

2024 Officers

President: Rita Lamb
Vice-President: Ralph Robertson
Treasurer: Delita Lusk
Secretary: Sondra Bedwell



March 2024

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 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: Many MGs have been diligently working on Tuesdays & Fridays at the greenhouse getting ready for our Plant Sale on March 16th at the Ag Learning Center.

We have also been collecting items to fill the wagon for our raffle! If you would like to donate an item, it's not too late. See Gayle or Pam at the greenhouse (Tues & Fri).

If you haven't got tickets for either your personal use or to sell to family & friends, be sure and do so soon by contacting Gayle or Pam or come to the Extension Office.

Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners

Annual Plant Sale

March 16, 2024

8 am – noon

Four States Fairground
Ag Learning Center



This year have we will have a **Card Reader**, for Debit or Credit

For more information
Ask Any Master Gardener



We will have Flowers, Herbs, Vegetables and more.....



MONTHLY MEETING

**Thurs., March 14 –
6:00 PM – REA**

The speaker at our March meeting will be Master Composter from Bowie County, Ken Kunkel.

Bus Tour to Garvan Gardens in April

We are securing a bus to take MGs (and non-MGs) to tour Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs on Saturday, April 13, 2024. Motorcoach transportation & entry fee to Garvan Gardens costs: \$32 for MGs and \$57 (non-MGs). If you prefer to drive yourself and meet at the Gardens, cost is \$32. Golf carts are available for \$20. Lunch is at the Chipmunk Café for \$16.50 per person.

President's Corner

By Rita Lamb

Hello! Hope all is well. Looks like spring has come and it's just in time for our Plant Sale. Hope everyone is ready. Be sure to wear your green shirts, name badges, and aprons if you have those. Let those that come to the Plant Sale wonder what is up with those Master Gardeners. We are proud to be a Master Gardener.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and as Randy Forst says, "Go forth and Grow!"

Important upcoming dates:

March 14th – monthly meeting

March 16th – Plant Sale, Ag Learning Ctr.

March 21st – High Tunnel Workshop, Hope

March 26th – Spring Seminar, Hope

April 5th-14th – Four States Fair & Rodeo/Kids' Day @ Fair

April 13th – Tour Bus Trip to Garvan Gardens

A Book Review Series on Joel Salatin's "Homestead Tsunami" Introduction Part 2

By Sheryl Grieve

Who is Joel Salatin? Joel, 66 years old, along with his family, own Polyface Farms in Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. My husband & I attended a farm tour in August last year in which Joel drove the hay wagon with his tractor showing us the various animals and how they were maintained simply and effectively.

Joel's parents (his mother who just turned 100) purchased the farm in 1961, which they developed utilizing basic principles of design and production that now shows 60 years of refinement that are used today.

Joel obtained a BA degree in English and enjoyed communication activities in High School and College. He returned to the family farm full time September 1982. Joel has authored over 20 books, including co-authoring "Beyond Labels" with Dr. Sina McCullough, which also has a podcast with the same name. He writes for various magazines such as the Stockman Farmer.

Joel is in demand as a speaker, not only in many major Homesteading Conferences but overseas as well. He is involved in all these activities plus hosting many events each year at Polyface Farms.

March Program Speaker

By Ralph Robertson,

Ken Kunkel, Master Composter, will give us the insight of making our best compost possible. Mr. Kunkel has been a Master Gardener for 14 years in Arkansas and 11 years in Texas. He was a board member for Arkansas Master Gardeners for 2 ½ years.

Please welcome him on Thursday, March 14th at our meeting.

Volunteer Time

By Pam Rayburn,

Membership Project Committee Co-Chair

Online Reporting System currently has 41 members that have placed hours in so far: Sanctioned hours-723.5, Non-Sanctioned hours-35.5, and Education hours-247. Remember, all your hours are important and needed to keep MG programs going. Your hours help get grants for MG programs. The state does reports during the year that show how many hours MGs have worked so do not wait to get your hours in.

If you have questions or need help reporting your hours, please contact David or myself. Call or text me at 904-490-1080 or email pkrayburn@gmail.com. You can also call or text David at 334-9451 or email txkrunner60@gmail.com. We will do our best to help you.

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

What is a Root Slayer and Why Might You Need One?

Have you heard how great a Root Slayer tool is? Just ask anyone who has one.

- Roots always seem to get in the way of digging, whether you expect them or not.
- Once you switch to the Root Slayer you might not even notice them most of the time.
- The Root Slayer is really a multi-purpose shovel that can eliminate the need for other tools, such as hatchets, pry-bars, and saws, when simply digging around the home.
- Think of it as a shovel, root hatchet, and root saw all in one tool.

