If you have any questions regarding anything in this newsletter, please feel free to call (870) 779-3609 or visit Room 215 in the Miller Co. Courthouse, 400 Laurel.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
JWC:jds

With all the rainfall we’ve had, the garden is moving a little slow. Only 1 potato plant came up but the onions are looking great! The garden was too wet to till or plant on our Sat. work-shop but we got the compost in the raised beds & the new storage building up & in place.

Pleasant Hill Quilters
Present Secret Quilt Codes
Of the “Underground Railroad”

By Andrea Thomas
Let’s report our volunteer hours.
Did you go to the Talks at the Library meeting that was held before the monthly meeting at the REA? Report that time under Talks at the Library; this is sanctioned hours.

Did you go check out the Miller County Courthouse flowerbeds and go to the meeting? Report that time under Miller County Courthouse Beds; this is sanctioned hours.

Did you go to the Basic Training meeting? Be sure and report that time under Basic Training – Volunteer.

Did you go to the Texarkana Down-
Pleasant Hill Quilters Present Secret Quilt Codes
Of the “Underground Railroad”

On April 5, I had the pleasure of attending ‘GROWING THROUGH TRADITIONS’, a program presented by the EHC council from several different counties including Miller County. There were 10 ladies that explained each quilt block and its meaning in the program. The songs that were sung were songs back when slaves were escaping to freedom via songs and quilts used with ‘hidden meaning’. I learned slaves north of the Mississippi headed north to Canada and slaves south of the Mississippi river fled to Mexico.

Ranging in age from 63 to 96, the 15 women of the Pleasant Hill Quilters travel the country visiting high schools, universities, concert halls, and churches, from Texarkana to Tuskegee to showcase their patchwork. In their nearly 2 dozen performances per year, the quilters weave together the African-American traditions of quilting and spiritual hymns like “Wade in the Water” & “Steal Away,” songs associated with slaves fleeing to freedom on the Underground Railroad. Displaying a completed quilt onstage, the women explain how runaway slaves & their supporters used quilt patterns to communicate messages along the network of routes, sympathizers, and safe havens that helped the fugitives escape to freedom in the days before abolition.

LaJoyce Flanagan taught school in the Linden schoolhouse more than 50 years ago, recalling the tiny desks and chairs, the children who stayed late for sewing lessons, as well as the day the radio delivered news of President Kennedy’s assassination.

The club found a fitting home in the restored schoolhouse, which itself is an important artifact of African-American history. The 1925 schoolhouse was one of more than 5,000 Rosenwald Schools built across the South between 1917 & 1932. Booker T. Washington, a prominent African-American educator and author, and philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, part owner of Sears, Roebuck and Co., created the program to address the dismal conditions of black schools in the Jim Crow South. While schools for black children typically focused on manual labor & homemaking, the Rosenwald program built new schools that advocated a curriculum of reading and math, as well as agriculture.

Whether through their craftsmanship commemorating the Underground Railroad and African-American oral history or their promotion of the Pleasant Hill School’s historic importance as a Rosenwald School, education is at the heart of the Pleasant Hill Quilting Group’s purpose.

“I always wanted to be a teacher,” Flanagan says. “And I’m still teaching.”

Some excerpts from: The TX Highways travel magazine – Submitted by Rita Nichols
Boy, have we had our share of rain this winter or what? I feel so waterlogged; I am ready for pretty blue skies and gentle breezes. And I just love to see all of the trees budding out with blossoms — even if all of the budding out is what makes me sneeze! 😅

I hope everyone is plugged in by now with your Master Gardener project of choice. If you are not, we have plenty of choose from. We have all kinds of projects from teaching kids at the library to pulling all the weeds you want to pull — some say it's a great stress reliever.

We are also enjoying some wonderful Monthly Meetings. If you are not making the monthly meetings, you are missing out on great food, great fellowship and great programs.

Our meetings are your opportunity to stay informed as to what is going on and for you to have an input in the organization. Hope to see you at our April monthly meeting.

