

**2023 Miller County Red Dirt Master
Gardener Officers**

Chead Blue, President
Rita Lamb, Vice President
Delita Lusk, Treasurer
Sandra Jackson, Secretary

Meet the new Red Dirt Master Gardener Officers



Top L: Delita Lusk
Top R: Sandra Jackson
Bottom L: Chead Blue
Bottom R: Rita Lamb

Master Memos

Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners' Newsletter

January 2023

Letter from the RDMG President

Out with the old and in with the new is an old saying and I am sure all of us have heard it. We are starting the new as so many of us have done in the past. Here is wishing that it will be a healthy and prosperous year for each of us.

We are looking forward to getting on with our projects. Work in the greenhouse will keep some of us busy for a few months in preparation for our annual plant sale. There are the projects that are still going on from last year, and we are working on getting some new ones to start this year.

Continued on next page

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, now located at 1007 Jefferson Ave., Texarkana, AR.

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent
Staff Chair/Agriculture

JAC/jm

John Turner to Speak on Parliamentary Procedure at Monthly Meeting

January 13, 2023, Red Dirt Master Gardener Meeting Speaker will be John Turner, former Agriculture Extension Agent with Miller County.

John will be sharing information on Parliamentary Procedure. This area of etiquette has been a passion of Mr. Turner's for many years. He is well studied and loves teaching proper techniques for handling business meetings of all types of organizations.

CELEBRATING THE

U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



OF THE
River Valley
MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE

RUSSELLVILLE, AR • JUNE 8-10, 2023

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Arrive in Russellville June 8 to attend any of four workshops and take something special home from the River Valley. Space is limited so register early.

Barn Quilt Painting: \$30; Basket Weaving Workshop: \$50; Bonsai Workshop: \$50; Succulent Workshop: \$35. Call our office to get a printout with details about each of these workshops. Registration information to come shortly.

Read about lodging choices on next page

2023 Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener Meetings



The first Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener meetings of 2023 were a huge success.



2023 Master Gardener Wall Calendar

The 2023 Master Gardener 12 Months of Gardening in Arkansas Wall Calendar is available for purchase.

The price of the calendar is \$1.25 each.

Contact the County Extension Office at 870-779-3609 to find out when the calendars will arrive here.



START NOW! WINTER PHOTOS NEEDED!

Now is the perfect time to start collecting your winter photos. Start sending them today.

The Calendar will be designed to bring additional forms of imagery and perspective to the 2024 Master Gardener Calendar. The photography competition allows amateur Master Gardener photographers from Arkansas to demonstrate their skills and display their work.

Please email your photos to: mwilbanks3@gmail.com

Deadline to submit photos is Friday, June 22, 2023.

Letter from the RDMG President, Continued from Page 1

The Christmas Party was a success, and a good time was had by all who attended. My thanks go to Sharon Ethridge and each of you who worked so hard to bring it all together. Again, THANK ALL OF YOU who put in so many hours ensuring a successful event.

Our monthly meeting will be January 12th – this coming Thursday night at the REA Building on Hwy. 82 E. Hope to see all of you there.

Chead Blue



It's time to secure your lodging for MG State Conference. Host hotels: (1) **Courtyard by Marriott** (1-479-968-6000) Book group rate by clicking on this

link to book online: <https://bit.ly/3XnCHRZ>. Last day to book for MG rate is April 7, 2023. (2) **Holiday Inn Express & Suites** (1-479-219-5152). Click here to automatically obtain MG Conference rate once you select the dates of your stay: <https://bit.ly/3W0Nr7H>. (3) **Best Western** (1-479-967-1000). (4) **Comfort Inn and Suites** (1-479-968-2424). (5) **LaQuinta Inn & Suites** (1-479-967-2299). Book online at wyndhamhotels.com and use group code "CGMGGR". (6) **Hampton Inn** (1-479-858-7199). Booking code: Gardening Convention.

The Gardener's Wishbook

By Christy Worsham

It's beginning to look a lot like garden planning season. Yes, before the planting comes the planning and purchasing. December brought many avid gardeners wonderful gifts stuffed in our mailboxes-- several seed catalogs. Perusing seed catalogs can make gardeners feel like kids at Christmas.

If you are old enough to remember the Sears and Roebuck Wish Book that arrived in the mailbox for the holidays, I always think of seed catalogs as the Wish Book for gardeners.

While there are plenty of seed companies that boast and host the same offerings online, I prefer to pore over the hard copy catalogs. This way, I can flip and dog ear the pages, underline certain passages or information and fold catalog pages in half to see how items on different pages would look together.



From a timing perspective, the arrival of seed catalogs is a form of divine intervention.

