

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting
Tuesday November 7, 2023

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Zoom was available for the meeting. Present: 63 members, Zoom 39 members Quorum: Yes

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

Our Mission Statement:

As horticulturally trained volunteers, Master Gardeners extend research based information through demonstration and educational programs using horticulture best practices, strengthening communities and families throughout Arkansas.

Liz Hale introduced our guest speaker, 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.

Business Meeting:

Approval of October 2023 Minutes:

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.

Delcina Cunico moved to approve the amended minutes, Karen Hanna Towne seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of September 2023 Treasurer’s Report:

Martha Haguwood moved to approve the September treasurer’s report, and Geri Alvis seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the 2024 Washington County Master Gardener Operating Budget as linked in the Garden Thyme.

Kathryn Birkhead moved to approve the 2024 WCMG Operating Budget as linked in the Garden Thyme, Trudy Aldridge seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Memorial Committee – Karen Hanna Towne, committee member

Guidelines for Recognition of Deceased Members

A Master Gardener in good standing at the time of their death will be memorialized on the public-facing portion of the Washington County Master Gardener web page (wcmgar.org). Good standing is reflected by inclusion in the current year’s membership directory.

When available, the memorial article will include a photo of the deceased, preferably at work on a project; a brief biography; and mention of the date of the publication of the full obituary.

Revised: 22 September 2023

Memorial Gifts

From the 2023 Member Resource Guide, “WCMG Officers/Committees & Projects – Committee Descriptions – Page 5” document, the last sentence reads:

“The Chair of the Memorial Committee is responsible for answering questions regarding memorial gifts, which should be sent directly to the U of A Foundation as noted on the website”

New Business:

Project Report – Lincoln Community Gardens – Jim Sposato

Thanks to our Lincoln Community Garden Partners:

Pigeon Family Farms (peppers) Washington County 309's, Jim Sposato (WCMG Project Chair)

Lincoln Farmer's COOP, Tractor Supply (Siloam Springs),

Judy Cohea (WCMG Co-Chair), Lincoln Youth Adventure club, Dixondale Farms (onions),

Pam Moore (Retired WCMG) #1 Helper, Lincoln Schools Lincoln FFA

Jade Cameron (WCMG), Coach's Bar-B-Que

Joe Cohea (Head Mechanic)

Aimee Payne (WCMG)

City of Lincoln (land & water), Various Senior Citizens

Matt Cooper (WCMG), Washington Co. Exten. Office Fayetteville High School

Lincoln 7th Grade Science class, Wash. Co. Community Service , St. Thomas

Community Service

Elite Building Systems, Lincoln Laundry, Caroline Harrison, Paisley, Hadley, Molly

Huffaker helped digging potatoes (Students) Sean Harrison, Dennis Wray, Jessica

Case helped digging potatoes (Neighbors)

Terry Bryson donated Deer Fence repair supplies (City Councilor)

Ivan Huffmaster (East Lab Facilitator)

Several slides with pictures of the volunteers at work, getting the garden ready, planting, harvest and having fun were presented. All of the produce was weighed in pounds this year and donated to the Senior Center "Grace Place" in Lincoln.

As of September 13, 2023 the Harvest Bounty included:

Total Pounds of:

- Onions – 386
- Squash – 194
- Potatoes – 588
- Tomatoes – 851
- Cucumbers – 277
- Peppers - 64
- Green Beans – 75
- Orka – 185
- Total – 2620

Totals Gallons:

- Kale – 17
- Lettace – 18

- Basil – 6
- Spinach – 1
- Rosemary – 1
- Parsley – 1
- Total – 43

Individual

- Broccoli Heads – 9
- Cabbage heads – 29
- Radish – 133
- Sweet Corn – 98
- Total – 269

Project Report – Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4-H – Mary Crumley

Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4-H Highlights:

- Making Veterans Day Cards
- County Fair Entries and winning Ribbons
- Mr. Ronnie teaching proper seed planting
- Tending the Herb and Pollinator garden at UAEX
- Creating tie-dye sweaters for the “House of Little Dogs”

Gaby Nagel, a former member of the Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4-H Club, is a renowned Native American Flute player who issued her own music CD. Gaby is also a model for the American Indian Nation.

A former member of 13 years, Cade Cox, winner of the National Borlaug Scholarship Award from the National Association of Plant Breeders. Another former 10-year member, Isabella Norsworthy Vaughn, who is presently an adult volunteer leader of the club. Isabella is Makayla, a member since 2009, and current president. Jody Miskell, who first became a 4-H leader in Springdale in 1999 and joined the Master Gardener Program just to become a leader of the Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4-H Club when her youngest son, Rylan Storay, joined in 2011.

