

2020 Officers

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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:cr

Contact Me

Phone: 870-779-3609

Fax: 870-773-3471

E-Mail: jcaraway@uada.edu

MG Facebook: www.facebook.com/Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-Gardeners

Ag Facebook: www.facebook.com/millercountyuada/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

Peony – The Most Popular Pink Flower



No flower is more fragrant than the peony, and their blooms come in all shades of pink. They're one of the most popular and beloved perennials for good reason. These flowers are beautiful and they don't need a lot of maintenance. Choose a location with lots of sun and well-draining soil, as well as good air circulation around the plant. With the proper growing conditions, your peonies can last 50-100 years!

“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.”

Audrey Hepburn





SAVE THE DATE

Growing Our Communities Virtual Auction

Sponsored by County 76

Auction Dates

June 4, 2021 through June 11, 2021

Pick up dates and locations of sold items after the virtual silent auction ends.

Mark your calendar for these dates as well! We hope you win several items in our virtual silent auction.

Jonesboro – Saturday, June 12,
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fayetteville – Wednesday, June 16,
3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Little Rock – Saturday, June 19,
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Funds raised support County 76 programs, Janet B. Carson Scholarship Funds, and the PNG Leadership Conference.



Keep Your Cool

Cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, and herbs such as mint are good foods to eat to help keep the body cool when it's hot out.

Bug Itch Fix

Got a bug bite that itches? Soak a cotton pad in Witch Hazel and apply to the bug bite. Wait a few minutes and the itch will be gone!



Easy Gardening Hack

Punch a hole in plant ID tags and loop them through key ring. Hang nearby when you need to remember the care instructions for what you planted.

Education Hours

I want to make sure that everyone understands that you will still be required to get your Education hours. Covid has made a lot of changes in our lives and we have had to adjust. Volunteer hours were reduced last year and decisions still are in the works for requirements this year. However **Education hours are a requirement**. Everyone but Lifetimers are required **20 hours of Education**. I know that we do not have all the opportunities as before Covid but we still have many ways to get education hours and some new ways as Zoom has been providing.

Here are some ways to get your education hours:

Books and magazines, that are horticulture related. Reading Seed Catalogs and information on the computer also counts. You may count 1 hour max each month.

TV / radio, and you tube that are horticulture related. You may count 1 hour max each month.

Garden Tours, these do not have to just be in State, touring gardens out of State or out of country also count.

MG Mondays, this is by zoom and usually on the 3rd Monday of the month from noon to 1pm. You must sign up, watch your emails from State and or Rita for the registration links. If you cannot watch it live you can watch the recording that will be sent to you if you signed up.

Seminars. I know right now with Covid we do not have any opportunities for in person classes but there are many opportunities for Zoom classes and you do not even have to leave your home. Again, you must sign up, watch your emails from State and or Rita for the registration links from State. If you cannot watch it live you can watch the recording that will be sent to you if you signed up. The Brown Bag Lectures Series from White County and the Grow Your Own Groceries series from Faulkner County are great. You really should give it a try. I enjoy the chat questions when I get to watch the live presentations, it is almost as good as being there. Now sometimes I watch the recordings just to see how the computer translates the spoken word to the written word. There are also many zoom presentations to watch from other State Extensions and Horticulture experts. If you did not sign up for the White County Brown Bag Lecture Series and would like to see past presentations, they now have a link to their website. All Previous Brown Bag Lecture Series are either on or in the process of being placed on the White County Cooperative Extension Service website and can be found here:

<https://www.uaex.edu/counties/white/horticulture-education-videos.aspx>

You may also want to try some On line courses from State Extensions and Horticulture experts. The U of A has some Free On Line courses you may want to check out.

Continued from Educacion hours...

https://www.uaex.edu/farm-ranch/crops-commercial-horticulture/horticulture/commercial-fruit-production/blueberry-school.aspx

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Commercial Fruit Production

- Blackberry Production in Arkansas ▾
- Arkansas Blackberry School ▾
- Blueberry Production in Arkansas ▾
- Arkansas Blueberry School ▾
- Grape Production in Arkansas ▾
- Peaches and Nectarines ▾

Arkansas Blueberry School

The following is a self guided video course on the basics of commercial blueberry production. The four classes cover the major management activities and crop developments that happen in each season of the year. Follow along to learn how to set up, manage and grow your blueberry operation.

These recordings were made as a part of the Arkansas Blueberry school, a three part class held in Bentonville and Clarksville Arkansas in 2019. Funding was provided by the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium.



Windows Taskbar: Type here to search, 10:24 AM, 2/9/2021

Free Online Self Guided Course

Follow Along to Learn How to Set Up, Manage and Grow your Blackberry Operation

www.uaex.edu/blackberryschool

Winter

1. Basics of Blackberry Production with Dr. Amanda McWhirt
2. Variety Selection with Dr. John Clark
3. Pesky Winter Pests with Dr. Jackie Lee
4. How To: Winter Pruning with Taunya Ernst

Summer

1. Summer Topping, Fruit Disorders and Irrigation of Blackberry with Dr. Amanda McWhirt
2. High Tunnel Blackberry Production with Dr. Elvira Garcia
3. Consumer Preferences and Postharvest Handling with Dr. Renee Threlfall
4. Early Summer Pruning of Florisane Blackberries with Taunya Ernst




Spring

1. Blackberry Fertility Management and Thinning with Dr. Amanda McWhirt
2. Spotted Wing Drosophila and Broad mite Management in Blackberry with Dr. Dawn Johnson
3. Pesky Spring Pests with Dr. Jackie Lee
4. How To: Spotted Wing Drosophila ID and trapping in Blackberry with Dr. Dawn Johnson

Fall

1. Interactive Fruit Budgets with Leah English and Dr. James Papp
2. Produce Safety with Dr. Amanda Perez
3. Weed Management in Blackberry with Dr. Ronda Burgett
4. Soil and Plant Tissue Nutrient Sampling of Blackberry with Dr. Amanda McWhirt
5. How to: Identifying Anthracnose in Blackberry with Elaine Smith

13 Recorded Talks
4 How-to videos

the Southern Region
small fruit consortium

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The Easter Lily

Tradition states that the **Easter lily** originated in the Garden of Eden by the teardrops of Eve that she spread while leaving the Garden of Eden. They were teardrops of repentance.

