

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting Tuesday July 2, 2024

The meeting was held in-person at the Extension Office. Present: 80 members
Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: Vice President, Alfi Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Vice President, Alfi Anderson introduced guest speaker, Dr. H.L. Goodwin is Professor Emeritus in Agriculture Economics at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR. “The Almanac: Old Wives Tales and Science-Finding Your Sweet Spot”.

Business Meeting:

- Approval of Minutes from May 7, 2024, WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the June and July 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.
- Approval of March 2024 Treasurer Reports as listed via link in the May 2024 Garden Thyme newsletter.

May Photo Contest Winners – Something in the Garden that makes Me Happy

- 1st Place – “Pitcher Perfect” – Roxanne Gallup
- 2nd Place – “Just Bee-ing Fabulous!” – Kathy Launder
- 3rd Place – “Dog Days of Summer!” – Geri Alvis

June Photo Contest Winners – Native Plants

- 1st Place – “Belle of the Ball” – Lynn Rogers
- 2nd Place – “Orangeade” – Kitty Sanders
- 3rd Place – “Yellow Beauty” – Sarah Teague

2023 Arkansas Master Gardener Award Winners – State Conference

Garden Thyme - Newsletter of the Year

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

Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year Award

- Patsy Louk (class of 2009)

Individual Friend of the Year

- Gilbert Alvis

Talya Boerner presented at the State Conference – “An Introduction to Nature Journaling with Phenology Wheel”.

Sanctioned Project Spirit Pole – painted and designed by Jayne Laster

- Was purchased by WCMG for display at projects via ticket drawing
- Watch GT for more information to follow

Welcome New WCMG Transfers-in:

- Lynnette “Lynn” Dunn (class of 2023)
 - Transfer from Benton County
 - Lives in Farmington
- Joyce Hardin (class of 2008)
 - Transfer from Faulkner County
 - Lives in Fayetteville

June 8, 2024, Garden Gate Tour Kudos

- 272 tickets were sold – generating \$4,080
- Tour Committee members: Diane Standefer and Susan Young, co-chairs, Keith Blowers, Wanda Gore, Ruthanne Hill, Marilyn Misenhimer, Gail Pianalto, Judy Smith, Laura Underwood and Elizabeth Woods.
- Five fabulous gardens, including 3 owned and maintained by our own WCMGs: Pam and Randy Butler, Ruthanne Hill and Mariette Spidel.
- Six “Growing Good Gardeners” education stations, including our own WCMGs: Mary Loftus, canning expert, offered a “Grow Now, Eat Later” canning and food preservation session; Laura Wilkins, “Ask a Master” chair, and her team fielded gardening questions.
- Plant Labeling Committee, led by Karen Hanna-Towne and Carole Ball, provided labels for privately owned and maintained gardens.
- VOLUNTEERS!

Recorded Hours through June 2024 – 133/289 WCMG

- Sanctioned Projects – 6,065
- Sanctioned Committees – 1,655.25
- Non- sanctioned Work – 293

- Education – 2,908.5

Value of WCMG Volunteer Work Hours through June

- All volunteers work hours – 8,013.25 = \$205,619.99

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 online hours report).
- What: Recipients will be awarded a pewter lapel pin.

May Busy Bee Awards

Nan Abbiatti (2021)
Roxanne Gallup (2023)
Stephanie McGuire (2024*)
Carole Ball (2023)
Gayle Howard (2006**)
Marilyn Misenhimer (2019)
Pam Butler (2019)
Darielle James(2009**)
Julie Murray (2020)
Randy Butler (2020)
Gari James(2023)
Janice Neighbor (1996**)
Luanne Diffin (2023)
Peggy Konert(2009**)
Lynette Terrell (2020)
Regina Gabel (2014)
Mary McCully (2015)
Laura Underwood (2023)

June Busy Bee Awards

Anita Backus(2014)
Linda Morrow (2015)

Patricia Brown (2023)
Rick Oliver(2024*)
Sheri Bucciferro (2024*)
Judy Smith (2011)
Robert Callier (2023)
Phyllis Wilkins(2008**)
Patsy Louk (2009**)
Laura Winburn (2024*)

Washington County Fair – Enter Something! Entry Day is Monday, August 19th , 2024

We encourage all WCMGsto enter in any or all of the following categories:

- Open Agronomy/Horticulture
- Cut Flowers
- Potted Plants
- Flower Arrangements
- Outdoor Art

You may access the 2024 Washington County Fair Exhibitor Book complete with all the category descriptions at <https://mywashcofair.com/exhibitor-handbook/>. (The Agronomy/Horticulture Division begins on page 136.)

Good luck! We look forward to seeing everyone at the Washington County Fair. ~
Doris Cassidy, Beverly Didier, and Kathy Launder – Co-Chairs

Mentors Needed!

Please consider being a mentor! It's an opportunity to give back and can be very rewarding!

- Fall 2024 online MG Training class: October 2 - December 9
- January/February 2025 in person MG Training class
- Mentor Training - Monday, September 16
- If interested in being a mentor, please contact: Patsy Louk ◦
pjlouk@gmail.com ◦ 479-841-9865

The Boring Details/ Unpopular Stuff/ Party Poopers Rule –

- All monthly WCMG meetings must be posted as meetings and avoid terms such as holiday, party, picnic, etc. We wish to avoid an audit from the State Office, especially when the Cooperative Extension Service is underwriting/purchasing any refreshments or food.
- June and December Membership Meetings – It's quite difficult to manage all the allergies and food preferences (not to mention getting volunteer cooks) to feed our growing crew. Future meetings may be potluck only, to avoid food cooking concerns and food waste.

Executive Committee Discussion Updates

All Sanctioned Projects and Committees should have succession plans and replacement leaders in the wings. Life happens.

August 6, 2024, Speaker: Winfrey Norton “USDA People’s Garden Initiative”

Winfrey is the outreach editor/agricultural economist in the Food Economics Division of the USDA, Economic Research Service, where he manages the production of Amber Waves articles and Charts of Note.

The People’s Garden connects gardens across the country that produce local food, practice sustainability, and bring people together in their community. People’s Gardens can take many different forms; they can include:

- Food-producing gardens
- Wildlife habitat
- Conservation or beautification projects
- Education and training spaces

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Launder
Secretary