

JAN-FEB 2025 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

MGWC Holiday Celebration 2024 Awards & Recognitions





The December MGWC General Meeting was a true party as we celebrated the Christmas Season and honored our many award recipients. The evening featured a scrumptious "breakfast for dinner" themed buffet, a "larger than life" holiday decoration silent auction and

concluded with everyone's favorite "right and left" gift exchange. Page 2 of this issue features the many recipients of awards highlighting the accomplishments of MGWC members in 2024!





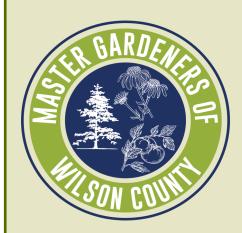






In This Issue:

Feature Article, pp.1-2 Presidents Note, p.3 Media Review, p.4 Tennessee Tree Day, p.4 General Meeting Recap, p.5 New Badges, p.6 Green Thumb Workshop, p.6 Spring Fest Plant Sale, p.6 The Garden Buzz, p.7 The Recipe Box, p.8 Meet the Master Gardener, p.9 Native Plant Symposium, p. 9 January Poem, p.9 Project Special Highlights, p. 10 **Volunteer Opportunities, p.11 UT Ext Garden Calendar, p.11** MGWC Upcoming Events, p.12 Home & Garden Expo, p.13 Committee Contacts, p.13





This newsletter supports the Tennessee Extension Master Garden Program in providing research-based, innovative and usable horticulture information to all Tennessee residents through a dedicated and skilled volunteer network.

2024 Awards & Recognitions









Annual recognition of members who performed volunteer hours of 100, 200, 300 or 400 in 12 months from Nov 1- Oct 31. **100 Hours:** Lori Bornholtz, Theresa Brown, Sara Chodl, Suzanne Dunn, Patrick Fannin, Peggy Fannin, Vicki Folsom, Maryann Hicks, Ed Jacobs, Jennifer Johnson, Linda Kovacs, Barbara Nissel, Shene Scott, Alex Scott Sr., MaryJo Shockley, Gina Stayshich, Patti Stein, Carol Walenga, Debbie Williams, Deb Williams. **200 Hours:** Linda Lauthern, Rosemary Marshall, Carol Stroud, Connie Williams, Karla Clark, Joni Wohnrade **300 Hours:** Tina Benson, Tonya Gardner, Mark Holysz, Deanna Jackson, Marianne Pelletier **400 Hours:** David Bates



Pam Pulley Award



Given to the MGWC member who performed the most volunteer hours in the current calendar year. The recipient has their name added to the Pam Pulley plaque that hangs in the Master Gardener building in Fiddler's Grove.

2024 Recipient: David Bates

President's Award



Chosen by the MGWC President, these Master Gardeners have made a significant contribution to the organization over the current year. Recipient has their name added to the President's Award plaque that hangs in the Master Gardener building in Fiddler's Grove. 2024 Recipients: Mark Holysz and Marianne Pelletier



10 Years of Service: David Bates, William Brooks, Susie Butler, Patricia Hoag, David Vowell

15 Years of Service: Carol Benson, Veronica Gammons, Doris Garrison, Barbara Martinez, Marianne Smith, Dwayne Smith, Carol Walenga, Jan Whitaker

20 Years of Service: David Greer & Mary McDougle

Years of Service Awards

This award highlights those members who have served as a valuable part of MGWC for 10, 15, 20 and even 25 years!



Holiday & Award photos courtesy of Lori Bornholtz & Tonya Gardner



Many years ago, 1991 to be exact, I came to own a Christmas cactus. It was one of the flowers that was sent for my Dad's funeral. It was in a foil wrapped pot so I bought a pretty little ceramic pot to put it in. It sat on a window sill and I watered it once a week. Life was busy so I didn't think much about it. A few years later, I had little kids and didn't have much time for taking care of plants. I was just trying to keep my little girls alive! Also, I didn't really know much

about house plants to be honest. I watered it and occasionally (rarely) gave it some plant food. It was a healthy enough plant. It didn't bloom every year, in fact, it hardly ever bloomed more than one or two blossoms, but the foliage was pretty and it looked nice as part of our home décor. I'm a little embarrassed to say that Christmas cactus stayed in the same little pot for well over 20 years.

