

2020 Officers

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



September 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:jds

Photo Above: Master Gardeners received their certificates. Left to right is Jennifer Caraway, Wendy Merkel, Bruce Ferguson, Barbara McWilliams, Douglas Fant & Annette Lachowsky.

Photo Right: colorful peppers. Thanks to Clyde Davis for both photos.



MG Appreciation Day

Get ready to Zoom for an event different from all others

MEETING the CHALLENGE

Celebrating Arkansas MG Birthday 2020

Join MGs from across Arkansas in a virtual MG Appreciation Day – **October 13th at 9:30** – with Doug Tallamy, professor in the Department of Entomology & Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, starting off the program. He will be speaking on a new approach to conversation that starts in your yard –

“Nature’s Best Hope”. A live demonstration of using what’s in your yard to make a wreath will be taught by Lee Witty, joining us from the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks.

Deadline to order a “Meeting the Challenge” t-shirt & mask along with a Master Gardener logo mask, is **September 11th**. T-shirts are \$20 each/masks (2 choices) are \$10 each. Order at https://uaex.formstack.com/forms/mg_appreciation.

Contact Me

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

Ag Facebook: www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex/

Twitter: https://twitter.com/Miller_CoAg

PRESIDENT'S CORNER—

Greetings all! I would like to start by saying how much I miss your smiling faces! It is such a treat to run into one of you on my infrequent outings to the grocery.

Next, I would like to apologize if any of you fell “out of the loop”. It has been difficult to keep everyone advised of the things that happen without being able to meet in person.

There are a few things going on at this time. The most exciting is that we have ten candidates who have signed up for the online version of MG Training! The course offered by the state office is self-paced. The trainees have until December 15, 2020, to complete the training. They each have mentors from Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. The book and content are the same as we have all studied.

The **deadline** to sign up for this training is **October 1, 2020**. So, if you know of someone who is interested, there is still time. Contact Janet Smallwood for an application – or it is online at <https://bit.ly/32iQ10h>.

A big shout out to our 4 provisional MGs who are now certified! Congratulations Doug Fant, Bruce Ferguson, Barbara McWilliams, & Wendi Merkel. Great job!

Another thing happening is we will have an unmanned table at the Agriculture Learning Center set up this week. Patrons to the livestock show will be going in to cool off and can browse informational tables, including MCRDMG materials.

Finally, the most important thing happening is ELECTION TIME. Our by-laws state in Article IV, Section 2, that we elect a Nominating Committee of five members at the September meeting. Please get out your by-laws and read them. Call me, text me, or email me with your suggestions for the Nominating Committee. Don't be shy to nominate yourself! It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the November election.

After I get your suggestions for the Nominating Committee, we will then conduct a vote. The details of that are yet to be finalized. Stay well! Call me with suggestions or ideas.

By-Laws Article IV Section 2. Nomination Procedure, Time of Elections: At the regular meeting held in September, a Nominating Committee of five members shall be elected by the Association. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee shall report at the regular meeting in October. Before the election at the November meeting, additional nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Annette Lachowsky, MCRDMG Pres.

Understanding Virtual MG Basic Training

2020 has been a crazy year and that includes new ways of training. Hopefully, this will help clarify how virtual basic training goes.

Classes are online and will be from September 9 until December 15, 2020. Everyone will work at their own pace with the progress periodically monitored to ensure there are no issues. At the end of the course, our state office will verify whether the course was completed by participants.

There are quizzes along the way for the trainees, with an exam at the end of the course. All exams are open book and are meant to get the trainee familiar with the MG notebook.

The September 9th date was given for those counties that were planning to have a Zoom class and have csv and mentor files ready to go. The Zoom class was originally to start in September.

Our deadline for applying is October 1, 2020 and the cost is \$85. Please remit payment along with the application. The application is available online at <https://bit.ly/32iQ10h> or you may call our office at 870-779-3609 and an application will be sent.

Flu & COVID19



**Get Your
Flu Shot!**

Health experts expect flu to overlap with COVID19 this fall. While there's no vaccine for COVID19 yet, there IS a flu vaccine. Protect yourself by getting your flu shot this fall. Learn more about this year's flu at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>. We also have a good read about flu vs COVID19 from a public health perspective: <http://bit.ly/FluVCOVID>

www.uaex.edu/ballot

Ballot Issues Voter Guide

Our 2020 Arkansas Ballot Issue Voter Guide is ready for download! Go to uaex.edu/ballot to download your copy! It is a neutral, research-based resource to help you figure out your votes on the proposed constitutional amendments and state laws.

This full-color PDF explores all the ballot issues voters will decide Nov. 3. We have included proposals that are currently in court due to the timing of our publication being printed. This digital version will be updated after court rulings.

