

BETHANY's EXTRAS

We just hosted a reunion of the “pandemic” Master Gardener classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022. The Master Gardeners who persevered through those years of disruption showed a special type of grit and it was an absolute pleasure to see more than forty smiling faces, catching up with each other, getting to know new MGs, and reaffirming their interest in serving the community through Master Gardener volunteerism. We may just have to make it an annual event.

And thank you to all who have answered the call to train and serve on the Master Gardener Helpline. For the first time since the pandemic, we have a team of ten –some are old hands who will be learning the new voicemail/email system while others will be starting afresh. Many Master Gardeners have reported that the Helpline is one of their favorite activities—meeting new people from across the state over phone or email and helping answer all types of gardening questions which keep you on your toes. Remember, you don’t have to know all the answers—just where to look or who to ask.

Lastly, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System published a special guide for gardeners coping with the impacts of the protracted deep freeze over the holidays. While much of the advice focuses on the need for patient observation, it’s a helpful piece to share with the neighbors and friends who are probably seeking your advice as a Master Gardener at this time. <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/landscaping/post-freeze-ornamental-plant-care/>

Spring is just around the corner—have you ordered your seeds?