

Crystal Clear Reflections

President's Corner

Some fun facts for May:

1. The month of May was named for Maia, the Greek goddess of fertility.
2. May's birthstone is the emerald which is emblematic of love and success.
3. In any given year, no month ever begins or ends on the same day of the week as May does.
4. May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There is a poem that says "Marry in May and you'll rue the day".
5. The United Kingdom celebrates May as the National Smile Month.
6. On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building was officially opened.
7. Lastly, May is Asparagus month and it's lean, mean and green.



Claudette Cooper

MGs will meet in Hot Springs Village for garden tours on Thursday, May 18, 2017, from 10am – 1pm. Tell the gatekeeper at the EAST GATE (off of Hwy 5) that you are with the MG Garden Tour for entrance. Signs will direct you along the way.



2017 Master Gardener Officers and Contact Numbers

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Allen's Corner



Spring is here, and with the warmth and rain I'm getting questions related to both. With moisture comes fungal problems and with the warmth comes the red imported fire ants which are abundant this year.

Fire ant mounds seem to be everywhere you look lately. Imported on ships from South America, fire ants were first documented in Arkansas in El Dorado in 1958. A two-step method is suggested for best fire ant control. This method can effectively control heavy fire ant infestations when conducted at least twice yearly. First, broadcast or treat individual mounds with a bait-formulated insecticide over the entire yard on a semi-annual basis (spring and fall). The second step occurs seven to ten days later with the individual treatment of problem mounds with approved insecticidal dusts, liquid drenches, baits, granules, aerosols or a nonchemical treatment, such as pouring hot water on the mound. Most fire ant bait is a combination of insecticide plus an attractive fire ant food (generally processed corn grits coated with soybean oil). Baits are taken into the colony by foraging ants. The bait is distributed to other members of the colony through the exchange of food, a process known as trophallaxis. One key to the efficiency of baits is that the insecticide gets to the queen. Apply baits when temperature is above 60 degrees with no rain anticipated for 6 hours.

I'm also getting several samples of azalea with leaf gall. It looks a lot worse than it actually is. The fungal disease starts out with a few leaves getting thick and waxy and usually a bright green color. Over time they turn whitish with disease spores accumulating on the end of the leaf. The key is to prune them off as soon as you see them to prevent spores from forming. Once the weather warms up and rain slows, the disease will stop.

Get out, enjoy the weather and have fun!

May Birthdays

- 5 – Mary Ann Jarvis
- 11 – Sharon Farley
- 12 – Barbara Gaunt
- 12 – Shirley Hicks
- 12 – Barbara Smith
- 13 – Karen Geiger
- 14 – Ellen Majestic
- 14 – Don Sluyter
- 19 – Sue Hale
- 19 – Dee Offerman
- 21 – Elaine Sichter
- 25 – Beverly Merritt
- 26 – Sherry Asbell
- 30 – Barbara Mueller
- 31 – Mildred Wilson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Bates".

Allen Bates
County Extension Agent—
Agriculture

June Birthdays

- 2 – Jodi Tooke
- 4 – Jan Hodges
- 5 – Elton Gray
- 5 – Jeri Loy
- 9 – Gail McClure
- 9 – Suzanne Mayfield
- 12 – Ellie Elsenheimer
- 14 – Charlotte Anthony
- 16 – Marty Lynch
- 19 – Juneann Green
- 24 – Kay Skoog
- 27 – Karan Tyner
- 29 – Mary Ann Tomko
- 29 – Pat Witherspoon

Find archived GCMG newsletters under
County Extension Office at
<https://www.uaex.edu/counties/garland/newsletter.aspx>

YOUTH ACTIVITIES



MG Sherry Matthews introduces Tana Beasley, "The Hummingbird Lady" at HS Intermediate School.



Phyllis, from Wild Bird Central, gave hummingbird feeders to HS Middle and Intermediate Schools.



James Moore, Jr., Doc Sedler, Susan Deimel and Jeff Finney prune Crape Myrtles at HS Middle School.



HS Middle School Garden Club eating salad they made from their garden with MG Karen Mason and Nancy Scott, Academic Coordinator.



HS Middle School Garden Club and their stepping stone art project led by MG Leslie Goff.

Photos submitted by Marty Lynch

COUNTY 76

Submitted by Hilde Simmons

April 25 2017 – State-wide updates from Janet Carson

- Dig-Ins held in Forest City, Arkadelphia and Fort Smith in March of this year will become an annual one-day feature to supplement state conventions so that those unable to attend state conventions have an opportunity to hear what is happening statewide, visit with MGs from neighboring counties and learn.
- Results of survey on Constant Contact revealed highest percentage answer to “Why volunteer” was “To make a contribution to the community” at 93%.
- Upcoming events - look for them on Constant Contact.

