Red Dirt
Master Memos
Newsletter

Note to the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners

The Gateway Farmers Market Oversight Committee thanks all Master Gardeners, both past and present, for their ten years of dedicated service to the Market. Through your ideas, execution, organization, and work, the market has grown each year. Thank you!

We are excited about the new direction the Master Gardeners are taking. Yet another way of carrying out the mission of Master Gardeners — to provide community service and educational enrichment for both its members and the general public, by teaching the most reliable, current, research-based safe gardening information.

We will be here to help you carry out this new endeavor.

Again, we thank you!

Gateway Farmers’ Market Oversight Committee Members

Food Preservation at our Monthly Meeting

Cheryl Mapson, Bowie County Master Gardener, will be at our monthly meeting, January 12th, presenting Food Preservation. We will learn about canning fruits & veggies as well as other methods such as drying and freezing. It will be a very educational and informative PowerPoint presentation you don’t want to miss.

We will also be selecting committees at this meeting as well as our regular business.

2017 Perennial Plant of the Year

Asclepias tuberosa

Commonly known as butterfly weed, this long-lived & striking perennial is native to the continental U.S. (except for the northeast).

Hardiness: Zones 4 to 9, grows best in full sun with well-drained soil. No serious insect or disease problems and deer usually avoid it.

With all the “buzz” about bees & butterflies, why not celebrate an excellent plant known for its ability to support insects and birds and serve as the primary caterpillar food for a beloved North American native butterfly? The Perennial Plant Association is proud to announce Asclepias tuberosa as its 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
JWC:jds

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.
This is my first President’s Corner submission to the monthly newsletter. May I say it is my honor to be the President of the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. I, along with the other newly elected officers are looking forward to an entertaining, educational and worthwhile year in 2017. Our plans possibly include but are not limited to a possible Saturday training for Master Gardeners; possibly a seminar for Master Gardeners and the public and possibly another great trip to an exciting and informative area. So watch for exciting things in 2017! I want to emphasize to each and every member that this is “your Master Gardener Club”; so saying the Executive Committee along with myself will be available to take your suggestions to the betterment of the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners. So put your thinking caps on and let’s have fun while learning and training together.

The only “Hard lines” I will take is: I go by the Arkansas State Master Gardeners and the Miller County Red Dirt Mater Gardeners’ by-laws and will not deter from them. Also, I believe in getting your hours in. Please keep up with them and if you need help, contact Andrea. She has graciously agreed to keep helping members with their hours.

Lastly, I want to thank the outgoing Red Dirt Master Gardener officers for the work that they have done in the previous year and will be looking forward to having their expertise in helping not only myself but the other new officers.

James E. Lamb
President Red Dirt Master Gardeners

Trip to Garvan Gardens

By Andrea Thomas

The trip to Garvan Gardens was great and the lights were fantastic. The weather was cool with a little rain but everyone had a wonderful time. Some viewed the lights while walking while others took golf carts.

There was hot chocolate at the end to warm everyone up. We stopped at the Western Sizzler on the way back home for supper, and had a great time visiting and enjoying each other along with some great food. It was a fantastic road time. Thanks to all who planned and did all the work to make this trip happen.
Volunteer Hours 2017

Master Gardeners, just a reminder that you need to have 10 sanctioned hours, 10 non-sanctioned hours, & 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 means, you could just get sanctioned hours, which you would need 20 sanctioned hours if you do not get any non-sanctioned.

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, & 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, & 45 education hours. Requirements met. The sanctioned hours take care of the non-sanctioned hours.

Jim has 2 sanctioned hours, 72 non-sanctioned hours, & 35 education hours. Requirements not met. He still needs 8 sanctioned hours.

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

Remember to report all volunteer hours and not stop reporting when you get the minimum requirements.

Volunteer Time for 2017

To report your volunteer hours, either go directly to www.arkmg-dev.arkmg.org and login OR to ensure you are using the newest version, go to www.uaex.edu. Select Yard & Garden, then Master Gardener Program, Enter Volunteer Hours Here & login.

Remember, any of your volunteer hours must be on approved projects. As a Red Dirt Miller County Master Gardener, you are working as an arm of the Extension Office and are representing the Miller County Extension Office and the UofA as a Master Gardener.

Sanctioned Hours - 10 hours minimum required
The following are Sanctioned Projects:
4-H Fishing Derby – Agricultural Expo – Ogden Community Center – College Hill Middle School – Gateway Farmers Market – Back to Nature – Miller County Courthouse Flowerbeds – Nashville Demo Garden & Farmers’ Market – Talks at the Library and More – Texarkana Downtown Community Garden

Extra sanctioned hours – that is hours over the 10 hours required – may be used to cover the requirement for non-sanctioned hours, should you prefer to work only sanctioned hours.

