The Extension Office will be closed from December 24th through January 2nd to celebrate Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Our Next Meeting

December 11, 2014
6 PM ~ REA

Potluck

Bring a covered dish to share

The 2014 Master Gardener Officers wish each of you a very Merry & Holy Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous, & Healthy New Year!

Martha, Kathy, Georgette & Andrea

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 County Courthouse.

Sincerely,

John L. Turner
County Extension Agent - Agriculture
JLT:jds

Red Dirt Master Gardener News

You’re Invited To

What: Christmas Party
When: Dec. 11th, 2014
   6:00 P.M.
Where: REA Building

Join Us for Our Christmas Party

Dec. Meeting – Christmas Party –
Potluck Dinner – Left/Right Game

Sleigh bells and great Christmas smells for the December Master Gardener meeting. You are invited to bring a guest for our Christmas potluck, presentation of Certified Master Gardener Certificates to the 2013 trainees, installation of 2015 Officers, and the “Mrs. Right/Left” game.

The potluck is finger foods this year. Bring your new favorite sandwich, or dip & chip, cheeseball/crackers, etc., & of course – desserts or sweets. Your old favorite will be fine, too. Leave your diet at home!

It has become a Master Gardener tradition to exchange gifts (not to exceed $10), by participating in the “Mrs. Right/Left” game (not very physical – just some arm action). Everyone playing should bring a gift – wrapped or “sacked” to keep the contents a surprise.

We would like to see ALL the Master Gardeners on Thursday, December 11th at the REA; bring a treat and a gift!

Volunteer Hours Deadline Dec. 31st

The deadline for your MG Online Reporting of Volunteer Hours is December 31, 2014!

If you are turning your hours in on paper, please turn them in to Andrea Thomas and she will enter your hours into the online reporting system. Please do not wait until the last minute deadline to give them your hours; they need time to place the hours in the system.

Hours received after Dec. 31 cannot be put into the On-line Reporting System.

Remember, your volunteer hours are important and we want to count every hour.

Andrea’s Phone #903-832-8111 – Email: at7550@yahoo.com – Address: 16 Dunham Drive Texarkana, TX 75503
Fit a 7-gallon magnolia into a decorative planter, and fill in around the edges with spray-painted magnolia branches and sprigs of seeded eucalyptus. Plant the magnolia in the garden after the holidays. Be sure to water your magnolias weekly to keep them looking good all season.

Ready, Set, Spring! (3 classes)

GARDENING 101 WORKSHOP ● FEBRUARY 13, 2015 ● 9:30-2:00 ● MAGNOLIA ROOM

9:30-10:30 a.m.
Ground Works: Soil, the Building Block of a Successful Garden
Extension Agent Allen Bates knows a lot about dirt. Let him show you the importance of healthy soil for a great landscape and how you can get started on creating some of your own. Get the big picture on soil basics like properly preparing your garden, why you should test your soil, and how to read soil test results. You’ll leave ready to get planting.

10:45 - Noon
Growing Right: Pruning Techniques for Your Best Trees Ever
Alison Litchy of the AR Forestry Commission tells all the ins and outs of pruning your trees properly. She’ll discuss techniques for producing trees that are strong, healthy and attractive. Listen and learn how, when, and why to prune as she demonstrates simple principles for making sure your tree trimming efforts are a BIG success.

1:00-2:00 p.m.
Gardening by the Moon
Your grandparents probably performed every task on the farm by the Old Farmer’s Almanac. Hear about the principles behind the world’s most famous calendar and how these ancient concepts can help create great gardens in our own time. From planting and harvest to when pruning and weeding work best, there’s a time for everything under the moon!

Volunteers Needed for AR Flower & Garden Show

Come be a part of the 2015 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, to be held February 20th, 21st, and 22nd, 2015, at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock. To volunteer, fill out your Volunteer Sign-Up Form and return by January 19th, 2015, to Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 W. Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204. Volunteers are needed for all 3 shifts on all 3 days.

Turn some of those long winded phone calls into workout sessions by standing, squatting, or lifting weights while you talk. Get in some of those 150 minutes of exercise per week recommended for Seniors. This is only for those who qualify as Seniors!
A TIME FOR THANKS —
the Master Gardener
year is almost over, and
the best way I know to
end a year is to thank
each and every one of
you for all you have
done to complete the
projects we undertook
this year. The largest —
the 2014 STATE
CONFERENCE — with
LOTS of hours, you
introduced the Arkan-
sas Master Gardeners
to Texarkana! As no
army can march on an
empty stomach, the
Master Gardeners didn’t
either — thanks to the
HOSPITALITY/FOOD
COMMITTEE, and we
had the best. OFFICERS,
PROGRAM COMMITTEE,
our housekeeping
committees (FINANCE,
AUDITING, NEWSLETTER,
the MENTORING PRO-
GRAM, BASIC TRAINING,
COMMUNICATIONS/
MEDIA) all played such
an important part in
making it all work —
Thank You!

To the SANCTIONED
COMMITTEES, you were
all great! These projects
are what the community
sees and relates to the
Master Gardener
program. Another
THANK YOU goes to
MILLER COUNTY
COURTHOUSE BEDS,
GATEWAY FARMERS
MARKET, BACK TO
NATURE, TALKS AT THE
LIBRARY, NASHVILLE
DEMO GARDEN AND
MARKET, and the
OGDEN COMMUNITY
CENTER committees.

