

GARDEN VOICE

County 76 Newsletter Volume 22 Number 4

October 2019

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is in the Air

Cooler temperatures have finally arrived and the sights, sounds and smells of fall are around us. The colors of the leaves are changing, we are putting our gardens to bed for the winter, everything is pumpkin flavored and soon we will hear the snap, crackle, pop of wood in the fireplace.

With fall, comes the celebration of the Arkansas Master Gardener Birthday. On Monday, October 14, over 350 Arkansas Master Gardeners descended on Crystal Bridges Museum of Art in Bentonville to celebrate the 31st birthday of the first graduating class of Master Gardeners in Arkansas.

It was an absolutely gorgeous day in Northwest Arkansas, with lots of activity on the museum grounds. Benton County Master Gardeners welcomed us and museum docents enlightened MG's about the Arkansas Champion Tree program, the architecture of the museum, their butterfly garden area and some of the outdoor art on the grounds. In addition to walking the trails to see the vegetation, MG's also had the opportunity to visit the art galleries and tour the Bachman-Wilson House. It was a full day of activity and camaraderie.

Also with fall, comes the Master Gardener Zoom Training session that started earlier this month and will end on November 6. This year there are 128 participants from 23 Arkansas county programs.

In August, 184 Master Gardeners attended the PNG Leadership Conference at the 4H Center in Ferndale. A wide variety of topics were offered for Master Gardeners to learn from and take back to their county programs. Mark your calendar for next year's PNG Leadership Conference, August 24 and 25, 2020.

As the leaves turn, then fall from the trees and the hard freeze hits us, the holiday season will be upon us. Before we know it, it's time to start perusing those seed catalogs and the gardening cycle starts all over again.

I hope to see you at the next County 76 meeting on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020 from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Little Rock State Extension Office.**



Have a safe, fun and joyful holiday season!

Patsy Louk



The last Advanced Training class scheduled for 2019 is Salad Tables Construction on October 25 and 26 at Lonoke in Lonoke Co. The enrollment was set at 25 each day. It was such a popular class 30 are registered for Friday and 28 for Saturday. This is a new approach with the same class scheduled for two successive days due to the intensity of the hands on application. The class will be 24 hours after the deadline for this newsletter. Come to County 76 meeting on January 28 and hear the wonderful reports.

The upcoming Advanced Training classes for 2020 and 2021 are:

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

October 24, 2020 (on the calendar with Julie), Pope Co. (Russellville), Native Plant Propagation with Mary Ann King as the principal speaker and will be held at the Lake Dardanelle Visitors Center where the Pope Co. MGs have native plant beds.

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

Late spring 2021, Cleburne & Van Buren Co. (Fairfield Bay), Mary Maude Huber discussed with Berni about scheduling an organic gardening class.

October 2021, Miller Co. (Hope) at the SWAR Regional Research Station, Pruning and Appropriate Plant Selection for the Backyard. James Lamb already has a tentative agenda planned. Each class participant will receive a pair of pruners from the County 76 Fundraiser supply and may take home the prunings we will be doing from their orchards.

Advanced Training had a workshop titled "Over 3, but under 51". It was panel discussion with John Barber, Crittenden Co. (West Memphis), "MGs are Stewards of the Environment" AT class, 51 members or less county; Barbara French, Pulaski Co. (Little Rock), 51 members and more and a first year MG and AT Project member who took part in the Pulaski Co. AT class "H2O: How to Protect, Preserve, and Conserve Our Water". It was held on Friday August 23, afternoon from 12:30 pm to 1:15 pm. Approximately 25 people attended.

Joyce Mendenhall (Washington Co.) will be Chair and Kay Roberts (Lonoke Co.) will be the Co-chair for the next two years of the Advanced Training Project. I have enjoyed promoting Advanced Training for the last two years and have become acquainted with so many nice people in Arkansas.

Kids Gardening Team Youth Garden Grant 2020

We're thrilled to announce the opening of the 2020 Youth Garden Grant! Since 1982, this grant has supported youth garden projects that enhance the quality of life for kids and their communities.

Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States or US Territories planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply.

Twenty-five programs will be awarded. The selection of winners is based on demonstrated program impact and sustainability. Learn more about the prize packag-

es and applying for the Youth Garden Grant.

The Youth Garden Grant is sponsored by Kids Gardening's generous donor base and our Blossom and Seed Money sponsors.

Applications for the Youth Garden Grant are due December 16, 2019. Winners will be announced January 31, 2020.

<https://kidsgardening.org/garden-grants/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the President	Page 1
Advanced Training and Kids Team	Page 2
PNG and Communications	Page 3
RRR and Fundraising	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 5
Hotel Reservation Update	Page 6
Welcome new members	Page 7
Back Page info	Page 8



COMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

On August 23-24, 184 Master Gardeners from across the state attended the 2019 Plant Nurture, Grow Conference at the Vines State 4-H Center in Ferndale. Although some think of PNG as an officer's conference, it was anything BUT! A great time was had by all as evident from our survey data which showed overwhelmingly positive ratings. We met lots of Master Gardeners, exchanged ideas and heard some terrific presentations on a very diverse set of topics. Examples of presentations ranged from how to plan an educational trip, to how to reach out to inactive members, to when and how to end a MG project. There was something for everyone and not exclusively for officer training.

The dates for the 2020 Conference have been set for Monday and Tuesday, August 24-25. We plan to follow an alternating schedule in future with weekdays one year and weekend conference days the next year. As Co-chair in 2019, and now the new PNG Chairman for 2020, I'm excited about the challenge of working with our County 76 PNG Committee to make next year's conference as good as, or even more enjoyable than, previous conferences. I will be working closely with a new Co-chair, Donna Peebles, of Garland County. Her technology skills will certainly support our job of getting the word out about the conference and her fresh ideas will add spark to our agenda. However, we already face some major challenges. The Vines 4-H Center, while still much cheaper than hosting a conference in a hotel, has increased their rates for our conference by over 30%.

We are considering many ways to keep our costs down while still providing an enjoyable venue, lots of fun activities and great educational training to boot. If you notice changes in the conference agenda or venue in future announcements, please be aware that we are thinking outside the box in order to cut conference costs and prevent large increases in registration. We hope to see you at the 2020 PNG conference and be sure to mark your calendars for Monday and Tuesday, August 24-25.

Gail McClure
2020 Chairman

The mighty Communications Project has undergone some awesome changes over the past few months. After acquiring feedback from the Board of County 76, I agree with the following changes to the Communications Program. These improvements will only enhance our available resources.

The following changes will now be in effect;

A) The Communications Project as it now stands will be dissolved.

B) The current members will be allowed to visit and join other Programs.

C) The Speakers Bureau: Berni and Julie will evaluate this activity and provide recommendations as to who should take ownership of this document.

D) The County Contact List: This list will now be maintained by the RRR Project as they are the primary user of this list. Members will be asked to review the content at each County 76 meeting for any applicable updates.

E) Monthly Birthday E-Card: Birthday Card list will continue and be maintained by Diane Smith.

F) C76 PowerPoint Presentation: This will be reviewed on a periodic basis by the President, Vice-President and Past President for any necessary updates to content and photos.

The Garden Voice newsletter will continue as an appointed position under the new editor as of January 1, 2020, Diane Smith. Her contact information will be made known at the January 2020 C76 quarterly meeting.

Also as an appointed position, the MG calendar will continue to be overseen by Mike Wilbanks. His contact information will remain the same. The 2021 calendar schedule will be revealed during the January 2020 quarterly meeting.

I will be appointed in the new position as the Media Relations person effective January 1, 2020.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as your Communications Project Chairperson over the past years. Thank all of you for your cooperation.

Mike Wilbanks, Chairperson



RRR Project

The Recruiting, Retention and Recognition project team discussed steps that need to be taken on the state awards and were delighted to find out that Dr. Cartwright will be making the awards at the State Conference in Jonesboro. Several of the project team members will be working closely with Julie Treat in the state office on the awards.

Jan Rensing volunteered to make contact with guests that are registered to attend quarterly County 76 meetings. Debbie Atchison and Jan Rensing will work on some sort of nametag embellishment that guests will be given to help everyone recognize them as guests and get to know them. All four of the 2020 Annuals to Perennials program venues are scheduled: Hope June 22, U of A Community College; Fayetteville June 26, Tyson Center for Agriculture Sciences; Batesville July 11, U of A Community College; and Little Rock July 12, state extension office.

The team discussed possible speakers and site coordinators will begin making contacts to schedule speakers. Team discussed and reviewed the details that will need to be handled for the Annuals to Perennials programs. We had a very productive work session with lots of input from team members and look forward to 2020.

Barbie Luther



Fundraising 3rd Quarter Report - 2019

The Fundraising project members are sad to say farewell to Glenda Bell, Fundraising Co-Chair, who is moving to Florida this month, and wish her well on her new endeavors.

Glenda and Janice Dickerson implemented a new inventory system this year which involved assigning an inventory number to each item. Printed stickers with the inventory number and price is then adhered to each item and marked off of a master list as the item is sold. This process of labeling each item is somewhat labor intensive and is still a work in progress, but it has been helpful in keeping up with the inventory and knowing what needs to be re-ordered. The committee discussed looking into bar codes or other inventory management options.

