

**2022 Miller County Red Dirt  
MasterGardener Officers**

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



**2022 Miller County Red Dirt  
Master Gardener Plant Sale**  
Photo by Clyde Davis

# Master Memos

Miller County

May 2022



**Regular monthly meeting will be  
May 12, 2022. Look for more  
information in this newsletter.**

## *A Letter from the RDMG President*

**HALLELUJAH!!!** The Plant Sale is over. I know some of us will be sad and will miss the time spent with fellow Master Gardeners at the greenhouse, chit-chatting as we worked. However, it was a success and we had, at the final count, taken in \$6,155.00, which is the best year so far. One lady was very happy (Merida Johnson) winning the raised bed garden frame built by Bruce Ferguson, and he was also happy when it was announced that it brought in a whopping \$505 to boost the plant sales. All-in-all, everyone seemed to enjoy working at the sale and meeting the people that came.

If you haven't been by the Extension office and observed the two raised beds there, you need to make a point to go by and see them; they are the brainchild of Theresa Mitzler, and they are already producing delicious strawberries (not many, but tasty). It is coming to the time of year when all of our projects are going to be in full swing and will need all the attention that we need to give them.

***Chead Blue, Miller County Red Dirt Master  
Gardener President (continued on page 4)***

*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*





# 2022 Four States Fair & Livestock Show



L: Bruce and Ralph, ????: R: Amy and Bethany at Four States Fair-MCRDMG Exhibit

Thank You



... for being so sweet!

I can not thank everyone with M.C.M.G. enough for your time and support during the Four States Fair! Without you this wouldn't have been successful as it was.

I appreciate all of you so much!

Thank you Again!

Collene Wheat  
Ag Learning Center  
Four States Fair



Master Gardeners volunteered their time and resources to help make Kids Day at the Fair another successful event. Thanks to James Lamb for photo.



Photos from the cover of Texarkana Gazette's "Active Age" for May 2022. Article title, "Master Gardeners start spring season working on pollination garden, straw bale gardening."



## Miller County Plant Sale 4-23-2022

A lot of work went into this year's plant sale. Many of the plants at the sale were started that is propagated last year so that they would be ready. Work in the greenhouse also began last year. There have been meetings and training on when to start seeds, what seeds to plant, getting compost, mixing compost, gathering pots, cleaning pots, cleaning the greenhouse, and of course fighting insects and disease.



I believe we had some of the most beautiful plants this year and a very large variety. Albertsons on State line even helped by donating a large amount of house plants. A couple of folks who came to the sale donated a few plants also. But our members out did themselves this year providing plants. David brought bags of compost and Bruce built a beautiful raised bed for the drawing.



two days before the sale getting set up are a killer. A truck was rented to move plants from the greenhouse to the fairgrounds. We had two full loads of plants from the greenhouse, plus members moving more plants from the greenhouse in their cars. Remember this is one of the times you can count your travel time moving plants. Plants were arranged by categories. The day before the sale more plants came in and we began pricing. We had so many plants that we ran out of the \$1, \$2, \$3, and \$5 pricing sticks. Some plants didn't get priced till the day of the sale when we could get the pricing sticks from plants that had sold.



On sale day we had people waiting at the door before we opened. We had 2 folks stationed at the door to greet and to hand out a pricing list. We had Master Gardeners stationed all around to help with the different plant categories and to answer questions. When we opened it was a mad rush the first couple of hours. We really didn't slow much till 11:30am. We not only sold plants but answered a lot of



questions about plants. Everyone put in a tremendous effort that day, and the days before. The sale was a great success, making \$6,030. We did have some plants left this year, so some were given to Arkansas High for their plant sale, some to the Fairgrounds, and some to Bowie County MGs to sale.



Photo from Charlotte Fuller

Of course, there was clean up also, sweeping the building, putting up tables and chairs, gathering all the signs, pricing sticks, etc. and storing them for next year. Many thanks to all who helped. We can not do a sale without you and all the work you do.

**GREAT JOB EVERYONE!**

Photos and article by:  
**ANDREA THOMAS**

## Submit your photos for the 2023 MG Calendar! Deadline: May 20th

Be sure you send in your photos!

The calendar will be designed to bring another form of imagery and perspective to the 2023 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](mailto:mwilbanks3@gmail.com)  
Deadline to submit photos is Friday, May 20, 2022.