As I have said before, just find your passion and jump right in. There is something in Master Gardeners for everyone.

Happy Master Gardening!

Teresa Slack

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**March 10, 2016**

**REA BUILDING**

The meeting was called to order by President, Teresa Slack. The minutes were approved as presented in the newsletter. The Treasurer’s report was presented by Robert High and will be submitted for audit.

**Unfinished Business**

The Ogden Workday will take place unless inclement weather.

Gayle Renfro reported that the county building administration appreciated the work done in the flower beds and that maintenance personnel will help keep the flowerbeds in order.

Sheila Keever reported a successful committee meeting for the Talks at the Library and More.

There will be a meeting March 12 for the Downtown community garden.

First Presbyterian - 9 AM.

**New Business**

All members must sign a Code of Conduct by March 31; it will all be on file with State Office.

Janet Carson sent a reply concerning Volunteer hours with other organizations, “If the group is a separate group then NO to their work hours, but YES to the education part.”

Kim Boyce of Fairview Elementary asked for help with a gardening project for 1st graders. Several members volunteered to help.

Scholarship Committee is to find a recipient for the John Turner Scholarship this Spring.

Members may sign up to help with Collins Sr. Citizens and receive Sanctioned Hours.

Basic Training Committee will meet on Friday March 11 at 9 AM.

In additional new business, Pam Rayburn announced that the Market needs a cart sign showing Master Gardener. There was much discussion and a committee will be formed to study a permanent sign for the University of Arkansas and Master Gardeners at the Farmers’ Market.

Alice McMillan announced the Annual Plant Sale at Williams Methodist Church April 2 from 8 AM to 3 PM.

Teresa Slack announced that the Bowie County MGs will host annual Plant Sale the 2nd Sat. of April.

Pamela Rayburn gave a program on “Gateway Farmers Market Trng.”

Meeting was adjourned by Teresa Slack.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lavender

Secretary
Once you have your pallet, clean it up to determine whether it was chemically treated with preservatives (esp. if you plant edibles). After that, it's just a matter of thinking of clever ways to use it to enhance your garden.

An interesting way to use a pallet is vertical gardening, which is a great solution to space issues. A pallet can be stood on end for a touch of botanical beauty. Stock it with herbs, succulents, vegetables or flowers. It is also a different way to grow vegetables such as tomatoes, pole beans, and cucumbers that thrive when grown off the ground.

Raised beds can produce more vegetables per square foot than traditional row gardens. They also promote soil improvement since they aren’t easily walked on. Improved drainage allows for longer growing seasons. For this project, the pallet can be laid flat on the ground, lined with landscape fabric, and filled with soil.

Pallets can also be stacked.

Volunteer Hours Continued from Page 1

Ashdown
Spring – A Time to Till by Nevada County in Prescott

In the Garden Basics/Janet Carson at Garvan Gardens

EHC (Extension Homemakers Council) Growing through Traditions in Hope. You may count the Gardening in Anything presented by Janet Carson.

All of this time can be reported under Seminars.

Have you been to a public garden (as Garvan Gardens, Dallas Arboretum, Rose Garden in Shreveport or Tyler, etc.)? Report that time under Garden Tours. Now your neighbor’s, friend’s, cousin’s, etc. garden does not count, it must be public, not a private or individual’s garden.

Have you been reading Horticulture Magazines or Books? You can report 1 hour each month for this activity.

Have you been watching a Horticulture program on TV or listening to a horticulture program on the radio? You can report 1 hour each month for this activity.

Now the rule is that you can not count travel time. Well there is always an exception to a rule. Here is the exception, should you be transporting items for a project, you may count the time loading, unloading, & moving/transporting the items. Some examples: taking tables, coolers, etc. to the Agri Expo or Farmers market, hauling compost or mulch for the Courthouse flower-beds or Downtown garden. Now only the time you are transporting the items.

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

Andrea