

County 76

Garden Voice

A newsletter to inform and inspire
 Arkansas Master Gardeners
 and their communities



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Master Gardener Calendar Contest

2013 Contest will start earlier & provide photo tips

For the last two years, the Arkansas Master Gardener Calendar has been a successful fundraiser for County 76, and it's also a good marketing tool to use in your county to remind elected officials and other key community leaders about the MG program and activities. This year's entries came from 59 MGs in 20 counties, and we want to see even more MGs and more counties represented next year!

Of the 206 photographs entered this year, one in three was ineligible because of the small pixel size. Printed pieces like a calendar require high resolution, so some potential winners had to be ruled out. Several other photos were ruled out because of time stamps, blurry image or no editing to improve subject focus.

Starting now, look for more information *(Continued on page 2)*



President's Message

Kudos are in order

This month I want to use this space to give recognition to some deserving MG's. First, I'd like to say thank you to **Jan Spann, Faulkner County MG**, who has accepted the task of filling the very big shoes of **Lucy Fry, River Valley MG**, as editor of the County 76 newsletter and chair of the Garden Voice project. Lucy has produced the monthly newsletter for several years and has done an admirable job. I receive compliments on it nearly every time I am in a group of MGs from around the state. I am quick to say that all the credit goes to Lucy. Not only does she have to compile all the components (which includes reminding those of us with deadline issues to get our copy turned in) she then gets it all pieced together, looking good and submitted for distribution over the state. Thanks also go to **Judy Woodard, Pulaski County** and **Julie Treat** at the state office for their role in distribution to County 76 members and

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Amanda Hardin, Craighead

Pat Robbins, Sebastian

Lucinda Reynolds, Baxter

Bobbi Guerra, Pulaski

All calendar photos must be taken in Arkansas

Why is the calendar such a hot button topic? It's a County 76 fundraiser, and those funds help underwrite training and speakers so you pay less for registration fees.

on how to enter a winning photo in a series called "Growing Success: Mastering the X". These first tips will be on "Mastering the Digital Camera." We'll explain how to take the right size photo, terms like pixel, how to crop and how to label your photos, to name just a few tips coming your way. Future tips will cover basic gardening topics, which can be used in marketing the MG program locally and grow the success of your organization.

You'll also learn about photography workshops that will be held around the state in November in

around the state in November in conjunction with other MG training. This will be a chance to bring your photos and get tips on how to make them better or get praise for doing a great job!

All photographs for the MG calendar must have Arkansas content, so get your camera and get going! Several of this year's entries were taken during project workdays and fieldtrips.

Consider expanding your point of view in just about any way but vertical: calendars require photos that have a landscape orientation.

Think beyond butterflies and flowers and consider the beauty in a beet or a baby chick, especially when cropped correctly.

Your photographs can also be submitted to your local newspaper to promote the MG program, which is something that's a year-round activity. And when you become a better photographer, you'll find you'll impress your family and friends!

The 2013 Calendar Contest will open on Monday, January 2, and it will end on Friday, February 10.

Garvan Woodland Gardens is open from 9 am to 6 pm daily

GWG hosts MG Appreciation Day on September 19

You'll find information stations throughout the gardens plus a few lectures in the Magnolia Room, and lunch available by PRE-ORDER (reference email from Janet Carson). Say thanks to our gracious garden hosts and



check out all the upcoming events at GWG!

Lots of good things are happening at the MG Day at Garvan Woodland Gardens! County 76 will be selling both sizes of the 2012 calendars, garden hoes

(in a variety of sizes) and a few more garden goodies!

Pick up some great buys, and supporting these projects helps fund future Leadership Conferences and training. You'll find lots of activities and more at this inaugural event. It's the staff's way to say thanks for all MGs do.

Dr. Doug Tallamy
Professor & Chair
Entomology and Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware

“Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity.”



Bringing Nature Home author to speak in Arkansas

Master Gardeners are the 'go-to' folks for Arkansas gardening. With our strong focus on education, it's natural that we continue to bring cutting edge information to our members and the general public.

I attended a native plant workshop last year, or at least that's what I thought I was attending. Instead the speaker, highly renowned entomologist Doug Tallamy took the audience on an adventure through the insect world and how that population has decreased and why.

