

2020 Officers

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



January 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

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Ag Facebook: www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

TOP 3 POLLINATOR TIPS 2021

1) I will plant native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees in my yard and garden, promote the use of native plants to other gardeners in my area, and collect native seed from my garden to share with neighbors.

2) I will provide food for pollinators all year by having spring, summer, and fall blooming plants in my garden and yard.

3) I will leave leaf litter, stems, twigs and logs in my garden for nesting bees and for butterflies to lay their eggs and overwinter.

All interested Master Gardeners are invited to come to a meeting January 22, at 11:30 at the Gateway Farmers' Market. The address is 602 East Jefferson, Texarkana, Arkansas.

This article comes from the

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**



Happy New Year to All!

I want to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardners officers for 2021.

Nicholas Auck as *President*
James Lamb as *Vice President*
Gayle Renfro as *Secretary*
Charlotte Fuller as *Treasurer*

I appreciate their willingness to serve and look forward to their leadership in 2021.

As out-going President, according to our bylaws, I will be on the Executive Committee and welcome any comments or suggestions.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve MCRDMG!

Sincerely,
Annette Lachowsky

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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.

The **County Scholarship** is open to any Arkansas Master Gardener program with project scholarship funds available in amounts up to \$750.

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](#)

Scholarships deadlines:

Janet B. Carson County Scholarship: **January 15, 2021**
Janet B. Carson Student Scholarship: **March 10, 2021**

If you have any questions concerning either of these scholarships, please contact me at mg@uaex.edu.

Linda Soffer, County 76 Past President
Scholarship Chair



The Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, in the Home Arts Building at Four States Fairgrounds if Covid restrictions are eased or lifted. Otherwise it will be a virtual sale.

Seeds have been purchased for: 19 varieties of tomatoes, 1 eggplant, 10 varieties of peppers, 13 herbs, 19 annuals and 5 perennials (bedding plants).

We need you to donate any items from your yard or garden (or a friend or neighbor's) for these categories: houseplants, trees, vines, succulents, ground covers, fall bulbs, bushes, tropicals, ferns and other outdoor perennials.

If you have been rooting something of your own, you can bring it to the Arkansas High School greenhouse on a Tuesday or Friday in February-You will receive more information on times and dates.

If you have any questions call or text me at: 903-831-0443.

Thanks for your willingness to make our fourth Plant Sale successful!!

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Charlotte



Happy New Year Everyone

As of the morning January 5th the On-Line Reporting system is still down. Please just keep checking. I thought I would start out by letting you know how we ended the year. For 2020 there was 2322.75 sanctioned hours, 100.75 non sanctioned hours and 1634.3 education hours placed into the on-line system. Not bad for all the restrictions that were and still are in place. Thanks Everyone!!

Here are the top 3 on volunteer hours worked in 2020. These are some hard-working folks.

Clyde Davis with 232 hours

Theresa Mitzler with 217.75 hours

Chead Blue with 173 hours

I also want to congratulate the following trainees who completed the On-Line Basic Training in December.

Congratulations to Allison Smeltzer, Doug McBride, Andrea Odom, Cathy Smith, and Karen Williams.

In 2020 we had 80 members. We will be losing 4 of those members, they have moved away, but we will be gaining 18 trainees.

I hope those of you who got volunteer and/or education hours from Dec 16 thru Dec 31 kept up with your hours. You do not lose them. Just pick a day in January and report them. Those hours count and give you a head start on the New Year. You know all hours are important and I want you to report them.

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.

Not sure what this year will bring, but hopefully Covid will end or slow down enough that we can start meeting again. Until then 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), Mentoring (it is really very important to help trainees to get to know us and our projects), and articles for the Newsletter.

The Pollinator Garden will be 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 when it gets started.

There are still 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 start back up in January.).

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.

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 on reporting your hours in the on line system or need a password reset, please give me a call 903-832-8111 or send me an email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.

Happy New Year and start placing those hours in.



MG PARTY

The MCRDMG officers and Executive Committee enjoyed seeing your smiling faces as you picked up your Christmas gift and calendar on that cold and rainy day in December at the Gateway Farmers Market. We want you to know we appreciate each and every one of you and the time you volunteer to our organization.

If you didn't get a gift or if you want more calendars call Annette L at 850 324-2459.



January 2021 Events

- 15** - County program scholarship deadline
- 21** - County 76 Project Meetings via Zoom
- 26** - County 76 General Membership Meeting via Zoom
- 31** - Donation deadline for awards, scholarships

January 21 Project Meeting
Registration Link

http://bit.ly/Project_MeetingsCounty76

January 26 General Membership Meeting Registration Link

<http://bit.ly/GeneralCounty76MeetingJan>

February 2021 Events

- 15** - Donations deadline for MG Conference
- 15** - MG Awards deadline



INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

What is IMGCC?

