



2023 SANCTIONED PROJECT SYNOPSES

Advanced Training Project

The Advanced Training Project was developed as a retention strategy to keep members in the program who wish to obtain more in-depth knowledge about specific topics and get advanced levels of certification. To attend an Advanced Training class, a Master Gardener must have completed the required forty (40) volunteer hours following completion of Master Gardener training. This project will focus on developing and planning Advanced Trainings around the state with various host counties, which will provide additional opportunities for further learning.

Chair: John Hiegel

Co-chair: Joellen Beard

Fundraising Project

Raises money to fund County 76 programs including, but not limited to, PNG Leadership Conference and the Janet B. Carson Scholarship funds. Responsible for Silent Auction events (live and virtual) held in conjunction with Master Gardener sponsored events, such as State Conference & PNG Leadership Conference.

Chair: Patsy Louk

Co-chair: Susan Colles

PNG Leadership Project

Plant Nurture Grow is an annual leadership training conference open to all Master Gardeners across the state. It is designed to inspire, educate, and provide necessary skill sets that will equip Master Gardeners for managing all aspects of Master organizational service. The training includes such skills as handling local projects, working with other volunteers, officer, and chairmanship positions within our organization, as well as service to and interaction with our community.

Chair: Rose Ann Houston

Co-Chair: Debora Carpenter

Recruitment, Retention and Recognition Project

Recruitment, Retention and Recognition of our members is key to the success of the Arkansas Master Gardener program. Creative and useful information is generated for the local Master Gardener programs to tailor to their unique situations as they recruit, retain and recognize their members.

The "Annuals to Perennials" program, presented in the summer via Zoom video conference, is designed to further celebrate and integrate new members into the Master Gardener family, as well as to acknowledge and support their mentors.

Recruitment, Retention and Recognition Project (cont'd)

To recognize outstanding Master Gardeners, the RRR Project manages the Arkansas Master Gardener Awards Program which is presented at the Arkansas Master Gardener Conference, typically in May or June.

RRR Project members are available to County Master Gardener Program Presidents as a friendly support to facilitate communication, share ideas to address challenges and celebrate successes. To help the Arkansas Master Gardeners, the RRR Project manages the program contact list database posted on the state website.

Chair: Liz Hale

Co-Chair: Holly Bacon

Media Relations

The Media Relations position was developed as a position to primarily oversee the publication of the annual C76 calendar. This includes the coordination of the announcements associated with the gathering of photos from Master Gardeners across the state of Arkansas and submission of photos to the judges for the calendar. Additional responsibilities may include communications to the media, such as preparing articles, press kits, press releases and other content initiatives.

Appointee: Mike Wilbanks

Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor is responsible for the quarterly publication of the County 76 newsletter, The Garden Voice. The Editor will gather articles for each edition from the C76 President and highlights from Project Chairs and Co-Chairs quarterly reports. New member names, photos, and introductory information are also included.

Other content is determined either from a pro-forma format of content or request of the Executive Board. A draft of the newsletter is submitted to the President and Vice-President prior to publication for review and approval. The newsletter is distributed to membership through a Constant Contact email.

Appointee: Becky Gibson