

Washington County Master Gardener Meeting Minutes

Date: January 7, 2025

Location: Zoom

Host: Colin Massey, County Agent

Co-hosts: Liz Hale, Alfi Anderson, Mariette Spidel

The meeting was called to order by outgoing president Liz Hale at 6:30 PM.

Colin Massey expressed gratitude to outgoing officers and board members for their leadership and contributions to the success of the Washington County Master Gardener program.

Highlights and Announcements

- Past Year Accomplishments:
- Quarterly hosting of the Quorum Court led to approval of additional funding a 4-H agent.
- The first Washington County Master Gardener scholarship (\$1,000) was awarded to Caroline Ford.
- Installation of a water bottle refill station in the office to reduce disposable plastic waste.

New Officers Installed.

- President: Alfi Anderson
- Vice President: Mariette Spidel
- Secretary: Carole Ball
- Treasurer: Julie Murray
- Assistant Treasurer: Stephanie McGuire
- Members-at-Large: Judi Sartwell, Rick Oliver, and Marty Powers

Volunteer Opportunities

- Archivist Committee: Chair, Kim Hosey.
- Photography Team: Join Lulamae Wampler and Susan Young.

- Meeting set-up and clean-up teams: Chair, Jim Sposato; volunteers can sign up at the February meeting.

Administrative Reminders

- Submit updates for the Member Resource Guide to Jan Lefler by January 15, 2025.
- Contact Linda C Smith for changes to mailing or email addresses.
- Contact Susan Young for headshots, if needed.

Upcoming Events

- 2025 Arkansas Master Gardener State Conference Dates: June 5-7, 2025, at Harding University in Searcy, AR.
- Garden Gate Tour: June 14, 2025, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Contact Chair, Laura Underwood to volunteer.

Guest Speaker Introduced by Mariette Spidel.

- Presenter: Susan Esche, Benton County Master Gardener and lead volunteer gardener for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.
- Topic: “Scheduling a Year-Round Garden.”
- Strategies to maximize harvest and extend growing seasons.
- Tools: Charts, spreadsheets, and frost covers like Haxnicks Easy Fleece tunnels.
- Resources, including slides and video, will be shared via email and YouTube.

Member Recognition

- Alfi expressed her gratitude and appreciation to out-going President, Liz Hale and the entire team for their dedication and hard work.
- December Photo Contest Winners were announced.
- In Memoriam: Janice Neighbors was honored for her years of service as an educator.

- 2025 Trainee Classes: Completed Online Training: Lynne Bell, James Harvey, Tim McGinn, Deborah Broyles, Donna McDaniel, and Jeff McGuire.

- In-Person Participants: Kelly Chaney, Kim Coslett, Roger Faulkner, Calinda Green, Jessica Guillory, Jody Hughes, Caleb Israel, Calista Keck, Ronda Lovell, Rebecca "Becca" Muenich, Swathi Munagala, Steve Shearman, Mary Sparks, Bill Speer, Terri Speer, Theresa Sullivan, Judy Torseth, Mari Walters-Ford, and Lulamae Wampler.

Closing Remarks

- 2025 Garden Gate Tour update: Laura Underwood provided a progress report on committee efforts.

- Members can still pay dues with a \$5 late fee at the extension office via cash or check.

Next Meeting: February 4, 2025, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fayetteville.

Speaker: Rick Oliver, "Building Your Soil."

Graduation and Awards ceremonies will be held.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary