

WCMG Business Meeting held on Zoom

January 6, 2026

Participants: 129

Colin Massey, Washington County UAEX Agent for Horticulture hosted the Zoom Meeting.

Alfi Anderson, Past President, called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Colin introduced the speaker, Jason Reeves, who gave an excellent presentation on 'Color Me Happy: Plants that Brighten Winter's Gloom.' Mr. Reeves grew up on a farm in Western Tennessee where he developed an early interest in plants, trees, and shrubs. He received his master's degree in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Mr. Reeves is a contributing editor to Fine Gardening Magazine. He makes garden art from recycled and found materials, uses bottle art to make garden chandeliers and decorative walls, and created a whimsical Farm Kitchen garden using vintage furniture and appliances as planters and for structural interest. He currently is the manager of the University of Tennessee gardens in Jackson.

Mr. Reeves provided a handout, which Colin sent to registrants, via email with an outline of his topics on what to plant and the characteristics of the plant, tree, or shrub that added color and texture to the garden in late fall, winter, or early spring.

Administrative

Colin Massey expressed gratitude to the outgoing WCMG President Alfi Anderson, WCMG Executive Board, mentors, to all project and committee chairs and co-chairs, and the volunteer crew members who contributed their time and energy to make 2025 a successful year with many accomplishments in adding beauty through gardening and education for communities in Washington County.

Colin spoke about the New Year bringing change that is necessary, although sometimes difficult. Change creates opportunities for new ideas, fresh energy, and to continue to move forward in elevating the WCMG program. He made an analogy, from his background as a musician and music lover, that the Executive Board members are like folks being in a band or an orchestra where individuals play an instrument creating music that is special and often harmonious with the rest of their fellow musicians. It is an act of creative cooperation that assists the WCMG organization to thrive. Colin expressed thank you from the Extension Office and membership.

The number of volunteer hours reported by WCMG from October 2024 to September 2025 (fiscal year) would equal \$660,000 given back to the community.

The WCMG Scholarship Fund awarded \$1000 to assist the recipient to be able make a career change from nursing to studying horticulture at the University of Arkansas.

Colin installed the following WCMG 2026 new officers by asking them to take the oath of office:

- Past President - Alfi Anderson
- President - Pam Butler
- Vice President - Rick Oliver (unable to attend the Zoom meeting)
- Secretary - Carole Ball
- Treasurer - Julie Murray
- Assistant Treasurer - Caleb Ericks Israel
- Members - at - Large
 - Steve Sherman
 - Judi Sartwell
 - Mary McCully

Pam Butler, as the new president, put up slides to continue the meeting. She thanked the members of the Executive Board for their service.

The approval of the December meeting minutes and December treasurer's report will be addressed at the February meeting.

Photo contest winners for December were announced. Photo contest theme for January is "Potpourri." Photo contest theme for February is "Flowers, Flowers, Flowers." (Not trees or shrubs, and both annuals and perennials.)

In-the-News

A photo in the Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette on December 18, 2025, featured longtime employee at the Washington County Extension Office, Debbie Clevenger, setting out a homemade pot pie on the buffet table with Angie, in the background. These wonderful Extension Office staffers were preparing for the Holiday Open House that afternoon.

WCMG volunteer hours may now be submitted for 2026. The hours accrued after December 15, 2025, can be reported on any date in January.

If membership photos are needed, contact Susan Young.

For any changes in address, phone number, or email, contact Linda Cook Smith.

The Passport project table will be on site at the February WCMG business meeting for Passport pick-up or to get a Passport stamp.

The February 3rd meeting will be held at the Don Tyson Center. Trainees will have graduation and awards will be presented.

The March 3rd meeting, featuring the Project Fair, will be held at Thompson Hall.

President Pam Butler has a new email address:

pambwcmg26@yahoo.com

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Carole Ball, Secretary