



AFGC Avenues and Adventures

Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



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Greetings from our AFGC President, 2021-2023



Terri Waterman

Hello garden club members. I hope you, and your gardens, are surviving these heat waves we are having. Some days there doesn't seem to be enough water in the ground or the container for my plants, no matter how much I water. One thing that has helped somewhat is moving a lot of my hanging baskets and containers into the shade for a few days. Even the sun lovers need some shade in July and August in Arkansas.

I'm keeping my fingers crossed we get a break in the weather, and hopefully some rain too.

I hope everyone plans to attend our Mid-Year Board Meeting in Jonesboro on August 8-9. Our guest speaker, Janet Carson, is always someone I look forward to hearing; she's so informative and entertaining.

If you missed the registration form in *The Arkansas Gardener*, we are working on getting it uploaded to our AFGC website, arkansasfgc.net, for easy access. Hopefully, you have had time to talk to other garden club members and think about the dues increase proposal that will be voted on at the August Mid-

Year meeting. A background article was provided in *The Arkansas Gardener*, June issue. Perhaps it will help with your deliberation.

Don't forget to bring garden related items and plants for Ways & Means. Plan to take some things home! There will be a variety of interesting items and plants.

After the Mid-Year meeting we can start looking forward to our district meetings throughout October and the first week of November. It's a busy time for me, but I enjoy travelling around the state for the meetings. It's always a wonderful time of the year, also. Please think about making time in your busy schedules to attend at least your own district's meeting this year. You will really enjoy it.

Please take care while outside during this oppressive heat and stay hydrated.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Terri

The National Gardener, summer issue, is now on the NGC website. Take time to look through it. There are some great articles, and the pictures in it are beautiful. They do a wonderful job and share so many interesting things with our gardeners and designers. Enjoy!



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\$10.00

Vision of Beauty Calendar



Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mid-Year Board Meeting

“Reap What You Sow”

Hosted by Northeast District

August 8-9, 2022

Hilton Garden Inn, Jonesboro, Arkansas

2840 S Caraway Road, 72401

Hopefully you all have found the Mid-Year Board Meeting Registration Form in *The Arkansas Gardener*, June, 2022 issue. We appreciate the planning and hard work done by this district under the direction of Holly Bacon. Please complete a Registration Form and send to Holly. There will be no refunds after July 25th.

All are invited to attend “Creativity 101”, presented by Judges Council members Monday night at 6pm. Plan to have lunch on Tuesday and enjoy one of Janet Carson’s outstanding programs. We are so fortunate to have her visit with us.

Packets will be available for club presidents and AFGC officers and chairmen. These will be partial packets as your current one had a lot of information for two years. District Directors are reminded to collect any left over packets and mail them as soon as possible to folks in their districts.

We look forward to hearing about the SCR meeting and the NGC meeting held in the spring. The pictures shared with us were fantastic. It seems that our meetings get better and better each year. We are indeed fortunate to have such capable leaders in our state, region, and national levels.

AFGC OFFICE NEEDS YOUR HELP

It is not really necessary that I remind you of the past two years and the ups and downs we have had in our clubs, churches, visits to doctors, etc. Many things changed in many ways and we have all been cautious with activities and social gatherings. Just when we think we can put this behind us and move on, we have an outbreak in an area that effects most of us. We get a little discouraged and have to wonder if this will ever end.

Most of our clubs are moving along and our office has received membership lists for 2022-2023 from most of you. I’m lacking a membership list from about ten clubs. I have contacted these club presidents and have asked them to update and send their list as soon as possible. It is a perfect time for me to do my best with cleaning up our mailing list for *The Arkansas Gardener*. You have heard me whine about this task before. Christina, our friend at Magna IV publishers, says I’ll never have the list 100% correct. I’m sure she is correct, but I continue to try.

—Bobbie Verser, AFGC Office Manager

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL INFORMATION

Flower Show School, Course III

August 15-18, 2022

Hillcrest Hall, 1501 Kavanaugh Blvd., LR, 72205

Rose Knight, Flower Show School Chairman

jkknight@suddenlink.net

Flower Show School, Course IV, March, 2023

\$\$ ~ WAYS AND MEANS ~ \$\$

As you make your plans to attend the Mid-Year Board meeting in August, don’t forget to take some time to look through the garage or storage shed. Do you see anything that some of our gardeners or designers might be able to use? (One man’s trash is another’s treasure.)

Do you have any plants that might need to be thinned out or separated? Sell them at our meeting and help our General Fund grow.



BE THE ENEMY, NOT THE VICTIM OF MOSQUITOES

Mosquitoes are the vectors for numerous diseases afflicting humans. According to the American Mosquito Control Association, over one million people die from mosquito-borne diseases yearly. More than any other organism, mosquitoes cause more human suffering. Diseases associated with mosquitoes are malaria, chikungunya, dog heartworm,

dengue, yellow fever, eastern equine encephalitis, St. Louis encephalitis, La Crosse encephalitis, West Nile virus, and zika virus.

