



Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • April 2023



---

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 a thing!

Having said all that, the *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 the *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 April meeting.

March 2023 Minutes

February 2023 Treasurer's Report

---

## Remembering Joyce



If you've been involved in Master Gardeners or the Northwest Arkansas gardening community during the last 20 years, it's a good bet you crossed paths with, or felt the influence of, Joyce Mendenhall at some point. Joyce was proud to be a Lifetime Master Gardener. She served our organization as president and received the titles of Washington County and Arkansas State Master Gardener of the Year. She was a lifetime member of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, where she received the Volunteer of the Year award and served twice on the BGO board of directors. Joyce also served on the board of directors of the Healing Gardens of Northwest Arkansas at Highlands Oncology Group.

For 18 years Joyce worked for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service in Fayetteville; if you dropped off a soil sample for testing during those years, you probably talked to Joyce! She was a member of Chi Epsilon Sigma (the National Extension Service Support Staff fraternity), where she was named District and State Support Staff of the Year.

Joyce passed away February 25, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. **She will be remembered during two gatherings on Saturday, April 22—Earth Day, which is very appropriate!** A memorial service will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, 901 W. Cleveland Street. A Celebration of Life will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO), 4703 N. Crossover Road, Fayetteville. A program of shared memories will begin at 1:30 p.m., followed by a walk to the BGO Sensory Garden that Joyce was instrumental in creating.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Washington County Master Gardeners, the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, or the American Cancer Society.

**In keeping with Joyce's wishes, all donations to the Washington County Master Gardeners will be used to provide public educational programs and activities**

related to the topics Joyce was so passionate about: gardening for youth, and butterfly gardening for folks of all ages.

Please make checks out to **Washington County Master Gardeners or WCMG**. Note "**Joyce Mendenhall Memorial**" in the memo line of the check. Drop off your check at the Extension Office or mail to **Washington County Extension Office, 2536 N. McConnell Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72704**.

---

## April Meeting: Secrets of a Botanical Garden

**See you on Tuesday, April 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office for our monthly meeting.** Berni Kurz, horticulture supervisor for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO), and Charles Kelly, BGO executive director, will give us the inside scoop on best management practices that are successful not only for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, but also for everyday home gardeners.



**BGO executive director Charles Kelly** is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the organization's operations, including fundraising, budget management, program development, and staff supervision. He has a deep passion for conservation and a strong commitment to promoting environmental education and sustainability.

Charles' goal is to expand BGO's impact both locally and globally. He believes that by promoting the importance of biodiversity and sustainable practices, we can inspire people to make a positive difference in the world.



**BGO horticulture supervisor Berni Kurz** graduated from the University of Arkansas (UA) with bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture. He first worked as an extension agent in Garland County, where he oversaw horticulture and 4-H programs, and in Crawford County, where he led the fledgling Master Gardener program. Berni became staff chair in Washington County in 2004, overseeing one of the state's largest Master Gardener groups. From 2019 until his retirement from the UA Cooperative Extension Service in 2022, Berni served as extension's consumer horticulture specialist. He accepted the position of BGO horticulture supervisor in 2022.

# From Your President

JOANNE OLSZEWSKI

Two things came to mind this month. How quickly the weather changes, hot, cold, wet, dry. When to plant? The old planting guides' zones may not be accurate so don't leave things to the last minute. And the second, we are now seeing wet springs and droughts in the hot summers. What to do?

In early March I put up two short gutters. The first is attached to a rain barrel that I made years ago. Sitting about three feet off the ground it is perched on an old metal frame. I positioned it so that I can attach a hose and use the water on my blueberry and blackberry bushes. The second is over the back porch and drains into a horse tank I previously used to soak my shiitake logs. It is close to several large planters and a kitchen garden.



