Master Gardener Basic Training

It’s that time again – Basic Training! The committee to put everything in place has been meeting monthly, and the last (we hope) before training begins, is Fri., Sept. 5th. Miller County Courthouse, third floor Conference Room at 8:45 a.m.

An abbreviated schedule, as of today, follows:

- **Tues., Sept. 23rd** at the **REA Building**: Start at 8:00 a.m., with welcome, introductions, information, and Master Gardener manual distribution; followed by **BOTANY**; the **MASTER GARDENER MENTORING PROGRAM**; **MEET YOUR MENTOR**; and Lunch.
- **Afternoon**: **COMPOSTING & ORGANIC GARDENING**, with Sherry Beatty;

- **Thurs., Sept. 25th** at the **REA Building**: Dr. Vic Ford, SW Research Center at Hope, will lead off the morning with **SOILS, SOIL TESTING, & UNDERSTANDING FERTILIZERS**; followed by **SOIL SAMPLE**

September MG Meeting Highlights

The September 11th Master Gardener Meeting is 6:00 p.m. at the REA Building, and will include:

- **FELLOWSHIP** at 6:00. Business meeting to start at 6:15.
- **VOTE ON – BY-LAWS CHANGE** – see recommendation from Executive Committee in Master Memos (page 2).
- **FARMERS MARKET REPORT**
- **MASTER GARDENER BASIC TRAINING**
- **ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (5 elected by the membership to recommend officers for 2015)
- **JASON VANDERHOFF** will present a program on landscaping.

“**WHAT THE WELL DRESSED MASTER GARDENER WEARS.**” (Please wear your MG shirt); evaluations and adjourn.
Garvan Woodland Gardens honors Master Gardeners from across Arkansas with free admission, September 29th, from 9:00-6:00. Come early and stay late. MG name tags or current membership cards must be shown. The event will include informative lessons along the garden trails from 10:00 to 2:00 only, with people out and about in the garden to answer questions and talk to you. Everyone will leave with a free MG calendar. Lunch must be purchased in advance online at www.garvangardens.org/purchase_tickets/default.aspx. The cost is $10 and you have the choice between either a turkey sandwich (smoked turkey on ciabatta bread with lettuce, tomato, & condiments) or pimiento cheese sandwich. Both lunches include grapes, chips and cookie, bottled water or tea). Be sure to print your ticket & bring with you.

Kids’ Day at the Fair

Kids’ Day is always fun! Twelve people signed up at our last meeting, but you can still add your name to the list at the September meeting. This year, the dates are Wed., Sept. 17th and Thurs., Sept. 18th. You can come one day or both.

A Note from Jennifer at the Ag Learning Center

Each volunteer should try to arrive by 8:30 a.m. Your first stop is the Oasis to register and pick up your “70th ANNUAL FOUR STATES KIDS’ DAY” tee-shirt and nametag, both of which you need to wear throughout the day. The nametag will get your lunch (for volunteers only) at the Oasis.

Only through volunteers can we make this day possible for over 3,500 school children throughout the Four-States area. The Ag Learning Center’s mission is to educate agricultural awareness, and we make it our job to educate people on the importance of agriculture.

We will provide ALL VOLUNTEERS lunch, a tee-shirt, and a Fair pass.

Please come in the “back gate” (horses, cattle), wear your green Master Gardener shirt along with your Master Gardener name tag. Park somewhere near the Ag Learning Center. You should be able to leave about 1:30 p.m. Thanks to each of you for making this happen.

Hoeing Tips

By Rita Nichols

Garden work, and hoeing especially, is great for giving the upper body a workout. It will make your stomach feel tighter and your arms will feel stronger after hoeing.

There is a technique to keep the arms and back from becoming too fatigued too quickly. Stand up straight, yet relaxed, and flick the end of the hoe to dislodge the weed at soil level. Try not to bend over or choke up on the handle and do not chop at the weeds.
Garvan Woodland Gardens

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

Fall In the Woodlands

From Sept. 1st through Oct. 31st, is the most colorful time of the year at Garvan, when Japanese maples are in full color and the hardwood forest glows in autumn’s light. Thousands of vibrant annuals and perennials, including our annual mum fest will be the show-stoppers in our fall garden.

Admission: Members, Free – Adults, $10 – Ages 6-12, $5. Free 5.

MumBling: Chrysanthemums in Your Garden

Gardening 101 Workshop • OCTOBER 6th • 9:30-10:30 am • Magnolia Room

Fall is famous for its array of fiery colors and there’s no quicker or better way to add some bling to autumn gardens than chrysanthemums. Learn about the storied history of this favorite fall flower from ancient China to Medieval Japan and modern America. Assoc. Executive Director Bob Byers will also share tips for growing all the many classes and varieties of mums for a months-long show of color.

Members free I $10 non-members. Advance registration required. Reserve online at www.garvangers.org/purchase_tickets/default.aspx.

Sassy Grasses!

Gardening 101 Workshop • OCTOBER 6th • 10:30-11:30 am • Magnolia Room

From miniatures to giants, grasses add loads of year-round interest to your garden. Join Advanced MG Gene Lichliter as he shares his knowledge and love of using ornamental grasses in your landscape. Gene will give you an extensive overview of the types of grasses that are used locally and share information for proper planting and maintenance.

Members free I $10 non-members. Advance registration required.

Doug’s Retirement Party Photos – the Retirement “Card”

There was a Retirement “Card” for all to sign and wish Doug well on his retirement.

P-N-G- (Plant-Nurture-Grow) Leadership Conf.

This will be a great chance to network with your fellow Master Gardeners as you enjoy motivating, constructive and timely topics at the 2014 PNG conference at the Holiday Inn Airport, 3201 Bankhead Drive, Little Rock, AR. There will be fun and entertaining evening activities for you to participate in as well.

Conference check-in begins at noon on October 6th with the program beginning at 1:00. Conference concludes at 1:30 on October 7th. Please plan to stay for both days as we will be having both a working breakfast and lunch on the 7th.

Conference registration fees include dinner on Oct. 6th and breakfast & lunch on Oct. 7th, plus breaks. Cost is $80.

Call our office for your registration form.
Master Gardener Basic Training

Continued from Page 1

COLLECTION. Beth Phelps, Carla Hadley & John Turner will give the low-down on EXTENSION, and Beth will be the presenter for HERBS AND HOUSEPLANTS. Lunch! In the afternoon, Dr. Jon Barry, SW Research Center at Hope will present NATIVE ORNAMENTALS and INVASIVE SPECIES.

Fri., Sept. 26th at the REA Building: John Turner will start the day with LAWN SELECTION AND WEED CONTROL & DIAGNOSING TURF PROBLEMS. Dr. Obadiah Njue, UAPB, will present GARDEN BASICS AND CROP ROTATION, and WARM SEASON CROPS. We will have lunch and Janet Smallwood will process Soil Samples, brought by the new trainees. In the afternoon, we will have COOL SEASON CROPS, and COLE CROPS, by Dr. Leonard J. M. Githinji, of Pine Bluff. Mr. John Gavin, of Bradley County Extension, will follow-up with TOMATOES.

Tues., Sept. 30th at St. James’ Episcopal Church: John Turner will start the day with PRUNING ORNAMENTAL TREES; Sherri Smith, Plant Pathologist, will give us an INTRODUCTION TO PLANT DISEASES; Janet Carson will present ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS; then lunch. In the afternoon, VINES AND GROUND COVERS, and MASTER GARDENER OPPORTUNITIES ON THE STATE LEVEL by Janet Carson. John will end the day with PESTICIDE FORMULATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY.

