

2020 Officers

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



Is that Andrea
in disguise?

October 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



HOURS, HOURS, HOURS
I WANT HOURS!

DANGER, DANGER, DANGER

Warning Alert Posted: An alert has been posted for all Miller County Master Gardeners to be aware that hour stealing monsters have been spotted. This month in particular, monsters stealing volunteer and education hours is at an all-time high. To make sure your hours are safe, you must place them in the online reporting system. Once in the online reporting system, hours cannot be removed by these monsters. Be SAFE and report your hours.

Contact Me

Phone: 870-779-3609

Fax: 870-773-3471

E-Mail: jcaraway@uaex.edu

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

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

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

Ordering Name Badges

By Andrea Thomas

If you would like a new NAME BADGE or just would like to have an extra one, please let me (Andrea) know.

Badges cost \$10 and the payment should go to our Treasurer, Nick. No need to pay until you receive your badge. If paying by check, make it out to MCRDMG.

I need to know how you want your name spelled on your badge or if you want to use a nickname. Email this information to me at at7550@yahoo.com

If you do not have email, call me at 903-832-8111.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER –

Greetings Master Gardeners, I hope you have been enjoying this fine fall weather! I would love to hear about your fall gardens. I am sure there are bulbs and pansies being planted. We have a raised bed with turnips, spinach and beets growing. Can't wait to eat some.

We are approaching the time of year when MCRDMGs have a lot of business to take care of. As you remember, November is our business meeting, including the election of officers for 2021. The Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate of nominees:

President: Nick Auck

Vice President: James Lamb

Treasurer: Charlotte Fuller

Secretary: Gayle Renfro

Our by-laws state that before the election at the November meeting, additional nominations from the floor will be accepted. If you have nominations to submit, please email Rita Nichols, Chair of the Nominating Committee, before October 31, 2020. Her email address is eaqleptsway@aol.com.

Because of the pandemic of COVID-19, you will receive a ballot in November and be asked to vote by mail. We hope to have this process completed by the date of our November meeting, which would be November 12, 2020. Of course, there will be **no in-person meeting**.

We really need each of you to participate in this process. Email any additional nominees and **return your ballot when you receive it!**

Miss you all terribly!

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lachowsky,
MCRDMG President

Instead of raking leaves into bags headed for the landfill, fallen leaves can stay put, and with a little preparation, become a natural renewable resource that creates the perfect soil to grow new vegetation.

Are You an Obsessed Gardener?

Submitted by Rita Nichols

Take the test to see if you are an obsessed gardener.
Purple = normal. **Green** = obsessed.

Normal: You won't leave town when your tulips are in bloom

Obsessed: ... or your daffodils, your lilacs, your wisteria, your roses, your clematis, your lilies, your hydrangea, your asters ...

Normal: You invest in fine gardening tools.

Obsessed: You keep spare tools in your car for gardening emergencies.

Normal: You have a compost heap.

Obsessed: You take its temperature every day.

Normal: You can't believe you ordered so many bubs last fall.

Obsessed: It wasn't enough.

Normal: You know the Latin names of your plants.

Obsessed: you use them in conversations ... with the plants.

Normal: You have dirt under your fingernails.

Obsessed: What fingernails?

Normal: You can crush a Japanese beetle with your bare fingertips.

Obsessed: You love the sound it makes when you do.

Normal: You had a soil test.

Obsessed: You studied for it.

Normal: You love gardening more than anything.

Obsessed: "And what's wrong with that?"

Normal: You buy composted cow manure to top dress your garden.

Obsessed: You buy a cow.

Normal: You know the virtues of hand weeding.

Obsessed: ... after dark.

Normal: You have a charge account at the local garden store.

Obsessed: Your spouse buys all your Christmas presents there.

Source: Chris Woods, "Are You an Obsessed Gardener? Take the Test!" *The Weeders' Reader – Greenprint's Greatest Stories* (January 2000).



Volunteer Time

Hope everyone is doing OK and staying safe.

Because of the Covid 19 this year, the Executive Committee reduced our yearly requirements to **zero** hours. So, yes you do not have to have any hours. However, should you have hours, **please record them**. Also we still have projects that you can work on and be safe, like the Courthouse Flowerbeds (who can always use some extra help; check with Theresa Mitzler); Come Grow with Us (Gateway Farmers Market keyhole garden); Mentoring (it is really important to help trainees to get to know us and our projects), and articles for the Newsletter.

There are still lots of ways to get education hours. One of the best this year is **Lecture Series via Zoom** - these are great programs. I am really enjoying them. If you have not tried them, you really should. Please check your emails for the invitation to join. You need to register, so they can send you a link & handout information in pdf format. **Count this time under seminars. This is a great way to get education hours.**

Here is an update of how we are doing right now. First, **please** place any volunteer hours you have into the system. Your hours are **really needed** this year since we have had to scale back so much because of Covid. Also, I find the longer we wait, the harder it is to remember when & how many hours we have earned. I also know there are some that have hours & have not placed them into the system.

