2017 Saturday Master Gardener Training

Applications are being accepted for the statewide Saturday Master Gardener training to be held in Hope, July 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th & August 5th.

Individual counties will interview and accept the applicant just as before; the only difference is the training will be done in Hope by the Cooperative Extension Service professionals, horticulture professionals and other specialists in their field. The first class will be held at the Southwest Research & Extension Center from 8:00-4:30 and all other classes will be held at Hempstead Hall at UACCH in Hope. The deadline for applying is June 1st and we will need at least 20 applicants for the class to make.

Training will cover basic botany, principles of horticulture, soils and fertilizers, vegetables, home fruit production, ornamental plants, lawns, pest control and pesticide use.


Gateway Farmers Market Meeting

Carl Silliman is holding a Gateway Farmers’ Market meeting soon for the upcoming Farmers Market year. The list below includes those who have turned in sign-up sheets for the Farmers Market. If you want to be included in the Farmers’ Market meeting(s) and your name is not on the list, please let Carl know.

Willene Akin – Tommie Ayers – Martha Bean – Sharon Ethridge –
Martha Bean – Sharon Ethridge –
Joan Evins – Robert High – Phyllis
Joan Evins – Robert High – Phyllis
Howell – Georgia McFaul – Una May
Howell – Georgia McFaul – Una May
Presley – Pam Rayburn, Co-Chair –
Presley – Pam Rayburn, Co-Chair –
Jane Richards – Carl Silliman, Co-
Jane Richards – Carl Silliman, Co-
Chair – Darlene Venable – George
Chair – Darlene Venable – George
Venable – Paula Warren
Venable – Paula Warren

Also, we plan to have a seed exchange as soon as vendors start showing up.

Ask a Master Gardener at North Forty

This Fri. & Sat., April 7th & 8th, we will be having “Ask a Master Gardener” at the North Forty, 6328 Richmond Rd., Texarkana, TX, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. This is in conjunction with Bowie County Master Gardeners.

If you would like to come and earn volunteer hours, please do. You set your schedule. You may work both days, all day or come and work an hour; it is up to you. If you think you might need a break while there, bring a lawn chair. We will set up for breaks behind the greenhouse.

This project is always lots of fun, getting to talk with other gardeners.
To my surprise I DID know what a tiger nut was and it is quite common around here. It was just that I never had heard it called that. I did know that hogs like it and the internet says that turkeys also love it. I did not know you could eat the nuts. I did not grow up eating these nuts, nor do I know of anyone who has. According to the internet, Native Americans enjoyed tiger nuts, as well as the ancient Egyptians.

We always talk about this nut in Master Gardener training.

However, in Master Gardener training, we do not discuss how to GROW the plants to produce the nuts but rather how to eradicate the plant. What plant produces tiger nuts?

Well the scientific name is *Cyperus esculentus*, part of the sedge family, specifically yellow nutsedge, which is what we commonly call nut grass, also known as tiger nut sedge.
Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes

March 9, 2017
REA Building
The meeting was called to order by Pres. James Lamb at 6:15. Prayer was led by Chris Engledowl before buffet meal was served. Minutes approved as printed in the newsletter. There were no questions on the treasurer report and it will be filed for audit.

In on-line reporting, Andrea Thomas encouraged members to log in on the website and report volunteer hours. James presented Andrea with a gift card from North Forty as appreciation for her continued work in tracking the volunteer hours.

Sanctioned Project Committee Reports
Community Garden-Lynn Willing-Bond reported that we can continue to call it the Community Garden at this time.
Ogden Community Center & Fire Station-Chris Engledowl reported on workday at Ogden & said all went well.
Talks at the Library-James led a discussion about streamlining the
Talks to kids only at this time.
Basic Training-Teresa announced a meeting tomorrow (Fri. March 10) 9AM, Courthouse. She said that the Basic Training Committee will be in charge of snacks at the Saturday Basic Training on July 22.

In unfinished business, Teresa reported that she was contacted by a person with the Glen dale Senior Citizens Center in Texarkana, AR. Our Master Gardener organization is being asked to provide programs for the adults occasionally. It was decided by the Executive Committee to include this project with Talks at the Library and More so that it will be a sanctioned project. Chair Sheila Keever suggested that there be a Chair for these adult programs. After discussion, James announced that this will be put on hold and revisited at the next Executive meeting.
Annette Lachowsky announced that there is a need for supplies for the students to start the School Garden at College Hill Middle School. Charlotte Fuller made a motion to donate up to $250 for these supplies if all supplies are not donated. Janet Lemley seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously. Annette will send an email to all members about a workday at College Middle School on March 27.

Teresa announced that we will have an information table at the Home and Garden Show March 18 and 19 at the Texarkana Convention Center, Hilton Garden Inn, Texarkana, TX. The Bowie County Master Gardeners will also have an information table. Members were encouraged to help work the info table.

