Red Dirt
Master Memos

Newsletter

June 2016

Our Next Meeting:

June 9, 2016
REAr – 6:00

The 4-H Back to Nature summer program has been canceled due to excess rainfall.

SWREC Horticulture Field Day

June 16, 2016
Southwest Research & Extension Center
362 Hwy. 174 N., Hope

Agritourism is the focus of this year’s Horticulture Field Day but there is something for just about everyone.

We’ll begin at 7:30-8:15 with registration and a complimentary breakfast courtesy of the Ouachita District FCS Agents.

From 8:30-10:15, there will be various speakers of agritourism, including an expert panel to give observations and advice for a successful operation.

The field tour will cover new cultivars, summer cover crops for fall, pest management in vegetable production, broad mites and spotted wing drosophila in blackberries, high tunnel production systems and an irrigation workshop.

From 1:15-2:00, there will be a food preservation workshop (jams and jellies) in the auditorium.

Diagnostician Sherrie Smith with the Plant Health Clinic will be available to diagnose pest or disease issues so bring your problem plants!

Register now and save. Cost is $17 in advance or $20 at the door. Call Sherri Pote at 870-777-9702 extension 100.

Master Gardeners at Work

By Andrea Thomas

Work in the Texarkana Downtown Community Garden continues – lots of weeds were removed, onions have been pulled, beans planted, tomatoes caged and staked.

They will need to start scheduling folks to pick soon.

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
**Summertime, and the living is easy** … or that is what the songwriter says anyway. We have had lots of rain and a lot of folks are behind in their various endeavors of planting gardens. I am looking forward to a lot of “blue skies shining at me” … with apologies to George Gershwin and Irving Berlin.

I hope by now you are all involved with Master Gardener projects. These projects are the lifeline of our organization & so many depend on us to make a difference in the community. We have sanctioned many new projects this year, so it should be easy to get Sanctioned Hours!! 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” (sorry, John Anderson). 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**

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**John Turner Agricultural Scholarship Awarded**

Jodi Lyn Schaeffer, a 2016 graduate of Fouke High School was recently awarded the John Turner Agricultural Scholarship, donated at the retirement of longtime Miller County Agriculture Agent by the Red Dirt Master Gardeners.

Eligibility required a student to choose a major in agriculture in college. Selection is based on academic excellence, leadership, character, and community service while in high school.

Jodi is the daughter of Linda and Mark Schaeffer of Fouke.

Congratulations Jodi!

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**Master Gardener Study Tour – Italy 2017**

We are now ready to take applications for the 2017 MG Study Tour from September 2-15, 2017. You may register online and then mail in your deposits.

Our trip will go from Venice to Verona, Lake Como, Tuscany and Florence. The complete itinerary is on our MG Only website.

Price per person (land only): $4320 – Single Supplement: $850 (both subject to currency fluctuations).

**Schedule of Payments**

Deposit: 10/1/16 - $1,000 per person
Payment 2: 2/18/17 - $2,000 per person
Final Payment: 2/18/17 – Final payment due, plus single supplement if applicable.

Between 6/18/17 and date of departure, the entire tour amount is non-refundable as the tour will have been paid in full to the local operator. Should they refund any money, it will be directly to you.
May 12, 2016
REA BUILDING

President, Teresa Slack, opened the meeting at 6:15 at the REA building. Andrea Thomas motioned to accept the minutes as posted in the newsletter and Pam Williamson seconded the motion. Membership approved.

The Treasurer’s report was presented in a handout and it will be filed for audit.

Andrea Thomas reported that 5 members have completed volunteer hours for 2016.

Unfinished Business, Rita Nichols reported that the Miller County Courthouse flower beds are looking good. Rita recommended to the Judge that the beds by the street curbs be reduced in size. A workday will be announced soon.

Janet Lemley announced that Sheila Keever could not be at the meeting and that the committee is on schedule for Talks at the Library and More.

Annette Lachowsky reported on the College Hill Middle School project helping students learn about horticulture. The committee will be planning the curriculum this summer.

New Business, Teresa reported that the Executive Committee met with Janet Carson and discussed changing the Master Gardener involvement in the Gateway Farmers’ Market to one of being more educational and horticultural for the consumers/customers. More information will be announced & discussed at future meetings.

Robert High explained the Master Gardener duties at the Fishing Derby, July 7, 2016 at John Turner’s farm. Pam Williamson made a motion to change the Fishing Derby to a sanctioned project beginning in 2016. Peggy Burson seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote by the membership present to accept the Fishing Derby as a sanctioned project.

The Back to Nature sanctioned project (at John Turner's farm) will be held June 9, 2106. Robert High is Chairperson for this event. The sign-up sheet is at the back table. Directions to John Turner’s farm will be emailed to the members.

It was announced that the John Turner Scholarship was awarded to Jodi Lyn Schaeffer, 2016 graduate of Fouke High School. Jodi is the daughter of Linda and Mark Schaeffer of Fouke, Arkansas. Jodi has already registered at the University of Arkansas - Hope in Texarkana.

The Bowie County Master Gardener Plant Sale will take place Saturday, May 21 at Trail Head Park in New Boston, TX.

Alice McMillan announced that there will be a training class in El Dorado, Arkansas which will inform new members how to become involved in their Master Gardener organization.

Carla Hadley, Miller County Extension Agent Family & Consumer Sciences presented a program on Ergonomics. She led a hands-on demonstration of tools and equipment that can help with mobility in the garden.

The meeting was adjourned by President Slack.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Lavender
Secretary
Volunteer Time

by Andrea Thomas

Let’s report our volunteer hours.

Sanctioned Hours

These are reported as sanctioned hours.

Did you go to the Back to Nature meeting? Report your time under Back to Nature.

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

Have you been planting, weeding, cleaning, pruning, etc. at the Miller Co. Courthouse Flowerbeds? Report that time under Miller County Courthouse Beds.

Have you been volunteering at the Gateway Farmers Market? Report that time under Gateway Farmers Market.

Have you been helping plant, weed, etc., at the Texarkana Downtown Community Garden? Report that time under Texarkana Downtown Community Garden.

Non-Sanctioned Hours

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? (You cannot count travel time to the store or the time spent visiting with your neighbors, relative, or friends while in the store.) How long did it take 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 of this will go under Hospital-ity/Social.

Education

Did you stay for the entire meeting program Carla presented on ergonomic tools for gardening? That will count as 1 hour education. Report it under Monthly Meeting-Program

Did you go to the State Conference in Eureka Springs? Report your time under State Conference; those hours are all education.

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 (such as Garvan Gardens, Dallas Arboretum, Rose Garden in Shreveport or Tyler, etc.)? Report that time under Garden Tours. Your neighbors’, friends’, cousins’, etc., garden does not count. It must be a public, not a private or individual’s garden.

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

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

Travel Time

The rule is that you cannot count travel time. Well, there is always an exception to a rule. Here is the exception. 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 Flowers or Downtown Garden. 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 online system, please give me a call at 903-832-8111 or send me an email at at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.