

GARDEN VOICE



COUNTY 76 NEWSLETTER

2nd Quarter 2024 April 2024
Volume 28, Number 2

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Master Gardeners,
You may have never had the opportunity to see snow crocuses (the first to bloom) 2 to 4 inches tall, in a variety of colors (pinks, reds, oranges, yellows, purples, blues, and more) that stand out against the bleak, late-winter landscape. When living up North, I had purple ones. Upon seeing them in the early spring, coming up through the snow, I smiled and felt good. I knew it would soon be warmer, with muddy roads and cattle lots.

If you missed the April County 76 meeting, you missed a view of great things ahead for Master Gardeners in Arkansas. When you read this newsletter, you will be excited, and I hope you plan to attend upcoming events. The projects have come up with exciting new ideas.

County 76 is made up of Master Gardeners from all over the state. Its members serve as an advisory group, they focus on offering Arkansas Master Gardeners **Advanced Training** (above and beyond basic training), **Fundraising** supports scholarships for County Projects and students going to college. Money raised also makes it possible for state awards from the **Recruitment, Retention, and Recognition** project. We have the annual **Plant, Nurture Grow (PNG) Leadership Training Conference**. County 76 provides support for the State Master Gardeners Conference sponsored by the State Extension Program. The State Conference is a wonderful opportunity to visit and learn about counties across Arkansas.

County 76 welcomes new members and new ideas for our work. Membership is open to all active Arkansas Master Gardeners. If you are not a member, become a member of County 76, to be a part of the State Leadership and activities. We have challenges and opportunities awaiting you. Already a member and ready to take on more leadership responsibility? Please advise your project chair, or VP Becky Gibson.

This year we have had a huge number of plant sales on the same dates. We are working on ways to allow everyone to take advantage of more sales.

The State Conference will be here soon, I am looking forward to all the events. The "Spirit Poles" are extra exciting new auction items – plus the silent auction always has great buys.

Next County 76 meeting July 23, 2024 @ 10:00 at the Little Rock State Office, watch constant contract for information.

Days are getting longer. Hummingbirds are here, and some butterflies are here. We all have so many 'things' we want to do. Be kind, safe, and enjoy your gardening adventures. Take some time and enjoy the world God has made all around you.



Until we meet again – Happy Gardening.

Kay Roberts, President

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

~Business~

- We met at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The meeting was called to order by Becky Gibson, Vice President, who shared presiding duties with President Kay Roberts.
- Meeting minutes from January 23, 2024, were approved by members following a motion by Liz Hale and a second by Cheryl Stevens.
- The County 76 Financial Report for the 1st Quarter 2024 was presented by Treasurer Gail McClure. Prior to approval of the report, questions about line-item amounts were raised. It is helpful to remember that financial processes of the University of Arkansas Department of Agriculture were changed in October 2023. We traditionally had a private account and a CES (Cooperative Extension Service) account. All money activities were changed from two accounts to only the CES account. Our data is kept in the approved system of UADA, Workday. Due to the flow of income and expense posting, it is possible our reports may show expenses of a line item higher than the income of that item. This was the case for County 76 meeting expenses and PNG Leadership expenses. Gail McClure, Treasurer and Linda Soffer, Assistant Treasurer prepare and present a report with income and expenses per quarter beside our proposed and approved annual budget. Following clarification, Kay Roberts announced that the report was approved for filing as presented.
- Susan Colles, Scholarship Chair, reported on the 2024 Janet B. Carson County Sanctioned Project Awards. This year there were eleven (11) applicants. Usually there are 2 or 3. We were excited about that. Our approved budget for these awards was \$1500. The committee voted to approve a scholarship for The Reflection Point Native Habitat Pollinator Garden in Pope County. (Susan did not vote as this is her home county.) Also awarded was the Clark County Library Project. These school scholarships totaled \$1,150. As there were more outstanding applications, the committee requested the board and membership to approve adding \$1,050 to these scholarships, to make two more scholarships possible. The Board has approved these additional funds. David Kuh moved for approval with a second by James Lamb. Membership approved. The committee will meet and select these awards.
- Susan Colles reported on the 2024 Janet B. Carson High School Senior Scholarship Awards. The approved budget for this is \$8,000. This is 4 awards of \$2,000. We had eleven (11) applications from ten (10) counties. 6 applications were disqualified due to not meeting application requirements. These students were selected.
 - Carter Hearn (Arkansas Co) – Arkansas State University
 - Taryn McGee (Pope Co) – Arkansas Tech University
 - Ian Price (Saline Co) – Arkansas State University – Beebe
 - Shaylee Smith (Greene Co) – Arkansas State University

