

2020 Officers

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June 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
Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent
Agriculture

JC:jds

Photo Above: Miller Co. Courthouse Flowerbed crew still working on the flowerbeds, all while maintaining social distance. The flowerbeds are prettier than they've ever been. Thanks to Charlotte Fuller for the photo.

Photo Right: MC Flowerbeds photos taken by Jennifer Caraway.



Andrea's New Lawn Mower Trial

Thought I would tell you about the new lawn mower I tried out the other day. This was one of the Longhorn models known as *The Bull*, their top model. Longhorn has quite a few models, *The Bull*, *The Steer*, *The Cow*, *The Heifer*, *The Yearling*, & *The Calf*. I decided I wanted to try the most powerful model – *The Bull*. I must say it quickly took down some 2' tall rye grass I had let get out of control at the back of my property. The only thing was the cut was uneven. In some places it took the grass down almost to the dirt and other places the grass was



still a couple of inches tall. It also left some tracks about 6" deep; I am sure this was because of all the rain of late. I probably used it about an hour before I decided I would just keep using my old lawnmower. I least I did not have to take it back; it went on its own back into the pasture behind me. Someone will be fixing a fence.

Contact Me

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Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg



Plants That Change Colors

Last month Andrea Thomas showed you the unusual plant “growing” in her flowerpot (left). She has now noticed that during the day it is orange, but at dusk, it turns gray (right). Hmm.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER —

Miller Co Courthouse Flowerbeds ... the work continues

Greetings to all! I hope you are all well and have enjoyed several months of uninterrupted gardening!

One thing I enjoy about horticulture and botany is that there is always something new to learn. I was not aware that tomatillo, *Physalis philadelphica*, is not self-pollinating like its cousin tomato, *Lycopersicon* sp. If you don't have two tomatillo plants, you won't get fruit. You will just have a plant with cute little yellow blooms.

Tomatillo & tomato are both in the Solanaceae family along with eggplant, potato, and pepper. It seems that most of the vegetables in the family are self-pollinating except for the tomatillo.

We have one lonesome tomatillo in the demonstration keyhole garden at Gateway Farmers Market. If anyone has an extra tomatillo plant, feel free to go plant it in the keyhole garden

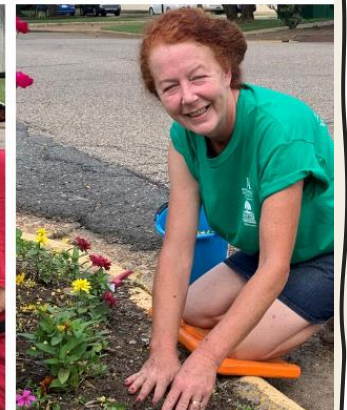
I know you are probably curious about when we can meet again. That time will depend on the leaders in Little Rock. We are following the re-opening protocol from the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture. Also, the REA has not re-opened their meeting room.

As soon as we are allowed to meet, we will arrange a cook-out or something fun. I miss you all! Stay well and stay safe,

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Lachowsky,
MCRDMG president

Work continues at the Miller County Courthouse as the Flowerbed Crew continues to weed, prune and plant, making it more beautiful than ever. They are also ensuring that they social distance – at least 6' apart.



Photos above taken by Charlotte Fuller, Red Dirt Master Gardener

Photos to the right and below taken by Jennifer Caraway on her way into the courthouse. The beautiful colors have a cheering effect so if you haven't been by the courthouse lately, come by.



Zoom-Zoom-Zoom

Zoom meetings have become the norm lately. It's convenient and lets you continue your education while practicing social distancing.

Pre-registration is required. After registering, a link will be emailed to you to join.

Brown Bag Lecture Series

"Native Plants for Landscapes in Central Wyoming" presented by Donna Hoffman, Assistant Extension Educator for Horticulture at the University of Wyoming Extension Service.

Donna loves plants & the pollinators who visit them. Plants that are drought resistant and adapted out of the dry environment of Wyoming are often suited to bring into home landscapes and help provide habitat and food sources for native pollinators. Join White County Extension Service & Donna Hoffman on **June 10, 2020 at 12:00 PM**. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3dr1q10>

Master Gardener Mondays

MG Monday via Zoom, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. The meeting link will be sent out **June 15th**, the morning of the event. It will also be posted on the Master Gardener Facebook page.

Rain Gardens: A Beautiful Solution to Water Pollution



Rain gardens are specially designed landscape beds that capture stormwater runoff and allow it to slowly percolate into the soil, recharging groundwater & removing stormwater pollutants. Rain gardens can be attractive landscape features that also improve local water quality.