- All works must be original to the exhibitor.
- Photographs may be color, black and white or sepia.
- All photographs must include plant material.
- Entry deadline is May 20, 2022.
- All decisions by the judges are final. Photographs will be individually reviewed by judges starting after entry deadline.
- Photographs will be reviewed on the following merits: creativity, composition and technical merit.
- Only four (4) entries per person (one per season). Meaning only one winter (WI), one spring (SP), one summer (SU), and one fall (FA) photo may be entered in the 2023 MG Calendar Contest.
- All photos need to be a higher mb count for the resolution to be considered for reproduction by the offset printing method.
- Photos must be sent as attachment(s) to email document. "Drag and Drop" files will not be accepted.
- All photographs must have been taken inside the borders of the state of Arkansas.
- **LANDSCAPE DIMENSION ONLY, PLEASE!**
- Photos MUST be properly named in the JPEG format only to be accepted for consideration. You will have to rename your files to be accepted.

This is an example of how the photo(s) must be  
labeled using your own information:

Your name, your county name, brief description, season of  
photo.

EXAMPLE: Mike Wilbanks, Craighead, Doubletrueblood,  
SP

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, if you do not properly name your photo(s), and  
adhere to the above conditions, they will not be sent to the selection  
committee for consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time.  
Thank you!

Mike Wilbanks  
870-530-0669  
[mwilbanks3@gmail.com](mailto:mwilbanks3@gmail.com)

## May 12, 2022 Meeting Speaker

Our speaker for the 12 May Miler County Master Gardener meeting will be James Jones, who has been a Miller County Master Gardener since 2017. Personally, he is an Oklahoma native. He earned an AS degree in Metallurgy at Murray State College in Oklahoma. As work took him south, he was able to earn a BS in Technical Education from the University of Houston in Texas. With his education and work experience, he later stated the Industrial Maintenance program at Cossatot College in Arkansas. James, who is the husband of a beautiful wife and father of two children and five grand-dogs lives in Nashville where he is the owner and operator of two businesses which are Double-J Farms and Double-J Lawn Care. His expertise as a beekeeper and a honey salesman since 2013 make him our choice to speak on the subject of domestic bees and beekeeping at our May meeting.

Thresa Metzler.

## A Letter from the RDMG President...cont.

Also, the straw-bale garden at the Gateway Farmers Market is something else you will have to see

Our next meeting will be May 12, 2022. The program will be presented by James Jones, our member from Nashville AR. The program will be on Bee Keeping.

p.s. We received a nice thank you card from Collene Wheat. Look for it elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Cass County Master Gardener's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual

## "A Walk in the Garden"

**Saturday, May 21, 2022**

A one-day learning and gardening experience – scavenger hunt, door prizes, plant Sale and Vendors  
Whippoorwill Gardens; 5024 FM 2328; Atlanta TX; Registration \$20 (lunch included)  
For more information – 903-756-5391 or 903-306-8696



## Volunteer Time

**May 12th the projected date** to start placing in your hours in the new On-line Reporting System

Folks, we now have a projected date of May 12th to start placing hours in the On-line Reporting System. The old system was crashing regularly and had to be replaced. As with anything new there will be some changes. Right now, on-line managers are checking member information for mistakes. Hopefully Rita and I will not overlook anything, but should we then just let us know and we will get it corrected.

The new system will have a little different look. I believe you will find it easier to place in your hours. There will be a few minor things that the managers have requested to be changed that will have to come after May 12th. We will have some training for you - there are some things you need to know. All of you could use the old system, so I know all of you will be able to use the new system. I know we do not always like change, but we do not grow without change and change usually makes life easier. Just think about that cell phone you have and how much easier to keep in touch and get information. I still remember not having a phone in the house and navigating with a paper map. Who knew that all you would have to do is say hey google to get an address and directions. I don't drive the scenic route as much anymore. Yes, I do not always follow directions.

Please keep up with any education and volunteer hours you are earning during this time. You will be able to place the hours in when the system is back up. Remember all your hours are important and needed to help keep the Master Gardener programs going.

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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 your years counting.

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Remember All of your hours are important and needed to keep MG programs going, so please keep up with all hours you are earning. You will get credit for all of them earned while the on-line system is down for updates.

Some good ways to get VOLUNTEER hours this month.

Pollinator Garden – check your emails for workdays.

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.

## **“Volunteer Time”** Cont.

Come Grow with Us – at the Gateway market

Some good ways to get EDUCATION hours this month...  
All of you who are going to the State Conference.

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 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 it took you to haul/move items and plants to the plant sale. You will put that time under Fundraisers.

If you have any questions, need help reporting your hours once the new system is going please give me a call 972-322-9866, send a text, or send me an email at [7550@yahoo.com](mailto:7550@yahoo.com) and I will do my best to help. Please contact me first for help and not State.

Andrea

## Beauty Surrounds the Miller County Extension Office



Left: Raised bed strawberries.  
Right & Below:  
Extension Office building landscaping.

