

**Red Dirt Master Gardeners  
2021 Officers**

President: Nicholas Auck  
Vice-President: James Lamb  
Secretary: Gayle Renfro  
Treasurer: Charlotte Fuller



# Master Memos

Miller County

December 2021



**Regular monthly meeting will be in  
conjunction with our annual Christmas Party**

**December 9, 2021**

**Crossties (Cotton Belt Room), 324 E Broad**

**5:30 pm until 9:00 pm**



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

*Jennifer Caraway  
County Extension Agent  
Staff Chair/Agriculture*

*JAC/jm*

**December 15th deadline to place in hours for this year.**

**On-line Reporting system will be down from Dec 16th thru Feb 1st.**

**Please keep up with any volunteer/education hours you earn during this time. Hours can be placed in when the system goes back up.**

# VIVIPARY

Charlotte (Fuller) sent me a photo of a tomato with the seeds sprouting inside and asked if I had ever seen something like it. Yes, I had. I had seen it in tomatoes, but I had seen it more in the citrus I like to grow. I decided to see what it is called, vivipary. Here is a little more info that I found and some interesting photos.

Vivipary is the phenomenon that involves seeds germinating prematurely while they are still inside or attached to the parent plant or fruit. It occurs more often than you might think. This Latin name literally means “live birth.” Really, it’s a fancy way of referring to seeds germinating prematurely when they are still inside or attached to their parent fruit. This phenomenon occurs frequently on ears of corn, tomatoes, peppers, pears, citrus fruits, and plants that grow in mangrove environments. Seeds contain a hormone that repress the germination process. This is a necessity, as it keeps the seeds from germinating when conditions aren’t favorable and missing their shot to become plants. But sometimes that hormone runs out, like when a tomato sits around on the counter for too long. And sometimes the hormone can be tricked into thinking conditions are right, especially if the environment is warm and moist. This can happen on ears of corn that experience a lot of rainfall and collect water inside their husks, and on fruit that doesn’t get used right away during hot and humid weather. Is vivipary bad. Not at all! It may look creepy, but it doesn’t really affect the quality of the fruit. Unless you’re looking to sell it commercially, it’s more of a cool phenomenon than a problem. You can remove the sprouted seeds and eat around them, or you can turn the situation into a learning opportunity and plant your new sprouts. They likely won’t grow into an exact copy of their parent, but they will produce some kind of plant of the same species that makes fruit. So if you find seeds germinating in the plant you were planning on eating, why not give it a chance to keep growing and see what happens?



*Article and photos submitted by Andrea Thomas*



## Volunteer Time

Deadline to Report Volunteer Hours is December 15th!!!

GET YOUR HOURS IN!

Here is an update of how we are doing right now. Current membership is 86, of that 11 are Lifetimers, 51 regular members, and 24 Trainees. We are up to 92% of our membership as active. There are 7 of you who have not placed any hours in yet.

So far this year 3073.75 sanctioned hours, 87.75 non sanctioned hours and 1864.5 education hours have been placed into the on-line system. This is great.

Here are the top 10 on volunteer hours (sanctioned and non-sanctioned combined) as of 11-29-21.

Clyde Davis – 380  
Chad Blue – 313.5  
Theresa Mitzler – 222.75  
Charlotte Fuller – 148.5  
Annette Lachowsky – 147.25  
Andrea Thomas – 125  
Rita Nichols – 123.5  
Bruce Ferguson – 123.25  
Delita Lusk – 118.75  
Christy Worsham – 100.25

Still time to get in more hours.

We have 18 new trainees who started on-line Basic Training Oct. 15th. Right now, I know that 2 have already finished and took the test, Meredith Mills and Elizabeth Penick.

Remember that until you put that first hour into the on-line system for the year you show as inactive (7 of you). What are y'all waiting on??? Also State will check our hours monthly for reports, so please place your hours in monthly and not 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. Your hours are really needed this year since we are still dealing with the effects of Covid.

Everyone but Lifetimers are required to obtain 20 hours of education this year for recertification and certification. There are many ways to get your education hours: 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). The Brown Bag Lectures Series and Grow Your Own Groceries have started back up. If you miss or cannot watch the live zoom presentation, the sessions are recorded, but you must register.

Continued on next page.

## Volunteer Time, cont.

### Caution, Caution, Caution

Do not be too quick for the on-line system. This occurs when you pick the Project to place your hours against. If you move too fast, instead of the Project you want, the system will revert back to Advanced Training – Education (the first project listed) and you will have time posted against it instead. Please make sure the project you want goes in the box.

Deadline to Report Volunteer Hours is December 15th!!!

Remember All of your hours are important and needed to keep MG programs going, so please report all hours. Keep reporting hours, please don't stop when you have reached minimum requirements. To Report Hours: Go to the UofA site: [www.uaex.uada.edu](http://www.uaex.uada.edu), then Yard & Garden, click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the current or newest version of the On-Line Reporting System.

If you have any questions, need help reporting your hours or need a password reset for the on-line system, please give me a call 972-322-9866, send a text, or send me an email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help. Please contact me first for help and not State.

Keep placing those hours in.

Andrea

**To retain the Arkansas Master Gardener title, individuals are required to participate in recertification training and provide additional volunteer service hours through the local Extension Office. The title, Master Gardener, is to be used only by individuals trained in the Arkansas Master Gardener program to assist the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and the title is valid only when the volunteer is participating in the Arkansas Master Gardener program. When individuals cease active participation, their designation as Master Gardener is void.**

**As a Master Gardener you agree to do work in your local Extension office that is related to horticulture. Much variety exists because Master Gardeners bring a wealth of expertise to the program. The following are just a few of the example of jobs done by current Arkansas Master Gardeners:**

- Created and maintained demonstration gardens
- Conducted school gardening programs
- Gave talks to groups interested in horticulture
- Produced a monthly home horticultural newsletter
- Helped set up and maintain Web site
- Contributed to the preparation of the Master Gardener Handbook
- Maintained office reference library
- Answered questions and took soil samples in residential area
- Participated in on-site lawn clinics
- Answered telephone questions at County office
- Photographed Master Gardener Projects
- AND so much more.