

GARDEN VOICE



COUNTY 76 NEWSLETTER

1st Quarter 2023 January 2023

Volume 27, Number 1

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Resolutions. If you make them and can keep them, I am proud of you. I gave them up, they never seem to work for me, or me for them. I am more of a “To do list” person. Did you know the Master Gardener calendar has a list of things to do each month? It’s one of the useful features in our annual calendar. New and seasoned growers will find ideas and reminders for successful growing.

Even though it is early to do much work in most of our gardens, this may be a good time to look over your tools, sharpen, discard, or replace tools that need it. Then you will be ready to start once the weather improves.

If you like to take pictures now is a good time to do it. We are always looking for pictures for the yearly calendar and welcome your photos. Take a few minutes to read up the rules and enjoy searching out that perfect picture. Who knows? Your picture may be in the 2024 calendar! Another valuable resource we have as Master Gardeners is Constant Contact email which allows us to plan and attend gardening events near and far. Did you know about these opportunities coming soon?

March 4th is the Monroe County Master Gardener Spring Seminar in Wheatley. There is a great line-up of presenters covering topics valuable to us.

March 18th is the Baxter County Spring Seminar. This is an opportunity to visit another beautiful part of our state.

June 8th – 10th is this year’s Master Gardener State Conference in Russellville. Pope County, the host county, has outdone themselves with so many great choices. I hope to see you there.

County 76 works for the benefit of all Arkansas Master Gardeners. If you are looking for resources for your county group, please know County 76 is here to help you.

Sometimes valuable resources are already near you. For many individuals an opportunity to be a Master Gardener does not come along until later in life. These individuals bring with them knowledge and abilities which can be invaluable to your County and other Master Gardeners. They may have a vast knowledge of soil, or of plants, be a teacher, FFA leader, farmer, gardener, bookkeeper, or raised a family. Each one brings various skills to Master Gardeners. We need to encourage them and take advantage of their knowledge. Many counties are looking for someone to speak, lead a class, do a short workshop. What about yours? How well do you know your fellow Master Gardeners?

Randy Forst, State Extension Education/Master Gardener Coordinator is spending his time training, sharing, and communicating with us statewide. The County 76 projects are busy working on events and plans for 2023, at the January meeting members were very involved discussing project plans.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the April 25th meeting at LRSO, Sabrina Childs, with the Ball Seed Company, will be speaking.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,
Kay Roberts, President

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

~Business~

- Our president, Kay Roberts, called the meeting to order. Kay welcomed everyone, and especially our visitors. She explained that our meeting today would be shortened due to a winter weather prediction.
- Following the morning presentation by Mr. Desmond Simmons, Owner of Lake in the Willows Apiary, Kay Roberts facilitated the current business of County 76. She began with reminding members that the minutes of our October 25, 2022, Membership Meeting were emailed to them by Darlene McGuire, Secretary. There were no questions, and following a motion and second the minutes were approved as written.
- Debbie Howell, Treasurer, came forward to present the Financial Report for the 4th Quarter of 2022, the End-of-Year Totals, and the County 76 Proposed Budget for 2023. Detailed handouts were available to members at the registration table. Financial activity of the County 76 private account resulted in a balance of \$43,957.55 and the CES account balance on 12/31/2022 was \$57,888.30. The County 76 2023 Proposed Budget shows the projected income to be \$33,235.00 with expenses to be shared by both our private and CES accounts. A question was asked, "Why does the proposed budget show no expenses for Master Gardener Appreciation Day?" We learned that the UADA will cover those costs. The Financial Report for 4th Quarter and End-of-Year 2022, as well as the 2023 Proposed Budget were approved by membership.
- Kay Roberts announced that a Technology Support Team has been created. Daniel Gladstone dgeeshot@gmail.com C: 501-269-3030 is the coordinator. He is seeking volunteers to help when online conferencing or training is required. Please contact Daniel directly to volunteer.
- Proposed changes to the County 76 Bylaws were emailed to membership fifteen (15) days prior to our meeting. Members present approved these changes. (Changes are underlined.)

ARTICLE III – Membership

E. County 76 Master Gardeners, whose fiscal year shall be from January 1 through December 31, will hold at least four meetings per year. Meetings cancelled due to inclement weather or other reasons will be rescheduled at the discretion of the Executive Board or held by Zoom. All financial and reporting statistics shall be based on the fiscal year.

