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The Official Newsletter
of the
Saline County
Master Gardeners

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Gardeners UAEX

The Ground Breaker



Remembering Jean Ann

By Pat Gipson

As most everyone knows by now, our friend and fellow Master Gardener, Jean Ann Moles, passed away on January 2. If you did not have the opportunity to know Jean Ann, you missed a great chance to know a very exceptional person who was “one-in-a-million”.

Jean Ann was our President three times, Rookie of the Year in 2006, and Master Gardener of the Year in 2010. She brought humor and fun to our meetings. The first time she presided over our meeting, she passed out “No Whining” pins and stickers to everyone. At the first meeting of two subsequent years, she gave everyone a champagne flute with the year imprinted in gold letters. The first time a state Master Gardener Calendar was published, Jean Ann bought one for everybody. She was always doing things to lighten the mood and energize our club.

Jean Ann was a “fixture” in the Downtown Benton gardens. You could always find her working in the Salvation Army flower bed. She was a most excellent weed puller as I witnessed at Owens-Mooney Park. On one occasion while trying to accomplish a task that required assistance from City Hall and not getting anywhere, Jean Ann made a trip to Rooster’s Barber Shop downtown, made a plea for help, and, surprise! surprise!, the assistance was provided and the task was accomplished. After that, she made it a well-known fact that you could get more done at the Barber Shop than at City Hall. On another occasion, when she arrived at the Salvation Army Project to water, she accidentally locked her car with keys, phone, and water hoses inside. Needing help, she ran

Our next **MG meeting** will be 9:00am **Saturday, January 19th** at the Bishop Park Center, 6401 Boone Road, Bryant. **Ronnie Palmer** will give a presentation on **Azaleas**. We will meet in the upstairs meeting room.

to the Tattoo Parlor across the street for help. The comment she made that was most memorable was, “People getting tattoos don’t wear many clothes”!

Jean Ann was easily recognized by her “Crocodile Dundee” hat that she wore indoors and outdoors. She was even called “Crocodile Dundee” by the Benton Mayor. At one of our plant sales her hat was covered with insect pins, beads and buttons which made it quite a hit. P. Allen Smith even provided her with one of his precious chicken feathers to add to her hat.



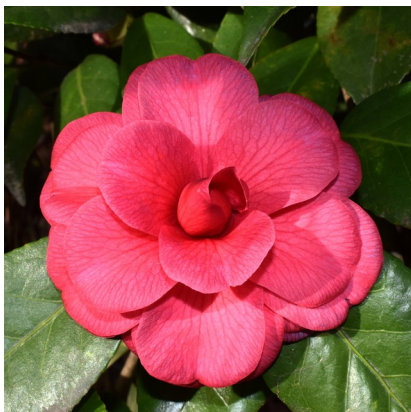
Quite the animal lover, Jean Ann never failed to stop and pet or talk to any stray animal she happened across. One day while pruning crape myrtles on the Benton Parkway, a skinny, tan hound dog of some type wandered up to her. She tried her best to no avail to “shoo” him away, but he was determined to stay with her. At the end of the day, she piled him up in her car and took him to her house. She tried to find his owner and give him away, but it was not meant to be. So, Abe, the hound, became her family member.

When Janet Carson planned a trip, any trip, Jean Ann was always the first or one of the first to sign up. She loved traveling and seeing gardens in other places. Some of the places to which she traveled were Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, Ireland, and Costa Rica.

When she was President and I was editor of the Ground Breaker, I could always count on Jean Ann to send me amusing articles every month that required no editing! She just knew how to say things. She liked using the expression “fiddle-de-dee” in her writings. After we hosted the state convention, she thanked everyone for all the hard work and remarked, “Damn, we’re good!” In one article she referred to spring as “the grand reunion of flora, pollinators, and gardeners”. One September, she described the end of growing season as “the time to say goodbye. Our gardens tell us that life is ever-changing, but change is often hard for those left behind”.

It is time to say goodbye to Jean Ann, our most remarkable friend, and even though it is hard for many of us left behind, we will find humor and wisdom in remembering the “Jean Ann Stories”.

Rest in peace, Jean Ann.



This winter Bill and Marjorie Bennett keep in touch with their Alabama roots. These lovely Camellias, the Alabama state flower, adorn their front yard in Bryant, Arkansas.

Photos by Dianna McCullough

Annual Master Gardener Plant Sale, April 20th

by Phil McConnell

It is hard to imagine, but our annual plant sale scheduled for April 20th is only four months away. Even though it is still cold, now is the time to begin planning to get your plants ready. Plants should be potted in 4" or larger pots with the exception of succulents or other similar small plants. Bruce has obtained 4" round and square pots that have been donated to the group for everyone to use.

The plant brigade has been at work dividing plants. If you have some plants that need to be divided or if you need help preparing your plants, contact Bruce or Phil.

This year, the plant sale will be located in the rodeo arena at the Saline County Fairgrounds. There is a paved area around the concession stand on the west end of the arena that should give our customers a good shopping experience. The plant sale committee has met at the arena and discussed various layouts for the sale.

