

Red Dirt
Master Memos

August Program for Monthly Meeting

The program for our August monthly meeting will be “Butterfly Gardens” by Mike Grisco.

Supplies Needed for Farmers Market Project

By Teresa Slack

On Sat., August 27th, the Master Gardeners are helping our 4-H Agent, Samantha Kroll, with a Kids’ Project – COOL CONTAINER GARDENING FOR KIDS – and we need your help. We need some cute containers that you might have lying around the house, in your garage, on your patio… that you are not using and are willing to donate for the kids to use. If you can bring them to the monthly meeting, Thurs., Aug. 11th, that would be wonderful.

Also, we will need some plants for the kids to plant in the cool containers, so if you can get by Wal-Mart, Home Depot, Lowe’s… please pick up a six pack or two of plants for the kids to plant. And while you are shopping, we need potting soil – so if you could pick up a bag or two – that would be awesome. Please bring these items by the Extension Office the week of August 22nd through 26th for Samantha.

And if you would like to help with this project or any Saturday project in August and September, contact Chuck Ainsworth at GuadalupeCanoe@gmail.com.

Basic Training Committee Meeting

The Basic Training Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 16th at the Miller County Courthouse Third Floor Conference Room beginning at 9:00 AM. We have a few things to modify from our last meeting & start working on our publicity schedule to get our classes out to the community.

Please make this meeting if you are scheduled to help with Basic Training, or if you would like to help, it is not too late to participate.

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

Some of our Provisional members and mentors attended the recent state meeting, “Annuals to Perennials” in Eldorado. We had a very good attendance and it was a wonderful meeting.

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.
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 hope you will consider working at the Education Table at the Gateway Farmers Market in August and September. We have a lot of fun mornings coming up – fun things you will really enjoy! And these are SANCTIONED HOURS...

You can also get your Sanctioned hours at the Miller County Courthouse beds, the Ogden Community Center, the Nashville Demonstration Gardens, the Downtown Community Garden across from the Courthouse, College Hill Middle School and Talks at the Library and More. These sanctioned hours are critical to our organization, so if you need help with any of these, just 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

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By Andrea Thomas

If you are a trainee (seedling/annual) you need to have 20 sanctioned hours, 20 non-sanctioned hours, and 20 education hours to meet requirements to become a certified Master Gardener. Of course we have some variations to that rule. Extra sanctioned hours can be used for non-sanctioned hours, but extra non-sanctioned hours cannot be used for sanctioned hours. That is, you could just get sanctioned hours – which means you would need 40 sanctioned hours if you do not get any non-sanctioned.

**Examples**

Tim has 22 sanctioned hours, 26 non-sanctioned hours, and 35 education hours. Requirements met.

Jane has 45 sanctioned hours, 3 non-sanctioned hours, and 22 education hours. Requirements met. Her extra sanctioned hours take care of the non-sanctioned hours.

Cindy has 68 sanctioned hours, 0 non-sanctioned hours, and 45 education hours. Requirements met. Again the sanctioned hours took care of the non-sanctioned hours.

Jim has 2 sanctioned hours, 72 non-sanctioned hours, and 35 education hours. Requirements not met. He still needs 18 sanctioned hours to meet requirements.

Luke has 32 sanctioned hours, 21 non-sanctioned hours, and 5 education hours. Requirements not met. He still needs 15 education hours.

Millie has 5 sanctioned hours, 85 non-sanctioned hours, and 12 education hours. Requirements not met. She still needs 5 sanctioned hours and 8 education hours.

If you are a Master Gardener (perennial) you need to have 10 sanctioned hours, 10 non-sanctioned hours, and 20 education hours to meet requirements for the yearly recertification. Of course we have some variations to that rule. Extra sanctioned hours can be used for non-sanctioned hours, but extra non-sanctioned hours cannot be used for sanctioned hours. That is you could just get sanctioned hours – which you would need 20 sanctioned hours if you do not get any non-sanctioned hours.

**Examples**

Tim has 12 sanctioned hours, 16 non-sanctioned hours, and 35 education hours. Requirements met.

Jane has 35 sanctioned hours, 3 non-sanctioned hours, and 22 education hours. Requirements met. Her extra sanctioned hours take care of the non-sanctioned hours.

Cindy has 78 sanctioned hours, 0 non-sanctioned hours, and 45 education hours. Requirements met. Again, the sanctioned hours took care of the non-sanctioned hours.

Jim has 2 sanctioned hours, 72 non-sanctioned hours, and 35 education hours. Requirements **not** met. He still needs 8 sanctioned hours to meet requirements.

Luke has 32 sanctioned hours, 21 non-sanctioned hours, and 5 education hours. Requirements **not** met. He still needs 15 education hours.

Millie has 5 sanctioned hours, 85 non-sanctioned hours, and 12 education hours. Requirements **not** met. She still needs 5 sanctioned hours and 8 education hours.

Please remember that you should report all volunteer hours and not stop reporting when you get the minimum requirements.

If you need clarification or help, give me a call or send me an email

Andrea – 903-832-8111 at7550@yahoo.com

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Raise the cutting height of your lawnmower 1 to 1.5 inches to help your grass survive drought and heat. Tall turf shades the soil, slows evaporation, and reduces weeds. Now is the time when tiny weed seedlings become huge monsters almost overnight. Pull weeds as soon as you see them sprouting up. They take water and nutrients from your plants’ soil and keep them from thriving. Weeds also encourage the spread of pests and diseases.
Tomato Plants Not Setting Fruit?

Tomatoes are self-pollinating, meaning they have flowers that contain both male and female parts, so more than one plant is not needed for reproduction. The pollen falls within the flower to pollinate itself. But what if your tomato plants quit setting fruit? When daytime temps rise above 90° and stay above 75° at night, pollen becomes unviable.

