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Washington County Master Gardeners Newsletter • May 2024



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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."**

MAY MEETING

Good Life Farms

Mark your calendars for our monthly meeting, Tuesday, May 7, at 6:30 p.m. at the Washington County Extension Office. Due to Extension staff scheduling conflicts and UA policies regarding Zoom usage, there will NOT be a Zoom option for this meeting.

Our guest speakers are Richard Wagnon, owner of Good Life Farms in Bentonville, and Grant Wilson, Good Life Farms greenhouse manager.



Richard Wagnon is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. He and his wife are entrepreneurs with diverse business backgrounds; Good Life Farms is their most recent adventure. Their dream is to provide consumers with a variety of locally grown, nutrient-rich greens.



Grant Wilson has a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from Arkansas State University and a master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas. His goal is to ensure that the community has year-round access to fresh, high quality, sustainably grown produce.

Taking Care of Business

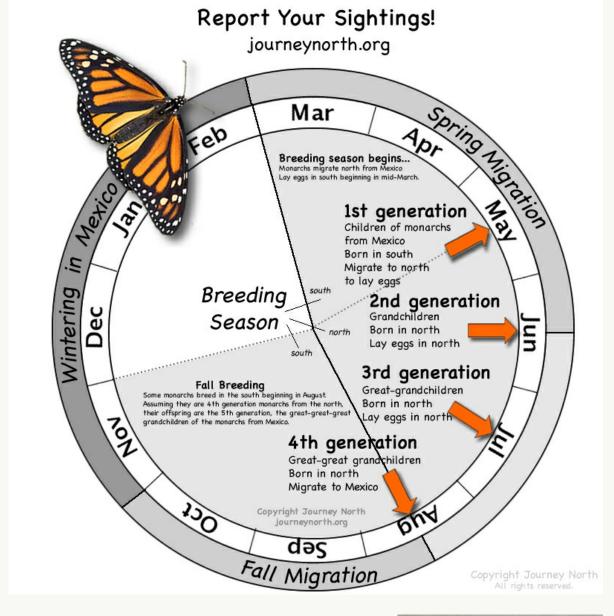
We'll vote on the following items at our May 7 business meeting.

April 2024 Meeting Minutes

March 2024 Treasurer's Report

From Your President

May is the kickoff of monarch butterfly season. Please be a citizen scientist and report your monarch sightings on the Journey North website, a project of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Arboreteum. Here's a handy graphic for reference, courtesy of Journey North:



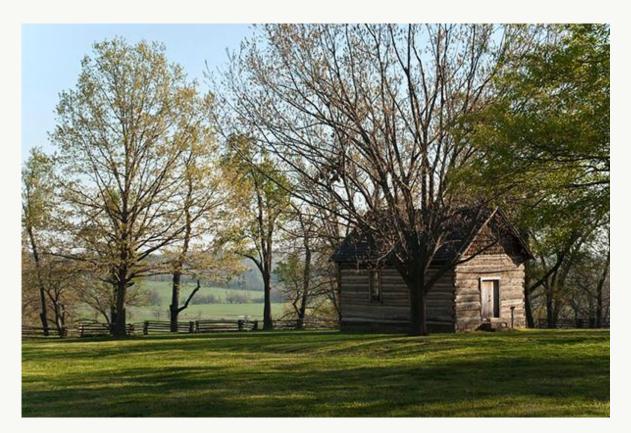
I extend a hearty thank-you to these groups:

- The Saturday Crew who made such significant progress at Neighbor's Garden in Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.
- The amazing rebirth of the Arkansas Air & Military Museum grounds in such short time.
- Those who volunteered for the Earth Day Clean-Up at the Cooperative Extension Service office and surrounding properties.
- Those who earned years of service pins to Washington County Master Gardeners at the 5-, 10-, Lifetime (15 years—golden-colored name badge), and Lifetime-Plus 20; thank you for your dedication and service to the WCMG program!

And as we approach our "busy" season and we get pulled in many directions, I hope this poem will bring a smile:

I am only one, But still I am one. I cannot do everything, But still I can do something; And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. —Edward Everett Hale (1822–1909)

Coming Up: Our Annual Potluck Picnic!



This lovely scene is just a stone's throw from our June picnic location at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. *Photo by MRHS Fan/Flickr.com*.

WHEN: June 4, 6:30–8:30 p.m.WHERE: Neighbor's Gardens, Prairie Grove Battlefield State ParkRSVP: Stay tuned for an RSVP link, which will be sent out closer to the date to assist with planning and coordination.

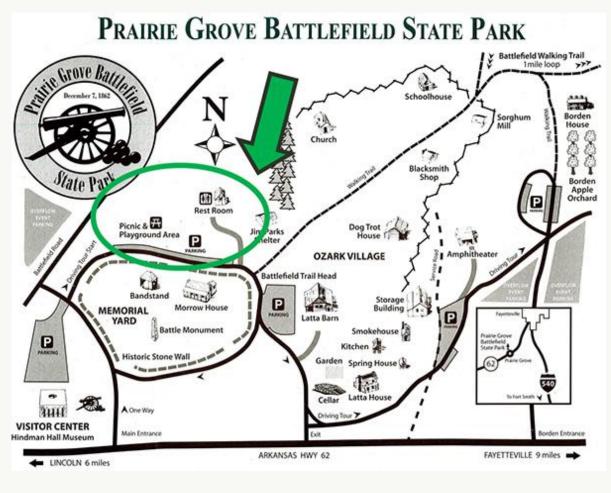
This outdoor event offers Master Gardeners the opportunity to connect, share stories, and indulge in delicious homemade dishes. Pack your picnic basket and chairs and join us for an unforgettable evening in the great outdoors.

Jim Sposato will be grilling burgers, hot dogs, and veggies. Please bring a dish to share with the group.

Remember to bring your own dining supplies, including plates, utensils, napkins, and cup. BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverage), non-alcoholic, please.

<u>Cleanup Made Easy</u>: Help us keep Neighbor's Gardens pristine by bringing a container to take

away your dirty dishes. Let's leave no trace behind as we enjoy the beauty of nature together.



Picnic location outlined in green.

Still Considering the SWAG

KAREN HANNA-TOWNE

A few weeks ago, I sent a Constant Contact message to all WCMG members about the possibility of holding another SWAG SWAP at this year's picnic on June 4. I was testing the waters to see if enough people had extra stuff to contribute so that at least each of our 31 current trainees would receive something with our group's name on it. Including myself, I received five replies, committing twelve items for the swap.

So, today I'm sending a follow-up. If you have extra tee shirts, denim shirts, sweatshirts, caps, aprons, water bottles, tote bags, vehicle plates, etc. please let me know. Please write to my email: 21WQSA@earthlink.net. If you already wrote me and I replied, please don't write again.

It's possible that we will only be able to do this every other year, or every third year. We'll decide to go ahead or not before we all leave for the state conference in Hot Springs at the end of May. Remember: non-Master Gardeners are not allowed to wear our SWAG. So, hang onto it until we're ready to swap again—maybe this year, maybe next year.

It's great when we can be identified while we're working on our sanctioned projects, letting passersby see our volunteerism in action!

Garden Gate Tour Highlights



BGO's Sensory Garden. Photo courtesy Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.

WCMG's third annual Garden Gate Tour is set for Saturday, June 8. Tickets are available for purchase on the WCMG website. Buy your ticket and tell all your friends!

The featured WCMG sanctioned project on this year's tour is the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO). BGO is a volunteer-led, grassroots effort that opened in 2007. The Garden is dedicated to education, environmentalism, and the region's quality of life. Today, there are 12 themed gardens on eight total cultivated acres. Generous individuals, organizations, and corporations, including the Washington County Master Gardeners, have made these gardens possible.

- **The Founders Garden** is a gathering space surrounded by stone planters and benches. This garden features several semi-tropical plants that survive winter due to the protection of mulch, fences, concrete, and buildings.
- **The Japanese Garden** is intended to be a serene place for quiet meditation. Many plants in this garden are of Asian origin, including the Japanese maples, clumping bamboo, juniper, and bonsai trees.
- **The Vegetable & Herb Garden** is one of the most dynamic gardens, providing an ever-changing array of edible plants and flowers. The raised beds were recently updated to be more fruitful and accessible.
- **The Children's Garden** provides a place for exploration and discovery for children and the young at heart. There are many elements to climb on, crawl through, and explore in this garden.

- **The Education Cottage** was the first structure built for the Garden. It's used for small private events and educational activities. The gardens surrounding the Cottage support the Butterfly Program.
- **The Butterfly Garden**, also known as the "butterfly pathway," leads to the Butterfly House. Like the Gardens surrounding the Education Cottage, this garden is filled with host and nectar plants for butterflies and caterpillars.
- **The Four Seasons Garden** is designed to feature plants with desirable characteristics like colorful fall leaves, bright branches, and or evergreen foliage.
- **The Rose & Perennial Garden** showcases combinations that complement the beauty of roses with the colors and textures of annuals and hardy perennials. The roses utilized in this garden are mostly antique roses with a few modern roses mixed in.
- **The Shade Garden** features a variety of plants that thrive in full and partial shade. Guests can admire the variety of lilies, hostas, coral bells and an ancient ash tree.
- **The Ozark Native Garden** is maintained by the Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists, a group dedicated to improving and managing natural areas. This garden features trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses all native to the Arkansas Ozarks.
- **The Sensory Garden** was made possible by a contribution from the Washington County Master Gardeners and is maintained by a small group of its members. It was designed to stimulate all the senses and features the signature metal butterfly sculpture entrance.
- **The Rock and Water Garden** showcases the topography of the Boston Mountains and highlights the rock and water formations found in this area, as well as native plants.

These gardens showcase the region's natural beauty but also inspire visitors to reimagine their own outdoor spaces. Gerald Klingaman, former Arkansas Extension horticulturist and BGO operations director, expressed the vision behind these gardens, stating, "We want these gardens to not only reflect the unique character of the Ozarks and its people but to challenge all who visit to see their own gardens with new eyes."



Congrats to These High Achievers



Photo by Samuel Clara on Unsplash.

Milestone years of service recognition will be awarded to high-achieving Washington County Master Gardeners at the May 7 membership meeting. Arkansas Master Gardener County 76 generously underwrites all these awards.

Congratulations to these deserving Master Gardeners who earned recognition for 5-year pins, 10-year pins, 15-year Lifetime golden-colored name badges, and Lifetime Plus 20-year pins for their active membership recorded volunteer service:

5-Year Pins. Talya Boerner, Mickey Boetel, Pam Butler, Margo Clark, Karen Hanna-Towne, Margaret Herold, Steve Lisle, Vicki Mayo, James McGinty, Susie McKinney, Marilyn Misenhimer, Alan Ostner, Dale Thomas, Jane Van Tuyl, Suzanne Wasiluk, Mary Wood, Mel Zabecki

10-Year Pins. Anita Backus, Sandra Bice, Regina Gabel, Mary Beth Lohr,, Marsha West

15-Year Lifetime Name Badges. Carolyn Griffith, Martha Haguewood, Judy Henbest, Darielle James, Pam Johnson, Peggy Konert, Patsy Louk, Kendra Mattal, Joanne Olszewski, Berta Seitz, Terry Smyers

Lifetime Plus 20-Year Pins. Mary Ann Bardwell, Martha Ward

Passalong Plants in the Garden

TALYA TATE BOERNER



Photo by Talya Tate Boerner.

Passalong plants are the BEST sort of plants to have in your garden! They add both charm and magic wherever they are planted. AND, they provide an obvious little thrill, because let's be honest—who doesn't appreciate FREE? While some spend money on designer shoes or exotic vacations, I buy plants and seeds and the best tools I can find to care for them. Gifting me a passalong plant = money in the bank. It provides me the opportunity to buy more plants later. (Or, let's be honest, books—other obsession.)

But this isn't my primary reason for loving passalong plants. Not by a long shot. Passalong plants arrive with a history, one I may never know but like to imagine. Before the plant came to live in my garden, the plant thrived in different soil, maybe next door, maybe in a different city. Someone years or even decades ago, planted the "mother" plant which grew to the point of needing to be thinned and shared. That means, it's a happy, healthy specimen, one with a secret past. (Click <u>HERE</u> to continue reading . . .)

