

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 Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can” Awards. The Awards Committee ensures that the Washington County awards criteria match the Arkansas MG awards criteria. The committee may also establish other special award categories for volunteer recognition. Committee recommendations shall be submitted in writing to the Washington County Extension Service Agent responsible for the Master Gardener Program **prior to October 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: (1) Youth/School Program, (2) Demonstration or Research Gardens, (3) 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. All sanctioned projects are eligible EXCEPT previous EIE winners and Project of the Year winners for this same sanctioned project in the last 5 years, unless substantial new results are documented and measured. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

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 Project (also State)**
- 2020 No Nomination
- 2021 No Nomination
- 2022 No Nomination
- 2023 West Fork Gardens
- 2024 “Butterfly Education Program at Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (also State)**

FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS - INDIVIDUAL and ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS - These awards are open to a non-Master Gardener individual, business/organization who have shown outstanding support of the Master Gardener Program in your county EXCEPT those who have won in the last 5 years. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

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
- 2019 Alexis Walker of West Fork – Individual; Organization – no nomination

FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS

Prior WCMG Friend of Master Gardener Award Recipients

- 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)**
City of West Fork – Organization for West Fork Gardens project
2024 Jeff McGuire – Individual for Lincoln Community Garden project
2025 **Lee Anne Wiederkehr – Organization for Washington County Historical Society and Headquarters House project (also State)**

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. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior Washington County Master Gardener of the Year Award Recipients

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|------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 1997 | Millie Bowman | 2011 | Jan Lefler |
| 1998 | Janice Neighbor | 2012 | Dian Holmes (also State) |
| 1999 | Janice Ryan | 2013 | Lois Slusarek |
| 2000 | Joyce Mendenhall (also State) | 2014 | Gloria McIntosh |
| 2001 | Pauline Keegan | 2015 | Patsy Louk |
| 2002 | Betty Swope | 2016 | Kitty Sanders |
| 2003 | John Bushkuhl | 2017 | Carol Butler |
| 2004 | John Borbas | 2018 | Geraldine Alvis |
| 2005 | Beverly Melton | 2019 | Chris Bell |
| 2006 | Nancy Umiker | 2020 | Truman Stamps |
| 2007 | Colleen Brown | 2021 | Susan Young |
| 2008 | Gail Pianalto (also State) | 2022 | Jayne Laster |
| 2009 | Valerie Fletcher | 2023 | Mariette Spidel |
| 2010 | Mary Crumley | 2024 | Elizabeth Hale |

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

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
2015 **Washington County Extension Office Grounds (also State)**
2016 Lincoln Community Garden

PROJECT OF THE YEAR (Continued)

Prior WCMG Sanctioned Projects of the Year Award Recipients

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
2024	Lincoln Community Garden

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. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Rookie of the Year Award Recipients

2004	Jean Collins (also State)	2015	Geraldine Alvis
2005	Mary Anderson	2016	Paula Dutton
2006	Ruth Chapman	2017	Neta Winston (also State)
2007	Elaine Stern	2018	Doris Cassidy
2008	Cindi Cope	2019	Trudy Carrigan
2009	Marty Smith	2020	Annie Moore
2010	Robin Selman	2021	Judy Cohea
2011	Wendy Kozeny	2022	Kristi Campbell
2012	Jan Judy	2023	Roxanne Gallup
2013	Beverly Didier (also State)	2024	Pam Salamo
2014	Dani Dingman (also State)		

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 this award are NOT eligible. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

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	2023	Patsy Louk (also State)
2016	Geraldine Alvis	2020	Glen Robillard	2024	Jan Lefler

STATE MASTER GARDENER COUNTY AGENT OF THE YEAR – This state MG award is open to all Extension agents who assist the local Master Gardener program. Agents who have won the Extension Agent of the Year Award are not eligible for renomination for a minimum of 5 years while remaining in the same position and/or location. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member.

Prior State MG County Agent of Year Award Recipients

2010 - Berni Kurz

2020 - Colin Massey

STATE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR - This state MG award is open to all Master Gardener Program newsletters EXCEPT those which have won in the last 5 years. The newsletter must be written and edited by Master Gardeners and adhere to UADA Brand Identity and Logo Standards and Guidelines, found online at the UADA website. This award is judged on overall presentation or appearance of the publication, content, writing, graphics, layout, and design. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member.

STATE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR (Continued)

Prior State MG Newsletter of the Year Award Recipients

2007 – Garden Thyme - Editor Jean Collins

2011 – Garden Thyme - Co-Editors Jan Lefler and Terry Smyers

2023 – Garden Thyme - Managing Co-Editors Judy Smith and Mary McCully

***TROWEL AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2011**, recognizes WCMG members who record 200-Plus sanctioned 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 sanctioned 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 sanctioned 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.)

***GOLDEN BUTTERFLY AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2024**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Wheelbarrow Award (200-Plus sanctioned volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a wheelbarrow pin, they will, instead, be awarded the Golden Butterfly pin (No forms.)

***JOYCE MENDENHALL “YES, I CAN” AWARD** - This local award, started in **2008**, recognizes WCMGs and/or Rookie (trainees) who have made exceptional contributions to the MG program, Extension Service, and/or county. They are always ready, willing, and demonstrate a “can do” attitude by participating in WCMG projects, committees, and other activities. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member. All active members and trainees are eligible for this award EXCEPT previous winners of WCMG Master Gardener of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Mentor of the Year, or Joyce Mendenhall ‘Yes, I Can’ awards in the **last 5 years.**

Prior WCMG “Yes, I Can” Award Recipients

2008	Vicki Knight & Martha Ward (both WCMGs)
2009	Dolores Stamps (WCMG)
2010	Valerie Fletcher (WCMG)
2011	Lois Slusarek (WCMG)
2012	Tanya Collins & Kitty Sanders (both Rookies)
2013	Susan Gardner (Rookie)
2014	Truman Stamps (WCMG) & Mary Beth Lohr (Rookie)
2015	Judie Branson (WCMG) & Dawn Didier (Rookie)
2016	Jan Hayes (WCMG) & Sara Hardin (Rookie)
2017	Jim and Linda MacLean & Debbie Gilmore (Rookie)
2018	Annette Pianalto (WCMG) & Mike Mohler (Rookie)
2019	LaDeana Mullinex (WCMG) & James McGinty (Rookie)
2020	Linda Morrow (WCMG) & Elizabeth Hale (Rookie)
2021	Kathryn Birkhead, Betty Nichols, & Brandy Molloy (WCMGs)
2022	Patsy Louk (WCMG) & Aileen Wilson (Rookie)
2023	Janice Walker and Geri Alvis (WCMGs); Carrie Gamble and Gari James (Rookies)
2024	Doris Cassidy and Kathy Launder (WCMGs); Sheri Bucciferro and Stephanie McGuire (Rookies)

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