

# **WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MAY 6, 2025**

**Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

Members Present: 89

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Alfi Anderson.

Lauren Eno, Education Director for Wild Birds Unlimited in Fayetteville, Arkansas, speaking on “Year-Round Gardening for Birds,” was introduced by Vice-President, Pam Butler. Eno holds a degree in Environmental Science and has enjoyed watching birds since she was a young girl. Her topic included reasons to garden for the birds: they sing for us, eat a lot of insects, disperse seeds, and watching them can lead to a sense of calm. She also provided advice on how to be seasonally savvy with best practices for providing water, food, shelter, and habitat throughout the year.

## **Business Meeting**

The April 1, 2025, Membership Meeting minutes were approved and will be sent to the archives.

The Treasurer’s Reports from September 2024 through December 2024 were approved and will be sent to the archives.

Alfi Anderson reviewed budget practices as follows:

- How the annual budget is prepared and how the money is used.
- Only the Extension Office and Compost Demonstration Site Sanctioned Projects receive money from the WCMG annual budget because WCMG is the sponsoring organization.
- Explained the process for reimbursement of expenditures with an emphasis on having clean receipts meaning that they contain only items approved for purchase.
- Purchase request forms can be downloaded from the WCMG website or picked up from the Extension Office.

## Veterans Administration Gardens

Brad Neidecker gave an update on the renovations in progress at the VA Sanctioned Project.

- Garden name has been changed to Veterans’ Healing Harvest Garden.
- Handicap accessible – a wheelchair can navigate between rows.
- 16 of 17 raised beds have been installed.

- All hardscaping should be completed by the end of May 2025.
- Over 1500 pavers have been put in place.
- An 8-foot chain link deer fence will be placed around the garden.
- Since July 2024, over 1200 volunteer Master Gardener hours have been logged in on the project. It has been a “Labor of Love.”
- Goals for the project are to provide vegetables for food insecure vets and to give them a place to participate in gardening and to relax and rest.

### Junior Master Gardeners 1.0

Makayla Cox reported that she has been a member of the Junior Master Gardeners for the past 11 years. The group meets on the second Saturday of every month at Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center. The following update was given:

- Service projects include working in the pollinator beds at the Washington County Extension Office and with flowers and herbs at the Pauline Whitaker facility.
- Participation in the Washington County Fair by entering their plants and craft projects.
- Place American Flags on the grave sites at Veterans’ Cemetery for Memorial Day.
- Prepare and send Christmas cards to Veterans.

April photo contest winners were announced. The theme for May is “Shade Lovers” shade plants and gardens.

### **In the News**

Jacob Campbell, guitarist, along with a singer in the duo, performed at the FCA Legacy Dinner 2025.

LaDeana Mullinix read from her new book of poems, “Soft Comforts,” at the Farmington Library on April 6, 2025.

Dr. Danna Grear was honored at the Washington County Women in History Coalition Banquet on March 31, 2025, for significant contributions to Washington County organizations and in addressing community needs.

Carolyn Newbern, Vicki Spencer, and Kristi Campbell were photographed in April while working in the gardens at Headquarters House in preparation for the commemoration event of the 1863 Battle of Fayetteville which took place on the grounds.

Jody Miskell, Mary Crumley, and Adriana Treadway volunteered at the Earth Day Recycling Event held at Washington County Extension Office on April 22, 2025. In the photo they were

shown sorting through some of the dropped off items which were said to total over 1,560 pounds.

Marty Powers, then a Captain in the Fayetteville Fire Department, rescued a 6-week-old infant, Angelica Schmitt, from a burning apartment building on January 31, 1995. Over the past 30 years Angelica Schmitt has kept in touch with “Uncle Marty” and now has a daughter of her own. The photographs accompanying the story from the Arkansas Democrat Gazette were heart-warming to see.

### **Announcements**

Arkansas Composting Awareness Week – Composting Field Day 1:30 – 4 p.m. May 9, 2025, at Washington County Extension Office.

Sixth Annual Wesley Flower Exchange 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. May 17, 2025, at 324 Hwy 74, Wesley, AR.

Karen Hanna-Towne, the host of the Swag Swap, is requesting WCMG clean and gently used items to be dropped off at the Washington County Extension before the June picnic meeting.

Elkins Sanctioned Project will be hosting the annual picnic and membership meeting on June 3, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at Bunch Park – E 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Elkins, AR. Bring your plate, utensils, napkin, non-alcohol drink and favorite dish to share. There will be seating, but you are welcome to bring a chair.

County 76 is requesting donated items for the Silent Auction scholarship fundraiser to be held at the 2025 MG State Conference May 5 & 6 in Searcy, AR.

2025 Garden Gate Tour Fundraiser – June 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Elkins and SE Fayetteville. Tickets are \$20. Marty Powers packaged over 1000 seed packets so that every ticket holder will go home with seeds.

Annuals to Perennials Mentor/Mentee event and Zoom presentation will be held on July 10, 2025, at the Washington County Extension Office from 5 to 8 p.m. Dinner will be provided at 5 p.m.

October 1-2, 2025 – Plant Nurture Grow (PNG) Conference will be held in Ferndale, AR, at the C. A. Vines 4-H Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary

Final 2025-May-13