Talya's website is Grace, Grits and Gardening.com.

Meet the Trainees OLIVIA HARINGTON and LYNETTE TERRELL

Gerry Harris

I grew up on the coast of Northern California where the Redwoods flourish (Eureka on Humboldt Bay), and I helped my dad in the garden every year. He could grow anything, and taught me many valuable gardening lessons. We also fished the ocean and rivers and raised our own beef, pork, and chickens. My husband and I moved to Northwest Arkansas in 1979 after graduating college. What a difference in climate from Northern California to Northwest Arkansas! In 1980 we bought an 1895 farmhouse in Farmington and have lived there ever since. We raised our three children in that house and have now



had nine grandchildren running in and out as they grow. As a stay-at-home mom in the early years, we always planted a one-half acre garden. We grew everything from peanuts to broccoli to tomatoes to strawberries. Then I went to work at the University of Arkansas in 1991 and got so busy with work, girl/boy scouts, sports, and PTA that the garden fell by the wayside. I remember around 2010 seeing a WCMG project and I knew I wanted to be a part of WCMG. I thought it sounded like a great way to give back to our community. Fast forward to 2017 when I finally retired from the U of A and thought I would have time for gardening . . . that just didn't happen as I was so busy taking care of my mom and grandkids. The grandkids are older now, and mom is with dad dancing in the heavens. So now I want to learn more about trees, vegetables, flowers, and native plants—and what better way than through the WCMG. My nine-year-old grandson wants to learn and help me in the garden. My poor husband rolls his eyes at me and asks with a smile, "Ok, what's the next project?" *Photo by Aileeen Wilson*.

Haley Hausam

I am so excited to get involved! With the weather warming up, I hope to spend more days outside than in. Preferably on those outside days, I'll be surrounded by many plants and good people.

My love for gardening is new but my love for soil health and sustainability is not. I graduated from the University of Arkansas, Fall 2022. Throughout my time as a U of A student, I traveled to Greece to study alternative farming methods and the positive effects PGPRs (plant growth promoting rhizobacteria) have on lettuce seedlings. The accompanying photo is of me during my studies.



My passions include meeting small scale farmers and homesteaders. I enjoy learning about how families sustain themselves using nearby natural resources.

Catalina Restrepo

I am originally from Colombia and have been in the States since 1991. My interest in gardening has increased mostly in the past few years. My desire to learn more about it is the main reason I joined WCMG. One of my favorite things is the garden in spring and being able to see perennials pop back up after a cold winter season!

I am always amazed at the vast amount of plant knowledge out there for us to be curious about and to explore! Experimenting with new varieties, including the trial and error this brings, is also a source of interest for me. Other activities I enjoy doing are walking, crocheting, working with mosaics, and learning about spirituality.

Busy Bee Awards

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

WHO: Everyone who records 50 hours of sanctioned work (project or committee). **WHEN:** WCMGs recognized in our monthly meetings (based on monthly online hours report).

WHAT: Recipients will be awarded a pewter lapel pin. (Recipients may earn one Busy Bee pin annually and may still be awarded a trowel, watering can, or wheelbarrow for sanctioned service over 200 hours.)



February Busy Bees, from left: Karen Hanna-Towne, Kathy Launder, Liz Hale, Mariette Spidel, David Edwards. Not pictured: Carrie Gamble.



March Busy Bees, from left: Jim Sposato, Geri Alvis, Alfi Anderson, Jan Lefler. Not pictured: Doris Cassidy, Ruthanne Hill, Teri Kinsey, Jayne Laster, Aimee Payne, Kitty Sanders.

> April Photo of the Month Contest: "Blooming Trees and Shrubs"



FIRST PLACE
"Tree Peony" by Jody Miskell



SECOND PLACE
"Prairie Fire and Rain Drops" by Aimee Payne



The May Photo of the Month Contest theme is "Something in the garden that makes me happy!" Deadline for submission is May 15. Contest details are available on the WCMG website.

