

2020 Officers

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May 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 County Courthouse flowerbeds are blooming and are beautiful. Thanks to Clyde Davis for the photo.

Photo Right: Amaryllis growing in Theresa Mitzler's flowerbed. She says it has bloomed every year since she bought it years ago as a Christmas gift to herself.



Contact Me

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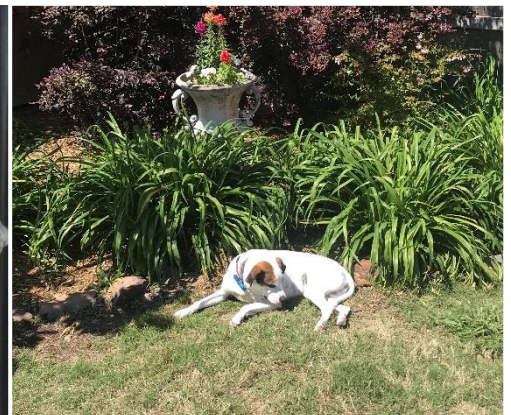
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Looks like we have a new variety of plant or lawn ornament in our gardens. Andrea Thomas has a new variety of plant (above left) that she said was "growing" in her flowerpot when she walked outside recently and Annette Lachowsky wanted to share her favorite lawn ornament, her sweet JOJO (above right). They are both winners.

Master Gardener Guidance During COVID-19 Crisis

This guidance is for Arkansas Master Gardener volunteers working on projects. This guide aligns with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Click the following link (or for those without email, it will be included in the newsletter):

<https://bit.ly/2WOyt7Y>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER —

Greetings to all! I hope you have been well and have had plenty of time for garden projects. It looks as though the community and the whole country have found a love for all things garden. I was irritated at not being able to buy a new tiller the other day when ours died for the last time. First there was a run on toilet paper and now garden tillers!? Then I thought about the silver lining here. Hopefully, many of these “new” gardeners will be looking for more information on the subject and who better than MCRDMGs to help them. As you see neighbors and friends “digging in” to gardening, tell them about the Master Gardener program (from 6 feet away of course) and we may get a host of trainees soon!

I hope you have read your e-mail on the current guidelines for MGs and COVID-19. There will be no meeting this month. It is a fluid situation so we must stay in touch and read our e-mails to know what we should or should not do.

The guideline states no more than 9 people working on an outdoor project at one time. Wear your face covering and stay 6 feet apart. Hand sanitizer must be available and bring your own tools. Don't share tools without first sanitizing them. This guideline comes from the state program & the University of Arkansas administration, which uses the best evidence-based information for our safety during a pandemic. This is the same type of evidence-based science as the horticultural information that we have learned through the MG

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Miller Co Courthouse Flowerbeds ... the work continues

Plants don't weed, prune or plant themselves so the work at the Miller County Courthouse flowerbeds continues.

While they work together for a common goal, they are maintaining their social distance – divide and conquer.



Photos by Carla Due, Miller County Extension Agent-Staff Chair



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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program and that we share with the community. When representing the MCRDMG program on a project please wear your face covering and follow the distancing guidelines.

I have spoken to our contact at the REA and she does not know when the meeting room will be available. As their policy is formed, she will let me know. If we are allowed to meet sometime this summer, we might think about a cook out or something outdoors.

By the way, I highly recommend the Brown Bag Series that Sherri Sanders, Extension Agent in White County, has put together to help MGs with our education requirement. It is easy to sign on via Zoom with the instructions that come in the email.

I have heard 3 and they have all been good. I particularly enjoyed the one on tree care presented by Krista Quinn, Faulkner County Extension Agent. This is a topic our own Program Committee had wanted to explore. We have such talent in our extension service! Sherri and our staff in Miller County included!

Last week we got a behind the scenes tour of the Springfield Botanical Garden in Springfield, Missouri. I think a trip to Springfield should be in our future!!!

I miss all your lovely, smiling faces!

Stay well and follow the guidelines for health and safety!