We moved here eight years ago and discovered part of our property is a floodway. We began by clearing an overgrown field full of golf balls and horseshoes for a garden. We gathered broken branches from the 2009 ice storm and built hugelkultur raised beds. Hugelkultur is a centuries-old traditional way of building a garden bed from rotten logs and plant debris. We made raised beds out of limbs and branches and wood chips from the City of Fayetteville. We then added a top layer of compost and soil. Abundant broccoli, cabbage, onions, and greens were the result from the amazing amount of mycorrhiza and plant nutrients that flourished.

Over the years the beds dropped as the wood rotted from their original four feet to about one foot. I noticed that the area east of the hugelkultur beds flooded often but the garden beds did not, even though both are in the floodway. This was one way we dealt with the water.

Before I finish, I want to say that the Garden Gate Symposium on Saturday, March 18, was incredible: good food, good speakers, good organizers, and a great crowd. It was a wonderful way to share our knowledge with the greater community. I learned much but one thing I want to share is information about "[Homegrown National Park](#)," a grassroots program to regenerate biodiversity in our lawns and yards. Doug Tallamy, the author of *Bringing Nature Home*, is the engine behind this.

*"In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators, and manage water."*

— DOUG TALLAMY

---

## Garden Gate Tour Highlights

JUDY SMITH

**The second annual Garden Gate Tour  
will take place on Saturday, June 3.  
Tickets are \$15 and go on sale at the**



The tour will include seven local gardens highlighting native plants, water features, pollinator gardens, vegetable gardening, rock work, and composting at the WCMG Compost Demonstration Site at the Extension Office. We will need volunteers on the day of the tour.

This month, the *Garden Thyme* features the neighboring gardens of Holly Aaron and Mary Oxford, along with a cul-de-sac pollinator garden shared by Holly and Mary.

***At right, our Garden Gate Tour logo created by WCMG Diane Standefer!***



## **THE LIVING BUFFET**

*The garden of Holly Aaron*

Located in a Fayetteville neighborhood, the Living Buffet is an edible garden for wildlife of all types. The owner focuses on introducing native plants and host plants while removing invasive plants to support and feed butterflies, hummingbirds, birds, bees, dragonflies, native



insects, and other creatures.

---



## **ROCKS AND RILLS**

### *The garden of Mary Oxford*

Rocks and Rills gets its name from "My Country Tis of Thee" and reflects the owner's family history and garden interests. The hillside garden area includes a landscaped wet-weather creek that diverts water away from the home. A bridge across the creek connects walking paths to themed gardens. The Courtyard Garden is a tribute to the owner's late husband and is planted with colorful impatiens. Boxwoods and nandina above the retaining wall were inspired by a design in Little Rock, and the liriopse was rescued as a clump found along a local trail, divided, and planted. The Grandbaby Garden features statuary of two children reading a book. Other statues honor the owner's grandmother and beloved dogs. The skillet-now-birdbath belonged to the owner's mother. A 'Cherokee Princess' dogwood was a gift from adult children in memory of their father. The owner eliminated the front lawn and created a cottage garden. The fenced back yard is a shady home to hostas and shade-loving plants.

---



## WINGS AND WANDERLINGS

*A cul-de-sac garden shared by Holly Aaron and Mary Oxford*

This is a deer resistant, low-maintenance neighborhood garden with native and non-native plants to host and feed butterflies, bees, and birds. Owners of both gardens share in the maintenance and care Wings and Wanderlings.

---

## All's Fair

**DORIS CASSIDY**

Fair planning is on the horizon. It is time to deliver treasures you are no longer using to the Extension Service Office for our WCMG sale during the fair. Seeds, plants, gardening supplies, garden/flower pots sell quickly but I'll take all donations.

I encourage all WCMGs to consider entering an exhibit. It would showcase our talents and encourage others present quality exhibits.

