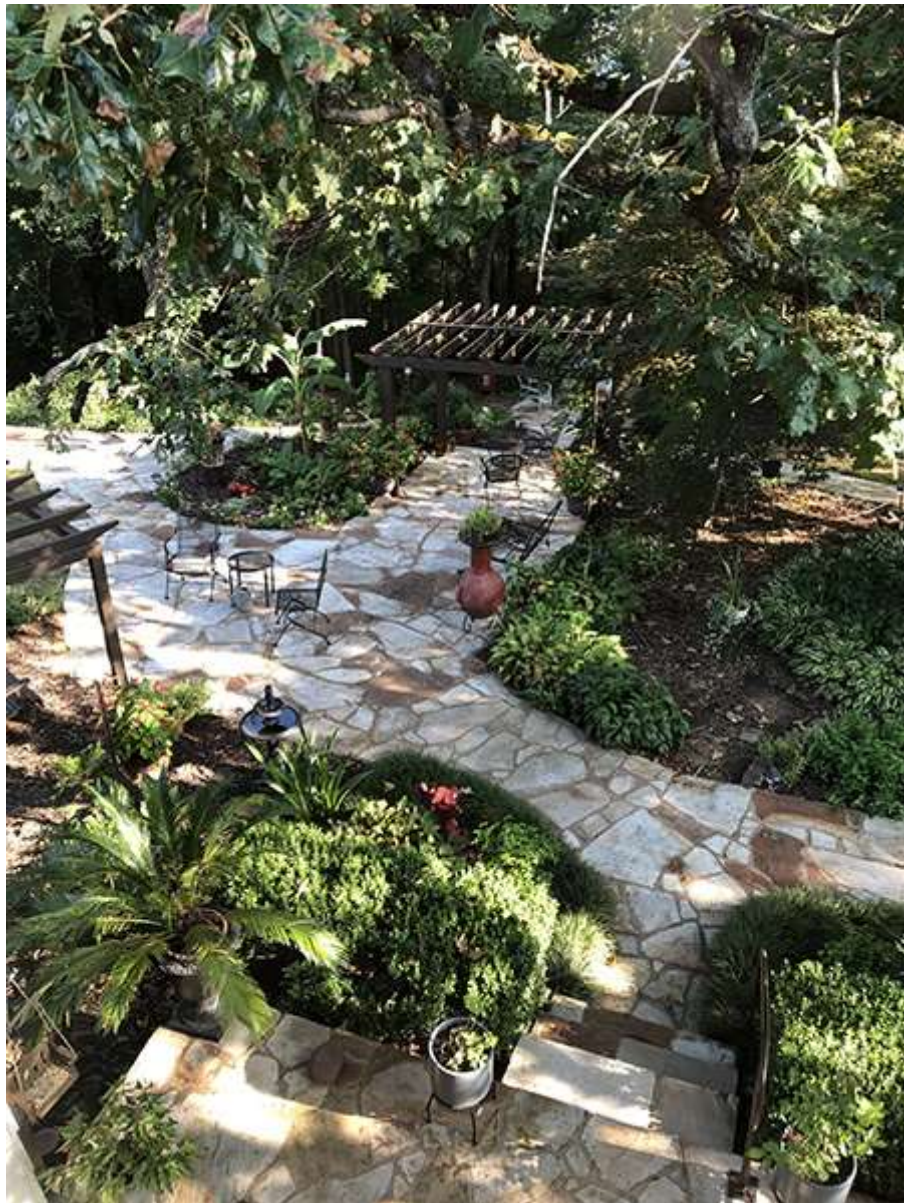
### "Shade Gardens/Plants"



**FIRST PLACE**

**"Sweet Secrets in the Shade" by Pam Butler**

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**SECOND PLACE**

**"Grandparents' Garden" by Alison Brashears**

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### THIRD PLACE

**"Quiet Conversations in the Shade" by Jody Miskell**

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The September photo contest theme will be *Butterflies/Insects in the Garden*.

Having trouble with how to join in on the photography fun? Grab your laptop, phone, or iPad and join Kitty Sanders for a photo contest tutorial. We will meet prior to the monthly meeting at the Extension Office at 5:30 on September 6.

Look forward to seeing you there!

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## Gardening and Community Events

**PAM BUTLER**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. GARDEN TOUR: THUNDER CHICKEN**

**TRAILHEAD.** Lake Springdale. Free. Hosted by Wild Ones Ozark Chapter. No registration required. [More information.](#)

**SEPTEMBER 8, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: FALL GREENS.** Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. Free. [Registration information.](#)

**SEPTEMBER 19, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER MONDAY.** Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. Free.

**SEPTEMBER 21, 6:00–7:30 p.m. MONARCHS AND MORE.** Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. Free for members; \$10 non-members. [Registration information.](#)

**SEPTEMBER 29, 6:00–7:00 p.m. HOUSE PLANT SWAP.** Fayetteville Public Library. Free. No registration required. [More information.](#)

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## Contact Information

The *Garden Thyme* email address is [wcmgnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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

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