

June 2022

Master Memos

Meeting

Our next regular monthly meeting will be Thursday, June 9, 2022, 5:30 (602 E Jefferson) at the Farmers Market in Texarkana Arkansas.

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please call me at 870-779-3609, email jcaraway@uada.edu or visit our office, located at 1007 Jefferson Ave., Texarkana, AR.



Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent - Staff
Chair/Agriculture

JAC/jm



Bee on Bee Balm
Photo by Theresa Mitzler

2022 Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener Officers

Chead Blue, President

James Lamb, Vice President

Delita Lusk, Treasurer

Sandra Jackson, Secretary

LETTER FROM MCRDMG PRESIDENT, CHEAD BLUE

It is with heavy heart that I write this letter today, and I am sure that you feel the same. One of our most loved members has passed away. I know Charlotte Fuller will be Missed by all of us who have been touched by her kindness and quick humor. She was always ready to take on any task, large or small, and see it to the end with bulldog tenacity.



The Executive Committee will meet Friday, June 3rd at the Extension office. Our monthly meeting will be June 9th and will be held at the Farmers Market- you will need to bring a chair. The meeting will be on Hyerfufa and will be led by our own Master Gardeners and will have a hands-on activity.

The other projects are going along pretty well, and there are opportunities for getting some hours before it gets too hot in the morning for early risers.

"CHARLOTTE: She will be missed and almost impossible to replace!!!"

Red Dirt Master Gardener President, Chead Blue

Basic Lawn Care 101 Class

A Guide to Having a Beautiful Lawn

Space is Limited

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Lawn Mowing
- Fertility Needs
- Weed Management
- Disease Control
- Soil Samples

June 13, 2022

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Miller County Extension Office

1007 Jefferson Avenue

Texarkana, AR 71854

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**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your Miller County Extension Service as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay

To Pre-Register, call 870-779-3609 or email jcaraway@uada.edu



Photo of Clyde Davis at the Gateway Farmers' Market showing children and adults the plants at the Pollinator Garden. It was First Responder Day at the Farmers Market and in cooperation with the Texarkana AR Fire Dept., Clyde was able to get this photo.



RDMG raised the US Flag at Demonstration Garden in observation of Memoria Day. Annette, Anita, Chead, Clyde and Teresa.

Volunteer Time

On-line Reporting System

Please start placing in your hours and getting familiar with the new system. Right now only 26 of you have tried out the new system. You should have received a .pdf on May 12th instructing you on how to access the new system. You can now see how many Sanctioned, Non-sanctioned, and Education hours you have.

Here is an update of how we are doing right now. Current membership is 84; of that 13 are Lifetimers, 56 regular members, 2 on LOA and 13 Trainees. There are 56 of you who have not placed any hours in yet. You do not show to be an active member until you have some hours in the system.

So far this year; 1104.75 sanctioned hours, 118.5 non sanctioned hours and 376.5 education hours have been placed into the on-line system. This is great.

Our top 3 on volunteer hours (sanctioned and non-sanctioned) this month are Chead Blue with 243 hours, Gayle Renfro with 131.25 hours and Doug McBride with 106 hours. Great Job!

Remember that until you put that first hour into the on-line system for the year, you show as inactive (56 of you). What are y'all waiting on??? Also State checks hours monthly for reports, so please place your hours in monthly and don't wait till the end of the year. I really appreciate all of you who place hours in as fast as you can; it makes us look good in the monthly reports.

Per our Executive Committee at February's meeting, we will be going back to normal requirements for certification and recertification. Listed below are required hours.

Trainees (our Annuals): Remember you need 20 Sanctioned hours, 20 Non-sanctioned hours, and 20 hours of Education to become a Certified Master Gardener.

Membership (our Perennials): you need 10 Sanctioned hours, 10 Non-sanctioned hours, and 20 hours of Education for recertification.

Lifetimers: you need 10 Sanctioned hours to keep you years counting.

Remember, all of your hours are important and needed to keep MG programs going. Your hours help get grants for MG programs. State does reports during the year that show how many hours MGs have worked, so do not wait to get your hours in.

Some good ways to get VOLUNTEER hours this month.

