

WASHINGTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

November 4, 2025 Held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Members Present: 85

President Alfi Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:27 P.M. Vice President Pam Butler introduced the guest speaker, Elizabeth Berner, Washington County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent. She spoke about a variety of programs offered through her department including 16 Homemakers Clubs, Health and Wellness, Food Safety and Food Preservation, Personal Finance for Junior and High School Students with real life simulation stations, and Health Literacy with a booklet on How to Talk with your Doctor.

Business Meeting

The October meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the membership and will be sent to the archives by Carole Ball, Secretary.

The September Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously by the membership and will be sent to the archives by Julie Murray, Treasurer.

Doris Cassidy, Project Chair, gave an update on the Elkins Community Sanctioned Project as follows:

- Established in 2014 by Jan Judy.
- Project includes the Elkins Community Center, Elkins Library, Elkins Senior Center, and Bunch Park Flagpole gardens.
- 2017 awarded WCMG Project of the Year.
- On the 2025 WCMG Garden Gate Tour.
- Project volunteer hours so far this year total 1,534.5 hours.

Alfi reminded members that annual dues of \$30 may be paid online, at the Washington County Extension Office in person, or at the meeting tonight by cash or credit card. Dues paid after December 1, 2025, will increase to \$35 which includes a \$5 late fee.

The October photo contest winners were announced. There was a three-way tie for first place. The theme for the November photo contest is "Fall Color." The photo submission deadline date is November 15th.

Alfi stated that 171 WCMGs have recorded their volunteer hours for 2025 and that over 100 members have not yet entered any volunteer hours. The deadline for recording hours is December 15, 2025. She reminded members there is information on the WCMG website on how to record volunteer hours.

In the News

The October 28, 2025, edition of the Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette featured photos of Jim Sposato and Teresa Sullivan, in action, harvesting sweet potatoes at the Lincoln Community Garden.

Upcoming Events

June 2-4, 2026 – State Master Gardener Conference hosted by Faulkner County in Conway, Arkansas.

December 2, 2025, the WCMG holiday potluck will be held at the Don Tyson Center for Agriculture Sciences. Members were reminded to bring a dish to share, and for some to bring a meat entree since none will be provided, their own plates, silverware, utensils and napkins. Coffee and water will be provided.

There will be an ornament exchange. Ornaments should be wrapped and can be old or new.

An educational component will be provided by Donilyn Rutherford, who will describe how materials that make a good wreath are grown and marketed, and Donna McDaniel will demonstrate how to make a holiday wreath.

Announcements

An email will be sent out to members, and for those who do not use email, a letter will be sent, with a ballot for voting on a location for the 2026 WCMG Business Meetings. The ballot will provide information about the choices. Members will be asked to vote for either the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church or the Washington County Extension Office Auditorium.

Alfi presented a slide that asked the question 'What are you thankful for?' 'You!' She thanked the membership, Chairs and Co-Chairs, and expressed appreciation for all the contributions that have been made by WCMGs.

Nicholas Sammer, Chair of Community Outreach Sanctioned Project, requested members with an interest in education consider giving presentations on their topic or area of expertise. He said there will be lots of opportunities for community education in 2026. Nicholas said there would be a sign-up sheet after the meeting for members who are willing to participate.

West Fork Sanctioned Project Crew was thanked for setting up the meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Carole Ball, Secretary