

GARDEN VOICE



County 76 Newsletter
3rd Quarter 2022 July 2022
Volume 26, Number 3



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Temperatures are breaking records this summer – and the humidity seems unbearable! But Master Gardeners continue to be dedicated to working on their county projects and in their own yards. Getting up early to get things accomplished is becoming a drag!

The *Annals to Perennials* was a wonderful event. If you missed it, Dr. Gibby provided a commentary on the beginnings of the Master Gardener program, and Dr. Scheiman gave us some tips on how to plant a bird-friendly garden. Thanks to the County 76 RRR Project for organizing this event.

Be sure to watch for Constant Contacts emails about the next County 76 upcoming events:

- Plant-Nurture-Grow (PNG) Leadership Conference – August 30 & 31
 - Aug 30th – an afternoon at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center
 - Aug 31st – Zoom in the morning
- Master Gardener Appreciation Day – October 13
 - A day at the Ozark Folk Center in Mountain View, AR
- County 76 Quarterly Meeting – October 25

These events will be an opportunity to be with other Master Gardeners from across Arkansas learning of ways to lead your county program and spending some relaxing time with others.

A native plant that I just discovered last year and has become a favorite of mine is the Basket Flower. Mine grew to be well over 5' tall!



I hope to see you in August and October!

Susan Colles

Susan Colles
County 76 President

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS – JULY 26, 2022

~Business~

- Susan Colles, President, called the meeting to order. She reminded everyone that in the past, hours for County 76 were posted by those with access to our data system, but with our new system for entering volunteer hours, individuals must enter his/her own County 76 hours. Susan reminded us to record hours for our January and April membership and project meetings. She reminded that help is available, if needed.
- Before this meeting, minutes of our April 26, 2022, General Membership meeting were emailed to members by Darlene McGuire, Secretary. When requested, no corrections or comments were offered, allowing unanimous approval of the minutes as written for the record.
- Debbie Howell, Treasurer, presented the current County 76 Financial Report. A new spreadsheet format allowed a clear picture of 1st and 2nd Quarter income and expenses. After expenses, the County 76 year-to-date net income is \$13,329.92. We also had a balance from previous years' unspent funds. The report was unanimously approved.
- Pope County Garden of Hope was the recipient of the Janet B. Carson County Scholarship – 2021. Susan Breier, Pope County Master Gardener reported on this successful project.
 - There was cooperation between the Pope County Juvenile Probation Department, the Pope County Extension Office, the Methodist Church, and the Pope County Master Gardeners.
 - Goal was to give the children a positive social experience while teaching them about gardening and raising food plants.
 - Pride is evident each week when the children come and see how well the pumpkins, tomatoes, watermelons, and other produce is developing.



Horticulture Specialist and our Master Gardener Coordinator. Following a review of upcoming Master Gardener events, Berni expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of members of County 76. He also shared that his plan for growing two hundred (200) blackberry brambles and working on his hobby farm had been disrupted when he heard about an open position close to his home in Fayetteville. Berni Kurz will be the Director of Horticulture at the Ozark Botanical Garden. He gave us an open invitation to visit him there. Berni also shared pictures of his family.

- A special time of well-wishes was begun by our president, Susan Colles, when she presented Berni a book about Beekeeping and several empty honey bottles. We were all asked to go outside to the front of the building where Berni was presented with a beehive from Central Beekeeping in Russellville. It was assembled and painted for Berni, along with a Deluxe Beekeeping Tool Kit. www.centralbeekeepersupply.com Special thanks to Susan Colles, President, and Patsy Louk, Past President, who collected contributions from members and made the arrangements for these gifts. We look forward to bottles of honey from Berni & the bees:)



Berni Kurz, Horticulture Supervisor
Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
4703 N Crossover Rd.
Fayetteville AR 72764
479-750-2630
bkurz@bgozarks.org



To Berni - We wish health & happiness for your future!



~Education~

Our guest presenter was Tina Marie Wilcox, and we were very pleasantly surprised to see that Susan Belsinger was able to be with us, too!

After Susan Colles introduced them, Tina Wilcox said, "That's right! We are guardians of the soil, good clean water, the air we breathe, and the plants we grow!" Tina and Susan began by telling us about the very different lifestyles they have and the wonderful partnership they have as herbalists and authors.

Susan Belsinger lives in a passive-solar home on three acres of land between Washington D.C. and Baltimore in Maryland. Her house is one that she built with her husband. Living between two large cities means that her lifestyle is cosmopolitan. Tina Wilcox lives on twenty-eight acres of wooded mountaintop in north-central Arkansas in a small cabin. Her home is far away from any city.

Tina and Susan met twenty years ago and formed a partnership built on their love of growing and using herbs in their everyday lives. Today, they shared so much information about herbs, it was hard to keep up. The presentation was visual and hands-on as we were told about many herbs and their usefulness.

Before and after the presentation, we were able to purchase their book, *The Creative Herbal Home*, which guided their presentation. Tina grabbed a bouquet of mint and walked through the audience beating the mint and waving it through the air. Susan explained that years before, this was how folks prepared their house for having company. The mint removed odors and gave freshness to the air.