Thymely News

LYNETTE TERRELL AND SUSAN DONNANGELO

New to Garden Thyme is this column curated by one of our veteran staff writers, Lynette Terrell. "Thymely News" will feature WCMG and community projects.



Neighbor's Garden work crew in front of the Latta Kitchen at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. Photo courtesy Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.

New Sanctioned Project at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park

If this spring finds you wanting to work at a new project in addition to your already favorite, you're in luck.

At the April monthly meeting, Janice Neighbor and Susan Donnangelo presented a proposal for the Prairie Grove Battlefield Neighbor's Garden to become a sanctioned project. Their proposal was approved with a unanimous vote, and Janice and Susan are excited for you to come work with them. Susan writes, The Prairie Grove Battlefield Neighbor's Garden is an opportunity for Master Gardeners to help preserve our heritage through gardening while sharing our collective knowledge, traditions, and memories of stories from the generations before us. Our hope is that this project creates the space for you to learn and grow with others while we all appreciate our shared relationship with nature and the landscape. The garden's focus is on heritage herbs where future harvests are rooted deeply in the past.

Social gardening workdays are Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Individual gardeners may get their hands in the dirt when life allows after attending a brief orientation.

Everyone is welcome, and we have tasks fit for all abilities. While working the three beds (600 sq. ft. total) is routine, we also strive to offer educational opportunities for visitors to the park. We need WCMGs to help with research, planning, and presenting programs/workshops related to historical gardening. We would also love donations of specific herbs. (See the herb wish list at the end of this article.)

If interested, please reach out to Susan Donnangelo or Janice Neighbor.Contact Susan via email or call 501-262-8837.For sure, please swing by and check it out the next time you visit Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. See ya there!

NEIGHBOR'S GARDEN HERB WISH LIST



Latta Smokehouse

Beds will showcase medicinal, preservation, and women's health herbs.



- Fennel
- Baptisia
- Lemon

 - Balm
- Gypsy

Catnip

- Wort
- Mints

Epazote

* Poke

Wormwood

* Motherwort

- * Chives
- * Yarrow

 - TBA...

Latta Springhouse

Beds will showcase herbs for dyes, textile herbs and pretties.



- * Weld
- * Woad
- Indigo
- Madder
- Root
- Tanner's Weed
- Stinging Nettle

- Motherwort
- Soapwort
- Yellow Dock
- Baptisia
- * Daylilly
- * Iris
- Daffodil
- TBA...

Gardening and Community Events

PAM BUTLER

This calendar features events close to home. To stay in the know about MG and UADA gardening-related activities across Arkansas, sign up for the state calendar of eventssent by the Extension Service headquarters in Little Rock.

MAY 3, 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. THE EARLY HIKER SPOTS THE BIRD! Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Ozark Natural Science Center, 1905 Madison 1305, Huntsville. \$35 OLLI member/\$55 non-OLLI member or \$50 OLLI member/\$70 non-OLLI member including transportation. Registration information.

MAY 4, 10:00–10:30 a.m. BEADS OF WATER. Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. Latta House. Free. For more information.

MAY 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. NORTHWEST ARKANSAS PLANT SWAP. Randall

Tyson Recreational Pavilion T2, 4303 Watkins Ave. Springdale. Free. For more information. **MAY 4, 1:30–3:30 p.m. WATERCOLOR BOUQUET.** Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (BGO). Instructor Beth Woessner. BGO member \$125/ non-member \$135. Registration information.

MAY 4–5, BIRDERS' WEEKEND AT DEVIL'S DEN STATE PARK. Activities cohosted by Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society. Free. For more information.

MAY 5, 12:30–1:30 p.m. TREE HIKE ON OZARK PLATEAU TRAIL. Hobbs State Park, Education Pavilion near the Visitor Center. Free. For more information.

MAY 5, 2:00–3:00 p.m. FRIENDS OF HOBBS SPEAKER SERIES: NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY WITH TIM JOHNSON. Hobbs State Park, Visitor Center. Free. For more information.

