

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting Tuesday February 4, 2025

The meeting was held in-person at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Zoom was not available for the meeting. Present: 101 members. Quorum: Yes

Call to Order: President Alfi Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Announcements:

- The nominations committee identified Pam Butler as the interim Vice President. Colin Massey inducted Pam Butler as Interim Vice President.
- Adriana Treadway was present to assist members with food waste composting.
- Kathy Lauder brought samples of shirts from the MG Online shop which is open until February 21, 2025.
- All WCMGs are requested to input their volunteer hours on a monthly basis, if not more frequently. The reported hours are important to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.
- Conflict Resolution provides guidance for dealing with conflicts.
- UA Cooperative Extension Service and Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement & Expectations for Volunteer Groups must be signed (both sides) by all WCMGs. It is available on wcmgar.org website in the Member Resource Guide in the 'Member Portal'.
- Garden Gate Tour is set for Saturday, June 14, 2025 in Elkins and SE Fayetteville.
- Cornbread is needed for Farm Friends Event on Thursday, April 10, 2025 5 pm – 7 pm in the Pauline Whitaker Building. Contact Geri Alvis, onetanupsarm@cox.net.

- Orchid Society of the Ozarks is hosting the 14th Annual Orchid Show and Sale from February 28 to March 2, 2025 at the Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center.
- Volunteers for set up for our meetings are needed. One suggestion has been made that each sanctioned project volunteer as a group to set up for one monthly meeting. Set up will be needed for the April, May, July, August, September, October and November meetings.

Guest Speakers:

Vice President Pam Butler introduced Dr. Glenda Patterson who is Director of the Environmental Action Committee for the City of Fayetteville. Her presentation concerned "Create and Certify Native Plant Habitats".

Vice President Pam Butler introduced WCMG Trainee Rick Oliver who gave a presentation about soil and "Regenerative Agriculture".

Business Meeting:

- Approval of minutes from the December 3, 2024 and January 7, 2025 WCMG monthly meetings as listed via link in the February 2025 *Garden Thyme* newsletter.

- Due to computer issues, there are no Treasurer reports at this time. Once those issues are resolved, the reports will be produced and published.

January Photo Contest Winners “Potpourri”

- 1st Place – Roxanne Gallup: “Color Me Coleus”
- 2nd Place – Carole Ball: “Blanket of Snow”
- 3rd Place – Linda Morrow: “Passionate Bee”

February Photo Contest Theme is “Flowers, Flowers, Flowers”

Submissions due February 15, 2025

In the News:

Aileen Wilson and Paul Rountree were each featured in articles in the Northwest Arkansas Gazette.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Master Gardener Awards – Awards Committee

Over 40 individuals were involved in this year’s Annual Awards Recognition. Fifteen WCMG members nominated members and trainees in 19 local and state MG Award categories.

WCMG Awards Committee participants were Geri Alvis, Chris Bell, Jayne Laster, Patsy Louk and Kitty Sanders.

WCMG Membership Committee On-line Hours Coordinators were Kathryn Birkhead and Annette Pianalto.

WCMG Executive Committee Participants were Liz Hale, Alfi Anderson, Julie Murray and Pam Butler

WCMG Volunteer Helpers were Kathy Stinson, Jim Sposato, Betty Nichols, Pam Salamo, Terry Smyers, Susan Young, Mariette Spidel, Stephanie McGuire and Jeff McGuire. There are probably others inadvertently omitted to whom we apologize and expressly thank them for their service.

County Extension Service Participants were Colin Massey, Katie Teague and Debbie Clevenger.

Washington County Master Gardener ANNUAL Awards for 2024

We honor our outstanding volunteers by recognizing their significant contribution and positive impact on the Washington County Master Gardener program and our community.

