

## YEARS OF SERVICE (5,10,15-YEAR) AND LIFETIME-PLUS AWARDS

### Washington County Master Gardeners

#### **Guidelines:**

Active Washington County Master Gardeners who have completed MG training, fulfilled the annual requirements for volunteer work and education, and paid annual dues shall be recognized at the time they have attained 5, 10, Lifetime (15, 20, 25, 30-plus) years of service to the Washington County Master Gardeners program.

Lapel pins are awarded to WCMGs for five and ten years of service; Lifetime (15 years) members receive a new name badge and are not required to pay dues. Lifetime members are encouraged to continue to work and record hours.

Lifetime members who volunteer a minimum of ten hours towards sanctioned projects in their county, keep accruing hours for 20, 25, and 30 and beyond years of service. The form of Lifetime-plus (20, 25, 30-plus) recognition will be determined by each county. There are no nomination requirements.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Pins are awarded for active years of service; years spent on Leave of Absence or as a Sustainer do not count towards active years.
2. Membership Committee maintains records of WCMG members on Sustainer or Leave of Absence status to ensure members receive years of service awards at the appropriate time.
3. Years of service from another state do not count for Arkansas years of service awards.

#### **Process:**

1. Years of service (5,10-year) lapel pins and the Lifetime (15-year) name badges are paid for and provided by Arkansas State MG Office.
2. Lifetime-Plus (20, 25, 30-plus) forms of recognition will determined by each county. (Starting in 2023, a gift certificate at a favorite garden center for \$20 or \$25 was established in Washington County.)
3. WCMG Membership Committee (Annette Pianalto and Kathryn Birkhead) provides the list of qualifying WCMG members to State MG Office (Julie Treat) by **mid-February each year**.
4. State MG Office (Julie Treat) orders the pins and Lifetime badges for each county.
5. Counties are provided pins/name badges at a County 76 meeting and/or the State MG conference. Counties who do not attend either of those events will be mailed the items usually by **mid-May each year**.
6. The Awards Committee will recognize the WCMG members who receive their pins and/or Lifetime badges at the next available WCMG monthly membership meeting. WCMG members who do not attend the meeting, may pick up awards at the County Extension Office.
7. Replacement for Lifetime name badges is managed by the State MG Office (Julie Treat). There is a charge for any replacements. Julie Treat notifies the WCMG member of the cost and where to send the money. The WCMG member pays the vendor and the vendor mails name badge directly to the WCMG member.