- Susan Colles shared a new Scholarship award approved by the Board in October 2023. This is the 2024 Janet B. Carson Continuing Higher Education Scholarship. Budget for this is \$4,000 total for 4 awards of \$1,000 each. The opportunity to apply for this will be offered to those awarded the 2023 Janet B. Carson High School Senior Scholarship. Susan told us the criteria for applying and receiving the Continuing Scholarship. This is a one-time award. We will report further on this, as well as evaluate and consider its continuance.
- Randy Forst, our Arkansas Master Gardener Coordinator, brings an activity update to our membership meetings. Since we last met, Randy has traveled many miles and spoken to many people, successfully contributing to the growth and success of the Arkansas Master Gardener Program. Training new Master Gardeners continues. We have 2024 training-completers in these counties: Washington, Garland, Saline, Grant, Montgomery, Hot Spring, and Benton. Randy traveled and trained in these counties: White, Union, Hot Spring, Logan, Garland (2x), Baxter, Ouachita, Faulkner, Clark, Carroll, Logan, Benton, Grant, Nevada, and Cross. Randy talked about the many Master Gardener Plant Sales scheduled around the state. He reminded us that he had created a Plant Sales video with information about holding Master Gardener plant sales.
- In his spare time, Randy is also coordinator for Arkansas Consumer Horticulture Groups. He was active in these: Arkansas Grown Association, Arkansas Cut Flower Association, Grow Your Own Groceries, and a Pruning Demonstration in Hempstead County.
- Randy introduced a guest, Winfrey Norton, who is from Northwest Arkansas and a participant in this year's Federal Leadership Training, LeadAR. Winfrey spoke to us about 'The People's Garden'. As part of his work in LeadAR, he came to encourage us to learn about this initiative and work to register gardens online. Resources here: 1) Stories of the People's Gardens 2) What is a People's Garden? 3) Food Access, Food Waste 4) Gardening Advice 5) Soil Health 6) The Importance of Pollinators 7) People's Garden Webinars.



Scan for The People's Garden website

~Education~



County 76 attendees were treated to a presentation by Mr. Mel White from Little Rock. Mel White is originally from Conway and graduated from Hendrix College. Mel White has worked as a newspaper and magazine writer and editor and a composer/producer at a recording studio. In 1990, he became a freelance writer specializing in travel and nature. He has written more than 50 articles for National Geographic and National Geographer Traveler magazines and has written or contributed to more than 30 travel and nature guidebooks. He has covered

subjects including the Amazon River, Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Swiss Alps, Borneo, New Guinea, New Zealand, Ireland, Jamaica, crocodiles, manatees, orangutans, and birds of paradise.

We heard about Mel and his vast expertise following his presentation to the Garland County Master Gardeners. His true love in nature is butterflies – all butterflies. His topic is 'WHAT BUTTERFLIES TAUGHT ME ABOUT BOTANY'.

Mel told of his path to loving Butterflies. He grew up with a mother who was a birdwatcher. He was a birdwatcher all his life. When in the woods watching birds, he noticed butterflies. In the '70's and '80's he became interested and wanted to learn more about them, but they were hard to find and not easy to get close to – or even find something to read about them. Then in 2000, Jeffery Glassberg wrote a series of books titled 'BUTTERFLIES THROUGH BINOCULARS', because at the time those interested were unable to find a professional guidebook for learning about butterflies in Florida.

Mel found that his binoculars for birdwatching did not focus close enough to identify butterflies. He could get focus from twelve (12) feet, but then was able to get a focus from 4 feet with a pair of better binoculars. He explained that all butterflies belonged to the scientific order 'Lepidoptera'. They are further grouped into a family and genus.

Interesting is the structure of butterfly wings. Mel said they are not just a flat sheet of colors, but are a thin membrane covered with scales. The name 'Lepidoptera' is derived from the Greek for 'scaled wing'. The wings are covered with thousands and thousands of scales which are layered much like the shingles on a roof. When the butterfly leaves the chrysalis, the scales are known as 'fresh'. The colors are bright and sharp. As the butterfly ages – about 2 or 3 weeks, the colors fade and often the wings become 'ragged'.

Lepidoptera includes butterflies and moths. There are about 17,000 species of butterflies. Every member of this order that is not a butterfly is a moth – there are about 160,000 species of moths. Mel said many moths are dull and they come out at night – so if you study them, 'good luck to you':)

Mel told us that when you think about food for butterflies – the food for the life cycle which is the butterfly is nectar from almost any bloom that has nectar. The important piece of information about food for butterflies is to know that most female butterflies will only lay

eggs on a specific plant to have nutrients ready for the growing caterpillar. For instance, the Zebra Swallowtails will only lay on the Pawpaw plant.

