

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday September 5, 2023**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was available for the meeting.
Present: 69 members, Zoom 25 members Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President Joanne Olszewski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Introduction to the program: Liz Hale introduced Tas Zinch of Biodesic Permaculture and Consulting Firm based in Fayetteville.

Business Meeting:

Approval of August 2023 Minutes:

Elizabeth Woods moved to approve the minutes, Mariette Spidel seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of July Treasurer's Report:

Martha Haguewood moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Margo Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Vote to raise membership dues in 2024

Darielle James, Treasurer recommends not to raise dues for 2024.

Ruthann Hill moves to leave dues the same as they were for this year 2023 and for 2024, seconded by Jody Miskell. Motion carried.

We need to vote on proposed revisions to our Bylaws as listed in The September Garden Thyme and e-mail of Friday, August 18, 2023.

Item 1: Proposed revision regarding out-of state transfers.

Elizabeth Woods moved to accept the state guidelines for out of state transfers, seconded by Darielle James. Motion carried with one absention.

Item 2: Proposed revision regarding duties of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

Aimee Payne moved to accept the proposed changes of Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Judy Smith. Motion carried.

Vote regarding the 2024 Slate of Officers given to you at our July meeting and published in the August Garden Thyme.

President – Liz Hale, Vice President – Alfi Anderson, Secretary – Kathy Launder, Treasurer – Glenda Patterson, Assistant Treasurer – Marilyn Misenhimer, Members at large: Marty Powers, Mariette Spidel, Carole Ball class of 2023.

James McGinty moves to accept the slate of officers as presented, seconded by Judy Smith. Motion carried.

Our new WCMG policy for Memorials: Recognition of Deceased Members by Shirley Durning and Karen Hanna-Towne

POLICY ON RECOGNITION OF DECEASED WCMG MEMBERS

1. **MEMORIAL RECOGNITION** When a WCMG member in good standing passes away, the Memorial Committee will prepare a brief synopsis of their volunteer efforts for the organization. The Committee will make every effort to locate a photo of the deceased, preferably while engaged in a gardening activity. The biographical statement and a photo will be posted on the public side of the wcmgar.org website, as well as a link to the full, published obituary.

2. **RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS IN OTHER STATUS TYPES** a. If an active member has become inactive for two years or less, they will receive the recognition outlined above. b. If a WCMG member has requested a Leave of Absence and passes away during their period of leave, they, too, will be recognized. c. If a Sustainer passes away prior to the end of their allowable 7-year period of Sustainer status, they, too, will be recognized. d. Inactive members, those on Leave of Absence and Sustainers who are beyond the limits noted above will not be recognized.

3. **RECOGNITION OF LIFETIME MEMBERS** If a member has reached Lifetime or Lifetime Plus status, they will be recognized even if they have been inactive.

New Business:

WCMG Awards – Jan Lefler

WCMG Awards Nomination Committee consist of prior winners of these awards. Members can access the paper work to submit digitally on the Master Gardener website through the member portal in the WCMG member resource guide.

WCMG Awards Nominations Each year eligible candidates from Washington County are recognized for:

*Master Gardener of the Year

*Rookie of the Year (trainee who met education and hours requirements)

*Project of the Year

*Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year

*Excellence in Education

*Friend of Master Gardeners (Individual – not a Master Gardener)

*Friend of Master Gardeners (Business or Organization – not a Master Gardener or Extension Service Agent yet Extension Admin Staff ARE eligible)

*Newsletter of the Year (selection by the State MG Judges)

*County Agent of the Year (selection by the State MG Judges)

* Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can” Awards (a local award recognizing WCMGs and/or WCMG Trainees)

Nominations from WCMG members are due no later than Tuesday, November 15, 2023

- Nominations for all state MG awards are judged according to criteria that comes from the AR MG County 76 - RRR Committee.
- Award Nominations are judged according to these special criteria by the WCMG Awards Committee.
- WCMG Awards Committee members are former WCMG Master Gardener of the Year award recipients.
- WCMG Awards Committee makes recommendations to the Executive Committee on or before December 15.
- WCMG Award Nominations are forwarded to State MG Offices in January 2024. • Awards Program is presented at the WCMG meeting in February 2024.

wcmgar.org

This is the local county website for Washington County Master Gardeners

To access the Member Portal section your password is Zinnia2022

Member Portal section contains the WCMG Member Resource Guide (formerly called WCMG Workbook)

All Award Nomination Forms are accessible in the section FORMS

Nominations from WCMG members are due no later than **Tuesday, November 15, 2023**

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

- Excellence in Education – last awarded in 2019 to “Garden Explorers”.
- MG of the Year – prior winners are not eligible for renomination.
- Project of the Year – last awarded in 2021. Renomination of a previously winning project 5+ years ago requires significant changes to warrant a new nomination.
- Mentor of the Year – last awarded in 2021. Nominations may be made by the trainee, transfer, reinstated member, or other WCMG member who has observed his/her mentoring activities.
- Friend of MG (Organization or Individual) of the Year - Those who have won in the last 5 years are not eligible.

