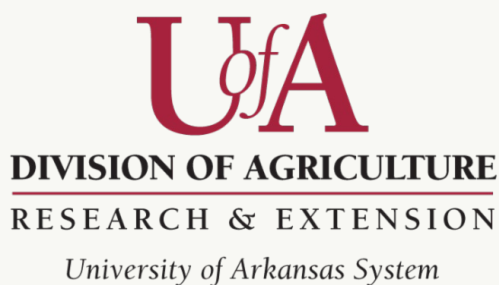


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Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • November 2023



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."**

NOVEMBER MEETING

"Parks: Helping Connect People to Nature"
by Ted Jack



Hope to see everyone at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m. We'll meet as usual at the Extension Office and plan to also offer a Zoom option for attending the meeting.

Our guest speaker is Ted Jack, park planning superintendent for the City of Fayetteville. Ted is a licensed landscape architect and certified parks and recreation professional with over thirty years of experience primarily in parks and recreation and campus planning.

Ted has an undergraduate degree in landscape architecture and a graduate degree in environmental planning and management, both from Louisiana State University (LSU). Before coming to Fayetteville, he worked for the East Baton Rouge Parish Recreation and Park Commission, where he was responsible for park and recreation system planning, facilities development, standards of care for parks and facilities, natural resources, trails, and the management of three departments.

Ted also served four years at LSU as manager of campus planning. He has participated or led multiple park system master planning processes and has planned, designed, and overseen the construction of dozens of parks.

Taking Care of Business

We'll vote on the following items at our November 7 business meeting.

[October 2023 Meeting Minutes](#)

[September 2023 Treasurer's Report](#)

From Your President

JOANNE OLSZEWSKI

As I get ready to do the El Camino walk in Spain, I am

thinking about all the things I am thankful for. For this article I am going to focus on two.

A wise Master Gardener once told me that it is important not to use names as you might leave someone out, so I am taking that advice. I am so grateful for all the past presidents who have helped me be a better president. I am thankful for the upcoming presidents who have made my life so much easier. I am so impressed by our executive board members who always show up and bring with them so much knowledge. The caliber of bookkeeping is incredible. I have been a Master Gardener for so many years and never knew how much work various projects and committees did. And of, course I am very happy that others are taking on getting vermicomposting into homes.



Last week we attended the 44th Ozark Community Congress (OACC) in southern Missouri. This is a gathering of folks who care about the health of the planet and its people. This year's panel was on “Re-localizing Food Systems.” Many of the participants on the panel were also participants in the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival's focus on the Ozark region. The panel members are looking at problems and new ways to solve them. One example is learning how to live with invasive plants. One of my favorite presentations at this conference is the “Report on the State of the Ozarks” where folks talk about what is happening in their part of the world. It was amazing to hear a young woman talk about her passion, which is cleaning up dumps in a five-county area. She has raised over \$100,000 for this project. A group from Springfield, Missouri, is looking at agricultural grants that in the past have gone to large farming corporations. Today they are helping small farmers sell their goods locally and are providing fresh vegetables to areas that contain food deserts. Another family farm is providing their vegetables to a local hospital to use food as medicine. Like we Master Gardeners, these folks are making a difference in their area.

With the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, I am filled with gratitude that so many good things are going on with local folks.

Awards Nomination Deadline Draws Nigh

JAN LEFLER



Photo by [Jason Dent](#) on [Unsplash](#).

Individual nomination forms are located in your WCMG Member Resource Guide or website wcmgar.org in the Member Portal.

Please provide four or five photos along with captions.

Prior WCMG Award winners for all categories are listed in the "Forms" section of the WCMG Member Resource Guide. *(This information shows those projects and/or individuals who have received awards in prior years and who are not eligible for nominations.)*

WCMG Award nominations are judged at the county and state level according to documentation of:

1. Involvement in all three aspects of the program: the County Master Gardener program, County Extension, and the community.
2. Leadership skills, mentorship, good conflict resolution, innovation, and amount of involvement.
3. Community connections and working well with Extension Service.
4. Pictures that reflect what was in the description of involvement.
5. Inclusion of numerical descriptors for service, such as the number of hours volunteered on each project, or the number of people reached with each project.

These awards are at the county and state level:

- **Excellence in Education.** An outstanding WCMG project that demonstrates significant learning of a targeted audience.
- **Friend of Master Gardeners.** An individual (non-Master Gardener) who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program. (Excludes Extension Service staff.)
- **Friend of Master Gardeners.** A business or organization who has shown outstanding support of the WCMG program.

