

2020 Officers

President: Annette Lachowsky
Vice-President – Jane Richards
Secretary – Gayle Renfro
Treasurer – Nick Auck



March 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, email jcaraway@uaex.edu or visit our office, located in the Miller County Courthouse, Room 215, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Caraway

County Extension Agent
Agriculture

JC:jds

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MG Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-
Gardeners](https://www.facebook.com/Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-Gardeners)

Ag Facebook: [www.facebook.com/
millercountyuaex/](https://www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex/)

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

Photo Above: Master Gardeners from Arkansas and Texas helped at the Ag Expo. Nearly 300 people were fed at this full-day event. MGs serving hamburgers to the crowd.

Photo Right: James Lamb takes a moment during all the hectic craziness of the day to pose for Andrea's camera.



BIG NEWS

Miller County Judge Kathy Harrison-Hardin is signing a proclamation designating April 6th – 10th as Red Dirt Master Gardener Week! There will be a display placed in the Miller County Courthouse for this week. If you have photos you would like to share, please bring to our monthly meeting. Because of the display location, the highlight will be of the Miller County Courthouse flowerbeds, but we hope to feature many of our MG projects around the community.

MONTHLY MEETING

**Thurs., March 12 –
6:00 PM – REA**

Our featured speaker at our monthly meeting will be John Gavin, Bradley County Staff Chair and tomato guru. He will teach us about tomatoes. If you've never heard him – or even if you have – you are sure to learn something new.

MG Awards Given at Monthly Meeting

President Lachowsky awarded our winners their certificates at our monthly meeting. Congratulations to: Chead Blue for MG of the Year; Charlotte Fuller for Project of the Year (Plant Sale); Teresa Slack and Carly Anderson (Ron's daughter) for Friend of MG-Individual; Michael Odom, Business Friend of the Year (Arkansas High) and David Waldroup – Rookie of the Year. Congratulations and Well Deserved!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER –

Greetings MCRDMGs!

I hope you are staying dry! I suppose we will be missing these rainy days this summer, but I am ready to dry out a bit!

It was my honor at the February meeting to present the certificates to our MG of the Year, our Rookie of the Year and our friends of Master Gardeners! What a great group of people we have as members and as our support group! Thanks again to all of the recipients, especially to Ron Slack's family!

Speaking of honors! Judge Harden has proclaimed April 6th through April 10th as **Master Gardener Week**. There will be a ceremony on April 6. (Be watching for news on the time.) Thank you all for your hard work on our various projects and a special thank you to Theresa Mitzler, Chead Blue, June Nix, Linda Moilanen, Elizabeth Gerrald, Wendi Merkel, Gayle Renfro, Wanda Adcock, Joan Evins, Jean Ruth, Bruce Ferguson, & Michele Kegley. This hard-working team, as well as others, have made the Miller County Courthouse beds such a showcase of MG talents!

There is lots going on this month. The Texarkana Home and Garden show is March 14th & 15th at the fairgrounds. We plan to have a table there so we will need MGs to staff it. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting next Thursday.

On March 21st at 12:30 at the library, Nick Auck will be hosting a program on preparing the garden and container plantings for the



Continued on Page 5

Setting up drinks



Setting up for lunch



Stepping Stones that Charlotte made to sell at the Plant Sale



Agri Expo Update

By Andrea Thomas

I have been to quite a few of the Agri Expos, even when it was snowing and sleeting, but I do believe this was the coldest I have ever been. Maybe it is an age thing, since I am a little older. The cold did not stop me or anyone else. However, one speaker did get iced in. There was a good turnout. Quite a few vendors set up, along with both Miller and Bowie County Master Gardeners. There was a lot of equipment to see and great classes to attend, plus a free lunch.

We had Master Gardeners set up to answer questions about the MG program and even had a few folks sign up. MGs helped with speakers, directed folks to classes, handed out and took up questionnaires, and also helped serve lunch.

The Ag Expo is a great way for us MGs to get both volunteer & education hours, some renewed pesticide applicator licenses, and some came because it is fun! There was a nice variety of classes. I went to the blueberry & blackberry class and the companion planting class. Very good info. There were several door prize drawings and Miller County MG Nancy Biggar won the chain saw that everyone was hoping to win. Lucky Nancy! If you have never been to an Ag Expo, you should give it a try one time.



Teresa and Charlotte at the Miller County MG Booth



Willene and June at the Miller County MG Booth



Nancy and Melissa putting on serving gloves



Setting up the drinks



Joan setting out cheese



Nancy with the chainsaw she won

Red Dirt MG Minutes

February 13, 2020 ~ REA

President Lachowsky called the meeting to order.