F. The Executive Board may implement the use of a Zoom format for any County 76 meeting if circumstances dictate i.e., including and not limited to weather, restrictions set by the State Office, or any unforeseen situation.

G. Each member is responsible to communicate any changes in mailing address, email or phone numbers to the 2nd Vice President.

H. If a member chooses to resign from County 76, an email confirming the desire of resignation should be communicated to the 2nd Vice President.

ARTICLE VI – Duties of Officers

C. The 2nd Vice President shall:

- 1) Perform the duties of the 1st Vice President whenever the 1st Vice President is absent.
- 2) Coordinate update of volunteer manual, including quarterly Roster updates.

- 3) Coordinate changes of members records such as address, phone, email, or status of said member, including quarterly Roster updates.
- 4) Coordinate general membership meeting registration, including new attendee contact.
- 5) Announce new member induction at membership meetings.
- 6) Serve as Online Manager for County 76 hours reporting.
- 7) Provide an updated list of current members and project hours to the Executive Board by the first meeting of each fiscal year.
- 8) Update County 76 Timeline for each year based on Project activities.

~Education~



Our presenter was Mr. Desmond Simmons, owner of Lake in the Willows Apiary located in Scott, Arkansas. Desmond and his wife, Joyce, started several years ago in the bee business. He has a full-time job and works at the Apiary as a side job. His presentation was informational, even for those who are familiar with honey beekeeping. Desmond shared the make-up of a bee colony. The individuals in a colony depend on the time of year. Worker bees are between 85-99

% of the colony. Drones are 0 – 15%, and there is usually one queen bee. The life cycle of bees was covered. Desmond shared that he uses Langstroth Beehives. Langstroth Hives were created in 1860 and we were told about the parts and how Desmond uses them. Desmond was a personable presenter who shared the humor of this work by telling us some of the mistakes he has made such as leaving a frame out and having the bees build comb on it.

Practical advice for those who are looking at beekeeping was provided. Desmond's advice was to research and know what is involved. He explained the work of the State Plant Board. You must register your hive and have approval. Beekeepers within a 3 mile radius and others near you will be notified if you set up a hive. The reason for this is possible disease. He said if you want to learn before investing a lot of money, find a beekeeper who will allow you to work with him/her.

Next, we learned about bee swarming. Bees swarm when conditions in the hive become less than desirable. This could be a strong honey flow or the hive becomes too crowded. Swarming is the bee way to make a new colony. Should this happen, the State Plant Board will help you free with removing a swarm outside.

Most interesting, Desmond shared his work of grafting Queen Bees. He created a special tool for this work. It is a wooden frame with horizontal wooden bars holding small cups. Queens are grafted from April to September.

Desmond and Joyce gladly share their 'environmentally friendly' practices, such as using every part of bee products. Lake in the Willows Apiary maintains approximately 150 hives at their farm and for others. We learned about bee pollen, bee bread, and bees' wax.

We also were told about the dire situation with honeybee colonies in our country and state. Beekeepers in the United States lost an estimated 45.5% of the managed honeybee colonies. This is the second highest annual loss on record. Arkansas Honeybees loss rates were 44%.

Many great questions came from gardeners there. We learned about the shelf life of

honey. It is truly a stable product and will eventually turn to sugar. We learned about warming it up in hot water. Desmond was asked about grafting Queens, "How do you get started?" The answer was researching the process and talking to others who do it.

We were told about ways to search for hive problems, as well as ways we can support this work. They are:

- 1.Plant bee-friendly flowers and flowering herbs in your garden and yard.
- 2.Let the weeds grow - you may not like them, but bees love them!
- 3.Eliminate the use of pesticides. Use other natural methods of pest control.
- 4.Donate to an organization dedicated to helping protect and promote honeybees and other pollinators.
- 5.Support local beekeepers by purchasing and eating local raw honey.

Desmond and Joyce brought products for purchase. At the aviary, they produce queens, have starter hives, pollen, raw honey, honeycomb, creamed honey, and beeswax products.

You may contact them at lakeinthewillowsapiary@gmail.com or find more information on Lake in the Willows Apiary on Facebook.

Welcome Our Newest Member!



