November Meeting – Election of Officers

By Teresa Slack

Who will lead the Master Gardeners in 2016? The November meeting (Thurs, November 12th) will tell the tale!

The nominating committee submitted the following for office: PRESIDENT – Teresa Slack; VICE-PRESIDENT – Rita Nichols; TREASURER – Robert High; SECRETARY – Jan Lavender

Nominations will be accepted from the floor (with nominees' approval). Paper ballots will be used for any contested office. See you at the 'voting place'!

You do not want to miss this meeting. First and foremost, you will get to meet our NINE new interns. Also, we will be voting on so many things for the coming year – New Officers, Sanctioned Projects, MG of the Year, MG Rookie of the Year; and many other items that keep us going. Also, you will have an opportunity to sign up for the projects you want to help with … unless of course, you would rather I assign you a project (hey, that’s how it’s done in other organizations – if you are absent, you get to be the Chairperson!!)…. Seriously, this is a very important meeting. Please mark it on your calendar....

The Miller County Courthouse will be closed Nov. 11th for Veterans' Day and Nov. 26th & 27th for Thanksgiving
THANKSGIVING is my favorite holiday of the year. I love the part about family, pumpkins, food & getting together with everyone to watch football games on TV. I think the cooler weather just brings out the best time of the year.

Thanksgiving is all about being thankful and I have SO MUCH to be thankful for. First and foremost, I am thankful for my Heavenly Father who has prepared an eternal home waiting for me; for my family and friends who care about me and let me know on a daily basis; for all the blessings that I have received over the year; for good health…. Gee, I could go on and on. I am truly blessed.

I am thankful for all the Master Gardeners who have assumed leadership roles this year to keep our organization thriving…no way I could name each one, but every time I need help with projects, there is always someone to step up and say, ‘I’ll do that.” I appreciate all of you so very much.

I am also thankful for all the Master Gardeners who volunteer their time to help with our projects. There are so many projects available that it is very easy to find something fun to do to count for volunteer hours.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and the following Holiday Season, keep in mind how vital the Miller County Master Gardeners are to the community. 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

Please Report Your Hours

By Teresa Slack

Please everyone, report your hours online. These hours are the lifeline of the Master Gardener Program and the Arkansas Master Gardener program counts on these hours when applying for grants and many other reasons.

You have until December 31st, 2015, to get your hours recorded for the year. If you think you can wait until February 1st and explain to a computer why he/she should accept your hours…well then, good luck with that.

You recertify as a Master Gardener on January 1st, 2016 – you must pay your dues and have your minimum number of hours recorded. NO KIDDING, it is very important – get your hours turned in. If you need any assistance with this, Andrea Thomas is waiting by the phone to help you; call her.

Update on Mums

Thanks go out to everyone who helped with our mums’ fundraiser. Thanks go to Carolyn Folse for being our Chairperson and for everyone who served on the Committee. Also, our thanks go to those who helped at the Farmers Market delivering the mums. I am happy to report that our profit on our Mums Fundraiser is $646.00!!! Thanks to everyone!!!!
Predicting Weather with Persimmon Seed Folklore

Three persimmon seeds were opened at Basic Training. All three showed a spoon. It looks like we are going to have a wet, snowy winter, according to folklore.

According to folklore, you can predict weather with a persimmon seed by the shape of the kernel inside.

- If it is spoon-shaped, lots of heavy, wet snow will fall.
- Fork-shaped means you can expect mild winter.
- If knife-shaped, expect to be “cut” by icy winds.

Prepare Summer Bulbs for Winter!

In the fall, dig tender bulbs & store them indoors over the winter. You not only save your bulbs, you will also save money by not having to replace bulbs every year.

Here are some tips for some of everyone’s favorite bulbs:

Amaryllis: These are winter hardy but be sure to mulch them before the first frost. If you want to dig them up and store them, pack in peat moss.

Canna: Store rhizomes in a cardboard box covered with newspaper. If you choose to keep them in the ground, cover with 2- to 3-inches of mulch. Make sure to cut all the dead stalks off to keep things looking neat & tidy.

Elephant’s Ear: You can keep these plants in pots for the winter but be sure to feed the once a month and keep them watered. However, don’t water to where the roots stay soggy because then you will have problems.

Gladiola: Store these bulbs in peat moss and when you plant the little baby corms that formed on the mother plant, be sure to mark the area so you do not damage them by forgetting where you planted them in your bed.