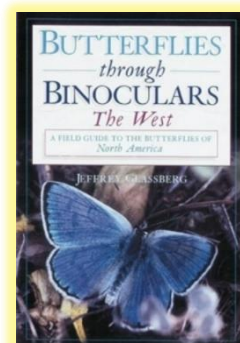
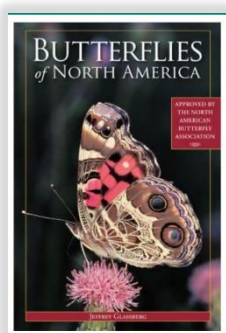
Mel then showed pictures of butterflies and talked through some common butterfly families. He told us where they could be found, what they would eat, how they were named, and other interesting facts. The families were Swallowtails; Whites & Sulphurs; Coppers; Harvester; Hairstreaks; Blues; Metalmarks; Longwings & Fritillaries; Crescents & Checkerspots; Typical Brushfoots; Satyrs; Spread-wing Skippers; and Grass Skippers.

The photos were beautiful and there was a lot of information. It was interesting to learn about the process of observing and documenting butterflies as we are highly interested in knowing more about pollinator and plant connections.

After answering several questions, Mel made recommendations for those wanting more – find them online:

- Arkansas Butterflies & Moths, Lori A. Spencer
- Arkansas Butterfly Checklist
- Herschel Rainey RNA Butterfly Checklist

Mel White also posts on Instagram, LinkedIn, and others.



THE PROJECT PATCH

Advanced Training (AT) Project Meeting Report

Chair: Joellen Beard (Pulaski Co.) Co-chair: Dana Downes (Pulaski Co.)

- Joellen reported that all the Advanced Training documents and forms have been updated, and now posted on the Master Gardener website.

Scan for AT Page



- 3 hours of Advanced Training were held by Zoom on January 24, 2024. Pulaski County hosted this training. Six hundred (600) were registered. Three hundred three (303) were on Zoom. Some counties met to watch.

- For the first time ever, 6 hours of Advanced Training will be available at the State Master Gardener Conference in Hot Springs.
- Hybridizing Lilies will be presented by the State Office and is planned for early summer.
- There will be another 2-day session of Advanced Training with the National Garden Clubs in Marion. 5 hours each day will be worth ten (10) AT hours.
- We are excited about the training coming this year – and are looking for more opportunities.

Fundraising Project Meeting Report

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

- Patsy Louk reported. All attention and work is focused on raising funds at this year's Master Gardener State Conference in Hot Springs on May 30, 31 and June 1, 2024.
- For our traditional Silent Auction, we are asking every county to donate at least 2 items. Our schedule is as follows.
 - Check-in and Bidding
 - May 29 - 2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
 - May 30 - 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - Bidding
 - May 31 - 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM
 - Auction closes at 1:00 PM
 - Pick-up
 - May 31 – 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM & 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
 - June 1 – 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM
- For the first time ever, County Spirit Poles will be part of our Silent Auction.
 - We will have 50 Spirit Poles from 30 Counties
 - Arkansas, Benton, Clark, Cleburne, Craighead, Crittenden, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Greene, Hempstead, Howard, Independence, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lonoke, Madison, Miller, Monroe, Montgomery, Polk, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Saline, Sebastian, Van Buren, Washington & White
- We are happy that we have been able to offer the Root Slayer Shovel and Trowel for sale.
 - 112 Orders
 - 91 Shovels
 - pict83 Trowels
 - Pick up at 2024 MG State Conference in Hot Springs
 - May 29 – 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
 - May 30 – 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
 - May 31 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM and 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM



2025?

Media Relations

Coordinator: Mike Wilbanks (Craighead Co.)

- Mike Wilbanks gave us an update on our 2025 Master Gardener Calendar process.
 - Amazing entries continue to arrive for the C76 MG twelve Month Calendar.
 - Newbie submissions are out pacing the veterans in entries as of today.
 - Three new qualified applicants have been secured for the overall judging of the photographs for the 2025 calendar. One from out of state and two from Arkansas.
 - Old photographs can be used if they were not a previous winner.
 - Some reasons for disqualification; no vegetation, out of focus, no supporting data even after clarification requested.
 - Photo must be original to exhibitor.
 - Color, black & white, or sepia is acceptable.
 - The photo must have plant material.
 - Must be taken inside Arkansas' borders.
 - The judges' decisions are final.
 - Judging is based on creativity, composition, technical merit.
 - Landscape format only.
 - .jpeg files only.
 - Four (4) entries per person allowed. One per season.

Plant, Nurture, Grow (PNG) Project Meeting Report

Chair: Linda Soffer (Jefferson Co.)

A PNG Leadership Conference Update was given by Linda. The conference will be held on Tuesday afternoon – Wednesday morning, August 20 & 21, 2024, at the 4-H Center in Ferndale.

