

# WEEDER'S DIGEST

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

March 2019 Volume 13, Issue 3

## Our Meeting will be March 7th

Greeting at 6:00pm

Meeting begins at 6:30pm

Speaking will be Nan Snider, a native of Monette, AR. Author of many articles for the Town Crier.

Spring is almost here, and with the warmer weather comes the

desire to be out in our yards and other gardens enjoying the fresh air and preparing for the delightful blooms soon to come. We, as gardeners, are prone to over-do our bodies in these preparations. Listen to your bodies, drink your fluids and take notice of how you work your body.

This month is loaded with opportunities to attend seminars and plant sales. I look so forward to this time of the year, I'm almost as bad as a child at Christmas! Bringing home our little goodies and placing them in their new homes is so fulfilling to a gardener. If any of our members would like to attend an upcoming event but needs a ride or company please contact Donna Bandy or myself and we'll get you hooked up!



**U of A**  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION  
University of Arkansas System



## March Birthdays

1st	David Ancieta
2nd	Branon Thiesse
6th	Brenda Gray
7th	Ann Fergeson
17th	Connie Seay
20th	Debra Boyles
27th	Cathy Caldwell
29th	Gaye Morris
29th	Charlotte Hemphill
30th	Sandy Puryear

~Donna Tolewitzke, President

### Officers

President  
Donna Tolewitzke  
Past President  
Ann Fergeson  
Vice President  
Anna Warren  
Secretary  
Martha Edmundson  
Treasurer  
Sandy Puryear  
Assistant Treasurer  
Brenda Gray

### Standing Committee Chairs

Projects  
Karen Massey  
Programs  
Laura Bettis  
Recruitment, Retention, Recognition  
Stephanie Neely  
Historian  
Diane Sandberg  
Social  
Debbie Tate

### Parliamentary

an  
Mimi Cox  
Executive Committee  
The Officers  
Newsletter Editor  
Donna Tolewitzke  
Members-at-Large  
Jan Dupwe  
Donna Bandy  
Val Price

## **Project Chairs**

### **ASU Display Garden & Farmers' Market**

**Susan Westbrook- Chair**  
**Karen Pearce- Co-Chair**

### **On the Deck & Farmer's Market Entry**

**Donna Bandy**

### **ASU Greenhouse**

**LaVeta Howerton**

### **Butterfly Garden**

**Barb Evans**  
**Pat Finch**

### **Courthouse, Extension**

#### **Office & City Hall**

**Jason Mullins**

### **NEA District Fair**

**Diane Sandberg-Seeds**  
**Mike Wilbanks-MG Booth**  
**Mimi Cox-Floriculture**

### **NEA FFA-CDE**

**Bruce & Sharron Schelin**

### **Native Plant Garden**

**Ethel Cole-Chair**  
**Ann Ross- Co-Chair**

### **Plant Sale**

**Jason Mullins- Chair**  
**Vickey Mullally**

### **Plants for Sunset Gardens**

**Margaret Williams**

### **Extension Office Work & 2019 Basic Training Class**

**Neva Shewmaker**

### **HWES Children's Learning Garden**

**Melinda Smith**

### **Riceland Community Garden**

**Angie Schmidt**  
**Paula Smith**



## **Five Tips for Getting Ready for Spring**

**#1 Clean up-** You want to first start by clearing all of your garden beds and lawn of broken branches, leaves, and other debris that have collected. It's important to start these chores quickly, as

your spring bulbs and plants should be popping out of the ground any day now. The sooner you clean out the beds, the less chance you have of stepping on the growing plants and damaging them.

**#2 Prep Garden Tools-** Clean off the tools with soap and water, and use mineral spirits on wood handles. The mineral spirits will help prevent the wood from splintering. This is also a good time to sharpen any tools that need it.

**#3 Give the Soil some TLC-** Sample your soil to make sure that the pH is correct and you have sufficient levels of nutrients to begin the year. Deficiencies are harder to correct later in the year than earlier.

**#4 Make a Plan-** Study the plants that you want to grow and make sure they are hardy for your area and the growth habit fits the location for the plant. Pick plants that will provide color in the garden throughout the growing season.

**#5 Maintain It-** Don't let all of your hard work go to waste by allowing weeds to take over the space. Pre-emergent herbicides and mulch can assist in making your garden beautiful for the entire growing season.

