

**A History of the
Pulaski County
Master Gardeners
1988-2003**

By Sally Garrison, Class of 1989

A History of the Master Gardener Program in Pulaski County

The year was 1988 when the Master Gardener program began. Janet Carson, county extension agent for agriculture, said, "The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is looking for 40 people with green thumbs to help others solve their gardening problems. Those who complete the training will be used where the need is greatest and where the volunteers feel the most comfortable. We primarily plan to use them on the telephone, answering consumer calls on horticulture."

The first 5 training sessions were held September 15-October 13, 1988 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale. It was a 4-county pilot program including Pulaski, Garland, Saline, and Jefferson counties with 10 people chosen from each of these counties. There was a \$25.00 fee, books and materials were furnished.

In the Home section of the Arkansas Gazette of July 28, 1989 there was an interesting thumb nail sketch of the program and some of those early Master Gardeners:

"The first crop of Master Gardeners to graduate from the Cooperative Extension Service program in Pulaski County includes men and women with a variety of backgrounds and skills.

Anne Borg has a degree in horticulture and worked for the state Plant Board before 'retiring' to be a stay-at-home mother. The Master Gardener course seemed like a good opportunity to 'keep my skills current,' Borg said. 'Plus, you meet the neatest people - we are quite a group.' As part of her payback activities, Borg organized a gardening project at Terry Elementary School.

Kathleen Ragsdale, a free-lance graphic artist, gardened with her parents when she was younger and has 'always been good with house plants.'Ragsdale designed the Master Gardener logo * and the signs that mark the group's various projects. In addition, she has handled telephone duty and helped out with the Old State House gardening project.....

Christiana Leonard is a clothing designer, who also teaches sewing and voice.....'I'm a composting nut!' she said.Leonard takes her turn at the Extension Service telephone and presented a program on container gardening at Parkway Village....."

These are just three of the original 19 Pulaski County Master Gardeners. The others were: Betty M. Arnold, James Callahan, Bruce A. Clough, Shirley Ann Garnett, Sherry A. Gunter, Jim Hicks, Le'On Hudson, Peggy Janske, Rick Lawson, H.J. Martin, Ed Smith, Nancy P. Wade, Ann Ward, Bill T. Weidemann, Owen R. White II, and Claudell Woods.

In a Report to the People, a publication of the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, we can read of the first projects that the 1st group of Master Gardeners undertook: " Some activities include answering office horticulture calls two days a week; planting and maintaining a demonstration vegetable garden at the Little Rock Zoo and the Old State House flower beds; preparing slide sets; helping teach horticulture 4-H projects at local schools; conducting a giant pumpkin growing 4-H project group; organizing and helping teach landscaping classes; and helping give talks and demonstration on various horticulture topics to civic groups and garden clubs.....

This year we have gained well over 760 hours of volunteer time and have had over \$1,000 worth of supplies and contributions donated to the program - such as the irrigation system, railroad ties, T-shirts, tomato cages, seeds and plants, greenhouse space, and some cash contributions."

*Kathleen Ragsdale, '88, designed our Master Gardener logo with the tree "that has grown strong over the years with branches that reach out to many areas of Pulaski County."

**MaGIC is the acronym for Master Gardeners Internation Corporation...MaGIC was founded in April, 1988.

*** The first married couple to be certified as Master Gardeners: Ginger Coggins, '89, and Stacy Coggins, '90.

The second Master Gardener class, trained in 1989, had 40 new Master Gardeners and 11 of the original 19 from 1988 were re-certified.

Garden Projects - 1989 and 1990

The Zoo Vegetable Garden:

May 2, 1989 marked the ground breaking for the demonstration vegetable garden at the Little Rock Zoo. Ann Ward, '88, was the chairman of the project for at least 3 years. Joy Broach, '89, joined her as co-chairman in 1991.

The Master Gardeners grew corn, squash, cucumbers, peppers, onions, greens, lettuce, tomatoes, okra, carrots, zucchini, egg plant, green beans, and turnips. All the produce was harvested and given to the zoo animals.