First Day basic training in Hope if class fills up. Saturdays (July 8 - August 5)

Meet the Masters in Faulkner County, a publicity/recruiting evening - July 25

August - Annual to Perennials over a weekend in 4 locations with Bob Byer for NMGs and their mentors or NMGs solo.

September 26 & 27 PNG at Ferndale 4 H Center

Week of October 8 - Master Gardener Appreciation Day in El Dorado

October - Birthday month and trip to Mississippi. Next year we will go to Moss Mountain again for the 30th anniversary.

- Reporting hours. To date we are better educated, and work hours are roughly the same as last year. Janet stressed to encourage people to report hours as they are earned, preferably through the uaex.edu website, because it is a newer version of the database and encourages people to look around further.
- Look for Janet's blog, Gerald Klingaman's Plant of the Week, Plant Pathology Reports, and Power Point presentations on a variety of topics. There is a new publication every 3rd Wednesday of the month for agents to share about happenings in the state, diseases coming up, etc.
- Summaries of trip to Vietnam and Cambodia, details about the 2018 Rhein trip, news of the 2018 state convention in Fort Smith and plans for a trip to Oklahoma next year.

YARDS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Hot Springs Village Business Yard of the Month

Grace Garden, located at Christ of the Hills UMC, 700 Balearic Road, was selected as the Garland County Master Gardeners' April HSV Business Yard of the Month. Grace Garden is a beautifully landscaped memorial garden located to the west of the Church. The idea for this special garden was born in the 1990's by a church committee, and the design concept came from church member Eugene "Gene" Lichliter. Transforming the almost one acre-patch of woods into the serene area it has become was the work of Lichliter and church men with an interest in gardening. The landscaping project evolved in three phases with the first two within Grace Garden. Located to the left as you enter and flanked by dwarf pampas grass is Grace Garden which is sectioned off to allow for burial of cremains. Located to the right is Memorial Garden which is designated for the sprinkling of ashes.

During the spring, jonquils and daffodils greet visitors frequenting the garden. As those beauties fade, various azaleas come to full bloom. Strolling through the paths one sees a diverse collection of plants that thrive in Arkansas weather. These include drift roses, viburnum, hydrangea bushes, and red bud trees. Through the years, hungry native deer have gobbled up many of the original hosta plants, and the growing trees necessitated replacing plants adapted for sunny areas to those thriving in the shade. Seeing the need to alter garden plantings, Lichliter and church volunteers again selected plants to fit the changing garden space. Phase three of the landscaping of Christ of the Hills Methodist Church is the plantings around the parking areas.

As all who enjoy digging in the dirt are well aware, gardens are always a "work in progress." The dedicated church members of Christ of the Hills will work to ensure that Grace Garden will continue to bring comfort and serve as a peaceful contemplation place for many years to come.

To nominate a residential or business yard, please contact Karen Geiger at 501-922-0645 by the Friday before the first Tuesday of the month.



YARDS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Hot Springs Village Residential Yard of the Month

Bill and Juanita Hurley's beautiful yard, located at 11 Levantino Lane, was selected as the Garland County Master Gardeners' April HSV Yard of the Month. One of the most impressive features of the Hurley gardens is the many large moss covered boulders sitting among the flowers and shrubs. A focal point in the front of the well-manicured lawn holds a beautifully branched Crape Myrtle tree surrounded by knock-out roses, variegated iris, and a variety of small shrubs. On the left of the artistically designed entry way stands a large Japanese maple surrounded by moss-covered rocks, dwarf lorapetalums, plum yews, hostas, and azaleas. Nestled among the rocks and shrubs is a small antique bike with flower boxes of pink and purple petunias affixed to the handle bars and seat. The border to the left is lined with blooming azaleas.

When strolling the side path to the back, the eye surveys a lovely and serene vista of raised flower beds, a dock, and beautiful Lake Balboa. The mulched beds bordering the back yard hold a variety of trees, shrubs, and perennials. The left side bed contains two large dogwood trees, iris, sedum, foxglove, and narcissus. The right side bed offers a serene garden with a small patio area flanked by two white lawn chairs. The garden area surrounding the seating has a well-designed bed of English ivy, hellebores, and lilies-of-the-valley. Tall oak trees in this area offer shade to the homeowners and guests sitting and enjoying the many song birds and the lake view. A large hawthorn bush loaded with berries, flanking the far side of the bed, is a favorite source of food for the birds.

As the April Yard of the Month recipients', the Hurley's will have a sign posted in their yard proclaiming their success, a year's membership to Garvan Woodland Gardens, and a certificate of appreciate from the Garland County Master Gardeners.

