

2020 Officers

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



December 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
County Extension Agent
Agriculture

JC:cr

Contact Me

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER-



Hello MG's,
Since we cannot have a party this year, we, the executive committee, have prepared a gift for each of you. The gift includes a little surprise and your MG calendar. We will be at the Gateway Farmers Market Sunday, December 13, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

See page 2 for more information.



We are very happy to introduce you to the newest member of our Miller County Extension Service family. Cassandra (Cassie) Redden joined us November 16, 2020, as our Administrative Specialist II. Cassie is friendly and funny with a great sense of humor and I know you will enjoy your interactions with her and enjoy her new take on the MG Newsletters, as well as other things she'll bring to the MG org.

She comes to us originally from Dallas, TX. Her husband is a pastor; therefore, they've traveled extensively. Cooking and planning events are something she enjoys doing as well as writing; she is a published author of spiritually uplifting books and enjoys spending time with loved ones.

Drop her an email to credden@uaex.edu or call 870-779-3609 to give her a Miller County Red Dirt MG welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Janet Smallwood

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—

Happy holidays everyone!

I hope you are all enjoying your time at home. For me, this pandemic has taken stress out of the Christmas season. There is no running around frantically shopping for that perfect gift.

One thing I am missing though is our annual Christmas party. We would be preparing for the party this Thursday. Since we cannot have a party this year, we, the executive committee, have prepared a gift for each of you. The gift includes a little surprise and your MG calendar. We will be at the Gateway Farmers Market Sunday, December 13, between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Please come by during this time to retrieve your gift. If you cannot make it, call me at (850) 324-2459 and I will make another arrangement. We hope to see each one of you during this time. You may stay in your car and we will put the gift in your back seat or trunk. We will be masked and keep our distance through the process. We want you to know we appreciate each and every one of you!

You will also be able to see the site of the Pollinator Garden. There is still room for members on the committee. There will be outdoor physical work of course but there is plenty of opportunity for indoor, at home research preparing information for the QR (Quick Response) information tags. Call me if you want to be on the Pollinator Garden committee.

This will be my last month as President of Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. It has been an honor to serve. According to our by-laws I will be on the Executive Committee this coming year. I am always glad to hear from any of you with ideas or concerns.

Respectfully submitted, Annette Lachowsky.
President, MCRDMG



A few fun facts about Norfolk Island pines.

The scientific name is *Araucaria heterophylla*. They are obviously not a true pine. They are tropical and don't like temperatures much below 35 degrees Fahrenheit. They actually originate from Norfolk Island, an island east of Australia. In their native climate they can reach heights of 100 feet or more and have been known to live 150 years.

Often you can find small Norfolk Island pines for sale as mini Christmas trees. They make nice year-round house plants, too. They like to dry out between watering and do well with a bright light. Their care is much like that of an orchid. They can be placed on a pebble tray to increase humidity or be misted weekly. They do great place out-doors in the summertime. There are often plenty of Norfolk Island pines to rescue after Christmas! The pictures show a potted Norfolk Island pine dressed for Christmas and a full-grown specimen on the University of Florida campus.



Reporting Volunteer and Education Hours **DEADLINE: Dec 15th**

Hope everyone is doing OK and staying safe. I am getting back on my soap box to remind you how important you and your hours are. First without you there would be no Master Gardener program and second without your hours programs could not continue, there would be no grants, no access to all the education on gardening that you provide. Your hours are very important, so please report them. I wish all of you could have heard how much State appreciates you and needs you to report every hour you do, as I heard on the Online Managers meeting on zoom the other day. You and all you do is very much appreciated. So **PLEASE** report your hours!

YOUR HOURS...REPORT THEM

Now the deadline of Dec 15th is fast approaching. Like last year, the Online Reporting System will be down from Dec 16th till Jan 1st. Any hours you volunteer or education you earn, please keep track of during this time. Once the system is back up in January you may pick a day, or two if needed and report them. We want you to be able to count all your hours and not lose one. Any questions just send me an email or give me a call.

Trainees, I know some of you have completed the online portion and have already started volunteering. As you do, please keep track of your hours. Once you are in the system and it is back up in January, we will get your hours in also. We are not going to let you lose any hours, we will get them into the system.

These projects are always on going and always need help. The Courthouse Flowerbeds (who can always use some extra help, check with Teresa Mitzler), Come Grow with US (Gateway Farmers Market keyhole garden, check with Clyde Davis), Mentoring (it is really very important to help trainees to get to know us and our projects), and articles for the Newsletter.

Of course, you still can earn Education hours during the Online shut down also.

Here is an update of how we are doing right now.

Current membership is 80, of that 10 are Lifetimers, 59 regular members, and 11 Trainees. We are up to 100% of our membership as active.

Online Master Gardener Basic Training has 21 participants/trainees. Once the class ends on Dec 15th and they have completed the course, they will be added to our membership. Good news, 10 more of the trainees have already completed the online part and received their certificates.

Congratulations to Ellen Campbell, Malinda Johnson, Zebera Launula, Judy Morgan, Rhonda Dolberry, Nancy Graham, Charles Jackson, Tracy Lee, Becky Lindsey, and Amy Nicklas. We are so excited to have you with us. We now have 13 trainees who have completed the course.

This month we added Donna Burnett and Pam Rayburn to the list of members that have enough volunteer hours in for recertification, congratulations. GREAT JOB.

So far this year 2139.25 sanctioned hours, 85.25 non sanctioned hours and 1417.5 education hours have been placed into the online system. This is great.

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

Go to the UofA site: www.uaex.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 Online Reporting System.

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

I hope everyone has a Very Merry Christmas

Andrea



Reporting MG Volunteer Hours

When reporting your Master Gardener volunteer hours for 2020, please remember a few things.

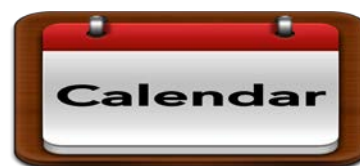
1. **If you need help resetting your password**, contact Andrea Thomas for help.
2. Once you get your password reset, be sure to write it down so you can log back into the system in 2021 for reporting hours next year.
3. If you need help on actually reporting your hours in the system, contact your county online reporting manager.
4. Please report all the hours - all education and work hours. They are important to your county and at the state level.
5. **Lifetime Members** - please report all the hours you work. Many of you do continue to volunteer hours so please report them all.
6. **New member from online course this fall (2020)** - you do not need to report hours this year as your course ends Dec. 15, 2020. Once you are entered in the online reporting system, you will be notified by your county program and given instructions for reporting your hours. You can report your hours starting in 2021.
7. Currently the system is SLOW - please be patient as you are reporting your hours this month. Lots of folks are reporting hours, which is good. It results in a slowdown of the system with so many logging in at the same time. (You may find the system a little faster when logging on early in the morning or late at night.)

Thanks for reporting your hours.

Many of you have reported all throughout the year and we appreciate that. 😊



December 2020 Events



- 15 - Deadline to enter volunteer hours
- 15 - Deadline for completion of 2020 Fall online MG basic training course
- 21 - Master Gardener Monday (MGM) via Zoom, 12 to 1 p.m., (3rd Monday of each month unless otherwise noted).
- 25 – Christmas Day Holiday
- 26 – January 1, 2021 - Holiday break for state extension office employees