“Stop saving the rain forests!” he exclaimed. “They are deforesting at an alarming rate, so work on your own property instead.” Tallamy presented slide after slide on brilliantly-colored (and sometimes scary) caterpillars and insects that are falling off the face of the earth. We are responsible for some of it in America's march to suburbia,

and we can also reverse the trend with simple actions such as using more native plants.

When invasive species are introduced into our landscapes, they cause economic or environmental harm or even harm to human health. From tiny insects to the insects and animals that eat them to the human end of the food chain, the loss of native plants adversely affects us, and it's happening right under our noses.

So what? So isn't it my garden or yard and can't I plant whatever I want? The simple answer is yes. But the ethical answer is more complicated, especially for Master Gardeners.

How can we plant something that will intrude (and even take over) our neighbors' land? More than that, how can we include plants that have damaging ecological side effects?

Having beautiful plants shouldn't be the only goal of FCMG. We can also be better stewards in our county and learn how to engage conversations about ethical gardening, such as planting and recommending more native plants.

Learn more about Tallamy's lecture at <http://www.anps.org/>.

- Jan Spann, Editor

County 76 awards two county agents to help pay national meeting costs

Two County Extension Agents (CEA) were recent recipients of financial awards applied toward expenses in attending the National County Agricultural Agents meeting in Overland Park, Kansas August 7-11.

The top award went to Mark Keaton, Staff Chair in Baxter County, who received a \$200 award. Dustin Blakey, CEA and Staff Chair in Sebastian County received \$100.

County 76 made the awards available to agents statewide who actively work with and promote the Master Gardener program and consumer horticulture.

In acknowledging the honor, Keaton stated, “At the national meeting I attended some excellent educational meetings with a variety of topics and gained inspiration and ideas from the many activities and speakers...It is always great to see what kind of programs other

county agents throughout the United States are conducting in their state.”

In a thank you note, Keaton wrote ““Thank you for the generous contribution towards my NACAA trip to Kansas City. I learned a lot. This was the first time I got to see wind turbines up close, and to find out the pros and cons was eye-opening! The MG program is important to me, and I appreciate your support of agents.”

President's Message (continued from page 1)

to the county contacts statewide.

Jan has asked to apply the "Garden Voice" moniker to the newsletter, which is also the name of the County 76 project she will begin chairing. It seems a fitting name since it "speaks" for the statewide organization each month. The name was chosen back in early 2008 in a statewide contest of name entries for the new County 76 project. Pulaski County MG Jan King submitted the winning entry—"Garden Voice", and since then, hundreds of MGs have received training in PowerPoint, digital photography, creative writing and graphic design as part of the Garden Voice mission.

The path of the Garden Voice project is heading in some new directions, so stay tuned or better yet, join County 76 and help with the planning. Garden Voice will be looking at ways to "market" the Master Gardener program in communities and share news about your good

works. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25th at the State Extension Office.

Ouida Wright, President

FYI

County 76 is open to all Master Gardeners who have completed one year in the program, recertified and remain in good standing on the local level and agree to attend the next leadership training (if they have not attended leadership training previously). County Agents who have an active Master Gardener program in their county may also join. Membership term is unlimited for those who recertify.

Members of the County 76 R-M-R Project are available to help with recruitment, mentoring or retention ideas in your county. Contact Mimi Cox at mlcox5@yahoo.com.

R M R

Recruitment-Mentoring-Retention A County 76 Project Tip of the Month Notes from Leadership Training, 2011

"The greatest loss of volunteers takes place in the first 6 months of volunteer service."

NOTE: Have you checked in your county to see how many of your newest members are still around?

"The goal of mentoring is to make new members feel more comfortable and to develop their 'place' in the organization. **NOTE: Have your new members been contacted by their mentors to work on different projects and attend regular meetings and special events? Have you talked to them about the payback hours and completing time sheets?**

"Mentoring is a one-on-one relationship; it is also a partnership between mentor and the Master Gardener county program with the mentee. The mentor is the key." **NOTE: Do your mentors know what is expected of them? There are written Guidelines for Mentoring available on the website. Remember that extra time is required to be a mentor, but the hours can be counted.**

- Mimi Cox

Growing Success Tip #1: Mastering Your Digital Camera

Find your camera's User Guide. If you can't locate it, go to the camera manufacturer's website (Canon, Nikon, Kodak, etc.) and search for your camera model, then download that manual.

