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The Official Newsletter
of the
Saline County
Master Gardeners

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Saline County Master Gardeners UAEX



The Ground Breaker



Winter Gardening

By Pat Gipson

Winter months in our gardens always bring a little sadness. Everything or most things look dead because they are! However, it's a great time to study the "nakedness" of our landscapes. Winter provides a bare-boned perspective which allows us to rethink some of our plantings, their locations, color and size, as well as the hardscapes.

Some plants that provide great interest in winter include Windmill Palms, Weeping Mulberry and Harry Lauder's Walking Stick. They are especially interesting when covered with snow. The palm fronds wave in the wind, the weeping limbs of the Mulberry resemble chandeliers, and the Walking Stick is just plain awesome with its upward twisting limbs that look like fireworks! Placing these alone as specimen plantings gives them the attention they deserve.

Don't forget about deciduous plants that provide beautiful color like a Red Twig Dogwood. Colorful plants like this are magnificent in winter when planted en masse.

New perspectives in the garden are good. They afford us the opportunity to see things in a new way. In life, new perspectives afford us the opportunity to adjust our attitudes and move on, and winter is a great time to do all of that.

Happy winter gardening!

Our next **MG meeting** will be 9:00am **Saturday, February 16th** at the Bishop Park Center, 6401 Boone Road, Bryant. **Ron Matlock** will give a presentation on **crape myrtles**, and will demonstrate how to prune them.

June 2019 SCMG Trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma

By Kathy Lewallen

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 Center, Tulsa Botanic Garden, and the Southwood Garden Center.



Friday, June 7th, we will visit the Gilcrease Museum (gilcrease.org), former home of oilman and Creek native, Thomas Gilcrease. Established in 1955, the museum has a large collection of American West paintings, sculpture, and native American artifacts as well as 23 acres of gardens that reflect the American West periods: Pre-Columbian, Pioneer, Colonial, and Victorian. Friday evening we head to Woody Guthrie Center and Guthrie Green, dedicated to the life and legacy of American folk musician, social activist, and singer/songwriter Woody Guthrie, a native son of Oklahoma. Guthrie Green was formerly a site of urban decay but has been revamped into a park, entertainment space, shops, and restaurants.

During our trip, the Arkansas Travelers will be playing the Tulsa Drillers at Oneok Field.

We hope you make plans for this fun trip. There is a \$75 deposit for members and \$100 deposit for guests, due after our March meeting. For more information or to sign up, contact Kathy Lewallen or Selena Ellis. To learn more about the area, go to www.visittulsa.com.

SCMG Monday Night at the Library

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



Dennis Vire, President of the **Saline County Beekeepers Association**, will give a presentation March 4th on **Beekeeping and the Arkansas Beekeepers Association (ABA)**, which is dedicated to bringing quality education to Arkansas beekeepers. <http://arbeekeepers.org/clubs/salineco.html>

Our last library program, **Armed to Farm** by Damon Helton, received a lot of compliments from attendees. After serving as an Army Ranger, Helton started the Farm at Barefoot Bend in Lonsdale with his family, where they grow a variety of vegetables as well as cows, hogs, goats, chickens, and guineas. Helton received assistance through several farming programs including Armed to Farm, which provides sustainable agriculture training for military veterans. Visitors are welcome to tour their farm. You can contact the Heltons at Olde Crow General Store, their small country store and café. For more information, see www.facebook.com/oldecrowgeneralstore.

Fidelity Communications filmed the program and if you are a Fidelity customer you can see it Thursday morning at 9am on channel 6.

Update on Our Master Gardener Plant Sale, April 20th

by Phil McConnell

With the recent warm weather I hope that you have had the opportunity to get some of your plants started for the plant sale. The sale will be here before we know it.

This year the plant sale committee discussed having some educational booths during the sale. Some suggestions have been to have booths for butterflies, herbs, and native plants. If you have another idea and would like to host an educational booth, contact Margaret Regnier or Sandra Porter. In addition to the education information, we would like to have the appropriate plants for sale at each of the educational booths. So think about bringing some herbs, plants for butterflies, or native plants.



Succulents would also be a good choice to bring for the sale. Succulents have been fairly popular since they are unique and easy to grow. If you bring succulents for the sale, please put them in an appropriately-sized pot that fits your plant, rather than using our standard 4-inch pots. You can pick up pots for your plants at our Master Gardener meeting February 16th, or you can contact Bruce Schrader to arrange a time to get them.

Please plan to help at the plant sale. This is a good opportunity to share your knowledge of plants with our community. If you have a preference of where to help at the plant sale (cashier, holding area, line worker, etc.) contact Phil at phil.jill@att.net, or 501-831-4781.

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. Program topics include Composting, Green solutions for gardening habits, Making an ant moat for hummingbirds, Using succulents in the landscape, and Faulkner County’s recycling program.

MARCH 26th – 27th (Tues–Wed) Faulkner County: Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives (Class is full)

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



For more information about these programs and to register:
<https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/county-76/advanced-mg.aspx>

Save the Date - Upcoming Events

Azalea Society meeting 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Tuesday, Feb 12th at Salem United Methodist Church, 1647 Salem Road, Benton. The program will include a hands-on workshop for growing azaleas from cuttings through final placement in your garden. There will also be a presentation on Chinese Huang azaleas. For more information on the Azalea Society, visit www.azaleas.org.

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. Early registration for Active MGs, Lifetime and County Agents is January 15th – March 1st. Early registration cost is \$50.00. To register, visit <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/mgonly/>

2019 International Master Gardener Conference June 18th-21st, 2019
Penn's Woods: Digging into our Roots. For more information, go to <http://www.internationalmastergardener.com>

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

Announcements

New Master Gardener Member Training continues each Thursday through February 28th at the **Garland County Fairgrounds, Hot Springs**. Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the training sessions and these will count for training hours. Lunch is \$10.00. Pat Gipson and Bruce Schrader will present at the February 21st training session.

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.

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