Several years back, I decided that maybe I should re-pot that little plant. I had a couple of larger pottery pieces to choose from but no middle sized pots so I gave that little plant quite the upgrade! Within a month that Christmas cactus had spread out, put on new growth, and looked as if it had always belonged in that big pot. My husband and I marveled that it had even fit in the smaller pot. How could it have been only a month since it was repotted? It was like some magic-growing fairy dust had been sprinkled on it! That fall, it started blooming in October and didn't stop producing blooms until April. Not just one or two blooms... it was LOADED down with beautiful hot pink double blossoms! It has bloomed like that every year since! That's when it dawned on my dumb little brain: Plants will only grow as big as the pots we plant them in. I had never even thought about that concept before, but WOW! That principle can be applied in so many areas of life.

As we look at a new year of being Master Gardeners of Wilson County, maybe we should keep this concept in mind. As we take on new projects and expand the ones we already have in place, we will grow! True, we will grow by adding new Master Gardener interns this year, which is a great thing, but I'm not



talking about growing in numbers so much. It's really about the growth that takes place when we try new things, learn new skills, and don't allow ourselves to get stuck in a rut. We should take the opportunity to visit other projects, work with different Master Gardeners, learn new techniques, and gain new appreciation for the work others do. When a plant is root bound, its growth is restricted. Often we stick with what we know because we are comfortable in our little pots, but that isn't where the growth happens. I want to encourage you to incorporate something new this year in your Master Gardener volunteer hours or CEU credits. Let's expand our range of vision and allow ourselves to blossom and grow like never before.

Growing together,

Tonya Gardner



A Year and a Day On Just a Few Acres

by Peter Larson

Peter Larson and his wife, Hillarie, own a 45 acre farm in a farming community near Ithaca, New York. The farm is a 7th generation family farm, having been deeded as a Revolutionary War plot. Peter, a successful architect, left his job

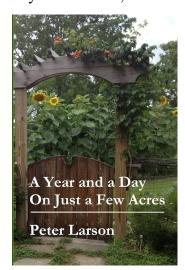
at 44 years of age to renovate the family farmhouse and revitalize the family farm. They longed for a change and an opportunity to go back to his family's roots.

Peter writes about the struggles of small scale farming, though his delivery is optimistic and positive. Much of that comes from a can-do disposition, and a commitment to live in a self-reliant fashion, striving to minimize reliance on outside sources. Peter recounts their decisions to rebuild the farm prioritizing family involvement, mini-

mal debt, careful expense management and less reliance on banks. He shares stories of raising chickens, turkeys, pigs, Dexter cattle, and garden produce in the local farmer's market and building relationships in the community that they both cherish and rely on.

A Few Acres Farm is built upon sustainable practices and regenerative farming techniques. Their livestock is pasture raised and their farming practices are healthier for the soil, producing an end product that is high quality. It is also healthier for the farm budget because they are devoted to a do-it-yourself existence, repairing their own equipment, growing their own hay, producing most of their own electricity, and heating their home with their own firewood. They eat what they raise and grow, and sell the excess to the community.

This is truly an inspirational book for those looking to homestead. It is down-to-earth textbook for those seeking a self-reliant lifestyle. Their work ethic is to "farm creatively by combining traditional farming values with progressive ideas", but to maintain a flexibility that allows them to pivot to other techniques when necessary.





Reserve your native trees now through March 2nd, 2025. You will pick up your trees on March 14th or March 15th and plant them on

Tennessee Tree Day, March 15th!

