

## 2023 Officers

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



February 2023

# 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, email [jcaraway@uada.edu](mailto:jcaraway@uada.edu) or visit our office, located at 1007 Jefferson Avenue, Texarkana, Arkansas.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jennifer Caraway*  
Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent  
Agriculture/Staff Chair

JAC:jds

**Photo Above:** Some of our MGs attended the Fruit Tree Management and Proper Pruning Techniques Workshop in Little River Co.

**Photos Below:** MGs helped serve the evening meal for attendees at the 4-H Awards Banquet on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Photos by Valerie Pilgreen



## MONTHLY MEETING

**Thurs., February 9  
– 6:00 PM – REA**

Our featured speaker will be **Aaron Harding**, who will speak on *Edible Forestry Gardening*.

See article on Aaron on page 3

## President's Corner

Looks like this year is going to copy last year in moving in a fast pace; one month is gone already. It may be that I'm just getting older and can't get as much done as fast as I would like. The greenhouse is moving along at a good pace with lots of seeds planted and coming up. We have planted three rose bushes at Vera Kilpatrick School and have a meeting scheduled for Monday with them.

The program this month will be by Aaron Harding; the topic will be **Edible Forestry Gardening**. The meeting will be Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at the REA Building. We have been having a good turnout for our meetings; let's keep it up. Hope to see YOU there.

*Chead Blue, President*

## Volunteer Time

### On Line Reporting System

The online system is up, please start placing in your hours.

Currently, 22 members have placed hours in. Sanctioned hours: 205, Non-Sanctioned hours: 5.5, & Education hours: 85.25 hours were placed into the online system.

Our top 3 on volunteer hours (sanctioned & non sanctioned combined) are Clyde Davis with 39, Chead Blue with 28.5 hours, and Ralph Robertson with 18.5 hours. *Great Job!*

### Hours Required for 2023

**Trainees (our Annuals):** You need 20 Sanctioned hours, 20 Non-Sanctioned hours, & 20 hours of Education to become a Certified Master Gardener.

Trainees, I will be sending you information when I have loaded you into the online reporting system when online system is back up.

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

**Lifetimers:** You need 10



### Schedule at a Glance

*Registration is open on the MG Only portion of our [www.uada.edu](http://www.uada.edu) website*

#### June 7, 2023

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Noon – 5:00 PM

Pre-Conference Tour to Petit Jean Mountain (\$)  
Silent Auction

#### June 8, 2023

All Day

Sites to See & Things to Do in the River Valley

8:00 AM – 5:30 PM

Silent Auction

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Workshops with Take Home Item (\$)

- Creating a Barn Quilt
- Succulents Galore

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Workshops with Take Home Item (\$)

- Build Your Own Bonsai
- Basket Weaving 101

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

An Evening in the Center for the Arts (\$)

#### June 9, 2023

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Silent Auction

8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

12 Education Sessions (Free) & 4 Garden Tours (\$)

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch

1:00 PM – 4:45 PM

12 Education Sessions (Free) & 4 Garden Tours (\$)

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Evening Dinner & Guest Speaker

#### June 10, 2023

8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Closing Session

- Guest Speaker with Special Drawing
- State Master Gardener Awards
- Invitation to 2024 MG State Conference

(\$ ) – Indicates an additional Fee will be charged. Fees to be advised in 2023.



## February MG Meeting Speaker

By Theresa Mitzler

Our guest speaker, Aaron Harding, is a 10-year Texas Master Gardener in Cass County, TX. Professionally, he was employed by Christus St. Michael (30 yrs) and is currently the Chief Information Officer for the Texarkana, Texas A & M Campus. Between career changes, he followed his love of plants and key hole gardening, and founded Whippoorwill Gardens on his family property near Atlanta, TX. His topic for the February meeting is Edible Forestry Gardening.

## Ag Expo & Trade Show

The Ag Expo is a great opportunity to get hours, both Sanctioned & Education. You can come out for a full day of educational classes and/or volunteerism (registration, set up, take down, lunch service, MG Booth, helping participants find their classes, introduce speakers, etc.) or come and go as your schedule allows.

We will open the doors at 7:30 a.m. and hope to see you there.



## Christmas Cheer



MG Trainee Judy Helmick (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) & fellow Texarkana DAR members brought Christmas gift boxes in Dec. 2022, which were distributed to local veterans at the St. Edwards' Outreach where MG Theresa Mitzler (rt) donates her time monthly.

*MG STATE CONFERENCE Continued from Page 2*

## Pre-Conference Tour to Petit Jean Mountain

June 7, 2023

Join us as we travel to Petit Jean Mountain, with our first stop at Cottontown, where we will tour a beautiful country garden.

We will then go up the winding road to the top of the mountain and take a break at the Visitors' Center, after which we will visit Old Dog Pottery for a tour of a beautiful woodland garden and a pottery demonstration.

