

GARDEN VOICE



COUNTY 76 NEWSLETTER
2nd Quarter 2023 April 2023
Volume 27, Number 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



*The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough –
Rabindranath Tagore*

Hello!

I hope you have not grown webbed feet. We have doubled the normal amount of rainfall for this time of the year. If everything runs its normal course, we will need rain in a few months. Many of you have had to replant, some are just glad to be able to plant. This year I have had the opportunity to shop some of the wonderful plant sales, found great buys plus got to see friends and make new ones.

In doing some research for a talk, I found a few facts concerning Arkansas Master Gardeners in 2022.

Total Sanctioned volunteer hours 156,405.75.

Total Non-Sanctioned volunteer hours 13,547.75.

Total Educational hours 80,911.

This is a Statewide a total of 246,043 hours.

Master Gardeners are doing amazing amounts of work. I am concerned that you probably put in a lot more hours which may not have been reported. I want everyone to know how valuable these hours are. This information is used from the county level up to federal level for various funding opportunities. Currently, the value of our work is set at \$29.75 an hour. At this rate, we gave \$7,319,779.25. to our communities. Wow!

Plant sales are ongoing, I hope you have time to support at least one. Randy Forst has Master Gardeners Monday (MGM) the 3rd Monday at noon each month, and on the 3rd Thursday we encourage your officers and County Agents to join him for Master Gardeners Business Extension Education (MG BEE). Each month he will have a special topic. We have wonderful plans for Arkansas Master Gardeners.

May 15 MGM and May 18 (MGBEE).

June 8-10 State Conference with a lot to do, see and learn. Silent auction always has great items, plus virtual auction items watch for information.

July 18 Annuals to Perennials at 6:00 – 8:00 pm. A link will go to the county agents and watch parties can be held at extension offices.

July 25 County 76 Membership meeting 10:00 LRSO Speaker Dr Dan Scheiman, Invite another Master Gardener. Dr. Sheiman is a great speaker.

August 4-5 Plant, Nurture, Grow Leadership Conference Hot Springs, AR leadership training open to all Master Gardeners

October 13 Master Gardener 35-year Birthday Party, featured speaker is Joe Lamp'l, St James Methodist Church, Little Rock, AR

Remember, your voice is important to the Master Gardener program. County 76 is the state advisory group. It has four projects 1)Advanced Training (AT); 2)Recruitment, Retention, & Recognition (RRR); 3)Plant, Nurture and Grow (PNG) 4) Fundraising. Everyone is a member of a project, and each member is required to put in 10 hours a year. Projects focus on education and leadership, each in a different way, working to support Arkansas Master Gardeners to be the best. You have a chance to meet with our state leaders and learn what is happening. Come join us!

You are invited to attend the July 25 meeting, if you would like to talk to someone before about County 76 membership my email is neveridle@hotmail.com.

I found this in a Garden Gate Magazine July/August 2007; because it was from Arkansas, I saved it.

GARDENING = STRONG BONES

“Researchers at the University of Arkansas recently found that gardening is good for your bones. Women aged 50 and over who gardened at least once a week had higher bone densities than did those who jogged, swam, walked, and did aerobics. It’s probably the combination of hard work – digging, pulling, and pushing – and being outside in the sun. Sunlight boosts vitamin D production, which helps the body absorb calcium. So, get out there and pull weeds – it’s good for you!” (I noticed It only mentioned women.)

Happy Gardening!
See you in Russellville!

Kay Roberts, President

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

~Business~

- Our General Membership and Project Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, was held at the Arkansas 4-H Center (also known as the C. A. Vines Center) in Ferndale. Kay Roberts, President, called the meeting to order. She presented the day’s agenda to share we would have our business meeting, project meetings, and lunch to be followed by our guest speaker and project reports.

