

GARDEN VOICE



County 76 Newsletter
1st Quarter 2021 January 2021
Volume 25, Number 1



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking Forward with Hope

As 2020 ends and 2021 begins, I am hopeful for many things for our Master Gardener program. The Master Gardener program is a large part of my life. Many of my friends are Master Gardener's. Like many of you, I miss seeing my family and friends in person. While Zoom has been a great communication tool for so many of us this last year, it leaves out our family and friends who have connectivity issues or who are not technology savvy.

My hope for our Master Gardener program in 2021, is that we are able to return some sort of normalcy. I hope we are able to return to some of those activities and programs that we all enjoy. And return to them safely and in person. So that we can once again say, "Hello, how are you doing? I've missed you.", in person. To catch up with each other in person, but with safety. To share our gardening ideas, successes and failures in person.

Until that time, let's continue to meet each other on Zoom. Extension has so many educational opportunities available by Zoom:

- Brown Bag Lunch Series*
White County
- Grow Your Own Groceries Series*
Faulkner County
- Master Gardener Mondays*
Berni Kurz and Julie Treat
- County 76 Advanced Trainings*
Washington County and White County

And more to come!

So, until we can meet in person, let's wave at each other on Zoom, type a greeting in chat and please join me in hoping for a better year in 2021!

Happy Gardening!

Patsy Louk,
President



MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – JANUARY 26, 2021

~Business~

- Patsy Louk, President, shared a new administrative specialist is in the horticulture department at the state office. She is Danielle Johnson.
- County 76 Volunteer Hours for 2020 were over 4,000. This is only 700 down from the hours reported in 2019. Adjusting for a pandemic hasn't dampened our work much. We are still doing a great job!
- Both the meeting minutes from October 2020 and the treasurer's report for 4th Quarter 2020 were approved. The County 76 membership has approved our 2021 proposed budget of \$35,200 following the input of project chairs.
- Following a presentation by Susan Colles, Vice President, our County 76 Master Gardener's Bylaws were amended.
 - *Article V: Officers* will now include a new officer, 2nd Vice President. Membership unanimously approved the nomination of Kay Roberts (Lonoke County) as the first County 76 2nd Vice President. The duties of the 2nd Vice President will be added to *Article VI: Duties of Officers*. Focus of this work will be new member activities.
 - *Article VII: Projects/Committees* will now state Project Leadership will include a Chair and at least one Co-Chair.
 - *Article VIII: Budget* is amended to state the Executive Board will authorize expenditures less than \$300.00 which occur as incidentals.
- Berni Kurz, County 76 Agent, told us that the Division of Agriculture remains in Phase 2 of Arkansas COVID-19 requirements. This means we continue to meet in physical *groups of 10 or less*. If a meeting needs to have more than 10 attending, a written plan must be submitted and approved by the Vice President of Arkansas Extension & Arkansas Health. Status will be re-evaluated March 31, 2021. *Wearing masks and maintaining proper social distance* are also required.
- A decision on this year's State Master Gardener Conference will be announced later.
- Mike Wilbanks, Media Relations, provided a current update on entries for the 2022 Master Gardener Calendar. The news is positive! 60% of entries are from new members and others from returning members. The number of entries has increased 6%. Mike said that this year's quality is stunning – some even use shadows which enhance the details. Even though some are taken with cell phones, none have been set aside for lacking quality. Three judges with an alternate have been secured. Recommended entries will be placed in Dropbox and judging will be virtual.
- [Entry deadline for the 2022 calendar is midnight, Friday, May 21, 2021.](#)

~Education~

Our guest presenter was Richard Cleaver, Co-owner & Operator of Culberson's Greenhouse in Mayflower AR. Culberson's is a large whole plant production facility, and Richard Cleaver is a knowledgeable, active professional whose topic was Arkansas Diamond Plants.

The Arkansas Diamond Plant program began in 2015 and results from collaborative work of the Arkansas Green Industry Association and the Cooperative Extension Service. Every year Diamond Plants are chosen by a committee of green professionals.

Richard gave us background of the program. Arkansas Diamonds are 'Locally grown & Arkansas Tough'. A renewed interest in gardening which can be linked to our change in lifestyles living with a pandemic. Arkansas Diamonds were created to provide dependable information about success in Arkansas gardens – and provide sources for learning about plants that survive and thrive - and having them.

The clock ran out before our questions did. Richard is very generous with sharing information and his expertise is vast.

You can learn more at the Arkansas Green Industry Association website: <https://www.argia.org/page/ARDiamonds> or on Facebook: Arkansas Diamond Plants.



*Please find Arkansas Diamond Selections- 2021
in the Garden Voice Bonus ☺*

THE PROJECT PATCH

Advanced Training

Chair: Kay Roberts, Co-chair: Darlene McGuire

- Georgie Huggins is now the secretary for this project.
- Time has been spent viewing the Advanced Training Database for training reports, gathering participant feedback, and planning future trainings.
- A variety of sessions has been scheduled. (Details in Upcoming Events which follows.) Planning continues for sessions on Native Plants – once finalized, details will be announced.
- Input is sought on the use of recorded Advanced Training sessions.

Fundraising

Co-chairs: Ouida Wright, Linda Soffer & Nancy Cunningham

- The current inventory of tools will be liquidated in order to develop and implement online auctions. A catalog will be created for sales first to County 76 members (10% discount) followed by sales to Master Gardeners. Ouida Wright is the Chair of the Liquidation Sale.
- Planned County 76 order dates are March 1 to March 13; open Liquidation Sale dates will be determined. Delivery points will be established for item pick-up.
- A Virtual Silent Auction at our PNG Training & the State MG Conference are in planning. Co-chairs for this sale are Linda Soffer & Nancy Cunningham. Help with donations will be needed for success ☺

Plant, Nurture, Grow [PNG] Leadership

Chair: Gail McClure, Co-chairs: Rose Ann Houston & Linda Soffer

- This year's PNG Training will be held on September 20-21, 2021, at the Arkansas 4-H Center. The agenda is outstanding with 11 brand new topics. Plenary & concurrent sessions are planned.
- Dr. Bob Scott, Senior Associate/Vice President of Extension, and Janet Carson, Retired Horticultural Specialist are featured presenters this year.
- A Decorations Committee has been established. David Anderson & Ken Chen are Co-chairs for this work.