Join the Faulkner County Master Gardeners and John Pennington, Water Quality Educator with the UAEX on **June 16th at 6:00 p.m.** to learn more about what rain gardens are, how they improve water quality, and how to incorporate them into your home landscape.

Register here: bit.ly/FCMGraingardens



I hope everyone is doing okay & staying safe. First, I 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. I also know there are some of you that have hours and have not placed them into the system.

Current membership is 80; of that 10 are Lifetimers, 59 regular members and 11 trainees. We are up to 85% of our membership as active and 12% are still inactive.

This month we add the following member with enough volunteer hours in for recertification; congratulations to Becky Barrett. Great job.

The following lifetimers have their required 10 sanctioned hours to keep their years counting – Nancy Biggar, Agnes Fields and Alice McMillan.

So far this year, 1301.25 sanctioned hours, 67.25 non-sanctioned hours and 670.5 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 in for the year, you show as inactive & I want you to show as active. We now have 12 members showing as inactive & 7 of you have time you can place in 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 MG programs going, so please report all hours. To report hours, go to www.uaex.edu, then Yard & Garden. Click on Master Gardener Program, then Enter Volunteer Hours here and logon. This is the best way to ensure you are at the current version of the online reporting system.

Reporting Volunteer Hours

Have you noticed the new project to report volunteer hours? We have needed this for some time now. The new project category is *Extension Office Project/Helper* and it is sanctioned. This is for helping out at the Extension office in any manner that is needed, whether helping our Extension agent in the field and helping with, working on or conducting field trials/tests on flowers/vegetables.

I know that the stay-in-place and social distancing 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.

Here are examples of volunteer hours for this month:

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Volunteer Time

Continued from page 3

Sanctioned Hours

Mentoring – time spent helping your trainee: calling, emailing, texting to remind them of upcoming events and making sure they understand what is required and where to find info about upcoming seminars & events.

Fundraisers and Plant Sales – propagating plants for future sales. Taking care of the plants you already have that were dedicated for our now postponed plant sale.

Miller Co. Courthouse Flowerbeds – doing needed tasks to keep flowerbeds beautiful while social distancing. If you wish to help this committee, contact Theresa Mitzler, committee chair, to find out how to help.

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

Articles and photos for the newsletter.

Education

MG Monday Zoom trainings. Watch live, watch recording or read pdf.

Read horticulture magazines/books. Reading articles on internet. Check out information the UofA has under Yard & Garden or Farm & Ranch. You can report 1 hour monthly for this.

Watch horticulture program on TV and/or the internet. There are lots of YouTube videos. Listen to horticulture program on the radio. Report 1 hour per month for this activity.

Brown Bag Lecture Series via Zoom, hosted by White Co., 2:05-12:50 p.m. This is a great program. It has been very popular & is continuing with more classes. Check your emails for the invitation to join. You must register to get a link & handout info. Count under seminars. Take Care & Be Safe. I miss you all. Keeping all of you in my prayers.

Andrea Thomas

Annuals to Perennials



Announcing a special ZOOM video conference program just for you ... First Year Master Gardeners and Their Mentors

Because in-person Annuals to Perennials programs have had to be postponed, the Recruiting, Retention & Recognition project from County 76 has put together a Zoom program on June 26, 2020, from 10:00-11:30 AM.

Berni Kurz, our Arkansas Master Gardener Coordinator, will welcome you to the MG Program.

Patsy Louk, County 76 President, will tell you about County 76 and why you should be a part of it.

Craighead County Agent Branon Thiesse will share a bit about your county agent and their role.

THEN

Megan Lankford, Garden Supervisor, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks will present: **"More Than Milkweed – Gardening for Nature's Food Web"**.

Mark your calendars to attend the special Zoom presentation on June 26th. Julie Treat, our Horticulture Program Associate at the state extension office, will send a link to new MGs and their mentors to register for the meeting.

Welcome to the Arkansas Master Gardener Program and remember **"We Are Here for YOU!"**

Your Opinion Matters

We have been considering what is best, to continue mailing or emailing Master Gardener Newsletters monthly or go to quarterly or even bi-monthly. It is your newsletter so your opinion matters.

If you have access to email, you can vote by clicking one of the choices there. If you do not have access to email, you can call 870-779-3609 and cast your vote. We won't ask for any information from you other than your vote.

We look forward to hearing from you!