- Kay Roberts reminded members that the minutes from our January 24, 2023, meeting had been emailed to everyone for review by our secretary, Darlene McGuire. There were no corrections given, and the January minutes were unanimously approved.
- During our meeting, Kay explained that our Treasurer, Debbie Howell, had submitted her resignation due to some health issues. Gail McClure has served as our assistant treasurer. Gail will now serve as our treasurer, and Linda Soffer has agreed to serve as our assistant treasurer.
- Gail McClure presented the County 76 Financial Report for the 1st Quarter: January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2023. Gail gave the details of income and expenses in both our County 76 CES and private accounts. Our private account bank balance as of 3/31/23 was \$43,509.85. The CES account bank balance as of 3/31/23 was \$59,556.83. The total for both accounts as of 3/31/23 was \$103,066.68. Members approved the report without question or comment.
- Susan Colles, Past President, gave a report on Janet B. Carson Scholarships awarded to Master Gardener County Projects and to 2023-2024 High School Seniors. There are two County Scholarships.

GARLAND COUNTY - \$750 for the Hot Springs Village Xeriscape at Cortez Pavilion will allow Master Gardeners to enhance the pollinator features of the HSV Xeriscape. The purpose of this project is to educate the public and to involve youth groups from local schools and organizations. Debbie Atchison shared that the Xeriscape is a Way Station. Now they will be able to build a Pollinator Hotel.

WHITE COUNTY - \$750 for the Rose Bud City Hall. This project is a collaboration of the White County Master Gardeners and the Rose Bud City Council. This project will address beautification of the entrance to the community. All aspects of the project will involve the community – sign construction, landscape design, and plants from our greenhouse project. Donna Peebles told us they will be working with youth groups, scouts, and school groups. There will be research and family education in the work. Also, QR codes will become part of the project.

- Susan told us that the Executive Board increased the number of High School Senior Scholarships that would be given to four (4) at the 2022 Leadership Retreat in November. The scholarships are sent directly to the college or university. Applicants must attend an Arkansas college or university, and s/he must major in a plant science field. To apply, you do not need to have a connection to Master Gardeners. We had fifteen (15) applicants. They were impressive. We should encourage applicants for this opportunity.

COLLIN GALLOWAY - \$1000 High School Senior Scholarship

- Robinson High School, Pulaski County
- Attending Arkansas State University
- Major: Plant Science/Soil Scien

ZOE BAUCUM - \$1000 High School Senior Scholarship

- Fayetteville High School, Washington County
- Attending the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- Major: Horticulture and Crop Biotechnology

KALEB EXUM - \$1000 High School Senior Scholarship.

- Green County Tech High School, Green County
- Attending Black River Technical College
- Major: Plant Science/Agronomy

BRADEN MILLER - \$1000 High School Senior Scholarship.

- Marion High School, Crittenden County
- Attending the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville
- Major: Agriculture

- Our State Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardener Coordinator, Randy Forst, brought a Statewide Activity Update. These are always interesting and informative.
 - Randy congratulated all new Master Gardeners trained in 2023 (Washington Co., Garland Co., Hot Spring Co., Benton Co., Monroe Co.). Pictures of these groups included young people – a great asset to us.
 - Randy has given sixteen (16) presentations in Arkansas this year; including three training sessions and a presentation in Jackson County which is hoping to form a new MG group.
 - Randy has made an impressive video to promote Master Gardener Plant Sales.
 - We are fortunate to have a leader who is a skilled communicator. A new Zoom opportunity known as Master Gardener Business Extension Education [*MG Bee*] will now allow Master Gardener Boards and County Extension Offices to learn about the business policies and procedures, including financial guidelines, required for County MG's. Once a month, Randy and Julie will hold a noon-hour session to inform officers and answer any questions. This will be on the third Thursday of the month as the calendar allows. Information for *MG Bee* will be sent by Constant Contact.
 - The 2023 State MG Conference, Celebrating the Heart of the River Valley, will be in Russellville, Pope County, on June 8 to 10. A wonderful time will be had in learning, touring, and networking.
 - This year's Annuals to Perennials will be Tuesday, July 18, 2023. A Zoom from 6:00 to 8:00 pm for Mentees and Mentors.
 - The 2023 PNG Leadership Conference, hosted by County 76, will be held Friday and Saturday, August 4 and 5, in Hot Springs. This learning and networking is for more than just Executive Boards.