The main Leader of the Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4H Club, Mary Crumley, has been a 4-H leader since her children began 4H in 1986, and has long been involved in furthering the education of youth in 4-H. Mary was also the Chair of the Horticulture Building at the Washington County Fair for 11 years. Wonderful

job Mary and we appreciate your service to the Junior Master Gardeners 1.0 4-H Club.

Project Report – New Class & Mentors – Alfi Anderson

Self Paced Online Training Class of 2024:

Jodie Arrington-Faulkner

Sheri Bucciferro

David Edwards

Rick Oliver

Catalina Restrepo

Carlie Willett

Come meet our newest members at the Meet & Greet Project Fair

- November 14th
- 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Extension Office
- Fair Food – Yum

Class of 2024 Basic Training:

- Interviewers and greeters needed for November 16th
 - 19 applicants
- Training helpers needed
 - Monday, Wednesday, Friday (1/22/2024 through 2/2/2024)
 - 19 additional Mentors needed for in person Basic Training MG's

Contact Alfi Anderson

- Text 202-302-4083
- Email TheGabbyGardener@gmail.com

20 Anticipated Class of 2024 In-Person Basic Master Gardener Training Class Members:

John Ball (Carol Ball's husband) – Fayetteville

Tracy Duncan – Fayetteville

Sharon L. Ferguson – Wesley

Peter Gavin – Fayetteville

Jessica Guillory – Fayetteville

Gerrby Harris – Farmington

Connor Peterson – Springdale

Bruce Redinger – Springdale

Pam Salamo – Fayetteville

Thalita Santos – Fayetteville

Patty Stith – Wesley

Hayot Tuychiev – Fayetteville

Haley Hausam – Springdale
Courtney Kirkpatrick – Fayetteville
Ronda Marks (Mentor: Linda Bennett-Smith) – Fayetteville
Vicky Willis – Fayetteville
Lucy Day Ozanne – Springdale
Jessica Guillory - Fayetteville

Laura Anne Watson – Springdale
Laura Winburn – Fayetteville
Stephanie McGuire – Lincoln
Linda Womack –

Financial Guidelines – Katie Teague

- Statewide changes
- Private Master Gardening accounts will be closed November 30th
- All monies will be unified through one account “County Depository”
 - Checks from the private account at Bank of Fayetteville must be deposited to recipients’ accounts before November 30, 2023 or the check will become invalid.
 - There will be no process for reissuing a check from the CES (County Extension Service) account.

Updated Reimbursement Policies and Procedures Effective Immediately:

All WCMGs who plan to expend for a Sanctioned Project, Sanctioned Committee or Event must have their Project Leader pre-submit an email request to the WCMG Treasurer with the Expense Reimbursement Request Form completely filled out and signed; copy Debbie Clevenger at UAEX. Project Leaders will need to keep track of expenditures against their annual budgets. Once approved, the Treasurer will send an approval email to the Project Leader and copy Debbie Clevenger, who can order some items.

Moving Forward:

- We anticipate having updated Financial Guidelines, as well as Policies & Procedures, for the new statewide mandated changes ready to present at the January 2024 Washington County Membership Meeting.
- All WCMG-related checks and money orders should be written to CES (County Extension Service), effectively immediately.
- WCMG Treasurers (2023, 2024 and 2025) are working with CES personnel (led by Katie Teague, Staff Chair, and Colin Massey, our WCMG & Horticulture Agent) to ensure a smooth transition.

Questions?

Please Contact:

TREASURERS:

2023 - Darielle James

2024 – Glenda Patterson

2025 – Marilyn Misenhimer

PRESIDENTS:

2023 – Joanne Olszewski

2024 – Liz Hale

2025 – Alfi Anderson

Please do not contact Washington County CES Staff with questions or attempt to process payments through Washington County CES Staff during the transition. We ARE working together. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

October Photo Contest Winners – Native Plants – including Grasses

1st Place – Delcina Cunico – Butterfly Magnet

2nd Place – Kitty Sanders – Can You See Nine?

3rd Place – Pam Butler – “Beautyberry Close up”

3rd Place Tie – Judy Smith – “It’s Beginning to Look a lot Like....”