MGWC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

MARCH 12, 13 AND 15

SIGN UP AT MEETINGS OR ONLINE AT

WILSONCOUNTYMG.ORG

RESERVE YOUR TREES AT: TECTN.ORG
YOU MAY ORDER ONLINE UNTIL MARCH 2ND

General Membership Meeting Recap

2025 started with a bang with January's general membership meeting. The gathering was held in the Arnett Education building at the Wilson County Fairgrounds. The theme was our annual Chili Cook-off, and after our crew sampled many entries and cast many votes, this year's winner was Rosemary Marshall with her delicious Vegetarian Chili! (You can find Rosemary's recipe featured on page 8). The awards were presented by stellar Cook-Off Coordinators MaryJo Shockley and Peggy Fannin.

Our guest speaker was Jason Reeves. Jason grew up on a farm in West Tennessee, where he fell in love with the plant world. He received a Master's in Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design from the University of Tennessee. In 2002, he became a research horticulturist and curator of the University of Tennessee Gardens in Jackson. Jason's colorful plant combinations and unique garden art, made by recycling everyday objects, draw thousands of people to the Center each year. When he's not bringing the grounds to life with his imaginative garden displays, he's evaluating new plants for the state's green industry, speaking at gardening symposiums, and serving as a contributing editor to Fine Gardening magazine. In 2021 he bought a 45-acre farm where he has planted over 12,000 daffodils and hundreds of trees and shrubs. You can follow him on Facebook at Jason Reeves – in the garden.





Jason Reeves captivated MGWC members with his presentation on "Hydrangea Hysteria".

Photos courtesy of Tonya Gardner

chili Cook-Off

















NEW MEMBERS/BADGES/PINS



Congratulations to our latest new green badge recipient Kelly Darpino, awarded at the Dec General Meeting

Photo courtesy of Lori Bornholtz



JOIN US FOR A FUN, HANDS-ON GARDENING WORKSHOP!



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM MASTER GARDENER BLDG IN FIDDLERS GROVE



- 2 WORKSHOPS/1 PRICE:
- **SEED STARTING 10 AM**
- **THEME GARDENING-11 AM**



- Includes materials and snack
- Open to the Wilson Co. community LIMITED SPACE

TO SAVE YOUR SPACE, CONTACT TONYA GARDNER: PRESIDENT@WILSONCOUNTYMG.ORG

Master Gardeners of Wilson County



Proceeds from the Plant Sale goes towards the Master Gardener projects in Fiddlers Grove.

Follow us on Facebook @springfestinthegrove Fiddlers Grove Historic Village 945 E. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087





The Old Mill

By Tonya Gardner

In November, my family and I traveled to Central Arkansas to visit family and friends. One of the stops we always make when we visit is to The Old Mill in North Little Rock. This hidden gem is located about 2 blocks from the house where I grew up. I played there often during my growing up years, and my husband even proposed to me at The Old Mill in 1988. Our daughters had many photos taken there as they were growing up, and on this trip, we brought our grandson Henry for his first visit! It is a rite of passage in our family and a destination we hold dear.



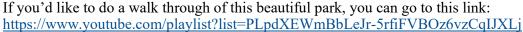
Built in 1933 under the direction of developer Justin Matthews, the mill is not a working mill, but resembles the early Arkansas grist mills of the 1800s. The grist millstone on the first floor dates back to 1828 and some of the stones used in the construction of the mill were milestones moved from a nearby road laid out more than 150 years ago by Jefferson Davis. Several sections of wrought iron used in the building were cut from the stern of a steamboat that traveled the Arkansas River in the early 1800s.

Wood-like benches, bridges and structures throughout the park are actually heavy duty concrete sculptures designed and built by the world famous sculptor Señor Dionicio Rodriguez.

He used an art technique called Faux Bois that mimics the look of wood. He was so secretive about his process that no written plans or mixture formulas exist. In recent years, his great nephew was commissioned to make some necessary renovations using his special techniques. His structures are truly works of art!