"Our worst culprits for fresh salads from the garden were the peacocks who joined us while we worked or harvested; they ate!"

Jane Gulley, '89, made a huge Master Gardener zoo banner in 1990 that was displayed on the fence facing the highway.

The Old State House

Kathleen Ragsdale, '88, and Sherry Gunter, '88, were chairman for the planting in April, 1990.

Trapnall Hall

Eleven beds were planted in April, 1990, designed by the chairmen, Shirley Garnett, '88, and Jim Hicks, '88. The colors were white, red, and green.

The chairmen in 1991 were Ruth Owings, '89, and Shirley Garnett, '88, with Mary Frances Roman, '90.

Hummingbird and Butterfly Garden

In April, 1990 Jane Gulley, '89, Sally Garrison, '89, and Sherry Gunter, '88, planted a hummingbird and butterfly garden at the Pinnacle Mountain Visitor Center. Some of the plants were native red buckeye and milkweed, lantana, coneflowers, salvia, and butterfly bush.

Project Learning Tree - 1990

Ann Borg, '88, was involved at Booker Magnet with a second grade class working twice a week with the children on plant-related concepts.

Little Rock Shelter for Battered Women

Peggy Matson, '88, was chairman for a container planting day and beautification project at the Shelter in June, 1990.

The Master Minutes - 1990

Volume one, number one issue of the Master Minutes was published in April, 1990 with Cecilia Buck, '89, as the editor.

Zoo Aviary - 1990-1991

Work began in October, 1990 with Lynn McMahon, '89, as chairman. New tropicals were planted - ficus tree, ferns, Chinese evergreens, schefflera, draceana, marginata, etc. Plants were donated by Tipton and Hurst. "The birds enjoyed the impatiens planted last month so much that they ate them all!"

Arbor Day - March, 1990

Ann Ward, '88, Jane Gulley, '89, and Shirley Garnett, '88, helped with tree distribution and special activities for children.

Master Gardener Meetings - 1990-91

Meetings were held bi-monthly at the County Extension Office.

Activities - 1989-1990

Tour of Pulaski County "you-pick-em" berry farms on April 25, 1990. A van full of Master Gardeners traveled 117 miles and visited 5 farms. Among them was Goodson's Orchard and Berry Farm and Hidden Valley Berry Farm.

Perennial Tour to Brambleberry Farms in Center Ridge, Arkansas. This became a "perennial tour" as the Master Gardeners went in spring and fall for several years. The first tour was May 8, 1990. Kim Arnold writes "The vans were jungles on the way home because of all the purchases." This statement could be made for most all of the tours that the Master Gardeners make!

Tree Fruit producers in Lonoke County on May 21, 1990

The first garden tour of Master Gardener's gardens was on July 17, 1990. We visited the gardens of Ralph Olsen, '89, Fred Balch, Lynn Parker, '89, and Julia Newsum, '89.

A Master Gardener family picnic was held on July 19, 1990 at Burns Park with Pat Green, '89, as chairman.

A plant identification tour of Lakewood Gardens was conducted by Mike Carter, '89, on August 22, 1990.

The first out-of-state trip was to St. Louis September 28-30. The 25 participants traveled by bus to visit the Missouri Botanical Gardens with a riverboat - the "President" - dinner cruise. Lisa Percy, '89, planned the trip.

A Master Gardener family picnic was held at Hidden Valley Berry Farm for a hayride and at the 4-H Center for a weenie roast on October 21, 1990. The picnic was planned by Pat Green, '89.

The Christmas party was held at the Extension office on December 9, 1990 with "party master" Pat Green, '89, in charge.

