

**Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting  
Tuesday February 6, 2024**

The meeting was held in-person at the Don Tyson Center for Agriculture Sciences. Zoom was not available for the meeting. Present: 115 members. Quorum: Yes

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

**Business Meeting:**

- Approval of minutes from December 5, 2023, and January 2, 2024, WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the February 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
- Approval of November and December 2023 treasurer reports as listed via link in the February 2024 *Garden Thyme* newsletter.

**January Photo Contest Winners “Potpourri”**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Roxanne Gallup “Two’s Company”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Geri Alvis “Passionate”
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Martha Haguewood “Snow White”

**New Business:**

**2022 Master Gardener Awards – Awards Committee**

**Washington County Master Gardener ANNUAL Awards**

We honor our outstanding volunteers by recognizing their significant contribution and impact on the Washington County Master Gardener program and community

**Washington County Master Gardener 2023 Organization Friend of the Year**

City of West Fork

**2023 WCMG Individual Friend of the Year**

Gilbert Alvis

**WCMG Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can Award” of the Year**

Janice Walker

Geri Alvis

**2023 WCMG Rookie “Yes, I Can Award” of the Year**

Carrie Gamble

Gari James

**2023 WCMG ‘Rookie’ of the Year**

Roxanne Gallup

**2023 WCMG Mentor of the Year**

Patsy Louk

**2023 WCMG Excellence in Education Award**

West Fork Gardens

**2023 Washington County Project of the Year**

Compost Demonstration Site

**2023 Washington County Master Gardener of the Year**

Mariette Spidel

**Washington County Master Gardener 2023 Sanctioned Volunteer Hours**

**2023 TROWEL AWARDS Rookie Members**

This county award recognizes a WCMG Trainee who has recorded 200-plus sanctioned hours in their first year.

Roxanne Gallup - 241

Carrie Gamble – 252

**2023 TROWEL AWARDS**

This county award recognizes a WCMG who has recorded 200-plus sanctioned hours for 1-4 consecutive years.

Alfi Anderson – 391

Kristi Campbell - 220

Paula Dutton - 208

Elizabeth Hale - 590

Darielle James - 373

Teri Kinsey - 261

Kathy Launder - 366

Jody Miskell - 368  
Joanne Olszewski - 252  
Aimee Payne – 356  
Mariette Spidel - 585  
Karen Hanna-Towne - 317  
Janice Walker - 312  
Aileen Wilson – 471

### **2023 WATERING CAN AWARDS**

This county award recognizes a WCMG who has recorded 200-plus sanctioned hours for 5-9 consecutive years.

Doris Cassidy - 485  
Mary Beth Lohr - 407  
Neta Winston – 230

### **2023 WHEELBARROW AWARDS**

This county award recognizes a WCMG who has recorded 200-plus hours for 10 or more consecutive years.

Geri Alvis - 349  
Chris Bell - 333  
Jan Lefler - 485  
Patsy Louk - 269  
Gail Pianalto – 205  
Kitty Sanders - 540  
Jim Sposato - 343  
Martha Ward – 204

### **2023 Recorded Volunteer Hours WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

3506 - Committee Hours  
15,526.25 - Project Hours  
636.25 - Non-sanctioned Hours  
8942 - Education Hours

### **2023 WCMG Volunteer Hours Sanctioned Projects Exceeding 1000 Hours**

1. Botanical Gardens – 4188.5
2. Garden Gate Tour – 1390
3. Headquarters House Project – 1165.5

4. Shiloh Museum Gardens – 1104.5
5. Washington County Fair – 1181

**2023 Recorded Volunteer Hours for WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**  
**TOTAL HOURS 28,611.5**

**Class of 2023 Graduates**

Carole Ball  
Patricia Brown  
Robert Callier  
Jacob Campbell  
J R Capps  
Matt Cooper  
Haley Deatherage  
Susan Donnangelo  
James Fraley  
Jess Friedel  
Roxanne Gallup  
Carrie Gamble  
Fredy Garibay  
Danna Gear  
Luanne Griffin  
Lisa Herrington  
Gari James  
Stacy Lake  
Judy McDonald  
Bob Pate  
Sally Schoen  
Jennifer Stewart  
Laura Underwood  
Dana Wikholm

**Busy Bee Awards**

Why: To celebrate and award more WCMGs for their contributions.

Who: Everyone that records 50 hours of sanctioned work (project or committee).

When: WCMGs recognized in our monthly meeting, beginning in April

(Based on monthly report). What: Recipients will be awarded a pewter lapel pin.  
\*\*Recipients can earn one Busy Bee pin a year and can still be awarded a trowel, watering can, or wheelbarrow for sanctioned service over 200 hours.