It helps us while away the time wistfully, dreaming of the possibilities that come with the highly anticipated growing season.

Gardeners are planners and horticulture architects of beauty and sustainability.

Perusing those catalogs is a favorite pastime with the longer nights of the winter season. They myriad varieties of vegetables, fruits and flowers are endless, as are the possibilities for plotting and planning these beauties. No gardener has as much planting space as they want for their carefully curated seed collection.

The new varieties of seeds, and number of seed companies, also know no bounds. Yet, we must narrow down our seed planting/growing wish list to match our financial and planting space situations.

Catalog layouts and specialties also offer variety. Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds has an extensive offerings and stunning photography. The descriptions are wonderful. Baker Creek allows us to take an exotic trip, horticulturally speaking, as the company offers an array of rare seeds spanning the globe. I've never indulged to purchase their Baker Creek Whole Seed catalog, though I've been tempted numerous times. My reasoning for self-denial comes from finding plenty I want to order from the company's free catalog.

One of my favorite catalog covers, which reminds me of a Mary Englebright greeting card, is Southern Exposure.

Seed catalogs' welcome letters about what is new and how their year went are always enjoyable dispatches from fellow plant lovers.

Other popular seed companies publishing catalogs include: --Johnny's, which offers extensive information on its seeds and plants; --Gurney's, known for its good deals and coupons; --and Burpee, which offers seedlings, trees, and a wide array of gardening supplies. Other favorite seed catalogs include High Mowing, Park and so many others.

I don't believe I'm the only one that actually holds onto past catalogs for reference, information and inspiration.

Of course, after ordering from seed catalogs, we receive our actual envelopes and the seeds enclosed will get our nurturing and attention for weeks and months to come. Depending on our growing success or lack thereof, we will be satisfied or in a tizzy trying to save the plants.

The small seed envelopes rattle when we shake them, which is a delightful sound. With the right combination of light, love, water, patience, trial and error, we experiment, experience and enjoy our gardens.

A fellow Master Gardener and I have started a somewhat annual tradition of gathering our seed catalogs and meeting at one of our homes on a Saturday morning in January. We have snacks and tea as we exchange catalogs, showing one another our unusual finds and desires before making our final selections. It's so much fun.

Here is to a bountiful and beautiful 2023 in your gardening efforts!!! Happy seed catalog perusing, planning, and planting.

Volunteer Time On Line Reporting System

To be backup January 15th to place in volunteer Hours.

This is how we ended the year 2022. Sanctioned hours 4809.25, Non sanctioned hours 211.25 and Education hours 1947.5 placed into the on line system. This is great.

Our top 3 on volunteer hours for 2022 (sanctioned and non sanctioned combined) are Clyde Davis with 592.5, Ched Blue with 424.25 hours, and Annette Lachowsky with 245.5 hours. Great Job!

Hours Required for 2023

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

Trainees I will be sending you information when I have loaded you into the on line reporting system.

Remember I have to wait till the on line system is back up.

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.

Just a reminder that extra sanctioned hours will help take care of any needed hours on non sanctioned and education. Also extra non sanctioned will take care of any needed hours on education. Education hours are that education only.

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 get your hours in.

Hours earned from Dec 15th 2022 and Jan 15th 2023 I hope you are keeping up with. These hours may be bulked into the system. Just pick a date (a current date – starting with Jan 15th) and place them in. Place hours under the project you were/are working on and you may bulk in up to 24 hours for a day. The system is not set up to let you place in more than 24 hours per day.

If you have any questions, need help reporting your hours please contact Rita or I. 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 eaglepts2@gmail.com. We will do our best to help.

Please contact Rita or I first for help and not State.

Andrea Thomas

Each year we send out an email concerning MG program donations. The link to the form for donations is in the MG Only section of the website.

- ***Janet B. Carson High School Senior Scholarship Fund*** - Each year the Janet B. Carson Scholarship Fund continues to grow as do the group of applicants. Since 2014, the scholarship committee has awarded over \$11,000 in scholarships to deserving Arkansas students.
- ***MG Awards*** - For the past several years we have asked counties to make a donation to help pay for the annual Master Gardener awards and length of service pins. Since all counties do benefit from the awards and length of service recognitions, to make this equitable we asked each county to subsidize the program by asking counties with 51 or more members to donate a minimum of \$100 and for counties with 50 or less members to donate \$50.
- ***Master Gardener State Conference*** - Several counties donate to help offset registration fees for State Conference.

We appreciate your support of these statewide MG programs. Make checks payable to “UACES” and sent to UACES, ATTN: Khaliah Coleman, 2301 S. University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. If you donate to the MG Conference, please send in a separate check. (see donation form for more details).