

# WCMG BUSINESS MEETING

February 3, 2026

Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences

Members present: 121      Guests: 25

## **Administrative**

President Pam Bulter called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

WCMG Business Meeting minutes from November and December 2025, and January 2026, were approved unanimously by the membership and will be sent to the archivist.

The Treasurer 's reports from November and December 2025 were approved unanimously by the membership and will be sent to the archivist.

The number of volunteer hours reported for sanctioned projects will be published monthly in the Garden Thyme Newsletter and quarterly at WCMG Business meetings.

Photo contest winners were announced. The photo contest theme for February is 'Flowers, Flowers, Flowers.' Annuals and perennials but no shrubs or trees. Photo submission deadline is February 15.

Alfi Anderson reported on the Passport Program. She pointed out how helpful her team members, Rhonda Lovell and Caleb Israel, have been in launching the program. Alfi gave a brief overview of how the Passport program works. A table will be set up at monthly business meetings for members to pick-up their Passport and to receive stamps and stickers. A photo is not required, but members may use a photo they already have or take one of themselves to put on their Passport.

## **In the News**

January 9, 2026, NWA Democratic Gazette featured WCMG Jane Bryant in a photograph during a meeting at Fayetteville Public Library.

WCMG Lynette Terrell appeared in photographs on January 19, 2026, with other Fayetteville volunteers pulling invasives and picking up litter in the Fay Jones Woods on the Lower Ramble.

How to use Purchase Order Forms for Sanctioned Projects with budgets was reviewed. For details, refer to 2026 – WCMG-Purchase-Protocols-01-30-2026-.pdf.

The Project Fair will be held on March 3, 2026, at Thompson Hall on the Washington County Fairgrounds. Elkins Sanctioned Projects crew will be setting up the meeting room.

### **2025/2026 Trainees and Transfers to the WCMG Program and 2025 Graduates**

The following 2025/2026 Online Trainees were recognized for completing their course work:

Mary Harvey, Matthew Mabry, Alethea Prince, Sydney Rice, Madison Soderquist, and Debbie Whicker.

2026 In-Person Trainees are listed as follows:

Katie Altland, Deborah Coley, Marlene Craig, Sharon Etchison, Sarah Farmer, Kristine Hall, Catherine Harrison, Melissa Harwood-Rom, Tracy Jouett, Sharon Keen, Yi Liang, Colleen McCarthy, Noel Morris, Carol Ann Phillips, Kay Pike, Brandi Pucek, Amber Stewart, Anna Watson, Laura West, Robert White, and Michael Whitehead.

The following transfer-in members were welcomed to WCMG:

Deby Prince from Garland County, AR; Rick Stanley, from Lonoke County, AR; Marty Hampton, from North Carolina; and Pam Mickelson, from Iowa.

Pam handed over the podium to Patsy Louk and Kathy Launder, Co-Chairs of the New MG Training and Mentoring Committee, to address the membership and guests.

WCMG 2025 graduates received their official WCMG ID badges as follows:

Lynne Bell, Debra Broyles, Kelly Chaney, Kim Coslett, Roger Faulkner, Calinda Green, Jessica Guillory, James Harvey, Caleb Israel, Calista Keck, Rhonda Lovell, Donna McDaniel, Tim McGinn, Jeff McGuire, Becca Muenich, Swathi Munagala, Steve Shearman, Mary Sparks, Bill Speer, Terri Speer, Teresa Sullivan, Julie Torseth, and Mari Walters-Ford.

### **2025 Awards**

Jan Lefler stepped up to the podium, and with the assistance of Elizabeth Hale, the Co-Chairs of the Awards Committee announced award winners and distributed award pins.

WCMG awarded Trowel pins for reporting 200+ hours on Sanctioned Projects or Committees for years 1-4 are as follows:

Marguerite Abowitz, Alfi Anderson, Carole Ball, Steve Brizzi, Kristi Campbell, Kelly Chaney, Kim Coslett, Luanne Diffin, David Edwards, Roger Faulkner, Roxanne Gallup,

Carrie Gamble, Danna Grear, Jessica Guillory, Ruthanne Hill, Terry Kinsey, Kathy Launder, Vicki Mayo, Donna McDaniel, Julie Murray, Brad Neidecker, Rick Oliver, Lisa Owen, Lynette Terrell, Jane Van Tuyl, Janice Walker, and Laura Wilkins.

WCMG awarded Watering Can pins for reporting 200+ hours for years 5-9 are as follows:

Doris Cassidy, Elizabeth Hale, Karen Hanna-Towne, and Neta Winston.

WCMG awarded Wheelbarrow pins for reporting 200+ hours for years 10-15 are as follows:

Geraldine Alvis, Patsy Louk, and Jim Sposato.

WCMG awarded Golden Butterfly pins for reporting 200+ hours for years 16-19 as follows:

Jan Lefler and Kitty Sanders.

WCMG winners of the Joyce Mendenhall “Yes, I Can” Award, receiving a hand painted watering can by Jayne Laster, are as follows:

Steve Brizzi, LaDeana Mullinex, and Brad Neidecker

Nominees who received awards and will be included at the State MG award level are as follows:

Marty Powers AKA Marty the Monarch Man – Master Gardener of the Year

Kim Coslett – Rookie of the Year

Martha Haguewood – Mentor of the Year

Ozark Veterans’ Healing Harvest Garden (formerly known as VA Gardens) – Project of the Year

Joe Cohea – Individual MG Friend of the Year

White River Nursery – WCMG Business Friend of the Year

Cookie bakers for the Awards Ceremony event were recognized and thanked for their delicious contributions as follows:

Chris Bell, Keith Blowers, Pam Butler, Judy Cohea, Tanya Collins, Delcina Cunico, Paula Dutton, Danna Grear, Carolyn Griffith, Audley Hall, Jan Hayes, Ruthanne Hill, Caleb Israel, Calista Keck, Stacy Lake, Jayne Laster, Kathy Launder, Linda Morrow, Lisa Owen, Aimee Payne, Pam Salamo, Mo Shamseldin, Susan Snell, Martha

Sparkman, Vicki Spencer, Dolores Stamps, Lynette Terrell, Kara Wishon, Laura Underwood, and Jane Van Tuyl.

Thanks went out to Pam Butler, Alfi Anderson, Patsy Louk, Kathy Launder, Jan Lefler, Eliabeth Hale, Staff Chair Katie Teague, County Agent Colin Massey, the Extension Office support staff, Debbie Clevenger and Angie Crawford, and to the Photography Committee members, Kitty Sanders, Kathryn Birkhead, and Caleb Israel, videographer, for the smooth operation of the evening's event.

Susan Young, the NWA Food Bank, and Baker Creek were thanked for donating seed packets, and Randy Butler for storing the boxes of seeds in his home workshop. Susan Young was also thanked for setting up a table in the Tyson Building hallway for folks to browse and pick out seeds.

Thanks were given to the WCMG Awards Committee Members, Co-Chairs Jan Lefler, Liz Hale, and members Geri Alvis, Chris Bell, Jayne Laster, Patsy Louk, and Kitty Sanders for overseeing the outstanding Awards event.

Thanks were given to Kathy Launder, Paula Dutton, and all volunteers for creating the lovely décor of the meeting room, setting up the bountiful refreshment table for members and guests, and for making it a memorable evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Ball, Secretary

