

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 1, 2025 Held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Present: 89 attendees.

Meeting Called to Order by President Alfi Anderson at 6:30 pm.

Vice-President Pam Butler introduced the guest speaker, Arkansas Master Naturalist and WCMG Talya Tate Boerner, a Fayetteville author of three novels set in Arkansas, and a fourth book that will be available soon. Her presentation, “Intro to Phenology & Nature,” was a guide to honing observational skills in the natural world and examples of how to record your experiences over time. Each member received a raffle ticket at the sign-in table for a chance to win one of her books. The lucky raffle ticket holder was Julie Murray.

Business Meeting

- The March 4, 2025, meeting minutes were approved and will be sent to the archives.
- The updated WCMG computers from the State Office have been returned. Julie Murray and Darielle James have been hard at work entering data to make a Treasurer’s report available soon.
- Memorial slides with short obituaries were shown for three WCMGs who passed away in February and March 2025 – Marian Hall Catron, Judy McDonald, and Susan Joanne Shelton.
- Winning photos from February and March 2025 Photo Contests were shown. The contest theme for April is Flowering Trees.

WCMG in the News

- Jessica Guillory and Dale Thomas – Recognized in the White River Newsletter, Here’s the Dirt, on February 13, 2025, for the Seed Starting 101 Class they presented at White River Nursery.
- Linda Morrow, Sheri Bucciferro, and Darielle James – Recognized in the March 8, 2025, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette for volunteering to help the program manager, Annie Sales, from the Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP), prepare rain gardens at the Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park.
- Lincoln Community Garden – Jim Sposato, Stephanie and Jeff McGuire, and student crew from the EAST class at Lincoln Middle School, were recognized in The Enterprise Leader on March 12, 2025, for individual WCMG awards, WCMG Project of the Year, a grant received, and service to the community.

- Jan Lefler announced Busy Bee Awards will be presented on a quarterly basis. She read off the names of Busy Bee recipients as follows:
 - February – Alfi Anderson, Liz Hale, Ruthanne Hill, Kathy Launder, Julie Murray, and Jim Sposato.
 - March – Geri Alvis, Carole Ball, Linda Bennett-Smith, Pam Butler, Kristi Campbell, David Edwards, Carrie Gamble, Karen Hanna-Towne, Jan Lefler, Patsy Louk, and Laura Wilkins.

Announcements

- Requesting help from members to lead and work with the Garden Explorers Program – a sanctioned project hands-on program for children ages 5-12. Contact Elizabeth Woods – ewoods1665@gmail.com or (479) 466-1665 for further information.
- Terra Studios was not approved as a WCMG sanctioned project at the March WCMG Executive Committee Meeting. For those who may be interested in working at the site, the hours would count as non-sanctioned project hours – Contact owner, Emma Fuston, emma@terrastudios.com or (479) 643-3185.
- Speaker for the May 6, 2025, WCMG Business Meeting will be Lauren Eno, a Wild Birds Unlimited company educator – “Year-Round Gardening for Birds.”
- Thank you to the Mock Park Sanctioned Project (SP) crew for April meeting room set up/cleanup. The Veterans Administration Hospital and Community Vegetable Garden SP crew are on the schedule for May meeting room setup/cleanup.

Upcoming Events

- The Farm Friends Event, scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025, needs more volunteers to make cornbread. Contact: Geri Alvis - onetanupsarm@cox.net for more information.
- State Master Gardener Conference in White County, Searcy, AR, June 5-7, 2025, will be closing early registration tonight. The registration fee will be \$150 beginning April 2-15, 2025. Registration deadline for all participants is April 15, 2025.
- The June 3, 2025, WCMG 6:30 meeting will be a picnic/potluck hosted by Elkins Community Center Sanctioned Project group. Location: Bunch Park, E 2nd Ave, Elkins, AR 72727. Bring your own plate, non-alcohol drink, utensils, napkins, and favorite dish to share. David Edwards and the Composters will provide musical entertainment along with other possible guest musicians.
- Garden Gate Tour Fundraiser hosted by WCMG in Elkins and SE Fayetteville, Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 9 am to 4 pm. Tickets are \$20 per person.
- Mentors and Mentees take note of this special event just for you: At the Washington County Extension Office on July 10, 2025, at 5 pm a meal will be provided, followed by an Annuals to Perennials zoom presentation from 6 pm – 8 pm.
- County 76 Plant Nurture Grow (PNG) Leadership Conference will be held October 1-2, 2025, at C.A. Vines 4-H Center, Ferndale, AR.

Free to take home Covid test kits, provided by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, were available to members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary