

GARDEN VOICE

County 76 Newsletter Volume 22 Number 3

July 2019

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer Time is Tomato Time!

The heat of summer is here and so are home grown tomatoes. For me, the tomatoes in my garden are one of the best things about summer! Who doesn't love a bacon and tomato sandwich? Caprese salad (tomatoes, mozzarella and basil)! Sliced tomatoes for breakfast! They're the best! I'll enjoy my home grown tomatoes for the next few months while I can. I hope you will, too.

The year continues to be busy. Since my last writing, many of you attended the State Conference in Hope and enjoyed a day of great speakers with lots of fun shopping and bidding on silent auction items. Many of you also took in either a pre tour, post tour or both. Make plans now to attend next year's conference in Jonesboro, May 14 -16, 2020.

Speaking of conferences, I attended my first International Master Gardener Conference in Valley Forge in June and I was not disappointed. With 30 plus gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia, this was a gardeners paradise.

Mark your calendars for the next two International Conferences:

September 12 - 17, 2021 in Norfolk, Virginia.

June 18 - 22, 2023 in Overland Park, Kansas.

The RRR Project has just completed hosting four Annual to Perennial programs across the

state. Host sites were Hope, Fayetteville, Batesville and Little Rock. Mentors and first year Master Gardeners enjoyed educational speakers and had the opportunity to get to know other Master Gardeners.

PNG Leadership Conference will be August 23 and 24 at the 4H Center in Ferndale. There will be a wide variety of topics to help your county Master Gardener program grow. The registration deadline is August 2.

Watch Constant Contacts for information on Master Gardener Appreciation Day at Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Bentonville. This will be on Monday, October 14, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Also the next Advanced Training on "Making Herb Boxes" will be hosted by Lonoke County in Lonoke on October 25 and 26.

I hope to see you at the next County 76 meeting on **Tuesday, October 22, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Little Rock State Extension Office.**



Happy Gardening! Patsy Louk



TRAINING

The third Advanced Training class of four for 2019 was hosted by Pulaski County with 63 attendees from 13 counties and 12 first time attendees. County 76 was paid an overage of \$461.94. There were two changes for Level 1 (completion of 5 classes): Chris Lalande of Pulaski County and Joan O’Neal of Saline County. Level 3 had 3 changes (completion of 23 classes and a presentation or written article completed to receive badges. There were 3 changes with Joan Howard of Pulaski County (needs to complete project) and completion of Level 3 classes and project were Gaye Harper of Garland County and Lin Johnson of Garland County.

The upcoming AT classes for 2019 and 2020 are:

2019: Lonoke County, October 25 and 26 (choice of one of the 2 days) on the method of construction of Salad Tables is at the Lonoke Extension Office. Participants will attend an informative lec-

ture presented by “seasoned” MGs and guest speakers regarding salad table construction. Detailed instructional material will be furnished. A skillful demonstration should firmly “plant the seeds” of knowledge for successfully crafting a table.

2020: March 10 (on the calendar with Julie), White County (Searcy), on the topic of vegetable gardening

2021: February, late, date to be scheduled, Garland County (Hot Springs), Bonsai, Garvan Woodland Gardens.

The Pop-up Art at State Conference was on Flora Incognito with 20 different methods of identifying flora in one’s yard. Heidi Haskins helped with forming the plan and fabrication of designs. Diane Smith helped us at the site.

Advanced Training has a workshop titled “Over 3, but under 51”. It will be a panel discussion with John Barber, Crittenden County (West Memphis), MGs are Stewards of the Environment AT class, 51 members or less county; Barbara French, Pulaski County (Little Rock), 51 members and more and a first year MG and AT Project member. It is August 23, from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm.

MG Appreciation Day



October 14, 2019
Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Bentonville
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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MG Training Program

County Face to Face Training - \$50, notify Berni when you set your county dates for class.

Zoom trainings, October 9, 16, 23, 30, and November 6. \$75 (fee to state). Registration deadline September 13, 2019.

Online training January 7 - March 31, 2020. \$125 (fee to state). Registration deadline December 6, 2019.



COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

PNG is excited about the response we've received for our upcoming Leadership Conference August 23-24!! The deadline for registration is August 2. We've contacted the few counties we haven't heard from and we're excited about those who are registered!!

Those who attend will hear expert speakers, experience the thrill of competition during the silent auction and enjoy the great food and refreshment in the halls between sessions.

We've added a tour of the demonstration/observation garden behind the 4H center to our schedule!

While bidding and visiting with last year's friends, notice the photos on the monitors of flowers submitted for past calendars. We've heard that 300 photos were submitted for the 2020 calendar!!

The deadline for registration is August 2! We have rooms on campus and have had success matching roommates if you come alone. Join us!!

More information is available on the Master Gardener site!!

Debora Carpenter, Chairman

Master Gardener Leadership Conference
August 23-24, 2019 (Friday and Saturday)
Arkansas 4-H Center
Ferndale, AR

Wow... The Communications Project reached out and received wonderful feedback on how we could perform our assigned duties in a more efficient and productive manner. The input was fantastic!

A number of changes in the way we will be conducting our projects in the future will result in a more positive presence of the Communication's Project.

The Speakers Bureau and the County Contact List will be rolling out more efficiently designed layouts in the coming months. These new formats will be easier to read and easier to source current information.

The Monthly Birthday E-card project is going strong. This is a brand new roll-out for the Communications Project. Close to the beginning of each month our goal is to send out an E-Birthday Card to each County 76 member. Advise us if we miss a birth date or two as we attempt to fine tune this endeavor.

Submissions for the 2020 Master Gardener Calendar were at an all time high! This calendar will be one of the best ever thanks to the efforts of Master Gardeners across Arkansas. The Calendar will be unveiled at the next PNG Conference in August.

Take a look at page five! We will now have a page dedicated to the new County 76 members each quarter. Please print a copy of each new page and add it to your own photo membership gallery. This will be an ongoing information page to be used in conjunction with the current C76 Membership map which can be found online. Spatial requirements of an ever increasing new membership dictate that constant updates to the current Membership Poster just will not work in the long run. We are going to give this a try and see how it performs.

Mike Wilbanks, Chairperson



RRR Project

Welcome three new RRR members: Dot Hart and Miriam Lester from Jefferson County (April 2019) and Andrea Chestnut from Lonoke County (July 2019).

Developed a new Annuals to Perennials (A to P) survey focused on determining (1) participants' perceived level of knowledge and use of earth-friendly gardening/habitat practices related to the content of speakers' presentations prior to each of the A to P programs and (2) participants' perceived increase of content knowledge and earth-friendly gardening/habitat practices contained in speakers' presentations at each of the Annuals to Perennials program as well as (3) the likelihood of participants applying the knowledge and practices presented at A to P programs in their own gardens during the next six months. A follow-up survey to document actual use of the content covered in each of the A to P programs will be developed during fall 2019 and sent to 2019 A to P participants in spring 2020.

Annuals to Perennials data showed Master Gardeners from 32 of 42 counties who completed basic training from June 1, 2018 – June 1, 2019 participated in the 2019 Annuals to Perennials programs. The data confirmed 300 Master Gardeners and 7 county agents (total 307) participated in this year's A to P programs compared to 297 Master Gardeners and 6 County Agents

during 2018. One trend noticed was an increase in the number of MG who appeared to select A to P programs based on program topic rather than program location compared to previous years. A second trend noticed was an increase in the number of MG who registered for multiple A to P programs.

Sixteen of 20 active C76 RRR members participated/worked at the 2019 A to P programs. Additionally, 7 of 20 RRR members participated/worked at 2 or more of the 4 A to P programs.

Data collected from 109 master gardeners who identified themselves as mentors and responded to the registration question: "How many years have you served as a mentor?" indicated 37% had served as a mentor for 1 year with 17% and 15% indicating they served as mentors for 2 and 3 years respectively. Overall, 69% of mentors served from 1-3 years. The range of years mentors served was from 1-19 years.

The survey data for each A to P program has been calculated and will be shared with C76 RRR members and other designated C76 members shortly.

C76 RRR project members would like to express their appreciation to all C76 members at large who supported the A to P programs through their participation and assistance with various tasks, the Little Rock State MG Office staff, the A to P speakers, County Agents and Master Gardener Presidents, as well as the County MG who donated their talents, services and time in making the 2019 Annuals to Perennials Programs a success.

Three C76 RRR members are finishing updates to the 2020 Master Gardener Award Nomination Forms. Nomination Forms will be available soon. Announcements will be made through Constant Contact.

Debbie Howell, Project Chair



New Members who attended our July 2019 County 76 Quarterly meeting!



ANDREA CHESTNUT, LONOKE



CATHERINE CHAUMONT, LONOKE



SHERRY FAULKNER, SALINE



MIKE WATSON, GRANT



NANCY WATSON, GRANT



SANDY RIAL, SALINE



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

Your 2019 County 76 Officers

President	Patsy Louk
Vice President	Susan Colles
Secretary	Barbie Luther
Treasurer	Oudia Wright
Assistant Treasurer	Debbie Atchison
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.

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.