***Branon Thiesse BS, MS***

***County Extension Agent - Staff Chair***

## **WELCOME CLASS OF 2019**

David Ancieta

Kim Bell

Leigh Black

Richard Boss

Sarah Dyson

Jan Glidewell

Gwendolyn Hutton

Carla Lane

Vicki Lewallen

Bradlee McAnally

Brandon Rogers

John Shepherd

Sally Slieman

LeeAnn Sloan

Suzanne Throesch

Angie Thompson

Cherie Wallis

Shirley Waln

Ed Williams

Diane Wimberly

Many of you have met or already know some of them. They are a great group! The classes were made extra interesting because of their questions and comments. Everyone will meet each other at the March meeting. Please be there March 7<sup>th</sup> to make our new members feel at home!

*~Stephanie Neely, RRR*

# Minutes of the February Meeting

By Martha Edmondson

Call to order: 6:35 p.m.

## Program:

The program was to be presented by the new convention center/Embassy Suites General Manager and Sales Manager. They were unable to come.

**Minutes:** Approved as published in the Newsletter

**Treasurer's Report:** Dues are now \$15.

## Project Report:

**Plant Sale** - Jason Mullins spoke briefly about the upcoming Plant Sale Project. He explained the necessity of having nice, healthy plants so that they would sell well. He reminded everyone that the plant sale is our only fund raiser. New members must provide five plants for the sale. Seasoned members must provide ten plants. Jason emphasized that any member could bring more than the minimum number of plants.

For the children's activity at the Plant Sale, Jason needs members to save single serve k-cup pods.

**FFA/CDE** – Sharron Schelin explained volunteer duties for this project, to be held on March 6 from 8 am – 12 pm. She stated that they needed ten more volunteers. Also needed are volunteers to set up on March 5 after 3:30 pm.

Karen Massey provided members with a signup sheet for working on projects. The changes suggest that each member choose one primary project on which they could commit to providing a minimum ten hours of work. The time worked on the primary project is not limited to ten hours. Members could choose to work at any Primary or Secondary project they wanted. Members would be contacted via text and/or email about work days and times.

(A complete list of the Primary and Secondary Projects may be found in the RED notebook. The Calendar in the Red notebook notes the days and times various projects meet to work).

**RRR:** Stephanie Neely introduced the 2019 Mentors. The 2019 New Member Class will be introduced at the March meeting. Seasoned members are encouraged to greet and get to know new members.



*Mentors from Left to Right: Melinda Smith, Anna Warren, Pat Finch, Susan Westbrook, Jason Mullins, Karen Massey, Karen Pearce, Martha Edmondson, Mike Wilbanks, Ditty Mitts, Vickey Mullally, Brenda Ferralasco, Mark Knuckles.*

## Old Business:

**Award:** Sharron Schelin received a special name tag for completing five Advanced Training classes.

Members were encouraged to sign up for the 2019 State Conference in Hope, Arkansas.

## New Business:

Beautiful tulips were given to members with February birthdays.

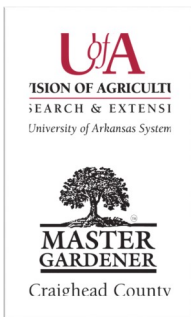
The door prizes were coleus plants provided by Joe Stainton.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.



*Sharron Schelin receiving her Silver Name Tag for completing 5 Advanced Training Classes.*



## Guidelines for Craighead County Master Gardeners Plant Sale

ASU Regional Farmers' Market  
April 27, 2019, 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

**\*Plants** - MGs are required to bring a **minimum** of 10 plants; while our new class members must bring a **minimum** of 5 plants each. **Additional plant contributions are certainly welcome.** Members are encouraged to propagate plants from their own gardens. However, they may purchase plants to resale. A four or six pack equals one plant. The public looks forward to our plant sale and we want to provide them with a good choice of **quality** plants.

In the past, we have asked MGs not to bring green liriopse/monkey grass. The committee has decided that members can bring more, but only 2 will be counted toward your 10 plants. For new class members only 1 liriopse/monkey grass will count toward your 5 plants.

Your plants should be labeled with the common name, botanical name, sun or shade requirements and any special care instructions. This information should be clearly written on the printed forms and attached to the plant.

The Plant Sale committee will be pricing all of the plants on Friday. So, there is no need to price them. If you have a special plant or merchandise item that you know the value of, feel free to mark that on your tag..