In the weeks ahead we will be assembling our team of workers for the day of the sale. We will need cashiers, cashier helpers, checkout helpers, workers for plant holding and plant delivery, floor workers, and greeters. If you have a favorite area to work, contact Phil. In preparation for the sale we also need a group of artists to prepare the signs for the sale.

The plant sale is an event that the community looks forward to. We need everyone working together to make our sale the best it can be.



Welcome our 2019 Officers!



Sandra Porter, President

Sandy Rial, Treasurer

Becky Denison, Parliamentarian

Sherry Faulkner, Vice President

Judy Kittler, Secretary

SCMG Monday Night at the Library

**Monday, February 4th 6:30pm at the Bob Herzfeld Memorial Library,
1800 Smithers Drive, Benton**



Monday, February 4th Damon Helton will give a presentation on the **Armed to Farm** program, which provides sustainable agriculture training for military veterans. After serving as an Army Ranger, Damon started a farm in Saline County with his family, where they raise grass-fed beef, forested hogs and pastured broilers, as well as a wide variety of vegetables. They also have a small retail business, Olde Crow General Store, where they sell the food they raise along with other locally grown products.

Holiday Light Tour

by Dianna McCullough

Members of Saline County Master Gardeners enjoyed a very pleasant December 1 evening at Garvan Gardens Holiday Lights tour. 18 acres were lit up in a dazzling array of color. Just before dusk, some of the members were able to visit the Tree House, the newest addition to the park. This amazing structure is an architectural wonder that floats between a small group of pines and oaks.



When darkness fell, the group followed the pathways either on foot or in a six-man cart with a trusted driver. Some of the favorite displays were the Dandelion Field which was an expanse of multi-colored globes that dance in the musical wind; the Fluttering Butterflies and Animated Frog was another favorite; the Blue and White Sea Serpent by the Koi pond glowed a brilliant blue. The 50 ft. tall Rose Tree with it's new 13,000 RGB lights that featured an animated musical light routine was the highlight of the garden tour.



The 2019 Master Gardener Conference will be April 30, 2019, at Hempstead Hall, UACCH Campus, Hope, AR.

Early registration for Active MGs, Lifetime and County Agents is January 15th – March 1st at the MG Only website. Early registration cost: \$50.00 .

February 1 - March 1 is early registration for Sustainer MGs, MGs on Leave of Absence, spouses, guests and MGs from other states.

Regular Registration continues as space is available from March 2 - March 29 with the final day to register or cancel with a refund being March 29. Regular registration rate is \$75.00.

<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/mgonly/mg-conferences.aspx>

Upcoming County 76 Advanced Master Gardener Training

To be eligible to attend an Advanced Master Gardener Class, you must be an active MG, in good standing in your county program, and be a Master Gardener for three years or more (calendar year used). More and more Master Gardeners are eligible for the program each year and are asking for advanced courses.

Master Gardeners: Faithful Stewards of the Environment March 8 & 9, (Fri. – Sat.) 2019 Cost: \$51.00, Registration Deadline: February 15, 2019
Hosted by Crittenden County MG Program, West Memphis, AR.

MARCH 26 (Tues) – 27 (Wed) – Faulkner County: Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives;

MAY 31 (Friday) – Pulaski County: H2O: How to Protect , Preserve and Conserve our Water.

For more information and to register:

<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/county-76/advanced-mg.aspx>

Save the Date - Upcoming Events

January 22, Tuesday 10am - 3pm

County 76 Quarterly Meeting, Little Rock State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 South University Ave. Email Linda Soffer by January 16th if you plan to attend, Isoffer@gmail.com

January 26, 9am – 12pm

Garden Thyme Seminar, Magnolia, AR. \$10.00 admission, registration 8am-9 am. Vendors, UAEX mobile plant lab. Calvary Baptist Church, 80 US-79

Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

March 1-3 at the State Fairgrounds, 2600 Howard Street, Little Rock. To volunteer, contact Julie Kerr.

<https://argardenshow.org/>

The 2019 Master Gardener Conference

will be **April 30, 2019**, at Hempstead Hall, UACCH Campus, Hope, AR. Register at the MG Only website.

2019 International Master Gardener Conference June 18th - 21st, 2019

Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots

Early Registration Opens late November 2018

Advanced Training – March 8 (Crittenden Co.), March 26&27 (Faulkner Co.), May 31 (Pulaski Co.)

Announcements

New Master Gardener Member Training will be January 31 – February 28 (every Thursday) Pat Gibson and Bruce Schrader will present on February 21st

Our trip committee is planning a Master Gardener trip to Tulsa June 6th - 8th. Planned stops include the Native American Museum in Tahlequah, the Woody Guthrie Museum, a Botanical Garden, and the Southwood Garden Center.

Project Leaders, please send an article about your project, along with a picture, to Leesa Oakes for the newsletter at supernova70@gmail.com

Articles and information for our newsletter are welcome and appreciated! Please send them to Leesa Oakes at supernova70@gmail.com.

2019 Master Gardener Officers

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