Thurs., Oct 2nd at SW Research & Extension Center, Hope: FRUIT BASICS, AN OVERVIEW and SMALL FRUITS, with Clay Wingfield of the Station; Lunch; TREE FRUITS with Clay; and a TOUR OF THE STATION by Dr. Vic Ford and Clay Wingfield.

Fri., Oct. 3rd at Miller County Courthouse and Farmers Market: INSECTS: GOOD AND BAD, with Andrea Thomas and a PowerPoint presentation on RAIN BARRELS (with a demonstration at the Market). Dr. Jim Robbins will present TREES AND SHRUBS and PRUNING SHRUBS before we travel to the Gateway Farmers Market for Lunch and afternoon sessions. John Turner and Lloyd Littleton will give a hands-on demonstration of STARTING A GARDEN FROM SCRATCH, SOIL SOLARIZATION, LOTS OF HANDY TIPS AND Drip IRRIGATION.

You may count 10 hours of Education, if you attend the education sessions, and the balance of your time spent at the Training, as Community Service Hours. We will need lots of help from ALL Master Gardeners. Peggy Burson, Hospitality Chair, will have a sign-up sheet at the September meeting for desserts and snacks, to be brought by “Experienced Master Gardeners.”

Please don’t forget to bring your door prize items! You remember how much fun that is. Thanks for all that each one of you do for Master Gardeners!

Gardening in September

September is a critical month to get plants prepared for winter. Spring blooming plants are setting lower buds for next spring, so no more fertilization is needed. If you fertilize now, it may encourage new growth too late in the season.

If early season perennials like peonies or lilies are looking ragged, don’t wait for a killing frost to begin clean-up. Cut off spent debris as they die back. If they look bad, they are ending their season and heading into dormancy. If the plants had a good season, add the spent foliage to your compost pile. If it had disease or insect problems, add to the garbage pile. Home compost piles typically don’t get hot enough to kill out diseases & insects.

If your garden needs color, consider planting late summer bloomers such as goldenrod, Japanese anemones, turtle head (Chelone), toad lilies (Tricyrtis), and Joe Pye Weed – Eupatorium purpureum. Mums and asters are coming into the market place and give great fall color. Ornamental grasses are beginning to set their plumage. Many summer blooming perennials keep up their show until almost frost, including Echinacea (purple cone flower), gaillardia (Blanket flower) and rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan). Deadhead spent flowers to keep them blooming better.

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Doug’s Retirement Party Photos – Festivities & Gifts

We signed-in on official Extension sign-in sheets. The cake was fire ants (of course; what else could it be?) and his new business card gives readily-available excuses for not answering agri questions.

The “normal” retirement gift from the state office is a plaque of service but Doug is special as you know … and he received a grill set in an engraved bamboo box. Beth Phelps, Ouachita District Director presented him with the gift. Martha presented him with a gift card to use at Lowe’s from the Red Dirt Master Gardeners. She assured him that she had already spoken with Marsha and she had plenty of “honey-do” chores for him to make use of this card.
Doug's Retirement Party Photos – “A Roast” or “A Trial”?

The Family Begins

Doug’s brother Richard showed proof that Doug has lost his marbles and proceeded to tell us how

Doug’s wife, Marsha tells how he was late for their wedding rehearsal & the romantic evenings counting dead bug carcasses

Doug’s daughter, Anna, & son, Phillip tell about life as a county agent’s child

...Followed by his Colleagues

Former Miller Co. Ag Agent and retired Hempstead Co. Staff Chair, Gerald Alexander tells of the many pranks Doug pulled on him & his family

Doug “defends” himself

Joe Paul, Little River Co. Staff Chair tells about some of their 4-H camp experiences

John tells of the abuse he suffered during Doug’s reign

...and he continues his case.

Photos Continued on Page 7
Judge Johnson was called from a “very important meeting” to apprehend and sentence this “scoundrel.” Prosecuting Attorney Carlton Jones was on hand to read the charges.
Doug’s Retirement Party Photos – “Sentencing” Continued

The Judge said that since Doug had family and friends there, he would call ahead to the penitentiary to let them know he’s on his way after the party.

