

## 2021 Officers

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



July 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, email [jcaraway@uada.edu](mailto:jcaraway@uada.edu) or visit our office, now located at 1007 Jefferson Ave., Texarkana, AR.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jennifer Caraway*  
Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent  
Staff Chair/Agriculture

JC:jds

We are excited to introduce our new Family & Consumer Sciences Agent, Varonica Kennedy. She is a Liberty Eylau graduate who obtained her Master's in Education at SAU Magnolia. Varonica is an active member of her community and looks forward to meeting everyone. Come by to welcome her to our team.



**Photo Above:** Group photo of "Seedlings" receiving certificates at the first in-person monthly meeting in over a year in June. Thanks to Clyde Davis for the photo.

**Right:** James Parker, Provisional MG, completing the installation of edging of a new curbing bed adjacent to the Miller County office parking lot. Thanks to Theresa Mitzler for the photo.



**MG Monthly Meeting –  
Saturday, July 10 – 6:00 PM –  
Teresa Slack Residence**

As announced at the June meeting, we will hold our July meeting on Sat., July 10th beginning at 10:00 am. Unfortunately, we have had to change the location of our meeting. We will begin with a tour of Teresa Slack's gardens.

Afterward we will have a business meeting followed by lunch. (We will serve hot dogs, hamburgers and chips with tea and water.) Ms. Teresa's address is: 220 Double L Road, Texarkana, TX.

If you have questions, feel free to contact any officer for assistance.

*Nick*

*A Zoom MG Basic Training is being offered again this fall. Deadline to apply would be Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, with classes conducted September 22, 29, October 6, 20, & 27, from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.*

## End of an Era: AR Flower & Garden Show Leaves 3-Decade Legacy

For nearly 3 decades, the spectacular gardens and rich educational sessions at Arkansas Flower and Garden Show provided both a reprieve from winter and an inspiration to gardeners for the spring to come.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show board announced on Facebook that the show was at its end. "After much thought & consideration, the AFGS board has voted to no longer hold our annual ... Show."

Decreasing attendance and rising costs were among the many reasons for the show's demise.

Janet Carson, retired extension horticulture specialist for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, said, "The AFGS started in 1992 with a wish and a prayer, and a whole lot of hard work from a very small group of people.

More than 7,500 came that first year. The show continued to grow and eventually took over all the halls and upstairs at the Statehouse Convention Center. At its peak, the three-day show drew more than 13,000 people.

Gerald Klingaman, retired extension horticulture specialist for the Division of Ag recalled that first show: "My students and I loaded up like the Joads heading to California in 'Grapes of Wrath' that first year and helped establish the standards for the garden displays. The show was always a favorite of the crowds that saw nature's beauty a few weeks before spring officially arrived. It was a lot of work and the Master Gardeners who worked so tirelessly through the years made it work."

However, a big show that requires scores of dedicated volunteers and long, long days for show board members, can't survive on enthusiasm alone. Randy Forst, a current board member and Pulaski Co. extension staff chair said setting up elaborate gardens was expensive and labor-intensive for nurseries. Show attendance slowly eroded over the years and the show's move from downtown Little Rock to the AR State Fairgrounds wasn't universally embraced. Forst said, "As for the future, there are other options out there, and we'll decide that at the next board meeting".

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER –

I hope you are all doing well and planning to attend this Saturday's meeting at Teresa Slack's Homestead. We will begin at 10:00 am with a tour of her gardens followed by a meeting and then lunch. The day is free of charge, as usual, and we have a few items to discuss on the business agenda.

One item we need to discuss is projects. Currently, we have our outreach keyhole garden at the Arkansas side Farmer's Market. Bro. Clyde Davis is always looking for volunteers to talk about what is in our garden, answer questions about gardening and visiting with those who stop by. Ms. Annette Lachowsky is heading up our pollinator garden, also at the Farmer's Market, which is moving along quite well. The watering system is about to be installed, then the paths and finally planting. There is a solarization demonstration currently underway also. Ms. Teresa

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Here is an update of how we are doing right now. Current membership is 84: of that 11 are Lifetimers, 52 regular members, & 21 Trainees. We are up to 79% of our membership as active. There are 18 of you who have not placed any hours in yet.