Angela Ryland

Lonoke County Master Gardener

County 76 Garden Voice Co-editor

THE PROJECT PATCH

Advanced Training (AT) Project Meeting Report

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

The Advanced Training group discussion centered around the proposal of a new system of Advanced Training for Arkansas Master Gardeners. A list of important features recommended for this system was shared and read to be followed by member comments, questions, and suggestions. Jane Burrow presented a newly created spreadsheet summary of existing AT credits that she and Linda Soffer produced. It was agreed that this would be a valuable tool for transferring from our existing system into the new process for documenting training and awarding accomplishments of Master Gardeners statewide. The work for this new system is ongoing.

Randy Forst, State Coordinator, shared that there would be an Advanced Training at the State Office the end of June 2023. The topic will be *Hybridizing Day Lilies*. Details to come.

Fundraising Project Meeting Report

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

The Fundraising Project had two (2) first time attendees. They were given some background on the in-person and virtual auctions that are held each year.

Auction schedules, volunteer needs, and auction item ideas were also discussed.

Members that have ideas and are not comfortable in asking a business or individual for a donation will let Patsy know, and she will contact them.

It was shared that Jefferson County is discussing donating another Beehive. Several virtual auction items have already been solicited and confirmed, and we went through those items. Patsy also shared the list of businesses I have contacted or have on my list to contact.

Susan has an area set aside for the auction at the state conference. She has 40 tables for us to use for the auctions.

Signage for this year's Master Gardener State Conference in Pope County was discussed.

Before the County 76 General Membership Meeting in April, Constant Contact emails will be sent asking counties to donate at least two (2) items per county and to bring them to the April County 76 meeting, if they are ready. Otherwise bring them to the conference.

Media Relations

Susan Colles reported for Mike Wilbanks, Media Manager who was unable to be with us.

- Dozens of quality entries have already been submitted.
- Our Arkansas Master Gardeners continue to outshine themselves for their unbelievable skillset in growing and photographing their plants.
- 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
- I have seen many Master Gardener photographic competitions from around the country. Our Arkansas Master Gardeners are second to none for the quality of their work.
- The desk calendar turned out better than expected with compliments continuing to roll in.

Plant, Nurture, Grow (PNG) Project Meeting Report

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

Topics for this year's PNG conference were narrowed down. Those present also discussed refreshments for this year's conference. The process of fine-tuning the conference agenda was talked about.

Everyone agreed to strongly encourage new members to join the PNG project.

The subject of having a 'Training Opportunities' table this year instead of a silent auction was brought up and talked about.

The next meeting for PNG will be on Tuesday, February 13, 2023, at the State Extension Office.

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition [RRR] Project Meeting Report

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

Liz Hale presented an update of the Arkansas Master Gardener Awards. Sixty-nine (69) nominations have been entered, a new record! Liz thanks RRR Liaisons as they are believed to be largely responsible for this new record.

Mimi Cox shared the work of planning for this year's Annuals to Perennials (A to P)

Celebration for New Master Gardeners and their Mentors. Potential speakers for the July 13, 2023, meeting were presented. Members agreed to have Mimi pursue speakers in this

order 1) Jason Reeves, Research Horticulturist and Curator at West Tennessee AgResearch and Education Center in Jackson, TN; 2) Dr. Gerald Klingaman, Retired Arkansas Extension Horticulturist and retired Operations Director for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks; and 3) Dr. Natalie Bumgartner, Tennessee Master Gardener Coordinator.

Hilde Simmons is wrapping up the update on this year's County Contacts list (Presidents and Agents) which is posted as a reference for the State Office, State MG Programs and County 76.

Hilde also shared an update on the Master Gardener Length of Service (LoS) Awards. She will begin contacting presidents in February to obtain information for this year's LoS Awards. Julie Treat and RRR Liaisons will help with the communication about the March 15th deadline. Also, 15-year members receive a golden name badge. The remaining benchmark years receive lapel pins indicating their years of service. (These are provided courtesy of County 76.) Distribution of awards will be at the April 26th County 76 meeting, on June 8 through 10 at the MG State Conference, and mailed to County Agents by Julie Treat.

RRR is looking for a computer savvy RRR member to assist with WORD, Excel spreadsheets, and PowerPoint presentations. Brenda Anderson, Benton County has volunteered to assist. Please contact C76RRR@gmail.com for information or to volunteer. RRR is seeking additional RRR Liaisons for Arkansas County, Lonoke County, and Prairie County. Please contact C76RRR@gmail.com for information or to volunteer.