The Easter Lily is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

White lilies have been associated as much with the Virgin Mary as they have with Christ. Early paintings depicted the Angel Gabriel presenting Mary with white lilies while announcing that she would give birth to Jesus.

The most famous Biblical reference comes from the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus was speaking to the crowd and said to “consider the lilies of the field.”

Another tradition is that lilies sprang up in the Garden of Gethsemane after Jesus prayed there during his final hours. They are referred to as the “White-Robed Apostles of Hope” in commemoration of the resurrection.

Legend also has it that after Mary died, white lilies were found at her empty tomb. The white petals represented her body and the golden anthers represented her soul.

Easter lilies are botanically *Lilium longiflorum*, native to the Ryuku Islands of southern Japan.

Bermuda began cultivating it during the 1880s. The bulbs were then shipped to the U.S. By the turn of the century, Japan had taken over exporting Easter lilies and continued dominating the market until World War II began.

Louis Houghton, an American World War I soldier, returned home to the southern coast of Oregon in 1919 with a suitcase filled with hybrid lily bulbs. He gave them to friends who started growing them as a hobby. After Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941, bulbs were no longer available from Japan.

Easter Lily bulbs increased dramatically in value and people who had been growing them as a hobby began growing them as a business. The bulbs were referred to as “White Gold” and growers saw this as a money-making crop.

Now only 10 farms produce 95 percent of our nation’s bulbs, all from parts of two counties on the California/Oregon border.

It takes three to four years to produce a mature, flowering-size bulb. During that period each bulb is handled as many as 40 times, first as small bulblets along the stems of the mother plants, then on to yearlings and eventually as mature, salable bulbs.

You can plant your Easter lily into the garden once it quits blooming. Find a moist, semi-shady spot where you’ve prepared the soil well for other plants and then set it at the same depth at which it was growing in its pot. It will bloom later next year.



Volunteer Time

Here is an update of how we are doing right now. Current membership is 85, of that 11 are Lifetimers, 53 regular members, and 21 Trainees. We are up to 53% of our membership as active. There are 29 of you who have not placed any hours in yet.

So far this year 592.25 sanctioned hours, 21.5 non sanctioned hours and 454.25 education hours have been placed into the on line system. This is great.

I want to congratulate the following: Chead Blue, Charlotte Fuller, and Theresa Mitzler who have their required hours in for recertification. **Congratulations!**

Just want to remind you that until you put that first hour into the on line system for the year you show as inactive (29 of you). Now you know that 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 Covid and trying to stay safe and social distancing. Covid is stopping us from working on or volunteering on some of our projects, but there are some projects that you can work on and still stay socially distanced. These projects are always on going and always need help. The Courthouse Flowerbeds (can always use some extra help, check with Teresa Mitzler), Come Grow with US (Gateway Farmers Market keyhole garden, check with Clyde Davis), Fundraisers and Plant Sales (working at the Greenhouse, check with Charlotte Fuller. This also includes you propagating/raising plants at home for the plant sale.) Mentoring (it is really very important to help trainees to get to know us and our projects), and you might want to write an article for the Newsletter.

The Pollinator Garden has been added to our list of Sanctioned projects for the year. I am sure there will be plenty of outside work (safe – socially distanced) that can be done, check with Annette Lachowsky.

Everyone but Lifetimers are **required 20 hours of education**. There are many ways to get your education hours: books, magazines, TV, radio, you tube, on line 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 On Line system. This occurs when you pick the Project to place your hours against. If you move to 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. Please make sure the project you want goes in the box.

I have listed below the normal requirements, however this may change as it did last year. I will keep you updated. Right now everyone, but Lifetimers, will be **required** to get their **20 Education hours**. Required Volunteer hours are subject to change depending on how Covid affects us meeting and being able to work on projects.

Trainees (our Annals) Remember you need 20 Sanctioned hours, 20 Non Sanctioned hours, and 20 hours of Education to become a Certified Master Gardener.

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 you years counting.

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

Go to the UofA site: www.uaex.uada.edu, then Yard & Garden, click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the current or 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 on line system, please give me a call 903-832-8111 or send me an email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help. Please contact me first for help and not State.

Andrea



**2021 Master Gardener State Conference June 10 & 11,
2021**

9 a.m.—3:30 p.m. each day

Register today. Deadline to register is May, 17, 2021

Cost will be \$50.00 (for two day conference)

[Register online](#)

(found on MG ONLY portion of website)

**Virtual from the comfort of your own home. First 400
registrants will get a conference tote bag.**

**Join us for the 2021 Master Gardener State Conference via
Zoom. This two day virtual conference has a wonderful
line up of speakers plus virtual garden tours you do not
want to miss!**

**2021 Master Gardener State Conference June 10 & 11,
2021**

Curious? Double click on link for something special.....

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ssUD6sI_bE

***Double click on link above to open. Sneak speak of virtual
garden tours.***

***All virtual presentations will be recorded and available for
30 days after the conference closes.***