

ANNUAL WCMG AWARDS - PRIOR WINNERS

Washington County Master Gardeners

The WCMG Awards Committee is comprised of prior Washington County Master Gardener of the Year award recipients. The committee is responsible for determining the county awards selection process and to establish county award categories as directed by the WCMG Executive Committee and State Master Gardener Program. The Awards Committee ensures county MG program guidelines are followed and the WCMG awards nominations are based on the current State MG award guidelines. The committee may also establish other special award categories for WCMG volunteer recognition. Committee recommendations shall submit award selections to the Washington County Extension Service Agent responsible for the Master Gardener Program **prior to December 15** each year.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION (EIE) – This award, started in **2015**, is designed to recognize an outstanding WCMG project that demonstrates significant learning in a targeted audience(s.) The project must target one of the following groups: (1) Youth/School Program, (2) Demonstration or Research Gardens, (3) Underserved Audience (i.e., seniors, people with disabilities, low-income families, incarcerated individuals.) The project must have been implemented for one full year. The project should be easy for other MG programs to replicate. All sanctioned projects are eligible EXCEPT previous EIE winners and Project of the Year winners for this same sanctioned project in the last 5 years, unless substantial new results are documented and measured. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Excellence in Education Award Recipients

- 2015 “Soil Detectives” Lesson for Community Outreach
- 2016 “Springdale for Monarchs” Program in City of Springdale
- 2017 No Nomination
- 2018 No Nomination
- 2019 Garden Explorers Project (also State)**
- 2020 No Nomination
- 2021 No Nomination
- 2022 No Nomination
- 2023 West Fork Gardens
- 2024 “Botanical Garden of the Ozarks - Butterfly Education Program (also State)**
- 2025 No Nomination

FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS - INDIVIDUAL and ORGANIZATION/BUSINESS - These awards are open to a non-Master Gardener individual, business/organization who have shown outstanding support of the Master Gardener Program in your county EXCEPT those who have won in the last 5 years. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Friend of Master Gardener Award Recipients

- 2010 Lesa Netherland with Fayetteville City Parks - Individual (also State)**
- 2011 No Nomination
- 2012 No Nomination
- 2013 Fayetteville Perennial Garden Club – Organization (also State)**
- 2014 Becky Roark with Illinois River Watershed Partnership (IRWP) – Individual
- 2015 Doris Cassidy – Individual
- 2016 Mayor Bob Hulse of Lincoln – Individual
- 2017 Virgil Pianalto – Individual
- 2017 Judy Brittenum with Washington County Historical Society - Organization
- 2018 Terry Gullely of Elkins – Individual; Organization – no nomination
- 2019 Alexis Walker of West Fork – Individual; Organization – no nomination

FRIEND OF MASTER GARDENERS

Prior WCMG Friend of Master Gardener Award Recipients

- 2020 No Nominations
- 2021 Susan Adkins – Superintendent at Prairie Grove Battlefield Park – Individual (also State); Organization – no nomination**
- 2022 Mike Cassidy of Elkins – Individual for Elkins and Washington County Fair projects; Organization – no nomination
- 2023 Gilbert Alvis – Individual for Compost Demonstration Site (also State)**
City of West Fork – Organization for West Fork Gardens project
- 2024 Jeff McGuire – Individual for Lincoln Community Garden project
Lee Anne Wiederkehr – Organization for Washington County Historical Society and Headquarters House project (also State)
- 2025 Joe Cohea – Individual for Lincoln Community Garden project
White River Nursery – Business Friend of WCMGs

MASTER GARDENER OF THE YEAR - This award, started in 1997, recognizes a Master Gardener who has made an exceptional contribution to the MG program, Extension Service, and county. All active Master Gardeners are eligible to be nominated for the Master Gardener of the Year Award EXCEPT previous winners. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior Washington County Master Gardener of the Year Award Recipients

