

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 7

The

Magnolia Chronicle

Newsletter for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners

U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

The ARKANSAS FLOWER AND

GARDEN SHOW – Programs and Information
included in this newsletter



PRESIDENTS' CORNER

I had a very special person who helped shape my love for farm and garden – my Grandmother. Our Pulaski County farms were close and I spent countless hours with her. I remember how the compost rich soil felt and smelled when we dug potatoes, the sticky goo from the stem of the daffodil I was allowed to pick, the squish of the dreaded tomato horn worm, and the purple fingers and chiggers received while picking blackberries. I trailed along when folks would stop by just to see all her gorgeous iris in bloom. Oh, and the bed of peonies! I have not seen one that beautiful since. Yes, gardening stimulates our senses and brings these wonderful memories of special people alive.

This is your Pulaski County Master Gardener organization and all of us on the 2017 Board want to hear from you! We especially look forward to listening to your special garden memories so, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for allowing me to be your President this year,

Kathy Ratcliffe (Kathy.ratcliffe@att.net) or 501-912-0989

MARCH CHECKLIST from Carol Randle

VEGETABLES

March is a prime planting season. Vegetable gardens are up and running. It is a great time to plant cool season crops such as Lettuce, Broccoli, Potatoes, Onions, Radishes, Turnips, Kale, Cabbage and Spinach. Cabbage, Broccoli and Cauliflower are planted as transplants, small plants, not seeds. Onions are planted using sets or transplants, rarely as seed. Most feed stores sell them in bundles of small plants which are then set out in the garden. Janet usually plants them two inches apart, and as they grow, she uses every other plant for green Onions, giving the other Onions plenty of room to grow. Remember to fertilize at planting and then side-dress six weeks later. Cool season vegetables have less disease and insect issues and give you a great start to the gardening season. We tend to have more energy now and we sometimes have ample moisture. Diseases and insects have not become firmly entrenched yet, so grab your shovel and start planting. If you don't have space for a large garden, plant some vegetables in pots or among your flowers. A minimum of six hours of sunlight is all you need. If you want to grow your own tomato transplants, they should be started now. You can't get quality transplants in an ordinary home window. You need either a greenhouse or a supplemental light. The light source needs to be on for up to 12 hours a day. It typically takes 8 to 10 weeks before a transplant can safely be planted outdoors. Tomato planting time shouldn't happen before mid-April.

If you didn't prepare your beds in January, do it as soon as possible. Cool season crops, from Carrots to Turnips, can be planted until mid-April. Sweet Corn can be planted about the middle of the month. Seeds for warm weather crops, such as Peppers, can be started in the greenhouse or your windowsills. It takes six to eight weeks to get good size transplants. Our last frost date is March 20 to April 1, depending on what part of the county you live in. Potatoes should be planted from certified seed Potatoes. Fertilize, water and mulch after planting.

ANNUALS

Fertilizing and dead-heading all these Winter annuals will give them a boost and help them rebound. If you lost your Winter color, or you never got around to planting any, buy some Geraniums, English Primroses and Ranunculas now. They make great transitional color for the garden and can tolerate light freezes with ease. Start planning your Summer color, but don't actually buy any until mid-April. (This is hard to do when you are at the Flower and Garden Show and you buy plants you really like, but have to keep them alive indoors until it is safe to plant them outside!)

BULBS

Bulbs are blooming now and extra care is needed to replenish them for another season. Fertilize your bulbs with a complete fertilizer and let the foliage remain healthy and growing for at least six weeks after bloom. Summer bulbs are popping up at nurseries and garden centers all over the state. You can buy these bulbs, but don't plant them. They like warm soils, and if planted in such cool soils, they could rot or deteriorate. I would not plant Caladiums until at least May, remember, the important time for bulb growth is right after bloom. If bulbs are overcrowded or in too much shade, they won't be able to store the energy needed to bloom next Spring. If overcrowded, thin them and replant with the foliage intact. The same applies to overly shaded bulbs, move them to a sunny spot now, with their leaves growing. Let the foliage die down naturally to give them as much time as possible to replenish themselves. If you cut the leaves off too soon, you won't have great flowering next year. They need at least six to eight weeks of green foliage AFTER flowering to set flowers for the following year. Once the foliage begins to die, their season is over. They will be dormant until the following season.

