

GARDEN THYME

Washington County Master Gardener Newsletter
May 2013

2013 WCMG Executive Committee

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Twania Pinnell
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Jim Sposato
Joyce Veasy
Lynn Yenawine
Susan Young

GARDEN THYME STAFF

Jan Lefler
Joyce Mendenhall
Susan Pressler
Terry Smyers

Submit articles to:
janlefler@cox.net
gigiluv6811@gmail.com

Due Date:
15th of each month



2012 Washington County Master Gardener Dian Holmes with Family

by Joyce Mendenhall

Dian Holmes has been an active member of the Master Gardener Program for the past 8 years. She has dedicated time and hard work to Sanctioned Projects and committee work as well as cooperative projects Farm Friends and Arbor Day. She volunteered a total of 367 hours (248 Sanctioned Projects and 119 Education) in 2012 to five different sanctioned projects, committee work and mentoring to new master gardener trainees.

Dian is a member of the Washington County Historical Society and has always had a special feeling for the Headquarters House historic property. She started working there following her WCMG training in 2004 and quickly assumed an active gardening role. She has co-chaired the project for the past 3 years.

Dian started the City Hospital project in 2009 when her mother was a resident and she saw the need for the residents to be surrounded by beauty. From the beginning, she was a primary leader by recruiting other WCMG volunteer participants, planning gardening activities, purchasing and donating plants, planting and maintaining beds, expanding cultivated areas, and ensuring the areas were properly watered. This project was dear to her heart but was stopped in August 2012 when the facility closed.

Continued on Page 2

WCMG Meeting

May 7, 2013
@ 6:30 p.m.

PROGRAM

Spring Plant
&
Seed Exchange

Bring a plant(s) to share. Take home something that you can use. This is a great fun way to try new plants at no cost. Here are some tips on how to have a fun, successful and rewarding plant swap:

*Divide and/or repot plants now. Don't wait until the day of the meeting. Give the plants time to recover from dividing and/or repotting.

*On the evening of the exchange, slip plastic bags over the pots if possible.

*Use a label to identify plant with **plant name** and **growing instructions**, for instance: *Evergold Sedge, perennial, shade.*

***Seeds are always welcome.** Please put them in an envelope or zip lock bag and give plant name, planting information if possible and where they were collected.

*Place any bare- root or rhizome divisions in a leak-proof plastic bag and label with the above information also.

*Check plants carefully for insects and diseases. Please share only plants that are in good shape.

Our goal is to have a successful plant exchange with as little confusion and mess as possible.



2012 WCMG 'Rookie' of the Year

Jan Judy

by Joyce Mendenhall

After completing the Master Gardener training in February 2012, Jan Judy hit the ground running and hasn't stopped since. Jan embodies everything the Master Gardener program represents. She enthusiastically and tirelessly volunteers for as many projects as she can spare the time for. Her main projects are Composting, Washington County Fair, Washington County Extension Grounds, Ask A Master, Junior Master Gardeners, Wilson Park, Headquarters House and City Hospital. She attended a pre-startup meeting for addressing the issues at City Hospital and worked there all year until it closed in October. She attended weekly workdays at Headquarters House and often left there to work several hours at the Extension Grounds.

Not only did she work on the grounds at the Extension Office, but she also helped man the Ask A Master phones from time to time. Jan also worked at Wilson Park, Junior Master Gardeners and the Fair. She became a Master Composter and went on to put many hours into that project as well.

Jan is always learning and sharing her knowledge with others. As a Master Composter, she has taught classes on her own methods of composting. When Jan took the MG class, she learned about rain gardens and immediately began installing a series of them on her property to help with a serious runoff problem. She is now opening her home for a garden tour this summer, where she will be able to show others how to build a rain garden and use it effectively. Jan is a huge proponent of using native plants and preserving the natural state of things, and she promotes this in everything she does.

Junior Master Gardeners look up to Jan's work ethics. When a group of childrens gardening enthusiasts was expected to tour the Wildside Garden, Jan put in countless hours making sure everything looked perfect. She even pulling weeds out of the parking lot islands right up to the time of the group's arrival. A typical quote from one of her peers says it best: "*Jan is one of the most 'gung ho' people I've ever met. She gives, gives, gives and is always interested in learning something new.*"

Continued from Page 1 – Dian Holmes 2012 WCMG of the Year

With the closure, the gardens were to be dismantled and plants removed. Dian coordinated this process and ensured that plants were removed properly and new plant homes were found. She worked over a month's time in this process and did much of the digging herself.

Dian grew up in this area and has always been a farm girl. She was raised growing vegetables and flowers. Every year since she joined the Master Gardener program, she has volunteered her time during the Fair. Dian is chair of the Cut Flower division and works long hours during Fair Week.

Dian has granddaughters with whom she shares her love for gardening. They frequently are with her at projects. She was in the first group of adults who assisted with the Jr. Master Gardener project initiation in 2008. She also helped with Arbor Day activities with the youth group and continues to be involved in the Jr. MG project.

Dian had wanted to help with the Ext. Office gardens for a number of years. She was afforded the opportunity after the closing of City Hospital. She recruited other volunteers to help at the Ext. Office gardens. They trimmed and cleaned in late summer and fall. She is now Co-Chair and has many plans. She is a wonderful asset to the team.

Special WCMG Recognition Award

by Joyce Mendenhall

Video - "Compost Happens"

A musical video about the joys of composting. Washington County Master Gardeners produced and starred in the video. It is now posted on Washington County Master Gardener Facebook.

Project Leader: Steven Skattebo





2012 WCMG Sanctioned PROJECT OF THE YEAR West Fork Library

by Joyce Mendenhall

The original garden at the West Fork Library began in 2006 after receiving a \$500 grant from the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. Friends of the Library assisted in the project. After attending the Rain Garden Workshop sponsored by the Beaver Water District and the Illinois River Watershed Partnership in November 2011, the Master Gardeners were awarded two grants. By completing two rain gardens, several goals were accomplished.

Project Co-Leaders – Jan Hayes and Jane Bryant

Because the library had no gutters, the runoff from the roof drained under the building as well as directly into the ditch that feeds into the White River. The rain gardens not only enhance the landscape but also help prevent further damage to the library floor as well as filter the water from the roof before it enters the White River.

The library serves more than 26,000 patrons a year. It is not uncommon for visitors to stop by the gardens and inquire about various plants and the care of the rain gardens. There are seven Master Gardeners that work primarily with the West Fork Library project. However, on the day of planting, October 3, 2012, almost 20 workers from the local Friends group, the local Yoga group, and interested residents of West Fork gathered to plant, water, and spread mulch. Workers spent between 250-300 hours installing the rain gardens. Master Gardeners spent many hours researching native plants that could survive in drought conditions as well as in rainy seasons. The fact that the trees, shrubs, bulbs, and perennials will be alive and blooming soon shows that the rain gardens are not only a beautiful asset to the library but that they are serving an environmental purpose by filtering the runoff from the impervious surfaces at the library.



October 2012 Rain Gardens Completed

300+ hours were spent by Master Gardeners and other local community residents to plant, water and mulch the native plants in the new rain gardens.

**West Fork
Municipal Library
Sanctioned WCMG Project
since 2006**

**Work Schedule
2nd and 4th Wednesday
9 – 10:30 a.m.
March through October
(flexible work schedule)**





2012 'YES I CAN' AWARD RECIPIENTS
Tanya Collins
Kitty Sanders

2012 WCMG "YES I CAN" AWARD

by Joyce Mendenhall

The WCMG Training class of 2012 produced several very outstanding Master Gardeners. Two of these deserve special recognition for going above and beyond their commitment to the WCMG program.

Kitty Sanders completed the required hours of service soon after she finished the training sessions last winter. She exemplifies the Master Gardener program by her willingness to work in all areas of the Master Gardener program and by her interest in educating others about gardening and the environment. Kitty was asked to serve as a member-at-large on the WCMG Executive Board, representing the 2012 class. She has also been asked to serve as co-chairman of the newly-formed Community Outreach committee to promote community education.

Kitty has been very involved in the Botanical Gardens. She rarely needs to be asked to help and she rarely says no when asked. Her work ethic, willingness to serve, and effectiveness in the areas where she serves are proof of her success as a BGO volunteer. She accumulated over 400 hours at BGO in 2012. She was voted Newcomer of the Year by BGO staff in 2011 and Volunteer of the Year in 2012. Because of her dedication to the Master Gardener program in general and to BGO as a sanctioned project specifically, she has influenced others to get involved with garden volunteering through both organizations.