RRR project members are needed to greet County 76 guests and assist with check-in at quarterly County 76 meetings.

The meeting ended with an open forum time of discussion. Topics were a 'notes' section on the new Online Hours Reporting System where County Managers may include LoS Award information; the Program Presidents' and Agents' Quarterly Forum with Randy Forst and Julie Treat will launch soon. Many counties need help in updating their Recruiting and Mentoring Programs, RRR Liaisons will reach out to their programs and refer them to our leader on that, Mimi Cox mlcox5@yahoo.com or 870-219-0898.

COUNTY 76 LEADERSHIP - 2023

State Leadership

Randy Forst, Extension Educator Consumer Horticulture/Master Gardener Coordinator

Julie Treat, Horticulture Program Associate

County 76 Officers

Kay Roberts, President (Lonoke County)

Becky Gibson, First Vice President (Pulaski County)

Brenda Anderson, Second Vice President (Benton County)

Darlene McGuire, Secretary (Pope County)

Debbie Howell, Treasurer (Faulkner County)

Gail McClure, Assistant Treasurer (Hot Spring/Garland County)

Susan Colles, Past President (Pope County)

County 76 Project Leaders

Advanced Training Project

John Hiegel, Chair (Craighead County)

Joellen Beard, Co-chair (Pulaski County)

Fundraising Project

Patsy Louk, Chair (Washington County)

Susan Colles, Co-chair (Pope County)

Plant, Nurture, Grow Leadership Training Project

Rose Ann Houston, Chair (White County)

Debora Carpenter, Co-chair (Prairie County)

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition Project

Liz Hale, Chair (Washington County)

Holly Bacon, Co-chair (Crittenden County)

County 76 Appointed Positions

Mike Wilbanks, Media Relations Coordinator (Craighead County)

Becky Gibson, Garden Voice Editor (Pulaski County)

Angela Ryland, Garden Voice Co-editor (Lonoke County)

Daniel Gladstone, Technology Support Coordinator (Faulkner County)

Do you have a Need-to-Know?

For information or help:

Email: Randy Forst rforst@uada.edu

Cc: Julie Treat jtreat@uada.edu

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

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

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

Coming Soon: WHAT'S UP WEDNESDAY? Zoom for consumers with Randy Forst

Third Wednesday of every month 9:30 – 10:30

MASTER GARDENER & HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

Thursday, February 2, 2023

MG Conference Registration Opens (Cost of the conference and registration information is sent out Feb. 1)

Thursday, February 9, 2023

Grow Your Own Groceries: Pruning Berries, 12 p.m.,

[Registration link](#)

Monday, February 20, 2023

Master Gardener Monday, 12 p.m.

Saturday, March 4, 2023

Monroe County MG Spring Seminar "The Four Seasons" featuring Randy Forst speaking on "Year-Round Color in the Garden", Blan Britton "What's Bugging You", Anne Wood "Hydrangeas". 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wheatley Civic Center, Wheatley, AR. Early registration: \$30.00 (prior to February 24.) Registration after February 24: \$35.00. Registration includes lunch and door prizes. [Registration Form](#)

Friday, March 10, 2023

Janet B. Carson High School Scholarship forms due

[Link for high school scholarship form](#)

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Union County Master Gardeners Dirt Friends Festival, College Avenue Church of Christ 1817 N. College in El Dorado, AR. Featured speaker will be Brie Arthur, Brie The Plant Lady from YouTube. Brie is also a well-known author and is known for her foodscaping revolution. Doors will open at 8:30am and the program will start at 9am and run to noon. This event is open to the public with free admission.

Saturday, March 18, 2023

Baxter County Spring Seminar, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, Mountain Home, AR. Featured speaker: Joe Lamp'l - A Garden to Weather Any Storm. Additional speakers include Daria McKelvey, Ray Moranz, Jeff Quick, Guy Ames. Cost: \$35 (includes lunch). Limited seating available. Send in registration form by March 6. Registration is closed when event is sold out. [Registration Form Link](#) [Event Flyer](#)

Monday, March 20, 2023

Master Gardener Monday, 12 p.m.

Monday, April 17, 2023

Master Gardener Monday, 12 p.m.

Friday, April 21, 2023

Online Reporting Managers Zoom Meeting, 10 a.m.



County 76 Membership/Project Meeting
State Extension Office
2301 S. University Ave, Little Rock, AR 72204
Tuesday, April 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 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.