PERENNIALS

As Summer and Fall blooming perennials begin to grow, assess whether or not they need dividing. Crowded plants don't bloom as well. If they do need dividing, now is the time to do so. Dig up the plant and divide, leaving two or three crowns per division.

When choosing new plants, you don't have to plant exactly the same thing that died. If we have a season with little rain, you may want to opt for more drought tolerant plants. Even the most drought tolerant plants need water during establishment and would benefit from supplemental irrigations when we have miserable seasons. Soil preparation can go a long way in building a stronger root system which will, in the long term, give you a stronger plant. Many perennials are up and growing. Hellebores are in full bloom, along with Bleeding Heart, Columbine and Foxglove. Peonies are up and growing and you may even see the beginning of flower buds. Now is a great time to put some perennial stakes around your Peonies. These wire rings need to be in place before the plant gets much size. That way, the foliage grows up into the rings and is supported when heavy rains try to topple the blooms. Spring ephemerals, like Bloodroot, Trilliums and Trout Lilies are a great addition to the early Spring garden. They are called ephemerals because they are here today and gone tomorrow. They often complete their life cycle before the trees have fully leafed out. If you have many early season perennials in your garden that do go dormant, mark where they are planted so that you don't disturb them during the garden season when you are planting other plants. You might try using old golf tees, just put a tee next to the crown of the plant, and move on. As you are gardening throughout the Spring and Summer and you come across a golf tee, just move over a foot or so. Summer and Fall blooming perennials can be divided now, if needed. Divide established perennials and replant at their depth in an enlarged area with organic matter and fertilizer. Keep mulch handy for a late freeze.

HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants don't look all that perky indoors, so many gardeners think they would benefit from some sunshine on a mild March day. While it is a nice thought, it isn't a good idea. Plants should stay put where they are now and make their move outside in late April. Now that the days are getting longer and temperatures are warming up, you will see some new growth appearing. If you have tropical flowering plants inside, you can give them a haircut now, but hold off on repotting until you move them outdoors.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Most plants that bloom in the Summer set their flowers on new growth, with the exception of Big Leaf Hydrangeas, Oakleaf Hydrangeas and Gardenias. Leave these three alone, since their flower buds are already set. If you have Peegee Hydrangeas, or smooth Hydrangeas, Butterfly Bush, Crapemyrtles, Althea or Rose of Sharon, Clethra, Roses and Abelia and you haven't pruned them yet, grab your pruning shears and get going. While new growth is beginning, it isn't too late to prune. **CAUTION: PLEASE DO NOT COMMIT CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER!! They don't need severe pruning every year.**

All Roses need annual pruning, including Knock Out Roses. Hold off on pruning climbing Roses until after their first bloom. Some antique shrub Roses only bloom once a year, so let them flower and then prune. For all -season -blooming shrubs, prune them back to 18 inches above the ground. Pruning encourages continued blooming and removes the mites, which overwinter in the upper portions of the bush and spread Rose Rosette Virus.

LAWNS

Winter weeds were growing long before Winter weather arrived this year. The weeds are blooming their hearts out and many have set seeds and are ending their season. It is too late to worry with herbicides. In lawns, try to mow the weeds to prevent seed set. If your lawn is showing signs of green, it is from Winter weeds. Spray with a broad leaf killer, if you have an abundance of them, or spot spray or pull them. A few clumps of wild Onions (or Garlic) can easily be dug. Applying fertilizer now before the grass is fully awake is a waste. You will actually end up fertilizing all those Winter weeds that are in your lawn now. There is still time to use a pre-emergent herbicide, but do so very soon. Try to find a stand alone product without fertilizer. Your fertilizer application should be no sooner than mid-April, when the lawn is totally green. Waiting until May is not a bad idea, either.