With camera in hand, find the section on 'Time & Date'

mode, usually located in the MENU. You must turn this to 'off' for catalog entries, because this inclusion voids the use of the photograph for the calendar contest (and it may compromise other special photos as well).

While in the MENU, look through the other options to ac-

quaint yourself with what your camera can do. Most cameras allow you to take photos in three (or more) sizes. The sizes vary depending on how many megapixels a camera has. For example, a 10.2-megapixel camera will take larger photos than a

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ADVANCED TRAINING



Faulkner County hosted 75 MGs for Advanced Training on Trees



Dr. Eric Sundell stepped participants through an exercise in tree identification using the Arkansas Forestry Commission/Dwight Moore **Trees of Arkansas** handbook with its new key.



Perennial favorite speaker Jane Guley offered a look at trees as storytellers. A former history teacher, Jane told of times where trees have connected people and events from America's earliest days.

The final 2011 Advanced Training class will be on November 14 on Invasive species at the state office. Space is limited!

(Growing Success continued from 4)

6.1-megapixel camera.

Megapixels simply dictate how big you can make a picture and get decent prints. The more closely spaced pixels are, the smoother the image will look. The more megapixels an image contains, the more you can enlarge it. That's what you want for quality calendar entries. Your camera card will hold fewer photos but you can switch to other 'image size settings' for other photos you take.

Snap some test photos and download them to your computer (if you don't know how, there's a section on that in the User Guide). Look at the complete file name when the photos appear.

They might come through as DSC_ or IMG_, and we'll have tips about that coming later. Look at the last part of the image code, and that should be a number. If that number is smaller than 700K, your images are too small for calendar requirements.

Look for upcoming tips on reducing blur, shooting in a variety of conditions and editing, such as cropping photos.

If you have specific questions about this tip or your camera and photography skills, email your question to:

ArkansasGardenVoice@gmail.com and we'll have an answer for you.

Project reports are due!
Send them to Peggy
Anderson at andrbugs@sbcglobal.net

An Extraordinary Person!

Congratulations to Jean Ann Moles, County 76 member and Saline County Master Gardener, who was named one of "Saline County's Extraordinary People for 2011" by The Benton Courier. She received a trophy and a delightful newspaper article that featured her volunteerism. Most interesting was that she was nominated as "the lady who takes care of Salvation Army Flowers." What more fitting nomination could Jean Ann have received!!!

As a Saline County MG, she is responsible for the upkeep of the gardens around the Salvation Army headquarters in downtown Benton. Jean Ann joined County 76 in 2008 and while she will chair no project, she is active in several. You only have to ask her (and once you get past her hesitation and "let me think about it") you have a wonderful helper. Although she was unable to attend the State Meeting this year her presence was felt because she sent the two auction items that received the highest bids.

Janet Carson wrote in her blog, "Jean Ann's award is a testament to how much people benefit from all of your (MGs') efforts. Congratulations to Jean Ann and the other 2993 MGs in Arkansas! You all do me proud!" --Lucy Fry

September

- **15 – Deadline for the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Greening of Arkansas Grant.** This grant can be used to fund beautification projects on public property. A copy of the grant application can be found at http://www.arflowerandgardenshow.org/grants/greening_application_2011.pdf. Contact Krista Quinn for more information at 501-821-4000. www.arflowerandgardenshow.org
- **19- Arkansas Master Gardener Appreciation Day**, Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. Show your MG ID for free admission to spend a day in the gardens with fellow MGs! See more information on Page 2!
- **30—Blooms, Bulbs and Bargains Plant Sale**, IZard County Fairgrounds, Melbourne. Contact: Dian James, 870-670-5867.
- **30 – Lecture by Dr. Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, 7pm, UACES Auditorium, 2301 South University, Little Rock. General admission \$15 and \$10 for members of sponsoring groups.