Tina asked, "How should you use herbs? In so many ways. First use them fresh or dry (you can dry them on a tray in your oven)" She continued, "I always get in the garden at first light when it's best to gather herbs and take care of plants. You can help keep herbs healthy by cutting them back, such as mint or lemon balm. I use mint throughout my day to cool off. I may have an infusion of sage tea with honey lemon. You can capture the essence of the herbs in summer."

Tina and Susan had laid out on the presentation table samples of herbs – dried in bags so we could smell them, small brown bottles of tinctures and infusions. The best part was that they started these and let us pass, smell, see (and maybe sample some:)

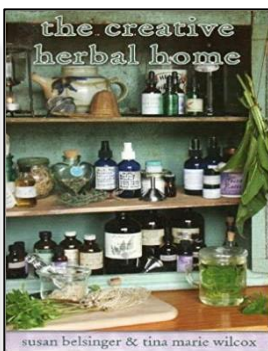
Methods of using herbs were shared and examples given for infusions, tinctures, shrubs, oils, salves and scrubs. An infusion is made by steeping or infusing herb leaves or flowers to extract their virtues. Tinctures are made by infusion or percolation of herbs and a solvent. A salve is made from herbs, oils and bees' wax. We learned about adaptogens. This is a natural substance which seems to help the body adapt to stress or help a body process return to normal.

Susan and Tina told us about tulsi (known to reduce stress). Others mentioned were lemon balm, jewel weed or wild impatiens (helps with itching), elderberries, spotted St. John's wort, arnica, calendula, comfrey. Susan told us that she uses a sugar scrub that has an oil base with calendula, lavender, basil and chamomile.

And so, in summary, there is bad news and good news. Bad news: This presentation had to end. Good news: Tina Wilcox is the full-time horticulturist at the Ozark Folk Center. She will be at our Master Gardeners Appreciation Day, Thursday, October 13, 2022, to share what she knows and grows! This will be great!



Susan Belsinger



Tina Wilcox

THE PROJECT PATCH!

Advanced Training

Heather Cook, Chair; John Hiegel, Co-Chair; Kate Spontak, Secretary

- Kate Spontak reported details of the Friday, October 28, 2022, training in Madison County. Gardening for Birds & More is an in-person training will be at the Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville AR. Thursday, October 27th, a Reception/Early Check-in will be held. On Friday, there will be speakers and hands-on activities. Participants will assemble his/her own bluebird house. Also, Pollinator Plant Clay Pods & Bird Treats will be created. Fee will be \$75.00. (Please see flyer under Upcoming Events.)
- Tentatively being planned for Fall 2023, the Crittenden County Master Gardeners are working on a joint venture with Hughes Town & Country Garden Club. The content will be a National Garden Club School Course.

Fundraising

Nancy Cunningham, Chair; Patsy Louk, Co-chair

- Nancy Cunningham brought details of profit from this year's auctions. Thanks to much hard work & and about 250 items, \$9,382.30 was raised.

Virtual Auction (Greater Giving website)		Silent Auction	
GREATER GIVING SALES	\$ 4,305.00	Credit Card Transactions	\$3,208.00
Auction Donation	50.00	Cash	1,684.00
SUB TOTAL	4,355.00	Checks	695.00
Greater Giving Admin cost	(346.36)	Auction Donation	300.00
Expenses	(13.34)	SUB TOTAL	\$5,887.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,995.30	Cash Advance	(400.00)
		Expenses	(100.00)
		TOTAL	\$5,387.00

Media Relations

Mike Wilkins, Coordinator

- Susan Colles brought calendar information to share for Mike.
- For the first time, our 2023 Master Gardener Calendar will be available in a desktop/purse size. These will be ordered online and mailed to the purchaser. As this is in design, final cost will be determined.
- The deadline for photos for the 2023 calendar was May 22, 2022. There are 57 different photograph entries.

- There are 3 judges with one additional alternate. (Professional landscape photographer, advertising specialist, television media specialist)

Plant, Nurture, Grow [PNG] Leadership

Chair: Rose Ann Houston, Chair; Jan Hill, Co-Chair

- This year's PNG Training will be held on Tuesday & Wednesday, August 30 & 31, 2022 with an innovative format. Both days are planned for half (1/2) day training.
- Tuesday's training is face-to-face at the C.A. Vines 4-H Center, #1 Four H Way, Little Rock, AR, 72223. The schedule is from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is designed for Officers of County groups of Master Gardeners.
- To help with the expense involved, County 76 will pay the registration fee for 3 officers from each county. This may be current officers or those who will be officers. The fee for Tuesday is \$25.00.
- Wednesday, August 31, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This will be a virtual training via Zoom. Wednesday's training is designed to help all Master Gardeners contribute to the success of their local group. There will be three rooms with three sessions. Technology, greenhouse projects, nominating for state awards, mentoring, and money advice are among the topics. The fee for Wednesday's training is \$10.00.
- Communication with County Presidents is being sent to encourage attendance. Surveys will be sent to participants to help us improve our training.
- Rose Ann is encouraging Master Gardeners to join County 76 AND PNG:)