From the Garden Shed

Do you have extra plants you would like to share, know where to buy some new plants, have gardening experience that you want to share? Please email me pictures and exciting information regarding your MG projects too! This section is for items to SHARE with MG's. Please send me the information:

Daffodilsrose555@gmail.com

Sunday, February 19th at 1:00 pm at Hillcrest Hall (Kavanaugh and Lee Streets) there will be an instructional session on "How to enter horticulture in a flower show". Jean Moser, Chair of our Horticulture Division for the AFGS will present a short session. Phyllis Byrum, our PCMG horticulture expert will also be there to assist with questions. They will take you thru the steps to producing a show winning horticulture entry!

Immediately following the Central Arkansas Iris Society will have a presentation on "Fertilizers and Nutrients for Iris". Robert Treadway, our CAIS president will present.

March 4-12 is the Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival. They are open from 9 am to 5 pm. They have over 30 varieties of daffodils to enjoy!

Sat., March 25th from 1-3 pm- Tea and tour at Chris Olsen's house in NLR (257 Skyline Drive-picture below). \$20.00 - Please contact Karen Leverette for more information at 501-590-9594



Time to PAY your MG Dues!

Amount: **Dues are payable Jan 1st through May 1st each year in the amount of \$20.00.**

If paid after May 1st, dues go up to \$30.00.

Make check payable to PCMG and mail to Assistant Treasurer (Phone # [281-460-3151](tel:281-460-3151) or 803-0898)

Sharon Gragg

107 Bouriese Circle

Maumelle AR 72113

REMINDER: PCMG Monthly meeting – Tuesday, February 21st at 11:30 at St. James Church

The presenter for the February MG meeting will be Dr. Jim Robbins, speaking to us about "Propagation". He has authored many FSA bulletins for our U of Ark website. He's the author of FSA 6024 titled "Propagation for the Home Gardener". Step-by-step instructions for accessing the FSA bulletins that include the one written by Dr. Robbins are also included. Please plan to attend this educational program.

Dr. James A. Robbins: a brief biographical sketch

For the past 17 years Dr. Robbins has been an extension specialist in commercial ornamentals at the University of Arkansas System, Division of Agriculture. His role is to support all Green Industry businesses including garden centers, wholesale growers, and landscapers. Prior to working for the University of Arkansas. He has spent 9 years in the ornamental industry with two different companies: Briggs Plant Propagators and IMC Vigoro.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE Pulaski County

Computer Access Instructions, Ornamentals

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MG FSA Publ Online Inst Ornamentals 2017



PROJECT PROFILE: PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Pulaski Courthouse was built in two sections. The first section was completed in 1887 and the second in 1913. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. The areas around the courthouse that the PC Master Gardeners are responsible for maintaining are the Alexander-Butler Rose gardens. One garden is at the north end of the park and one garden is at the south end of the park. The name of the garden that covers the entire city block next to the courthouse is the Count Pulaski Park. Our committee spent several hours at the Butler Center researching the history of the rose gardens. For many years the Little Rock Garden Club maintained the gardens. In early pictures, very early pictures, gardens were at both ends of the park, but the first mention of the LRGC was in 1951. They took on the care of the gardens for a rose festival that same year. As early as 1919 Little Rock was called the City of Roses. The city celebrated by selecting a Rose Queen and having a Rose Parade with floats. The next year, 1952, the LRGC voted to take the rose gardens as a full time project. Over the years they planted 31 Bradford pear trees, numerous oaks, and many other plants in the park. They also gave the beautiful fountain and the brick walkways. In 2010 they decided the project was too labor intensive for their membership and told the County Judge, Buddy Villines, they were relinquishing their commitment. However, true to their community spirit, they paid to have a plan designed to refurbish the rose gardens and included funding for all the new plants. That is when the garden roses were changed from work buster hybrid teas to Knockouts and one variety of Chinensis rose, Mutabilis. The garden languished without the dedication of the LRGC. In 2016 PC Master Gardener Melody Parsley met with the County Judge, Barry Hyde, to discuss water issues concerning her property owners association. After learning she was a MG, Judge Hyde approached her about getting PC Master Gardeners to take care of the gardens at the courthouse. This project is important for the community and because the PC County Judge and PC Quorum Court pay part of the funding for PC Pulaski County Extension Service, that is us! We want them to know that with our training and dedication we can make an unattractive area beautiful. We became an official PC MG Project on February 16, 2016.