Non-Sanctioned Hours
10 hours minimum required
The following are some examples of Non-Sanctioned projects:
Basic Training-Volunteer – Horticulture Department at Fairgrounds – Kids’ Day at the Fair – Monthly Business Meeting – serving on any of our committees (Audit, Awards, Executive, Finance, Fundraiser, Hospitality, Newsletter, Membership, Program, etc.)

Then there is the catch all Other Activity which is all the projects that happen during the year that are not on-going – that is they will not occur year after year. Of course, there are always some exceptions, but normally the project is a one-time occurrence.

Education - 20 hours minimum required
The following are some examples of ways to get Education hours:
State Conference – Advanced Training Classes – Agricultural Expo – Basic Training (only 10 hours) – Garden Tours – Leadership Training – Monthly Meeting Program - Seminars

You are allowed one hour each month for reading garden-related books and magazines and you are allowed one hour each month for watching garden-related television shows or listening to garden-related radio programs.

Then, there is the catch all of Other Education, should something not fall in the above categories.

Travel Time

Now the rule is that you cannot count travel time but there is an exception to this rule. The exception is that should you be transporting items for a project, you may count the time loading, unloading, and moving/transporting the items. Some examples: hauling compost or mulch for the courthouse flowerbeds or downtown garden. Only the time you are transporting items counts. Trans- porting your personal gloves, hoe, shovel, pruners, etc. to a project does not count.

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

Hope 2017 will be the best year ever for every one of you!

Happy New Year!

Andrea Thomas
2017 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

Volunteers Needed

Come be a part of the 2017 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show to be held Feb. 24th, 25th, and 26th, 2017, at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock, AR.

Volunteers are needed for all 3 shifts on all 3 days, from setting up or taking down to selling/taking tickets.

To volunteer, call our office for a registration form or visit the new web address at www.argardenshow.org. You will find a schedule of events and speakers listed there. Fill out the form and return it by January 31st to Pulaski County Extension Office in Little Rock.

Do You Know About the Plant Health Clinic?

Are you aware that you can send plants in to our Fayetteville Clinic to have your sick plants examined by plant pathologists for diagnosis?

The Plant Health Clinic received 3,061 plant samples in 2016. Horticultural samples continue to follow the trend of recent years by comprising the largest percentage of samples received. The largest category of samples in 2016 was for the Trees/Shrubs category (40%) with 1210 samples, followed by Turf (23%), with 695 samples, Vegetables (15%) with 455 samples, Fruit/Nut (11%) with 340 samples, Field Crops (4%), Perennials (4%), Annuals (1%), and the remaining 1% divided among weed samples, forages, and unknown.

The Plant Health Clinic significantly impacts both Arkansas growers & Extension personnel through their diagnostic services, training sessions, and public outreach. The Clinic serves as a valuable aid to county agents in solving problems connected with Extension clients and shareholders. The Clinic partners with the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network, the National Plant Diagnostic Network, and the Arkansas State Plant Board to alert and train shareholders about developing threats to the agricultural and horticultural industries. Additionally, thousands of home-owners are benefited through these diagnostic services, and one-to-one personal attention to their problems.

If you are having trouble with a plant, email a photo along with the following information to jsmallwood@uaex.edu or bring your plant sample to 400 Laurel, Room 215 on a Monday or Tuesday since we have to mail the plants to Fayetteville. We will need your contact information along with plant info such as type, when planted, chemicals or fertilizers applied, problem description, when you noticed changes to plant, etc. Janet will get results usually within the week and will send the test results on to you.

Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes

The meeting was called to Order by President Teresa Slack at 6:15 PM. James Lamb motioned to approve the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Robert High seconded the motion which was approved by the membership.

Robert High, Treasurer, presented a financial report and it will be placed for audit. In the absence of Andrea Thomas, Teresa Slack reminded all members they must have all hours reported on line by December 31 to remain certified.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Committee reports were given. Chairpersons reported no new activity for the previous month.

The trip to Garvan Gardens to see the Christmas lights on December 5th was a success, with 34 people attending.

NEW BUSINESS: The following Officers were elected and installed to serve for the year 2017. The 2017 officers are President-James Lamb, Vice President-Chris Engledow, Treasurer-Glenda Griffin, and Secretary-Jan Lavender.

Our program for December was our Christmas Party and Silent Auction. We had many items brought to bid on, and lots of great food…..

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Teresa Slack, President.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Lee Slack, Acting Secretary

International Conference

Oregon Master Gardeners invite you to the 2017 International Conf., July 10th-14th, in Portland, Oregon. This conference offers an array of gardening sessions, tours, mini film festival, regional mixers to network with others, and a trade show.

Complete tour information will become available in September.

Early bird registration ends January 13th.

There is so much to see and do in Portland and in Oregon. They are eager to show you their region’s best.