1997	Millie Bowman	2011	Jan Lefler	2025	Marty Powers
1998	Janice Neighbor	2012	Dian Holmes (also State)		
1999	Janice Ryan	2013	Lois Slusarek		
2000	Joyce Mendenhall (also State)	2014	Gloria McIntosh		
2001	Pauline Keegan	2015	Patsy Louk		
2002	Betty Swope	2016	Kitty Sanders		
2003	John Bushkuhl	2017	Carol Butler		
2004	John Borbas	2018	Geraldine Alvis		
2005	Beverly Melton	2019	Chris Bell		
2006	Nancy Umiker	2020	Truman Stamps		
2007	Colleen Brown	2021	Susan Young		
2008	Gail Pianalto (also State)	2022	Jayne Laster		
2009	Valerie Fletcher	2023	Mariette Spidel		
2010	Mary Crumley	2024	Elizabeth Hale		

PROJECT OF THE YEAR - This award is open to all sanctioned projects within the WCMG program EXCEPT those that have won in the last 5 years. Renomination of a previously winning project 5-plus years ago requires significant changes to warrant a re-nomination. Statewide Master Gardener events (e.g., hosting the AR MG State Conference) are NOT eligible for this award. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Sanctioned Projects of the Year Award Recipients

- 2003 Fayetteville Parks and Recreation
- 2004 Headquarters House
- 2005 Compost Demonstration Site
- 2006 Fayetteville Parks and Recreation
- 2007 Rain Gardens
- 2008 The Sensory Garden at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks (also State)**
- 2009 Junior Master Gardeners
- 2010 Fayetteville City Hospital
- 2011 Headquarters House
- 2012 West Fork Library
- 2013 Washington County Fair
- 2014 “Soil Detectives” for Community Outreach

PROJECT OF THE YEAR (Continued)

Prior WCMG Sanctioned Projects of the Year Award Recipients

- 2015 **Washington County Extension Office (also State)**
- 2016 Lincoln Community Garden
- 2017 Elkins Community Center
- 2018 Shiloh Museum of the Ozarks Gardens
- 2019 Veterans Hospital (VHSO) Gardens
- 2020 No Nomination
- 2021 Headquarters House
- 2022 No Nomination
- 2023 Compost Demonstration Site
- 2024 Lincoln Community Garden
- 2025 Veterans Health and Healing Garden

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - This award, started in **2004**, recognizes a Rookie (first year) Master Gardener who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the MG program, Extension Service, and county. This award is open to Master Gardeners who have finished their MG basic training and completed their first-year membership certification requirements of 40 work hours and 20 education hours within 12 months of the basic training. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Rookie of the Year Award Recipients

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|
| 2004 | Jean Collins (also State) | 2015 | Geraldine Alvis |
| 2005 | Mary Anderson | 2016 | Paula Dutton |
| 2006 | Ruth Chapman | 2017 | Neta Winston (also State) |
| 2007 | Elaine Stern | 2018 | Doris Cassidy |
| 2008 | Cindi Cope | 2019 | Trudy Carrigan |
| 2009 | Marty Smith | 2020 | Annie Moore |
| 2010 | Robin Selman | 2021 | Judy Cohea |
| 2011 | Wendy Kozeny | 2022 | Kristi Campbell |
| 2012 | Jan Judy | 2023 | Roxanne Gallup |
| 2013 | Beverly Didier (also State) | 2024 | Pam Salamo |
| 2014 | Dani Dingman (also State) | 2025 | Kim Coslett |

MIMI COX MENTOR OF THE YEAR -This award was started first as a local award in **2013**.

In **2022**, the Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year Award is awarded at the state level and recognizes a Master Gardener who has worked directly with one or more Master Gardener mentees/graduates during their first year in the local county program and/or has made significant contributions to the county's mentoring program. Previous winners of this award are NOT eligible. Nominations may be made any WCMG member.

Prior WCMG Mentor of Year Award Recipients

- | | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|----------------|------|--------------------------------|
| 2013 | Dian Holmes | 2018 | Neta Winston | 2023 | Patsy Louk (also State) |
| 2014 | Robin Selman | 2019 | Doris Cassidy | 2024 | Jan Lefler |
| 2015 | Martha Ward | 2020 | Glen Robillard | 2025 | Martha Haguewood |
| 2016 | Geraldine Alvis | 2021 | Jim Sposato | | |
| 2017 | Gail Pianalto | 2022 | No Nomination | | |

STATE MASTER GARDENER COUNTY AGENT OF THE YEAR – This state MG award is open to all Extension agents who assist the local Master Gardener program. Agents who have won the Extension Agent of the Year Award are not eligible for renomination for a minimum of **5 years** while remaining in the same position and/or location. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member.