To nominate a residential or business yard, please contact Karen Geiger at 501-922-0645 by the Friday before the first Tuesday of the month.



Left to Right - Bill Hurley, Juanita Hurley, Donna Yadron, and Joe Yadron

YARDS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Each month between April and October we select a Hot Springs business and residential yard. Those selected have signs in their “yards” for the month. If you know anyone that has a yard you would like to nominate for consideration as Yard of the Month, contact either the Garland County Extension Office ([501-623-6841](tel:501-623-6841)) or email the name and address to cjd945@sbccglobal.net.

Hot Springs Business Yard of the Month

We chose Arkansas Best Insurance Agency located at 911 West Grand as the first business of the month for 2017. The largest and oldest independently-owned insurance agency, they've served Hot Springs and surrounding areas for more than one hundred years. ABI was formerly known as Arkansas Bank and Trust Insurance Agency founded in 1905. The tree-shaded lot in front features foundation plantings of pink azaleas, hydrangeas, hostas with variegated leaves, Lace Leaf Japanese Maples as well as a Mulberry tree. A majestic oak towers above other trees. The east side of the building features a brick retaining wall with crape myrtles, loropetalum, boxwood hedge, and holly shrubs. The area around the parking lot has red leaf photinia, columnar cedars, Knock-Out roses, yucca plants, Carolina Jasmine, and a courtyard with pink roses.



L to R in front of sign: Alissa Hutson, Janet Taylor
Second row: MG Gaye Harper; Brandi Bettis, Stephanie Jensen, Zena Vagnini, Nikki Bailey
Third row: Tammy Burkhart, Mike Lipton, Mindy Lingo, Roger Ward

YARDS OF THE MONTH FOR APRIL

Hot Springs Residential Yard of the Month

We chose Lin and Jimmy Johnson's home at 307 Augustus Street as the Hot Springs Residential Yard of the Month. The purple iris seems to wave at you to come on in and see everything their yard has to offer. The front yard has dogwood trees and Japanese Maples that tower over a red wagon planted with alyssum and miniature hostas. Double red Knock-Out roses surround a birdbath with a feeder above it. Along the fence row, Lin has a variety of iris as well as a Confederate Rose, althea bushes, daffodils, lilies, tulips, and hyacinths. Foundation plantings include a climbing rose, peonies, cannas, and gardenias. Hibiscus (Lin's favorite) shares space with her trumpet plants. Another flower bed hosts porter weed, Becky daisies, verbena, dianthus, and mums.

Toward the back yard, barrels hold rainwater used to water her plants. It is obvious that Lin likes bunnies with her collection of yard art bunnies scattered around her beds. Hellebores, twenty varieties of hosta plants, and various ferns thrive in the shade of her carport. Near the loropetalum and several types of hydrangeas, Lin's nursery with all kinds of cuttings has plants waiting for pots. The backyard opens to a greenhouse and a vegetable garden where they grow onions, tomatoes, peppers, okra, squash, asparagus, blueberries and cucumbers. Lin also grows a large variety of herbs.

Antique window frames with painted flowers decorate the side of her garage that serves as an area for shade-loving plants. The second greenhouse, located at the back of her yard, is home to sunny plants including columbine, quince, spirea, baby's breath bush, and shrubs. Yard art includes birdhouses, crosses, a cobalt blue bottle tree, succulent plants in antique containers, and a water feature.

The side yard boasts a large bed of red amaryllis surrounded by annuals including shrimp plants, Chinese lanterns, elephant ears, swamp daisies, coneflowers, purple Jew plants, yellow rose of Texas, dwarf mulberry, asters, sunflowers, coleus, and begonias.



L to R: MGs Gaye Harper and Carolyn Davis and Christen Mangham (Garvan Woodlawn Gardens Membership Coordinator) and homeowner MG Lin Johnson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Entergy Park

Twenty MGs turned out in full force to brave damp, chilly, and windy weather and found weeds in the flower beds as high as hedges. We overcame the weeds, planted our summer flowers and started our beautification campaign on the front gate, working over three hours.



L to R: Jeff Finney, Michael Carr, NMG Paula Jackson, James Moore Jr., Suzanne Mayfield, Carol Scrivner, Lin Johnson, Burley Freeman, Karen Mason, Mary Ann Schnipper, Sue Bristow, Karin Grisham, Anne Fullbright. Kneeling: Pam McCoy, Sheila Springs, Toni Atkinson. Not pictured Jan Hodges, Don Sluyter, Betty Fortner, and Sharron Bennett.