Next, we will enjoy lunch at the rustic Mather Lodge with spectacular views of Cedar Creek Canyon, and listen to a program by a Park Interpreter.

From there we will go to Winrock, the home of the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, and visit the Farmstead, walk the Rockefeller Legacy Gallery, and have a perfect finish to the day with a Sip and Sweet, a Chef's choice of a wine pairing with a dessert.

**Keynote Speakers** - *Chris Norwood*, V-P of Floral Operations at Tipton & Hurst, Inc., AR's largest & oldest florist.

Bestselling author and horticulturist, *Brie Arthur*, has garnered acclaim for her enthusiastic presentations and practical, out of the box gardening advice.

## Conference Workshops

June 8, 2023

Arrive in Russellville June 8<sup>th</sup> to attend any of the 4 workshops & take home something special from the River Valley. Space is limited so register early.



**Barn Quilt Painting** – Paint a Double Aster design on a 12" wood board. All supplies included. **\$30**



**Basket Weaving** – Make a square basket, beginner level. Learn the basic over/under start/stop weave as well as how to attach the rim & lashing. **\$50**



**Bonsai** – At this workshop, a shrub or tree from a nursery will be turned into a bonsai. Bring hand pruners/scissors & scissors (optional) & build you own. **\$50**



**Succulent** – You will put together a beautiful terrarium using high-quality materials. **\$35**

# Volunteer Time

*Continued from Page 2*

Sanctioned hours to keep your years counting.

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 just that, education hours only count towards education.

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 don't wait – get your hours in.

## **Hours earned thru Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 thru Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2023:**

These hours may be bulked into the system. Just pick a date (starting with Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – current date) & 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 or need help reporting your hours, please contact Rita or me. You can call or text me at 972-322-9866, or email [at7550@yahoo.com](mailto:at7550@yahoo.com) or call or text Rita at 903-748-5601, or email [eaglepts2@gmail.com](mailto:eaglepts2@gmail.com). We will do our best to help.

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

*Andrea Thomas*

## **What Hours Can I Place on This Project?**

It is not always clear where to place hours, so I am going to try to clear it up a bit. We have 44 projects in the online system for Volunteer & Education hours. I am starting this month by listing some, with an explanation. I will continue each month till I go thru all projects.

**Advanced Training – Education:** First, you must have been a MG for 3 years to take an Advanced Class. Secondly, you must apply to take the class & get accepted. Classes have a limited capacity. They may be in-person or online, depending on the county hosting the class. There is normally a fee for the class. They are part of County 76. Normally 2 to 4 classes are held a year. Emails about Advanced Classes are put out by County 76, State & Constant Contact. By taking them, you obtain the different levels of certification. Should you take an Advanced Class, this is where you place your hours.

**Agri Expo – Education –** Ag Expo is held annually. It is Feb 9<sup>th</sup> this year. If you attend any of the classes at the Expo, this is where you place your hours. Count 1 hour per class.

**Agri Expo – Volunteer (S) –** Help set up the fairground's arena with equipment, tables, chairs, etc.; introduce speakers, help with registration; assist in preparing, serving, and cleaning up lunch; help dismantle equipment, put up table and chairs, etc; set up and dismantle Miller County MG Booth. This includes volunteer work/hours the day(s) before, day of, day(s) after to complete the project. Travel time may be counted if bringing items for display or hauling equipment for use.

**Annals to Perennials – Education –** This is once a year. It may be zoom or in-person. The focus is to help new MGs become acquainted with the MG program. It is for new MGs and their Mentors, but any MG may attend. If you attend the live zoom or watch the zoom later, this is where those hours go.

**Audit Committee (S) – Volunteer –** This is a three (3)-member committee appointed by the President in November. This committee audits the Treasurer for the year-end report.

**Awards/Recognition Committee (S) –** Committee is appointed by the President to gather information, photos, write descriptions of persons and projects, and fill out forms for the yearly awards (MG of the Year, MG Rookie of the Year, Friend of MG, Business Friend of MG, Individual, Newsletter of the Year, Agent of the Year, and Project of the Year), which are entered in the State MG competition. Arrange for the presentation of designated membership pins and certificates based on years of membership (5 year, 10 year, 15 year – Lifetime, 20 year, etc.).