- The Arkansas Master Gardener Program will celebrate it's 35th birthday on Friday, October 13, 2023, at St. James UMC in Little Rock. A special guest speaker will be Joe Lamp'l, Joe Gardener of Growing a Greener World. It will be a fantastic time.
- The Arkansas Garden is Randy's blog. There are timely tips for the Arkansas Home Gardener. Also, Randy has a 'pick of the month' you can learn about. Scan this QR Code to get to the blog.



- Two special field learnings are planned for members of County 76 on Tuesday, May 2. These will be at 10:00 and 2:00 at the Mid-America Museum in Hot Springs. Linda Williams Palmer, known for her paintings of Arkansas Champion Trees will guide a tour of her work in the Tree/Cycle Exhibit and answer questions for us.

~Education~

Ball Seed County 76 members and guests were treated to a presentation by Sabrina Childs. Sabrina is a Sales Representative for the Ball Seed Company. Sabrina Childs resides in Ripley, Mississippi, on the family farm. She started her career in Horticulture at Tippah County Growers in Tiplersville, Mississippi. Sabrina spent 3 years as Propagation Manager and 4 years as the Seasonal Color Sales manager. This is where Sabrina began to love Ball Seed Company and all it does for plant lovers and growers. She began with Ball Seed Company in November 2005 as a Sales Representative covering North Mississippi, North Louisiana, Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma, and Western Tennessee.

There was excitement for Sabrina's presentation as she had spoken to County 76 members two years ago. And Sabrina did not disappoint!

Ball Seed is North America's leading wholesale horticultural distributor with a global network of Breeders, Research & Development teams, Seed and vegetative producers and Distribution companies. *Pan American Seed Co.* is the leading breeder and producer of F1 Hybrid and open-pollinated seed. It is known for producing high quality seeds. *Kieft Seed* is known for high quality seed perennials such as 'first-year flowering assortments', Revolution gerbera family and other specialty crops. *Ball ColorLink* is known for eye-catching color contrasts, unique sun & shade installations, new & innovative uses for traditional plants, creative plant groupings, and unbiased comparison trials. Ball is also the home of The Gardens at Ball-West in Chicago, IL, with 150,000 plants. It is 3,500 plant varieties on 7+ acres with 115 suppliers.

Sabrina shifted into information we love. She had pictures and talked about the success stories best suited for our Zones. She presented Redhead Coleus, Whopper Begonias, Cannova Canna, Gryphon Begonia, Bounce Interspecific Impatiens, Fireworks

Gomphrena, Mahogany Splendor Hibiscus, Angelonia Serena Pink, Angelonia Splendor, Dichondra Silver Falls, Purple Majesty Ornamental Millet.

It was great fun listening to Sabrina about The Tidal Wave Petunia Series. Wave Petunias were discovered in Japan by a beer company breeder in 1995. Wave Petunias have the only Petunia fan club in North America! And now the Tidal Wave Petunias grow taller and in a hedge shape. Sabrina recommends Tidal Wave Cherry and Tidal Wave Hot Pink. Petunia Tidal Wave Silver is aggressive and will recover from heavy rain faster than others. The colors of the Spreading E3 Easy Wave Family were shown.

Pictures and growing information of these plants are easily found online in Ball Seed Catalogs and Brochures <https://www.ballseed.com/CatalogsBrochures/>

If you are curious about New 2023 Varieties available, you will have a nice surprise at the end of this issue of The Garden Voice. It's titled '**The Garden Voice Add-On #1**'. At any rate, it seems that Sabrina Childs with Ball Seed is a County 76 favorite:)

Welcoming Our Newest Members!