Pollinator Garden – check your emails for workdays – contact Annette

Come Grow with us – the Gateway Farmers Market – contact Clyde

Fundraiser/Plant Sale – Propagation of plants at home as long as the plants are for the plant sale. Sometimes it takes a year or more to get a plant ready to sale.

Plant Sale - be sure and count all those hours.

The Newsletter – Try writing an article for the newsletter – your favorite flower or vegetable – a new variety on the market – a new or different way to grow plants. You may also count your research time.

State Conference – *hope you had a great time, now report those hours.*

Everyone but Lifetimers are required 20 hours of education for recertification and certification. There are many ways to get your education hours: monthly program meeting, books, magazines, TV, radio, you tube, on-line courses, MG

Mondays, and one of my favorites the zoom seminars (watch your emails from State for the registration links.) Grow Your Own Groceries. Also, Zooms have started back up. If you miss or cannot watch the live zoom presentation, they send out a recorded form of the presentation, but you must register. Also, there are a number of seminars going on in conjunction with plant sales - again watch your emails for information.

Travel Time

Usually, you do not get to count your time traveling to projects, meetings, etc.; however, when you were moving/bringing items and plants for the Plant Sale you may count all that travel time. It does not matter if you were 5 minutes away or an hour away, count the time. You will put that time under Fundraisers.

If you have any questions or need help reporting your hours please contact Rita or me. You can call me at 972-322-9866, send a text, or send me an email at 7550@yahoo.com; or call Rita at 903-748-5601, send a text, or send her an email at eaglepts2@gmail.com. We will do our best to help. **Please contact Rita or me first for help and not State.**

Andrea

Plant Sale

Teresa Mitzler and Judy Morgan at the plant sale.



Donna Jackson had the help of a wagon for her plant sale haul.



Customer Kim Pyatt is happy with all her plant sale finds as Martha assists her.

Photos by Christy Worsham

2022 MASTER GARDENER STATE CONVENTION



State Convention Photos from Rita Nichols

Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners attending this year's State Convention: Those in attendance: Standing: Elizabeth Gerrald, Gayle Renfro. Sitting L-R: Rita Nichols, Theresa Mitzler, Peggy Groves, Janet Lemley.



Burni Kurz, Extension Educator/Consumer Horticulture, UA State Advisor for the Master Gardener program.

In Loving Memory of Charlotte Fuller, Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener, and friend.

I met Charlotte when she became a part-time employee at the Texarkana Gazette for a brief time several years ago. I knew some of her story: retired, well-respected and beloved educator; wife of Bill Fuller, longtime Arkansas State Police sergeant: mother and grandmother.

She enthralled me with her quirky sense of humor and facial expressions, her history book knowledge/recall of Miller County families and personalities and her often unfiltered observations combined with a small dose of naiveté.

She kept us entertained at the Gazette and fit right in with our strange, yet loveable, work family. She often decorated our office as if it was a classroom: think the colorful, well-crafted bulletin boards. I always loved her decorations and her compassion for us and the community.

Our paths crossed again when I became a newly minted Master Gardener trainee in fall 2020. It was like reconnecting with a good friend. I was honored when Charlotte asked me to be on her Plant Sale Committee the following spring. I have wonderful memories of a group of new recruits and seasoned MG members helping in the greenhouse with Charlotte always there, laughing and joking with us.

She came to the Gazette offices just a few days before Christmas last year to pick up something from me. She marveled at my 8-foot tall plant near the entrance. She was speechless, mouth agape. I wish I had taken a picture of her face that day. But, Charlotte was never a fan of me pulling out the camera.

We spoke on New Year's Day, lamenting that Dillard's no longer had its annual sale on that day. She asked about my new job with Edward Jones. We also discussed the upcoming greenhouse/plant sale season. I remember the conversation well and will always treasure those moments, neither of us knowing before the year was half done, she would be gone.

In late January, I had the pleasure of riding with her and Clyde Davis to Magnolia for a gardening seminar. She drove. Conversation turned to who lived in houses or on land we passed. I was truly on a narrated tour of Miller County. She and Clyde know and are connected to so many people.

Charlotte has always been a constant. If she was associated with something, she engaged in it fully and gave it her all. That goes for her family, her students, her church family, her community, county elections and Master Gardeners. She wanted to know about you and yours, and it was genuine interest. The awe, wonder and compassion about the world and people around her are lessons she leaves us. And now, each one of us should emulate, uphold and practice those lessons. Doing so would be a wonderful tribute to her and ensure her kind, loving ways live on. We are better for having known her.