- **Master Gardener.** A WCMG member who has made an outstanding contribution to the WCMG program, Extension Service, and county.
- **Project of the Year.** The most outstanding WCMG project for the year except projects that have won the award within the previous four years.
- **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.
- **Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year.** a mentor who has made outstanding mentoring efforts helping their assigned first-year WCMG, MG transfer, or reinstated WCMG member through their first year.

The **Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can” Award** is exclusive to Washington County Master Gardeners and is awarded to WCMG members and first-year WCMGs who clearly demonstrate a “can do” attitude in all things they do for the organization.

Please email a digital copy of nominations along with digital photos in JPEG format to: Washington County Extension Office, Attention: Awards Committee, at cmassey@uada.edu no later than November 15, 2023 .

Pay Dues. Log Hours. It's Time.



Photo by [Aron Visuals](#) on [Unsplash](#).

We're counting the minutes . . .

Until we can all relax and reflect on how much we enjoy being Master Gardeners, with the fellowship, learning, and joy that come with our gardening together. Till then, though, we need to be mindful of a few things:

Do you know how many volunteer and education hours you need to have?

- If you're a trainee, you need 40 volunteer hours (at least 50% in sanctioned projects) and 20 education hours on top of the time you spent in class.
- If you're a returning Master Gardener, you need 20 volunteer hours (at least 50% in sanctioned projects) and 20 education hours.
- If you're a Lifetime Master Gardener, thank you for the years you've given to us. You don't have to do any volunteer work, but we're grateful when you do. If you want to earn credit for years past your 15 Lifetime years, you do need to report 10 hours of volunteer work.
- If you're on a Leave of Absence or a Sustainer, you don't have to report any hours, but we always enjoy your company.

Do you know the reporting deadline?

- You have till December 15, but we're begging here: ***Please, please, please*** don't wait till 8:00 p.m. on December 14 to log on for the first time. You might have a real hard time finding anyone to help you in your hour of need.

Speaking of logging on, do you know how to log on to report your hours?

- If you've been around for a while, you might remember your old username, but it won't get you anywhere anymore. Your new username is your email address. Again, ***please*** don't wait till the last minute to make sure you know the steps!

And then there's the issue of \$\$\$\$\$. Dues are due! If you haven't yet paid your dues for 2024, you have some choices:

- Write that check to WCMG for \$20 and take it or send it to the WCMG treasurer at the Washington County Extension Office (2536 N. McConnell, Fayetteville, AR 72704);
- Find our treasurer, Darielle James, to give her your check or cash before the November 7 meeting; or
- Use Zelle, directing your payment to wcmgartreasurer@gmail.com.

Save yourself a few dollars by paying your dues before ***December 1***. After that date, you'll be spending \$25 for what you could have gotten for less just one day earlier.

Questions? Annette Pianalto (annettepianalto@gmail.com) and Kathryn Birkhead (kathrynbirkhead@gmail.com) are here to help. And the sooner, the better!

SANCTIONED PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Lincoln Community Garden

JIM SPOSATO



WCMG Judy Cohea picks cucumbers at the Lincoln Community Garden.

Photo by Jim Sposato.

Lincoln Community Garden has had an outstanding year with the help of chairperson Jim Sposato, co-chair Judy Cohea, and Master Gardeners Jason Campbell, Matt Cooper, James Farley, and Aimee Payne, as well as retired Master Gardener Pam Moore, parent Jessica Case, head mechanic Joe Cohea, and chief mower Jacob Donahue. Seventh grade students led by their teacher Ivan Huffmaster, plus St. Thomas Community Service and Washington County 309s also helped.

Groceries, Resources, And Clothing for Encouragement (Grace Place) is where most of the food goes. Grace Place serves 352 households and 1103 individuals. Some of the food goes to the Lincoln Senior Center and others.

Organizations and people that have helped with the garden this year are

- Pigeon Family Farms: peppers
- Terry Bryson: various supplies
- Dixondale Farms: onions for the last six years
- City of Lincoln: unlimited water and four acres of land
- Fayetteville High School: plants
- Coach's Bar-B-Que
- Washington County Community Service
- Washington County 309s Work Crew
- Lincoln Middle School East Lab students
- Washington County Master Gardeners Saturday Crew
- St. Thomas Community Service

- Lincoln FFA
- Elite Business Solutions
- Lincoln Farmers Co-op
- Lincoln Youth Adventure Club
- Various senior citizens

2023 LINCOLN COMMUNITY GARDEN HARVEST

TOTAL POUNDS

Tomatoes: 933
 Potatoes: 588
 Onions: 387
 Okra: 302
 Cucumbers: 277
 Squash: 194
 Peppers: 134
 Green Beans: 75