The International Master Gardener Conference is held every two years and provides an opportunity for members of the public, Extension Master Gardeners, and Extension Specialists to come together and learn through seminars and tours, while also convening committee meetings and exchanging ideas and concerns In 2021, the International Master Gardener Conference will be held virtually. Though a virtual conference was not our original plan, we are excited for this unique opportunity to bring our speakers, workshops, and networking opportunities to *even more* Master Gardeners at a greatly-reduced cost from attending the in-person event. All sessions will be recorded and available for viewing later. We hope our decision to move to a virtual platform will make the conference more accessible to Master Gardeners near and far.

QUICK INFO

- **When:** September 12-17, 2021
- **Where:** Our easy-to-use virtual conference platform
- **Who:** Members of the public, Master Gardeners, and Extension specialists
- **Schedule:** Check our preliminary [schedule](#) and our [speakers](#) page
- **Cost:** Greatly reduced from the cost of in-person attendance. More details released early 2021!
- **Registration:** opens Monday, April 5, 2021

How will the virtual conference be hosted?

After registration, you will gain access to our virtual conference portal where you will be able to join live webinars during IMGCC and find links to recorded webinars after IMGCC concludes. Our portal will also contain other information and conference extras, such as special networking sessions and virtual confer challenges.

What's the virtual schedule?

Our preliminary virtual schedule includes two sessions per day with a few special evening events. We are taking great care to prevent "Zoom fatigue" and are limiting total daily conference time to no more than a few hours!

Our schedule contains:

- 5 keynote speakers.
- 30+ concurrent speakers, divided into five sessions. You can choose the session you'd like to attend live and go back and watch other sessions' recordings later.
- 3 opportunities for small group networking sessions.
- Two special panel events.
- Opening and closing sessions.
- Optional workshops on Sunday, September 12.
- Opportunities to explore gardening in the Commonwealth of Virginia at your own pace

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners
Held January 8th, 2021**

The Meeting was called to order at 12 p.m. by Nicholas Auck via conference with Annette Lachowsky and Jennifer Caraway, Extension Agent. Pending officers, James Lamb, Gayle Renfro and Charlotte Fuller were also included.

James Lamb opened with a word or prayer.

1st order of business was the official election of officers for the 2021 year. Nominating committee had sent out their recommendations in the October newsletter giving everyone the opportunity to nominate others. No other nominations were received. Charlotte Fuller made the motion and James Lamb 2nd that Nick Auck- President, James Lamb-Vice President, Gayle Renfro-Secretary, and Charlotte Fuller-Treasurer be accepted as the 2021 officers by acclamation. Motion made and carried.

Jennifer Caraway swore in the officers.

Budget Report – Nick explained that since the Basic Training would again be on-line in the Spring the State had set the fee for \$75. Upon completion we would then charge a fee for their name badge and dues for the year. Depending on the time of completion dues may be prorated. The pollinator garden was added to the budget. There is a \$ 9,600.00 grant for this project. The Soil conservation District is responsible for this so therefore our request for money to be spent will go through them. Bruce Ferguson will be the person responsible for presenting our request as he is a member of both organizations. With no other changes being made from the 2020 budget a motion was made by Gayle Renfro and 2nd by James Lamb to accept the budget for 2021.

Signature Card – It was moved by James Lamb and 2nd by Gayle Renfro that the signature card at Regions Bank Reflect that Nicholas Auck, James Lamb and Charlotte Fuller be on the signature card and Annette Lachowsky be removed. Charlotte Fuller will be the Point of Contact as Treasurer. Motion made and carried.

Volunteer Hours- Motion was made by Charlotte Fuller and 2nd by James Lamb that Due to state guidelines for Covid, volunteer hours again be suspended. However everyone will be required to obtain all education hours. When/If Covid restrictions are lifted volunteer hours and meeting attendance requirements would be reconsidered. Motion made and carried.

Open House Day in April/May – This was just a discussion to possibly have a round robin type of meeting so that our new seedlings could be introduced and also see each of the ongoing club projects. Members would be set up at each of the project sites and seedlings would be given a time to go by and check out the projects and meet the members. This would be done according to Covid guidelines. There will be further discussion to take place at a later date.

Pollinator Garden – Annette Lachowsky gave a report on the pollinator garden stating that not much headway has been made due to the time of year. There will be a meeting on February 22nd with the committee chairs to draft a timeline regarding irrigation, grass removal, hardscape. A soil report will also be given at this time. Annette is also checking to see if raised beds can be used on this project.

Plant Sale- Charlotte Fuller gave a report on the Plant Sale activity stating the seeds have been purchased and the greenhouse has mostly been cleaned. There is still one corner that needs grass removed. Chead Bleu got the cement mixer used to mix our soil fixed and is adding a tarp to cover the outside area where the mixing will be done. Members are welcome to donate their plants that they have either rooted or need to be rooted in February. Seed will be started starting March 2nd. The date for the plant sale is set for May 1st provided Covid restrictions allow this. If Covid prevents an in-person sale we are looking into some type of virtual sale or possibly a restricted to certain number of people shopping at a given time. At this time we are limited the number of people that can be in the greenhouse at one time so we are working on scheduling working shifts.

With no other discussions or business the motion was made by James Lamb and 2nd by Gayle Renfro to adjourn.