The opening scene of Gone with the Wind, which was released in 1939, was filmed at the Old Mill. It is believed to be the only remaining structure from the movie. The Old Mill is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

All of the gardens throughout the park are carefully designed and maintained by the Pulaski **County Master Gardeners.** The Old Mill is beautiful in every season. I'm hard pressed to pick a favorite as each season at The Old Mill has its own beauty. I will say that a snowy Old Mill is pretty spectacular, but then the flowers in Spring are breathtaking too, and fall colors as the backdrop of the stone building is stunning as well. Summertime brings the ducks to the lake and the turtles come out to sun themselves, and those are always favorites of the visitors!



















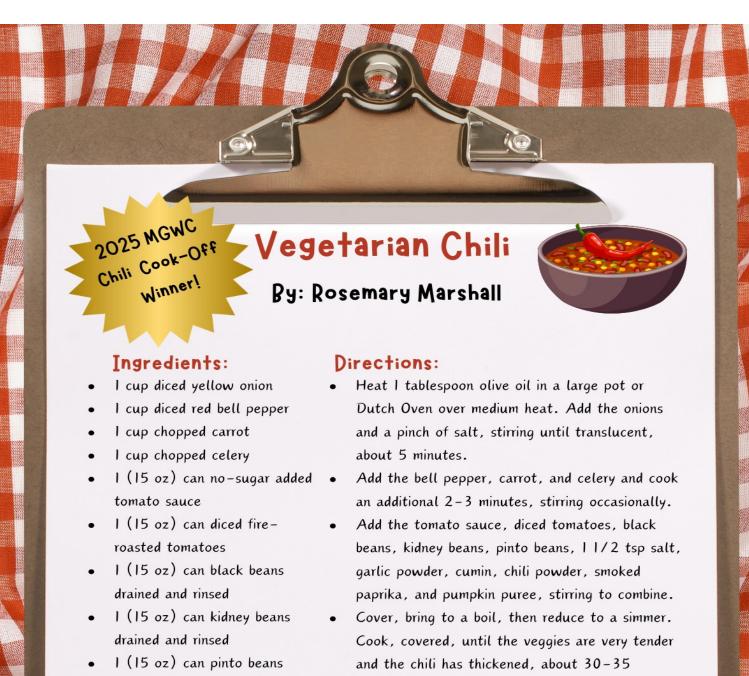












- drained and rinsed
- 1/3 cup pumpkin puree
- 2 tsp kosher salt, divided
- I tsp granulated garlic powder
- I tsp ground cumin
- I tsp mild chili powder
- I tsp smoked paprika
- I tbsp fresh lime juice
- 2 tbsp hot sauce (optional)

- minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Uncover, stir in the lime juice and hot sauce, if using. Taste and add the remaining salt if desired.
- Add toppings such as quacamole, chopped onion, cilantro, jalapeno, avocado, sour cream, cheese, and chips if desired.

MEET THE MASTER GARDENER

Brei Pinzur

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I spent the first part of my life living in Oregon, about an hour from Portland. Then moved to Tennessee!



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLANT TO GROW?

That is a hard one.... I guess any. Although I found I really love perennials the most.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TREE?

Blue spruce (from my childhood) and in Tennessee my favorite trees are Sycamore, red bud, or fruit trees.



DO YOU HAVE A GARDENING TRICK/TIP THAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW?

Use colder months to get structural aspects of your gardens fixed or prepared so you aren't having to do it in our hot summer months.





HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN GARDENING, OR HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INTERESTED IN GARDENING?

I started gardening and native plant identification as a young child with my mom, and have continued to be interested in it.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE VEGETABLE?

My favorite vegetable is snap peas or fresh from the garden asparagus.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FLOWER?

Originally I would say sunflowers or daisies.... however I have a collection of hydrangeas, irises, echinacea, and daffodils.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GARDEN TOOL?

My favorite garden tool is probably a good quality cultivator.



