Red Dirt Master Memos

New Master Gardener Sanctioned Project

By Teresa Slack

At our May 2015 meeting, the Miller county Master Gardeners voted YES for the Sanctioned Downtown Community Garden. This project is a project of the First Presbyterian Church, St. Edwards Catholic Church, Central Christian Church and First Methodist Church. These volunteers plant and harvest vegetables that are donated to organizations in our local community that feed the hungry.

This garden is located directly across from the Miller County Courthouse. We have no standing in the Community Garden Project other than to help as needed by planting, weeding, harvesting, and distributing these goods ... that go to Harvest Texarkana and Randy Sam’s Shelter among other places.

Our point of contact for this project is Kathy Boyles. If you would like to be a part of this project, contact her and she can get you started. All hours worked in the Downtown Community Garden will be Sanctioned Hours.

Mt. Magazine Butterfly Festival XIX

June 26-27, 2015 in Paris, AR

Enjoy this family-friendly nature festival with seminars, hikes, plant sale, garden tours, insect exhibits, a live anthropod zoo, and the Bug Bonanza! Walk the trails in search of over 25 different butterflies that often fly this time of year. A concert closes the festival. Admission is free. For more information go to mountmagazine@arkansas.com

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Miller County Web Page
http://uaex.edu/counties/miller/

Red Dirt Master Gardeners Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miller-County-Red-Dirt-Master-Gardeners/158381290897368

Miller County Agriculture Facebook
www.facebook.com/millercountyuaex

AR High students from the art department helped MGs weld & paint bench for retired Ag Agent John Turner. It will be installed at the Gateway Farmers’ Market.

June Calendar of Events

4th-6th – State MG Conference, Saline Co., Benton, AR
11th – MG Monthly Mtg. – 6 PM- REA
13th – Through the Garden Gate Tour, Flower Garden & Nature Society of NW AR & Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks
14th – Flag Day
18th – Horticulture Field Day at SW Research Center, Hope, AR
21st – Happy Father’s Day!
25th – Talks at the Library – “Heroes”
26th-27th – Mt. Magazine Butterfly Festival
29th – Info due for July’s Newsletter to Janet – jsmallwood@uaex.edu

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
Pam Rayburn did a great job presenting the Gateway Farmers Market training at our monthly meeting in May. This training is needed for anyone who works at the market. Pam estimates that approximately 90% of the MGs were trained; however, for those who missed it and wish to work at the market, give her a call (903-490-1080) and she will try to do a one-on-one training with you. Remember to sign up on the calendar for the days you wish to work. The calendar will be at the monthly meeting and also at the Farmers Market.

As I write this, our area is gearing up for massive flooding, the likes of which we have not seen in 25 years — since the 1990 floods. With all the rain we have had for the past several months, it is frustrating to have to wait for the Red River to crest. We feel so powerless, but we have to stand in awe of Mother Nature and the fury she sometimes unleashes. Our prayers go out to all of those in harm’s way.

I hope by now you are all involved with Master Gardener projects. These projects are the lifeline of our organization and so many depend on us to make a difference in the community. I promise you that no matter what your interests are, we have a project right up your alley!! So find a project and get going… And, by the way, it is also very important to document your hours via our online system. My goodness, the year is almost half over and we still have some MGs with no hours recorded. These reported hours are important to the State organization as this shows how much we impact our community and our state … so please get your hours recorded. If you need help with that, just get in touch with Andrea Thomas. She will be glad to help you.

So, as the summer gets into full swing, it is time for all of us to get swinging!! As I have said before, just find your passion and jump right in. There is something in Master Gardeners for everyone. Happy Master Gardening!

Teresa Slack

Advanced Master Gardener Training in Paris, AR

By Andrea Thomas

Joan and I took the Advanced MG Training on Garden Art on May 30th in Paris, AR. It was quite interesting. We learned how to use sticks, rocks, spoons, shells and wine corks to make plant markers. There was a lesson on Fairy Houses. I learned more about fairies than I ever knew. I also had never heard of a sprite (a fairy without wings). Then we learned how to make garden flowers and towers out of glassware that can be found at junk or antique stores.

AR Flower Show

The Red Dirt Master Gardeners had a table setup at the Flower Show which was held on May 5, 2015.

Left: Suzann and Carolyn at the Miller County Master Gardener table at the Flower Show
May 14, 2015
REA BUILDING

Call Meeting to Order: The May meeting of the Red Dirt Master Gardeners was called to order by President Teresa Slack at 6:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: The April meeting was cancelled because of weather so there were no minutes to approve.

Treasurer’s Report: The April 2015 Treasurer’s Report was approved as printed and will be submitted for audit.

On-Line Reporting: Andrea Thomas reminded everyone to keep up with reporting their hours, especially new members. If you need help with the online system, contact Andrea.

Unfinished Business:
- Farmers Market – Pam Rayburn will report on the Farmer’s Market during her presentation after the meeting.
- Miller County Courthouse Beds – Sue Birley reported that there will be a work day on Saturday, May 16. If you are responsible for a bed and you can’t work it, contact Sue so that she can assign that bed to someone else.
- John Turner Bench and Scholarship – The bench will be dedicated at the grand opening of the Farmers Market on June 13. The recipient of the scholarship is James Austyn Davis from Genoa High School.
- Bluebonnet Garden Club Flower Show – Thanks to all the volunteers who helped at the flower show on May 5.

New Business:
- Birthday Recognition – Gayle Renfro recognized the members who had birthdays in April and May.
- Master Gardener Sanctioned Project Proposal – A motion was made by Lynn Willing Bond and seconded by Martha Bean to approve the Downtown Community Garden as a Master Gardener sanctioned project. Motion passed.
- Miller County

MG at Railfest – Volunteers are needed on May 16 to help with this event from 7 a.m. to noon. See Teresa if you are interested in helping.
- Back to Nature and 4-H Fishing Derby – These events have been postponed until 2016.
- Fundraising Committee – Please sign the sheet on the back table if you are interested in being on the Fundraising Committee.
- Additional New Business – A vote is needed to include $2,200 as a line item in the budget for Basic Training. Motion was made by Darlene Venable and seconded by Pam Williams to include $2,200 in the budget. Motion passed.
- The next Master Gardener meeting is Thursday, June 11 at the REA Building.

After the meeting was adjourned, Pam Rayburn presented “Gateway Farmers Market Training”.

Kathy Boyes
Courthouse Lawn Workday

By Andrea Thomas

On May 27th, 2015, Master Gardeners showed up to work in the Courthouse flowerbeds. Flowerbeds were cleaned out, then compost and mulch was added.

Miller County Treasurer Danny Lewis came to help out. Danny brought his truck and trailer, so he could haul off brush and weeds. Then he got compost & mulch from the Water Treatment Plant and helped the MGS place it in several of the flowerbeds. A lot was accomplished but of course more work will be needed. With all the rain, the weeds just keep coming back.

Thanks to Gayle, we are now celebrating MG birthdays at our monthly meetings. At our May meeting, Gayle had an assortment of presents for the Master Gardeners with birthdays in April and May. If it is your birthday during the month of our meeting, you will be acknowledged and get to pick out a present, but you must be at the meeting.