All photos were submitted by Andrea Thomas.

Thank you, Andrea! They turned out great!

The End!
September has come in like a windstorm!

Earl Wilson saved the day, at the last minute, by judging the Horticulture Division at the Miller County Fair (Fouke) and helping Carla. On September 4th, Patsy Bass, Mary Carlisle, and Carolyn Prescott will judge the Horticulture division at the Hempstead Co. Fair in Hope. On the 11th, the Master Gardeners, headed up by Patsy Bass and committee, will take in plants for the Four States Fair Horticulture Division, which we took on as a project. She has done lots of legwork to get this organized – there’s more than just setting-up plants! Thanks to all of you working on these projects! Please do not forget to enter your plants at the Fair!

Our meeting on September 11th will include a vote on a By-Law change and the election of a nominating committee. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and a committee of five will be elected. Jason Vanderhoff will present a program on land-scaping – don’t miss this one!

Coming up is the Four States Fair – besides the Horticulture Department, the group “by consensus of opinion” agreed to be responsible for the Bouncy House at Kids’ Day at the Fair, September 17th & 18th. It is not too late to add your name to the list!

Basic Training begins September 23rd. Please read the article in the newsletter; we need everyone’s help.

See you at the meeting, Thurs., Sept. 11th, 6:00 PM, at the REA building.

Root Knot Nematodes Research Needed

Master Gardeners, we need your help. Root knot nematodes are an ever-present threat to row crops, gardens, & horticultural/floricultural plantings. These soil borne pathogens get their name because when they infect roots of host plants they cause galls to form at the site of infection, reducing the ability of the roots to absorb and translocate water & nutrients to the plant. There are numerous species of root-knot nematodes (Meloidogyne spp.) known worldwide, but no survey has been conducted in AR to identify which species make our state their home.

Dr. R. T. Robbins and his student are conducting such a survey this year. Soil & plant root samples are needed from home gardens, shrubs, flowers, trees and lawns statewide. Dr. Robbins is especially interested in samples from sites where root galls are visible, from places already diagnosed as having a root-knot problem, or where the soil has a high sand content.

Samples are needed during late summer & fall, before first frost. If galls on roots are visible, collect several galled tap and feeder roots & about ½ pint of soil associated with the roots. Allowing soil or root samples to heat up (setting in the sun) or dry out will kill the nematodes, so place the roots and soil into a plastic bag and seal the bag. Place sample into insulated cooler (no ice please) to avoid rapid temperature change. Either take the sample to your county agent or mail to: Dr. Robert Robbins, Cralley-Warren Research Center, 2601 N. Young Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701 as soon as possible after collection. So we can document the sample in our survey and return our results to you, identify each sample with the following info: plant host, location (city, county, physical address, name of collector and date of collection). Keep this info on the outside of the sample, not inside the bag with the soil and roots.

Fall Wreath Ideas

The first wreath combines the season’s most dazzling natural elements – pinecones, fall leaves, & various colors of mums – to replicate a vibrant fall palette.

Turn seasonal bounty into a warm and inviting display. Gather a mixture of small & colorful gourds to create this festive decoration. Use a long, fine bit, drill through the gourds, keeping the holes slightly toward the back of each gourd. Next, wire the gourds to a round foam wreath, then hang.

How about a wreath made of fall foliage? Light and flimsy foliage falls dramatically away from a bundle of colorful gourds, creating a whimsical arrangement.
Sept. Gardening
Continued from page 4

Your lawns can have one last application of fertilizer until mid-month, then no more until next spring. If you want to use a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent winter weeds, now is a good time to apply. Continue to mow and water as needed.

If you don’t have a stand-alone garden but would like some edibles, consider getting double duty with edible landscaping. Plant fall vegetables that is showy as well as tasty. These include Swiss chard – “Bright lights” or “Ruby Red”; Bulls Blood beets, Red Giant Mustard, and edible kale and cabbage instead of flowering forms.