Summer Hyacinth: Bulbs overwinter well in peat moss but you can leave these in ground with 2-3” of mulch over them.

Fall is for Planting Continued

look when planted; give them appropriate space. Avoid plants that have problems if you are looking for a successful long-lived landscape. Bradford pears may split in 10-15 years due to their growth habit. Japanese hollies & boxwoods don’t do well in poorly drained soil. Red maples planted as lawn trees in well-drained soils decline when attacked by gloomy scales. Leyland cypress is easily destroyed by bagworms. Azaleas are damaged by lace bugs. Indian hawthorns are often damaged by leaf spot disease. This list can go on and on.

When planting, make sure to give plants a good start. Planting in groupings works well. Prepare the soil by tilling. Add 2-4” of compost, then till again. If trees are not in groupings or planting beds, do not mix anything with the soil on the site. What comes out of the hole goes back in.

Do not plant deep. Dig holes no deeper than the root ball and at least three times the width in unprepared soil. In fact, it is better to plant shrubs with 1 to 2” of the root ball above ground and trees with 2 to 4” of the root ball above ground. Pull soil up to the edge to cover the sides but not the top of the root ball.

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**Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes**

**October 8, 2015**  
**REA BUILDING**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The October 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:** A motion was made by Bill Bean to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2015 meeting. Motion was seconded and minutes were approved as printed.

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

**Shirt Order:** Martha Bean reminded everyone that the deadline for ordering shirts and bags is October 30. Items will be delivered at the November meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Basic Training Committee – The last planning meeting for Basic Training is Fri., October 9 at the Miller County Courthouse. There are a lot of new speakers this year for Basic Training. A list of speakers is at the back. You can count up to 10 hours of education by going to Basic Training. If you have a gift you would like to donate as a door prize, bring it to the meeting tomorrow.

**Fundraiser Committee**

- Teresa reported the mum sale was a tremendous success. A final figure is not available yet, but we netted approximately $550 from the sale.

**New Business:**

- Birthday Recognition – Gayle Renfro recognized the members who had birthdays in October. Gayle also said to make sure she has your birthday so you’ll be included next year. She also needs ideas for gifts, especially for men.

**Unfinished Business:**

- Teresa read a thank you note from Mary Ann Morrison, Secretary of the Ogden City Council, thanking the Master Gardeners for helping at their Community Center work day.

**New Business:**

- Teresa announced that the November meeting will be a business meeting without a program. At that meeting we will vote for officers, sanctioned projects, Master Gardener awards and also sign up to work at projects for next year.

**Next Master Gardener meeting is Thursday, November 12 at the REA Bldg.**

- After the meeting was adjourned, Aaron Corbin presented a program on “Winterizing Your Garden.”

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Boyles  
Secretary

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**Garvan Woodland Gardens in November**

**550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs National Park, AR 71913 • 800-366-4664**

**Have Yourself a Rosemary Little Christmas Workshop**

*NOV. 15th • 1:30-3:30 • Magnolia Room • $25 members/$40 non-members*

Help make the season bright, and romantic, with Rosemary Kissing Balls. Cindy Faulk shows how to brighten seasonal greenery with rosemary, sugared fruit, and other items for your most beautiful decorating ever. She’ll also make an easy, elegant sugared fruit centerpiece. They don’t just look great; they smell great, too!

**An All Arkansas Holiday Workshop**

*NOV. 22nd • 1:00-4:30 • Magnolia Room • $75 members/$90 non-members*

Join Janet Carson, GWG staff, former NPCC culinary instructor or Karla Nardi, Superior Bathhouse and Brewery chef Angela Nardi, and Audrey House of Chateau Aux Arc Vineyards for a great holiday program. Learn to decorate using materials from your own garden, then how to entertain with a perfect meal using locally grown Arkansas products. It’s an afternoon full of great ideas for a truly special holiday & a wonderful way to celebrate living in the Natural State.

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**Fall Planting Cont.**

Make sure to loosen roots of container-grown plants or score the root ball with a knife to promote root branching. If plants come with burlap and wire basket, remove as much as possible after the plant is in the hole and steady.

Mulch correctly after planting. 2-4” of organic mulch is a good thing around trees and shrubs. Pull it up to the edge of the root ball. Less is needed around perennials & annuals. Do not pile mulch against the trunks of any plant. As trees grow, widen the mulched area underneath them to ensure good growth and prevent tree/grass problems.

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**Master Memos**

From Pitt County NC State University website