Courthouse & Police Memorial

Below is a photo from early April of the rose at the police memorial. They struggle with lack of adequate sun, but our pruning and feeding has resulted in a nice display of blooms!



Entergy Park

There's a new sign out front, and MGs are a part of its beautification! Before and after photos below.

MGs in photo on the left are Burley Freeman, Sue Bristow, Pam McCoy, Sheila Springs, Lin Johnson, Mary Ann Schnipper, Michael Carr, James Moore Jr. Not pictured are Karin Grisham, and Jeff Finney.



MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ouachita Children's Center

We cleaned and spruced up flower beds. Our perennials are looking great. Seven MGs enjoyed the sunshine: Laura Young, Becky Pawelczak, Jan Hodges, Karen Mason, Pat Osborn, Sherry Mathews, and NMG Barry Horner.



Garden Essential Maintenance Service

Answering a call for help in March, we dug tulips that had gotten blight. We had to carefully remove the entire plant, including the bulbs, to prevent infecting the ground. Now, some bulbs were found quickly while others worked their way to China as we pursued them. Two NMGs learned quickly that GEMS bend, stoop, push, pull, and repeat.



Front: Sheila McLarty, Carol Scrivner, and Betty Fortner; **Back:** Gail McClure, John Eberhardt, Alicia Fetters, Kay Adams. **Not pictured:** Larry Philipp

Ouachita Children's Center



Karen Mason, Pat Osborn (kneeling) and Becky Pawelczak spruce up the iris beds.

GEMS

Tiptoeing through the tulips!



Gail McClure and Betty Fortner pause for a breath with tulip debris surrounding them.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

City Greenhouse

We arrived as city employees were getting ready to load hanging baskets on a trailer to transport them downtown. We had one more opportunity to look them over, admire our joint handiwork, and take a picture among them. They are beautiful.

We spent the rest of the morning taking amaranthus cuttings, weeding, and dividing plants in and out of the green houses. Darryl spent significant time going over the plants in the green houses, explaining growing conditions, uses, and propagation needs. Brian is scheduling a visit to the compost facility for next month.

Name the 'Bug'!



COMO Square

Bob Reynolds with Reynolds Greenhouse came through for us again this year donating over 500 plants for COMO Square. Twelve dedicated team members worked for 3 long hours removing winter annuals and planting lantana, three colors of pentas and angelonia, as well as over 30 geraniums.



Pictured front to back, L to R: Kay Adams, Becky Pawelczak, Laura Young, Sandy Morad, Mary Ann Schnipper, Sue Bristow, Don Sluyter, Burley Freeman, Paula Jackson and Elizabeth McAnally.
Not pictured: Barry Horner & Loretta West.

City Greenhouse



Master Gardeners inspecting the baskets

City Greenhouse



City truck taking the baskets downtown

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hot Springs Xeriscape

We met the day before Easter to tidy up for the many visitors we'd have along the Greenway at Hollywood Park. We planted colorful summer annuals, liriopse around the perimeter, weeded, cut back the struggling butterfly bush, and buried the lines of the drip irrigation system. We considered possible scale on a Rose of Sharon and how we should address it. We brainstormed on how to beautify the creek-side bench area. Deirdre Dudley will donate a Japanese Maple, and Tricia Freeman will donate begonias. Others will continue to thin out plants at home and bring them next month. As chairperson, Karin Grisham recognizes the amazing expertise on her committee and emphasized that this garden belongs to the entire committee. Lastly, since it was the day before Easter, WE HAD AN EGG HUNT! Everyone brought bags and hunted candy-filled eggs. There were special eggs too. One was filled with poppy seeds found by Tricia Freeman. Jennifer Jennings found a ceramic painted egg with an air plant growing out of the top (really cute). Sherry Matthews found the golden prize egg containing a gift certificate to Garden of Eden Nursery. Jodi Tooke was awarded the chocolate bunny for seeing moss growing on a dead plant and transferring it to a large boulder. She is our moss expert! Everyone had a great time.



Pictured kneeling L to R: Pam McCoy and Karan Tyner.

Standing L to R: Ellen Majestic, Patricia Freeman, Sherry Matthews, Sunshine Spielvogel, Becky Pawelczak, and Ann Fulbright.

In back, L to R: Jodi Tooke, Burley Freeman, Deirdre Dudley and Jennifer Jennings.

Not pictured: Karin Grisham, photographer.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hot Springs Village Xeriscape

The first Thursday in April was a beautiful morning to be out at Cortez. We all worked hard pruning, weeding and enjoying the spring blooms of which there were many. We were all pleased to find that one of the huge invasive Nandina had disappeared like magic, as Joe and Donna Yadron had hacked it down the day before. Many thanks to them! The third Monday we were rained out, but a couple of us got out later on in the week and took advantage of the soft ground to plant a few Columbine, Hummingbird Mint and Tickseed which should add some needed color during the summer to our Xeriscape!