Tanya Collins is an enthusiastic, upbeat team member. She develops friendships easily with other Master Gardeners and quickly involves herself with the different gardening activities on any workday. She is always ready to learn and ready to help anytime she is asked. Tanya was a very active participant in four different Sanctioned Projects (City Hospital, Headquarters House, Washington County Fair and Extension Grounds) from the very beginning of the 2012 gardening season.

She provides leadership in many activities such as the daylily garden at Headquarters House and the Pool Garden pavers at Fayetteville City Hospital. Her coworkers are most appreciative of her participation. She never left until the work was done for the day.



2012 WCMG Award Winners - Thank you for Your Service
Congratulations to All of You!

**MINUTES OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS
General Business Meeting
April 2, 2013
Kitty Sanders for Patsy Louk, Secretary**

PRESENT: 71

President, Gloria McIntosh, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Motions were made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March Meeting as printed in the *Garden Thyme*. The minutes were approved as posted. The Treasurer's Report for January and for February was presented. Motions were made and seconded to approve each report. Both were unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Farm Friends is Thursday, April 25th, 2013 at the Pauline Whitaker Horse Arena. We have all the volunteers and cornbread we need. Everyone is invited to attend from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

BGO Announcements:

April 26 Annual Plant Sale for members 5:00 - 10:00 pm
April 27 Annual Plant Sale for public 8:00-11:30
April 30 Earth Day for Area Schools
May 1 First Day of Little Sprouts
Volunteer work days-Wednesdays from 9:00 - 11:00 in favorable weather

Missouri Botanical Gardens Trip hosted by

Jacobsen Tours: There are a few seats left. Contact Tom or Jean Jacobsen at 479-251-7002 or jacobsentours@hotmail.com.

Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference

registration deadline to register is April 16. Conference is sponsored by Benton County Master Gardeners and is May 16-18, 2013.

International MG Conference is an Alaskan Cruise on September 7-14, 2013 and is hosted by Arkansas. Over 700 people have registered so far, and over 500 of those are Master Gardeners. There are still a few spots open.

4-H Shooting for Scholars: Mary Crumley appealed to members to sign up to make desserts which will be auctioned.

FGNS Meeting April 20: Joyce Mendenhall announced that Erica Glasener will be giving two presentations on April 20 the first one at 10 a.m. is titled "The Joy of Gardening - on the road with A Gardener's Diary" and the second one at 2 p.m. is titled "Designing A Garden for Year Around Pleasure."

These will be held at the NW Technical Institute in Springdale (N. Hwy 265) and will be free to FGNS members. Others may attend by paying \$15 for one program only or \$20 for both. (Membership is only \$15 so it is beneficial to become a member.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Vande Southerland presented a project proposal for the Arkansas Missouri Railroad Depot. The project would include establishing plantings in nine existing rock planters. Master Gardeners would work cooperatively with students from the nearby Alternative Center, and the railroad employees will help with the heavy labor. Master Gardeners would need to monitor the planters in the summer when students are not in school. Water is available, but research is ongoing to determine how best to irrigate the site. The railroad has established funding for the project. Lisa Booth has offered to serve as Chair of the project. Six additional volunteers are needed. This will be the third Master Gardener project in Springdale. Vande stated that the project could be either long term or short term but believes that it is essential for there to be guidance from Master Gardeners through the first year. The project meets the requirement for there to be an educational component because gardeners will work alongside students and may offer pruning workshops to interested adults. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Arkansas Missouri Railroad Depot as a sanctioned project. This was unanimously approved after discussion and questions.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

SANCTIONED PROJECT OPPORTUNITY REPORTS:

Jan Lefler gave a presentation about the *Garden Thyme*. Her discussion included the types of information included in the publication (events, programs, projects, articles, monthly features, and the monthly treasurer's report and minutes of the general meeting). Also included are updates from the State Master Gardeners. The deadline for submission each month is the 15th. If interested in assisting with the *Garden Thyme*, a person should have basic computer skills or an interest in photography.

Bill Ross gave a presentation about the Elizabeth Richardson Center, a Springdale project. His presentation included photos of the greenhouse where plants are started and divided. Master Gardeners also help with several raised beds at the Center.