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.

We have some hard-working Master Gardeners, and this month Gayle Renfro joined the group of MGs with over 100 volunteer hours. **Thanks** for all you do. We have one member that is only 3 hours away from having **200** volunteer hours. Who is it, I will let you know when they make it. Who knows, there may be a couple more.

So far this year 1933 sanctioned hours, 71.25 non sanctioned hours and 1164.5 education hours have been placed into the online system. This is great.

All of your hours are important & needed to keep MG programs going, so please report all hours. Go to www.uaex.edu, then Yard & Garden, click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and login. 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 at 903-832-8111 or email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.

Everyone Take Care and be Safe.

I miss all of you. Keeping all in my prayers.

Happy Halloween!

Andrea Thomas



2020 MG Award Nominations

It is time to start thinking about which of your outstanding volunteers you would like to honor by recognizing their significant contribution and impact on your MG program and community! Awards are available for: MG of the Year – Rookie of the Year – Project of the Year – Excellence in Education – County Agent of the Year – Newsletter of the Year – and Friend of MG (Individual and Business or Organization). Deadline to submit nominations is February 15, 2021. Cover letter and nomination forms are available - <https://www.uaex.edu/yard-garden/master-gardeners/awards.aspx>

October Events

Oct. 13th - Join MGs across Arkansas in a virtual MG Appreciation Day with Doug Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, starting off the program. He will speak on a new approach to conservation in your yard – “Nature’s Best Hope”. A live demonstration of using what is in your yard to make a wreath will be taught by Lee Witty, joining us from the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.

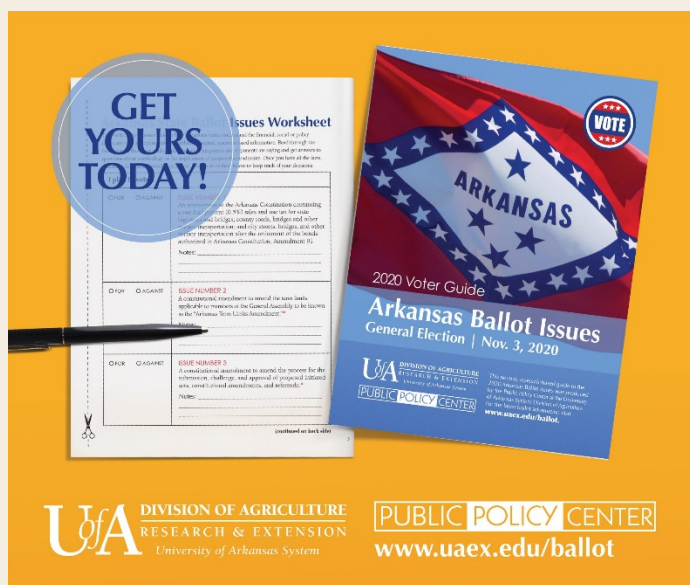
Register to attend at: <https://bit.ly/2GHtrpr>

Oct. 15th – Growing Your Own Groceries: Apples via Zoom, 12-1 p.m. In this live Zoom presentation, you will learn how to grow healthy food in your own backyard as well as received tips for cooking & preparing your harvest. Registration will come out via email.

Oct. 19th – Master Gardener Monday (MGM) via Zoom. Registration will come out via email.

Oct. 22nd – County 76 Project Meetings via Zoom. Registration form to come out via email.

Oct. 27th – County 76 General Membership Meeting via Zoom. Registration link to come out via email.



Our Arkansas Voter Guide explores all ballot issues voters will decide Nov. 3. Join MGs across Arkansas in a virtual MG Appreciation. You will find a worksheet to print off and write notes on to help you remember later how you want to vote on the issues. There will be answers to basic questions about each issue and why people may support or oppose the proposal.

This voter guide is non-partisan and covers both sides of the issues as these fact sheets go through a vetting process. They are available in our office or on the first floor of the Miller County Courthouse.

CENSUS COUNTDOWN



2020 CENSUS

New Deadline October 31

Census Deadline Extended

According to a Friday press release, the deadline to complete the 2020 Census has once again been extended until October 31st. The press release states, “as a result of court orders, the October 5, 2020 target date is not operative, and data collection operations will continue through October 31, 2020.”



Avoid Conflict During Election

Even though you and those you live and work with may disagree, that doesn't mean you can't keep it civil this election season.

Brittney Schrick, Extension Family Life Specialist, offers some tips to reduce election-related stress and to set a good example for the kids and teens in your life.

1. Limit media exposure, esp. social media.
2. Double-check sources on stories that seem to be going for an emotional response (report fake news or other misleading information).
3. Don't discuss politics with those who will escalate the conversation to higher levels of conflict (even online).
4. Channel election related stress into local community and civic activities and volunteerism.
5. Remember that life goes on after the election.
6. Be sure to vote.