

Washington County Master Gardeners Business Meeting & Project Fair

March 4, 2025

Meeting held at Thompson Hall at the Washington County Fairgrounds

Present: 101 members

Business Meeting Call to order by President Alfi Anderson at 6:28 pm.

- Speaker Colin Massey, introduced by Vice-President Pam Butler, spoke on pruning basics and soil testing with a presentation of tools to use.
- Minutes of February WCMG Business Meeting were approved and will be sent to Archives.
- The Treasurer report will not be available until computer updates are completed by the State office.
- Busy Bee awards will be presented at the April 1, 2025, WCMG Business Meeting.
- Jan Lefler and Colin Massey presented Liz Hale, 2024 WCMG Master Gardener of the Year, and Pam Salamo, 2024 WCMG Rookie of the Year, their awards since the recipients were unable to attend the February meeting.
- The 2025 Janet B. Carson Sanctioned Project Scholarship check award of \$1000 was presented to the Chair of the Lincoln Community Garden, Jim Sposato, and his crew.

Announcements

- The 2025 State Master Gardener conference will be hosted by White County in Searcy, AR, on June 5-7. The theme of the three-day event is "Past the Garden Gate." The conference will include workshops, seminars, garden tours, and opportunities to meet other Master Gardeners from counties throughout the state. Registration is open online.

- Patsy Louk showcased merchandise for purchase online as a fundraiser for County 76. Patsy is willing to pick-up merchandise for WCMGs not attending the conference. Order form link can be found in the March 3, 2025, Arkansas Master Gardener email – Have you wanted a Root Slayer? Deadline to order is April 23, 2025.
- Laura Wilkins reported that 12 different orchid societies from 5 different states participated in the Orchid Society of the Ozarks Show and Sale February 28 - March 2, 2025.
- Geri Alvis is requesting donations of cornbread muffins (preferred) or pan-size cut into squares, to be handed out at the Farm Friends event on Thursday, April 8, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.
- Laura Underwood gave an update on the June 14, 2025, Garden Gate Tour.
- The winners of the February Photo Contest were announced. Photos will be shown at the April meeting. The theme for the March Photo Contest is “Spring Bulbs” – entry deadline is March 15, 2025.
- The June 3, 2025, meeting will be a potluck picnic at Bunch Park in Elkins. Bring your own plates, glasses, utensils, and a chair. Entertainment will be provided.
- The December 2, 2025, meeting will be a winter potluck held at the Don Tyson Center.
- Three WCMG members have passed away this year – Marian Catron, Nancy Ballard, and Susan Shelton. Please see the upcoming April Garden Thyme for more information.
- The April business meeting speaker will be WCMG member Tayla Boerner on “Phrenology and Nature Journaling.”

Education

- Favorite garden tools were presented by 11 members in the “Tool Time” program segment. Tools ranged from a big sturdy onion hole

spacer, various beloved handheld diggers and weeders, to a cell phone for taking photos and identifying plants.

- Many members donned their favorite garden hat to wear for the evening. The array of colorful and quirky hats added to the fun-filled evening.
- The April 1, 2025, WCMG Business Meeting will be held at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Please sign up with Jim Sposato to help set-up and clean-up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

PROJECT FAIR

- Nancy Sloan, Co-Chair of the Sanctioned Projects Committee, made announcements regarding how to sign up for projects and how to navigate the Project Fair tables. The Project Fair tables were arranged in alphabetical order. A summary sheet of WCMG Sanctioned Projects was provided by Co-Chair Regina Gabel for pick up at the member sign-in table. The helpful project representatives and lively participants made the well-attended event a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary