

# GARDEN VOICE

County 76 Newsletter Volume 23 Number 1

January 2020

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Welcome to 2020!

I am having a hard time writing 2020! I think when you are retired and don't write or type the date all day, getting used to the date change can take a while.

With the start of a new year we also have a change in some officers, project chairs and co-chairs. A huge "thank you" to the outgoing, the incoming and those who are continuing.

Your dedication to the Master Gardener program is much appreciated.

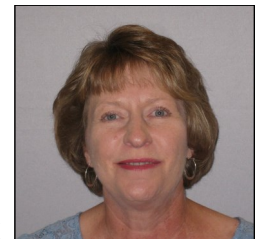
Things are already gearing up to be another busy year in the Master Gardener world. Many counties are well underway with their plans for their Spring plant sales and seminars. The months of March, April and May are chocked full of plant sales and seminars all across the state. For the first time, our Fundraising Project will have a booth at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show in Little Rock on February 28, 29 and March 1. White County will be hosting an Advanced Training on March 10 in Searcy. Craighead County has lots of exciting things in store for us at the 2020 State Conference in Jonesboro on May 14, 15 and 16.

The RRR Project is working on this year's Annual to Perennial events with four of them at different locations across the state in June and July. PNG Project is lining up speakers and seminar topics for the 2020 PNG on August 24 and 25 in Ferndale.

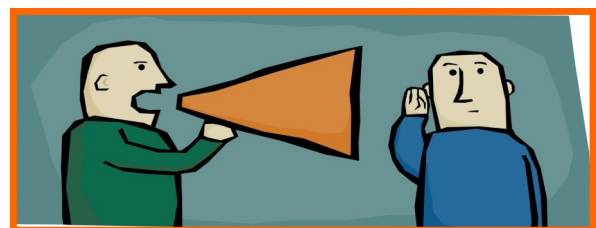
Save the Date - Master Gardener Appreciation Day, Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View.

These are just a few of the things happening in the Master Gardener world this year. Watch Constant Contact for details on these and other Master Gardener events.

Help the Arkansas Master Gardener program continue to grow and stay strong by joining us at our next County 76 meeting on Tuesday, April 28, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the Little Rock State Extension Office.



Patsy Louk



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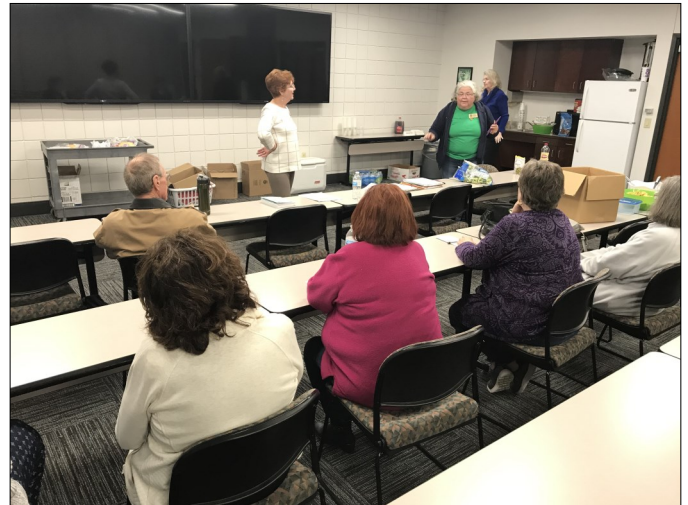
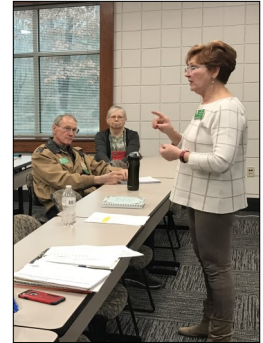
The **Plant Nurture Grow Project (PNG)** provided a great “Soup & Salad Lunch” at the January meeting of County 76. The main entrée was a chef’s salad and soup varieties included “Busdriver,” Chicken Tortellini, Broccoli and Cheese, Chili and French Onion. The diversity provided something for everyone and, according to the consensus, it was a great meal. We even had requests for soup recipes which Julie Treat collected and circulated after the meeting.

Plans for the PNG 2020 Conference, set for August 24 and 25, are well underway. The schedule changes in alternate years, with the event being held on weekdays in even years and in odd years, on a weekend. This year will be a Monday and Tuesday conference. We are currently confirming our agenda for the conference. If there is a special type of program or a particular speaker you would like to hear, please email your request to [gail.y.mcclure@gmail.com](mailto:gail.y.mcclure@gmail.com). If we can arrange it, we will include as many requested programs as possible. We are currently requesting help finding speakers for two forums on “fun fundraising activities” other than plant sales, and “activities that don’t require digging” for gardeners who can no longer kneel and weed. If your organization has such activities, send us a speaker name to participate in the forums.

We have also slightly altered our schedule for the conference to compensate for the rate increases at the Vines 4-H Center. In order to prevent a major registration rate increase, we are cutting out some lunches that were not always well attended. This is allowing us to

keep the agenda and activities consistent with previous years’ costs. We hope this will not inconvenience our attendees; but our first priority is to provide a great educational and fun venue without major registration rate increases. We hope to see you at the 2020 PNG Conference. Be sure to mark your calendars for Monday and Tuesday, August 24 and 25. Watch for our Save the Date reminder in March.

**Gail McClure  
Chair, PNG Project**



# Landscaping

To quote Dr. Gerald Klingaman, retired Extension horticulturist from the U of A, “A landscape is a two-dimensional arrangement of bushes awaiting the loving attention of a gardener.” As Master Gardeners, we all think we want to have a beautiful landscape, but I think what we really desire is to spend time playing in the dirt and to have folks know when they pass by that a gardener lives there.

In our Master Gardener training we learn all sorts of stuff about the proper way to grow things and most of us read even more. Are you having fun with your efforts? If not, I suggest you stop doing the things that you think you must do and start concentrating on the stuff that makes you happy. I don't mean forgo weeding altogether, just don't let yourself be so controlled by the thought of a weed free garden that you take the joy out of growing things.

Most of us want our gardens to be retreats, places we can escape the stresses of the day and enjoy the beauty of nature. If we are worrying about our designs pleasing someone

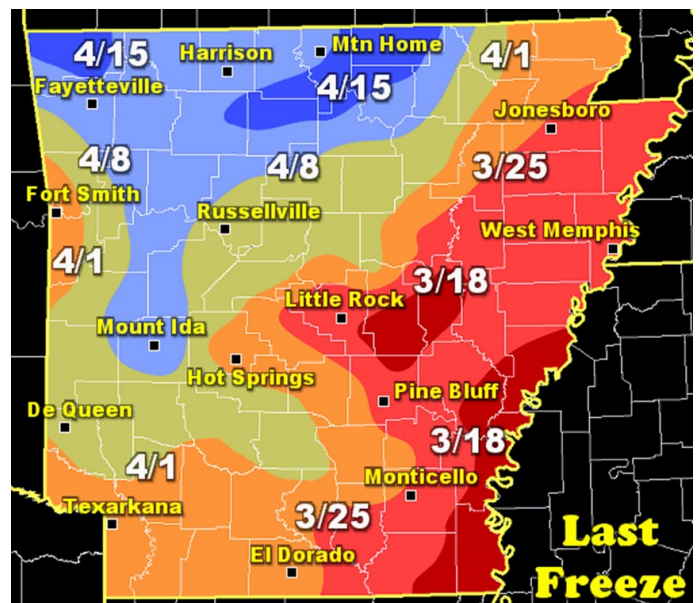
else, or even too much about having a design, then our garden won't be our retreat. We will end up with a stiff arrangement that we hope pleases someone else who will probably never see it!

The cold, dreary days of winter can be a good time to evaluate our garden efforts. Spend time thinking about what it is about gardening that makes you happy and make plans to use more of your gardening efforts just on the parts you really enjoy. Figure out what plants make you smile and resolve to plant more of those happy plants even if you have to take out others to make room. You are not married to the plants in your garden and they are not your children. So it is no one else's business if you decide to remove and discard some plant that you have tired of. Life is short and sometimes hard; so let me encourage you to let your garden be a source of joy.

**Barbie Luther**

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Arkansas! We live in a small state, but we have a broad range of temperatures from our northern to our southern borders. This is more apparent in the spring months when we as gardeners want to get a jump on the gardening season. The last average frost in southeast Arkansas typically occurs around March 18 and in some northern tier counties the last frost is a month later, around April 15. Gardeners in southern Arkansas are busy planting spring gardens right now while northern Arkansas gardeners are chomping at the bit.