October

- **1—Lecture by Dr. Doug Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, 10 a.m., Antioch Baptist Church, 150 Amity Road, Conway. General admission \$15 and \$10 for members of sponsoring groups; special admission price of \$5 for teachers and students.
- **7 – New Plant Symposium - Hot New Plants for Your Garden**, Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. Magnolia Room; 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join U of A Cooperative Extension Service Horticulture Specialist Janet Carson for this informative workshop with Encore Azalea innovator Buddy Lee of Southern Living Plants that Work and Sabrina Childs of Ball Horticultural Company. They, along with GWG Landscape Architect Bob Byers will discuss new annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees. Afterwards, enjoy shopping the Gardens' annual fall plant sale. Cost is \$45 for GWG members and \$55 for non-members. Advance reservations and pre-payment required. Call 501-262-9300/800-3656-4664 or www.garvangardens.com
- **7 to 9 – Garvan Woodland Gardens Annual Plant Sale**, Hot Springs. www.garvangardens.com 800-366-4664. Nursery and garden vendors from across the state will turn the Gardens' grounds into a garden "superstore" stocked with ornamental merchandise to help you design and create a beautiful fall or winter garden. Hundreds of hard-to-find plants, shrubs, and trees will be available for purchase, as well as an eclectic collection of garden-inspired treasures for those of you who love the thrill of unearthing that one-of-a-kind flea market find. Hours for the general public are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Free admission for Garden members.. Regular Garden admission applies for non-members.
- **11-14 – International Master Gardener Conference**, Charleston, West Virginia, <http://imgc.ext.wvu.edu/>
- **11 - Brown Bag Lunch Class - What trees to plant in AR and when/hands on pruning demo** by John Slater, held by the Garland County MG/External Education Committee. FREE and open to the public. Garland County Library, 1427 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs, AR. 11:30 - 1pm. Soft Drinks provided by the GC Library. Contact the library for a reservation, seating is limited.
- **13 - Tapestry- an extravaganza of flower design, horticulture, photography, conservation and education** hosted by The Little Rock Garden Club. Held at Junior League of Little Rock Building - 401 South Scott Street. 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Our contribution of public service and education. Free admission. **Contact:** beckybscott@aol.com
- **14 - Brown Bag Lunch Class Putting Your Beds to BED - composting, mulching and planting winter crops** held by the Garland County MG/External Education Committee. FREE and open to the public. Garland County Library, 1427 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs. 11:30 - 1pm. Soft Drinks provided by the GC Library. **Contact the Library for a reservation, seating is limited:** 501-623-4161
- **15 – Annual Rose Show** sponsored by the Central AR Rose Society, Country Inn and Suites, 750 S. Amity Road, Conway.
- **16- Legacy Garden Dedication**, Natural Resource Center, Conway, AR, 2p.m. Call the Faulkner Co. Extension Office for more information at 501-329-8344.

November

- **16 - Brown Bag Lunch Class - Planting for Spring Color: Bulbs, Tubers and Rhizomes & Preparing Your Flower & Veggie Beds for Winter**, held by the Garland County MG/External Education Committee. FREE and open to the public. Garland County Library, 1427 Malvern Ave. Hot Springs, AR. 11:30 - 1pm. Soft Drinks provided by the GC Library. Please contact the library for a reservation, seating is limited.
- **20 – Holiday Entertaining Workshop**, Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. Magnolia Room; 2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Back by popular demand, this workshop will feature Janet Carson, U of A Cooperative Service Extension Horticulture Specialist, and Bob Byers, GWG Landscape Architect, sharing tips for decorating your home with plants during the holidays. Karla Nardi and the National Park Community College hospitality students will return with food demonstrations and recipes to share with your guests during the holidays. Suzie Burch will assist participants in making a holiday decoration to take home. After the workshop enjoy the Lights on the Landscape Display. Cost \$50 for GWG members; \$60 for non-members. Advance reservations and pre-payment required. Call 501-262-9300/800-366-4664, www.garvangardens.com

2012

- **May**
- **2-5 – Southern Region Master Gardener Conference**, Natchez, MS.
- **17-19 – Arkansas Master Gardener Conference**, Monticello, AR.