Announcements:

Please Welcome – Julie O. Murray

- From Heber Springs – Cleburne County
- New transfer in to WCMG

Richard Oliver

Hearty congratulations to Richard Oliver, our WCMG Class of 2024 Trainee, for completing Fall 2023 Self-Paced Online Training!

Randy Forst, our Arkansas Master Gardener Coordinator, recognized Richard as one of four who have completed the program at the AR MG County 76 meeting on October 24th.

Catalina Restrepo

Hearty congratulations to Catalina Restrepo, our WCMG Class of 2024 Trainee, for completing Fall 2023 Self-Paced Online Training!
Catalina reported completing the training on November 6th, 2023.

2024 Master Gardener Calendars Available from Patsy Louk

Look at August to see Sarah Teague's Sensitive Plant and Geri Alvis' Stargazer Lily (and back cover)

Free Plant Markers made from window shades available

- Contact: Jim Sposato coachbbq8232@gmail.com 479-856-8232

2023 WCMG Awards due by Nov. 15 to:

- ColinMassey@uada.edu
- Verify with Colin Massey that he received your nomination(s) via his email.
- Questions to: Jan Lefler, Awards Chair JanLefler@cox.net

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

November Photo Contest Fall Color

Due November 15th

For more information:

wcmgar.org/photo-of-the-month-competition

2024 Dues are Due Now

- \$20 if paid by 11/30/2023 • \$25 if paid 12/1/2023 or later
- Beginning today, write a check or money order to CES (Cooperative Extension Service) or hand-deliver cash (cash receipts are required to those who pay in cash.)
- By 11/15/2023 you may pay electronically via the Zelle app to WCMGARTreasurer@gmail.com

Recorded 20,095 Hours through October 2023 - by 163 WCMGs (includes Lifetime members)

- Sanctioned Projects – 10,878.5

- Sanctioned Committees – 2,807.75
- Non – Sanctioned Projects – 469
- Education – 5,939.75

Reporting 2023 MG Volunteer Hours Deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023

1. Report all your volunteer hours - all education and work/project hours - as they are very important to your county and state program.
2. Lifetime Members (15 year members) - Report all your hours. To accrue hours toward Lifetime Plus status, you need to report at least 10 project/work hours
3. Lifetime Plus Members (beyond 15 years) – Must report at least 10 work/project hours each year past year 15 in order to receive lifetime plus designation. Lifetime plus is a pin for 20 year, 25 years, 30 years and 35 years.
4. New members from the fall 2023 Self-Paced Online Class - You will begin reporting your hours in 2024 since the classes end in December this year. Once you are entered in the online reporting system, you will be notified by our county online reporting managers Annette Pinalto and Kathryn Birkhead, who will give instructions for reporting your hours in 2024.
5. Log into the online reporting system this month if you have NOT logged into the system this year. Please do not wait until December to log into the system for the first time this year.

NWA Fiber Festival

- Pre-register for special classes for all levels of experience via NWAFiberFest.com
- This is a must-visit event for those who love fiber arts.
- Please support our Washington County 4-H programs
- November 17 – 18
- Washington County Fairgrounds

New Colorful SE US MG Training Manual Available for Arkansas Master Gardener

- Pre-pay order your NEW AR MG Training Manual before 12/1/2023 by credit or debit card only via link that will be provided by Colin Massey in November.

- Only Credit Card and Debit Card payments accepted Payments will be accepted via FormStack fillable form online; no Checks or Cash will be accepted.
- Each manual costs \$50.00 pre-paid.
- Preview at <https://extensiongardener.ces.ncsu.edu/extensiongardener-handbook/>. Created by North Carolina State Extension, the new MG Manual will have an Arkansas cover and Arkansas related content.
- If interested, wait for the FormStack online registration form from Colin Massey by November 30th, 2023.
- Order by December 1st, 2023.
- The AR MG Office will order in bulk sometime in December.

Next Meeting – December 5, 2023

- In – Person only (no zoom)
- Winter Holiday Potluck at Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences,
- 1371 W. Altheimer Dr. Fayetteville 72704
- Please bring a dish to share.
- Please bring your own serving pieces.
- Please bring your own plates, cutlery and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Sliced turkey & ham will be provided
- Spouses are welcome to attend

Commercial Food Waste Compost Program

- Susan Young will be directing us how to compost our leftover food waste.

Class of 2023 Fully certified new Washington County Master Gardeners will be honored at the December5th meeting.

Adjournment

Martha Haguwood made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Anita Backus. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Launder, Secretary