TOTAL GALLONS

Kale: 19
 Lettuce: 18
 Basil: 12
 Parsley: 3
 Rosemary: 2
 Spinach: 1

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL

Radishes: 137
 Sweet Corn: 98
 Cabbage: 29
 Broccoli: 9

October Photo of the Month

"Native Plants (Including Grasses)"



FIRST PLACE



SECOND PLACE

"Can you see nine?" by Kitty Sanders



THIRD PLACE (TIE)
"Beautyberry Close Up" by Pam Butler



THIRD PLACE (TIE)

"It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like . . ." by Judy Smith

The November photo contest theme is ***Fall Color***. Hurry out with your cameras to capture the best of the season. And should we get an early winter blast, snap some shots for the December contest which has ***Winter Garden (Winter Beauty)*** as its theme. Remember you can send pictures through our WCMG website's [photo contest form](#). Don't forget to scroll all the way down to submit. Look for a note that your entry has been received. We will continue to send the other link through Constant Contact after the monthly meeting.

While you're on the photo contest page of our website, take a look at the [winning photos](#) for this year. To see the great variety of photographs your fellow Master Gardeners have submitted, visit the [gallery of monthly entries](#).

Moonflower or Not?

LINDA BENNETT-SMITH



Datura (*Datura stramonium*). Photo by Linda Bennett-Smith.

What a beautiful flower. Moonflower (*Ipomoea*) blooms at night with a sweet, heavenly scent. I planted my first Moonflower Vine (*Ipomoea alba*) around fifteen years ago when I lived in Missouri. I would sit and watch as the blooms slowly opened. This process would take around thirty minutes; what a wonderful time to see nature open up in all of its glory.

But the photo above is not my beloved Moonflower Vine (*Ipomoea alba*). The flower itself may look like a moonflower; however, the plant shown above is Datura (*Datura stramonium*), a member of the Solanaceae family. There are several species: Devil trumpet, Devil's weed, loco weed, and jimsonweed, that have the common name of Moonflower. Datura is native to South America while the Moonflower Vine is commonly found in Central and South America. Both are found in North America in tropical and subtropical regions.

The common name for my beloved Moonflower (pictured below) is Moonflower Vine (*Ipomoea alba*) and it is related to the Morning Glory. Both Datura and Moonflower Vine are toxic and have some hallucinogenic properties; however, Datura is more toxic and can be deadly to humans, dogs, cats, and horses.



Moonflower Vine (*Ipomoea alba*). *Photo by Ed/Wikimedia Commons.*

Datura and Moonflower Vine are very similar to one another.

- Both produce flowers that are trumpet shaped.
- Datura grows lower to the ground where the Moonflower Vine is a climbing vine.
- The flowers can be white to lavender; I've only seen white.
- Datura blooms mostly during the day; the Moonflower Vine opens up at dusk and blooms at night (thus the name Moonflower).
- Datura has an unpleasant smell; Moonflower Vine has a sweet scent.
- Leaves on Datura are arrow-shaped; Moonflower Vine has heart-shaped leaves.
- The trumpet flower is deeper on the Datura.
- The seeds are greatly different from one another. The Datura seedpod is covered in spiky burrs and the seeds are flat and numerous. The Moonflower Vine seedpod is smaller, smooth, and holds around four seeds.

Datura is fast and easy to grow from seeds. Both plants need full sun and soil that drains well. Sow Datura seeds directly outside in a bed that has been prepared. My beds are prepared with 1/3 topsoil, 1/3 compost and 1/3 potting mix. In early spring after the danger of the last frost, directly sow the seed into the ground. Datura will need regular watering until established. The flower will start to come up late in spring and continue until fall.

Moonflower Vine will need some help to grow. Nick the seed to help it open, then place in a bowl of water for one to two days. When the seed looks like it may sprout, put it into a seed-starting mixture. Don't overwater in the process of starting the plant. After the plant has two to three young leaves or is three inches tall (I wait until it is three inches tall), transplant outside. Moonflower Vine likes warm weather and will start to bloom in late July or early August and will continue blooming until after the first frost.

Hopefully, next year in 2024 I will start growing my beloved Moonflower Vine again.

RESOURCES

["About Datura Plants: Learn How to Grow Datura Trumpet Flower."](#)*Gardening Know How*. Bonnie L Grant. 5/16/2021.

["Moon Flower: Growing, Care and More."](#)*The Garden Magazine*. Cody Medina. 2023.

["Moonflower vs. Datura: Two Different Plants with Common Name Moonflower."](#)*Gardening Know How*. Mary Ellen Ellis. 1/30/2022.