To wage a successful strategic attack against the Enemy, you must be knowledgeable of the mosquito. Mosquitoes are attracted to humans' body sweat and carbon dioxide (what we exhale). Sweating is part of the human body's cooling system. If people cannot sweat, they will become overheated and may contract heat stroke and perish. People need to sweat or, as the ladies would say, "perspire." Breathing also is a vital function of the body -- we can't change that! We can wear long pants, long skirts, and long-sleeved shirts with tight weaves to prevent mosquito penetration. Mosquitoes generally swarm close to the ground and view upward toward the sky. You may want to wear light-colored clothing during the day and dark-colored clothing at night. Mosquitoes are easily blown away by the wind. The peak time they attack is at dusk or dawn when the wind is calm. On the patio, fans blowing away from you are a great deterrent! Remove their breeding areas of small pools of water. Even the shallowest pool of water may have hundreds of mosquito larvae growing.

Make plants that mosquitoes detest a part of your landscape. Basil (*Ocimum americanum*), bee balm (*Monarda*), catmint (*Nepeta x faassenii*), catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), cedar (*Thuja* spp.), floss flowers (*Ageratum*), garlic (*Allium sativum*), lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), Mexican marigold (*Tagetes lucida*), eucalyptus, mint (*Mentha*), pineapple weed (*Matricaria*), pitcher plant (*Nepenthes alata*), wormwood (*Artemisia*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and sage (*Salvia officinalis*) are a few to stand guard in your landscape. Rosemary and sage burnt at a campfire will deter mosquitoes.

Remedies that do not work are citronella candles; ultrasonic devices; eating bananas or garlic; mouthwash rubbed on your skin; high tech-traps, and DEET-scented bracelets.

DEET does work if used properly. Spray a little on your hands, then rub where the skin is thin, such as ankles, elbows, wrists, and forehead. DEET can cause allergic reactions, but it is rare. Be cautious.

Remember: Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism. Don't be a victim! Be on the offensive and take the battle to the mosquito!

—Donna Roach, NGC 2nd Vice President, May, 2022

Norma Haralson, AFGC Recycle Chairman, is encouraging our members to bring pop tabs to the Mid-Year Board meeting in Jonesboro in August.



What's the Difference Between Meyer Lemons and Regular Lemons?

In the depths of winter and into the early spring, there's a bright sparkle if you know where to look: Meyer lemons hitting the shelves of the produce section. But just what is it that makes these lemons so special? And are they really *that* different from regular lemons?

- **Regular lemons:** When we talk about regular or common lemons, we're usually referring to Eureka or Lisbon lemons. These are the two most common lemon varieties found in the produce section.
- **Appearance** – Compared to their Meyer counterparts, regular lemons are noticeably larger in size, with thick, textured, bright, sunny skin, and medium yellow pulp.
- **Taste** – There's a reason most of us don't eat them out of hand — regular lemons are highly acidic. They're moderately sweet, but known for a tang that will make your mouth pucker.
- **Availability** – While there are certain times of year that trees will bear more fruit, regular lemons know no season. You'll find them readily available in the produce section all year long.
- **Meyer lemons**, on the other hand, were first introduced to the United States from China in the early 20th century by Frank Meyer, from whom they also got their name. This sweet winter citrus is thought to be a cross between a regular lemon and a mandarin orange. And that's what really sets it apart.
- **Appearance** – Meyer lemons are smaller and more round than regular lemons, with smoother, thin, deep yellow to orange skin, and dark yellow pulp. The differences are very distinct, especially when you see both varieties side by side.
- **Taste** – While they're moderately acidic, Meyer lemons don't have the same tang as regular lemons. Instead, they're much sweeter — so much so that some people enjoy adding the raw segments to their salads or desserts. Their rinds also have a more complex scent than regular lemons — a spicy bergamot fragrance that tastes and smells more like an herb or a spice.
- **Availability** – While regular lemons are readily available all year long, Meyer lemons are more seasonal. Your best bet for finding them is from December through May.

Can They Be Substituted for Each Other? Yes, in most cases. Both Meyer lemons and regular lemons can be used in the same ways. You can juice them for cocktails, spritzers, or a vinaigrette, and use the pulp or zest for an array of sweet and savory dishes alike. Just remember that regular lemons lack the sweetness of Meyer lemons. So, regular lemons will add a stronger acidity, while Meyer lemons will add more sweetness to a recipe.

—Kelli Foster, Senior Contributing Food Editor for 'The Kitchn'

REMINDER...

The Arkansas Judges Symposium is open to all members of garden clubs and members of the public. Only Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges are eligible to take the course for credit.

The Symposium will be held September 28-29, at the C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H Center in Little Rock. Nancy Voyles is President of the Arkansas Judges Council. Terri Waterman is the Symposium Chairman and Registrar. Contact either of them if you need more information about this event.

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"Anyone who stops learning is old,
whether at twenty or eighty.
Anyone who keeps learning stays young!"
—Henry Ford

IMPORTANT DATES...

NGC Tour: HAWAII. Jan. 28– Feb 6, 2023

Contact: Mary Ann Bryant

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Cumming, GA 30041

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