Brenda Aycock gave the Yucca a much-needed trim. There are several that are preparing to bloom.

Langston



L to R: James B. Moore, Jr., Jan Hodges, and Jeff Finney

Education: Know It to Grow It



Kay Caldwell introduced Erika Droke who spoke on using water effectively—everything from rain gardens to water conservation.

Garden Therapy



We led seniors in preparing pots for planting in May. They applied colorful floral napkins with Modge Podge. It was messy but fun!

Pictured Front L to R: Kumar Maruthur, Sue Tanner, Ellen Majestic

Back L to R: Rita Monsen, Sarah Harris, Tonie Atkinson, Yetta Freeman, Emilie Stewart, and Toby Hamilton

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Courthouse & Police Memorial



Standing L to R: Barry Horner, James B. Moore, Jr., Mary Tom Taylor, Brenda Matthews, Barb Smith, Lin Johnson, Paula Jackson, Elizabeth McAnally, Michael Carr, Linda Doherty, Pat Osborn, Mary Ann Schnipper, Kay Adams, Wayne Patterson.
Seated: Sheila Springs, Anne Fulbright, Sunshine Spielvogel, Paula Page, Carol Scrivner. **Photographer:** Sheila McLarty

We weeded, trimmed and fertilized all three areas. New hostas were planted near the police memorial thanks to a generous gift from Linda Doherty. We discussed ideas for summer planting, and Shelia will contact Reynold's Greenhouses to see what they have to offer! NMGs Barry & Paula returned, and we welcomed back Sunshine & Elizabeth!

Repair on crape myrtles done last month looked successful in front of both courthouses. We will continue to select branches for growth, and identify growth to thin. Most of the knots are gone, and height was reduced as per County Maintenance goals.

Education: HSV Community Fair

GCMGs were invited to have a booth at the HSV Community Fair on Wed., April 5. The fair was well attended and the MG booth was busy. Talking to the crowd about MGs' role in the community, how to become a MG, all sorts of gardening questions, and of course how to garden in the HSV rocks were Carolyn Sinderson, Rosemary Hany, Karin Geiger, Linda Hodges, and Anne Flueckiger. Thanks to Kay Adams for the project display board that we borrowed, and to Diane Daniel for chauffeuring it to and from the fair.



Education

On Sat., May 6, from 11-4 we will have a booth at the HSV EXPO Dig-In at Grove Park. If you are in the Village, stop by!

The Ask a MG booth at HS Farmers' Market on Orange Street will start in May on Saturdays.

The Ask a MG booth at HSV Farmers' Market at Grove Park will start in May on Thursdays.

Mark your calendars for Know It to Grow It at GCL on Wednesday, June 7, at 1 pm. Alicia Baucom and Rita Monsen will show how to use flora from your yard to create beautiful arrangements. Register with the library.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

2017 Plant Sale *submitted by Diane Daniel*

You'll have to wait until the June meeting for exact figures, but I can say for sure that we exceeded our budgeted goal of \$5,500!

The rain waited until we were done, and team leaders and workers did a fantastic job from beginning to end. Holding was swamped from the start—just can't seem to make that area big enough!! SOLD OUT of compost by 10 am, sold out of Trash to Treasures items, a few unsold plants went to our projects and back to Barb Smith's group as Mother plants for 2018, and 15-20 trays of perennials went home with MGs to keep for 2018. The raffle made over \$200. The sale of fertilizer made \$140. Remaining items donated for the silent auction will be used for another fundraiser.

Hundreds of laminated signs were printed and made weather proof. Thanks to MGs and the Extension Office, last minute bamboo signs were made and our street signs this year went as far as Albert Pike!

As chairman, I cannot give enough praise to the 17 team leaders (some with broken arms, fingers and sprains) and their team members. They DID their JOBS! I loved every minute of working with them and the other 145 MGs who signed up to work. I got a smile every time I saw a "RED SHIRT" pulling a wagon load of plants to the far end of the parking lot or carrying a bag of compost for a customer. JOB WELL DONE, EVERYONE !!!!

Enough said....except one more huge

THANK YOU



MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Everybody Ready? Go!



Where do these go?



2017 Plant Sale Pre-Raffle



Cashiers Ready!



Setting up Trash to Treasures



The Hard Sell



MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Extension Office

We worked on the first and third Tuesday of April. At the first meeting, the MGs discussed the history of the Landscape Committee, met NMGs and discussed work for next year.