The Minutes of the January meeting were published in the February newsletter and upon a motion made by James Lamb and seconded by Clyde Davis, they were approved as published. Motion carried unanimously.

The **Treasurer's Report** was printed out and available for members to review. Report was approved and filed for audit.

Online Reporting – Andrea Thomas stated that we are doing the best we have ever done but still have 22 members who have not logged in their first hour so remain showing as inactive. Andrea encouraged everyone to get their hours logged and offered help if anyone needed it.

Committee Reports:

Theresa Mitzler reported that things are looking really good at the courthouse and that she had received several complements from outside people stating this.

Charlotte Fuller stated that things were going great at the greenhouse and we now have 2 groups working on Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:00 AM. Charlotte also shared that members were busy propagating at home & working on some crafts for the plant sale. All of those doing so may count their time as volunteer hours.

Gayle Renfro reported that Genoa school garden activities were going good as well. We meet with the 1st graders at 1 PM on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Paula Warren reported that the roses need trimming at the Texarkana Welcome sign along with some weeding and general cleanup. She will send out a message about a workday as soon as the weather permits.

Jane Richards reported that she has received the schedule from the Southwest Center summer programs for "Come Grow with Us".

Jane also reported that the Four States Ag Expo was a success with 28 Master Gardeners showing and braving the cold to help. Also that the time could be used as volunteer hours or education hours or could be split up and some used in both areas. The

Continued on Page 5



Have you noticed the change State has made to their website? Enter Volunteer Hours is now on the left side a little more than midway down. It is still there, just in a different place.

Current membership is at 80. Of that, 10 are Lifetimers, 59 are regular members and 11 Trainees. We are up to 75% of our membership as active with 19% still inactive.

We have another member with enough time in for recertification; congratulations Theresa Mitzler. There are a number of members that are getting close to recertification. GREAT JOB!

So far this year 605.5 sanctioned hours, 63.25 non-sanctioned hours and 273 education hours have been placed into the online system. Great work!

Again, I want to remind you that until you put that first hour into the system for the year, you show as inactive and you know that I want each of you to show as active. Right now we have 19 members showing as inactive and I know some of you have time you can place into the system.

2019 Trainees (our Annuals): You need 20 Sanctioned hours, 10 Non-Sanctioned hours and 20 hours of Education for recertification.

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 your years counting.

All of you should notice that we have made some changes to the online reporting system. We have added projects and changed some projects from Non-Sanctioned to Sanctioned. It should now be easier to get the required sanctioned hours.

Remember, all of your hours are important and are needed to keep the MG programs going. Please report all hours. Go to www.uaex.edu, Yard & Garden. Click on Master Gardener Program, click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the newest version of the Online Reporting System.

If you have any questions on reporting your hours or need a password reset, please give me a call at 903-832-8111 or email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.

Reporting Volunteer Hours Caution, Caution, Caution!

Some of you, me included, are getting just a little bit too quick for the online system. This is occurring 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. The first

Continued on Page 6

Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes

decision as to how you count the hours is left up to each individual volunteering.

There will be a Seed Swap on February 19th at the Texarkana Public Library & another one on Feb. 21st at the old school in Tollett, AR if you plan to volunteer. These events fall under Come Grow with Us.

Annette reported that the Education Committee had programs set for the Internal Education with the first one being held on March 21st at the Texarkana Library starting at 12:30 and lasting until 4:30. The class will cover How to Prepare Your Beds for Spring Planting.

Unfinished Business

President Lachowsky presented awards: David Waldroup – Rookie of the Year; Chead Blue – MG of the Year; Charlotte Fuller – Plant Sale, Project of the Year; Michael Odom, Arkansas High, Business Friend of the Year; and Ron Slack was awarded the Friend of Master Gardener Award posthumously. This award was received by Teresa Slack and Carly Anderson.

President Lachowsky reminded everyone that if they want to work on a particular committee, they need to contact the committee chair.

New Business:

President Lachowsky announced that even though the May meeting will fall during the same time as the State Conference, we will still have the meeting for those that are not attending the conference. Hanan Douglas and her 4-H students will be presenting the program.

We will be setting up a table at the Texarkana Home and Garden Show on March 14th & 15th. We need volunteers for this event.

A discussion was held on upcoming Master Gardener events. March 14th – Dirt Friends Festival in Eldorado; April 18th – A Time to Till in Prescott; and Randy Fourst will be at Hempstead Hall in Hope sometime in April but James was not sure of the date.

Announcements were made about the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show in Little Rock and that the State Conference is currently open for registration.

There will also be a hands-on chance for Pruning Muscadines at Teresa Slack's on Wednesday, February 19th. This can be counted as education hours.

