Controlling Invasive Plants Seminar w/Janet Carson

July 19, 2016
Garvan Woodland Gardens Magnolia Room
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Do you know the difference between native & invasive plant species? Being informed could be the difference between supporting & disrupting your local ecosystem! Join Horticultural Specialist Janet Carson and friends as they present environmentally friendly alternatives to some of the most common invasive weeds and ornamentals. This topical class is perfect for gardeners of all levels of experience! Registration begins and refreshments will be served at 9:00 a.m. Lunch options are available from the Chipmunk Café.

$15 Members | $30 Non-Members | pre-registration required | register online at http://www.garvangardens.org/purchase_tickets/default.aspx or call 800-366-4664.

Gateway Farmers Market National Market Day

Don’t forget to attend the Gateway Farmers Market Saturday, July 9th, as we celebrate National Farmers Market Day. There will be drawings for fresh produce, beginning at 9:00 a.m. You must be present to win.

County 76 Thank-You for Successful Silent Auction

County 76 members would like to take this opportunity to say a special word of thanks to all the counties and individuals who donated the many wonderful items for the County 76 Silent Auction held at the state conference in Eureka Springs. Thank you to all of you who placed bids and to the host county for donations of the beautiful centerpieces. Due to your generosity, over $6,400.00 was collected. From the Silent Auction, $4500 will be utilized to help defray registration fees for the PNG Leadership Conference. Sign up for PNG to be held September 26-27 at the Ferndale 4-H Center. Early registration deadline: August 1st.

Thanks again for your support,
Jane H. Burrow, Co. 76 President & Glenda Bell, Chair, Co. 76 Silent Auction Committee

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

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Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.
So it seems like we went from rainy and stormy weather to hot, hot days! Boy, what they say is true – “If you don’t like the weather in the south, just wait a bit, it will change!”

Hopefully this hot summer weather will not impact our Master Gardener projects too much – perhaps the weeds will slow down at the Courthouse. I do thank Gayle Renfro, Rita Nichols and the crew for staying on top of that project. The beds are looking just awesome! I know some of you are working at the Community vegetable garden across from the Courthouse. It is very satisfying knowing you are helping to feed the needy in the area.

And as I have mentioned before, it is very important to document your hours via our online system. The year is officially half over and I have counted over 20 MGs with no hours recorded. I know for a fact that some of you have worked; I have worked right alongside of you! So please take a moment and get your hours in. These hours are the lifeline of the Master Gardener system.

June 9, 2016
REA BUILDING

Teresa Slack, President, called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. The minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Treasurer’s report will be filed for audit. Andrea Thomas reported that 15 members have no recorded volunteer hours and 3 trainees have no recorded hours. Members were encouraged to record their hours ASAP.

In unfinished business, committee reports were given. Charlotte Neaves reported that Ogden work is on schedule. Gayle Renfro reported that the Miller County Courthouse beds are looking good. Sprinkler system has been installed. The beds have been mulched by the committee/volunteers.

Sheila Keever reported that the Talks at the Library and More is on schedule. Mosaic veggies and sprouts will be an activity at the next session for the children.

Kathy Boyles reported that the Downtown Community Garden is being weeded weekly on Saturdays by the committee members and volunteers. The harvested vegetables are donated to the Randy Sams Shelter & to Harvest Texarkana.

Sharon Etheridge reported that the College Hill Middle School Project (STEM and EAST classes) is on schedule. Chair Annette Lachowsky and 4H agent, Samantha Kroll will meet with school administration to plan the project before school starts.

Samantha Kroll was introduced at the meeting to the membership.

In new business, the REA was awarded a state award for “Friends of the Master Gardener Organization”—a plaque will be presented to the REA soon. MG’s who attended the State Conference were recognized.

The Gateway Farmers Market committee met May 20 to discuss the suggested change in the role of Master Gardeners at the Market. This change will allow the MGs to have an educational and horticultural role instead of a management role. This suggestion was submitted by the Oversight Committee on June 3. The statement included that the Master Gardeners will terminate management of the Gateway Farmers Market on July 31, 2016. Jennifer Caraway, extension agent, explained the changes. Pam Rayburn reported that there is a need for workers at the market for June & July.

Back to Nature, an annual event was cancelled due to excessive rain.

The Fishing Derby will take place July 7 at Bobby Ferguson Park. MG’s are needed to help, beginning at 7:30am until 2pm or so. This is a sanctioned project. MGs will help with registration, handing out fishing rods, serving lunch, and monitoring the kids as they fish.

In additional business, Lynn Willing-Bond announced that she will be planning a day-trip for educational hours. There was some discussion about a day trip to the Botanical Gardens in Fayetteville. Funds from the sale of mums in 2015 can be used to rent a bus for this daytrip. There will be more discussion at the July meeting.

The Southwest Research Extension Horticulture Field Day –Agri Tourism--will take place soon. MGs can get education hours for attending this event. More details will be included in the monthly newsletter.

Scottie Burnett introduced the speaker, Makesha Parish. She gave a program on “Mental Health in Gardening.”

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lavender, Secretary