Newspaper: Baxter Bulletin

News Release

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Date: November 14, 2018

**Master Gardener Online Training**

 Want to be a Master Gardener? Applications are being taken in Baxter County for persons who want to sharpen their horticultural skills and then share their knowledge with others.

 The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service is conducting online Master Gardener training. The online statewide Master Gardener training sessions will be available online beginning January 2 and ending March 31. There will be a suggested timeline for the course week-by-week, but as with most online classes, you can work at your own pace, as long as you have completed the class by March 31.

 Participant enrollment will be limited.

 After the trainee has completed the MG training, during their **first year as a new member,** they must complete 40 work hours plus 20 education hours to maintain their membership. One can earn both work and learning hours by participating in monthly MG meetings, workshops, seminars, county fair horticulture department, plant sale and landscape beautification projects throughout the year.

 To maintain Master Gardener membership **(after the first year)**, one is required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer work and 20 hours of education activity. As a Master Gardener, one will need to continue to learn about horticulture by participating in MG training sessions and projects provided at the county and state level on a broad range of topics.

 Training topics will include an overview of Master Gardener program, basic botany, soils, fertilizers, home vegetable production, home fruit production, turf, plant propagation, pest control, ornamentals, and plant diseases.

 All training will be conducted by Cooperative Extension Service professionals. Books and other materials are furnished. There will be a charge of $145.00 to cover cost of the training such as online fees, notebook, training supplies, online class maintenance, name tag, and first year membership dues.

 **Deadline for applying is Monday, December 3rd.** For an application or more information contact the Baxter County Extension office at 425-2335.

 This program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.