

Hana Berres
Director's Minute, February 2023

For those that don't know me yet, I am Hana (pronounced haa*nuh); a plant fanatic; Master Gardener since 2018. Becoming a Master Gardener was one of the best experiences of my life, I get to talk to people about something I love – plants, plants, and more plants! I get to share knowledge with others – those that bought their very first plant and have no idea how to keep it alive, those that just moved into their very first house and have never mowed grass, those that moved to the Southeast and have never experienced our humidity or clay soils, those that ask what is munching their plants, and those are wanting to manage rain water on their property. I have volunteered over 1,000 hours with the JCMG program, the majority have come from intern projects. My intern group created a 6-week class curriculum for the young ladies at the Girls, Inc. and helped rebuild their raised bed garden. I mentored two intern groups that worked on beautifying the entrance to the High Ore Trail Garden which is part of the Red Rock Trail system connecting the City of Midfield to Red Mountain. The 2020 interns designed and installed an 800-square foot pollinator garden and the 2022 intern group built a community food demonstration garden which showcased raised beds, four of which were ADA compliant, container gardens and a melon patch,

I do – FLOWERS AND LOTS OF THEM, why some even say I am a hoarder-culturist. I spent the Fall planting crocus, daffodils, iris, alliums, and many other tried and true garden workhorses that thrived the deep freeze! Gardeners are always planting for the future; we spend weeks waiting on seeds to sprout and often months watching our veggies and fruits mature and ripen. Gardeners are resilient, we are dedicated, and we are – well just amazing! While we may have differences in opinions on which variety of tomatoes are the tastiest or which roses smell the best, we all come together over the love of plants, the love of growing things, the joy of discovery, and certainly the excitement (and sometimes trepidation) of gardening. I am honored and excited to have been nominated and awarded a JCMGA Board position and look forward to serving you. I have met some of the most amazing people within this organization and am happy to say they are now dear friends.

HERE IS MY 2023 COME BACK CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF YOU:

1. For those of you who have not attended a meeting, I challenge you to come.
2. For those of you who are not active members, I challenge you to sign up for some of our awesome projects.
3. For those of you who have not paid their dues or reported hours in a while; I challenge you to reactivate your membership.
4. For those of you who see a new face, I challenge you to say hello and meet another amazing Master Gardeners like yourself!