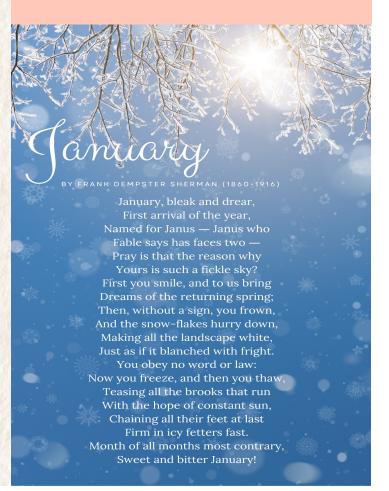
1st Annual Nashville Native Plant Symposium

March 22, 2025

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER
7311 HIGHWAY 100 NASHVILLE, TN 37221

https://warnerparks.org/nashville-native-plant-symposium/

REGISTRATION IS OPEN ON JANUARY 24th!



MASTER GARDENERS OF WILSON COUNTY Volunteer Project Special Highlight

MGWC Honors Our Own Linda Robertson

On December 8, 2024, the Master Gardeners of Wilson County were finally able to celebrate Linda Robertson receiving the Tennessee State Master Gardener of the Year award. The party was held in a lovely conference hall at the beautiful new REI Distribution Center in Lebanon, TN. Many friends and family of Linda came to share in her day, as well as quite a few Master Gardeners.

Guest speakers, such as Amy Ritter, Tina Benson, Debbie Williams, Justin Stefanski, Buddy Ingram, and Natalie Bumgarner shared many kind words about what they've learned from Linda over the years. Linda was presented with her award and a book containing pictures from many years of teaching about native plants and heart-felt tributes to Linda.

> It was a privilege to watch others honor Linda and hear what she means to so many. Her influence is far reaching. We celebrate you, Linda! Congrats on being Tennessee Master Gardener of the Year!



Linda proudly displays her award









Clockwise from upper left: Linda & Natalie Bumgarner, Justin Stefanski, Linda and her proud family, Natalie Bumgarner, MGWC members, family & friends gather to celebrate, Linda poses with retired Cedars of Lebanon State Park Ranger Buddy Ingram



PH

Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities



Projects

- Fiddlers Grove Gardens
 - 16 small gardens
- Fiddlers Grove Demonstration Garden
- Cedars of Lebanon Butterfly Garden
- Native Plant Sale Growing Operation
- Jan Littrell's Labors of Love Community
 Garden at Charlie Daniels Park
- Charlie Daniels Park Monarch Waystation
- Baddour Parkway Aboretum
- Jr. Master Gardeners
- Mount Juliet Public Library Flower Garden
- Pickett Chapel Prayer Garden
- Compassionate Hands
- Vine Branch Fellowship
 - o Multiple School Gardens
 - Summer Camp
 - o HGTV (Fall)
 - o Wilson Co. Help Center
- Lebanon Community and Education Garden

Events

- Spring Fest at Fiddlers Grove
- Tennessee Tree Day
- Native Plant Sale
- Garden Tour & Progressive Dinner
- Wilson County/TN State Fair
 - Multiple Teams
- Farm Days
- 4H Day Camp
- Be Healthy Kids Day Camp
- Green Thumb Workshops



Committees

- Technology Committee
 - Website and email
 - Facebook & Instagram
 - Technology for meetings
- Sound Team
- Scholarship Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Hospitality/Social Committee
- Intern/Mentor Committee
- Executive MGWC Board
- Pickett Chapel Garden Board
- Native Plant Sale Committee
- Garden Tour Committee
- Green Thumb Workshops Committee



Tennessee

Home Truit and

Vegetable Garden

2025 CALENDAR

CLICK HERE TO VIEW FULL CALENDAR

calendar of Events





Mark Your Calendars for lots of great Master Gardener of Wilson County events... and many more events and details to be added in the upcoming

February

Feb 4 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- MG Projects Spotlight 1 CEU
- Italian Dinner for Valentines

Feb 7-8 - Southern Home and Garden Expo Feb 10 - MG Intern Class 6-9 pm East/West Bldg Feb 15 - Green Thumb Workshop - 10am-12pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

Feb 24 - MG Intern Class 6-9pm East/West Bldg Feb 25 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30pm

• MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

March

Mar 4 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm -Veterans Bldg

- Jeff Poppens "the Barefoot Gardener" 1 CEU
- St. Patricks Day Dinner

Mar 10 - MG Intern Class 6-9pm East/West Bldg Mar 12,13,15 - TN Tree Day Work Days

Mar 22 - Apple tree Grafting Class in Bethpage Mar 24 - MG Intern Class 6-9pm East/West Bldg Mar 25 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fidder's Grove

April

weeks and months!