We have 5 people on our committee and last year, our first year, was spent battling millions of weeds. The dreaded sedge had taken the gardens along with morning glory vines and about any other noxious weed you can name. The roses had been completely covered by weeds and had not been pruned. It was a mess. We do have the help of the county maintenance crew. We removed damaged roses and thinned plant numbers because the bushes were planted too close together. We planted several other types of shrubs so we could attract pollinators and butterflies to the garden. We are being careful not to take on the entire city block but are offering advice to the county crew on maintenance of their part of the park. The advice has been appreciated and followed, to a degree, and we are working to establish trust and credibility with the maintenance crew.

Please come visit the Pulaski County Park and the Alexander-Butler Rose Gardens. There are lovely benches for relaxing, a beautiful fountain, and gorgeous roses!



ARKANSAS FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

Local Roots

By: Mary Evans, Pulaski County MG

Show us your roots! (No, not your hair!) **“Local Roots”** is the theme of the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show this year and has nothing to do with hair color! Visit over 100 garden vendors & 5 large gardens. Show dates are February 24-26 at the Statehouse Convention Center. Hours are Friday 10:00-7:00, Saturday 10:00-6:00 & Sunday 10:00-4:00. Friday & Saturday both have late events. Tickets available at the ticket window or online, click Eventbrite. Adults \$10, 3 day pass \$15, children under 12- free. Your volunteer nametag serves as a 3-day pass. Once again there will be a package holding area for your convenience. The Silent Auction will run from 10:00-3:00 on Saturday only. Food trucks & food vendors will be located on the show floor. Yay! Be sure to check out the website www.argardenshow.org

As always there will be a large extension presence with multiples of county agents, Master Gardeners and **4 H** folks at the U of A area. Cooking demos, backyard chickens, and **The Plant Doctor**, Sherrie Smith will be there as well. Bring your sick plants for diagnosis.

The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is non-profit. The mission of the show is to promote horticultural education throughout the state. One way is through scholarships. The other is through the **Greening of Arkansas** grants. Over \$75,000 has been given through grants to deserving projects that meet the criteria for eligibility. To see if your project qualifies see the website. Beautification & education are the main goals of this project. Contact Marilyn Tilley at merilyntilley@gmail.com

The events are over the top this year! Remember with the show staying open later- the events run later, too. You don't want to miss anything! The **Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs** will have their juried flower show as well as their annual horticulture entries. Entry forms are available online. Contact Jean Moser at olyardner@aol.com for info on entering your horticulture. You could win a blue ribbon!

Friday morning: Two separate LIVE events! The **professional florists** do their professional tabletop designs LIVE on the show floor from 10:00- noon. It is amazing to watch them in action & see how each one interprets the theme. Another LIVE event is the “**Landscaper’s Challenge**” where local landscapers construct home garden foundations on the show floor from 10:00- 2:00. At the Friday night **Rock in the Garden** event, we have an evening of fun with open bar, food trucks & live music again. This was well attended last year and was a great opportunity to see and visit the gardens and vendors in a “quieter” setting. Music is from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Florist Workshop Events: Hands on floral design workshops taught by professional florists from the Arkansas Florist’s Association. All require pre-registration Tickets at Eventbrite on the website. Fee: \$50.

Floral Jewelry Workshop: Friday & Saturday 5:00-6:00 pm, Fulton Room

Floral Armatures Workshop: (canvas art) Friday & Saturday 6:00-7:00 pm, Fulton Room

Floral Fusion Workshop: Saturday, 6:00-7:00 pm, Pope Room. Floral design class.

Children’s Activities:

4 H activities go on all weekend. Don’t miss the printable “Scavenger Hunt” from the website. On Sunday at 3:00 on the How To stage, Heifer Urban Farm will be bringing chickens, turkeys, pigs & goats! Oh my!