We pulled over four large bags of winter weeds, trimmed the hedges and grass, and received a presentation from Allen Bates on how to prune the crape myrtle located on the south side of the office. The MGs received compliments on the landscape and especially the pansies. Please come by.



L to R: James B. Moore, Jr, Jim Moore, Jeff Finney, Don Sluyter, Ross (Doc) Sedler, Loyd White, Jodi Tooke, Jan Hodges, Pat Zeller, Sherry Matthews and Sherry Davis.

Extension Office

We thinned and replanted cannas behind the extension office, pulled out the roots (not soil) from the planter boxes and trimmed the bushes.



L to R: James B. Moore, Jr., Jan Hodges, Jodi Tooke, Loyd White, Nelson Ford, Sam Mullins, Ross Sedler, Sherry Matthews, Jim Moore, Pat Zeller, Jeff Finney and Kumar Maruthur.

5 Homes on May 18 Garden Tour in Hot Springs Village

7 Jornada Circle
(Bammes)

65 Alteza Drive (Jarvis)

3 Excelso Lane (Zorn)

1 Galeon Lane (Hurley)

12 Galeon Lane
(Hodgson)

Enter at EAST GATE

Extension Office



Jeff Finney topples a box.

Extension Office



Pat Zeller and Jodi Tooke listen as Allen Bates explains how to combat fire ants.

MORE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Southern Inspiration Garden

The weather was an issue again in April for the Southern Inspiration Garden crew. Not that the plants minded the rain and warm days. April showers bring May flowers; boy did the perennials grow by leaps and bounds. Many are loaded with buds, the winter dianthus and snapdragons are still going strong and several of the new irises are blooming along with the roses.

We had two work sessions this month. In addition to cleaning up and dead-heading, we planted our summer annuals, Hawaii blue ageratum and hot pink vinca, which we hope will be as stunning this year as they were two years ago. The Edmonsons also came by and planted summer flowers in the urns, coleus, torrenia, and verbena and a big palm spike in the center urn.



L to R, standing: Toby Hamilton, Burley Freeman, Paula Jackson, Loretta West
Seated: Sandy Morad and Tricia Freeman
Photographer: Hilde Simmons

Farmers Market/Triangle

Thirteen hard-working MGs pulled the strongest, most well-rooted weeds at the Farmers Market. Recent rains helped. We planted Spring plants at the Triangle. With a great crew, the work went quickly!

Southern Inspiration Garden

The garden looks great and all visitors who stopped by while we were working were much appreciative of what the local garden clubs have shared and what we Master Gardeners do to maintain SIG. Do plan to come to Garvan Garden, whether to volunteer or just visit, and enjoy this special place.



Pictured above: Sue Bristow, Laura Young, Paula, Deirdre Dudley, Burley Freeman, Sandy Morad, Sharron Bennett, Karen Mason, Becky Pawelczak, Sharon Dent, Jan Hodges.
Not shown: Pam Woolis from Saline County
Photographer: Hilde Simmons

Farmers Market/Triangle



Participants: Michael Carr, Barry Horner, Lin Johnson, Elisabeth McAnally, Pam McCoy, Sheila McLarty, Henryetta Norman, Mary Ann Schnipper, Sheila Springs, Sunshine Spielvogel, Sallye Waddell, Paula Wallace, and Loretta West.

Inspiring Gr8r Gardening

Awards for Volunteer Hours

Master Gardeners earn trowels each year for working 200 or more hours. The first time MGs achieve this milestone, they receive a yellow shirt. Subsequent trowels may be earned each year, and blue shirts are awarded for five years, red for ten years. Gene Lichliter (1996) is the first GCMG to be awarded the "Red Shirt" for having earned a trowel representing (200) hours or more of work annually for 10 years. Six MGs were awarded a "Yellow Shirt" for the first time, having earned a trowel representing 200 hours or more of work in 2016. Two MGs were awarded a "Blue Shirt" for having earned a trowel representing 200 hours or more of work annually for 5 years.

"Red Shirt"



Margaret Byrd recognizes Gene Lichliter (1996) as the first GCMG awarded for having earned a trowel representing 200 hours or more of work annually for 10 years.

"Blue Shirts"



Valerie Nuckels (2010)

Not pictured: James B. Moore, Jr. (2013)

"Yellow Shirts"



R to L: Paula Zorn (2016), Julie Goff (2010), Jan Hodges (2013), Sherry Mathews (2016), Karen Geiger (2014), Marty Lynch (2013).

Inspiring Gr8r Gardening

Awards for Volunteer Hours (con't)

Six NMGs earned white trowels representing 100 hours or more in their first "rookie" year. The white trowels are new this year. Nineteen MGs earned additional trowels.



