

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUSINESS MEETING

July 1, 2025 Held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Members present: 94

President Alfi Anderson called the Hawai'ian themed meeting to order at 6:27 P.M. Many members were decked out in fine floral attire and leis. The Aloha spirit was in the air.

Vice-President Pam Butler introduced the guest speaker, Jennifer Ogle, manager of the University of Arkansas Herbarium, botanist, author, and instructor. Her presentation topics included an overview of a variety native plants, the importance of oak forests, preservation of remnant prairies, and how to identify native plants from invasive species from other countries by checking their scientific names.

Business Meeting

Financial reports from January, February, and March were approved and will be sent to the archives.

Since there was not a WCMG Business Meeting in June due to the Annual Picnic event, the minutes were approved from the May meeting and will be sent to the archives.

Darielle James asked that requests for the 2026 budget be submitted. The proposed 2026 budget will be presented at the Executive Committee Meeting on July 15, 2025.

An Assistant Treasurer is needed for the remainder of this year and for 2026. Please notify Alfi Anderson if you are interested in the position.

Jan Lefler presented Busy Bee Awards to recipients for the months of April, May, and June. Years of Service (5-10-15-20 years) and Lifetime achievement receivers were also recognized. Congratulations and thank you for your service and dedication.

Congratulations also for Washington County projects recognized at the Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference in June - the Lincoln Community Garden Project received the Scholarship Award, the BGO Butterfly House received the award for Excellence in Education, and the Washington County Historical Society was recognized as Friend Organization.

An update on the Arkansas Air and Military Sanctioned Project was presented by Peggy Konert. The garden renovation began in 2024 and has literally blossomed since then under the care of Project Chair, Luanne Diffin, and the crew of MG volunteers. They have planted

over 20 native plants, 13 larval host plants, 80 nectar plants, and more. A retired pilot was said to comment that “now I can watch the small aviators.” A co-chair is needed for this project - contact Luanne Diffin, or Nancy Sloan.

Laura Underwood and Danna Gear reported on the 2025 Garden Gate Tour. It was a great success and well-attended. The 42 MG volunteers put in 265 hours in preparation before the tour, and 80 MG volunteers worked at the gardens on the day of the tour. A total of 388 tickets were sold, and 71 complimentary tickets were given to the volunteers, totaling 459 tickets.

May “Shade Lovers” and June “Container Gardens” photo contest winners were announced. The contest theme for July is “Perennial Flowers.”

In the News

A photograph of Laura Wilkins and her husband, Bruce, attending the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas Spring Gala appeared in the Northwest Democrat Gazette.

Upcoming Events

July 10th Annuals to Perennials Zoom watch party for mentors and mentees at the Washington County Extension Office from 5 – 8 P.M.

Announcements

Compost sanctioned project crew will be responsible for setting up the room at the August 5th meeting.

Meeting ended at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary