

GARDEN VOICE

County 76 Newsletter Volume 22 Number 1

January 2019

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year!!

Thank you to this past year's officers, project chairs and co-chairs. Your leadership is an inspiration to us all. Thank you, also, to those who are new to leadership roles for 2019. Your commitment to the Master Gardener program is appreciated.

Last year was a busy year with three District Dig-Ins, State Conference in Fort Smith, four Annual to Perennial programs and Advanced Trainings across the state. It was topped off with the Master Gardener 30th birthday celebration in October at P. Allen Smith's Moss Mountain Farm. Last year also saw the retirement of Janet Carson as the Arkansas Master Gardener Coordinator. She "birthed", nurtured and grew the Arkansas Master Gardener program to what it is today.

This year is sure to see some changes. Berni Kurz will officially begin his role in the Extension Educator Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardener position on February 1st. He attended our January meeting and gave those that did not already know him an opportunity to meet and talk with him.

Another change for this year is County 76 hosting the state conference. The theme is "Planting Seeds of Hope" and Hempstead Hall on the U of A Hope campus will be the location for the April 30th full day of seminars. There are five excellent speakers lined up to share their horticulture knowledge with us. There are also pre-conference activities on April 29 and

post-conference tours on May 1. Early registration started on January 15. For more details and to register, go to the MG Only section of the Master Gardener website. It is sure to be an educational and fun time. I "Hope" to see you there!

Crittenden County will be hosting their first Advanced Training in West Memphis on March 8 and 9. Three other counties will be hosting Advanced Trainings in 2019: Faulkner, Pulaski and Lonoke Counties. Please see the Master Gardener website and watch for Constant Contact emails for all the details and registration information. There are a lot of educational opportunities for 2019.

Help the Arkansas Master Gardener program continue to grow and stay strong by joining us at our next County 76 meeting on **Wednesday, April 17, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Little Rock State Extension Office.**



See you then!
Patsy Louk



Advanced Training Project January 2019

Four classes are scheduled for 2019:

March 8 and 9 (Friday afternoon and Saturday morning), Crittenden County, West Memphis, is hosting Master Gardeners: Faithful Stewards of the Environment. Ant moats and recycled hose mats will be constructed. Friday evening will be a time when the State MG conference Popup Art for Plant Markers will be constructed.

March 26 and 27 (Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning) Faulkner County, Conway, will host Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives. It will be posted January 31 or February 1 for registration.

May 31 (Friday) Pulaski County will host H2O: How to Protect, Preserve, and Conserve Our Water.

October 25 and 26 (Friday and Saturday), Lonoke County, Lonoke will host two classes on a Salad Table class and fabrication of an herb box. Registration will be for one of the two days.

Two classes are tentatively planned for 2020

March 10, 2020 White County, Searcy, on the general topic (for now) of Vegetable Gardening

Fall of 2020, Garland County, Hot Springs, will host an AT class with date and topic to be decided.

Congratulations to Audrey Holt. She has achieved Level 3 with a presentation to her MG monthly meeting. During the June Baxter County Master Gardener Membership meeting Audrey Holt gave a program with handouts and Power Point on "The Art of Flower Arranging."

From planning a cutting garden, collecting and conditioning plant materials, selecting and preparing containers and support system for the arrangement, to the elements and principles of the design of the arrangement. Included were county fair exhibit regulations and comments on what the Fair Judges consider when awarding ribbons for flower arrangements. Approval for her project was granted by Mark Keaton, County Extension Agent of Baxter County.

Marty Lynch, Chair
Advanced Training Project



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the President	page 1
Advanced Training Report	page 2
River Valley Garden Show	page 3
Communications Project	page 3
RRR Project	page 4
2019 State Convention Info	page 5
Jefferson County Home Show	page 6
2019 International Convention	page 6

2019 Arkansas River Valley Lawn and Garden Show

The theme for the 2019 show is "Small Gardens." Everyone can grow a garden no matter how small their space. Small gardens can make a big impact on the environment and wildlife preservation.

Since 1994 the River Valley Master Gardeners and the Cooperative Extension Service of the University of Arkansas sponsor this event as a garden exposition with demonstrations, vendor booths and expert speakers. Education of the public about gardening, landscaping, and other horticulture topics is the primary purpose of the Lawn and Garden Show.

This year we will present three days of seminars and demonstrations on a wide variety of topics, including rose pruning, flower arranging, plant propagation, Yoga for gardening health, and how to interpret your soil test. We have an impressive line-up of speakers, including Berni Kurz, the new University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension horticulture specialist and the coordinator of the Arkansas Master Gardener program. He is the former Staff Chair of the Washington County Cooperative Extension Office in Fayetteville. Vendors will showcase the newest and best garden products, and there will be a Silent Auction.

Location:
Fort Smith Convention Center
800 Rogers Avenue
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Hours:
Friday, March 15: 10 am – 6 pm
Saturday, March 16: 10 am – 6 pm
Sunday, March 17: 10 am – 5 pm

Admission: A 3-day ticket is \$5.00
Children 11 and under – free

Contact information:
Tommy Fowler (479) 646-6902

Dianne Heinrichs, Lawn and Garden Show Publicity
Chair
(479) 462-8400



COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

The Communications Project has filled our "To Do" list with many different items. And the last quarter of 2018 shows just that.

The County Contact and Speakers Bureau lists have already begun their yearly process of updating. A specific requirement involved in this process is to make contact with each person listed. This will insure that the list is correct and also communicates the importance of one on one interaction by our organization.

The newly enacted E-card is growing with positive feedback and seems to be welcomed by those contacted.

Ideas are being discussed for cutting the publication timeline on the C76 Gardeners Voice newsletter. This lead time to publication will be decreased from as much as four weeks to no more than two weeks.

It is time to start thinking about all of those wonderful, beautiful photographs for possible inclusion into the 2020 MG Calendar. The first call for entries will be sent out to Julie for distribution mid February 2019 along with the requirements for submission.

The revised County 76 membership poster is 99% complete and has been constructed into a digital format for a more convenient usage format. Watch for the release. It turned out awesome!





RRR Project

RRR welcomed two new members Donna Thicksten (Faulkner County) and SueAnn Buratowski (Lonoke County). Four items were on the agenda.

1. 2019 Arkansas Master Gardeners Awards Program. The RRR Project Chair reported this year's judges hail from six states. Forty-seven nominations were submitted from 18 MG programs. Nine MG Programs from both membership sizes (i.e., "50 or Less Members" and "51 or More Members") submitted nominations. Furthermore, the quality of the nominations and supporting documentation continue to improve. Master Gardener Award Recipients will be honored at the 2019 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference in Hope on Tuesday, April 30. Expressions of Appreciation to the MG Programs submitting nominations will be made through a Constant Contact Announcement and letters to the MG Programs through their MG Presidents and County Agents.

2. C76 April Quarterly Meeting. RRR will host a "Salad Buffet and Desserts" for the April 17 meeting. Jan Rensing will head-up the salad buffet with Mimi Cox overseeing the dessert portion of the meal. RRR members will be contacted for needed assistance. C76 will provide beverages, cups and tableware. RRR is responsible for set-up before and clean-up as well as serving C76 members.

3. 2019 Annuals to Perennials (A-P) Program. Barbie Luther, RRR Co-Chair, is overseeing this year's A-P events. Hope, Fayetteville, Batesville and Little Rock are the chosen locations for the programs. These programs are only open to Master Gardeners who successfully completed their Basic MG Training class between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019 and their mentors. Here is a schedule of the "2019 Annuals to Perennials" events: (1) Monday, June 24 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm in Hope at UACCH - Hempstead Hall. (2) Friday, June 28 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm in Fayetteville, at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences; (3) Saturday, July 13 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm in Batesville at UACCB-Independence Hall and (4) Sunday, July 14 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the U of A, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service in Little Rock. A-P site coordinators and co-coordinators will oversee local Annuals to Perennials' events with C76 members and county MG servicing as volunteers. Barbie is working with A-P site coordinators to finalize speakers and topics. We are delighted to announce that Berni Kurz, Extension Educator Consumer Horticulture and our new state Master Gardener Director, will present a session at each of the Annuals to Perennials events. Annuals to Perennials "Save the Date" announcements will be going out in the near future.

4. Popup Art Night at the Arkansas Master Gardeners Conference. A new and exciting event "Popup Art Night" will be held on Monday, April 29 from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm during the Conference. RRR will host "Art in the Garden" demonstrations and activities. RRR members Jan Rensing and SueAnn Buratowski, will head-up RRR activities. RRR members will be needed to assist with setup and take-down. Jan will contact members with further details and needs.

Submitted by Debbie Howell



OPTIONAL POST TOURS

The 2019 MG State Conference is a different format this year. Your registration fee of \$50 includes events Monday night at UA Hope's Hempstead Hall--fun activities with Pop-up Art, Gardeners Market and Silent Auction, along with an optional catfish/chicken dinner. Then you get to hear a great line-up of speakers on Tuesday, with lunch and dinner provided. The conference ends with the keynote speaker Tuesday night, but there are some wonderful optional tours on Wednesday.

Master Gardeners love landscape tours and the interest is high for the Miller County Garden Tour - Gardening on the Edge, May 1. We have already filled one bus and are part way full with a second bus. They have picked a diverse group of gardens to tour with some excellent ideas for your own garden. Our committee toured this area in December when plants were dormant and we were still quite impressed. So imagine what they will look like May 1!

Three other optional post tours are available as well. The highly successful advanced MG training which featured the Howard Co. Farmers Market and Nashville Demonstration Garden will be highlighted again.

Another option is the Prairie Tour featuring Rick Evans Grandview Prairie Conservation Education Center.

And last, but definitely not least is the Southwest Research and Extension Center tour where you will have the opportunity to see fruit and vegetable trials, and high tunnel. There will also be two propagation workshops covering root cuttings, division of plants, seed saving with tomatoes and tomato grafting.

All of the post tours registration fees include lunch and all program materials. The 2019 State Conference registration fee is a bargain and loaded with education. There is still time to register and add an optional tour. Early priority registration for only Active MGs, Lifetime and County Agents ends Thursday, and Friday we continue early registration with the addition of sustainers, leave of absence members and guests. Space is limited on all tours, so register soon to get your picks!

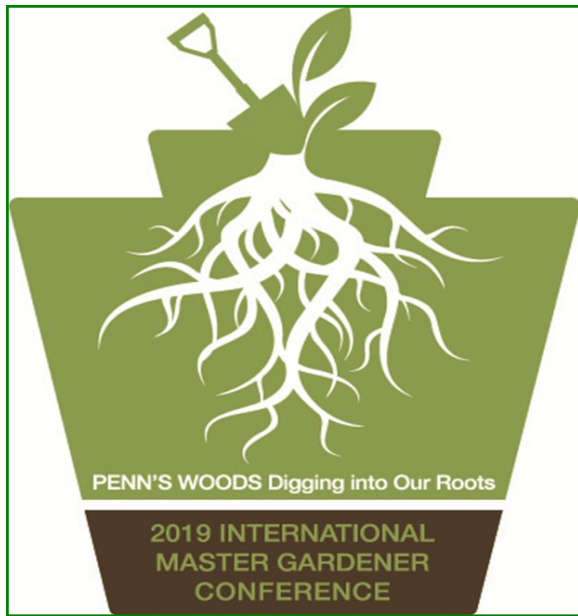
Your state MG planning committee has been working hard to make sure this year's state conference in Hope, Arkansas is going to be outstanding. Registration has been open for two weeks today and we already have almost 250 people registered. Optional tours are filling up quickly, so if you want to sign up for one of these I would do so soon.

Some of the tours you may be interested in include the Homesteading workshop on Monday, April 29. You can learn about gardening with herbs, soap making, high tunnels candle making, cheese making and more.

If you can't make the Homesteading Conference, another optional workshop is papercrete from 3:30 to 4:45 pm. Papercrete is a process where you can make containers or yard art with re-pulped paper fiber with Portland cement or clay and/or other soil added. The process was first patented in 1928, it was revived during the 1980's. We have had an advanced training on this and it was quite popular. You will get to create a container to take home with you.

These are just two options of extra events for the conference. Hope has plenty of learning opportunities, so sign up now!





Penn's Woods: Digging into Our Roots

June 17-21, 2019

*Half and full day tours to area public gardens:
June 16, 17, and 21, 2019.*

**Valley Forge Casino Resort,
Valley Forge, PA**

Registration is now open!

<http://www.cvent.com/d/hgqxlp>

Early Registration Fee: \$350 until April 14, 2019
Registration Fee: \$390 April 15, 2019 until Close
of Registration: May 23, 2019



Jefferson County 31st ANNUAL HOME & GARDEN SHOW

February 8 & 9, 2019

Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm;

Saturday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Pine Bluff Convention Center

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Friday, February 8, 2019

9:30 am **Uta Meyer**, Audubon Arkansas, “Plants for Birds”

11:00 am **Theo Witsell**, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, “Gardening for Pollinators with Arkansas Native Plants”

1:00 pm **Berni Kurz**, U of A Extension Educator for Consumer Horticulture and Master Gardeners, “Maintaining Native Plants”

3:00 pm **Leslie Fowler**, Arkansas Monarch Initiative, “Quail Forever, Habitat and the Arkansas Monarch Conservation Partnership”

Saturday, February 9, 2019

9:30 am **Lori Bird**, Birds & Bees Honey/ Birdhouse Kitchens, “Natural Beekeeping”

11:00 am **Dr. Yong Park**, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, “Pollinators and our Roles for Them”

1:00 pm **Beth Phelps**, U of A Division of Agriculture Research and Extension, “Environmental Landscape Management”

Exhibitor Booths: Live Plants, Interior, Mowers, Garden, Food, Jewelry, Children’s Activities, Stitching Together Quilt Show, The Plant Doctor, sick plant diagnosis. Tablesapes, Raffles, Door Prizes. Food Trucks open 11:00 am – 3:00 pm.

For more information contact Jefferson County Extension Office, 870 534-1033.



New ideas and thoughts regarding the "Garden Voice" newsletter are always welcome!
 Email Mike Wilbanks at:
 mwilbanks3@gmail.com

2019 Officers will be:

President	Patsy Louk
Vice President	Susan Colles
Secretary	Mary Wells
Treasurer	Ouida Wright
Past President	Linda Soffer
County 76 Agent	Berni Kurz
County 76 Coordinator	Julie Treat

What is County 76 ?

County 76 is the statewide advisory group for the Arkansas Master Gardener program. It is open to all active Master Gardeners in Arkansas. County 76 members help set policy, and provide guidance to county programs. Programs offered statewide will be County 76 "projects."

The structure of the group is based on our county programs, and since there are 75 counties in Arkansas, this group is now the "76" county. The "County Agent" is the State MG Coordinator (Berni Kurz) and the officers will be elected from the membership of County 76. The projects will focus on organizational, leadership and general management issues. County 76 members will decide which projects will be created, and each member will decide on which project he/she wants to work.

County 76 is open to all Master Gardeners who have completed the training and are in good standing in their local county programs.

In addition to their county commitment, each County 76 member must accrue 10 additional hours on County 76 sanctioned projects. Membership term is unlimited for those who recertify both in their local county and at the state level. County Agents who have an active Master Gardener program in their county may also participate.



New C76 Members who attended our January 2019 meeting

Betty Raley, Pulaski, PNG

Dixie Land, Pulaski, Communications

Peggy Flatt, Pope, PNG

Karol Zoeller, Pulaski, Fundraising

Juanita Nesbit, Pulaski, Fundraising

SueAnn Buratowski, Lonoke, RRR



The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.