



PNG (Plant-Nurture-Grow) Leadership Conference 2024 Session Synopses August 20 & 21, 2024

MG 101 – Randy Forst, State MG Coordinator & Consumer Horticulture Instructor

Session Description: Learn basic information concerning the Master Gardener Program. (Example: Requirements for annual volunteer hours each year, Leave of Absence and Sustainer defined. Sanctioned and Non-Sanctioned projects defined.)

Cultivating Effective Communication: Two ears, one mouth – Alfi Anderson, Washington Co MG

Session Description: This session will equip Master Gardeners with the essential communication skills needed to enhance teamwork, project success, and overall gardening experience.

QR Codes & Cautions! – Donna Peeples & Debbie Atchison, Garland Co MGs

Session Description: QR codes are a customizable, quick serve method to receive/give additional information about a specific topic! Depending on the software used it can enable tracking of the uses, when where and how many times the site is accessed through this method! The cautions are based on how many unscrupulous ways QR codes can be misused for unauthorized means!

President / Vice President Forum – Linda Soffer, Jefferson Co MG

Session Description: A discussion of officer responsibilities, concerns, and leadership characteristics. Current, new, experienced, or incoming office holders, and those considering becoming an officer in the future are invited and encouraged to discuss various aspects of the offices and to exchange insight and knowledge.

Creating with Canva for Beginners - Amanda Stark, 4-H Prog Assistant and Prairie Co MG

Session Description: Beginner's class for using Canva. Bring your design ideas to life. Newsletters, Facebook Posts, Flyers and More!!!

Meeting Is Like Gardening: From Containers to Landscapes – Jodi Tooke, Garland Co MG

Session Description: Think of all the unproductive meetings you have attended: Meetings where people showed up unprepared, one person dominated the conversation, and everyone left wondering who's going to be held accountable for the next steps. It's kind of like gardening...having the right expertise, the proper tools, a ready habitat, and plants ready to thrive make all the difference in outcomes. Learn how to foster team collaboration, exchange feedback on projects and ideas, and set clear priorities.

MG Mingle – Debora Carpenter

Session Description: Q&A Time and Networking Opportunity.

Catch and Keep - Anita Williams, Lonoke Co MG, Small Co Mimi Cox Mentoring Award

Session Description: If you're a fisherman, then you are familiar with the expression "catch and release" which implies return to their home in the water. In Master Gardeners we want to catch new people to take basic training and keep them as active participants. Mentoring plays a significant role as a bridge moving beyond learning class material to a desire to become an involved member. Let's explore how mentoring aids in success for all involved.

Project Evaluation and Support Team (PEST) – Randy Forst

Session Description: Are you still working on projects begun years before and lacking support or have you been approached about adding new projects? This topic covers the **Definition** of the project, the **Physical Needs** of the project, the **Maintenance** of the project, and **Support** needed for the project.

How to be an Effective Chairperson – Melody Parsley, Pulaski Co MG

Session Description: Or in other words.... How to do your job and make your project volunteers like it?! 😊

Addressing Aging Members – The Importance of Perennials – Rose Ann Houston, White & Independence Co MG

Session Description: We will be discussing the issues and ways to encourage our aging members, Perennials, to stay active within our MG program. Perennials are motivated to meet new people and volunteer their time. After working for many years, they still want to remain active and feel useful. MG is not always just digging in the dirt, as we will explore different possibilities within the MG program.

Helping or Hindrance to Young and Working Master Gardeners? – Kay Roberts, Lonoke Co MG

Session Description: We have given them the tools to begin their journey as a Master Gardener. They have a textbook plus all those books from the Extension Service. Now what? You need to keep them! Are you ready to learn what opportunities abound?

We will look at the good, the bad and the whys. Let's work together to keep this resource of Master Gardeners for our counties.

Trip Planning Made Easy – Michelle Mobley, CEA Staff Chair, Lonoke Co MG

Session Description: Take the stress out of planning your next trip. Learn tips and tricks to make trip planning easier.

Fun Photo Fundamentals – Mike Wilbanks, Craighead Co MG

Session Description: Do you want to have more fun and much less tension while taking photographs? All it takes is a little know-how, experimentation, adventure, and a dash of experience. This presentation contains ten fundamentals to achieve your goal of making photography fun. Grab your camera and let's start nurturing your individual style.

The Wonders of the MG Website– Julie Treat, Program Associate – Horticulture

Session Description: In this session you will get a glimpse of the many pages of information for the state Master Gardener Program, horticulture, and other program areas the U of A Cooperative

Extension Service provides for all Arkansans. The answer to your question may just be a click away.

Meeting Minutes: What's a Secretary to Do! – Jackie Leech, Craighead Co MG

Session Description: Minutes of meetings are the official record of your group meeting. When elected Secretary, taking Minutes is part of the job description. So, how do I do it? What do I include? Do I have to include every word said? Do I do just an outline and leave it at that? These questions will be discussed and answered in our session.

Creating PowerPoints – Becky Gibson, Pulaski Co MG

Session Description: Information for Master Gardener members and leaders who are interested in using PowerPoint as a presentation tool successfully. All levels of users are welcome – whether you are a beginner, experienced user, or working at the expert level. PowerPoint elements, design considerations, planning strategies, best practices, and outside-the-box uses for slide makers will be part of this session. We will share resources for continued learning, too.

Dealing with Prickly Pears and Snapdragons – Randy Forst

Session Description: Join Randy in this session to gain insight to navigate differences of opinion in your program with a positive outcome.

How to Incorporate Educational Aspects into a Project – Diann Arington, Shar Becker, Linda Fleming, Marty Lynch – Garland Co MGs

Session Description: Each of these MGs have a unique approach to entering education into their unique projects. Some are planned and some are not planned. Join us for thought provoking ideas for your MG project education dilemma.

Youth Gardening Program Opportunities – Julie Treat

Session Description: In this session we will discuss several youth gardening curriculums/structures that are available and show a few ways to incorporate youth gardening "in a minute" into short time opportunities you may encounter with youth in your community. (Not everyone has a couple of hours for an after-school program or an hour they can teach in a school once a month. But one can teach sound gardening techniques or ideas to kids to pique their interest into learning more about gardening.)

MG Mingle – Gail McClure, Garland and Hot Spring Co MG

Session Description: Q&A Time and Networking Opportunity.

ROUND-ROBIN DISCUSSIONS

- a. **What RRR is All About – Hilde Simmons, Garland Co MG**
- b. **Master What? – Marketing Master Gardeners – Sandy Puckett, Admin Specialist and MG, Lonoke Co**
- c. **How To Move Your Idea For A New Project To Reality – Pam Abrams, Pulaski Co MG**
- d. **AR MG Awards Nominations – Liz Hale, Washington Co MG**
- e. **Nominating Committee Duties – Rose Ann Houston, Independence & White Co MG**
- f. **Mentoring and Recognition – New Stars & Bright Stars – Mimi Cox, Craighead Co MG**
- g. **How to get People to Step Up – Becky Gibson, Pulaski Co MG**
- h. **Where & How to Find Educational Programs, Richard Klerk, Faulkner Co**