Recruitment, Retention, Recognition [RRR]

Hilde Simmons, Chair; Liz Hale, Co-chair

- Four hundred sixty (460) years of service resulted in length of service pins and lifetime member name badges being distributed at this year's State Conference and the County 76 April 26, 2022, meeting.
- An awards video produced by RRR and Kerry Rodrick, Extension Videographer, was used during our awards presentation. The presentation videos for Length of Service and State Awards shown at the State Conference will be posted on the website.
- There were 15 awards were given out by Dr. Scott, and the Mimi Cox Mentor of the Year Award was introduced with Mimi receiving the inaugural award.
- Forms for 2022 State Awards nominations will be posted on the website by August 1, 2022.
- The Annuals to Perennials Program on July 18, 10:00 to 12:00 a.m., was very successful. Over 800 registered and over 400 attended.
- Dr. David Gibby, founder of the Master Gardener program, shared details of the beginning of Master Gardeners.
- Dr. Dan "The Birdman" Sheiman from Audubon Delta talked about creating a bird friendly yard.
- The recording of A to P will be sent to participants and be available for a month.
- Hilde shared the plans and goals of RRR for the rest of this year. They will continue to share about County 76 and RRR. They will encourage county interactions. They will prepare a Zoom for this year's PNG Leadership Training. They will work on a County Contact update for January 2023.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tarsha Shepherd

Fayetteville
Benton County

Project: Plant, Nurture, Grow



Cheryl Stevens

Mount Ida
Montgomery County

*Project: Recruitment, Retention,
Recognition*

COUNTY 76 LEADERSHIP - 2022

Officers		State Leadership	
President	<i>Susan Colles</i>	County 76 State Coordinator	<i>(Coming Soon)</i>
1 st Vice President	<i>Kay Roberts</i>	County 76 Assistant Coordinator	<i>Julie Treat</i>
2 nd Vice President	<i>Becky Gibson</i>		
Secretary	<i>Darlene McGuire</i>	Appointees	
Treasurer	<i>Debbie Howell</i>	Media Relations	<i>Mike Wilbanks</i>
Asst. Treasurer	<i>Gail McClure</i>	Newsletter Editor	<i>Becky Gibson</i>
Past President	<i>Patsy Louk</i>		

DID YOU KNOW?

The Greeks & Romans named The Dog Days of Summer because it was the time when Sirius (the Dog Star) was known to rise before the sun.

They believed Sirius & the sun caused the hottest & most unbearable days of the season.

Dog Days are typically from July 3 to August 11 - or maybe to September.



#FLPDogDays

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 2022

- 4-** GYOG: Eggplant, 12 p.m. on Zoom
- 15** - Master Gardener Monday (MGM); 12 to 1 p.m. on Zoom
- 30** - PNG Leadership Conference, Vines 4-H Center, Ferndale, AR.
- 31** - PNG Leadership Conference, on Zoom.

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 19** - Master Gardener Monday (MGM); 12 to 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 2022

- 5, 19** – MG Basic Training Class on Zoom
- 13** - MG Appreciation Day, Ozark Folk Center, Mt. View, AR
- 17** - Master Gardener Monday (MGM); 12 to 1 p.m.
- 25** - County 76 Quarterly Membership Meeting
- 28** – Montgomery County “Gardening for Birds and More”
Advanced Training

Take off a day to enjoy a scenic drive to Mountain View, AR, and celebrate the 34th anniversary of the Master Gardener program in Arkansas. Mark **October 13** as the day to go the Ozark Folk Center to browse (and shop, of course!) all the many craft shops on the property. As a Master Gardener you will be the guest of County 76 (non-MGs will pay a discount rate of \$9) and explore venues from:

- candle making
- paper crafts
- metal works
- wood smith
- fiber arts
- quilting
- apothecary
- copper colorists
- stain glass
- and many more



Workshops will be offered throughout the day. Lunch will be offered at a charge - or bring a picnic basket. T-shirts will be available for order. The 2023 MG calendar will be there for you to pick up. Watch for more information in future Constant Contact emails.

*Come and enjoy the Fall beauty of the mountains
and a day at Ozark Folk Center!*

Gardening for Birds and More

Advanced Training

October 27-28, 2022

Hosted by Madison County Master Gardeners

Location: Ozark Natural Science Center

Nestled in scenic Ozark Mountains near Huntsville and Eureka Springs

This training will feature Audubon member Robin Buff sharing her knowledge on birds and their habitats along with Marty Powers (Shiloh Museum) providing expertise on creating a pollinator friendly garden. Participants will assemble their own bluebird house which is constructed of $\frac{3}{4}$ " Arkansas cedar and made to last for years of enjoyment. Other event features include a bird walk on the ONSC grounds, creating bird treats and pollinator plant clay pods

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON!!!



County 76 Project & General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 25, 2022, 10:00 am
State Extension Office
2301 S. University
Little Rock AR 72204

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs and services without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.