Doris Cassidy is co-chair with Beverly Didier of the Washington County Fair sanctioned project. [Email Doris for more information.](#)

---

## February Photo of the Month "Succulents and Cacti"





**FIRST PLACE**  
**"Water Droplet Study" by Kitty Sanders**

---





**SECOND PLACE**  
**"Sunny Yellow" by Teri Kinsey**

---





**THIRD PLACE**  
**"Succulent Dish Garden" by Pam Delaney**

---

## Meet the Trainees

**OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL**

### **Haley Deatherage**

Thank you for accepting me into the Master Gardener program—I am so grateful to be a part of an organization with such kind people! I am a Tennessee native who moved to Arkansas to get my bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville. It was there that I met the love of my life, my husband, Kole. After a few years of living and working at a ski resort in Colorado, we moved to West Fork to purchase and restore his family's farm.





I come from a family that has been farming for over nine generations, and I am very passionate about following in their footsteps by growing and preserving my own produce. I started gardening as a child but fell in love with it while volunteering at our University's campus garden, and I have been consistently growing food ever since. I enjoy many aspects of gardening, but my favorite thing about it is that I can continuously learn new things and experiment with it. Outside of gardening, I enjoy hiking with my dogs, floating down a river, biking, knitting, and watercolor painting.

I currently work at the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank as the gardening and nutrition manager. There I run a teaching garden where I am able to teach people how to grow their own food and provide fresh veggies for our food pantries.

I am excited to be a part of the Master Gardeners because I love having a community of people who share my love of gardening. I look forward to learning and growing alongside you all!

---

### **Lisa Herrington**

My first connections to gardening come from time spent with my grandmothers. Grannie B. had a large garden with the yummiest sweet potatoes. My sisters and I would sneak them from under the house where they were stored and eat them raw—they were so yummy! My grandparents in SE Arkansas raised cotton for a living, and my Grannie H. grew much of their food. She had fruit trees, pecan trees, and a vegetable garden, to name a few. I'd spend a week each summer "helping"—picking turnip greens, peeling figs, shelling peas, snapping beans, making apple butter, and more. Her kitchen was a refuge, and I followed her all over the homestead property looking after flowering plants and shrubs, deadheading daylilies, snipping fragrant gardenias, marveling at the cardinals. She relied on coyotes and 'possums to "compost" food scraps.



Fast forward to 2005 . . . I left my corporate career to return to school to study viticulture and enology (read: grow grapes and make wine). After graduation, I worked for a boutique winery in North Carolina, growing four acres of vinifera grapes and producing the wine. My biggest lesson growing wine grapes? Mother Nature is in charge, not me! Working the vines was physically challenging and therapeutic! Making wine is tricky, nerve-wracking business, but ultimately satisfying when the bottles are filled, labeled, and corked.

Now I'm in Fayetteville with my partner, Bob, transforming our sunny backyard to grow everything I've dreamed of over the last few decades. I'm determined to replicate my grandmother's Kentucky Wonder pole beans and tomatoes! Gardening is such a humbling experience, thankfully eclipsed by the joy of satisfying results more often than not. I'm grateful to Washington County Extension for the wealth of resources and dedication to help all of us Master Gardeners be successful home and community gardeners.

---

### **Stacy Lake**

My husband and I moved to Fayetteville a little over a year ago

to be closer to kids and grandkids. It may not sound close, but Fayetteville is much closer to Austin and Wisconsin than Oregon was, so we moved right in the middle to be a day's drive either direction.

I retired from a 30-year social work career and decided to spend some time working in the dirt to ground myself in retirement, although spending so much more time with seven grandkids has done that as well! I started volunteering at BGO last February and have learned a lot. The wonderful people there suggested I check out the Master Gardener program, so I took their advice and have really enjoyed the classes and all the great people I've met so far.



My mom started my interest in gardening in Pennsylvania, and my husband has only enhanced it in Austin, Oregon, and now our new home! I can't wait to continue learning, volunteering at BGO and other sanctioned projects, and getting to know you all!

---

## Beets

SARAH CAIN-BARTLETT



**Beautiful, bountiful beets! Photo by Sara Cain-Bartlett.**

When I planted the first short row of beets in our vegetable garden, my husband, Coy, said, "I don't like beets." What he meant was, he did not like commercial canned beets. He later tasted a garden-fresh beet, steamed until just tender, tossed in butter. NOW he likes beets. And as a bonus, even after freezing our fresh garden beets, the taste when thawed and cooked is as rich as the taste of a fresh beet.