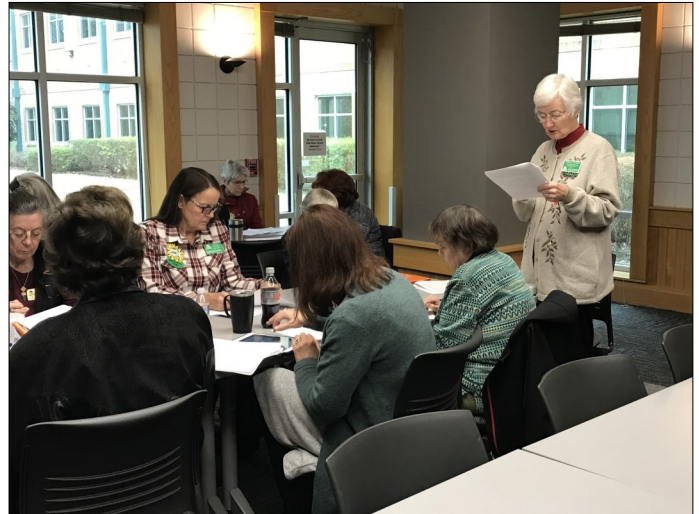


Source: National Weather Service



# ADVANCED TRAINING

The last **Advanced Training** class of 2019 was hosted by Lonoke County. This county offered a new concept where the same class was held on two separate days when registering individuals could choose which date they preferred to attend. A total of 58 attendees from 20 counties attended including several attending their first Advanced Training class. It was awesome to note that by attending this class, Valerie Smith achieved the completion of Level II in the Advance Training classes. Valerie was awarded her new name plate reflecting this accomplishment at the County 76 meeting on January 28. Here is a list of upcoming AT classes for 2020.



March 10: White County Master Gardeners “Grow Your Food-Feed Your Soul” at the White County Cooperative Extension Service, Conference Room, Searcy, AR.

October 24: Pope County (Russellville), “Native Plant Propagation” with Mary Ann King as the principal speaker.

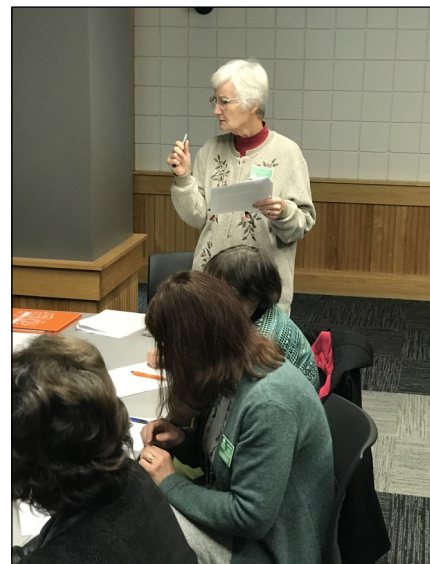
The upcoming AT classes for 2021.

Late February: Garland County (Hot Springs), “Bonsai, Garvan Woodland Gardens.”

October: Miller County (Hope) at the SWAR Regional Research station, “Pruning of Berries and Fruit Trees.” Hosting counties are Miller, Nevada and Hempstead.

We encourage Master Gardeners to attend the County 76 meetings it has something for everyone. While there, we would like you to visit our Advance Training Project meeting.

**Kay Roberts**  
Chair, Advance Training Committee



# Recruiting, Retention and Recognition, RRR

The project breakout session was very busy with a lot of ideas and tasks discussed. Recruiting, Retention and Recognition did some brain storming on ways to encourage more counties to participate in the nominations for the Arkansas State Master Gardener Awards. We want to highlight the winners in Constant Contact emails from the state office later in the year after they have received their awards at the state MG conference in May. We are working on ideas to simplify the awards nominations and to get more than 17 counties to participate by making nominations. Your county cannot win if you do not submit nominations! You need to toot your own horns about the great projects and MGs in your county.

Plans for the Annuals to Perennials programs exclusively for first year MGs and their mentors are well underway and we are excited to honor them at four locations around the state this summer. Programs will be in Hope on June 22, Fayetteville on June 26, Batesville on July 11 and Little Rock on July 12. Be sure to watch emails from the state office for information and details in the next few months so you don't miss out.

The RRR project team came up with a couple of ideas we want to implement in hopes of recruiting MGs from more county programs to check out County 76 to see what we are doing and why they should be a part of it. We hope to spend a few minutes during the Master Gardener Monday ZOOM session in March to encourage people to visit the April quarterly County 76 meeting. We think it would be a great idea for county agents to also visit the County 76 meeting. We will be working with Berni Kurz to encourage them through the "What's Up Wednesday" ZOOM sessions.

The Recruiting, Retention and Recognition project team wants to encourage county MG programs throughout Arkansas to recruit new MGs, mentor and retain the volunteers you have and to recognize the great work your volunteers are doing in your communities. Let us know what we can do to help you!