Excitedly yours,

Annette Lachowsky, MCRDMG president

Zoom-Zoom-Zoom & County 76

Letter taken from C76 President, Patsy Louk

Zoom meetings have become the norm the past few weeks. The County 76 April quarterly meeting was held by Zoom with 56 participants. Project meetings were held by zoom the day before and those went well also, with much being accomplished.

One thing discussed at the C76 board meeting was the 10 hours required annually for membership in C76. That requirement will stay in place for the time being, but you will be informed should there be a change to that decision in the months to come. July 28th is next



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 are 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 members who have enough volunteer hours in for recertification; congrats to Clyde Davis, Elizabeth Gerrald, & Teresa Slack.

So far this year, 1202.5 sanctioned hours, 59.75 non-sanctioned hours and 552.25 education hours have been placed into the online system.

Again, I want to remind you that until you put that first hour for the year, you show as inactive and you know that I want each of you to show as active. Right now, we have 12 members showing as inactive & I know 7 of you have time you can place into 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

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.

Sanctioned Hours

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

Fundraisers & Plant Sales – propagating plants for future sales, taking care of plants you already have that were dedicated to our now postponed plant sale.

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Volunteer Time

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Miller County Courthouse Flowerbeds

– doing needed tasks to keep the flowerbeds beautiful while still social distancing. If you would like to help this committee, contact Theresa Mitzler, committee chair, to find out how to help.

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

Articles and photos for the newsletter.

Education

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

Reading horticulture magazines or books. Perhaps you are reading articles on the internet. Check out all the information the UofA has under Yard & Garden or Farm & Ranch. You can report 1 hour each month for this activity.

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

Here is something new to try: Brown Bag Lecture Series via Zoom, hosted by White County from 12:05 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. This is a great program. I am really enjoying it. It has been extremely popular, and they are continuing with more classes. Please check your emails for the invitation to join. You need to register so they can send you a link and handout information in pdf format. Count this time under seminars.

Everyone Take Care & Be Safe. I miss you all and am keeping you all in my prayers.

Andrea Thomas

Brown Bag Lecture Series Continues



Mark your calendar for White County's Brown Bag Lecture Series.

May 13th – Ever wondered about the fungi growing in your garden or yard? Let's explore an unknown world at your feet. Make plans to join Dr. Vic Ford in his presentation called "Fungi with a Fun Guy".

May 20th – Jan Yingling (White Co. Ag Agent) – Success with Succulents

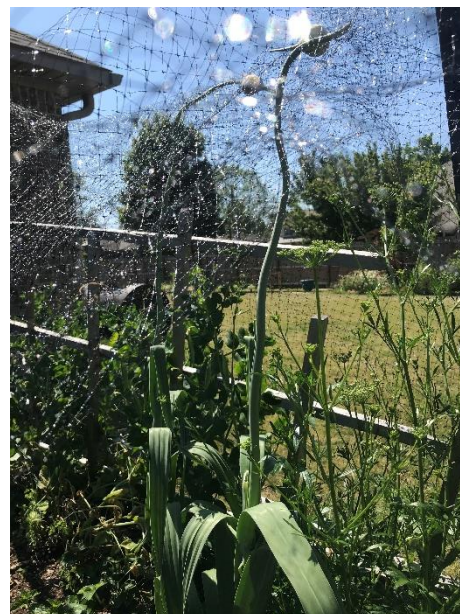
May 27th – Berni Kurz (Extension Educator-Consumer Horticulture) – Growing Pumpkins in Home Gardens

June 3rd – Alan Galloway (Area Farm Management Specialist with the University of Tennessee Extension) – Growing Christmas Trees for Fun, Family or Profit

June 10th – Donna Hoffman (Horticulture Agent in Casper, Wyoming) – TBA

All sessions are offered via ZOOM on Wednesdays at noon. They are open to anyone anywhere so spread the news!

Can You Identify This Plant?



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Annette asks, "Can any of you tell me what this garlic-type plant is and how I use it?"

One of you brought starts for this plant to a meeting a year or so ago and it is growing quite nicely.

If you know the answer, please contact Annette Lachowsky.
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