Meet the Trainees

OLIVIA HARRINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Pat Brown

Because I grew up in a military family, we moved all over the southern part of the U.S. and overseas. I was the oldest of six and the only girl. My mom was not a gardener but even if she had been, there was no time. Though towards the end of her life, she did learn how to keep a Boston fern alive.

My earliest experience with gardening came when I would visit my maternal grandparents. My grandmother could put a stick in the ground and it would grow, and my grandfather always had a large vegetable garden—I loved playing in the rows of corn. I am so grateful that I inherited my love of plants from my grandparents.

Over the years, other than when I was in the Navy, I have always had plants. I remember a time when I was in my twenties and living in an efficiency apartment. Even though I had a small dining area, I couldn't use the space because it was so full of plants. My obsession with plants and gardening continues through today.

I lived in Pensacola for forty years before moving to Fayetteville. When we bought our home in Pensacola both it and the yard were in desperate need of renovation. There were two plants in the front yard and the rest of the yard, both back and front, was covered in oyster shells. We renovated our home, and I renovated the yard. By the time we sold our home my yard was amazing. I planted flowers and vegetables of course, but I also had blueberry bushes, grape vines, beautiful thornless blackberries, and strawberries. I told my friends that I would miss my yard more than them because they could visit us but my yard couldn't. My yard was full of love, and sometimes tears, and was wonderful. I still miss it.

Because we haven't found a permanent home yet and are having to rent, the majority of my plants are in pots or raised beds. But when I did put a few plants in the ground I quickly learned that gardening in Arkansas is very, very different than gardening in Pensacola. Additionally, many of the perennial plants I was used to growing in Florida are considered annuals here in Arkansas.



For me, the biggest challenge is all the stones in the Arkansas dirt. Needless to say, my yard in Pensacola did not have “boulders” in the soil. The only good thing about all these stones is that they make nice flower bed edgings and walkways. But I may never walk upright again. And, of course, the second challenge is the weather. Because many of my tropical potted plants in Pensacola were too large to bring inside, I used a temporary greenhouse to keep them safe. I put the greenhouse up around the end of December and broke it down towards the end of March. And even though we usually had a few days of really cold, sometimes freezing weather, almost every plant in my yard would come back year after year. Additionally, I could start working and planting in my flower beds much earlier than here. Luckily, our Arkansas house has a screened porch so last winter we covered it with plastic, inside and out, and created a temporary greenhouse. It was successful and I only lost one plant.

I became interested in the Master Gardener program because I wanted to learn how to garden in Arkansas. But this program has offered me more than I ever expected. Even though I’ve gardened most of my life there is still so much I don’t know and am anxious to learn. The Master Gardener program is providing me with this opportunity, and in addition I get to meet people who love gardening as much, and maybe even more, than I do. And for that I am very grateful.



1st Place

That pupa now drab
Will emerge in full splendor
Spreading his beauty

by Karen Hanna-Towne



2nd Place

Chilly spring morning
Dew and hope sit on the grass
Soon flowers will rise

by Aimee Payne



3rd Place

Tree frogs trill and hum
Serene crescent moon rises
Night motion stillness

by Carole Ball



Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

NOVEMBER 5, 10:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. FALL FUNGI OF ARKANSAS: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE MEDICINAL. Ozark Folkways, Winslow. \$65. [Registration information.](#)

NOVEMBER 12, 2:00–3:00 p.m. THE DIANA PROJECT: SAVING THE STATE

BUTTERFLY. Fayetteville Public Library. Free. No registration. [More information.](#)

NOVEMBER 13, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MASTER GARDENER MONDAY. Zoom. Gardening presentation plus MG event updates with Randy Forst, UADA consumer horticulture/Master Gardener coordinator. [Registration information.](#)

NOVEMBER 14, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: PECANS. Zoom program with UADA extension agents. Free. [Registration information.](#)

NOVEMBER 14 AND 16, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. FROM SELFIES TO SUNSETS: HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR CELL PHONE PICTURES. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Fayetteville. Instructors Diana Michelle and Doug Talbott. \$29 OLLI members/\$44 nonmembers. Call 479-575-4545 for information.

NOVEMBER 16, 6:00–7:30 p.m. THE GARDENER’S GUIDE TO PRAIRIE PLANTS WITH NEIL DIBOLI AND HILARY COX. Webinar hosted by Wild Ones Ozark Chapter. Webinar. Free. [Registration information.](#)

NOVEMBER 18, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. or 1:00–4:00 p.m. HOLIDAY WOODLAND WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP. Ozark Folkways, Winslow. \$50. [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 listed in your WCMG Member Resource Guide.

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



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WCMG website



Washington County Extension Service website

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