**A check-off sheet will be posted during the drop-off time. Make certain to sign the sheet in order to receive credit for your plant donations.**

**\*Drop-Off** - Plants should be dropped off at the Farmer's Market on Friday, April 26th, between 3:30 pm and 6:30 pm. If you are unable to drop off your plants at this time, please ask a fellow MG to bring your plants for you. **ONLY** if necessary you may drop plants off late Thursday evening or early Friday morning at the ASU Regional Farmers' Market complex. A sign in sheet will be provided. **It is recommended that you text a photo of where you left your plants to (870)974-2606.**

**\*Time** - The sale will begin Saturday, promptly at 7:00 am and continue until 3 pm. Workers should arrive at 6:45 am on Saturday morning to be in place for the opening of the sale. Master Gardeners will be allowed to purchase plants at noon at regular price. At the close of the sale a discount will be offered. **\*\*\*For fairness to all, Master Gardeners are NOT allowed to set plants aside for later purchase.**

**\*Workers** - In an effort to minimize confusion, signup will be job specific. Please review the attached job descriptions prior to signing up. All workers will have to sign in to ensure all roles are filled. Hours will be credited for those working specific roles.\*\*\* All Master Gardeners must wear their nametag and MG shirt and/or apron the day of the sale. Workers designated as "Checkers" should bring a steno pad, pens and a handheld calculator. Workers may bring drinks and snacks. A food truck will also be available.

**\*Other Items** - Members are encouraged to bring garden art, garden magazines or other related items to be sold in a "yard sale" type atmosphere. **Needed to use on sale day:** Wagons and Boxes

Questions? Contact Jason Mullins (870) 974-2606 by email [farm4hire@gmail.com](mailto:farm4hire@gmail.com)



# Craighead County Master Gardeners'

## Job Descriptions for the Spring Garden Fair and Plant Sale

**Management:** All chairs and assistant chairs have input into the organization and development of the sale.

**Plant Sale Chair-** General oversight and organization of sale.  
Coordinates publicity.  
Arranges educational segments.

**Assistant Chair-** Coordinates staffing.  
Secures facilities and associated details.

**Assistant Chair-** Directly oversees all non-plant merchandise.  
Encourages members to contribute at least one item for the sale.  
Arranges display of these materials at the sale.  
Floaters report directly to Assistant Chair.

### Customer Service:

**Cashiers (4)** Ensure that any needed supplies are available (i.e. pens, paper, bank bag, money box, calculator, etc.).  
Carries out cash and check transactions for customers.  
Provides occasional updates for chairs.

**Checkers (4-5)** Ensure that any needed supplies are available ( i.e. pens, calculator, etc.).  
Supply cashiers with a transaction total using provided tickets.  
Serve as greeters to sale guests.  
Assist cashiers and customer service reps as needed.

### Customer Service Representative (Formerly called "Carryout")

CSR continue to provide carryout and customer pickup  
Manage wagon and box inventory.  
Assist in the Customer Service Department as needed.



**Merchandise:** Under the direction of Assistant Chair

**Floater**

Assist all chairs as needed.  
Specifically Assigned to merchandise department.  
Provide assistance to set up for educational segments (10, 12, 2) Should be familiar with the layout of the sale.  
May be required to fill vacant positions.

**Sale Depts:**

Each category requires 3-4 workers. At least one of these should be available on both days. If a category is smaller, the staff may be combined with another.

**On Friday**, members will deliver their contributions to the staging area of the appropriate category. The department staff will price, then arrange the plants within the sales area. Please ensure all plants are priced. Keep clear walkways within departments. **On Saturday**, keep areas tidy, assist customers, and shift unsold items within the area.

**Information**

**Booth: (2)**

This booth is a combination of Recruitment/Retention, Projects and County 76. Information provided includes but is not limited to explaining who Master Gardeners are and what we do. Input from respective chairs is welcome.

Duties include representing Master Gardeners program and answering customer questions.  
Please bring preferred reference materials.



# Reminders

**Logging in Hours:** If you are having problems logging hours and/or would rather Anna log them for you please email her at [annanaughton42@hotmail.com](mailto:annanaughton42@hotmail.com). Please include where you worked, the date and the amount of time you worked. And let's not forget, include your learning/education hours.

**Being Respectful:** Just a reminder to be respectful of not only the speakers at meetings but to your fellow MGs. You may think you are talking quietly but voices carry making it difficult for others to hear what is going on during the meetings.

**Sign In!** As you arrive at the MG meeting each month, be sure to SIGN IN and pick up a ticket for the door prize(s). The sign-in sheet will be on the table to the right as you come in the door. At the end of each meeting, we will draw for a door prize!

**Name Tags:** Be sure to wear your MG name tag to each meeting, otherwise put 50 cents in the jar.

## Upcoming Events

### March

**1– April 1:** Tulip Extravaganza. Garvin Gardens. Hours: 9am-6pm. Dates are approximate.

**1 - 3:** Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Arkansas State Fairgrounds, Little Rock, AR  
<https://argardenshow.org/>

**15 - 17:** River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Fort Smith. <https://www.fslawngardenshow.com/>

**25:** Master Gardener Monday, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. (link sent out morning of the meeting day)

**29-30:** Memphis area Master Gardeners **Spring Fling**. 9am-5-pm. Big Red Barn at the Farmers Market– Agricenter 7777 Walnut Grove Rd. Memphis, TN  
<http://www.memphisareamastergardeners.org/sfling.htm>