Clyde Davis made the motion to adjourn; seconded by James Lamb. Vote was made and carried.

Clay Wingfield presented a program on pruning following the meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER –

Continued from Page 2

summer. Best practices for sharpening and maintaining tools will also be covered. This is part of our internal quarterly advanced training programs. These programs are just for us, Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. There is no requirement for years of service as there is for the statewide Advanced Training program. There is limited room at the library for this program so you will need to sign up at the March meeting or contact Nick.

The time is quickly approaching for our 3rd annual Plant Sale. April 4 is the big day! There will be lots of opportunities for hours even if you have not been on the committee. This is a call for all hands on deck! Plus, it is a lot of fun!

I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our monthly meeting, March 12. Our speaker will be the tomato expert, John Gavin, from Bradley, Arkansas. If you have not heard him, you are in for a treat! If you have heard him, I promise that you will learn something new!

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lachowsky

President, Miller County
Red Dirt Master Gardeners



**Sat.
9 AM – 5 PM
Sun.
1 PM – 5 PM**

Save the Date

**2020
HOME
& GARDEN
show**

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Upcoming Events

1st-15th – Garvan Woodland Gardens Spring Bulbs – Daffodils are blooming, along with a few tulips. Most tulips will be blooming in late March & early April in 2020. Profuse amounts of rain, with little sunshine, is making bloom times later.

8th – Daylight Savings Time begins – Spring Forward One Hour

10th – Deadline for Janet Carson High School Scholarship Form – for students who will be attending an Arkansas College or University that plans to major in a plant science-related field.

12th – Greene County Spring Seminar, A Décorative Combination: Food and Beauty Together, Paragould Community Center, Paragould, AR – 8:30 am to 2:15 pm

14th – Dirt Friends Festival featuring Author Norman Winter, EIdorado, AR – a garden seminar featuring nationally known speaker & garden writer, Norman Winter. He will present 2 different sessions and take questions. Refreshments, door prizes & vendors. Open to public.

13th-14th – Camden Daffodil Festival – Welcome spring in Camden and see millions of daffodils spreading over many acres of 4 large daffodil gardens. It's a festival of flowers, music, shopping, tours, shows and fun!

14th-15th – Texarkana Home and Garden Show – Four States Fairgrounds

15th – Deadline to turn in MG Years of Service

March 15th-April 14th – 20/20 Garden Vision Conference Registration for Active & Sustainer MGs on LOA, spouses & guests if space allows

16th – MG Monday – 12:00-1:00 PM

17th – St. Patrick's Day

20th-22nd – Jonquil Festival, Historic Washington State Park, 103 Franklin Street, Washington, AR – Celebrates the arrival of spring to its 19th century hamlet. The historic streets & buildings are open for touring for an additional charge.

21st – Internal Quarterly Advanced Training by Nick Auck – garden & container plantings for summer – 12:30 PM – Library

28th – The Four Seasons Seminar, 1st Methodist Church in Brinkley, AR – 8:30-3:00

April 4th – 3rd Annual Plant Sale



Continued from Page 4

Advanced Training for the year will be March 10th and you must be a MG for 3 years before you can take an Advanced Class. Please make sure the project you want goes in the box.

Here are some examples of Volunteer hours for the month:

Sanctioned Hours

Miller County Courthouse Beds

Mentoring – the time you spend helping your trainee, calling, emailing, texting & reminding them of upcoming events, making sure they understand what is required to be a MG and where to find information about upcoming seminars and MG events.

Fundraisers and Plant Sales – working at the greenhouse starting seeds, propagating plants, labeling plants, etc. Perhaps you are doing this at home and getting them ready for the Plant Sale.

Hospitality/Social – bring a dish for the monthly meeting or help with set-up. You can count the time it took to prepare the dish and the time in the store picking up items to make that great dish. Of course, you know that you cannot count travel time to the store or the time spent visiting ☺.)

Articles or photos for the newsletter

Monthly meeting always counts 1 hour.

Education:

The monthly meeting program counts as 1-hour education.

Agri Expo education – attending classes/seminars

The MG Monday Zoom meetings. Watch it live, watch the recording or read the pdf.

Seminars and/or workshops on gardening such as the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, the seminar at EIdorado, etc.

Touring **public** gardens. Report under Garden Tours.

Reading horticulture magazines or books. You get 1 hour each month.

Watching a horticulture program on TV and/or the internet or listening on the radio is 1 hour monthly.

Travel Time: The exception to the rule that you cannot count travel time is if you transport items for a project. Count under the project you are doing it for but only the time spent transporting. Bringing your own personal gloves, shovel, etc. to a project does not count.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Andrea Thomas