In announcements, the Basic Training Committee will meet Friday, March 10 at 9AM at the Miller County courthouse on the 3rd floor in the conference room. Next, Andrea Thomas announced that there will be “Ask a Master Gardener Day” at North Forty soon. No date has been set yet.
March 30 is Horticulture Day at Southwest Center, 8:15AM-4:45PM. This event is hosted by the Bowie County Extension Service.

There will be a Daffodil Tulip Extravaganza at Garvan Gardens Feb. to April. On April 8th, Nevada Co. will host a Time to Till seminar and plant sale at Central Baptist Church in Prescott. The plant sale will start at 8AM for Master Gardeners only and opened to the public around lunch time.

Hempstead Co. MGs Seminar will be in Hempstead Hall in Hope on March 27.
Janet Carson will be the main speaker at 5PM.

The Camden Daffodil Festival in March 10-11.

Articles and photos for next newsletter are due to Janet Smallwood at the end of each month jsmallwood@uaex.edu.

Next meeting is April 13 at 6PM at REA building.
Program postponed due to technical difficulty. Cheryl Turner will speak on Container Gardening at a future date.
Meeting was adjourned by President Lamb.
Respectfully submitted, Jan Lavender, secretary

Giant Swallowtail Caterpillar
Keep an eye out for orange dog caterpillars on citrus trees. This is the larval stage of the giant swallowtail butterfly. They are most active April thru Sept. While they do consume leaves, they shouldn’t cause much damage, especially to larger trees. If you have these caterpillars, please don’t spray. Let them eat some leaves. They will be gone as butterflies soon and won’t do much damage to the plant.
The Rhine 2018
MG Study Tour
Come join us on the horticulture study tour aboard the brand new AmaKristina, August 20-27, 2018. We have reserved the entire ship for our MGs and their guests, but some of the categories have already filled up. The trip begins in Amsterdam and ends in Switzerland. I would suggest you book your rooms now, and then add any pre- or post-tours later. I am working with the ship to plan some additional gardening options while on board the boat, but also for before and after tours. While all of our garden tours are fabulous, many have found that a river cruise makes things much more relaxed since we don’t have to pack and unpack every day or two.

Michelle Breining is our travel agent booking the trip and she can answer any travel questions and help get you registered. Do remember that she lives in Washington State and they are 2 hours earlier than we are. Email her at Michelle@learncationtravel.com or call 253-509-0865.

Travel insurance is strongly encouraged. Michelle can also help you with that. The cost varies based on the level of insurance you purchase and your age.

For more information on the itinerary, cost & registration, visit http://files.constantcontact.com/b5bec2ab401/b09483e7-e766-49e0-876c-6add293f6db9.pdf.

Volunteer Hours

By Andrea Thomas
We have 68 members and 52 are showing to be active; 14 are showing to be inactive. Until you put hours in for this year, you show to be inactive. It really does help to keep your hours up-to-date and show State how much Miller County is accomplishing.

Let’s report our volunteer hours.

Sanctioned Hours
Did you help build raised beds or plant at the Downtown Texarkana Community Garden, Salvation Army, and/or Life House? All are sanctioned hours; report under Downtown Texarkana Community Garden. Have you helped clean up or weed and plant at the Nashville Farmers’ Market and Demo Garden? These are also sanctioned hours.

Non-Sanctioned Hours
Did you go to the monthly meeting? You get 1 hour for the business part of the meeting; report it under Monthly Meeting-Business. Did you volunteer at the Texarkana Home & Garden Show or Ask a Master Gardener? Report these hours under Other Volunteer Hours.

Did you bring one of the dishes we had for the meal? You count the time picking up the items to make the dish. How long did it take to prepare the dish? Count that time also. Did you come early and help set up for the meal? Count that time as well. All of this goes under Hospitality/Social.

Education
Did you stay for the monthly meeting program? That counts as 1 hour education. Report it under Monthly Meeting Program. Have you been to any seminars or workshops on gardening such as the Grape Pruning at the Research Center in Hope or maybe one of the District Digs, or Garden Thyme, or the Horticulture Conference at the Southwest Center? This time can be reported under Seminars.

Have you been to a public garden (Garvan Garens, Dallas Arboretum, rose Garden in Shreveport or Tyler, etc.)? Report that under Garden Tours. It must be public not a private or individual’s garden.

Have you read horticulture magazines or books? You may report 1 hour each month for this. Have you watched a horticulture program or TV or listened to one on the radio? You may report 1 hour monthly for this.

Travel Time
The rule is that you cannot count travel time but the exception is that should you be transporting items for a project, you may count the time loading, unloading, & moving/transporting the items. Some examples: taking tables, cool-ers, 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.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER
Hope everyone is doing well after these spring thunderstorms. But that is part of being a gardener. I hear we have a possibility of having a frost this Wednesday and Thursday night. Oh well, you never know.

Hope everyone has been taking advantage of the educational opportunities around the area. Gardening is akin to beekeeping because if you ever get to the point where you are not learning anything about it, you need to get out of it. So everyone keep learning, no matter how small amount it is.

--James Lamb, President