Master Gardener Fundraiser – MUMS for Sale

By Teresa Slack

This fall, we will again be selling mums. Colors available are: Orange, White and Yellow

10-inch pots are $13 each
14-inch pots are $18 each

Our meeting on Thursday, October 13th will be the last opportunity to order mums. They will be delivered the following week.

100% of the proceeds go to the Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardeners.

Basic Training Class Needs More Attendees

We need a minimum of 20 trainees to hold our Basic Training classes this year and have a little more than half this number as I write this.

If you know anyone who would like to become a Master Gardener, please, please, please ask them to call for an application.

We would really like another class of enthusiastic trainees as we have always had in the past.

Apparel Ordering Time, Again …

The October 13th Master Gardener meeting will be the last meeting that the 2016 attire will be available for November delivery. On tap this year: the Kelly Green shirts, a new style lime green “rain/shine” jacket, a new style tote, caps, and a “garden apron (in forest green – so it won’t s how dirt!).

Attached is an order form for your convenience; the price includes tax.

We will take orders & payment at the October meeting, as well as the first week of Basic Training (Oct. 25th – 28th). Thank you to those who ordered at the Sept. meeting – you had your act together!

The plan is to deliver your order at the November 10th meeting. No orders will be taken after October 28th (for November delivery).

Payment must accompany your order. Don’t put this off to long! We don’t want you left out!
It is OFFICIALLY Fall!!
You can feel it in the air – and see it all around you. I love all the pumpkins and mums people use to decorate their porches. It seems the older I get, the more I look forward to this time of the year.

Speaking of MUMS; be sure to get your mums ordered. They are just beautiful and will last as long as you remember to water them. Our October meeting – October 13th – will be the last opportunity to place your order. The mums will be delivered the following week. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this project.

And speaking of OFFICIAL – I would officially like to ask each and every one of you to please get your hours turned in. 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. Many of you have zero hours recorded and I know better than that; I have worked beside you in projects. Please get your hours turned in!

As we look forward to cooler weather, 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

October Program - Landscaping
You don’t want to miss the program for October. Be sure to be there Thursday, October 13th for “Landscaping,” by David Cox with Cox Exterior Design and Development.

Volunteer Opportunity…that includes pizza and kids!

The Master Gardeners are asked to help Miller County 4-H Agent, Samantha Kroll, with Pizza Ranch, at the Ag Learning Center on Friday, Nov. 4th, from 9:00-2:00. A pizza lunch is provided. Sign up to help at our October meeting.

What is Pizza Ranch, you might ask?

It is a program for third and fourth grade students to learn about their pizza toppings. Toppings include:

- Deep Dish – grains to make dough
- Veggie Lovers – vegetables and herbs
- Meat Lovers – beef, chicken, pork
- Cheese – dairy
- Hawaiian – fruit
- Supreme – MyPlate nutrition

Basic Training Committee Meeting

The Miller County Master Gardener Basic Training Committee will meet Friday, October 14th, to finalize our Basic Training program. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Miller County Courthouse Conference Room on the 3rd Floor. This will be our final meeting before we begin our training.

Gardening like the Masters 2016

Join the Garland County Master Gardeners in their Gardening Expo, Saturday, October 8th, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at First Church of the Nazarene, 3804 Central Avenue, Hot Springs, AR.

There will be interactive displays, workshops, 40 gardening information booths and special speakers:

10:30 a.m. – Jim Shults – Bulbs and other fall planting for winter, spring and summer color

1:00 p.m. – Corrin Troutman – Native Plants and Compton Gardents

Lunch is available for a fee. There will be vendors with plants, shrubs and more for sale.

President’s Corner

As we look forward to cooler weather, keep in mind how vital the Miller County Master Gardeners are to the community.

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Happy Master Gardening!

Teresa Slack
2016 Master Gardener Appreciation Day

2016 MG Appreciation Day will be held October 10th at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville. Gardens open at 9:00 AM and close at 5:00 PM.

MGs get in free that day with their name tags. Guests are welcome but will pay $7 per person. We will have events going on throughout the garden that day to help educate you about the gardens. Presentations will be informal and flexible and will be scattered throughout the garden. Presentation topics include rain barrels, chickens, monarchs and bluebird houses just to name a few.

Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes

September 8, 2016

REA

The meeting was called to order by President Teresa Slack at 6:15pm. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter. Bill Bean made a motion to accept the minutes and James Lamb seconded the motion. The Treasurer’s report will be filed for audit.

Andrea Thomas explained that a new version for online reporting of volunteer hours is on the website.

Unfinished Business

Committee reports were presented. Gayle Renfro reported that the Court-house beds are being well maintained. There will be a workday for the clover bed soon.

Sharon Ethridge reported on the committee meeting for the College Hill Middle School- EAST and STEM classes. A Junior Master Gardener group will be starting this Fall. More information will be given at the next meeting on the progress of the garden plans on the College Hill Middle school campus.