Zoom-Zoom-Zoom

Plant–Nurture–Grow Leadership Conference Update

Over 170 Master Gardeners attended throughout the day on Monday and over 145 on Tuesday, Aug. 24th & 25th. Presentations focused on officer duties, meeting practices, parliamentary procedures, financial guidelines, timelines, conflict resolution, mentoring, project evaluations, engagement of members, and an overview of County 76.



Many hours were spent behind the scenes in planning, preparing, and coordinating this Zoom conference. Thank you to all who presented, moderated, and kept the conference going.

Master Gardener Monday

The next Master Gardener Monday via Zoom will be held **September 28th**, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM. The meeting link will be sent out the morning of the event. It will also be posted on the Master Gardener Facebook Page the morning of the event.



I hope everyone is doing okay & staying safe.

Lecture Series via Zoom – These are great programs. I am really enjoying it. 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 and 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. I do have one request of you. **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. 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 regular members and 11 trainees. We are up to 100% of our membership as active.

This month we add the following members that have enough volunteer hours in for recertification. Congratulations to Nicholas Auck, Sharron Lansford, & Linda Moilanean. GREAT JOB.

We have some hard-working Master Gardeners. The following have in over 100 volunteer hours: Chead Blue, Clyde Davis, Charlotte Fuller, Theresa Mitzler, & Andrea Thomas. Thanks for all you do.

So far this year, 1711.75 sanctioned hours, 69.25 non-sanctioned hours and 1084.3 education hours have been placed into the online system.

Because of COVID19 this year, the Executive Committee reduced our yearly requirements to zero hours.

Remember all of your hours are important and 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 click on Enter Hours here and logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the newest version of the system.

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

Take Care & Be Safe.

I miss all of you.

Keeping you all in my prayers.

Andrea Thomas

September Gardening Tasks: More Work Now, Less To Do In Spring

Submitted by Rita Nichols

The more you accomplish in the September garden means less work for you in the early spring when you're busy with the long list of to-dos to wake your garden up for the season.



If you're thinking of adding a pollinator garden to your landscape, try to prep the area and get as much planted as you can this fall. Come spring, the plants will be much larger and that area will be primed and ready to add in annuals and other varieties. The more weeding and mulching you do in September, the less weeds you'll have to deal with in the spring.

Take advantage of the gorgeous weather that September brings most of the country and get yourself in a great position to start next season off running!

Weeding ~ Spend 1-2 hours per week keeping up with weeding in your garden. Diligent weeding helps prevent weeds from going to seed and also prevents disease in next season's garden.

Stop pruning and fertilizing ~ at mid-month, stop fertilizing, this only promotes new growth that most likely will not make it through the winter.

Repot houseplants ~ if necessary!! Bring indoors and place them by a sunny window that has good airflow and **make sure to check for pests.**

Dig up/divide Daylilies, Iris, Hostas, and other spring blooming plants if they have become overcrowded or outgrown the space.

Add perennials and spring-blooming bulbs to your garden. Perennials planted in the fall offer up bigger growth and often bloom in the first season. Bulbs like Tulips, Daffodils, Allium, and more need the overwintering period in order to bloom in the spring.

Plant cover crops or plant fall vegetables ~ including lettuce, spinach & greens. As you finish harvesting tomatoes, beans, zucchini and more, build your vegetable garden soil for next year by adding quick-growing cover crops. Plant Clover, Vetch, & Austrian Winter Pea as "green manures" to help build nutrients & get the soil ready for next spring's planting.

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/>

To apply for an absentee ballot: Request • Complete • Return

PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



Absent Voter Ballot Application
I am a United States citizen and a qualified voter.
I apply for an official ballot, to be returned to me by mail.

Find out more: tinyurl.com/ARabsenteeinfo

Absentee Voting

You have the ability to vote in person or by using an absentee ballot. Do you know the 3 steps to obtaining an absentee ballot for Election Day?

Request: Contact your county clerk by phone or email to request an application be sent to you. Or you can print off an application from the Secretary of State's Office at <https://tinyurl.com/yaka3lc4>.

Complete: This involves selecting the reason why you're requesting an absentee ballot, which election you are seeking a ballot for, and choosing how you want to receive your ballot. Your absentee ballot can be mailed to you or be picked up in person. Military members and voters temporarily living outside the United States have access to electronic delivery. Remember to sign your application.

Return: You can mail the application to your county clerk, drop it off in person or have a person you've selected deliver it for you. Mailed applications must be received at least 7 days before an election. In-person delivery must happen by the day before the election. People living in long-term care facilities may have an authorized agent submit the application on their behalf up until 1:30 p.m. on the day of the election.

For more information on the application process, contact your county clerk. Counties will start mailing absentee ballots Sept. 18, 2020.

To Plant a Garden is to Believe in
Tomorrow! Audrey Hepburn