Individual MG Friend of the Year

Jeff McGuire, 100+ hours

Organization MG Friend of the Year

Lee Ann Wiederkehr of the Washington County Historical Society, 200+ hours

Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can Award” of the Year

Kathy Launder - 450.5 total hours, 42.25 education hours

Doris Cassidy - 493.75 total hours, 64 education hours

‘Rookie’ Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can Award” of the Year

Sheri Bucciferro - 94.75 total hours, 27.5 education hours

Stephanie McGuire - 283 total hours, 29 education hours

Excellence in Education Award

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Butterfly Education Program – 846 hours

2024 WCMG Rookie of the Year

Pam Salamo - 219.5 total hours, 106 education hours

2024 WCMG Mentor of the Year

Jan Lefler - 474 total hours, 105 education hours

2024 WCMG Project of the Year

Lincoln Community Garden, Project co-leaders: Jim Sposato and Judy Cohea – 684 hours

2024 Washington County Master Gardener of the Year

Elizabeth Hale - 687 total hours, 263.75 education hours

200 Plus Sanctioned Volunteer Hours Recognition**2024 TROWEL AWARDS Rookies (3)**

Earned by WCMG Rookies who have recorded 200 plus sanctioned hours in their first year.

David Edwards – 368.75

Stephanie McGuire – 283

Pam Salamo – 219.5

2024 TROWEL AWARDS WCMG Members (21)

Earned by WCMGs who have recorded 200 plus sanctioned hours for 1-4 consecutive years.

Alfi Anderson – 249.25

Linda Bennett-Smith – 285.75

Steve Brizzi – 318.5

Robert Callier – 210.25

Kristi Campbell – 446

Luanne Diffin – 263

Roxanne Gallup – 232.25

Carrie Gamble – 205.25
Elizabeth Hale – 687
Karen Hanna-Towne – 203.5
Ruthanne Hill – 423
Teri Kinsey – 265.5
Kathy Launder – 450.5
Marilyn Misenhimer – 203
Jody Miskell – 267
Julie Murray – 309.75
Brad Neidecker – 200.25
Mariette Spidel – 511.25
Janice Walker – 324.5
Laura Wilkins – 311.75
Aileen Wilson – 339.5

2024 WATERING CAN AWARDS (2)

Earned by WCMGs who have recorded 200 plus sanctioned hours for 5-9 consecutive years.

Doris Cassidy – 471.75
Neta Winston – 234

2024 WHEELBARROW AWARDS (5)

Earned by WCMGs who have recorded 200 plus sanctioned hours for 10 consecutive years.

Geraldine Alvis – 260.5
Chris Bell – 317.5
Jan Lefler – 474
Patsy Louk – 333
Jim Sposato – 250.75

GOLDEN BUTTERFLY AWARD

A new category, this award recognizes those who have recorded 200 plus sanctioned hours recorded for 15 consecutive years.

Kitty Sanders – 502.25

WCMG Volunteers Exceeding 400 Recorded Hours (8)

Kristi Campbell – 446
Doris Cassidy – 471.75
Elizabeth Hale – 687
Ruthanne Hill – 423
Kathy Launder – 450.5
Jan Lefler – 474
Kitty Sanders – 502.25
Mariette Spidel – 511.25

WCMG Sanctioned Projects Exceeding 1000 Hours

Botanical Gardens – 3,501.25
Headquarters House – 1,346.25
Garden Gate Tour – 1,282.25
Washington County Fair – 1229.25
Elkins Gardens – 1,227.75
Shiloh Museum Gardens – 1,105.5
Arkansas Air & Military Museum – 1,019.24

TOTAL RECORDED HOURS WCMGs FOR 2024 - 19,834**Class of 2024 Graduates**

John Ball	Rick Oliver
Sheri Bucciferro	Bruce Redinger
David Edwards	Pam Salamo
Sharon Ferguson	Thalita Santos
Peter Gavin	Patty Stith
Gerry Harris	Laura Ann Watson
Haley Hausam	Carlie Willett
Ronda Marks	Laura Winburn
Stephanie McGuire	Kara Wishon

Announcements:

We welcomed our potential Class of 2025 which included our online and in person trainees.

Thanks to our In-Person Basic Training Volunteers!**Respectfully Submitted,**

Julie Murray
Acting Secretary for Carole Ball