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition [RRR]




Chair: Mimi Cox, Co-chair: Hilde Simmons

- 2020 Master Gardener Award Nomination Forms are due by February 15, 2021. This is only 3 weeks away.
- Annuals to Perennials Conference will be August 5, 2021. This year will be virtual.
- The County Contact list is complete. The link will be on our *mgonly* website after January 31.
- Those who wish to be part of this year's New Online Master Gardener Training must register by February 12, 2021. Class dates are March 1 to May 15. The application link is on page 1 of the website. Mentors are required.
- Mimi reminded us to 'contact fellow Master Gardeners' during this difficult time.

COUNTY 76 LEADERSHIP - 2021

Officers		State Leadership	
President	<i>Patsy Louk</i>	County 76 Agent	<i>Berni Kurz</i>
1 st Vice President	<i>Susan Colles</i>	County 76 Coordinator	<i>Julie Treat</i>
2 nd Vice President	<i>Kay Roberts</i>		
Secretary	<i>Barbie Luther</i>	Appointees	
Treasurer	<i>Debbie Atchison</i>	Media Relations	<i>Mike Wilbanks</i>
Asst. Treasurer	<i>Debbie Howell</i>	Newsletter Editor	<i>Becky Gibson</i>
Past President	<i>Linda Soffer</i>		

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<p><i>Kate Spontak</i> Pulaski County Advanced Training</p>	<p><i>John Hiegel</i> Craighead County Advanced Training</p>	<p><i>Pat Smith</i> Union County Fundraising</p>
		<p>Photo not yet available</p> 

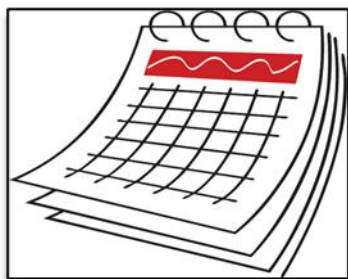
UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3** - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Amy Simpson - Cool Season Vegetables, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)
- 4** - Grow Your Own Groceries: Blackberries, 12 to 1 p.m. [Link for GYOG webpage](#)
- 10** - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Jan Yingling - Diseases, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)
- 12** - Deadline to register for Advanced MG Class via Zoom, Pollinators: An In-Depth Look at One of Life's Most Important Resources, March 12, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and March 13, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (must attend both days) Cost is \$25.00
For more information contact Patsy Louk at pjlouk@gmail.com or 479-841-9865. [Registration Information link](#) (found on MG ONLY portion of the website)
- 15** - Deadline for MG Award Forms [Award Forms](#)
- 15** - Deadline for MG Conference Donations
- 15** - Deadline for county forms to be sent to state office for 2021 MG Online Basic Training Class (contact your county extension office for application form, fees and date to turn in form to your county office)
- 15** - Master Gardener Monday (MGM), 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)
- 17** - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Terrell Davis - Warm Season Veggies, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)
- 18** - Grow Your Own Groceries: Potatoes, 12 to 1 p.m. [Link for GYOG webpage](#)
- 24** - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Brett Gordan - Soils, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)

MARCH

- 1** - MG Online Basic Training Class begins
- 10** - Deadline for Janet B. Carson High School Scholarship
[Link to scholarship form](#)



**County 76 Zoom Project Meetings
Thursday, April 22, 2021
County 76 Zoom Membership Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 10:00 am**










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Arkansas Diamonds 2021

NOW, ARKANSAS DIAMONDS ARE CHOSEN FOR 'COOL WEATHER PLANTING' AND SOME ARE IN 'SERIES'.

COLEUS: FLAMETHROWER SERIES

			
Salsa Roja	Cajun Spice	Chili Pepper	Salsa Verde
			
Serrano	Chipotle	Sriracha	Spiced Curry
	<p>This Series is compact. They are vibrant & colorful. They tolerate hot, full sun without a problem. FlameThrowers branch good – no pruning at mid-season. They provide texture & contrast to pots, flower beds & landscapes. They are late to flower which means the foliage looks stunning all season.</p>		
Habanero			

Lemongrass

















Cymbopogon Citratus – Culinary grass used for cooking, teas, insect repellent, container accents. Grows 36" tall. Responds well to trimming.

Cuphea Honeybells



Part to full sun
 Extreme heat tolerant
 Attracts hummingbirds & butterflies
 Blooms spring to frost

PANSY COOL WAVE SERIES

			
<i>Blue Skies</i>	<i>Blueberry Swirl</i>	<i>Lemon</i>	<i>Morpho</i>
			
<i>Frost</i>	<i>Purple</i>	<i>Raspberry Swirl</i>	<i>White</i>
			
<i>Berries N Cream Mix</i>	<i>Fire</i>	<i>Strawberry Swirl</i>	<i>Pastel Mix</i>
		<p>Cool Waves: 1st truly spreading series; stay compact; spread up to 30"; grow fast – require more feed; more disease resistant; more blooms per plant; survive as low as -20; bounce back from hard freeze/heavy frost quicker; beautiful in many brilliant colors; work in baskets, planters, landscapes.</p>	
<i>Red Wing</i>	<i>Sunshine N Wine</i>		

*“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”
Audrey Hepburn*