Sunday Activities! 11:00-3:30 These events are taught by Master Gardeners who just happen to be teachers. There are two choices. They can make it & take it home. They start every half hour, in the Pope & Fulton Rooms.

The Wonderful World of Wiggle Worms... The Earth’s & Gardener’s Friend Debbie Howell, Faulkner County Master Gardener - Fulton Room

Gone With the Wind... and Other Ways Seeds Move About Junie Harris, Pulaski County Master Gardener- Pope Room

Main Stage Speakers: Fulton & Pope Rooms (these rooms are located at the end of the hall near/behind the escalators going up into the Mariott.)

Friday, Feb. 24, 2017

Fulton Room

10:30 **Arkansas’ Magical Botanical Garden of the Ozarks** – Lissa Morrison, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks

11:45 **Let’s Get Growing – Vegetable Gardening is Cool Again** – Janet Carson, University of Arkansas, Horticulture Specialist

1:00 **Healthy Yard/ Healthy Planet – Sustainable Gardening** - Lissa Morrison

Friday, Feb. 24, 2017

Pope Room

10:30 **The Pollination Life of Birds** – Dr.Dan Scheiman, Bird Conservation Director, Audubon Arkansas

11:45 **If Trees Could Talk,--Oh, Wait. . .They Do** - Jane Gulley, Pulaski County Master Gardener

1:00 **Birding Basics** – Dr. Dan Scheiman, Bird Conservation Director, Audubon Arkansas

2:15 **Building a Successful Farmers’ Market From the Ground Up** – Debra Bolding, Howard County Farmer’s Market, Miller County Master Gardener

Saturday, Feb. 25. 2017

Fulton Room

- 10:30 **Creating Living Landscapes** – Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware
- 11:45 **Building Pollinator Populations at Home** – Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Dept. of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, Univ. of Delaware
- 1:00 **Growing Berries in Your Backyard** – Dr. Amanda McWhirt, Horticulture Professor, University of Arkansas
- 2:30 Screening of the documentary film, **Hometown Habitat, Stories of Bringing Nature Home** – sponsored by The Arkansas Native Plant Society

Saturday, Feb. 24 2017

Pope Room

- 10:30 **Cool Plants for Tight Spaces, Nooks and Crannies, & Other Areas You Haven't Thought of Before** – Dr. Todd Lasseigne, Tulsa Botanic Gardens
- 11:45 **Easy Growing Succulents for Patio or Porch** – Richard and Andrea Cleaver, Culberson's Greenhouses
- 1:00 **Year-round Gardening by Knowing Your Plants and Pushing the Envelope**
Dr. Todd Lasseigne
- 2:15 **Terrific and Tough Annuals for Your Garden** Richard Cleaver, Culberson's Greenhouse

Gardening How To Stage: This stage runs all three days, located on the main floor of the show, with a different speaker every half hour. A “portable” speaker list will be in the program. Be sure to get one at the ticket counter.

Gardening How To Schedule 2017

Friday, February 24

- 10:30 **How to Create an Optimal Irrigation Schedule** Mark Brown, Co-Operative Extension Agent- Water Conservation & Turf Management
- 11:00 **Tuff Talk on Trees** Vic Ford, U of A Co-operative Extension Service- Little Rock State Office
- 11:30 **Lilies: A to Z** Susan Rose, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 12:00 **New Succulent Trends: Not Your Grandma's Moss Rose** Justin Hoadley, Tanarah Luxe Floral & Event Styling
- 12:30 **Water-Wise Gardening: Tips for Conserving, Capturing & Re-Using (Gray Water)**
Erika Droke, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

