

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting  
Tuesday October 3, 2023**

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was available for the meeting. Present: 56 members, Zoom 31 members Quorum: Yes

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

Introduction to the program: J. Ray Fisher PH.D by Joanne Olszewski. Ray is a Research Entomologist at Mississippi State University, working remotely and living in northwestern Arkansas. Much of my research is explorative, uncovering the diversity and history of insects, spiders, and their relatives. I have described 93 species—many of which were water mites—and have countless undescribed species sitting on my desk awaiting attention. My specialty is mite diversity and evolution, but I am a generalist with broad training in entomology. I enjoy teaching university courses, advising graduate students during their programs, and leading workshops for state agencies, universities, and international organizations. My current projects involve grasshoppers, parasitic mites, and spiders.

**Business Meeting:**

**Approval of September 2023 Minutes:**

Martha Haguwood moved to approve the minutes, Doris Cassidy seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of July Treasurer's Report:**

Geri Alvis moved to approve the August 2013 treasurer's report, and Jim Sposato seconded. Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business:**

Awards Information – Jan Lefler

- The nomination forms have been simplified
  - Download the form, save it
  - Be sure to add photos for the nomination

- If unable to attach the photo to the nomination form contact Jan Lefler for assistance
- All nominations need to be submitted to Colin Massey with a notation in the header who is being nominated. The deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Quoram Court September 21, 2023

- Picture of the fabulous spread presented on that night. Great job!

## 2023 Traditional Haiku Contest

With many thanks to our 3 judges:

Judy Hyden

Judy Smith

Karen Takemoto

1<sup>st</sup> place - Karen Hanna Towne

That pupa now drab

Will emerge in full splendor

Spreading his beauty

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Aimee Payne

Chilly spring morning

Dew and hope sit on the grass

Soon flowers will rise

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Carole Ball

Tree frogs trill and hum

Serene crescent moon rises

Night motion stillness

## Doris Cassidy – Washington County Fair

Doris has served on the Fair board for 49 years and was instrumental in getting the Horticulture building Air conditioning the last several years.

### Washington County Fair Statistics:

- Youth Exhibitors
  - 267 Youth participated
  - 577 Exhibits
- Adult Exhibitors
  - 109 Adults participated
  - 484 exhibits
- 2023 totals
  - 367 Entrants participated
    - An increase of 72 exhibitors from 2022
  - 1061 total exhibits
    - An increase of 169 exhibits from 2022
- 2023 WCMG who volunteered
  - 51 individual MG volunteers
  - 8 MG Trainees from the 2023 class
- The White Elephant Sale
  - The majority of the items were from Joyce Mendenhall's treasures
  - Raised \$2,856.00

### September 2023 Photo Contest Winners

Theme – September Vegetable Gardening

1<sup>st</sup> place – Mariette Spidel – Vegetables of our Labor

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Tayla Boemer – Growing a Mess of Orka

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Delcina Cunico – From the Bounty to the Bottle

### Volunteer Hours as of September 22, 2023

**Master Gardener hours reported to the Washington County Quorum Court**

Washington County Master Gardeners logged more than 18,000 hours between October 1, 2022, and September 30, 2023, representing a value of \$600,000

### New Business:

Bring your garden Catalogs to share at the November meeting.

Membership Committee is chaired by Annette Pianalto and Kathryn Birkhead.

A special thank you to Marsha West who is stepping down as Membership Directory Coordinator. Linda Cook Smith will be the new Membership Directory Coordinator.

Please check your information online:

- Member portal
- Member resource guide
- Member directory

Email Linda any changes to: [smithlindacook@gmail.com](mailto:smithlindacook@gmail.com)

Class of 2024 Fall Online Self-Paced Training  
(Oct. 2 – Dec. 8, 2023)

Trainees	Mentors
Jodie Arrington-Franklin	Kristi Campbell
Sheri Bucciferro	Liz Hale
David Edwards	Jim Sposato
Rick Oliver	Marty Powers
Catalina Restrepo	Kathryn Birkhead
Carlie Willett	Mariette Spidel

Washington County Master Gardeners Project Fair

- Meet and Greet the new trainees
- November 14<sup>th</sup> 5:00-7:00 pm
- Washington County Extension Office
- You can still be a mentor in January

Announcements:

1. Jim Sposato is heading up a committee to look for a larger meeting location. If you are interested in being part of that committee, contact Jim.

2. 2024 Membership dues:

- a. \$20.00 before 12/1/2023
- b. \$25.00 after 12/1/2023

Cash, Check, Money Order or Electronic via Zelle  
Via Zelle to WCMGARTreasurer@gmail.com

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. [WCMG.Joanne@gmail.org](mailto:WCMG.Joanne@gmail.org)

November Photo Contest Native Plants (including Grasses)

Due October 15<sup>th</sup>

For more information:

[wcmgar.org/photo-of-the-month-competition](http://wcmgar.org/photo-of-the-month-competition)

Next Meeting:

Alison Jumper from Fayetteville Parks and Recreation will be our speaker.

Adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Launder

Secretary