Keep them watered and mulched; they should rebound and set fruit once temperatures ease.

If blights have taken their toll, start new plants from the suckers of existing plants, or buy new ones. Now is the time to plant, but fall gardens require diligence in keeping away diseases and insects.

Fall Webworms Have No Fans

Have you heard? … Bugs are now being referred to as animals. While true from a classification standpoint, it elevates many once considered creepy-crawlers to a more lofty status in the social standing of life. Butterflies, bees, wasps, dragonflies, and, I’m sure, others have gained new followers amongst gardeners.

But some things – especially ugliness – will not be tolerated. Fall webworms, while kissing cousins of the butterflies and otherwise checking all the appropriate animal boxes, have no fans.

Fall webworms are a native moth that occurs through all of North America – and now the world – thanks to their accidental introduction to Europe during WWII. The noticeable stage of this ugly pest usually appears from June through August, but if a second generation is produced, can extend into October.

The first visible signs of infestation occur when beige to brown webs begin to irregularly enclose the ends of upper branches. In the initial stages the small hairy yellow-brown worms feed only on the upper surface of the leaf, but as the caterpillar size increases the whole leaf is eaten.

As the colony consumes the first leaves in the area of where the moth laid its eggs, the size of the webby mass increases. The frass from all of this feeding remains in the thick web and becomes piteously ugly. For the first half of the 4-6-week period during which the caterpillars feed, all feeding is in the web. As caterpillars near maturity at 1 3/4-inch long, they leave the web at night to feed.

During the final stage of development, caterpillars leave the web and crawl to a convenient hiding place, such as a thick patch of surrounding foliage as an aesthetic concern. Infestations tend to be episodic in nature with back to back bad web-worm years occurring about once a decade. However, some web-worms will be seen almost every season. Sprays of BT or Sevin directed at the webs and surrounding foliage as soon as they are noticed provides effective control.

The range of trees attacked by this pest is impressive. Worldwide, more than 600 kinds of deciduous trees have been attacked, but favorites in Arkansas include sweetgum, crabapples, persimmons, black walnut, river birch, pecan, hickory, cherry and occasionally even elms and willows.

Because the fall webworm does its most significant damage during the hottest & driest part of the season when most trees have stopped growing anyways, their damage is primarily considered of only aesthetic concern. Infestations tend to be episodic in nature with back to back bad web-worm years occurring about once a decade. However, some web-worms will be seen almost every season. Sprays of BT or Sevin directed at the webs and surrounding foliage as soon as they are noticed provides effective control.
Miller County Master Gardeners Offering Educational Programs at Gateway Farmers' Market

We are joining forces with Miller County 4-H to offer educational programs for adults and youth at the Gateway Farmers Market.

We will be taking soil samples each Saturday in August & September. We will also be offering educational gardening materials and be available to answer gardening questions for the public.

The Children’s Programs are being offered by Miller County 4-H & is designed to give the children something enjoyable and educational to do while their parents shop for fresh local produce.

The schedule of events, in addition to soil samples for your fall garden for Aug. & Sept., is:

- Aug. 13th – “Ask Us About Master Gardeners”
- Aug. 20th – “Kids’ Corner with Master Gardeners”
- Aug. 27th – “Cool Container Gardening for Kids”
- Sept. 3rd – “Fall Preparations for Gardens, Flower Beds, and Yards”
- Sept. 24th – “Fall Décorating with the Master Gardeners”

How to Report Your Volunteer Time

By Andrea Thomas

Let’s report our volunteer hours.

Sanctioned

Did you help with the Fishing Derby, as registration, showing the children how to fish, helping them fish, taking fish of the hook, serving lunch, weighing fish, handing out prizes? Report your time under Fishing Derby, this is sanctioned hours.

Have you been helping with the College Hill School project? Report your time under College Hill. This is a new project and is sanctioned, so count these as sanctioned.

Have you been helping with Talks at the Library? Report your time under Talks at the Library. This is sanctioned hours.

Have you been planting, weeding, cleaning, pruning etc. in the Miller County Courthouse Flowerbeds? Report that time under Miller County Courthouse Beds; this is sanctioned.

Have you been volunteering at the Nashville Farmers Market and Demo Garden? Report that time under Nashville Farmers Market and Demo Garden; this is sanctioned hours.

Are you volunteering at the Gateway Farmers Market? Helping with demos and/or working in the flowerbeds. Report that time under Gateway Farmers Market; this is sanctioned hours.

Have you been helping plant, weed, pick vegetables, etc. at the Texarkana Downtown Community Gardens? Report that time under Texarkana Downtown Community Garden; this is sanctioned hours.

Non Sanctioned

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 bring one of the wonderful dishes we had for the meal? You do know you get to count the time you were in the store picking up items to make that great dish. (Now you cannot count travel time to the store or the time you were visiting with your neighbors, relatives, or friends while in the store)

How long did it take you to prepare your dish? You get to count that time also. Did you come early and help set up for the meal? You also count that time. All this time will go under Hospitality / Social.

Education

Did you stay for the monthly meeting program? That will count as 1 hour education. Report it under monthly meeting program.

Did you go to the Horticulture Field Day at Hope? Report under Seminars.

Have you been to any seminars on gardening (flowers, vegetables, etc.)? All of this time can be reported under Seminars.

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

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

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

Travel Time

Now the rule is that you cannot count travel time but there is an exception to a rule. It is – should you be transporting items for a project you may count the time loading, unloading, and moving/transporting the items. Examples: hauling compost or mulch for the Courthouse flowerbeds or Downtown garden. Now only the time you are transporting the items.

Bringing or transporting your personal gloves, hoe, shovel, pruners, etc. to a project does not count.

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