

## **ANNUAL WCMG AWARDS - PRIOR WINNERS** **Washington County Master Gardeners**

The WCMG Awards Committee is comprised of prior Washington County Master Gardener of the Year award winners. The committee is responsible for recommending to the Executive Committee eligible candidates for special recognition including, but not limited to Master Gardener of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Project of the Year, Excellence in Education, Friend of Master Gardeners (organizational and individual), Mentor of the Year, and “Yes, I Can” Awards. The Awards Committee ensures that the county’s awards criteria match the state MG awards criteria. The committee may also establish special award categories for volunteer recognition. Committee recommendations shall be made to the Executive Committee prior to December 15 each year.

**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION (EIE)** – This award, started in **2015**, is designed to recognize an outstanding WCMG project that demonstrates significant learning in a targeted audience(s.) The project must target one of the following groups: • Youth/School Program • Demonstration or Research Gardens • Underserved Audience (i.e., seniors, people with disabilities, low-income families, incarcerated individuals.) The project must have been implemented for one full year. The project should be easy for other MG programs to replicate.

### **Prior WCMG Excellence in Education Award Recipients**

- 2015 “Soil Detectives” Lesson for Community Outreach
- 2016 “Springdale for Monarchs” Program in City of Springdale
- 2017 No Nomination
- 2018 No Nomination
- 2019 Garden Explorers WCMG Sanctioned Project (also State)**
- 2020 No Nomination
- 2021 No Nomination
- 2022 No Nomination
- 2023 West Fork Gardens

**FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS** - This award is open to a non-Master Gardener individual business, or organization who has shown outstanding support of the Master Gardener Program in your county EXCEPT those who have won in the last 5 years.

### **Prior WCMG Friend of Master Gardener Award Recipients**

- 2010 Lesa Netherland with Fayetteville City Parks - Individual (also State)**
- 2011 No Nomination
- 2012 No Nomination
- 2013 Fayetteville Perennial Garden Club – Organization (also State)**
- 2014 Becky Roark with Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) – Individual
- 2015 Doris Cassidy – Individual
- 2016 Mayor Bob Hulse of Lincoln – Individual
- 2017 Virgil Pianalto – Individual
- 2017 Judy Brittenum with Washington County Historical Society - Organization
- 2018 Terry Gulley of Elkins – Individual; Organization – no nomination

## **FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS**

### **Prior WCMG Friend of Master Gardener Award Recipients**

- 2019 Alexis Walker of West Fork – Individual; Organization – no nomination  
2020 No Nominations  
**2021 Susan Adkins – Superintendent at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park – Individual (also State); Organization – no nomination**  
2022 Mike Cassidy of Elkins – Individual for Elkins and Washington County Fair projects; Organization – no nomination  
**2023 Gilbert Alvis – Individual for Compost Demonstration Site (also State)**  
2024 City of West Fork – Organization for West Fork Gardens project

**MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR** - This award, started in **1997**, recognizes a Master Gardener who has made an exceptional contribution to the MG program, Extension Service, and county. All active Master Gardeners are eligible to be nominated for the Master Gardener of the Year Award EXCEPT previous winners.

### **Prior Washington County Master Gardener of the Year Award Recipients**

- |             |                                      |      |                                 |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1997        | Millie Bowman                        | 2010 | Mary Crumley                    |
| 1998        | Janice Neighbor                      | 2011 | Jan Lefler                      |
| 1999        | Janice Ryan                          | 2012 | <b>Dian Holmes (also State)</b> |
| <b>2000</b> | <b>Joyce Mendenhall (also State)</b> | 2013 | Lois Slusarek                   |
| 2001        | Pauline Keegan                       | 2014 | Gloria McIntosh                 |
| 2002        | Betty Swope                          | 2015 | Patsy Louk                      |
| 2003        | John Bushkuhl                        | 2016 | Kitty Sanders                   |
| 2004        | John Borbas                          | 2017 | Carol Butler                    |
| 2005        | Beverly Melton                       | 2018 | Geraldine Alvis                 |
| 2006        | Nancy Umiker                         | 2019 | Chris Bell                      |
| 2007        | Colleen Brown                        | 2020 | Truman Stamps                   |
| <b>2008</b> | <b>Gail Pianalto (also State)</b>    | 2021 | Susan Young                     |
| 2009        | Valerie Fletcher                     | 2022 | Jayne Laster                    |
|             |                                      | 2023 | Mariette Spidel                 |

**PROJECT OF THE YEAR** - This award is open to all sanctioned projects within a MG program EXCEPT those that have won in the last 5 years. Renomination of a previously winning project 5+ years ago requires significant changes to warrant a new nomination. Statewide Master Gardener events (e.g., hosting the AR MG State Conference) are NOT eligible for this award.

