Be sure to bring your t-shirt design ideas to the meeting.

Master Gardener Fundraiser
Committee to Sell Tee-Shirts
By Teresa Slack

The Miller County Master Gardeners’ Fundraiser Committee is looking at selling tee shirts at the Gateway Farmers’ Market in the spring. We are looking for a good design that would publicize our market. We want the design to be one color to be put on the front of the shirt, on a solid color shirt.

Please bring your designs to our monthly meeting in August. The Fundraiser Committee will decide the design we will use.

If your design is chosen, you will receive a free tee-shirt.

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 Court-house, 400 Laurel.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
JWC:jds

ATTENTION: The end of summer is closing in on us and it’s time to take a good HARD LOOK at our required hours for 2015. Soon we will begin training a new class of trainees and we will have new mentors, and new blood. This is always an exciting time for all of us. Please tend to the following details as quickly as possible.

1. Post all your completed hours online NOW or contact Andrea if you need help.

2. Mentors please contact your provisionals to make sure they are up to date. If they get dropped from our membership rolls, due to lack of hours, you will feel very remiss in your mentoring duties. Contact ALICE if you need help or if they are helplessly & hopelessly lost. Together we can figure this out. Andrea and I can almost work miracles and we want to help you. We make lots of phone calls, email contact and face to face contact. Together we can do this!

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3. Look at your calendar and decide how you are going to complete the hours you still need. Some of our sanctioned projects will soon be shut down and you don’t want to miss the boat. Hurry.

4. Look at number 1 and please do that today.

5. Contact us if you want to be a mentor for 2015-2016 with our new class. (See contact information below.)

If you have completed all your required hours, sit back with a nice glass of summer tea and enjoy the rest of the summer. Sympathize with those of us who still need a few more hours.

Don’t forget to contact your friends or neighbors who might want to be Master Gardeners. They need to get their applications turned in now.

Thanks,

Alice McMillan
870-867-3421
awmdem@cableone.net

Pam Williamson
870-216-1222
pamwilliamson@windsorstream.net

Mentoring/Membership/Retention Committee

For all of you naysayers who said, “You will be begging for rain this summer!” – you are totally correct!! The month of July was very, very dry. I am sure it was a challenge for all of us to keep everything green – except the grass of course. It seems like my yard always needs mowing, no matter how dry it is!!

And it is hard to believe that the year is officially half over. I think it is the time of year that we Master Gardeners start thinking, “Oh my goodness, what am I going to do to get my sanctioned hours in?” As you all know, you must have either 10 sanctioned hours for certified MGs or 20 sanctioned hours for “seedlings.” You can count sanctioned hours toward non-sanctioned hours, but not the other way around. I think the only sanctioned projects left for the year are the Miller County Courthouse Beds, Gateway Farmers Market, the Nashville Community Center and Fire Station and the Downtown Community Garden across from the Courthouse (someone please correct me if I am wrong). These sanctioned hours are critical to our organization, so if you need help with any of these, let me know…

As we look forward to fall and cooler weather, keep in mind how vital the Miller County Master Gardeners are to the community that we serve. As I always say, there is something in Master Gardeners for everyone … just find your passion and jump right in!!

Happy Master Gardening!

Teresa Slack

For those of you that attended the 2015 MG Conference in Benton, AR (hosted by Saline Co.), here are the education hours for reporting:

- Pre-conference Tour (held on Wednesday) – 8 hours
- Conference – 14 hours (if you attended the whole conference beginning on Thursday).
Garvan Gardens will honor MGs from across Arkansas with free admission (must wear name tags or bring current membership cards) to the Gardens on Thursday, September 10th, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This year’s event includes gardening lessons along the Garden, ample dining opportunities throughout the day with food trucks (Southern Salt Food Company and The Pie Hole) from Little Rock, as well as the Chipmunk Café at the Gardens. Lunch boxes from the Chipmunk Café may be pre-ordered online or by calling the Gardens (501-262-9300 or 800-366-4664).

There is a special MG Day T-Shirt for this year’s event for $15 (see photo above for design). Shirts must be pre-ordered online on the Garvan Gardens website at http://www.garvangardens.org/ (or by calling Garvan Gardens) by August 24th.

Shirts are short-sleeved white and come in standard sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL.

Every Master Gardener will receive a free 2016 MG calendar when they arrive.

Non MGs cost is $15 adults/ $5 ages 6-12; free ages 0-5.

July 9, 2015

REA BUILDING

The regular meeting of the Red Dirt Master Gardeners was called to order by Teresa Slack, president, at 6:20 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2015, at the REA Building. A quorum was present. Martha Bean was appointed acting secretary.

The minutes of the June 11, 2015 were moved to accept, as printed, by Andrea Thomas. Seconded. Motion carried. The Treasurers’ report was given by Robert High; with no discussion, they will be placed on file for audit.

Andrea Thomas reported, and gave further explanation of “ON-LINE REPORTING”.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gateway Farmers Market, Pamela Rayburn – National Farmers Market Day is July 11th, MGs are encouraged to attend in Master Gardener shirts. The Oversight Committee has asked that if any Master Gardener has had a Vendor that is rude to them, another vendor, or customer, please put in WRITING, and give to Pam. The Market is going well, workers, vendors, produce, & customers. Thank you Master Gardeners!

Miller County Courthouse Beds, Sue Lambert reported for Sue Briley – still lots of work to do, please work your beds, when you can.

