

**2022 Arkansas Master Gardener – Master Gardener of the Year Nomination**  
**John Doe**  
**Submitted by the Alpha County Master Gardeners (50- members)**

John Doe joined the Alpha County Master Gardeners in 2017, became VP in 2019 and President in 2020. John has continued to lead, motivate and recruit for the Alpha County MGs (ACMGs) through his dedication and service to our community, ACMGs, and sanctioned projects.

Community Service and Outreach

For the past 3 years, John has represented the ACMG program at the Alpha County Extension Council Meeting, helping to raise the profile of the County Extension Services' work within the community.

In the process of obtaining 38 cubic yards of compost donated from the City of Zeta to the ACMGs' community garden, John shared highlights of the ACMGs' sanctioned projects with the mayor of Zeta, Alicia Beta. As a result of this briefing, the ACMGs were awarded the Spirit of Zeta Award by Mayor Beta.

Helping Fill a Need

A shortcoming John recognized within the ACMG program was a lack of membership from smaller communities in Alpha County. In response, John suggested the ACMG Community Outreach Committee visit a different community's Farmers Market each month to not only recruit new MGs but to raise awareness of the Alpha County Extension Service, as well as answer gardening questions. As a result of meeting 43 people at 5 different communities' Farmers Markets, 8 people inquired about enrolling in the Master Gardener Training; 5 people completed the Spring 2022 40-hour in-person training at the Extension Office.

Sanctioned Projects Work

John's impact on the ACMG program is best illustrated by his project participation.

This year at the Zeta Community Garden, he led the selection and planting of 12 fruit trees and organized 6 work days (a total of 27 ACMGs toiled for 337 hours to weed, mulch, deadhead, plant, water and fertilize the garden.)

For the 2022 ACMG Plant Sale, John propagated 473 plants which sold for \$2,365 (these funds are shared amongst the 8 ACMG sanctioned projects); 264 people attended the 4/16/2022 plant sale. John has started more than 100 plants for the Spring 2023 Plant Sale.

John recorded 337 sanctioned project hours in 2022 with multiple ACMG projects, from greeting new MGs by name at all meetings, to serving on the mentoring committee, to working several "soil" projects.

John makes MGs at all skill levels feel welcome in the garden.



John Doe helps mulch the Zeta Community Garden's decorative street-side bed.



Alpha County Master Gardeners receive the Spirit of Zeta Award from Mayor Beta in the city council chambers in recognition of their many projects in Zeta, including the new Children's Garden at the Zeta Public Library, Community Food Garden, Extension Office landscaping, Alpha County Courthouse beautification and Spring Plant Sale.

From left (L to R): City Councilwoman Cathy Delta (seated), ACMG President Ellen Faulkner, Zeta Mayor Alicia Beta, ACMG John Doe, and Alpha County Extension Agent George Hall. 10/28/2022





ACMGs and volunteers from Nutrition Warriors and Junior Service League plant trees in the Zeta Community Garden on 9/28/2022.

Clockwise from left: Nutrition Warrior volunteer Jackie King, Junior Service League volunteer Laura Moon, ACMG John Doe, ACMG Nancy Oliphant and Nutrition Warrior Paula Rouse.



ACMG John Doe joins a work crew in the Zeta Community Garden on 11/3/2022.

(From L to R): ACMG Zeke Quarles, county probation volunteer John Party, ACMG Susan Digg (kneeling), ACMG Rebecca Lane, ACMG John Doe (kneeling) and AC Extension Agent Mark Dudley supervises.

Note: 576 words total – including titles, footer and image captions.