Alfi Anderson

Elkins
Washington County

Project: Recruitment, Retention, Recognition



Dana Ellis

Stuttgart
Arkansas County

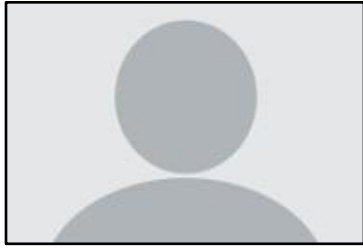
Project: Plant, Nurture, Grow



Jackie Leech

Harrisburg
Craighead County

Project: Plant, Nurture, Grow



Philip Wanzer

Russellville
Pope County

Project: To be decided

THE PROJECT PATCH

Advanced Training (AT) Project Meeting Report

Chair: John Hiegel (Craighead Co.) Co-chair: Joellen Beard (Pulaski Co.)

The Advanced Training Project is revising the system of offering additional education to all Arkansas Master Gardeners. Joellen Beard is leading the sub-committee for this process. She reported to our membership. Following necessary approval, the sub-committee is changing instructions and forms for advanced training. Joellen shared that there will be a renewed emphasis on training those who will be mentors for those hosting an MG Advanced Training. An improved system means AT will be equitable and attainable for all. This is the list of revisions being made.

REVISIONS TO ADVANCED TRAINING

April 2023

1. Each Master Gardener will input hours on their personal, county webpage. There will be a dropdown for STATE ADVANCED TRAINING class hours, exactly like sanctioned projects and education hours. Awards will be presented once a year at the Master Gardener State Conference.
2. Simplify and revise the forms and processes for developing Advanced Training classes.
3. Advanced Training can begin as soon as new members complete their required 40 hours of volunteer work on sanctioned projects their first year.
4. In order to move to a higher level, a fee of \$25 will be paid by the Master Gardener to County 76. Present members enrolled into Advanced Training will be grandfathered in until they reach the next advanced level. The \$5 fee formerly paid to County 76 by each attendee, will no longer be charged. This fee previously was included in the total paid to attend each class.
5. An EIGHT hour credit will be given to each previously completed Advanced Training course.

6. There will be an expanded menu of choices to acquire Advanced Training hours. These include, but are not limited to, Advanced Training Zoom, in-person, webinars, and Advanced Training Classes. These classes will be approved in advance by the County Agent, Master Gardener State Coordinator, and members of the Advanced Training Committee.
7. The Advanced Training Committee will establish criteria for a course to qualify for Advanced Training hours. Advanced Training classes will be horticultural topics, based on scientific research, and expanded above the basic Master Gardener training curriculum. (Notebook, Zoom, and online curriculum) Speakers will have experience and/or extensive knowledge of the topic. Class Formats: may be in-person, online, or zoom. Advanced Training classes will last a minimum of one hour.
8. Each level will require 30 hours of Advanced Training classes with Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 having an additional requirement involving research and/or community outreach.
9. Class lengths can vary depending on the location, subject, cost, and the pleasure of the planners. Hopefully, shorter days will help accommodate travel and increase attendance.
10. Mentors from the Advanced Training Committee will communicate with county committees who are planning Advanced Training classes. Training for these mentors will be created.

Marty Lynch is the Mentor for the Crittenden County Advanced Training. She reported on the progress to the membership. This is a unique opportunity as we will be offering Advanced Training that is a collaboration of Crittenden County Master Gardeners and the Hughes Town & Country Garden Club. The training will be Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23, 2023 at the Marion First Baptist Church. Content will be that required for Level one National Garden Club (NGC) trainers. The trainers will be Master Gardeners and NGC trainers. Marty helped us understand the offerings of learning are not as simple as they sound. There will be whole group instruction and hands-on, too. She shared the Topic Agenda with us.