Much of our inventory re-stocking arrived just before PNG conference, and we were surprised to sell out of several items. The Root Slayer Perennial Shovels were the hot ticket items. We thought we might be over-buying ordering twenty, but it was good that we were so optimistic.

Here is a list of the major sales held this quarter and our grand total came to \$5,304.00. We were especially pleased at the PNG sale totals this year.

6/8 Gardening On the Prairie - Total sales \$632.00
 6/20 Misc. sales Faulkner County - Total sales \$165.00
 7/12 Co76 Mgs - Total sales \$307.00
 8/23 PNG Day 1 - Total sales \$3,153.00
 8/24 PNG Day 2 - Total sales \$960.00
 9/14 Central AR Rose Society - Total sales \$87.00
 In addition to our Co76 sales, we also brought in \$2,550.00 during the Silent Auction at the PNG Conference.

The Fundraising project group is grateful to Karol Zoeller and Juanita Nesbitt, Pulaski County MG's, who have agreed to serve as the next Fundraising co-chairs.

Submitted by Ouida Wright

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2019

Garden and Master Gardener Events

- 6 - Master Gardener Basic Training via Zoom
- 18 - Master Gardener Monday, 3 pm Link to join sent day of event.
- 28 - 29 - Thanksgiving Holiday

December 2019

Garden and Master Gardener Events

- 6 - Deadline to register for the Online Master Gardener Basic Training Class. Contact your county extension office for registration form. Class begins January 7 and ends March 31.
- 15 - Deadline to report MG volunteer hours for 2019
- 16 - Master Gardener Monday, 3 pm Link to join sent day of event.
- 24-January 1 - State extension office closed

January 2020

Garden and Master Gardener Events

- 1 - Office closed for the holiday
- 7 - Online Master Gardener Basic Training Class begins. Deadline to register is December 6. Register through your county extension office.
- 10 & 11 - Horticulture Industries Show (HIS), Owasso, Oklahoma. Tulsa Tech Conference Center. Theme is PROTECTED AG: Adapting to a Challenging Environment.
- 15 - Deadline for Janet B. Carson County MG Program Scholarship application.

February 2020

Garden and Master Gardener Events

- 1 - Registration for 2020 State Master Gardener Conference begins. Registration information found on the MG Only portion of the website on Feb. 1.
- 28 to March 1 - Arkansas Flower & Garden Show.

Hotel Reservations for 2020 MG Conference

2020 Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference will be held at Embassy Suites in Jonesboro May 14-16, 2020. (Conference registration will begin on February 1, 2020.)

A few lodging rooms are still available at Embassy Suites under our block at the conference rate of \$119.00.

*The link found on the MG ONLY portion of our extension website is the **ONLY** way to register for your lodging room for the conference at this time.

*There is not a local phone number to call for reservations as the building is still under construction.

*The 800 number for Hilton reservations will not allow one to get the rate below as they don't show our group in their national system.

Embassy Suites Jonesboro, AR

Conference Rate (rate good for nights of May 12, 13, 14, 15, 16)

1 King Bed 2 Room Suite - \$119.00

2 Queen Beds 2 Room Suite - \$119.00 **SOLD OUT**

We look forward to seeing you all in Jonesboro next May!

- Craighead County MG Conference Planning Committee





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



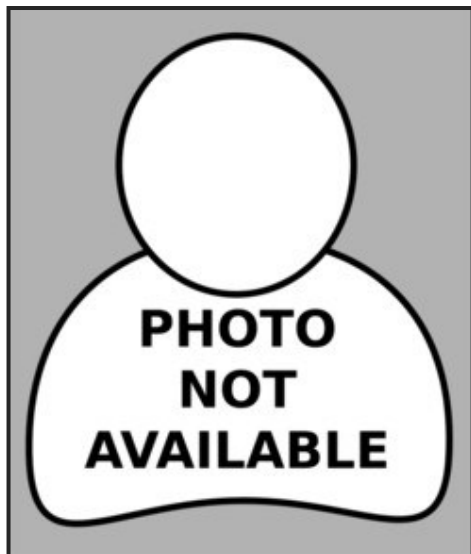
**DONNA PEEBLES
GARLAND COUNTY**



**FAITH MORRISON
PULASKI COUNTY**



**STEVE BROZZI
WASHINGTON COUNTY**



**Paula Hartner, Saline County
Victoria Meyer, Saline County**



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.

20/20
Garden Vision

**A
VIEW
FROM
THE RIDGE**

2020 MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE
May 14-16, 2020 ■ Craighead County

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

**MASTER
GARDENER**

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.