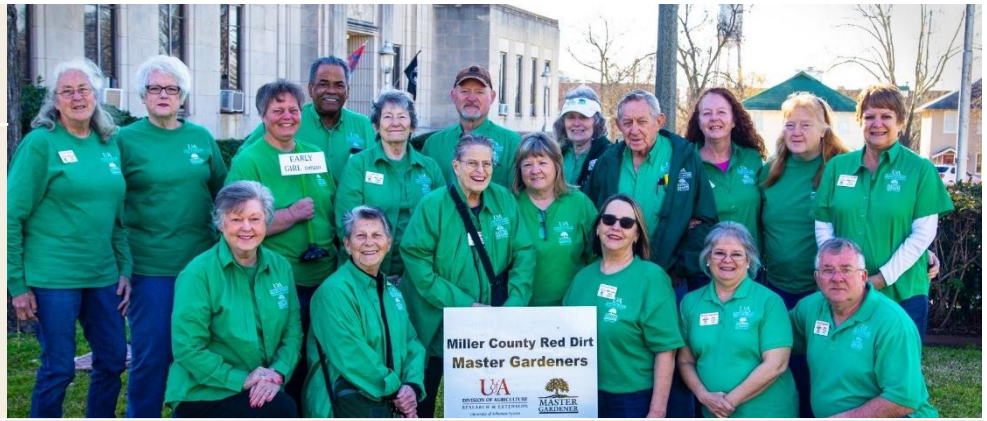


2020 Officers

President: Annette Lachowsky
Vice-President – Jane Richards
Secretary – Gayle Renfro
Treasurer – Nick Auck



April 2020

Master Memos

A Newsletter for Red Dirt Master Gardeners

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please call me at 870-779-3609 or email jcaraway@uaex.edu.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent
Agriculture

JC:jds

Photo Above: Master Gardeners met at the Miller County Courthouse to have a group photo taken for Master Gardener Week recognition from the Miller County Courthouse.

Photo Right: Miller County Courthouse Lawn Group does a fantastic job beautifying the Miller County Courthouse flowerbeds.

Thanks to Clyde Davis for taking the photos



Contact Me

Phone: 870-779-3609

Fax: 870-773-3471

E-Mail: jcaraway@uaex.edu

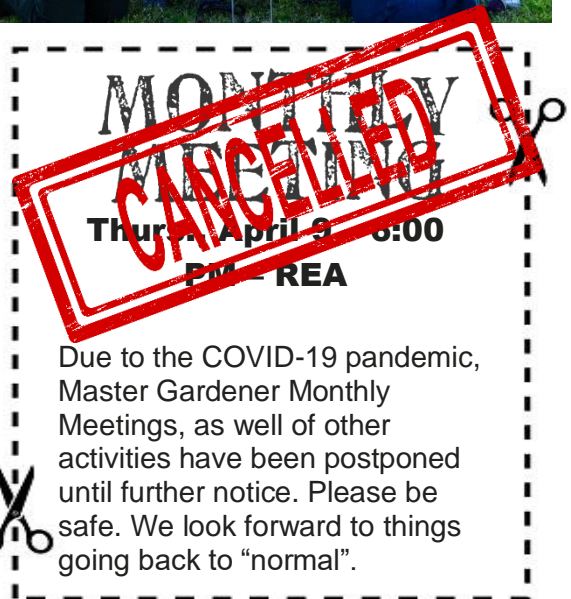
MG Facebook: www.facebook.com/Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-Gardeners

Ag Facebook: www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Miller CoAg>



Barbara McWilliams
staying warm



Tip for Controlling Ticks

By Rita Nichols

Next time you are outside doing yard work, taking a walk in the woods (no matter how short), camping or hiking, take along a sticky tape lint roller and periodically roll it across your skin and clothes. Any ticks that have landed on you will be picked up by the lint roller.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER —

And we were worried about canceling the April meeting! ... Little did we know that everything would be cancelled or postponed, including our plant sale & the state meeting.

Do **not** worry about your hours at this point. When the Executive Committee can meet again, we will discuss the hours issue. I'm sure the state office will have suggestions, too.

As you may know, we had a "fire sale" for the vegetables and other annuals so they were not wasted. The perennials are stored at several MGs homes with the hope that we can have a sale in the fall.