Shrubs that are blooming now include buddleia (butterfly bush), crape myrtles – if deadheaded, althea, and Caryopteris – with lovely purple flowers. Summer spires may set more flowers, if they continue to put on new growth, as can the repeating hydrangeas like Endless Summer & Blushing Bride. Knock Out roses are continuing to bloom, and Beautyberry (Callicarpa species) is beginning to have showy berries. If you have evergreens that need a haircut – hollies, boxwoods, aucuba, etc. that you grow only for foliage, a light pruning can still be done. Severe pruning – taking off more than ⅔ should not be done this late in the season.

If you’re done for the season, do some clean-up – don’t just leave it. Don’t till diseased plants into the soil but don’t just leave it. Good sanitation can pay big bonuses next year.

Red Dirt Master Gardener Minutes
August 14, 2014
REA Building

The August meeting of the Red Dirt MG was called to order by Pres. Martha Bean at 6:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

The invocation was given by Martha Bean.

A motion was made by Lynn Willing-Bond to approve the minutes of July 10, 2014 meeting. Motion seconded and passed. The treasurer’s report is on the back of the agenda. There being no questions, it will be filed for audit.

Executive Committee Report: The Executive Committee is recommending a change to the by-laws so the Vice Pres. will no longer be responsible for record keeping. Members will vote on this change at the next meeting.

The Executive Committee voted to give Doug Petty a $100 Lowes’ gift certificate at his retirement party on August 15. Martha encouraged everyone to attend.

Unfinished Business:
Farmers Market: Bill Bean reported that the growers and vendors are very happy because this has been a good year financially. Martha thanked Robert High for his article about the Farmers Market in the newsletter. The Farmers Market may not be open all three days for much longer, but volunteers are still needed to work.

Courthouse Flower Beds: Jan Scott reported that a workday is scheduled for this Saturday, August 16. Be there at 7:00.

Basic Master Gardener Training: The next meeting is September 5 at 8:45 in the Miller County Courthouse. If you are interested in being a mentor, contact Alice McMillan. Peggy Burson is in charge of food. If asked to bring something, please help.

Other Items to Share:
All members who have completed their hours are listed in the most recent newsletter. Even if you have completed your hours, keep entering them. If you do not want to enter your hours online, you can fill in a time sheet and send to Andrea Thomas. Also contact Andrea if you have questions about entering your hours online.

Andrea Thomas, resident photographer, has gone through all her Master Gardener photos since 2002. She has put them on discs, by year, and they are now in the Extension Office. Andrea also is now a Level I Advanced Master Gardener and has almost completed the requirements to become a Level II.

The following members received Years of Service Certificates & Pins: Bill Bean and Nate Orben, Life Members; Debra Bolding and Tommy Sherman, 10 Year Members; Tommie Ayers, Tommy Cabiness and Sue Ellen Letterman, 5 Year Members.

John Turner was featured in the Active Age publication in the Texarkana Gazette. Please look for it if you have not read it.

New Business:
Horticulture Department at the Four States Fair: Patsy Bass needs help checking in plants on September 11, 1:00 – 4:00. There is a sign-up sheet if you can help. There have been very few entries in the last few years, please enter your plants if you can.

Kids Day at the Fair: Jennifer Carraway has asked the Master Gardeners to sponsor an activity on September 17 & 18. Volunteers needed from 8:45 to 2:00 each day. Volunteers will receive lunch, a tee shirt and a pass to the fair.

The Hope Fair has asked if two Master Gardeners will judge horticulture entries on September 4. They will pay mileage for one car and provide lunch. Contact Martha if you can help.

The next Master Gardener Meeting is Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. at the REA Building.

A motion was made by Roxie Jones to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and passed.

Andrea Thomas presented a program on beneficial insects.

Respectfully submitted:
Kathy Boyles, Secretary