



Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • October 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."

Taking Care of Business

We will vote on the following items at our October 4 meeting.

September 2022 Minutes

August 2022 Treasurer's Report

October Meeting: A Pretty Grave Topic

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, October, 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office.

In honor of the upcoming fall holidays of Halloween and Día de los Muertos, WCMG Susan Young will discuss "Willow Trees, Honey Bees, and Leaves of Three: A Gardener's Guide to Tombstone Art." As a fifth-generation Ozarker, Susan was raised up to have a deep and abiding love for cemeteries. During

27 years as the outreach coordinator at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, she found plenty of excuses to explore the region's old graveyards in pursuit of local history. Susan retired from Shiloh in 2021, but her penchant for visiting cemeteries remains.



The meeting is in person or via Zoom. Colin will email the Zoom link.

From Your President

KAREN HANNA-TOWNE

A Wellness Check

Every year, like many of us, I get a wellness check.

Medicare likes it and so do I. And every year I say to myself, "I feel fine, but I'll do this just in case they find something." And sometimes they do. Something minor will be revealed and due to early detection, it's usually resolved fairly easily. (At least so far!)

Once in a while a volunteer organization needs a wellness check. On September 20, the Executive Committee

started a process to take a look at how WCMG is doing. We decided that we should be aware of conditions such as, "What are we doing that our members love; what are things we might not be doing so well; what other things could we do that would make some of us feel more fulfilled as part of this group; why do some of our members stay engaged and what makes others fall away?" It's a timely investigation, and it's meant to help us be relevant to our members and to the communities we serve.



You may be asking, “Why now? Why should we take on this task now?” There are a few reasons, in two big categories. 1.) We’re at a unique place in our history, as we continue to rebound from the pandemic and begin to address climate change head-on. And 2.) a society’s sensibilities change over time. Thirty years ago, beautification projects were popular and met the needs of our members and the community. Now there is greater interest in native plants and people growing their own food. In addition, some of our members have come to the point in their lives where it’s no longer feasible for them to be out in the garden pulling weeds in the heat. We have projects that don’t have enough volunteers to keep the gardens vigorous. These are signs of inefficiency that have developed over time.

We’re aware, too, that we’re short on data about our members. We don’t know how many unique individuals are active in physical gardening and how many get their sanctioned hours strictly through committee work. All of the sanctioned work is vital to our organization, but it’s hard to plan for improvement without knowing these numbers. We don’t know if the members who have new ideas also have the skills and the time to develop new programs in order to pursue their interests. We’re not even sure what makes many of our members over-the-moon excited about being a Master Gardener!

Step one is forming an ad hoc committee to develop an online member survey. The Executive Committee is recommending a working group of five, with diverse experience and backgrounds. I’ve asked each board member to send me the name of at least one nominee, along with a short rationale. Any WCMG member may make a nomination or nominate themselves. We’ll look at the nominations and assemble a committee to start work very soon. We hope to have a committee that will develop insightful questions yielding information that can lead to improvements. We don’t know what results the survey will yield or what successive steps may happen. Right now, it’s an exploration of who we are and what psychic, social, educational or physical benefits we hope to enjoy in exchange for our volunteer hours. It’s a timely endeavor and worth the effort.

An Undisputed Election!

Congratulations to our newly elected officers and board members. They will take their official oath of office in January 2023.



President
Joanne Olzsewski



Secretary
Kathy Launder



Assistant Treasurer
Glenda Patterson



Member at Large
Linda Smith

Vice President
Elizabeth (Liz) Hale



Treasurer
Darielle James



Member at Large
Nicholas Sammer



Member at Large
Dale Thomas

Your Due(s) Date Draws Nigh

Dues for 2023 are due no later than December 1. The amount is \$20 through December 1, and \$25 after December 1.

You can pay your dues by cash, check, money order, or electronically. Make your check or money order payable to Washington County Master Gardeners, or WCMG.

You may pay your dues

- in person at the WCMG meetings on October 4 and November 1.
- in person at the Extension Office during regular business hours (8:30 a.m–4:30 p.m.).
- by mail to Washington County Extension Office, 2536 N. McConnell Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72704-5521.
- electronically via Zelle. Direct your payment to dues@wcmgar.org. **Do not use this e-mail address to ask any questions concerning your dues.** Please direct all questions to the Membership Committee Co-Chairs [Annette Pianalto](#) or [Kathryn Birkhead](#), or Treasurer [Jill King](#). Note that we cannot accept electronic payments made via Venmo.

