# Sample Press Release #1 - Recruiting

So just what is a Master Gardener? Many people seem to think Master Gardeners are terrific gardeners, the folks who know everything about growing anything. That description is fairly accurate for some Master Gardeners while others are just people who like gardening and like spending time with other gardeners. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who donate time to their community in garden related activities. Master Gardeners receive hours of training from the local Cooperative Extension Service and then use what they have learned to beautify their community and promote horticulture.

It has been said that having something interesting to do and having friends to do it with is one of the secrets to happiness. If you like gardening, becoming a Master Gardener is a great way to meet new friends who share your interest. When you become a Master Gardener, you are joining a group that shares your interest in growing things and in learning more about doing it better. As you work along side your fellow Master Gardeners on local projects, you share ideas and sometimes even seeds and cuttings.

**Insert a brief description of your county sanctioned projects.**

[*Here in Union County we are able to choose from several projects to do our required volunteer hours. If you like working with children, you can be involved with the students at Northwest Elementary in the greenhouse and their planting beds. The South Arkansas Arboretum is another sanctioned project of the local Master Gardeners who are involved with the butterfly garden and a Xeriscape, a low water use garden. At the Welcome Center on Hwy. 167 Union County Master Gardeners plant and tend the large flower beds. Master Gardeners are also involved in activities that educate the public as with the upcoming Crape Myrtle Pruning Workshop February 16 at Old City Park. Master Gardeners will be at the park demonstrating techniques for pruning crape myrtles into graceful trees.]*

If you are looking for a fun way to volunteer and get more involved in your community becoming a Master Gardener may be just the ticket. And you are in luck, as the training is being offered very soon. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County will be hosting the training which includes folks from several other counties including (List counties included). The training will be held on (**Insert information about your training here)** *Tuesday afternoons starting February 5, from 1 – 6 p.m. at the Workforce Development Center on the East Campus of South Arkansas Community College. Training runs through March 26, 2013 and the fee for the class is $70*. If you would like to take the training and join others who share an interest in gardening call the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County Extension office at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for more information and an application.

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Sample Press Release #2 – Recruiting

\_\_\_\_ County Master Gardeners are looking for folks interested in a fun way to volunteer and get more involved in their community. If you like gardening, becoming a Master Gardener will be a great way to meet new friends who share your interest. Master Gardeners are volunteers, trained by the local cooperative extension service, who in exchange for their training agree to donate time to their community in garden related activities. When you become a Master Gardener you are joining a group that shares your interest in growing things, learning more about doing it better and in sharing what you learn with others in your community.

Master Gardener trainees attend 40 hours of classes taught by University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture specialists and county agents in topics ranging from flower and vegetable gardening, lawn care, ornamental trees and shrubs, disease and weed control, pesticide safety and soils and fertilizers. Participants are required to volunteer 40 hours of service the first year and 20 in subsequent years to their local Master Gardener program.

**Insert info on your local county projects here**

Here in Union County we are able to choose from several projects to do our required volunteer hours. The South Arkansas Arboretum is a project of the Union County Master Gardeners where we are involved with generally beautifying the park and maintaining a butterfly garden. If you like working with children, you can be involved with the students at Northwest Elementary in the greenhouse and their planting beds. We do work at Barton Library, Hope Landing and the Welcome Center on Hwy. 167. Master Gardeners can also be involved with projects that offer garden education to the public.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County will be offering Master Gardener training from \_\_\_\_a.m. to \_\_\_\_p.m. beginning \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2015 at (location). The classes will run for \_\_\_\_weeks, fee for the class is $\_\_\_\_\_. Call \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_County extension office at (phone number) for more information and an application.

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