

**Red Dirt Master Gardeners
2021 Officers**

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

Red Dirt Master Gardeners visiting the Tyler Rose Garden on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. More photos and information in this issue of Master Memos.

Photo by Andrea Thomas



Master Memos

Miller County

November 2021

1



NO WINNER!

The photo to the left is of a Hummingbird Moth. Instead of a beak like a hummingbird, it has a long tongue-like proboscis that rolls out of its coiled tube to reach the nectar deep inside flowers. Its tongue is about double the length of the moth's body.

Photo from Teresa Mitzler



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*

JC:jm



Monthly Meeting
Thursday Nov 11, 6:00 PM
REA, Hwy 82 E, TXK AR

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanksgiving

Another year is almost over and the holidays are upon us. I wasn't sure if a fall garden was in the cards, but like all of you, the broccoli and Brussels sprouts begged to go home with me. As we have entered the month of thanksgiving, I wanted to take a moment to remind you of our last two meetings this year.

At our November meeting, we have a full but short agenda. We will NOT consider any bylaw changes. In accordance with the bylaws, any amendment must be distributed 30 days prior to the meeting in which they will be voted on. I did not get that done, so we can't consider them.

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**Deadline Dec. 15th to
enter Volunteer
Hours.**



Trip to the Tyler Rose Center, By Andrea Thomas

First, a great big Thank You to Teresa Slack for organizing the trip to the Tyler Rose Center.

We gathered Tuesday, Oct 26, at 7am to board the bus for our trip. When we got to the Rose Center we unloaded the bus at the back of the center to meet up with the Smith County MGs and their Ext Agent Greg Grant. I believe the Smith County MGs were as excited to meet us as we were to meet them. We started off with a beautiful garden (one of their projects) with all kinds of plants. Tuesdays are their workday and some of us got some plants that they were thinning out. Next, we saw the camellia and shade gardens, before heading up to the rose garden.



The gardens were all beautiful. There is no way you can look at each rose; there are so many.

They also have a beehive to watch the bees at work and some beautiful water features. Greg Grant and the Smith County MGs gave us a wonderful tour and answered a lot of questions. I believe each of us walked till we could hardly take another step trying to see it all.



A bunch of tired MGs waiting for the bus.

When we loaded the bus to leave, the Smith MGs gave us each a candle from the Tyler Candle Company.

Before heading home, we stopped at Loggins restaurant for a great lunch. Tired and worn, out most of us took a nap on the bus trip back home. It was a great trip!

Following are a few of our favorite photos from the trip.



Above: Another way to use flowerpots.

Top Left: Michele with the statue of the lady who worked tirelessly getting the garden established. Notice the trowel that the Smith county MGs placed in the statue's hand

Center: Phyllis and Teresa Mitzler surrounded by gorgeous blooms.

Right: This is a root beer plant. The plant had babies, which the Smith County MGs were thinning out and a few of us got lucky and took home plants

Photos and article by Andrea Thomas



Plant Swap

On Oct 14th Miller County had a Plant Swap at the Gateway Farmers Market. Miller County MGs invited Bowie, Howard, and Hempstead County MGs to attend to add to the plants and fun. Tables were set up the length of the market to place plants on. Charlotte made some great signs to divide the plants into categories. Two beautiful plants and 4 bags of compost were to be given as prizes. There was a food truck if you wanted a bit to eat. Once the plants were in place, everyone did a little visiting and checking out the plants to see which ones they wanted to go for first. First go round you got to pick 5 plants. Then they picked some prize winners. Then the next go round to get plants and more prizes. Only a few plants left, so whoever wanted took them. Not one plant was left. Everyone had a great time and got some wonderful plants.



Above: Annette making announcements at the Plant Swap
Below: Looking at plants and having fun!



Cheryl won one of the plants.



Winners of bags of compost – Maria and Phyllis



Cheryl, Joyce, and Andrea at Plant Swap

President's Corner, continued.