Beets are so easy and quick to grow, anyone can enjoy the same rich flavor. Beets can be



grown in pots, in raised beds, and my preferred way—planted in loose rich garden soil. And beets are a quick crop, and can be one of the earliest plantings in cool soil. Seed germination is usually 7 to 10 days, and the crop is ready for harvest in 60 days. The beet seed is actually a cluster of seeds. You can soak the seed overnight to speed germination, then plant at a spacing of 2 to 3 inches. As the seeds sprout, thin. One beet seed cluster will produce several sprouts. Start a second planting every two weeks until the heat of summer is coming on. Fall planting is also ideal and fall beets can be harvested right up to frost.

Beets are BEET ROOTS. The root is the flavorful bulb growing below ground. The beet tops are also a nutritious resource. Coy laughs at me as I kneel down and gently brush the soil away from a beet root, checking on the size and growth. It is rewarding to watch them grow to harvest.

Beets are very nutritious. They are high in fiber, vitamins and mineral content. Beets are also a beautiful vegetable. Beets are not all red; they come in many colors. My favorite and most reliable is still the Detroit Dark Red because it never fails to produce an excellent crop. I have also grown the yellow varieties Golden Detroit and Golden, but the crop was not as reliable. This year I am planting the White Detroit as well as Detroit Red. The literature says that the white does not stain but has the rich beet flavor. We'll see!

*Editor's note: [Email Sara](#) with your questions and comments, or just to let her know you're reading her columns and learning something new about vegetables.*

---

## "Natives Naturally" Needs You



**Red buckeye—a great candidate for a "Natives Naturally" column! *Photo by Judy Smith.***

We're looking for WCMGs to write native plant articles for the *Garden Thyme* each month. If you are interested, please email submissions editor [Mary McCully](#). You don't have to take on the rest of the year. We hope to hear from several of you who will write the "Natives Naturally" columns. Columns can be book reviews or interviews with native gardeners, about one plant or many. (Mary provided some resources for you in the March *Garden Thyme*, so refer back to that issue for ideas.) "Natives Naturally" columns for May and June issues are already taken, so you'll have ample time to write for summer and fall.

---

## Just Us

A compendium of news you can use, curated by JUDY SMITH

### GLENDA MAKES HISTORY!

**Congratulations to WCMG Glenda Patterson**, who was recently honored for her service and commitment to community at the 2023 Washington County Women in History banquet.

---

### GOING?

**Going to Russellville around June 6 for the state conference pre-tour?**



- Need a ride?
- Have room for passengers?

### **Going to Russellville around June 8 for the state conference?**

- Need a ride?
- Have room for passengers?
- 

The *Garden Thyme* can help you connect with riders and drivers.[Email Judy Smith](#) and let her know your needs or offers.

---

### **TODAY I PLANT THIS TREE**

**Pam Johnson**

Today I plant this tree  
Whose shade I will never see  
Tubs of leaves i will never rake  
Wind blowing the few away

This sapling will not be climbed  
In the balance of my lifetime  
Chirping nests will not be heard  
Nor the fluttering of the birds

My days on earth are few  
So, this gift I give to you  
My hope is for the young  
To see what I have done

And see my forward pay  
Reflects the elders of my day  
Who thought of the future too  
As I am doing for you