- We have secured our Opening Speaker, Dr. Deaque Fields.
- PNG Conference is not just for officers or leaders. It is open to all active Master Gardeners and County Agents. Sessions will have information in areas for everyone.
- We will have a variety of learning opportunities.
- The Conference Registration will be \$20.00 per person.
- There will be one-night lodging available at the 4-H Center.
 - Single \$89.75 per person
 - Double \$70.25 per person
 - Triple \$53.50 per person
 - Life's a Party – In the Garden! We will have such fun at a garden party hat competition. Everyone – men and women - can enter with a casual or formal Garden Party Hat:)



Recruitment, Retention, Recognition [RRR] Project Meeting Report

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

Liz Hale & Leisa Stotts reported.

- Twenty(20) recipients of the 2023 Arkansas Master Gardener Awards will be honored on Thursday, May 30, 2024, during a dinner meeting at this year's State Conference. We are proud to share this year's honorees.

2023 Arkansas Master Gardener Award Winners

<u>Award</u>	<u>Small Program (50- members)</u>	<u>Large Program (51+ members)</u>
Rookie of the Year	Sally Sullivan Cooke Mississippi County	Diann Arington Garland County
Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year	Anita Williams Lonoke County	Patsy Louk Washington County
Extension Agent of the Year	Darrin Henderson Madison County	Sherri Sanders, White County Timothy Wallace, Jefferson County
Individual Friend of MGs	Mark Tenison Prairie County	Mike Carter, Pulaski County Gilbert Alvis, Washington County
Business/Organization Friend of MGs	Cozy Nook Studio & Gallery Lonoke County	Freyaldenhoven's Greenhouse Faulkner County
Newsletter of the Year	Growing in Madison County Madison County	Garden Thyme Washington County
Excellence in Education	Manila Elementary Garden Farm to School Teaching Project Mississippi County	Detention Center Learning Greenhouse Garland County
Project of the Year	Plant Sales Events Madison County	Pioneer Village White County
Master Gardener of the Year	Angela Ryland Lonoke County	Don Casteel Benton County

- We will have a Roundtable Discussion at this year's Plant, Nurture, Grow Leadership Conference. The topic is a Recruitment, Retention & Recognition (RRR) Overview.
- This year's Annuals to Perennials Zoom Training for new Master Gardeners and their Mentors will be on Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM. Our speaker will be author, speaker, and podcaster Brie Arthur, The Plant Lady. Brie was an excellent presenter at last year's State Conference in Russellville.



Welcoming Our Newest Members!



Alison Fletcher

Alexander
Saline County
Project: Advanced Training



Patricia Kizzire

Stuttgart
Arkansas County
Project: RRR



Kathy Launder

Fayetteville
Washington County
Project: Fundraising



Pamela Mosley

Austin
Lonoke County
Project: TBD



Phil McConnell

Bryant
Saline County
Project: TBD



Darlene Otwell

Benton
Saline County
Project: Advanced Training



Mariette Spidel

Huntsville
Washington County
Project: RRR



Diann Arington

Hot Springs
Garland County
Project: TBD

~Photo Not Available~

Melissa Cohen

North Little Rock
Lonoke County
Project: Fundraising

Douglas E. Tipton

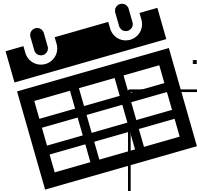
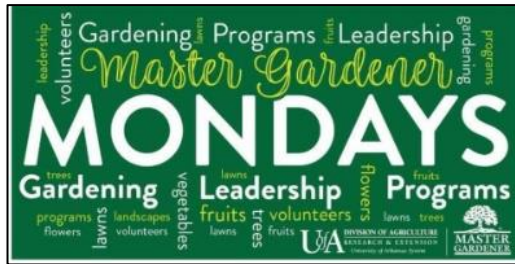
Casscoe
Arkansas County
Project: Advanced Training

Laura McCastlain Sholes

Little Rock
Pulaski County
Project: RRR

Stay in touch with Arkansas Master Gardeners

See
Constant
Contact



MASTER GARDENER EVENTS 2024

May 30 – June 1 – State Conference

“Springtime in the Springs”

Tours, Awards, Training, Auction, Shopping, Networking
Hot Springs Conference Center/Hot Springs

July 18 – **Annuals to Perennials** (Zoom) Special time for
Mentors and Mentees, Brie Arthur, The Plant Lady

Aug. 20 & 21 – **PNG Leadership Conference**

Tues. afternoon & Weds. Morning
Vines 4-H Center Little Rock

Oct. 14 – **MG Appreciation Day**

Arkansas Master Gardeners' B-Day
Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks
Fayetteville



Next County 76 Membership/Project Meeting
State Extension Office

2301 S. University, Little Rock, AR 72204

Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 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 a 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.