### **Prior WCMG Sanctioned Projects of the Year Award Recipients**

- 2003 Fayetteville Parks and Recreation  
2004 Headquarters House  
2005 Compost Demonstration Site  
2006 Fayetteville Parks and Recreation  
2007 Rain Gardens  
**2008 The Sensory Garden at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (also State)**  
2009 Junior Master Gardeners  
2010 Fayetteville City Hospital  
2011 Headquarters House  
2012 West Fork Library  
2013 Washington County Fair  
2014 “Soil Detectives” for Community Outreach

## **PROJECT OF THE YEAR**

### **Prior WCMG Sanctioned Projects of the Year Award Recipients**

2015	<b>Washington County Extension Office Grounds (also State)</b>
2016	Lincoln Community Garden
2017	Elkins Community Center
2018	Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks Gardens
2019	Veterans Hospital (VHSO) Gardens
2020	No Nomination
2021	Headquarters House
2022	No Nomination
2023	Compost Demonstration Site

**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR** - This award, started in **2004**, recognizes a Rookie (first year) Master Gardener who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the MG program, Extension Service, and county. This award is open to Master Gardeners who have finished their MG basic training and completed their first-year membership certification requirements of 40 work hours and 20 education hours within 12 months of the basic training.

### **Prior WCMG Rookie of the Year Award Recipients**

<b>2004</b>	<b>Jean Collins (also State)</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>Dani Dingman (also State)</b>
2005	Mary Anderson	2015	Geraldine Alvis
2006	Ruth Chapman	2016	Paula Dutton
2007	Elaine Stern	<b>2017</b>	<b>Neta Winston (also State)</b>
2008	Cindi Cope	2018	Doris Cassidy
2009	Marty Smith	2019	Trudy Carrigan
2010	Robin Selman	2020	Annie Moore
2011	Wendy Kozeny	2021	Judy Cohea
2012	Jan Judy	2022	Kristi Campbell
<b>2013</b>	<b>Beverly Didier (also State)</b>	2023	Roxanne Gallup

**MIMI COX MENTOR OF THE YEAR** -This award was started first as a local award in **2013**.

In **2022**, the Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year Award is awarded at the state level, and recognizes a Master Gardener who has worked directly with one or more Master Gardener mentees/graduates during their first year in the local county program and/or has made significant contributions to the county's mentoring program. Previous winners of the award are not eligible. Nominations may be made by the trainee, transfer, reinstated member, or other WCMG member who has observed his/her mentoring activities.

### **Prior WCMG Mentor of Year Award Recipients**

2013	Dian Holmes	2017	Gail Pianalto	2021	Jim Sposato
2014	Robin Selman	2018	Neta Winston	2022	No Nomination
2015	Martha Ward	2019	Doris Cassidy	<b>2023</b>	<b>Patsy Louk (also State)</b>
2016	Geraldine Alvis	2020	Glen Robillard		

**TROWEL AWARD PIN\*** - This local award, started in **2011**, recognizes WCMG members who record 200-Plus volunteer hours to the organization in a year. (No forms.)

**WATERING CAN AWARD PIN\*** - This local award, started in **2016**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Trowel Award (200-Plus volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a trowel, they will, instead, be awarded the Watering Can pin (No forms.)

**WHEELBARROW AWARD PIN\*** - This local award, started in **2020**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Watering Can Award (200-Plus volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a watering can, they will, instead, be awarded the Wheelbarrow pin (No forms.)

**JOYCE MENDENHALL “YES, I CAN” AWARD\*** - This local award, started in **2008**, recognizes WCMG members who clearly demonstrate a “can do” attitude by contributing outstanding volunteer service to the MG program, Extension Service, and county. In **2023**, the award was renamed in honor of the late Joyce Mendenhall who was instrumental in starting the award. The recipient of this local award demonstrates a willingness to go beyond assigned tasks to help fellow WCMG members and to ensure the success of the organization and WCMG projects and activities.

**Prior WCMG “Yes, I Can” Award Recipients**

2008	Vicki Knight and Martha Ward (both WCMGs)
2009	Dolores Stamps (WCMG)
2010	Valerie Fletcher (WCMG)
2011	Lois Slusarek (WCMG)
2012	Tanya Collins and Kitty Sanders (both Rookies)
2013	Susan Gardner (Rookie)
2014	Truman Stamps (WCMG) and Mary Beth Lohr (Rookie)
2015	Judie Branson (WCMG) and Dawn Didier (Rookie)
2016	Jan Hayes (WCMG) and Sara Hardin (Rookie)
2017	Jim and Linda MacLean and Debbie Gilmore (Rookie)
2018	Annette Pianalto (WCMG) and Mike Mohler (Rookie)
2019	LaDeana Mullinex (WCMG) and James McGinty (Rookie)
2020	Linda Morrow (WCMG) and Elizabeth Hale (Rookie)
2021	Kathryn Birkhead, Betty Nichols, and Brandy Molloy (WCMGs)
2022	Patsy Louk (WCMG) and Aileen Wilson (Rookie)
2023	Janice Walker and Geri Alvis (WCMGs); Carrie Gamble and Gari James (Rookies)

**\*These are Washington County Awards only and are not awarded at the state level.**