Where Are Your Hours?



Photo by [JESHOOOTS.COM](#) on [Unsplash](#)

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 Membership Committee co-chairs [Annette Pianalto](#) or [Kathryn Birkhead](#).

If you will not be able to complete your hours this year due to health or other unforeseen circumstances, now if 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](#).

Annual Awards Are Just Around the Corner

JOYCE MENDENHALL and JAN LEFLER



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

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

Nomination forms are located in your WCMG Members Resource Guide located in the Members Only section of our [WCMG website](#). Please include four action photos along with the nomination form.

Prior WCMG Award winners for all categories are listed in the WCMG Member Resource Guide in the Forms section. Address all criteria for the award. Be descriptive and use action verbs. You may wish to use bullet points to make it more readable. Value quality over quantity. Make every word count.

These awards nominations are at the county and/or state level:

- **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 who finished their MG classroom training and completed their first-year membership certification within the designated time frame.
- **Mentor of the Year (new in 2022).** A mentor who has made outstanding mentoring efforts helping their assigned first-year WCMG, MG transfer or reinstated WCMG member through their first year.
- **Master Gardener of the Year.** A WCMG member who has made an outstanding contribution to the WCMG program, Extension Service and county. (Excludes previous winners.)
- **County Extension Agent of the Year.** State level award. (Washington County Extension Agent Colin Massey was awarded in 2022 and is ineligible for this year.)
- **Newsletter of the Year.** State level award.
- **Excellence in Education.** An outstanding WCMG project that demonstrates significant learning of a targeted audience.
- **Friend of Master Gardeners: Individual.** An individual (non-Master Gardener) who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program. (Excludes Extension Service staff.)
- **Friend of Master Gardeners: Business or Organization.** A business or organization who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program.
- **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. (Excludes projects that have won the award from the previous four years. Re-nomination requires significant changes in the project to warrant a new nomination.)

Washington County's exclusive award is the "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 four (4) digital photos in JPEG format to: Washington County Extension Office, Attention: Awards Committee, at cmassey@uada.edu no later than November 15.

Natives Naturally

SARAH SHELL TEAGUE



Joe Pye Weed in the garden at the corner of Nelson Hackett Boulevard (formerly Archibald Yell) and School Street, Fayetteville. Photo by Sarah Shell Teague.

What's in a Name? Joe Pye Weed is a Lovely Flower

This month's feature is a big boy: you will need significant space in a large bed or naturalized area to grow the shrub-sized perennial Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*). At seven feet tall, it performs at the back of the bed. Its big blossoms, in white, pink, and in some species a violet-purple, appear in early to late summer and last into fall. As blooms fade, they feather into blousy clouds, making beautiful seed heads. It's also a pollinator and hummingbird magnet. Birds feast on the scores of insects that Joe Pye Weed nourishes, but deer and rabbits tend to pass it by.

The Joe Pye legend derives from several stories: Joe Pye was first referenced in a manual of botany in 1818 by noted naturalist Amos Eaton. "Joe Pye" comes from the phonetic spelling of his native name: Jopai or Jopi. Either a native American medicine man himself or the son of a native herbalist, he is said to have lived in Salem or western Massachusetts. He used roots to treat typhus and fevers and is credited with singlehandedly stopping a

typhus epidemic in Colonial America with his herbal or healing tea. One source relates Joe Pye as the nickname of Joseph Shauquethqueat, a Mohican chief who lived in Massachusetts and New York in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It's rare for a plant to be named for a native herbalist, making Joe Pye even more special.

The plant, of the Acanthus family, is also known as kidney root because the roots were used to treat kidney stones. It is said to have a light vanilla scent. Joe Pye Weed offers a striking appearance when paired with perennial grasses and at water's edge, as it prefers a moist, fertile environment—a good choice for rain gardens. In the wild it's often found along wetlands, where its root system stabilizes against erosion and also absorbs fertilizer and pesticide chemicals. Like all our dependable natives, it tolerates drought and poor soil. It dies back in winter. Eager gardeners can prune it in early spring to invigorate growth but it's not necessary with this easy-going performer.