WCMG Awards Nominations Tips

1. All current Award Nomination Forms are located on wcmgar.org website Member Resource Guide – Member Portal Section – Forms.
2. Please use the newest version of forms for all Award Nominations.
3. Address all criteria requested on each form.
4. Follow Checklist when writing nomination.
5. Include action photos and captions identifying people in photos. New guidance for submitting WCMG Award Nominations • Checklist for Writing an Effective Award Nomination. • Sample Nomination for MG of the Year (includes photos and captions).

WCMG Awards Nominations

Nominations from WCMG members are due no later than Tuesday, November 15, 2023

Please submit a digital copy to Colin Massey, cmassey@uada.edu with “Awards Committee” in the subject line.

August 2023 Photo Contest Winners – “Flowering Perennials”

- 1st Place – Delcina Cunico – “Before the Storm”
- 2nd Place – Kathryn Birkhead – “Delicate Beauty”
- 3rd Place – Sarah Teague – “Give Peas a Chance”

Announcements:

Master Gardeners in photos

1. Class of 2023 Trainees and Mentors at the 7/18 "Annuals to Perennials" zoom event
2. Dale Thomas and Karen Hanna-Towne at the Swag Swap table at the 6/6 potluck picnic
3. Linda Smith, Dale Smith, Alfi Anderson & Nancy Sloan Visit at the picnic
4. 8/19 NWA Democrat-Gazette photo about our WCMG Gayle Howard who made a space at the Fayetteville Senior Center

Mentors & Interviewers Needed:

Contact Alfi Anderson at 202-302-4083 or TheGabbyGardener@gmail.com

Interviewers needed Wed. 9/13 to interview 13+ applicants. Application deadline is this Friday, 9/8. Applicants include Fall Online & 2024 In- Person Training candidates.

7 Mentors needed for the 7 Trainees slated for Fall Self-Paced Online Training that begins 10/2.

Class of 2024 Applicants:

Self-Paced Online Training (Oct. – Dec.)

Jodie Arrington-Faulkner – Elkins

Sheri Bucciferro – West Fork

David L. Edwards – Fayetteville

Rebecca Elaine – Fayetteville

Ronda Marks – Fayetteville

Rick Oliver – Springdale

Catalina Restrepo – Fayetteville

In-Person Training (Feb. – Mar.)

Sharon L. Ferguson – Wesley

Stephanie McGuire – Lincoln

Bruce Redinger – Springdale

Pam Salamo – Fayetteville

Laura Anne Watson – Springdale

Linda Womack – Prairie Grove

Help ready Mariette Spidel's garden near Hindsville for the 2024 Garden Gate Tour

Contact Marilyn Misenhimer 479-283-2683 MMisenhimer@gmail.com

SAT, 9/23 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 4 volunteers to thin native plants; the extras go to the volunteers!

SUN, 10/1 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. 4 volunteers to thin native plants; the extras go to the volunteers!

Various Updates – Mariette Spidel

4 WCMG volunteers needed to lead UAEX “Lunch & Learn” sessions

WCMG Merchandise Website coming soon

Washington County 4-H Foundation's Fund Raiser for the County 4-H program

NWA Fiber Festival, November 17-18, 2023 at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

A special thank you to Nancy Sloan for filling out the state survey regarding Native Plants

Please check out the September Garden Thyme for the Top 10 Changes to Advanced Training, effective immediately.

Saturday Super Heroes at the Saturday Crew Projects

Dana Wikholm – 7

Gari James – 6

Liz Hale – 4

Janice Walker – 3

Linda Bennett-Smith – 2

Fredy Garibay – 2

Aimee Payne – 2

Alfi Anderson – 1

Kathryn Birkhead – 1
Kristi Campbell – 1
Luanne Diffin – 1
Susan Donnangelo – 1
Carrie Gamble – 1
Roxanne Gallup – 1
Kimberly Hosey – 1
Sally Schoen – 1
Laura Underwood – 1

September 2023 Photo Contest – Vegetable Gardening (Garden Bounty)
Due September 15th

TRADITIONAL HAIKU CONTEST

Japanese unrhymed poetry format, usually concerning nature or the seasons. Titles – Most are untitled, so the 1st line identifies the poem.

Subjects – Contrast, creating a shift that divides the poem in two via a cutting word, kireji in Japanese.

Lines – Three.

Syllables – Utilize a 5 – 7 – 5 syllable pattern, for a total of 17.

Due September 15 to Liz Hale. Top 3 entries presented at the October 3 meeting.

Recorded hours through August 2023 by 132 MG (14 Lifetime)

Agenda Deadlines:

If there is a member who would like to be on the Executive Board meeting agenda, please have this information to Joanne Olszewski the Tuesday before the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

WCMG.Joanne@gmail.org

Next Meeting:

J. Ray Fisher, Ph.D. Research Entomologist for Mississippi State University and Director of the U of AR Arthropod Museum.

Thought-Extinct Giant Lacewing Collected at Fayetteville Walmart Market Points to Deeper Ecological Questions

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Launder
Secretary