The meeting was adjourned and the 2012 awards were presented by Joyce Mendenhall, Awards Committee Chair.

WCMG April Meeting Minutes, continued from Page 5

WCMG AWARDS FOR 2012:

- 2012 Master Gardener of the Year – Dian Holmes
- 2012 Project of the Year – West Fork Library, represented by Jane Bryant and Jan Hayes
- 2012 Rookie of the Year – Jan Judy
- 2012 “Yes I Can” Awards – Tanya Collins and Kitty Sanders

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARDS

5 YEAR AWARDS	10 YEAR AWARDS
Cindi Cope Linda Coble Debra Douglas Sally Harms Ila Irizarry Sung Boon Kim Jan Lefler Mina Marsh Gail Pianalto Johnny Southerland Debbie Whicker Phyllis Wilkins	Colleen Brown Brenda Embry Ann Engskov Jaylon Haley Jane Scroggs Lois Slusarek Martha Ward
15 YEAR AWARD	20 YEAR AWARD
Betty Swope	Dale Miller

TROWEL AWARDS are given to members who have 200 hours or more sanctioned and other hours combined in 2012 (not including education).

Margaret Barron Calvin Bey Judie Branson Mary Branton Colleen Brown Tanya Collins Cindi Cope Mary Crumley Dian Holmes Gayle Howard Jill King	John King Jan Lefler Tom Marshall Gloria McIntosh Joyce Mendenhall Kitty Sanders Berta Seitz Robin Selman Truman Stamps Betty Swope Martha Ward
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ASK A MASTER PHONE LIST May 2013		
Times	10 a.m. - 12n	1-3 p.m.
Wed	5/1	Amber Alexander
Thu	5/2	
Fri	5/3	Jane Scroggs
Mon	5/6	Terry Evers
Tue	5/7	Jim Sposato
Wed	5/8	Beverly Didier
Thu	5/9	Lynn Rogers
Fri	5/10	Jane Scroggs
Mon	5/13	Terry Evers
Tue	5/14	Jim Sposato
Wed	5/15	Beverly Didier
Thu	5/16	
Fri	5/17	Jane Scroggs
Mon	5/20	Terry Evers
Tue	5/21	Robin Selman
Wed	5/22	Amber Alexander
Thu	5/23	Lynn Rogers
Fri	5/24	Jane Scroggs
Mon	5/27	HOLIDAY
Tue	5/28	Robin Selman
Wed	5/29	Amber Alexander
Thu	5/30	
Fri	5/31	Jane Scroggs
Please call Joyce Mendenhall at 444-1755 for Changes or Additions		



Thank you!

Washington County Master Gardeners

for your collective contribution to The Agricultural Development Council, University of Arkansas Foundation Inc., in memory of my son, Steven K. Crawford. It is during a time like this that we learn how much our friends really mean to us. I so appreciate your sympathy and kindness.

Many thanks,
Gloria McIntosh



May 2013

Berni's Hilltop Gardening Tips

Trees have had a tough go the last two summers. I had a meeting in Conway a week or two ago and noticed worms defoliating elms and oaks. So, watch your trees this spring and take control measures early. These worms will not kill trees, but will cause some stress. This might be the final stressor for some already-weak trees.

Wrap up planting your summer and fall-blooming bulbs this month, such as dahlias, gladioli, cannas, and lilies. In a late spring you need to be careful and not plant too early but wait and plant after the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees F.

If you have plans to plant a warm-season (zoysia or Bermuda) lawn, the best time to plant is now to mid-June. If you are planting Bermuda by seed, use the hulled seed at this time or year. You can seed with unhulled seed in the fall. Wait until fall for cool-season grasses like fescue.

Continue spraying your fruit trees with a fungicide (Captan, etc.) every 7 to 10 days to provide the beautiful fruit you like. Do not use any insecticides on the trees until less than 10 percent of the bloom is on – you certainly do not want to hurt your bee pollinators. The fungicide will have no effect on them.

Take softwood cuttings of plants like azalea, rhododendron, forsythia, clematis, chrysanthemum and geranium in late May if you have a misting system.

Thus far, we have had ample rain which has been great. It only takes a few moist overcast days in the spring for azaleas to be hit with azalea leaf galls. If you had them in the past, you most likely will see it again this spring. Watch for it and hand-pick affected blooms and leaves off. Use a garden fungicide if the infection runs rampant.