**Barbie Luther**  
Chair, Recruiting, Retention and Recognition





# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Greene County Master Gardeners**  
*presents the*  
**2020 Spring Garden Seminar**  
*A Decorative Combination: Food and Beauty Together*  
**Thursday, March 12, 2020---**  
**8:30 AM- 2:15 PM**  
**Paragould Community Center**  
*(3404 Linwood Dr., Paragould, AR.)*

***Is it "flowers in your vegetables" or "vegetables in your flowers?"***

Berni Kurz, UAEX Horticultural Specialist-*Vegetables as Bedding Plants*  
Tonya Ashworth, Dixon Gardens- *Herbs for Vase and Plate*  
Mike Nochs, White Harvest Seed Co.- *Putting it Together with a Multi-faceted Approach*

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**Saturday, April 4, 2020**



**Doors open at 9:30 am ♦ Cost \$20.00**

**Hazen United Methodist Church  
211 N. Hazen Avenue Hazen, AR 72064**

**Speakers:**

**Ronnie Palmer, President- Arkansas Chapter,  
Azalea Society of American**

**Leonard Chamblee, Prairie County  
Master Gardener**

**Jackie Johnson, Owner of Lauren's Garden**



**New Members who attended our January 2020  
County 76 Quarterly meeting!**



**CAROL SHOCKLEY  
FAULKNER COUNTY**



**CAROLE BYRD  
RIVER VALLEY**



**COLEEN CURTIS  
GARLAND COUNTY**



**DIANE RICE  
LONOKE COUNTY**



**HEATHER COOK  
BENTON COUNTY**



**KEN BYRD  
RIVER VALLEY**





## **New Members who attended our January 2020 County 76 Quarterly meeting!**



**LEISA STOTTS  
CLARK COUNTY**



**MAX WELCH  
LONOKE COUNTY**



**PAULA HARTNER  
SALINE COUNTY**

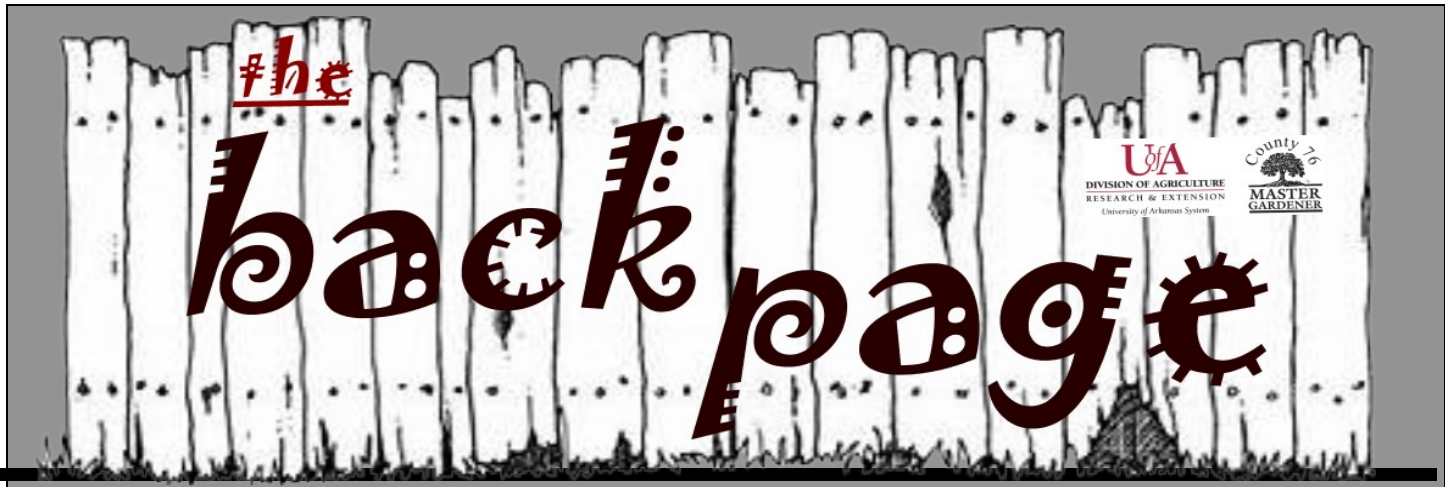
**To those whose picture did not make this issue (Verlina Banks, Pulaski County and Don Koops, Pulaski County) and the other files that did not make it:**

To quote a strange sort of guy (Mike Wilbanks), “Technology is great as long as it works.” Here is a partial list of why the original newsletter did not make the deadline:

M’soft does not like me. My backpack was stolen. There was a huge fight last night and the cops came. I couldn’t concentrate on the assignment. I was really sick last decade and unable to do anything. My friend’s neighbor’s mechanic’s barber lost his keys. The auto parts store was out of blinker fluid. I was up late last week taking care of a sick gerbil. My printer ate my homework. I had a game last week. My friends and I went snipe hunting. Mouse ate the file folder. Internet went down, again! Bootsie (my cat) ate the mouse. I had to change the air in my car tires from winter air to summer air.

I’m certain there are more reasons but I can’t think of them right now. *I have a headache!*





New ideas and thoughts regarding the "Garden Voice" newsletter are always welcome!

Mike Wilbanks, Editor

## Your 2020 County 76 Officers

President	Patsy Louk
Vice President	Susan Colles
Secretary	Barbie Luther
Treasurer	Debbie Atchison
Assistant Treasurer	Nancy Cunningham
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.

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