Sources:

Adirondack Almanack. ["What's in a Name: Joe Pye Weed."](#)

Edible Wild Food Blog. ["Joe Pye Weed: The Man Behind the Plant."](#)

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.](#)

Meet the Trainees

OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Bob Alexander

I am originally from Searcy. I went to the Missouri University of Science and Technology to get a BA in multidisciplinary studies. I later moved to Fayetteville to get a BS in business, finance, and administration. Currently I am working on a master's in operations management.



I attribute every bit of my passion and skills for gardening to my grandmother. She had a huge yard with lots of flower beds. When I was very small, she would pay me to pull any weed and small tree I could find. I suspect she did this to teach me work ethics, to keep me entertained, and for cheap labor! I think doing her yard work inculcated a passion for pulling weeds and picking vegetables. She also taught me about different flowers, how to pot plants, and other simple things at an early age.

My mother, on the other hand, also tried to teach me and my siblings how to garden, but anything she touches is guaranteed to die within a week or less. My mom, needless to say, did not contribute to developing my gardening skills at all.

Nowadays I enjoy gardening because I relish the fact that I have the most colorful yard in the whole neighborhood. I have hard-earned bragging rights! I try to stagger my flowers by types and plant to offer a continuation of color through the spring and summer.

Unfortunately, the neighborhood deer consumed a substantial amount of my young plants this year and it has been a struggle to maintain anything. I have a proclivity to spend most of my free time gardening because it provides me with the means to relieve stress in a productive manner. Sometimes it is very difficult to see how my hard work in school or at work will ever pay off, but I can always see the results of my hard work in the garden as my plants grow and bloom.

I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to become a Master Gardener! I hope to learn more about landscaping, how to use different plants to achieve specific effects, and how to identify, treat, and prevent plant diseases. I have high hopes and expectations to continue to learn and gain in-depth knowledge about gardening from everyone. I hope I can offer my two cents worth of experience along the way as well.

Accolades for Our Own Ruth Cohoon



Ruth Cohoon with Hunter Yuracheck, UA vice chancellor and director of athletics, at the plaque recently dedicated to Cohoon on the UA campus. Photo courtesy Ruth Cohoon.

From an article in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (Sept. 11, 2022).

Ruth Cohoon and Bev Lewis, former University of Arkansas Directors of Women's Athletics, were recently honored before the Razorbacks' 44–30 win over South Carolina at Razorback Stadium in Fayetteville. Razorbacks Athletics dedicated plaques in Cohoon's and Lewis' honor on the Difference Makers Plaza as part of the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Cohoon helped create the university's women's athletics department, while Lewis was the women's athletics director for 19 years. "As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX, we are proud to recognize two individuals who were instrumental in creating opportunities for thousands of Razorback student-athletes," stated Hunter Yuracheck, UA vice chancellor and director of athletics.



When she wasn't receiving awards, Ruth battled the summer heat wave by creating this impromptu shade garden. Photo by Ruth Cohoon.

Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

OCTOBER 6, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. NATIVE BEES. With Coleman Little. Springdale Public Library. Free. Hosted by Wild Ones: Ozark Chapter. No registration required. [More information.](#)

OCTOBER 8, 9:00–10:00 a.m. T.R.E.E. (TREE RAISING AND EXPLORATION) PROGRAM. Compton Gardens, Bentonville. \$10. [Registration information.](#)

OCTOBER 11, 6:00–7:00 p.m. BEEKEEPING 101. Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. \$15 members; \$25 non-members. [Registration information.](#)

OCTOBER 11, 6:00–7:30 p.m. HONEY HARVESTING. With Ed Levi. Fayetteville Public Library. Free. No registration required. [More information.](#)

OCTOBER 13, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER APPRECIATION DAY. Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View. [Registration information.](#)

OCTOBER 15, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. BOTANICAL PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP. Compton Gardens, Bentonville. \$50. [Registration information.](#)

OCTOBER 17, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER MONDAY. Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. Free.

OCTOBER 20, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: SOIL BASICS. Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. Free. [Registration information.](#)

OCTOBER 22, 6:00 p.m. ECESIS: THE NATURE OF NATURE. Zoom program with Justin Thomas, sponsored by the Arkansas Native Plant Society. Free. Register by sending an email to ANPS.Programs@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 27–28. GARDENING FOR BIRDS AND MORE. Advanced Master Gardener class hosted by Madison County Master Gardeners. Held at Ozark Natural Science Center. \$75, with extra fees for optional add-ons. [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.

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Send all newsletter submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

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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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