Alice McMillan reported that a meeting for new mentors for Basic Training applicants will be held October 13 at 5:00pm before the monthly meeting.

Kathy Boyles reported that there will be a garden and Christmas lights event/trip in the first week of December. More information at October meeting.

In new business, Teresa reported that “Kids Day at the Fair” which will be held September 14 and 15 is on schedule. All volunteers will be sent an email with details.

All committees are to turn information will be used to plan projects for 2017.

Nominations for the Nomination Committee were taken. James Lamb, Chris Engledowl, Rita Nichols, Gayle Renfro and Brenda Engledowl were nominated. This committee will present recommendations for a slate of officers for the 2017 year.

The 2016 fundraising project of Mums Sale is underway. Orders will be taken in September and October. All orders must be prepaid.

Bee Keeping classes are scheduled for November 7, 14, 21. This is a good way to get education hours. Seating is limited—call the extension office to reserve a seat. Jon Zawislak will be teaching this seminar.

Martha Bean announced that orders will be taken for Master Gardener attire. Order forms are available at the September and October meetings. Items must be paid for with the order.

In Basic Training, so far 6 people have applied. Minimum of 20 applicants needed in order to hold the Basic Training.

A program by Sabrina Childs of the Ball Seed Company was presented.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Lavender, secretary

TIDBITS of Wisdom:

- Late fall is a good time to move woody plants and also to plant trees and shrubs. Be sure to use tree guards to protect young trees.
- “Forbidden fruit is responsible for many a bad jam.” — Farmers’ Almanac
- Judge a tree from its fruit, not from its leaves – Euripides
When reporting your volunteer hours, you should now be using Version 1.05a. The On-Line Reporting System has not changed that much; you will have to go to a different site if you want to go directly to the logon. Your user name and password will stay the same and you will only notice a few changes to the site.

Under the Members Directory it is now Current Member and Past Member; there is no change to Report Hours. Reports will still have your Timesheet and My Officers has been added. (This is being worked on as currently the officers are not listed); Phonebook is the same; added is a list of upcoming events, and the last change will be a County or Welcome Message (which is in the works).

There are two ways to get to the On-Line Reporting system.

First Way: Go to www.uaex.edu (the University of Arkansas site), then go to Yard & Garden and click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and you will be at the logon site. Logon with your same user name and password. This is also the best way to be sure you have the latest/newest version.

Second Way: Go directly to the site, which is www.arkmg-dev.arkmg.org and logon again with your same user name and password.

Let's Report Our Volunteer Time

By Andrea Thomas

Let's report our volunteer hours.

Go to the site directly at www.arkmg-dev.arkmg.org and logon - OR -

Go to the UofA site: www.uaex.edu, then Yard & Garden, click on Master Gardener Program, then click on Enter Volunteer Hours here and logon. This is the best way to make sure you are at the current or newest version of the On Line Reporting System.

Sanctioned Hours

Have you been helping with the College Hill School project? Report your time under College Hill. This is a new project and it is sanctioned, so these hours are sanctioned.

Have you been planting, weeding, cleaning, pruning etc. in the Miller County Courthouse Flowerbeds? Report that time under Miller County Courthouse Beds, this is sanctioned.

Have you been volunteering at the Nashville Farmers Market & Demo Garden? Report that time under Nashville Farmers Market and Demo Garden, this is sanctioned hours.

Are you volunteering at the Gateway Farmers Market? Helping with demos and/or working in the flowerbeds? Report that time under Gateway Farmers Market, this is sanctioned hours.

Have you been helping plant, weed, pick vegetables, etc. at the Texarkana Downtown Community Gardens? Report that time under Texarkana Downtown Community Garden. This is sanctioned hours.

Non Sanctioned Hours

Did you go to the monthly meeting? You get 1 hour for the business part; 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. (Now you cannot count travel time to the store or the time you were visiting with your neighbors, relatives, or friends while in the store?) How long did it take you 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 this time will go under Hospitality / Social.

Education

Did you stay for the monthly meeting program presented by Sabrina Childs on the Ball Seed company? That will count as 1 hour education. Report it under monthly meeting program.

Have you been to any seminars on gardening (flowers, vegetables, etc.)? Time all can be reported under Seminars.

Have you been to a public garden (as Garvan Gardens, Dallas Arboretum, Rose Garden in Shreveport or Tyler, etc.)? Report that time under Garden Tours. Your neighbors', friends', cousins' … garden does not count, it must be 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 monthly for this.

Travel Time

Now the rule is that you cannot count travel time; there is an exception. The exception is: should you be transporting items for a project, you may count the time loading, unloading, & moving/transporting the items. Some examples: hauling compost or mulch for the Courthouse flowerbeds or Downtown garden. Now 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 on line system or need a password reset, please give me a call 903-832-8111 or send me an email at7550@yahoo.com and I will do my best to help.