New "White" Trowels for NMGs (Class of 2016)

Each of these "Rookies" are the first annual recipients of the new "White Trowel", representing 100 hours or more their first "rookie" year.



L to R: Christopher St Peter, Karen Mason, Sandra Morad, Sheila Springs, Juneann Green.

Not pictured: Shirley Hicks.

A Trowel for Another 200 hours

Left side rear L to R: Gaye Harper (2008) 8th trowel, James B Moore, Jr (2012) 5th trowel, Lin Johnson (2008) 9th trowel, Barbara Gaunt (2012) 3rd trowel, Loretta West (2015) 2nd trowel, Jodi Tooke (2015) 2nd trowel, Carol Scrivner (2014) 3rd trowel.
Left side seated L to R: Dianne Hardin (2010) 2nd trowel, Kay Adams (2014) 2nd trowel, Sheila McLarty (2015) 2nd trowel.



Right side rear L to R: Kahig Alesch (2013) 3rd trowel, Jeff Finney (2013) 4th trowel, Hilde Simmons (2009) 6th trowel, Jim Moore (2009) 8th trowel.
Right side seated L to R: Claudette Cooper (2013) 4th trowel, Diane Daniel (2010) 7th trowel, Sharon Dent (2007) 7th trowel.

Not pictured: Barbara Smith (2009) 4th trowel, Bev Merritt (2013) 2nd trowel.

CONGRATULATIONS

Inspiring Gr8r Gardening

Tomatoes: The Agony and the Ecstasy

Submitted by MaryAnn Tomko



Tomatoes seem to be a staple in our diet -- and our gardens as a result. They are not without their challenges. Below are a few pests and diseases listed and some ways to deal with them.

The most common **insect pests** of tomatoes include fruit worms, armyworms and hornworms, aphids and whiteflies. The worms may be controlled by sprays of *Bacillus thuringiensis aka Bt* (Dipel, Thuricide, along with others). Always read the labels to know what insects it will control and if it is safe for vegetables.

The most effective control is beginning just after eggs hatch when caterpillars are still small. Treat under leaves at dusk. This is when most of worm activity occurs. A word of warning: if you have a butterfly garden, you may want to plant the nightshades (such as tomatoes, peppers, potatoes and eggplant) in a separate area so as not to affect butterfly caterpillars.

Insecticidal soaps are effective for control of aphids and whiteflies if sprays are directed to the upper and lower leaf surfaces.

Early Blight is caused by the fungus *Alternaria solani* and occurs throughout the United States. Symptoms first appear on the lower, older leaves as small brown spots with concentric rings that form a "bull's eye" pattern. As the disease matures, it spreads outward on the leaf surface causing it to turn yellow, wither and die.

Treatment

- Prune or stake plants to improve air circulation and reduce fungal problems.
- Make sure to disinfect pruning shears (one part bleach to 4 parts water) after each cut.
- Keep soil under plants clean and free of garden debris. Add a layer of organic compost to prevent spores from splashing back up onto vegetation.
- For a good non-organic control, apply copper-based fungicides early, two weeks before disease normally appears or when weather forecasts predict a long period of wet weather. Alternatively, begin treatment when disease first appears and repeat every 7-10 days for as long as needed.
- Remove and destroy all garden debris after harvest and practice crop rotation the following year as this fungus will stay in the soil and infect new plants.
- Burn or bag infected plant parts. *DO NOT* compost them.

Blossom End Rot may be identified as a brown spot on the bottom of the tomato. This indicates a **calcium deficiency**. Soil testing prior to planting and regular feeding is helpful. Do not overdo Nitrogen or the plants will have beautiful green foliage but not bear fruit.

Natural Bug Control: Marigolds, catnip, basil, nasturtium, petunia are all natural bug repellants. Intersperse several of these with the veggies for best results. The smells confuse the bugs and they go elsewhere for snacks and entertainment.

Inspiring Gr8r Gardening

Saturday MG: Class of 2017

Held in Hope, AR

July 8, 15, 22, 29 and August 5, 2017

Registration deadline is June 1, 2017

Call or e-mail Allen Bates with questions at
501-623-6841 or abates@uaex.edu

Monthly MG Radio Show

Listen in to Dick Antoine's 'Talk of the Town' on
KZNG 1340 AM **and 105.5 FM** from 8-8:30am on
second Mondays. GCMGs will address:

May - County Fair

Jun - Xeriscaping

Jul - Pest Control

Aug - Sunflowers & Rudbeckia

Sep - Composting

Oct - Fall Vegetables

Nov - Winterizing

What Bee Did by Julie Larios

*Submitted by Sharon Seals IHO the plant sale
"Come Bee With Us"*

Bee not only buzzed,
When swatted at, Bee deviled,
Bee smirched. And when fuddled,
like many of us, Bee labored, Bee reaved.
He behaved as well as any Bee can have.