CURRICULUM GUIDE FOR NGC SCHOOLS

Course 1 – in brief

- A. **Basic Botany** – Plant Anatomy, Plant requirements, Plant Life Cycle, Reproduction, Plant Structure
- B. **Soils** – Characteristics and structure, soil testing, soil function, root importance, maintenance, fertilization

- C. **Techniques for Growing Outdoor Flowers** – Environmental Factors, plant material, Organic gardening, crop rotation, landscape suitability, pruning and training of plants, problems and problem-solving
- D. **Plant Propagation** – Seed selection, Vegetative propagation, Propagation Workshop
- E. **Supplemental Subject**

Fundraising Project Meeting Report

Chair: Patsy Louk (Washington Co.) Co-chair: Susan Colles (Pope Co.)

The important work of our Fundraising Project which is planning and implementing both a virtual auction and a silent on-site auction during the State MG Conference is on-target. Members are in active mode to seek and pick-up donations to the auction. A Constant Contact request for two donations from each County MG group has been sent.

State Conference volunteers have been scheduled and more may be requested. Auction Donations may be brought to the state office or simply brought to Conference. We were reminded that this year's auctions will end at 1:00 pm rather than end of day. This should allow time for preparing for pick-up and payments. Discussion about a fundraising event at our PNG Leadership Conference has been discussed and will be formatted as 'Opportunity Tables'. This is numbered items on display and bidders pay for tickets which are deposited in a jar near each item. Winners are chosen by drawing tickets. This is unique and is being used at other events. It will be fun.

Media Relations

Media Manager: Mike Wilbanks

Mike shared with us interesting information about the status of work for the 2024 Master Gardener Calendar. Forty-two (42) entries have currently been submitted. This number might be behind our usual number from year-to-year, He said that the Arkansas Master Gardener photographers in Arkansas continue to outshine themselves for their unbelievable skillsets in showing off their plants. Good news! Five (5) new, qualified individuals have accepted the challenge as judges for the 2024 calendar. Deadline for 2024 MG Calendar entries will be June 22, 2023. Even though it's hard to believe, that's less than two months from now. Mike shared, " I have seen many Master Gardener photographic contest entries from around the country. Our Arkansas Master Gardeners are second to none for the quality of their work! - Can you believe this is my seventh year in County 76?" (After Mike asked this question, I think many of us thought – We can't believe we have a professional like you working on our calendar:))

Plant, Nurture, Grow (PNG) Project Meeting Report

Chair: Rose Ann Houston (White Co.) Co-chair: Debora Carpenter (Prairie Co.)

The 2023 PNG Leadership Conference will be held at the Embassy Suite by Hilton in Hot Springs. Sessions will begin on Friday, August 4 at 1:00 pm and will end on Saturday, August 5, at 11:30 am. An agenda is planned which will be extremely beneficial to Master Gardener leaders in our state, but not just to those serving as officers. All Master Gardeners will be able to add to what is known about having successful projects and benefiting local communities. Some topics for this conference will be using social media, conducting an effective meeting (parliamentary procedures), digital documents, planning projects, scholarships, and plant sales. We will hear from new UADA leaders and others. Details are being finalized and will be communicated.

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition [RRR] Project Meeting Report

Chair: Liz Hale (Washington Co.) Co-chair: Holly Bacon (Crittenden Co.)

The information for this year's Length of Service awards has been gathered from all Master Gardener programs. These awards are part of the award ceremony that takes place Saturday morning at the State Conference. Julie Treat will be managing the process from this point forward.

The things that have happened to Arkansas communities because of Master Gardeners are surprising. The dedication of these volunteers is such a source of joy. The state awards will be given to some of these deserving individuals on Saturday, June 10, at the state conference in Russellville. A narration video is in production for this event. Our Annuals to Perennials event for new Master Gardeners and their mentors will be held on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, via Zoom. It will be a special time of networking for the year one MG's who are adding to our service to others.

Do you have a Need-to-Know?

For information or help

Email: Randy Forst rforst@uada.edu

Cc: Julie Treat jtreat@uada.edu

Read Randy's Blog: The Arkansas Garden with Randy Forst

<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/yard-garden/arkansas-garden-blog/>

Register for : Master Gardner Monday – a monthly Zoom with Randy and Julie

Register for : *MG Bee* – a monthly Zoom with Randy and Julie for MG Officers

(This is new – *Master Gardener Business Extension Education.*)



MASTER GARDENER & HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

Monday, May 15, 2023 - MGM on Zoom at 12 p.m. Registration link below.

[Link to register](#)

Thursday, May 18, 2023 - MG Bee, 12 p.m. on Zoom. For MG Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, County Agents, and County Staff. Registration information will be sent to MG Presidents, County Agents, and County Staff. We are working on an email list for County MG Vice Presidents and County MG Treasurers.

Monday, May 29, 2023 - Memorial Day Holiday, State Extension Office Closed

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 - MG Pre Conference Tour

Thursday to Saturday, June 8 to 10, 2023 - Master Gardener Conference in Russellville

Thursday, June 15, 2023 - Grow Your Own Groceries: Cucumbers, 12 noon on Zoom. Register at the link below.

[Registration Link](#)

Saturday, June 17, 2023 - Crittenden County Garden Tours

Sunday to Thursday, June 18 to 22, 2023 - International MG Conference, Overland Park, Kansas. <https://imgc2023.com/>

Monday, June 19, 2023 - MGM on Zoom at 12 p.m. Register at link below.

[Link to register](#)

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - MG Bee, 12 p.m. on Zoom. For MG Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers and County Agents.

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - Deadline to send in photos for the calendar contest. Email your photos to mwilbanks3@gmail.com

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 - Holiday, State Extension Office Closed

Monday, July 17, 2023 - MGM on Zoom at 12 p.m. Register at link below.

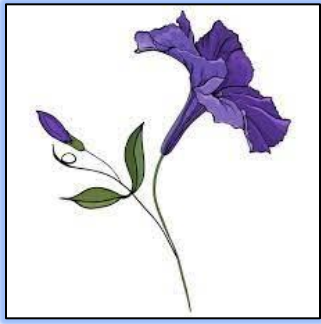
[Link to register](#)

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 - Annuals to Perennials on Zoom, 6 to 8 p.m. For new MGs and their mentors.

Thursday, July 20, 2023 - MG Bee, 12 p.m. on Zoom. For MG Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers and County Agents.

Tuesday, July 25, 2023 - County 76 Quarterly Membership Meeting

Where did your plant come from?



- The retail garden center,
- Who got it from a wholesale grower,
- Who grew it from plugs (a thimble sized young plant),
- He got it from a plug grower several states away,
- Who grew it from seed he got from a broker,
- Who bought it from a company like Pan American Seed Co.,
- Who grew it in Costa Rica where they have a farm with hundreds of employees who are right now
- Working on next year's seed crop for plants you will have in your garden in the spring of 2024!

Sabrina Childs, Ball Seed Co.



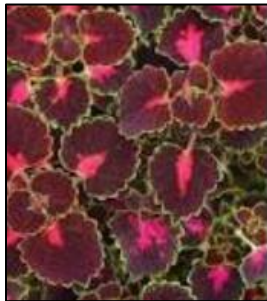
County 76 Membership/Project Meeting
State Extension Office
2301 S. University Ave, Little Rock, AR 72204
Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 10:00 am
We look forward to seeing you there!

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact our State Coordinator/Program Associate Office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

THE GARDEN VOICE ADD-ON #1
SABRINA SAYS: 2023 NEW VARIETIES



Begonia Dragon Wing Series F1 Spreading Begonia HULA Series



TrailBlazer Coleus: Glory Road



*Cuphea Sugarbells (and Cherrybells)
 MixMasters NEW Hot Spell: Cuphea Honeybells,*



NEW *Gold Lantana Landmark*



Angelonia Archangel Dark Rose



*MixMasters Big Flirt Improved:
 Petchoa Super Cal™ Pink*



Coreopsis Grandiflora UpTick™ Red



Echinacea Sombrero Salsa



Petunia Color Rush™ Blue