So far this year: 1681.5 sanctioned hours, 40.5 non-sanctioned & 1002.8 education hours have been placed into the online system. This is great.

I want to congratulate the following 2020 Trainee, - Charles Jackson – who has completed hours to become a Certified Master Gardener.

**Congrats!**

We will be adding three more trainees shortly who completed the online course as of June 2021. Be sure and welcome Debbie Crouch, Bethany Daughtery, and Kasey Merriman.

Remember that until you put that first hour into the on line system for the year you show as inactive (18 of you). Now you know 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 the effects of Covid.

Everyone but Lifetimers are **required 20 hours of education**. There are many ways to get your education hours: books, magazines, TV, radio, you

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## 2021 Master Gardener Awards Event

### Join the Celebration!

A special time has been scheduled for the presentation of the 2020 Master Gardener Awards this year. Make plans to attend the Zoom session where your county may be recognized as having a winner of an award.

Award categories are: MG of the Year; Rookie of the Year; Project of the Year; Newsletter of the Year; Friend of MG-Business or Organization; Friend of MG-Individual; Excellence in Education; County Agent of the Year; and 2020 MG Challenge Award.

Mark your calendars for **July 19 at noon** and clap with everyone as awards are presented. Registration is required. Click here to register:

[https://uada.zoom.us/join/register/tJlfumorjMpHdAL\\_AYEOo8h45laRQzgPmgg](https://uada.zoom.us/join/register/tJlfumorjMpHdAL_AYEOo8h45laRQzgPmgg)



*Photo Above: Judy and Annette working at the pollinator garden at the Gateway Farmers Market.*

*Thanks to Christy Worsham for the photo.*



If you are a new Master Gardener or a mentor of a new MG, make plans to attend this event!

What: MG Program via Zoom, We Are Here for You-Welcome to the AR MG Program

When: **August 5, 2021**

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Who Can Attend: Newly Trained MGs, Their Mentors and Agents from 2020 and 2021.

*First of all, we would like to offer a BIG thank you to Lowe's for their generous donation of plants for our Plant Sale. Photos to the left are some of the winners of caladiums and hanging baskets from the Plant Sale.*

*Thanks to Christy Worsham for the photos.*





# PRESIDENT'S CORNER –

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Mitzler is the Chair of our “Courthouse” project, which includes the flower beds at the County Courthouse and the Extension Office’s new location on Jefferson. If you are interested in volunteering with one or all of these projects, please let the Chair know and they can get you in the loop.

At our meeting, we will be discussing restarting and new projects. One I am particularly excited about is the School Gardening project. Before Covid, we had two locations: Trice Elementary in Texarkana and Central Elementary in Genoa. Next month, we will add the new “Heights” Elementary on 35th Street next to the Ed Worrell Park. This project teaches students how to plant and care for vegetables and flowers, the impact on the environment, as well as improving nutrition. The “Heights” location is brand new and can be designed from the ground up, but we need to get the ball rolling now. If you are interested in the School Gardening project, we will have a signup at the July meeting, or you can contact an officer to get your name on the volunteer list. Additionally, some interest has been expressed in working with public housing on community gardens. If you are interested, please sign up on that list this Saturday.

Finally, our Fall meeting topics are pretty much complete. Mr. Doug Petty will be speaking at our August meeting on Fire Ants, September’s meeting will be Mr. Joe Narens demonstrating and discussing tree pruning. October will be our bulb swap and November will be our annual voting/elections/project volunteering meeting. We will finish the year with our Christmas Party. If you would like to be a part of the Bulb Swap committee, please contact Ms. Annette Lachowsky and Mr. James Lamb is heading our volunteers for the Christmas Party and silent auction fundraiser.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

*Nick Auck*

Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener President



**Thank you to all that viewed, bid & supported our first ever virtual silent auction. We are happy to report a very successful auction (over \$10,000) to support a variety of County 76 Programs.**



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tube, online 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 Online 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. Make sure the project you want goes in the box.

**Remember All of your hours are important & needed to keep MG programs going, so please report all hours. To Report Hours:**

Go to the UofA site: [www.uaex.uada.edu](http://www.uaex.uada.edu), then Yard & Garden, click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here & logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the 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 online system, please give me a call at 903-832-8111 or send me an email at [at7550@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Thomas*