Both have a Lifetime Guarantee and are manufactured by Radius.

Pre-Order a Root Slayer

Perennial Root Slayer - \$50

Lightweight super durable fiber-glass shaft. The sharpened inverted V cutting tip prevents perennial roots from slipping from underneath the shovel blade while dividing. Blade Length = 9.25", Blade Width 7.5" at top of step, Total Length = 44", Weight: 3 lbs. 3 oz., Material: Tempered Mid-Carbon Steel blade, fiberglass shaft, polypropylene and TPE grip.



Trowel Root Slayer - \$20

The Natural Radius Grip trowel is an ergonomic trowel. A new flared handle for extra comfort with a twine cutter notch that doubles as a bottle opener. Blade Length = 6.75", Blade Width 3.5", Total Length = 12.75", Weight: 10 oz. Material: Tempered Powder coated enamel carbon steel blade, non-latex thermoplastic grip with polypropylene core.



DELIVERY ONLY at the 2024 Master Gardener State Conference in Hot Springs, May 29 – May 31. Shipping is NOT available. All pre-orders must be paid by credit card at time of order. Merchandise will not be available for purchase at the conference.

Send in your pre-order form today! Order deadline is April 15, 2024. Click the following link to place your order:

https://uada.formstack.com/forms/county_76_fun_draising

If you have any questions, contact Patsy Louk at 479-841-9865 or pjlouk@gmail.com or Susan Colles at 479-857-8544 or scolles53@yahoo.com.

Thank you for supporting County 76 Fundraising!

HIGH TUNNEL WORKSHOP

Topics will include:

- High tunnel management strategies
- Considerations before purchasing a high tunnel
- Pest management strategies
- Irrigation design
- Fertility management

On-site demonstrations:

- Weed management strategies
- Spray equipment for high tunnels
- Fertigation design

Lunch will be provided



High Tunnel Workshop

Topics include: High tunnel management strategies; Considerations before purchasing a high tunnel; Pest management strategies; Irrigation design; Fertility management.

On-site demonstrations: Weed management strategies; Spray equipment for high tunnels; Fertigation design.

This workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the SW Research & Extension Center, 362 Hwy. 174 N, Hope. Cost is \$15.

Lunch will be provided. For more information, email Taunya Ernst at ternst@uada.edu.

Leaf Insect

By Andrea Thomas

Have you ever seen one of these? It is a Leaf Insect. I thought it was interesting. I have never seen one, probably because they are not in the United States.



Leaf insects feed on plants and typically inhabit densely vegetated areas. Their natural range extends from islands in the Indian ocean, across parts of mainland South Asia and Southeast Asia, to Papua New Guinea and Australia in the western Pacific.

They are in the same family as the Walking Stick, which we do have here.



Clean- up crew.
Photo by Clyde Davis

Kids' Day at Four States Fairground

The Four States Fair & Rodeo will be held April 5th-14th, 2024. Kids' Day at the Fair is a great way to earn volunteer hours. It will be held April 11th and there are many opportunities for volunteering – handing out ice cream, manning petting zoo, games, etc.

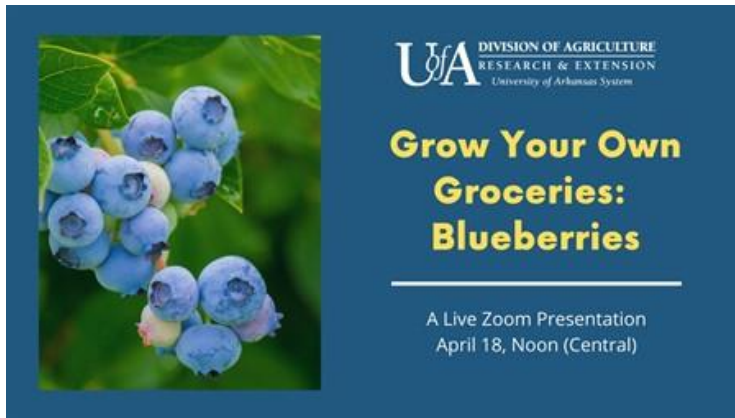


Lodging information: The host hotel is Hotel Hot Springs (next door to Hot Springs Convention Center), 205 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs, AR. For reservations, call 1-877-623-6697 and use code GARDEN24. The rate is \$124 plus tax for 2 queen beds or 1 king. This includes a complimentary breakfast buffet. Last date to book for the MG rate is May 7, 2024, or until rooms are gone.