We as Master Gardeners have a very important asset during these homebound days. Our hobby – gardening – takes place at home. Whether you are into flowers or vegetables or succulents or landscaping, we can entertain ourselves at home!

We are calling our vegetable garden the *COVID-19 Victory Garden*! It feels more important to me this year to tend the garden and actually get some produce from it.

The flowers that we grow do so much to lift our spirits. It is hard to be anxious when I am looking at the beauty in the garden.

Please stay home & be well. I look forward to the time when we can meet again. We'll keep you posted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lachowsky

President, Miller County
Red Dirt Master Gardeners

The Greenhouse

Article & Photos
by Andrea Thomas

Our days of working at the greenhouse for the plant sale have ended for now. Who would have thought a virus would be the culprit in ending our work. We took care to clean pots, use sterile potting mix, and new seeds; we even mixed our own special potting mix. We wanted to have the best looking & healthiest plants we could, and we did. We succeeded. There were beautiful tomatoes and peppers, coleus, airplant plants, ferns, begonias, and much much more.

Then the COVID-19 virus appeared; not a plant virus but a human virus. To try and stop it from spreading, we were required to shut down the greenhouse operation. With the social distancing in place and no more than 10 people together in one place, we had to scramble to clear the greenhouse, disperse the annual plants, and find temporary holding areas for the perennials. Now working at the greenhouse is great fun; yes, it is work, but you get to be with some of the best people around – Plant People, Master Gardeners. I know one day I counted 17 of us there working, joking and laughing.

Continued on next page



Lynn, June & Linda
potting plants



Charlotte
making a
plant list



Chead & Chris
mixing soil

The Greenhouse

Continued from Page 2

Of course this virus will pass, but not soon enough for most of us, and it will leave a mark. I know in the future we will be working together again, and maybe in a greenhouse, starting plants for a future plant sale.

Stay In and Stay Safe.



Liz
watering



Joan
making
plant
labels



Brenda
& Joan
making
labels



Chris &
Chead
mixing
soil



Gayle, Anita,
Barbara &
Wendi potting
plants



More plants

Some of the
tomatoes

Events for MG Wall Calendar

This summer we will be getting ready to put together the 2021 MG Wall Calendar. Please send in your events for 2021 that you would like listed in the calendar. Please be sure to include the following: Name of event, address of event, county and city of event, times, fees (if applicable), contact name, contact phone (including area code) & email for people to get more information.



With the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the more than 30,000 flue cases reported in Arkansas since September 2019, we are taking precautions until further notice to ensure safe and healthy work environments for our members and our co-workers.

With that in mind, we have chosen to postpone our 2020 Master Gardener Conference scheduled for May 14th-16th 2020.

We will be in touch to discuss rescheduling this meeting. We recognize that this may be an inconvenience. However, this decision is being made out of concern for everyone's health and well-being.

As soon as we can confirm a new date, we will let you know. A conference of this size and detail has a lot of moving parts to get in order to set a new date.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work on rescheduling this conference.

Just to Brighten Your Day



Left:
Snapdragons &
Calibrachoa that
overwintered

Below: Double
white Amaryllis

Shared by
Annette
Lachowsky



Probably some of you are wondering about volunteer hours, since we are under a stay-in-place order, which makes it hard to get hours in. I place in my Volunteer Time article (below) some ways to get volunteer and education hours where you do not leave your home. Now I know this is limited, so there may be some changes made to accommodate the situation. Right now it will be up to each Master Gardener organization to decide. This will be up to our Executive Committee and membership so will probably be on hold until we will be able to hold meetings again.

Stay in and Stay Safe!

Hope everyone is doing ok. This is definitely a new experience and will probably cause each of us to look at the world differently. I know it will pass, but it will have left a mark on each of us regardless. Here is an update of how we are doing right now. I do have one request of you. Please place any volunteer hours you have into the system. I find the longer we wait, the harder it is to remember when and how many hours we have earned.

Current membership is 80; of that 10 are Lifetimers, 59 are regular members, and 11 are Trainees. We are up to 83% of our membership as active and 18% still inactive.

I want to congratulate Bruce Ferguson. He is the first of our 2019 Trainees to reach certification status. Big Congratulations to Bruce!