Prior State MG County Agent of Year Award Recipients

- 2010 - **Berni Kurz**
- 2020 - **Colin Massey**

STATE MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR - This state MG award is open to all Master Gardener Program newsletters EXCEPT those which have won in the **last 5 years**. The newsletter must be written and edited by Master Gardeners and adhere to UADA Brand Identity and Logo Standards and Guidelines, found online at the UADA website. This award is judged on overall presentation or appearance of the publication, content, writing, graphics, layout, and design. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member.

Prior State MG Newsletter of the Year Award Recipients

2007 – Garden Thyme - Editor Jean Collins

2011 – Garden Thyme - Co-Editors Jan Lefler and Terry Smyers

2023 – Garden Thyme - Managing Co-Editors Judy Smith and Mary McCully

***TROWEL AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2011**, recognizes WCMG members who record 200-Plus sanctioned volunteer hours to the organization in a year. (No forms.)

***WATERING CAN AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2016**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Trowel Award (200-Plus sanctioned volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a trowel, they will, instead, be awarded the Watering Can pin (No forms.)

***WHEELBARROW AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2020**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Watering Can Award (200-Plus sanctioned volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a watering can, they will, instead, be awarded the Wheelbarrow pin (No forms.)

***GOLDEN BUTTERFLY AWARD PIN** - This local award, started in **2024**, recognizes WCMG members who have been awarded the Wheelbarrow Award (200-Plus sanctioned volunteer hours) for four years. For the fifth year of qualifying for a wheelbarrow pin, they will, instead, be awarded the Golden Butterfly pin (No forms.)

***JOYCE MENDENHALL “YES, I CAN” AWARD** - This local award, started in **2008**, recognizes WCMGs and/or Rookie (trainees) who have made exceptional contributions to the MG program, Extension Service, and/or county. They are always ready, willing, and demonstrate a “can do” attitude by participating in WCMG projects, committees, and other activities. Nominations may be made by any WCMG member.

All active members and trainees are eligible for this award EXCEPT previous winners of WCMG Master Gardener of the Year, Rookie of the Year, Mentor of the Year, or Joyce Mendenhall ‘Yes, I Can’ awards in the last 5 years.

Prior WCMG “Yes, I Can” Award Recipients

2008	Vicki Knight and Martha Ward (both WCMGs)
2009	Dolores Stamps (WCMG)
2010	Valerie Fletcher (WCMG)
2011	Lois Slusarek (WCMG)
2012	Tanya Collins and Kitty Sanders (both Rookies)
2013	Susan Gardner (Rookie)
2014	Truman Stamps (WCMG) and Mary Beth Lohr (Rookie)
2015	Judie Branson (WCMG) and Dawn Didier (Rookie)
2016	Jan Hayes (WCMG) and Sara Hardin (Rookie)
2017	Jim and Linda MacLean and Debbie Gilmore (Rookie)
2018	Annette Pianalto (WCMG) and Mike Mohler (Rookie)
2019	LaDeana Mullinex (WCMG) and James McGinty (Rookie)
2020	Linda Morrow (WCMG) and Elizabeth Hale (Rookie)
2021	Kathryn Birkhead, Betty Nichols, and Brandy Molloy (WCMGs)
2022	Patsy Louk (WCMG) and Aileen Wilson (Rookie)
2023	Janice Walker and Geri Alvis (WCMGs); Carrie Gamble and Gari James (Rookies)
2024	Doris Cassidy and Kathy Launder (WCMGs); Sheri Bucciferro and Stephanie McGuire (Rookies)
2025	Steve Brizzi, LaDeana Mullinex, and Brad Neidecker (WCMGs)

***These are local Washington County Awards only and are not awarded at the state level.**