

2020 Officers

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February 2021

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:cr

Contact Me

Phone: 870-779-3609

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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

Do you know someone who wants to be a Master Gardener?

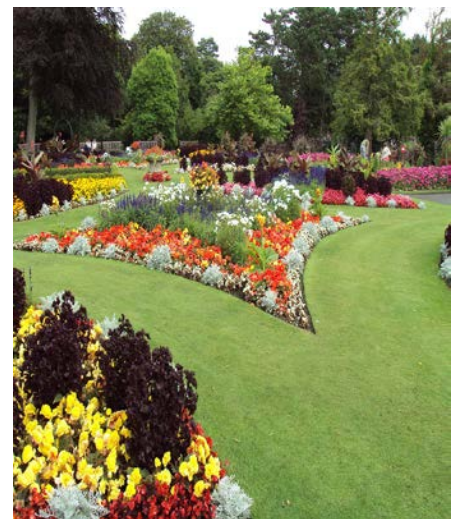
What better time than now.

The deadline to have your applications into our office is February 22, 2021. Applications are available through your Miller County Extension Service, located in Room 215 of the Miller County Courthouse, 400 Laurel, Texarkana, AR or the application is available online at <https://bit.ly/3nhAZ20>. If you have any questions or would like an application mailed or emailed to you, please call 870-779-3609 or email jsmallwood@uaex.edu. Cost of the training is \$100 and covers your book, training materials, name badge, and first year's dues. Fee should be remitted along with the application.

For general information about master gardener program, visit: <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/>.

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

Audrey Hepburn





Arkansas Master Gardeners and County Agents:

Today is usually the day registration begins for the state Master Gardener Conference. Many of you have February 1st programmed in your head as registration day for state conference as it has been the first day of registration for many years.

This year registration will be coming at a later date than normal.

Currently the date of the conference is June 10-12, 2021. More information on the conference will be coming in a few weeks.

Please contact Berni Kurz at bkurz@uaex.edu or 501-615-4183 if you have any questions.

Predict the Temperature with Cricket Chirps

Learn to Use a Cricket as a Thermometer!



We all know the evening sound of a cricket. Did you know the number of cricket chirps report the temperature? It's true! We explain how to use the "cricket thermometer" method. And next time there's a warm evening, count the cricket chirps!

The Cricket as a Thermometer

Crickets are cold-blooded and take on the temperature of their surroundings. Back in 1897, a scientist named Amos Dolbear published an article "The Cricket as a Thermometer" that noted the correlation between the ambient temperature and the rate at which crickets chirp.

The insects' muscles contract to produce chirping, based on chemical reactions. The warmer the temperature, the easier the cricket's muscles activate, so the chirps increase. The cooler the temperature, the slower the reaction rate, and the less frequent the chirps.

Cricket Temperature Formula

The formula expressed in that article became known as Dolbear's Law. It's surprisingly simple:

To convert cricket chirps to degrees Fahrenheit:

Just count the number of chirps in 14 seconds, then add 40 to get the temperature.

The number you get will approximate the outside temperature.

Example: 30 chirps + 40 = 70° F

To convert cricket chirps to degrees Celsius:

Count the number of chirps in 25 seconds, divide by 3, then add 4 to get the temperature.

Example: 48 chirps / (divided by) 3 + 4 = 20° C



2020 Master Gardener Award Nominations

Nominate a Friend Of Master Gardener

Many Master Gardener Programs have local community members and businesses that provide support to the county MG Program. Give those that help your county program a shout out by nominating them for a state award.

Deadline is February 15, 2021

Submit your MG Program's nominations for:

Master Gardener of the Year
Rookie of the Year
Project of the Year
Excellence in Education
County Agent of the Year
Newsletter of the Year
Friend of Master Gardener - Individual
Friend of Master Gardener - Business or Organization
2020 Challenge Award

Cover Letter and Nomination Forms available at link below

[2020 MG AWARD FORMS](#)

Deadline to Submit Nominations - February 15, 2021

Submit nominations electronically via e-mail to Julie Treat at mg@uaex.edu OR mail them, postmarked by February 15, 2021 to: Julie Treat, MG Awards, 2301 S. University Ave. Little Rock, AR 72204. If you have questions, call 501-671-2231.

February 2021 Events

10 - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Jan Yingling
- Diseases, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)

12 - Deadline to register for Advanced MG Class via Zoom, Pollinators: An In-Depth Look at One of Life's Most Important Resources, March 12, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and March 13, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. (must attend both days) Cost is \$25.00

For more information contact Patsy Louk at pjlouk@gmail.com or 479-841-9865. [Registration Information link](#) (found on MG ONLY portion of the website)

15 - Deadline for MG Award Forms [Award Forms](#)

15 - Deadline for MG Conference Donations Conf donation form

15 - Deadline for county forms (notebook order form, csv file and mentor list) to be sent to state office for 2021 MG Online Basic Training Class (contact your county extension office for application form, fees and date to turn in form to your county office). Please send csv file to mg@uaex.edu

15 - Master Gardener Monday (MGM), 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)

16 - noon to 1 p.m. Trees Count in Cities & Towns: Managing Community Trees to Maximize Their Benefits, presented by Krissy Thomason, AR Department of Agriculture Forestry Division Urban & Community Forestry Program Coordinator, and Krista Quinn, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Agent