Aphid population can explode overnight in our spring gardens. Wilting or discolored new growth are common signs of aphids feeding. Spraying with insecticidal soap and blasting with a jet of water from the garden hose are two safe and easy controls. The key to keeping their numbers down is persistence. Check plants every few days for signs of re-infestation and treat as soon as possible.

Thin (pick off) excess fruits from apple, pear and peach trees to a ratio of one fruit per 6-8 inches of a branch.

Stake tall-growing perennials such as foxglove and true lilies to prevent them from falling.

If your peonies fail to flower this month, it could be they are planted too deep. They should be planted 2 inches deep and receive at least 6 hours of sunlight daily.

Direct seed sunflowers in your garden and stagger their planting by every week or two through July so you have flowers until frost.

As the days get hotter and your pansies show stress, remove them and replace with summer annuals.

Stalks of Bearded, Siberian, and Japanese Iris should be removed as the flower fades.

You can selectively prune spring-flowering shrubs such as azalea, forsythia, weigelia, lilac, beauty bush, and mock orange to control their growth or improve their shape. This will also increase their blooming for next year.

Northwest Arkansas Garden Tour

Flower Garden and Nature Society of Northwest Arkansas

will host 16th Annual

THROUGH THE

GARDEN GATE TOUR

Saturday, June 1st

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine)

Eight private gardens will be available for viewing

(2 in Bentonville, 2 in Rogers, 3 in Fayetteville, 1 in Elkins)

Tickets will be sold at the 4 Westwood Gardens locations,

Bank of Fayetteville on the Square and on Mission, Fayetteville Farmer's Market on May 25th, BGO and all garden tour locations on the day of tour.

The tour benefits both the BGO and FGNS of NWAR program series.

QUESTIONS? - Contact Tricia Nelson at tn4re2@gmail.com or Ph#935-3068

Berni Kurz
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair





From Your President

Gloria McIntosh

Wow! Even with our up and down weather, gardens are busting out all over. The tulip and cherry trees are blooming and the hen bit and chickweed are flourishing. I am sure most of the sanctioned projects are well underway.

At **Wilson Park**, we have only had one outside workday so far, but it was amazing how much was accomplished in two hours. **Martha Ward** brought cookies and coffee, and we had a get-acquainted get together before we started to work. **Betty Swope** and **Beverly Didier** have been helping me in the greenhouse, and we have transplanted zinnias, peppers, tomatoes, and angelonia, to mention a few. As you see, **Ruth Cohoon** brought her camera and took some great pictures.

The **Extension Grounds** and **West Fork Library** both had their initial kick-off meeting on the same day in March. I attended the Extension Grounds pot luck breakfast meeting early that morning. They are such an enthusiastic bunch of Master Gardeners and have great plans for the Extension Grounds. **Dian Holmes** and **Renee Brochu** have arranged Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon workdays which should accommodate anyone who wants to work there.

After it was over, I went to work for a while and then was off to **West Fork Library** pot luck luncheon at the home of **Jan Hays**. After a great lunch and very informative meeting, they gave Berni and me the grand tour of the Library and the **Heritage Gardens**. We were really impressed with the rain gardens they have constructed at both places. They are in the process of planning a tour for the public sometime soon. They are also making signage for plant identification, which is always very popular with visitors. **John Gilbreath** donated the sign holders plus iris to be planted in the garden.

Headquarters House had their yearly pot luck and meeting at the lovely home of **Sally Harms**. I am not sure of the number of attendees but there was a house full plus a table full of delicious food. I was happy to see some of our new trainees in attendance there. **Jan Lefler** and **Dian Holmes** made sure everyone left with a package of seeds.

I am really enjoying being invited to the different projects and meeting with all those involved. If you would like a visit, just let me know and I will be there, that is, if I am not out playing baseball.

P.S. You **don't** have to feed me to get me to come.



Wilson Park Workday

Photos by Ruth Cohoon



LLAMA BEANS (Manure)



Odorless bean shaped food for your garden, houseplants and compost piles. Will not burn plants. Use fresh compost or make llama tea. Excellent results! Feed my llamas, they will feed your plants. For prices or more information call: Ginger Candrilli at 479-665-2566 (early morning or early evening).



Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Calendar of Events

by Judy Smith

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
"Garden Workday at BGO";

bring your gloves and favorite hand tools.

Wed., May 1st – Garden Season Admission begins. Adults \$7; Children 5-13 \$4; Children under 5 Free.

Wed., May 1st – Little Sprouts begins for the Season; 9:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.; Admission for Adults \$7.

Tue., May 14th – 18th Annual Greening of the Garden, Admission available at www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620.

Sat., June 1st - Explore@BGO Camp Registration due. Forms available from Judy Smith; jsmith@bgozarks.org.

Tue., June 11th – Explore@BGO begin each Tuesday through July 30th; 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon for children, ages 6-11.

Thurs., June 13th – Cocktails in the Garden, 5:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m.; Admission information at www.bgozarks.org or 750-2620.

Tue., June 25th, 7:00 p.m., Red, White and Blooms free concert with Arkansas Winds Community Band.

Washington County Master Gardeners Treasurers Report March 1 through March 31, 2013				
Bank Balance 03/01/2013				10988.63
MG Balance				7739.22
Income				
	T shirts	\$135.00	Total	\$135.00
Expense				
	Bank Fee	\$5.00		
	Awards	\$114.79		
	T Shirts	114.36	Total	\$234.15
	MG balance			\$7,640.07
Designated Funds				
	JR MG	715.47 less 33.29		\$682.23
	Compost			\$977.90
	Fair Improvement			\$761.25
	Fair Premium			\$794.79
	MG Funds			\$7,640.07
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE	3/31/2013			\$10,954.01
Prepared by Marty Gray 4/4/2013				



Coach Sposato's Green Tomato Relish

- 12 large green tomatoes (cored)
- 4 green bell peppers (seeded)
- 1 large yellow onion
- 1 red bell pepper (seeded)
- 1 TB + 2 teaspoons yellow mustard seed
- 1TB celery seed
- 2 cups cider vinegar
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 TB + 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 large Gala apple (cored)

Directions

Chop tomatoes and peppers very fine. Dice in a food processor. Put chopped vegetables in a large pot; (heavy bottom nonreactive pot) add the Gala apple, the mustard seed, celery seed, vinegar, kosher salt and sugar. Stir well and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Cook stirring often and skimming as needed. Simmer until the relish chow cooks down and thickens into a relish, about 2 hours. Turn into hot sterilized jars and process in a hot water bath.

Organic Gardening and More

Fertilizing Without a Soil Test

Calvin F. Bey @ CFBey1936@cox.net

Blind Fertilization. Many folks do it. A few get it right, sometimes by chance. I understand the dilemma. The soil test report comes back, you don't understand the numbers, the recommendations are not for organic materials, and so you rely on instinct. If you have 20 years of experience and by trial and error you know what has worked, there is a chance you will get it right. It is not just the amounts but the ratios of the minerals that are important for getting nutrient dense produce.

Even with a full understanding of the soil report results, it is still complicated to figure how much and what fertilizers are needed for your garden. If you can relate to these complications, here is some advice, based on lots of experience with all kinds of gardeners.

1. Don't depend on the box store clerk to advise you. If uncertain, find someone who understands the report and ask for assistance. Do this before you shop, and have your specific list of fertilizer needs ready. If you shop for fertilizer without a list, it is likely you will need some help.
2. By all means, don't over fertilize. I have seen scores of soil reports where folks have added excess fertilizers and compost. If too high in nitrogen, the plants will not yield high quality produce. If you have a high Calcium and low Magnesium level, the soil will be loose and subject to excessive leaching. Too much Calcium also means high pH and micronutrients may not be available to the plants.
3. If truly serious about high nutrient density, then consider another lab for soil testing, where more complete results and recommendations are given. See me for details.



Nutrient Dense Produce means that for any given weight of the produce there are relatively more minerals present. USDA keeps records on this for all fruits and vegetables, so there are tables for comparison.

Most of us will not be sending in our produce for analysis, but we can use a surrogate, the BRIX test, which is a reasonable index for accumulated minerals and sugars. We measure this with a refractometer, which is relatively inexpensive. I have one and will gladly test your produce, should you be interested.