I have chosen not to bring them forward at the Christmas meeting. Therefore, the Executive Committee for 2022 will decide if and when it is appropriate to bring them forward for action. We WILL vote on officers for 2022, and 2021 awards: Business Friend of Master Gardeners, Excellence in Education, Individual Friend of Master Gardeners, Master Gardener of the Year, Project of the Year, Rookie of the Year.

Finally, we will sign up for projects for 2022. Attendees of the meeting will receive a description of each project and a signup sheet to be turned in. For those unable to attend, we will send out the same information and you may signup either by mail or email.

I would like to take a moment of personal privilege to thank some folks who have been instrumental in our success this year. First, your elected officers. Ms. Charlotte, Ms. Gayle, and Mr. James have been a blessing to me this year. You have worked very well together and seem to see all of my limitations. Never once did you question what needed to be done, or wait for someone to take the bull by the horns. While we were limited in activities due to Covid, what we did do was top notch and well received. Thanks to the Committee Chairs. We had very few issues this year and it didn't take long before you brought solutions the few times you did have issues; always a plus in my book. Ms. Teresa Slack has been a true friend and sounding block, sometimes giving comments before I even asked. I assume since you kept providing comments until the very end, you know I do listen even when your recommendations are not followed. Keep smiling Darling! Mr. Robert High's loss this year was a handicap for me. He was a good mentor to anyone who had a question. But he also had a mischievous sense of humor. Sometimes his suggestions were intended to be helpful while also pushing a button with other members. Then he would enjoy watching you deal with the hornet's nest you just kicked over. So I miss his advice AND his smile and laugh. Finally, much love and many thanks go to my Mom. You never know which side of a situation she will be on, but she usually has heard or seen something I missed. It's always good to have someone who has your back even when you thought you were on top of things. I am truly blessed by her and she knows I love her deeply.

Wisdom says never to start thanking individuals because you will either have to name everyone or you end up omitting someone. I'm going to defy that wisdom and close with a thanks to every member, but know that these members have done so very much this year, that they deserve a little spotlight.

For the December newsletter, I will offer this column to the President-elect to outline their intentions and hopes for the coming year. As this may be my final volume, please let me take this time to thank YOU for the honor of serving as President in 2021.

All My Best,
Nick



Country Girl mum. Photo by Teresa Mitzler



Our Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 9th at Crossties Event Venue located at 324 East Broad Street, and will begin at 6 pm.

A Silent Auction, one of our fund-raisers, will be part of the activities so please bring an item for that. This is a free event for Master Gardeners. Spouse or significant other will be charged \$20. We have a great menu for our dinner catered by JR'S Catering Company.

Volunteer Time

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

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 90% of our membership as active. There are 9 of you who have not placed any hours in yet.

So far this year: 2832.75 sanctioned hours, 83.5 non sanctioned hours and 1706 education hours have been placed into the on-line system. This is great.

We all need to congratulate Clyde Davis who has now surpassed 350 volunteer hours. Great Job!! Ched Blue has surpassed 275 hours. Theresa Mitzler has surpassed 175 hours. The following have surpassed 100 hours: Bruce Ferguson, Charlotte Fuller, Annette Lachowsky, Delita Lusk, Rita Nichols, and Andrea Thomas. Great Job!

Also a big CONGRADULATIONS to Bethany Daugherty who is now a certified Master Gardener.

We have 18 new trainees who started On-line Basic Training on Oct. 15th

Remember that until you put that first hour into the on-line system for the year, you show as inactive (9 of you). What are y'all waiting on??? Also State checks 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 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, they send out a recorded form of the presentation, but you must register.

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, then click on "Yard & Garden", click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours and login. 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 an email to 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



Master Gardener Events - December 2021

13 - Master Gardener Monday (MGM) for December; 12 to 1 p.m.

15 - Volunteer hours deadline

16 to Jan. 17 - Online reporting system not available

15 - MG Basic Training Online Course ends

24 through 31 - Office closed for holidays