- 1:00 **Awards Ceremony**
- 1:30 **I've Lost a Tree! Now What?** Jeremy Bemis, Bemis Tree Farm
- 2:00 **Avgolemono Food Demonstration (Lemon-Rice Chicken Soup)** Keith Cleek, Expanded Food Nutrition Educational Program & Leigh Ann Bullington, County Extension Agent- Woodruff County
- 2:30 **Cycling With Worms: How to Use Vermicomposting to Recycle Garden Wastes** Betsy Spetich, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
- 3:00 **Knowing & Nurturing Roots** Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center State Park
- 3:30 **What's Old is New Again: Your Ancestors Fermented & You Can Too** Elene Murray, HealthEfairy
- 4:00 **Everything is Coming Up Green- The New Mentone Color for 2017** Chris Norwood, (AIFD, PFCI) Tipton & Hurst Flowers & Gifts
- 4:30 **Extension Backyard Poultry On-Line Course** Dustan Clark, U of A Extension Poultry Health Veterinarian
- 5:00- 7:00 Band- Live Music **"Wildflower Revue"**

Saturday, February 25

- 10:30 **For the Love of Goats** Tammy Sue Pope, Tammy Sue's Critters
- 11:00 **Introduction to Beekeeping** Peter Stuckey & Larry Kichler, Central Arkansas Beekeeper's Association
- 11:30 **Old Timer's Tips for Starting & Saving Seeds** Mike Nocks, White Harvest Seed
- 12:00 **The Roots of Floral Design** Kay Schlaefli, (AIFD, CFD, AMF), Expressions Flowers (Fort Smith)
- 12:30 **Secrets to Purchasing Bromeliads for Extended Color** Michael Seal, The Funny Farm
- 1:00 **Why All Worm Castings are NOT the Same: Benefits of Worm Castings** David Dowell, Red Bud Farm
- 1:30 **Orchids: Re-Potting & Re-Blooming** Yvonne Becker, Arkansas Orchid Society
- 2:00 **Dish Up a Moss Garden: Easier Than You Might Think** Martha Coop, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 2:30 **I am Mushroom- Therefore I Roar: Easy Home Growing of Lion's Mane, Shiitake, Reishi & Oyster Mushrooms** Debbie Goodwin, Horticulturist- Equinox Outdoor Concepts

- 3:00 **Coriander & Cilantro: Herb of the Year 2017** Kathleen Connole, Ozark Folk Center State Park
- 3:30 **Shade? No Problem!** Rand Retzloff, Grand Designs
- 4:00 **Contrasting Roots** Kathy Rodocker, (AIFD, AMF, PCF) Stems With Style
- 4:30 **Local Honey: Process & Benefits** Emily Bemis, Bemis Honey Bee Farm
- 5:00 **Save the Planet: Bamboo- The Most Renewable Resource** Dale Almond, Arkansas Bamboo Connection

Sunday, February 26

- 10:30 **Natural Containers** Sharon Mayes, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 11:00 **African Violet Clinic: Bring Your Violets & Questions** Betty Ferguson, Central Arkansas African Violet Society
- 11:30 **How to Make & Use Herbal Vinegars** Debbie Tripp, Rosemary Hill Herb Farm
- 12:00 **Chicken Chat** Randy Forst, Pulaski County Extension Agent
- 12:30 **Wicking Water Bucket System for Watering & Solar Fruit Dryer** Ethan Clarkson, Dunbar Community Garden
- 1:00 **Growing Muscadine Grapes** Alan Hall, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 1:30 **How Much Garden Would a Good Gardener Need, If a Good Gardener Could Garden Good?** Mike Nocks, White Harvest Seed
- 2:00 **Drip Irrigation for Home Landscapes**, Mary Evans, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 2:30 **How To of Food Preservation** Mary Wells, Faulkner County Master Gardener
- 3:00 **Farm Critters** Chris Wyman, Heifer Urban Farm



ARKANSAS FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW

2018 “New Beginnings: Imagine the Possibilities” Get ready to be moved!

Spiritually, literally & figuratively! We are growing & with a very exciting move we will have lots of room to expand! The 2018 show will be our first at the **Arkansas State Fairgrounds**. The Fairgrounds has plenty of space for us, all of our stuff & acres of **FREE** secure parking! We can deliver our stuff right to the doors without the traffic snarl. There is room for more vendors, more activities, more EVERYTHING! Don't miss it. Tell everyone you know!

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs 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 Opportunity Employer.