Rooting Tomatoes. Around May 1st is tomato planting time. Some of mine this year will be from rooted cuttings, from a plant that I overwintered in the house. In nothing but structured water, this unnamed cherry tomato variety is fully rooted in 7-10 days. From this single mother plant, I have now rooted 25 cuttings, all of which were successfully transplanted into pots and are growing well awaiting warmer weather. Last year the single mother plant produced over 100 pounds (2200 tomatoes).

Vegetable Garden Tours

Calvin Bey will do tours at Harmony Gardens
on Saturday, May 4th and May 25th.

There will be three tours each day:

9-10:30 AM,

10:30-12 Noon, or

1-2:30 PM.

See www.harmonygardens.blogspot.com
for details and directions.



Table Setting at the 2012 WCMG Awards Celebration
Thank you to the Awards Committee

Who's New in Master Gardeners

by Terry Smyers



Jim Sposato (2013)

Place of Birth: Brooklyn, New York

Why and when you became a Master Gardener? I became a Master Gardener this year. I have always liked to garden. My wife and I raised six children and it was the best way to feed them.

What is your gardening style? I like to grow vegetables and herbs, resulting in a lot of canning and freezing.

My favorite plant: Costoluto Genovese tomato Old-World Italian Heirloom. It produces large, juicy fruits that are ribbed and the reddest red. Their intense tomato flavor is outstanding. The plants produce well in hot or cool weather. They are excellent for slicing or as the "secret ingredient" to make your Italian dishes truly special and authentic!

My favorite thing to do in the garden: Pick fresh vegetables and eat them right in the garden.

The best garden spot on earth: Wherever I am gardening.

What I always grow in my garden: I always grow Italian Heirloom tomatoes.

What chore would you like to get out of or find a better way to do it? I hate to weed, but it is a necessary evil.

The gardening book I refer to all the time and I like to tell my friends about because: *The Vegetable Gardener's Bible* by Edward Smith.

The best gardening advice you have received and from whom: Get a soil test first before you plant anything from our Washington County Extension Agent, Bernie Kurz.

Something you learned in your own gardening experience that you like to share: I plant lots of tomatoes and I've found it easy to plant them if you use a cordless drill with a bulb attachment to drill the holes.

My worst or funniest gardening mistake: Among my tomato plants last year, I planted an Italian snake-like squash which spread everywhere in my tomatoes. It was fun trying to find the squash and tomatoes.

What piece of advice would you give a new gardener? Grow what you like with a new plant or two every year.

A gardening triumph I've had: Lots of deer ate well last summer in my garden. (GRIN)

One word to describe my garden: LARGE

Do you have a dream garden in mind? St. Louis Botanical Garden.

Have you visited a particularly memorable garden that you could say a few words about? Woodward Park, in Tulsa, OK. There are numerous roses and all kinds of plants and small ponds throughout the garden.

What has being a Master Gardener meant to you? I have made a lot of new friends and gained a lot of knowledge about all kinds of gardening.

Coach's Recipe for Green Tomato Relish on Page 9



Lovely Cake for Awards Celebration

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER
NEWSLETTER**



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

**U of A Cooperative Extension Service
2536 North McConnell
Fayetteville, AR 72704**

**Phone: 479-444-1755
FAX: 479-444-1764
State Web Site: www.uaex.edu**

DATES TO REMEMBER

May

**Tue., May 7 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –
Spring Plant & Seed Exchange**

**Thur.-Fri.-Sat. – May 16-18th - 2013
Arkansas Master Gardener Conference
"Bridging Trails to Art and Nature" – John Q.
Hammonds Convention Center – Bentonville**

Sat. – May 18th @ 9:30a.m. – FGNS Mtg. –
"Everything You Wanted to Know About Herbs
But Were Afraid to Ask" by the Herbal
Adventurers, Sheila Deal & Meghan Messler -
Springdale

June

**Tue., June 4 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. – PICNIC/POTLUCK
Shiloh Museum Grounds -
Springdale**

Sat.- June 1st – Annual "Through the Garden
Gate Tour" at selected NWA gardens - FGNS
Annual fundraiser.

Mon-Tue., June 17-18th: America in Bloom
Judges in Fayetteville

July

**Tue., July 2 @ 6:30 p.m.
WCMG Mtg. –**

Sat. – July 20th @ 9:30a.m. - FGNS Mtg. –
"Iris: Rainbows in the Garden" by Lynn
Rogers, WCMG – Springdale