The following members have enough time in for recertification. Congratulations to Chead Blue, Joan Evins, Charlotte Fuller, Theresa Mitzler, June Nix, Gayle Renfro and Margaret Shirley. GREAT JOB.

The following Lifetimers have their required hours to keep their years counting: Rita Nichols & Andrea Thomas.

So far this year, 1016.25 sanctioned hours, 52.25 non-sanctioned hours and 421.75 education hours have been placed into the online system. This is great.

Again, I want to remind you that until you put that first hour into the system for the year, you show as inactive. Right now we have 14 members showing as inactive and I know 10 of you have time you can plan into the system.

2019 Trainees (Annuals): You need 20 Sanctioned, 20 Non-Sanctioned & 20 Education hours for recertification.

Membership (Perennials): You need 10 Sanctioned, 10 Non-Sanctioned & 20 Education hours for recertification.

Lifetimers: You need 10 Sanctioned hours to keep your years counting.

Remember, all hours are important & needed to keep the

Questions About COVID-19?

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is still at work, only in a different setting. However, we are still offering the most accurate research-based, reliable information available. We know there is a lot of misinformation out there. To get research-based answers to your coronavirus questions, we have created **COVID19 Bot** to answer your questions: Visit www.uaex.edu and click on the Bot. There is also very timely information to keep you updated on the latest information available.

Hi! Click here to find COVID-19 Resources from the U of A System Division of Agriculture.



I am the Division COVID-19 Information chatbot, and I will help you to track important information about Coronavirus (2019 - nCoV), including resources from Division, near-real-time maps, latest news, precautions and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

SOCIAL DISTANCING GAME NIGHT

The CDC recommends that everyone "make time to unwind" during the COVID-19 outbreak. One way to unwind is by having a game night. Below are some ways to have game night while practicing social distancing.

Virtual Game Night

- Try multiplayer apps
 - Classic games are online
- Try video chat
 - Play charades, Pictionary, bingo, or trivia



Game Night At Home

- Create your own game
- Change the rules on an old game
- Take the games outside
- Play video games together



U of A
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
SYSTEM
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
www.uaex.edu/COVID19

Your Resource for
COVID-19 INFORMATION
for Agriculture, Families & Communities

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture offers all its Extension and Research programs to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

The CDC recommends that everyone "make time to unwind" during the COVID-19 outbreak. One way to unwind is by having a game night. Be sure to take part in the Quarantune Game Night Challenge!

Post your game night on the Master Gardener Facebook or Twitter pages using #uaex and #quarantunechallenge. We look forward to seeing how your family unwinds.

Master Gardener Volunteer Time

MG programs going, so please report all hours.

Go to the UofA site: www.uaex.edu, then Yard & Garden; click on MG Program, then Enter Volunteer Hours and login.

If you have any questions on reporting your hours or need a password reset, give me a call at 903-832-8111 or email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.

I know the stay-in-place order is making it more difficult to do volunteer hours, but there are still a few things you can do and still stay in place.

Sanctioned Hours

Mentoring – the time you spend helping your trainee, calling, emailing, texting and making sure they understand what is required to be a Master Gardener.

Fundraisers & Plant Sales – propagating plants for future sales, taking care of plants you already have that were dedicated to our now postponed plant sale.

Telephone/Communications – calling our members without computers and email to keep them updated.

Articles and photos for the newsletter.

Education

The MG Monday Zoom trainings. Watch it live or watch the tape or read the pdf.

Reading horticulture magazines or books. Perhaps you are even reading articles on the internet. Check out all the information the UofA has under Yard and Garden or Farm and Ranch. You can report 1 hour each month for this activity.

Watching a horticulture program on TV and/or the internet. There are a lot of YouTube videos out there. Listening to a horticulture program on the radio. You can report 1 hour per month for this activity.

Here is something new to try: Brown Bag Lecture Series via Zoom, hosted by White County from 12:05 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

April 15th – Cool New Plants by Dr. Jim Robbins

April 22nd – Pollinator Appreciation by Jon Zawislak

April 29th – Healthy Trees, Healthy Lives: How to Take Care of Trees so They Can Take Care of Us by Krista Quinn

Everyone Take Care & Be Safe. I miss you all and am keeping you all in my prayers. Happy Easter!

Andrea Thomas

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