MAY 9-11. HANGING BASKET SALE. Various times. Peel Museum, 400 S. Walton Blvd, Bentonville. Schedule for sale.

MAY 10, 1:00–3:30 p.m. ALL ABOUT MONARCHS—ECOLOGY AND MIGRATION. BGO. Instructor is WCMG Kitty Sanders. OLLI. OLLI member \$25/ non-OLLI member \$40. Registration information.

MAY 11, 8:00–9:30 a.m. BIRDING HIKE ON SINKING STREAM TRAIL. Hobbs State Park, Van Winkle Trailhead. Free. For more information.

MAY 11, 9:00–11:00 a.m. YARD TOUR—CARR RESIDENCE. Hosted by Wild Ones Ozark Chapter. Bentonville. No registration required. For more information.

MAY 11, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. NATIVE PLANT SALE. Watershed Conservation Resource Center, 1085 Dead Horse Mountain Road, Fayetteville. Pre-order available. For more information, go to watershedconservation.org or wcrcplantsale.square.site.

MAY 11, 1:00–5:00 p.m. OZARK PLANT SWAP. Ozark Beer Company, 109 N. Arkansas, Rogers. For more information.

MAY 12, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. MOTHER'S DAY AT BGO. Free admission for members' mother/mother figure and succulent giveaway.

MAY 16, 12:00–1:00 p.m. GROW YOUR OWN GROCERIES: ORGANIC VEGETABLE GARDENING. Zoom program with UADA extension agents. Free. Registration information.

MAY 17, 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. and MAY 18, 7:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. BENTON COUNTY PLANT SALE AND EXPO. First United Methodist Church, Bentonville. MAY 19, 2:00–3:00 p.m. FRIENDS OF HOBBS SPEAKER SERIES: THROUGH THE EYES OF A BUTTERFLY: DECIPHERING THE BEHAVIOR AND PERCEPTION OF NATURE'S MOST COLOR. Hobbs State Park, Visitor Center. Free. For more information.

MAY 21 AND MAY 28, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. OIL PAINTING FOR BEGINNERS– FLORAL. OLLI. 481 S. Shiloh Dr., Fayetteville. \$39 OLLI member/\$54 non-OLLI member. Registration information.

MAY 25, 10:00–11:00 a.m. NATURE JOURNALING. Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park. Hindman Hall Museum. No registration required. For more information.

MAY 25, 10:00–11:30 a.m. YARD TOUR—GUERTZ RESIDENCE. Hosted by Wild Ones Ozark Chapter. Farmington. No registration required. For more information.

MAY 26, 3:00–3:30 p.m. VENOMOUS SNAKES OF ARKANSAS. Hobbs State Park, Visitor Center. Free. For more information.

MAY 27, 2:00–3:00 p.m. MANAGING FOOD WASTE. BGO. Member \$5/ nonmember \$15. 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.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

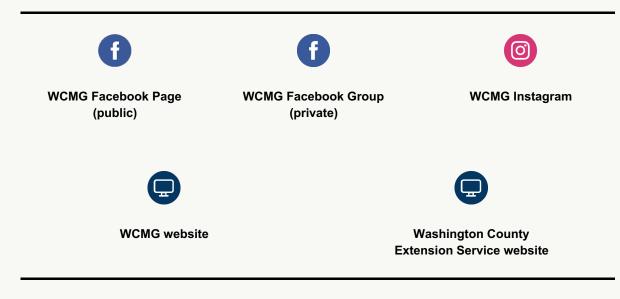
Judy Smith, managing editor/submissions; Mary McCully, editor/submissions and videos; Pam Butler, reporter; Olivia Harrington, reporter; Lynette Terrell, reporter; Susan Young, production assistant.

Send all newsletter submissions to Judy Smith or Mary McCully.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Liz Hale, president; Alfi Anderson, vice president; Kathy Launder, secretary; Marilyn Misenhimer, treasurer; assistant treasurer, open. Members at large:Carole Ball, Marty Powers, Mariette Spidel. Ex officio: Joanne Olszewski, past president; Colin Massey, Washington County extension agent for agriculture and horticulture.

Banner photo of thyme courtesy Lucy Meskill/flickr



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