We are all blessed for our time spent with her. Our Charlotte stories and memories will comfort us as we grieve and miss such a sweet soul. Thank you, Charlotte, for making Miller County and Master Gardeners better.

Christy Worsham

Charlotte Fuller at the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners Plant Sale in May 2021.



Remembering Charlotte



Memorial Day at the Miller County Courthouse and Hillcrest Cemetery. Honoring those made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and our world.

Photos by Theresa Mitzler

SIDE TRIPS

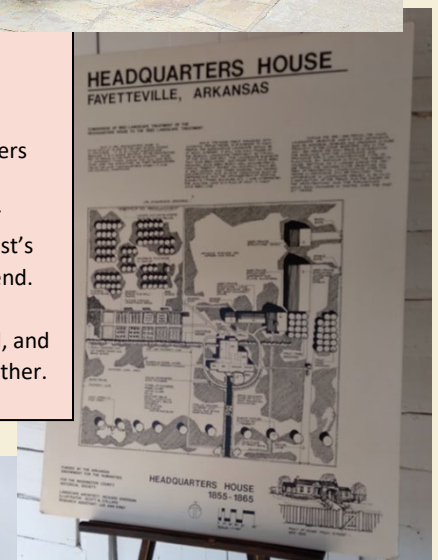
Photo by Theresa Mitzler



Maman, by Bourgeois

1999 Bronze, stainless steel, and marble

Like an umbrella against the storm, Maman shelters this space, looming over us in a protective, yet mysterious way. "Maman" is the French word for "Mom." The image of the spider refers to the artist's mother, who she has described as her closest friend. Though spiders can inspire fear for some people. Bourgeois thought of the spider as caring, helpful, and hard-working – the way she remembered her mother.



George Dombek

1944

Tour de Apple Tree

2010
Bronze

It takes a sharp eye to spot George Dombek's *Tour de Apple Tree*, a cast bronze sculpture of a tree bearing branches and twigs in the form of a bicycle. Primarily known as a watercolor painter, Dombek, born in Paris, Arkansas, now divides his time between Brooklyn, New York, and the Ozarks.

Bound for Outreach

Peppers from the garden at the Extension Office grounds

Photo by Theresa Mitzler



UPCOMING EVENTS

Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton

Horticulture Field Day 2022

Thursday June 30th 8:30am – 12pm

Field Tours

8:30 am Registration opens at the East Farm Horticulture Area

8:30 am – 11:00 am Tour of Ornamental Trials at the East Farm Area

11:00 am– 12:00 pm Tour of Ornamental Perennial / Annual Trials at the Demonstration Garden at the Overton AgriLife Center – Main Building

LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

4 Sessions – 4 weeks; June 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th Beginning at 10 a.m.

\$10 Enrollment Fee Make payment at Extension office – cash or check

Virtual class option available. You may still enroll – previous class materials will be available.

For more information, contact Varonica Kennedy at 870-779-3609 or vkennedy@uada.edu



Benton Co. Hosted a Successful Zoom Advanced Training Class

Thank you to Benton County Master Gardeners for conducting the April 6 & 7 Zoom Advanced Training class, "Companionable Plants: Propagating and Mixing Natives and Perennials".

Ninety-seven Master Gardeners from 19 counties attended, including 19 attending their first advanced class. The class was two half day sessions and consisted of a great line up of speakers, with a hands-on demo for starting seeds.

Congratulations to the following Master Gardeners who have attained a new advanced training level after completing this class:

Level I (5 classes):

Ruth Landers, Pulaski County
Steve Sampers, Benton County
Vickie Schrock, Faulkner County
Karen Wright, Faulkner County

Level III (23 classes & additional requirements):

Sherry Faulkner, Saline County

Andrea Thomas, Miller County

Advanced Training classes are a product of County 76. Classes are offered to active Master Gardeners who have been in good standing in their county program for at least three years.

Notices of upcoming Advanced Training classes are provided via Constant Contact. Classes fill quickly, so don't delay when you see a topic that interests you.

Susan Colles
County 76 President

**CONGRATULATIONS
ANDREA THOMAS!!!**