

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

Craighead County Master Gardeners began in October of 1996. The first class was made up of 42 people from 5 counties in Northeast Arkansas. For two years, our name was the Northeast Arkansas Master Gardeners. When programs were begun in other counties, we changed our name to Craighead County Master Gardeners.

In 2002, we hosted the State Master Gardener meeting with more than 450 Master Gardeners and guests attending from around the state. We were honored to receive the Betty T. Sloan Tourism Award from the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce in 2002.

In 2005, we were presented with an award for our landscaping project at the Craighead County Court House by the Downtown Association of Jonesboro.

We have been honored on the state level with several awards for counties over 50 members; 2003 Friend of Master Gardener, Dr. Kim Pittcock; Newsletter Awards for the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2016; 2008 Master Gardener of the Year- Mimi Cox; 2012 County Agent of the Year, Branon Thiesse; 2014 Garden Project of the Year (ASU Display Garden).

In Craighead County, Master Gardeners reported more than 6914 hours of service and education to benefit the community in 2015.

The regular monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month, except for July. Meeting location is at the Craighead County Extension Office, 611 E. Washington, Suite A, Jonesboro. Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. with refreshments followed by the business meeting. Educational programs are presented by guest speakers covering a variety of interesting gardening subjects.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

Garden Projects (on-going from March through October)

ASU Horticulture Display Garden



Master Gardeners plant and maintain the garden from spring through fall, working each Thursday with Dr. Pittcock and her students. We added the **ASU Farmers' Market Entry Garden** in 2013 and present a garden-related Program on the Deck on the 4th Saturday from May through October.

Crowley's Ridge Nature Center (Native Plant Garden and Butterfly Garden)



There are two designated areas at the Nature Center in which we provide support: Native Plant Garden and the Butterfly Garden.

The Children's Learning Garden at HWES Magnet School



We work in the gardens and greenhouses assisting in planting and maintaining the gardens. We also assist the Master Gardener teacher/leader and the students with other projects.

Craighead County Courthouse, City Hall and Extension Office Landscapes



We plant seasonal annuals and are responsible for general maintenance of the beds.

Other Sanctioned Projects – one time, short term or as requested throughout the year

ASU Greenhouse - Various days at various times as needed by Dr. Pittcock
We plant seeds and re-pot seedlings when needed. We also assist with the Plant Science Club plant sales in spring and fall.

MG Basic Training – Last 2 Saturdays in January, plus 3 Saturdays in Feb.
We assist with interviews, breaks, refreshments, mentoring new class members and as requested in other ways to assimilate the class into the Master Gardener program.

NE Arkansas FFA, CDE – March

We are in charge of directing the Floriculture events in this one-day competitive event for high school FFA students in the Northeast Arkansas district, working with Dr. Pittcock.

Spring Plant Sale – Last Saturday in April

This is our fundraising project, which supports our scholarship and our program expenses. Master Gardeners supply plants and sponsor a sale for the public.

Plants for Sunset Gardens – May

We provide gift plants for residents of Sunset Gardens on the second Saturday in May. Each Master Gardener provides one small (6" to 8") plant or dish garden.

NE Arkansas District Fair – 3rd week in September

- (1) We construct, decorate & staff a **Master Gardener booth** during the fair week to promote the MG program. We also collect and package seeds to be given away to visitors to our booth.
- (2) **Floriculture** – Receive and organize the horticulture specimens for our judges.

Craighead County Extension Office – various days and times as needed

NEA District Fair Education Exhibits – assist with exhibit registrations on Monday & Sunday