

2024 Officers

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April 2024

Master Memos

A Newsletter for Red Dirt Master Gardeners

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please call me at 870-779-3609, email jcaraway@uada.edu or visit our office, located at 1007 Jefferson Avenue, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caraway
County Extension Agent
Agriculture/Staff Chair

JAC:jds

Photo Above: We had a great group show up to work at the Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale Saturday. We are grateful to all who worked, whether at the sale or in preparation for the sale.

Below: Shopping the Plant Sale



Above: The raffle consisted of a utility wagon loaded with lots of great prizes – and the winner was ... **Rick Hall!** Congratulations!

MONTHLY MEETING

**Thurs., April 11 –
6:00 PM – REA**

The speaker at our April meeting will be Robin Bridges who will speak on **Unusual Backyard Fruits**

MG Plant Sale & Raffle

The Miller County Red Dirt Master Gardener Plant Sale was held March 16th and was a huge success! After expenses were paid, the raffle cleared \$1,598.14. Not including credit card purchases, the plant sale netted approximately \$4,855. Not only was the sale a success but volunteers had a great time. Ask Martha. Thank you to all who volunteered. We had about 35-40 volunteers come out to help make this a worthwhile event.



President's Corner

By Rita Lamb, MCRDMG President

Good Morning Red Dirt Master Gardeners. March and Easter have come and gone. We had a very successful Plant Sale ... **WAY TO GO MASTER GARDENERS!!**

"April showers bring May flowers" so let's hope and pray that the showers don't float our spring seeds away. Weather looks like it may rain a lot this month, but we always say if it rains the first of the month, it will rain 15 days. Yay, it didn't.

Please be careful next Monday the 8th. Be sure to wear your special eclipse glasses. **DO NOT** look at the sun at the time it comes to your area. Meteorologists tell us it will be 2045 before there is another total eclipse coming across Arkansas. Hmm...according to my calculations, I'll be 87. Oh yes, I will be young enough to see another eclipse.

Looks like April is gonna be a VERY busy month with the 4-States Fair, Kids Day at the Fair, our Garven Gardens bus tour trip, and numerous plant sales and seminars. Man, look at all those SANCTIONED and Educational hours.

I look forward to seeing all your happy faces at our next monthly meeting April 11th.

PLANT SALE to BENEFIT



**April 12, 9-5,
April 13, 10-2**
110 S.
Washington St,
Nashville AR

Available plant varieties

House Plants peace lily, bromeliads, philodendron	Vegetables tomatoes, peppers, squash, cucumbers
Palms sago, majestic	Herbs cilantro, basil, sage
AR Natives yarrow, milkweed, Turk's cap, brown eyed susan	Cacti poco, ghost, cholla
Ground Cover fig, ivy, monkey grass	Ferns kimberly queen, Boston, rabbit foot
Hanging Baskets	Annuals marigold, daisy, sunflower, marigold
	Perennials iris, hydrangea, amarillis, crepe myrtle



Event to be held at the Greenhouse and Kidz Klub Building.

Visit the Nashville MGs Plant Sale April 12th & 13th at 110 S Washington Street, in Nashville, AR. There will be houseplants, palms, natives, ground covers, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, cacti, ferns, annuals & perennials.

April Monthly Meeting Program

By Ralph Robertson

Come check out the unusual fruits you may not have thought about growing in your backyard garden.

Robin Bridges is a retired county extension agent from Homer, Louisiana. She was also county extension agent in Union County for 10 years and spent all that time working with the Master Gardener program. He and his wife have a tunnel operation, selling their produce at farmers' markets in their local area. Please come and welcome the Bridges on April 11th at our monthly meeting.

Volunteer Time

By Pam Rayburn

Membership Project Committee Co-Chair

Online Reporting System Currently shows 49 members of our 90 members that have reported.

As of April 1, 2024: Sanctioned hours 1168.25, Non sanctioned hours 49.25 and Education hours 374.

Please remember to report your hours in a timely manner and if you need any help, please contact David or myself:

Pamela Rayburn 903-490-1080 or email pkrayburn@gmail.com. David Waldroup 334-9451 or email txrunner60@gmail.com.

What Are the Master Gardener Required Hours?

Since so many MGs have asked about the required hours for maintaining active status, we decided to include the following information in this month's newsletter:

The hour requirements for retaining the Master Gardener designation are:

(1) completion of 40 working hours in the Master Gardener program the first year as payback for the training course,

(2) accumulation of 20 learning hours (over and above the training course) the first year, and

(3) willingness to volunteer an additional 20 working hours and 20 learning hours each subsequent year.

At least one half (50%) of all required working hours must be earned by participating in official, county-sanctioned MG projects.

County sanctioned projects are those that have gone through a proposal procedure, been accepted by the county Master Gardener membership as one of the group's official projects and been accepted by the county agent.

Viewing educational TV programs may be counted as learning hours, based on county guidelines. A copy of the program or an outline of the learning activity must be given to the county agent or person responsible for recording hours to assign hour value.