Questions, please call, text, or email:

Andrea Thomas - 972-322-9866 - [at7550@yahoo.com](mailto:at7550@yahoo.com)



**2023 FOUR STATES AG EXPO AGENDA**  
**Four States Fairground, Texarkana, Arkansas – February 9, 2023**

| <b>Time &amp; Location</b><br><b>8:30</b> | <b>TOPIC</b>  | <b>SPEAKER</b>                   | <b>CEU</b> | <b>Affiliation</b>                |
|---|---|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>ALC</b>                                | <b>Beef Market Outlook</b>  | Dr. James Mitchell               | N/A        | University of Arkansas CES        |
| <b>HOSP</b>                               | <b>Creating Quail Habitat: One Landowner's Story</b>                        | Dr. Michael Baird                | 1 GEN      | DeKalb Animal Hospital            |
| <b>N</b>                                  | <b>Cotton &amp; Soybean Insect Identification and Control Options</b>       | Andy Vangilder, Dr. Hunter Biram | 1 IPM      | University of Arkansas CES        |
| <b>A</b>                                  | <b>Lawn Weed Identification and Control Options</b>                         | Dr. Hannah Smith                 | 1 IPM      | University of Arkansas CES        |
| <b>9:30 -9:45</b>                         | <b>BREAK</b>  |                                  |            |                                   |
| <b>HOSP</b>                               | <b>Farm Pond Fish Population Renovation</b>                                 | Scott Jones                      | NA         | University of Arkansas Pine Bluff |
| <b>ALC</b>                                | <b>Pasture Restoration Following Drought</b>                                | Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson       | 1 IPM      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>A</b>                                  | <b>Growing Herbs in The Home Garden</b>                                     | Dr. Joe Masabni                  | 1 GEN      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>N</b>                                  | <b>Pecan Insect and Disease Updates</b>                                     | Dr. Tim Hartmann                 | 1 IPM      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>10:45-11</b>                           | <b>BREAK</b>  |                                  |            |                                   |
| <b>HOSP</b>                               | <b>Controlling Aquatic Vegetation in Farm Ponds</b>                         | Scott Jones                      | 1 IPM      | University of Arkansas Pine Bluff |
| <b>ALC</b>                                | <b>Controlling Grassy Weeds in Pastures and Hay Fields</b>                  | Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson       | 1 GEN      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>A</b>                                  | <b>Growing Apples &amp; Pears for Home and Small-Scale Fruit Production</b> | Dr. Tim Hartmann                 | 1 GEN      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>N</b>                                  | <b>Identification and Control of Lawn Diseases</b>                          | Dr. Wendell Hutchens             | 1 GEN      | University of Arkansas CES        |
| <b>12-1</b>                               | <b>LUNCH</b>  |                                  |            |                                   |
| <b>HOSP</b>                               | <b>Major Pest Issues of Residential Trees and Pine Plantations</b>          | Allen Smith                      | 1 GEN      | Texas A&M Forest Service          |
| <b>ALC</b>                                | <b>Animal Health: Tips and Updates for Cattle Producers</b>                 | Dr. Shane Morgan                 | NA         | Twin Rivers Vet Supply            |
| <b>A</b>                                  | <b>Organic Options for Home Garden Pest Control</b>                         | Dr. Joe Masabni                  | 1 IPM      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>2-2:15</b>                             | <b>BREAK</b>  |                                  |            |                                   |
| <b>ALC</b>                                | <b>Getting the Most Out of the Pesticide Label</b>                          | Steven Gowin                     | 1 L&R      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>HOSP</b>                               | <b>Arkansas Pesticide Applicator Training</b>                               | Jennifer C. / Rex H.             | NA         | University of Arkansas CES        |
| <b>A</b>                                  | <b>Texas Auxin Training (For Row Crop Producers)</b>                        | Brian Triplett                   | 1 L&R      | Texas A&M AgriLife Extension      |
| <b>3:15</b>                               | <b>Adjourn</b>  |                                  |            |                                   |





**February 18, 2023**

Check-in: 8:30 am | Conf: 9 am – 3:30 pm

Cossatot Community College

1411 N Constitution Ave, Ashdown

**\$20** (includes lunch)  
RSVP required.

## HOMESTEADING CONFERENCE

### The **Well Rooted Homesteading Conference**

is the first of it's kind in the area! Come enjoy a day of fun and fellowship as you learn to live more sustainably and be self-reliant from homesteading experts! Farming, growing and cooking demonstrations will be followed by a charcuterie tasting of local homemade breads, jams, jellies, and home-made butter (made by the attendees!) and an Expert Panel Question & Answer session. **Conference topics include:**

- Backyard Poultry
- Soil Health 101
- Hugelkultur Planting Method
- Water Safety and Storage
- Rainwater Storage Demo
- Sourdough Basics
- Charcuterie Tasting
- Long-term Food Preservation including Freeze Drying and Cheese-Making

### VENDOR EXPO | EXPERT Q&A PANEL



To register scan the QR code or  
visit: [bit.ly/Well-RootedHomesteading](https://bit.ly/Well-RootedHomesteading)

**Now taking vendor expo applications!** For vendor or conference info contact: (870) 898-7224 or [little river-ashdown@uada.edu](mailto:little river-ashdown@uada.edu).

Presented by Little River County Extension.

**BECOME A SPONSOR:** [bit.ly/Homesteading-Conf-Sponsor](https://bit.ly/Homesteading-Conf-Sponsor)

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