---

## **Gardening and Community Events**

**PAM BUTLER**

**APRIL 1, 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. NATIVE PLANT COLLABORATIVE SERIES: GARDENING IN THE SPRING AND NATIVE PLANTS FOR BIRDS.** Eureka Springs Community Center. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 5 AND APRIL 12, 1:00–3:00 p.m. CREATING DYNAMIC LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY.** Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Zoom. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 5, 6:00 p.m. URBAN AGRICULTURE: ATTRACTING BENEFICIAL INSECTS WITH NATIVE PLANTS.** Hosted by Wild Ones and Pollinator Partnership. Bentonville Public Library. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 6, 12:00 p.m.–1:00 p.m. INTRODUCTION TO SEED SAVING.** Zoom program by Faulkner County Master Gardener Diana Polcar. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 6, 6:00–8:00 p.m. FLORAL ARRANGEMENT DESIGN CLASS.** Peel Museum and Botanical Gardens, Bentonville. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 7–9. MOREL HUNTING WORKSHOPS.** Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 8, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. SPRING EPHEMERAL HIKE.** Lake Wilson Park, Fayetteville. Arkansas Native Plant Society, Ozarks Chapter. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 8, 2:30–3:30 p.m. WILDFLOWERS: MORE THAN WEEDS HIKE.** Hobbs State Park, Rogers. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 8, 3:30–6:30 p.m. BIRDS AND BEVERAGES.** Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO). [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: HERBS.** Zoom program by UADA Extension Service staff. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 15, 10:00–11:00 a.m. PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP.** Compton Gardens, Bentonville. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 15, 9:00–11:00 a.m. BIRDS AND BREAKFAST.** Hobbs State Park, Rogers. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 17, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER MONDAY.** Zoom meeting with Randy Forst, Arkansas Master Gardeners coordinator and UADA extension agent for consumer horticulture. To receive the Zoom link, [sign up for the state Master Gardener Constant Contact email list.](#)

**APRIL 18, 6:00–7:30 p.m. BUTTERFLY GARDENING.** BGO. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 21, 3:00–6:00 p.m. EARTH DAY FESTIVAL.** BGO. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 22, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS PLANT SWAP .** Springdale. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 22, 2:00–5:00 p.m. BOTANICAL LINOCUT WORKSHOP.** Compton Gardens, Bentonville. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 23, 2:00–2:45 p.m. THE OZARK CHINQUAPIN TREE.** Hobbs State Park, Rogers. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 23, 2:00–3:00 p.m. SPRING HERBS TALK.** Program by WCMG Janice Neighbor. White River Nursery, Fayetteville. [Registration information.](#)



**APRIL 27, 5:30–6:00 p.m. SNAKES OF ARKANSAS.** Janet Huckabee Arkansas River Valley Nature Center, Fort Smith. [More information.](#)

**APRIL 28–29. BGO PLANT SALE.** [More information on April 28 members-only sale](#)  
[More information on April 29 public sale](#)

**APRIL 29, 10:00–11:00 a.m. OSAGE PARK NATIVE PLANT HIKE .** Bentonville.  
[More information.](#)

**APRIL 29, 9:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. NATURE JOURNALING WORKSHOP.** Hobbs State Park, Rogers. [Registration information.](#)

**APRIL 29, 11:00–11:30 a.m. VENOMOUS SNAKES OF ARKANSAS.** Hobbs State Park, Rogers. [More information.](#)

---

## 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 listed in your WCMG Member Resource Guide.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

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

Send all newsletter submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

[Joanne Olszewski](#), president; [Liz Hale](#), vice president; [Kathy Launder](#), secretary, [Darielle James](#), treasurer; [Glenda Patterson](#), assistant treasurer. Members at large: [Nicholas Sammer](#), [Linda Smith](#), [Dale Thomas](#). Ex officio: [Karen Hanna-Towne](#), past president; [Colin Massey](#), Washington County extension agent for agriculture and horticulture.

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



WCMG Facebook Page (public)



WCMG Facebook Group (private)



WCMG website



Washington County Extension Service website

---

**Take heed!** If you unsubscribe to emails from Washington County Master Gardeners, you will no longer receive the *Garden Thyme* newsletter and WCMG-related news.

Washington County Master Gardeners | c/o Washington County Cooperative Extension Service,  
2536 N. McConnell Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72703

[Unsubscribe wcmg.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wcmg.newsletter@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by wcmg.newsletter@gmail.com in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!