The conference is limited to the first 400 applicants. All tours and educational seminars will be filled on a first come, first served basis. It is best to use a desktop or laptop to register. Chrome browser works best for using this registration system. It is not recommended to register using a phone.

Early Attendee Registration: Feb. 15 – April 1 - \$150.00. Regular Attendee Registration is April 2-15 and costs \$170.00. Cancellations are subject to a \$15 handling fee. No refunds after April 15th since meal counts have been set and the charge will go through regardless of whether you are there).

This conference is for MGs only + your spouse or 1 guest. It is not open to the general public.



Join us via zoom on April 18th at noon to learn how to grow healthy, nutritious food in your own backyard and get some tips for new ways to cook and prepare your harvest. In this presentation, you will learn how to grow and cook with blueberries.

Register below and a link to join the meeting will be emailed to you: <https://rb.gy/b74lwy>

Silent Auction Items Needed for County 76 State Conference

Each county is being asked to donate at least 2 items to the Silent Auction to be held at the 2024 State Conference in Hot Springs on May 30-June 1. These donations are in addition to the Spirit Poles. The funds raised from the Silent Auction will again fund County 76 programs including, but not limited to, the PNG Leadership Conference, the Janet B. Carson Scholarship funds and other state events.

Suggestions might include a gift basket, plants, gift certificates to garden centers, craft items, gardening tools, fountain kits, and even yard art.

Please bring them with you to the state conference. It will be held at the Hot Springs Convention Center. Look for the silent auction signs.

The Silent Auction will open at 7:00 AM Thurs. (May 30th) & continue until 1:00 PM Fri. (May 31st). Information needed with your item is:

Name of Item Donated – County Name – Approximate Value of Item.



Visit www.uaex.uada.edu/bee-class to access Dr. Jon Zawislak's video series for home beekeepers!

Planting Fig Trees

Fig trees should not be planted until early spring. Figs are self-fruitful and will bear fruit on new growth. Plant them in a more protected spot where they still get at least 6-8 hours of sunlight – a sunny area near your house is good but be aware that figs can produce a lot of fruit.

If you don't harvest regularly the fruits can split and attract wasps, bees and flies so keep them away from entryways or patio areas. Brown Turkey (also called Texas Everbearing) and Celeste are the most common varieties, but there are more you can try. Nero, Blanche (also called White Russian) and Conardia are a few others. Read more in this article by Sherrie Sanders in Searcy Co.:



<https://www.uaex.uada.edu/counties/white/news/horticulture/20210721Figs.aspx>

Master Gardeners

"Planting Seeds of Hope"

March 26, 2024

Hempstead Hall

UA Hope Campus

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

*Variety of sandwiches, finger
foods, and drinks*



Dr. Anthony Bowden

Assistant Professor - Ornamentals Specialist

presents

**"Arkansas Diamonds: The Program and
The Plants" and "Plant Propagation"**

\$20.00 early registration by March 22
RSVP to Hempstead County Extension
Office (870) 777-5771 or use the QR code
to register and pay online.
On-site registration is \$25.



Home & garden vendors OPEN at 5:30 p.m.!

Shop with vendors from around the local area.



**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**
University of Arkansas System



Saturday, April 20, 2024!

NEVADA COUNTY

MASTER GARDENERS

Spring... A Time To Till!

**THE BARN AT WILLOW OAK ACRES
2073 US HWY 371 W., PRESCOTT, AR
FROM I-30 - TAKE EXIT 44. GO WEST (TO BLEVINS)
LOCATED 1 MILE PAST T/A TRUCK STOP.**

**Flowers,
Vegetables
& Herbs**

Registration, Brunch, Plant Sale & Silent Auction	8:00
Welcome - Door Prizes; Stacey Stone	9:00
Wildflowers and Pollinators; Amanda Malcolm	9:15 - 10:15
Break & Shop, Door Prizes	10:15 - 10:45
Perennials - Pack a Punch; Randy Forst	10:45 - 11:45
Break & Shop, Door Prizes - Silent Auction	11:45 - 12:15
Closes at End of Break	
Door Prizes & Winners of Silent Auction & Tablescapes Announced	12:15 - 12:30

Shopping is for Registered Garden Show Participants only. All proceeds from the Garden Show are used by Nevada County Master Gardeners to fund community projects within Nevada County.

Registration on or Before April 20, 2024, \$20.00.

Pre-Order Sack Lunch \$8.00 by using the registration on pg. 2.

(Chicken Salad Sandwich, etc.)

For Additional Information Call: 501-627-8341 or email bjones107@yahoo.com

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