Bee never lied. Bee never lated.
And despite the fact Bee took, Bee also stowed.
In love, Bee sieged. Bee seeched.
Bee moaned, Bee sighed himself,
Bee gat with his Beloved.

And because Bee tokened summer
(the one season we all, like Bee, must lieve)
Bee also dazzled.

from *The Cortland Review*

Citation: Larios, Julie. "What Bee Did." *Cortland Review*. Rpt.
in *The Best American Poetry 2007*. Heather McHugh,
Ed. New York: Scribner Poetry, 2007. 60. Print.

2018 MG Calendar Contest

1. Only four entries per person (one per season), meaning only one Winter (WI), one Spring (SP), one Summer (SU), and one Fall (FA) photo may be entered.

2. All photos MUST be between 1mb and 5mb for reproduction resolution. (Cell phones take great photos, but often the resolution is not high enough for big calendar pages, but acceptable for additional small shots that appear each month.)

3. All photos must have been taken in Arkansas.

4. Proper naming: Your name, your county id (two letters), description of your picture, the season the photo is being submitted for...FA=Fall. Please understand, if you do NOT rename your photos properly they will not be sent in for consideration to the selection committee. If you do not know the two letter abbreviation of your county: [click here for County Contact List](#) (this site is password protected for mgonlys)

**If you have any questions, please contact
Glenda Bell (501-258-4951 or
gkbell08@att.net)**

**DEADLINE is June 1. See uaex.edu under
MG Only for details**



**Send Newsletter submissions by the 21st of each month to
garlandcountymgnewsletter@gmail.com**

Calendar of Events

GCMG= Garland County Master Gardeners

GCL= Garland County Library

****Register for Know It to Grow It classes online at gclibrary.com or call 501-623-4161.**

GWG = Garvan Woodland Gardens

***Sign-up for GWG classes online at garvangardens.org or call 262-9300.**

Date/Day & Time	Name & Location
May 3 Wednesday Counts as education for GCMG	GWG 101 "Tree Planting & Care" Arborist Alison Litchy tree maintenance from planting to mature.
May 6 Sat. Counts as education for GCMG	Hot Springs Village Expo Dig In
May 6 Sat. Counts as education for GCMG	Plant Sales: Cleburne, Greene, Johnson, Pope, St. Francis, Union Counties (more information later)
May 6 Sat. Counts as education for GCMG	Wild Foods Workshop-Fulton County (more information later)
May 9 Tue, 9:30-12 p.m. Counts as education for GCMG	2017 Docent Training: GWG Flowering Border & Welcome Center.
May 10, Wed. Counts as education for GCMG	GWG 101 "No-Till Gardening" MG Diane Daniel on organic gardening practices and limited use of harmful chemicals.
May 13 Sat., 10 a.m. Counts as education for GCMG	The Hot Springs Daylily meeting, United Methodist Church Christian Life Center. "Butterflies and their Host Plants" by Lin Johnson
May 13 Sat. Counts as education for GCMG	Plant Sales: Cleburne, Greene, Johnson, Pope, St. Francis, & Union Counties,
May 13 Sat. Counts as education for GCMG	Hummingbird Special-Logan County. (more information later)
May 16 Tue. (repeated 2 nd time) Counts as education for GCMG	2017 Docent Training: GWG 9:30-12 p.m. Flowering Border & Welcome Center.
May 18 Thurs., 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Counts as education for GCMG	Yard tours in Hot Springs Village
May 21 – 23 Sun. – Tue. Counts as education for GCMG	State Master Gardener State Conference at Doubletree Hotel Little Rock
June 1 Thursday	Deadline for submission of photos for the 2018 calendar. (more information later)
June 6 Tue. (repeated) Counts as education for GCMG	2017 Docent Training: GWG 9:30-12 p.m. Summer Interest
June 9 Friday must have 3 years active in MG Counts as education for GCMG	Advanced Training Class, Madison County (more information later)
June 13 Thursday (repeated 2 nd time) Counts as education for GCMG	2017 Docent Training: GWG 9:30-12 p.m. Summer Interest
June 23 Friday must have 3 years active in MG Counts as education for GCMG	Advanced Training Class, Pope County (more information later)
July 8-Aug. 5 Sat. training for new MGers	MG summer training at Hope (more information later)

If you have any items to add please e-mail Lin Johnson at linjd@sbcglobal.net