**Announcements:**

Potential Class of 2024 trainees

Jodie Arrington-Franklin\*

Haley Hausam

Pam Salamo

John Ball

Courtney Kirkpatrick

Thalita Santos

Sheri Bucciferro\*

Ronda Marks

Patty Stith

David Edwards\*

Stephanie McGuire

Laura Anne Watson

Sharon Ferguson

Rick Oliver\*

Carlie Willett\*

Peter Gavin

Connor Peterson

Laura Winburn

Gerry Harris

Bruce Redinger

Kara Wishon

Catalina Restrepo\*

Linda Womack

\* Indicates Fall 2023 online basic training

**Thanks to our In-Person Basic Training Volunteers! Chair Alfi Anderson and Co-Chair Patsy Louk**

**Speakers:** Kathryn Birkhead, Janice Neighbor, Gail Pianalto, Kitty Sanders, Nancy Sloan & Mariette Spidel

**Volunteers:** Diane Back, Carole Ball, Chris Bell, Tamara Bennett, Linda Bennett Smith, Bob Callier, Kristi Campbell, Doris Cassidy, Paula Dutton, Carrie Gamble, Liz Hale, Teri Kinsey, Kathy Launder, Susie McKinney, Jim Sposato, Laura Wilkins, Aileen Wilson & Susan Young.

**Snack Providers:** Chris Bell, Linda Bennett Smith, Steve Brizzi, Kristi Campbell, Doris Cassidy, Susan Donnangelo, Carrie Gamble, Liz Hale, Karen HannaTowne, Kathy Launder, Aimee Payne, Gail Pianalto, Kathy Sampson Stinson, Mariette Spidel, Jim Sposato, Truman Stamps & Lynette Terrell.

Please welcome Transfer-In Peggy Sissel from Pulaski County!

### **March Meeting**

No zoom option

3/5/24 at Thompson Hall, WashCo Fairgrounds

Meet the Class of 2024 Trainees (led by Alfi Anderson & Patsy Louk)

Project Fair (led by Nancy Sloan, Regina Gabel & Carrie Gamble)

### **“Tool Time” Show & Tell at March meeting**

### **AR MG versus Washington Co. Master Gardener Constant Contact Emails**

Arkansas Master Gardener Program:

armastergardenergmail.com@shared1.ccsend.com (return email address) state-wide MG events sent from UAEX.

Necessary to subscribe to attend/pay for the AR MG State Conferences, as well as know of and pay for state-wide opportunities.

Email Liz Hale at LizHaleARMG@gmail.com for the lengthy AR MG subscription link

Washington County Master Gardeners:

wcmg.newsletter@washingtoncountymastergardeners.ccsend.com (return email address)

Sent the Arkansas MG Program registration information to all WCMG Constant Contact subscribers on Feb 2, 2024, 1:52 P.M.

WCMG Pam Butler curates a calendar of local gardening events that is published monthly in our *Garden Thyme* newsletter.

Email Liz Hale at LizHaleARMG@gmail.com for the lengthy AR MG subscription link.

**Special thanks to Susan Young, WCMG Compost Kingpin**, for tonight's composting with the City of Fayetteville! Susan's the one with the "compost claw" at the back of the room. Help her "feed" the bin.

### **AR Air Museum (AAMM)**

AAMM sanctioned project overhaul chair Luanne Diffin and co-chair Peggy Konert are leading efforts to reimagine the project. Planning continues and all WCMGs are invited to join in planning and demolition work. Meets every Saturday and allow work at your convenience.

Honoring our 2023 WCMG president, Joanne Olszewski

### **Agenda Deadlines** (including images and write-ups):

Tuesday the week prior to president

WCMG meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays @6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays@ 2:00 p.m.

Liz Hale: [LizHaleARMG@gmail.com](mailto:LizHaleARMG@gmail.com)

### **MARCH 2024 PHOTO CONTEST THEME**

"Early Spring Bloomers"

Due 2/15/2024

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

### **Master Composter Class Coming Soon**

WCMGs Mariette Spidel and Geri Alvis, who co-chair the Compost Demonstration Site sanctioned project, are going to revive WCMG's Master Composter program that has been on hiatus.

In order to earn the title of Master Composter, participants will:

- Attend 7 training classes.
- Contribute 15 work hours annually.
- Participate in 2 community educational events hosted by the WCMG Master Composter program.

The Master Composter registration fee (to be determined) will include educational materials, t-shirt, and compost nametag.

If you're interested in becoming a Master Composter, email Mariette Spidel, [mspidel@uada.edu](mailto:mspidel@uada.edu).

**Springtime in the Springs – Hot Springs, AR State Master Gardener Conference**

May 30–June 1

Registration open 2/15/2024

All WCMGs are welcome to attend

**Annuals to Perennials Zoom Watch Party** (restricted to trainees and mentors)

Thursday July 18

Brie Arthur (Plant Lady)- speaker

More details to come

**County 76 Plant-Nurture-Grow (P-N-G) Leadership Conference**

Tuesday afternoon, 8/20, through Wednesday morning, 8/21, at the Vines 4- H Center in Little Rock.

For ALL interested MGs.

On-site lodgings available

**36th Annual MG Appreciation Day**

(To celebrate 10/13/1988 AR MG Founding)

Hosted by AR MG Coordinator Randy Forst and MG Agents

Monday, October 14, 2024, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

More details to come

**Adjournment at 7:30 pm**

Respectfully Submitted by

Kathy Launder

Secretary