Special Master
Gardener projects are
important and a boost
to our image in the
community, AND
promoting Extension
programs. The RED
RIVER PECAN SHOW &
JUDGING, FOUR STATES
FAIR AGRI EXPO, PECAN
GRAFTWOOD COLLECTION
and GRAFTING,
building PECAN WEEVIL
TRAPS, HORTICULTURE
DEPARTMENT AT THE
FOUR STATES FAIR, and
the 4-H FISHING DERBY,
all fall into this category.
THANK YOU, to all who
chaired and worked on
these projects.

It’s always nice to be
able to help out those
we “partner” with during
the year; the FOUR
STATES AG LEARNING
CENTER has always been
ready and willing to help
with Extension and
Master Gardener
projects. We were able to
lend a hand with 4-DAY
AT THE AG LEARNING
CENTER and FOUR
STATES FAIR KIDS’ DAY.

A really big THANK YOU
goes to BILL, for always
lending a helping hand
and introducing me to
Master Gardeners. (He
enjoyed Master
Gardeners so much — I
wanted to be a part of
this organization, too.)

And now, congratulations
to the newly elected
Officers for 2015. May
their year be as exciting,
fun, and rewarding as
2014!

Take care this holiday
season; be careful and
remember to enjoy
friends and family.

Wishing Everyone A

Very Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Martha Bean

Traditional Persimmon Lore

By Farmers’ Almanac Staff – September 2014

Wit & Wisdom
from the Farmers’ Almanac

Traditional lore is that if the seeds are shaped like forks,
winter will be mild; if they are shaped like spoons, there will be a lot of snow; and if
they are shaped like knives, winter will be bitingly cold.

What does the persimmon lady say about winter 2015?

“Never have seen all spoons before!!! Tell the readers to prep for lots of snow.”

Philosofact: “The best way to predict the future is to help create it….”
The Red Dirt Master Gardener regular monthly meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m., after an enjoyable fellowship, at the REA building, by Martha Bean, president. Jeanne Brent gave the invocation. A quorum was present. Sandra Bell was appointed Acting Secretary.

There being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 9th meeting, they were approved as printed. The Treasurer’s report is printed on back of the Agenda. The report will be filed for Audit.

Andrea Thomas, immediate past president, presented a recommendation from the Executive Committee:

“The Executive Committee, at the October 9th meeting asks that $500.00 be set aside for a gift and refreshments for John’s Retirement Celebration – which you did. After doing lots of thinking, checking, and finally talking to John, the Executive Committee would like to propose to you, an additional $500.00 to be totally used for a one time scholarship. The $500.00 that you approved at the October 9th meeting to be used for food – and as a surprise, a bench, similar to the benches at the Farmers Market, in honor of John. It would be placed at the Farmers Market.”

Andrea Thomas moved the recommendation from the Executive Committee be approved as presented. Seconded. Motion unanimously passed by membership.

ON LINE REPORTING: Andrea Thomas, chairperson, asked that ALL hours be reported, even after required hours have been met. It is important to the state for ‘in-kind’ funds. If anyone is uncomfortable entering hours, please send your time sheets to Andrea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

FARMERS MARKET: Bill Bean reported that the vendors at the Farmers Market have been very happy and pleased with the way the Master Gardeners ran the market this year. It will be open on Saturdays only and Master Gardeners will not be responsible after November 15th.

M. G. COMPUTER/LCD REPORT: (Rita Nichols, Robert High, and Andrea Thomas) recommended that at the present time, we do not purchase this equipment. As long as the Extension office has equipment, it will be available for Master Gardener programs and use.

JOHN TURNER RETIREMENT: Sue Ellen Letterman reported that the refreshments for the Retirement Party are being handled within the budgeted amount. She encouraged ALL Master Gardeners to attend.

RED RIVER PECAN SHOW: Robert High, chairperson, announced the event will be Tues., Dec. 2nd, at the REA building, and ask everyone to please be there.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION of OFFICERS: The Nominating Committee (Alice McMillan, Judith White, Agnes Fields, Teresa Slack, and Robert High) presented the following slate to serve as officers for the 2015 year: Teresa Slack, President; Rita Nichols, Vice-President; Kathy Boyles, Secretary; and Robert High, Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor for any of the offices. Bill Bean moved the slate from the Nominating Committee be accepted as presented. Earl Wilson seconded. The 2015 officers were accepted by acclamation.

VOTE on SANCTIONED PROJECTS: The membership voted on existing projects to keep as ‘Sanctioned Projects’ for the 2015 year, by paper ballot. Additional ‘Sanctioned Projects’ may be added during the year.

SIGN-UP for 2014 PROJECTS: The members were asked to sign-up for the projects they will work on in 2015. Committees will be formed from this information.

Please check the “CALENDAR of EVENTS” on the Agenda, AND THE “Master Memo’s”. The next Master Gardener meeting will be Thursday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the REA building, with installation of officers; presentation of 2013 certificates for Certified Master Gardeners; and Christmas Pot Luck AND the ‘Right/Left’ game. Gifts are NOT TO EXCEED $10.00, if you wish to play. You may bring a guest.

The meeting was adjourned for the program, Dr. Royce Granberry, introduced by Georgia McFaul.

Respectfully Submitted:
Sandra Bell, Acting Secretary