### April

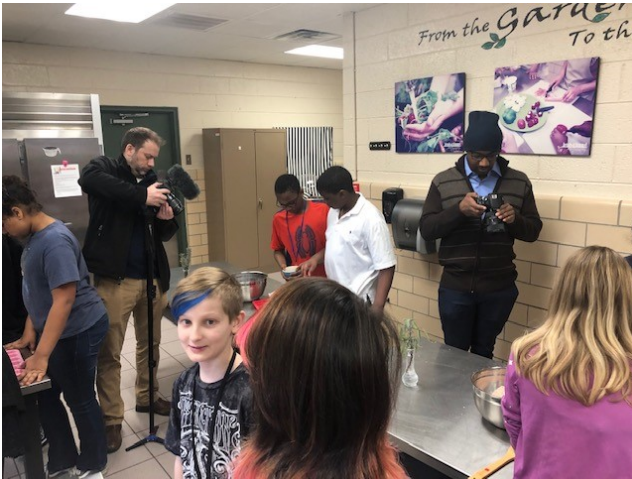
**30: 2019 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference.** Registration is open.  
<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/mgonly/mg-conferences.aspx>

*Daylight Savings Time*  
*March 10th*  
*Time to Spring Forward!*

# HWES

## Melinda Smith- Chair

Mayor Perrin sent a filming crew to HWES to make a video that will air on the local community channel to highlight our school!



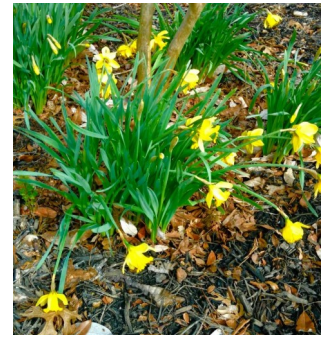
*One of our newest members, Shirley Waln, working hard to get her volunteer hours!*



# ASU Display Garden

*Rain Rain go away,  
Come Again the First of May!  
Little seedlings raise your head.  
Fill our brown and empty beds.  
Come Sunshine, spread your rays  
Bring us Blooms and Sunny days.*

*Can you see what is poking up at the ASU Display Garden? The daffodils are bowing their heads to the rain, but all this moisture should get the garden off to a great start in spring. Be watching for a text or email for our 1st ASU Display Garden Work day!  
~ Susan Westbrook, Chair*



## From our Members



*Hellabore  
blooming.  
Submitted by  
Donna  
Tolewitzke*



*The Memphis Zoo had some interesting Lego  
Sculptures.  
Submitted by Nick Wysocki*



*Pumpkin on a Stick also called Pumpkin  
Tree or Pumpkin Bush, seedlings. Seeds  
were given to me by Diane Sandberg and  
I'm quite excited that they germinated!  
Donna Tolewitzke*



*Yellow Crocuses, Submitted by Joseph House*

## *Fun and Useful Links*

### **Arkansas Master Gardener Program**

<http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners>

### **CCMG Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Craighead-County-Master-Gardeners/629232630461141?ref=hl>

### **HWES School Gardens Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/HWESSchoolgardens>

### **Janet Carson's Blog - Planit Janet**

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/planitjanet>

### **In the Garden with Arkansas Extension Horticulture, a blog about gardening in Arkansas**

<https://uofaces.mg.wordpress.com>

### **Jim Long's Blog**

<http://jimlongsgarden.blogspot.com/>

### **Public Horticulture Events**

<http://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/events.aspx>

### **University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research & Extension**

<http://www.uaex.edu/>

### **Garvan Gardens with Janet Carson**

<http://www.garvangardens.org/photos-videos/gardeningwithjanet.aspx>

Our friend, Renee Shepherd, owner of Reneesgarden.com (Renee's Garden Seeds), is making a wonderful offer for Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary School. If you go to her website and order seed, and use this code when you order: FR556A, she will donate 25% of the price of the seed you order, to the Health, Wellness and Environmental Studies Elementary Kitchen/Garden Program. Isn't that great? So, go to her website and order some seed, being sure to use the FR556Acoupon code.

Craighead County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Craighead County officials to provide beautification projects and horticultural information to the residents of the county. In 2018 Craighead County Master Gardeners reported more than 12,611 hours of service and education to benefit Craighead County.



Branon Thiesse BS, MS  
County Extension Agent - Staff Chair

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status,

**Weeder's Digest** is the official newsletter of the Craighead County AR Master Gardener Program.

Please contact the newsletter editor at [dtolowitzke@gmail.com](mailto:dtolowitzke@gmail.com) with your articles, ideas, photos and suggestions.

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