Because all working hours are, in essence, a learning experience, a Master Gardener may choose to count some of their time working on projects as learning hours if credit is needed in that 4 category. However, if one works four hours on a county sanctioned landscaping project, the time may not be counted as four hours working and four hours learning. The Master Gardener should decide how many hours to allot to each category. Learning hours cannot be counted as working hours.

MGs have a full year to earn the 20 learning hours. Master Gardeners who find this program interesting and rewarding usually end the year with many more hours than required. Learning hours must be accrued each year. Hours cannot be carried over for future years unless they are within a month of the new reporting year.

A Book Review Series on Joel Salatin's "Homestead Tsunami" Part 3

By Sheryl Grieve

Have you seen empty shelves the last three years? According to Salatin, at Polyface, they yawned. YES! That's how we should also be for any future crisis.

Homesteading on any level with likeminded Homesteaders is to be "Prepped" or "Self Sufficient". Whether through home canned foods or freeze dried, gardens, purchased food from local farmers or farmers' markets, I don't have to rely on supply chain issues worldwide.

Did you know homesteading was a big way of life say 50 years ago? What changed and who did it? According to Salatin's book, #1 is convenience, but who benefited? What are the cons? Was it fewer quality foods, chemicals, and other undesirables in our foods? Was it less quality family time?

Was a benefit to do things we really wanted to do or go places rather than things to help produce a good work ethic in our children? Or maybe wholesome work on the farm to build community? Or prepare our children to be responsible adults?

Take a look at America today. According to "Homesteading Tsunami," Joel's analyses of why kids want to be anarchists on our streets today. He says surely the farm life or the lack of it had something to do with it. Including kids spending hours on violent video games to "dopamine themselves with rewards to kill a cop. Does that act out on our streets and schools today? Could it be the lack of family time allowing the absence of fathers to make more money to "Keep up with the Jones' mentality?" and does not lead and mentor their children have an effect? Yes, says "Homesteading Tsunami".

April MG Plant Sales

Pulaski County Master Gardener
Plant Sales:

11-12 - Thursday, 9 Am – 12 Pm
Jacksonville Greenhouse, Pathfinder
Greenhouse, 2520 West Main Street,
Jacksonville

19-20 - Friday, Saturday 8 – 11 Am
PCMG Greenhouse, 7th & Palm
Street (Behind The Arkansas State
Hospital On Markham), Little Rock

19 -20 - 9 Am – 12 Pm Jacksonville
Greenhouse, Pathfinder Greenhouse,
2520 West Main Street, Jacksonville,

19 - Marion County: Friday, 7:30am –
12:30 Pm Yellville City Park Pavilion

19-20 - St Francis County: Friday, 8
am – 4 pm Vandiver Farms, Hwy. 284
North, Forrest City; Saturday 8 am-12
pm

19 - Garland County: Friday, 9 Am – 5
Pm Garland County Fairgrounds,
4831 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs

20 - Monroe County: Saturday, 8 Am
– 2 Pm Central Delta Depot Museum
Park, 100 West Cypress St., Brinkley

20 - Saline County: Saturday, 8am –
12 Pm Saline County Fairgrounds,
406 Fairfield Rd., Benton

20 - White County: Saturday, 8 Am –
2 Pm White County Extension Office,
2400 Old Searcy Landing Rd. Searcy

20 - Garland County: Saturday, 9 Am
– 5 Pm Garland County Fairgrounds,
4831 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs

27 - Cleburne County: Saturday, 8 Am
– 1 Pm 725 S. 4th St., Heber Springs

27 - Drew County: Saturday, 8 – 11
Am Monticello Coffee Company, 316
Highway 425 South, Monticello

27 - Polk County: Saturday, 8 Am – 1
Pm Polk County Fairgrounds, Mena

27 - Baxter County: Saturday, 9 –
10:30 Am Baxter County Fairgrounds
Livestock Barn, Mt. Home

27 - Montgomery County: Saturday, 9
Am – 1 Pm Montgomery County
Fairgrounds, Mt. Ida

**Garland County Master Gardener
PLANT SALE & GARDEN SHOW**
Garland County Fairgrounds
4831 Malvern Ave., Hot Springs, Ark.
April 19th 9 - 5 pm
April 20th 9 - 5 pm
**Master Gardener Plants
Sold Friday and Saturday**
Four buildings filled with Plants, a Huge
Variety of Vendors (50+), Educational
Exhibitors, Kids Craft Corner & Two
Amazing Silent Auctions
Education Speakers talking about Bird Friendly Yards,
Quachita Forest Restoration, Show & Tell on Herbs
and Blueberry Planting and Care
**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR A
WEEKEND OF FUN!**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity, equal access, affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your County Extension office as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

Garland County Master Gardener Garden Show Featured Speakers Building #5

FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH

- | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| 11am | Making a Bird Friendly Yard | Lynn Foster |
| 1 pm | The Restoration of the Quachita Forest | Virginia McDaniel |

SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 11am | Pinch & Smell Show and Tell~Herbs | Debbie Tripp |
| 1pm | How to Grow and Care For Blueberries | Quachita Berry Farm |



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