Zoom Registration: <http://bit.ly/TreesCountFeb16>

16 - Getting Started with Starting Seeds via Zoom,
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Registration
link <http://bit.ly/FCMGStartingSeeds> Contact: Krista
Quinn 501-329-8344 klquinn@uaex.edu

17 - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Terrell Davis
- Warm Season Veggies, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)

18 - Grow Your Own Groceries: Potatoes, 12 to 1 p.m. [Link for GYOG webpage](#)

23 - noon to 1p.m. Top Ways to Save Money with Trees- presented by John Baker, AUFC board member and co-founder of Tree Streets Little Rock, and Anthony Whittington, City of Hot Springs Parks & Trails Director

Zoom registration: <http://bit.ly/SaveMoneyWithTreesFeb23>

24 - White County Brown Bag Lecture Series: Brett Gordan
- Soils, 12 to 1 p.m. (link coming soon)

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Janet B. Carson Student Scholarship

Please share with those in your county.

Application deadline is March 10, 2021

The Janet B. Carson County and the Janet B. Carson Student Scholarships, which are funded through County 76 Silent Auction proceeds and private donations, have been posted on the open portion of the MG website.

For the **Student Scholarship**, we ask you to share the Scholarship information with individuals that work with Arkansas high school seniors who will be attending an Arkansas College or University and who plan to major in a plant science related field.

[Link to application page](#)

Scholarship deadline:

Janet B. Carson Student
Scholarship: **March 10, 2021**

If you have any questions concerning this scholarship, please contact me at mg@uaex.edu.

Linda Soffer, County 76 Past President
Scholarship Chair

Advanced MG Class by ZOOM

Pollinators:

An In-Depth Look at One of Life's Most Important Resources

Hosted by Washington County Master Gardener Program

The Advanced MG Program is a product of County 76

To participate in this class, you must have a **stable** internet connection and you must be able to join the Zoom class using a computer or a tablet, not by cell phone. Participation will be monitored.

Advanced Master Gardener classes are open to Master Gardeners who have been in good standing in their county program for at least three (3) years. (since July 1, 2017)

HOST COUNTY: Washington County

WHEN: March 12, 2021 12:30 to 4:30 pm &
March 13, 2021 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Must attend both days

WHERE: by Zoom, you will receive a link to attend the class

COST: \$25.00

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 12, 2021

Applications accepted by mail only.

Checks should be made payable to Washington County CES

Mail to: Washington County Extension Office
ATTN: Joyce Mendenhall, Advanced MG Training
2536 North McConnell Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72704

For more information about the class contact:

Patsy Louk, 479-841-9865 or pjlouk@gmail.com

Click the words "Registration Information" below:

Then enter the username and password for MG ONLY portion of the website.

[Registration Information link](#)

Reminders:

1. Advanced Master Gardener classes are offered to Master Gardeners who have been in good standing in their county program for at least three (3) years. (since July 1, 2017)
2. Participants must attend the entire class. Certificates of completion will be mailed or emailed to participants. ZOOM session attendance will be monitored.

For more information about the class contact:

Patsy Louk, 479-841-9865 or pjlouk@gmail.com

Volunteer Time

Here is an update of how we are doing right now. Current membership is 90, of that 11 are Lifetimers, 56 regular members, and 23 Trainees. We are up to 43% of our membership as active.

So far this year 152.25 sanctioned hours, 12 non sanctioned hours and 131.25 education hours have been placed into the on-line system. This is great.

I also want to congratulate the following Lifetimers who have their required hours in. **Congratulations** to Rita Nichols and Andrea Thomas. Charlotte Fuller is hard at work with 25 volunteer hours in already. One of our 2020 Trainees, Delita Lusk, has completed half of the required hours she needs. At this rate she may become certified by next month. Keep up the good work.

Just want to remind you that until you put that first hour into the on-line system for the year you show as inactive. Now you know that I want each of you to show as active, so let's start placing in those hours. 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 Covid and trying to stay safe and social distancing. Covid is stopping us from working on or volunteering on some of our projects, but there are some projects that you can work on and still stay socially distanced. These projects are always on going and always need help. The Courthouse Flowerbeds (can always use some extra help, check with Teresa Mitzler), Come Grow with US (Gateway Farmers Market keyhole garden, check with Clyde Davis), Fundraisers and Plant Sales (working at the Greenhouse, check with Charlotte Fuller. This also includes you propagating/raising plants at home for the plant sale.) Mentoring (it is really very important to help trainees to get to know us and our projects), and you might want to write an article for the Newsletter.

The Pollinator Garden has been added to our list of Sanctioned projects for the year. I am sure there will be plenty of outside work (safe – socially distanced) that can be done, check with Annette Lachowsky.

Everyone but Lifetimers are **required 20 hours of education**. 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. There have already been presentations on Rain Barrels, Bird Friendly Yard, Trees/Shrubs, and Spring Peas.

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 to 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. I have listed below the normal requirements; however this may change as it did last year. I will keep you updated.

Right now everyone, but Lifetimers, will be **required** to get their **20 Education hours**. Required Volunteer hours are subject to change depending on how Covid affects us meeting and being able to work on projects. Right now only 9 MGs may meet at a time and must be socially distanced. State will look at this again on March 31st.

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 you years counting.

Remember All of your hours are important and needed to keep MG programs going, so please report all hours.

To Report Hours:

Go to the UofA site: www.uaex.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 903-832-8111 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. **Happy Valentine's Day and keep placing those hours in.**

Andrea