Apr 1 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- Hannah Marcellino o f Whimsical Flower Farm
- 1 CEU Favorite Childhood Meals for Dinner

Apr 5 - Apple Tree Grafting Class in Bethpage
Apr 5 - MG Intern Tours of MG Projects 9am-2pm

Apr 12 - Green thumb Workshop - 102m-12pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

Apr 14 - MG Intern Class 6-9pm East/West Bldg

Apr 28 - MG Intern Class 6-9pm East/West Bldg

Apr 29 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm
 MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

May

May 3 - Spring Fest in the Grove 10am-3pm May 5-6 - Farm Days

May 6 - MGWC Meeting and Intern Graduation

- 6:30 pm Veteran's Bldg
- Clnco De Mayo Dinner

May 17 - Native Plant Sale - 10:00 a.m - 3:00 pm

Cedars of Lebanon State Park - Assembly Hall
 May 27 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

June

June 3 - MGWC Meeting -6:30 pm - Veterans Bldg

- MG Projects Spotlight 1 CEU
- Plant Labeling Workshop w/Debbie Williams
- BBQ Dinner

June 4 - tour of Whimsical Flower Farm 9am-2pm

Hartsville, TN

June 24 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

July

July 1 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- Speaker: TDB
- Summertime Picnic for Dinner

July 29 - Executive Board meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

August

Aug 5 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - 4H/FFA Bldg

- All things Fair with our Fair Friends
- Farm to table Meal

Aug 14-23 TN Wilson County Fair!!!

Aug 26 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

September

Sept 2 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- Speaker: TBD
- tailgating Meal for Dinner

Sept 30 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

october

Oct 7 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Veteran's Bldg

- Speaker: TBD
- Soup and Sandwiches Meal

Oct 28 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

November

Nov 4 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- Speaker: TBD
- Thanksgiving with Friends Dinner

Nov 25 - Executive Board Meeting - 6:30 pm

MG Building in Fiddler's Grove

December

Dec 2 - MGWC Meeting - 6:30 pm - Arnett Bldg

- MG Awards and Christmas Party
- Brinner "Breakfast for Dinner"







Join Us Feb. 7-8, 2025

Take your home to the next level. This year's event will be held on Friday, February 7, from 4 – 8 p.m. and Saturday, February 8, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Expo Center, located at 945 East Baddour Parkway in Lebanon.

Admission is free!

Presented by



"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl.

And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

~ Barbara Winkler



2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Tonya Gardner president@wilsoncountymg.org

VICE PRESIDENT Connie Williams

vicepresident@wilsoncountymg.org

SECRETARY

Sara Chodl secretary@wilsoncountymg.org

TREASURER

Carol Stroud <u>treasurer@wilsoncountymg.org</u>

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Linda McCain

certificationofficer@wilsoncountymg.org

Lucas Holman
County Director
925 East Baddour Parkway Suite 100
Lebanon, TN 37087
Office: 615-444-9584
Email: lholman1@utk.edu

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Tonya Gardner thetonyagardner@gmail.com

STAFF

Lori Bornholtz lamborney@gmail.com **Lauren May** lauren@andymay.com **Kami Norwell** kamikaye37@gmail.com **Connie Williams** connie.g.williams@comcast.net **Deb Williams** debwilliams1950@gmail.com **Fran Strausberg** frans37087@hotmail.com **Sydney McIndoo** sydney.mcindoo@gmail.com **Kate Crawford** katesmilev1@gmail.com **Sherry Phillips** sherrylphillips@gmail.com

Questions, Comments or Article Submissions? Email us at WCMGNewsletter37087@gmail.com