Fund Raising Committee, Pamela Rayburn – a newly formed committee to get a start on new funding for 2016. Possibly a tee-shirt sale, featuring the Gateway Farmers Market in the spring of 2016 and a fall plant sale featuring Autumn Plants and yard art.

Talks at the Library, Sheila Keever – Master Gardener participation was very good, attendance was low.

Assisted Living Home, Raised Beds: Gayle Renfro reported work was completed last Wednesday.

The following Master Gardeners were recognized:

Darlene and George Venable: A plaque was given to the Master Gardeners from the J.E. Manning Post #258, American Legion in Atlanta, for their work (and 3 Cass County Master Gardeners) for “Community Service Beautification of Landscaping & flower beds around the American Legion Post”.

Sue Briley and Sue Lambert were presented their Master Gardener Certificates for completion of requirements.

The following were recognized at the State Conference in Benton:

5-year Service Pins: Georgia McFaul, David Stallsworth, Monica Stallsworth, and Jan Williams.


Una May Presley received a 15-year pin and “gold badge” recognizing her as a Lifetime Member.

Gayle Renfro, Birthday Chairperson, presented the July birthday gifts.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, August 11th, 6:00 p.m. at the REA Building.

Announcements are on your Agenda.

The meeting was adjourned for the program: “Experts Among Us”, moderated by Lynn Willing-Bond. It was an excellent program of “tips, problems solved, time savers, and ‘how I did it’”, from the general membership.

Respectfully submitted

Martha Bean

Martha Bean, Acting Secretary
**Fall Garden Seminar**

**Sat., Sept. 12, 2015**

Open to the public

Izard County Master Gardeners present

“Dreamin’ of Next Year’s Garden featuring Janet Carson at Izard Co. Consolidated High School, Brockwell, AR

Seminar with lunch is $20; without is $15.

Mail your registration form (found on our facebook page or by calling our office) before September 1st.

For information, call 870-368-4323 or 870-670-4699.

**Be on the Lookout**

By Andrea Thomas

Since it is hot now and we are getting really dry, a lot of you are probably out watering like I am. I like to get out early and then again late in the day, sometimes until dark-thirty.

The other day I went out to move the water and there in my path was a two and a half foot long black chicken/rat snake (at least I think that was what it was). Our plants are not the only things in need of water.

The snake moved away from me so I let it go, knowing it would probably be gone or I could not find it again if I went to go get the hoe to kill it. I really did not want to kill him since he also has a place in this world and if he was keeping rats and mice away, more power to him! I just prefer snakes to be far, far away from me.

Well, I went to move the water again and the snake had decided to come in closer and was at my fig tree. He decided to climb into the fig tree as I watched. He must have not liked me watching him because he moved on to a small mulberry tree and perched about 10 feet off the ground. I just left him alone and came back to the house.

The next morning, I’m out to water again and decided to check the tree and there he was, still perched in it.

I just wanted to remind everyone to be aware when you are outside that a snake doesn’t just have to be on the ground. They are also out looking for water and a cool place to be.

While I might not have gotten the hoe, I did go get my camera!

Mark your calendars for the AR Native Plant Society fall meeting, held October 9th-11th, in Eureka Springs, AR.

Everyone is invited.

Meeting registration is only $5 with no pre-registration required.

Registration begins at 5:00 PM, Fri., Oct. 9th. The meeting site is the American Legion building located just north of Eureka Springs.

You must sign up for the field trips on Friday evening to allow for adequate logistical planning. Some field trips will be repeated on Sunday morning.

ANPS has reserved a block of 30 rooms in the Eureka Inn (Best Western), 101 E Van Buren (479-253-9551) but you must reserve before Aug. 20th for 2 nights.

For information, contact Mike Weatherford at 870-820-8300
George and Darlene Venable accepted an Appreciation Award from the Veterans’ Post in Atlanta, TX, for their work in beautifying the flowerbeds and around the Post.

The Fundraiser Committee had their first planning meeting for the purpose of coming up with great ideas for the MGs to raise money. Our next meeting is August 11th at 9:00 AM in the third floor conference room.

I attended the Advanced Master Gardener class on bees, which was very interesting. James and Rita were also there. There are 4,000 native bees in North America. Native bees are better pollinators than honeybees, but of course they do not produce the amounts of honey the honeybee does.

For the first time, I got to see honey being extracted; it was fascinating. We also all got a bottle of honey that they extracted. The University of Arkansas website has all kinds of information on bees; you might want to check it out.

Jon Zawislak of the University of Arkansas uncapping the honeycombs

Two types of native bee houses

James and Rita in class

By Andrea Thomas
Awards for Length of Service at Meeting

By Andrea Thomas

Congratulations to:
Una May Presley for 15 years in Master Gardeners. She is now a Lifetime Member, meaning she no longer has to report her hours or pay dues. HOORAY!

Nancy Biggar, Carolyn Prescott, Lanie Snow, and Earl Wilson received their 10 year pin and award. They’ve been active Master Gardeners since 2005. WAY TO GO!

Georgia McFaul, David Stallsworth, Monica Stallsworth, and Jan Williams received their 5 year pins and certificates. They’ve been active Master Gardeners since 2010. CONGRATULATIONS!

Nina won a planter that was designed and demonstrated by Cheryl at the Horticulture Fair.

Many thanks to Willene, Patsy, and Gayle for judging fruits, vegetables, and flowers at the Horticulture Fair in New Boston.

Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies
September 12, 2015
Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds, Haynesville, LA
$4 Adults/$1 Children 6-18/Under 6-FREE