The Flower and Garden Show is Born

Pat Green writes in the Master Minutes of November, 1990, "A few of us have talked about the possibility of a flower and garden show patterned after others we've heard of in other states.....On Thursday, October 18, (1990) representatives of State Extension, County Extension (including Janet), the Farm Bureau, Nurserymen's Association and the news media were invited to attend a meeting to determine interest for such a show in Little Rock.....Other groups such as the Association of Landscape Architects, Garden Clubs and the Horticultural Society, etc. will be contacted for their response, and information from other states will be obtained concerning 'how-to's'.....The first show could possibly be scheduled for February, 1992!"

The 1st annual Arkansas Flower and Garden Show was held February 14-16, 1992 at Robinson Center. The theme was "Spring Comes Early to Arkansas". There were 70 commercial exhibits and 13 landscaped gardens in conjunction with the Federation of Garden Clubs flower show. Sponsors were Channel 11, KARN, and the Arkansas Gazette. Pat Green, '89, and Connie Fugedy, '90, worked with Janet Carson on the details.

Master Gardeners who have taught a subject in the training classes in the fall:

Christiana Leonard ('88) - Composting
Kathleen Ragsdale ('88) - Water Gardening
Jane Gulley ('89) - Old Roses
Ellen Kane ('89) - Old Roses
Jane Gulley ('89) - Attracting Wildlife to the Garden
Anne Borg ('88) - Basic Botany
Bruce Clough ('88) - Wildflowers
Ann Ward ('88) - Zoo Garden

Garden Projects - 1991

Zoo Vegetable Garden

The work at the Zoo vegetable garden was chaired by Ann Ward, '88, and Joy Broach, '89.

Old State House

The chairmen for the Old State House were Lynn Parker, '89, and Ellen Kane, '89.

Trapnall Hall

Trapnall Hall project was chaired by Ruth Owings, '89, and Mary Frances Roman, '90.

Pinnacle Mountain

At Pinnacle Mountain Jane Gulley, '89, and Sally Garrison, '89, helped maintain the native plantings in front of the Visitor Information Center as well as the Butterfly Garden.

The Master Minutes

The Master Minutes had a new editor, Gayle Elder, '90.

Zoo Aviary

The Zoo Aviary under the leadership of Lynn McMahon, '89, appealed for "men needed to finish standing up the big tree!" and "Duck nesting near the base failed the last attempt."

Arbor Day

Arbor Day was celebrated with Master Gardeners helping distribute trees on March 14 and 18 and "A Tree Thing for Kids" was held at the Safeway store on Battery Street on March 16. There was "a special thanks to the hardy souls who donned the Smokey Bear costume" in the Master Minutes. Don Thompson, '89, was one of those.

"Another Tree Thing for Kids" was held in conjunction with the Quapaw Quarter spring tour of homes with Gail Roberson, '89, chairman.

North Little Rock Old Mill

A new project was the North Little Rock Old Mill. The first chairmen were Pat Green, '89, and Cecilia Buck, '89. (See North Little Rock Old Mill project, 1996 for a history of the old mill.)

Contemplation Garden

Another new project was the Contemplation Garden near the Arkansas Arts Center in MacArthur Park. Sherry Gunter, '88, and Roxie Adams, '89, were the chairmen. Roxie reported "that new plants were washed out of the ground when the pond flooded during the April rains." Breck Campbell, '89, and his tiller helped alleviate the washing problem. Roxie said "they'd be there yet (working) without Breck and his tiller."

State Hospital Greenhouse

In the September, 1991 Master Minutes Janet Carson reports "The State Hospital in Little Rock may let us use a greenhouse for planting and maintaining flower beds on the grounds on West Markham. With greenhouse space, we could raise plants during the winter and possibly force bulbs for spring sale." This project drew overwhelming support from those present at the August 14, 1991 meeting. A workday was scheduled for October 8, 1991. On December 3, 1991 a "Greenhouse Management and Production" meeting was held for our new greenhouse. And another long term project is born!

School for the Deaf

Pat Green, '89, and Joyce Ford, '89, worked with students at the School of the Deaf greenhouse assisting classes in planting and maintaining plants.

E. O. Manes House

Four Master Gardeners worked at the E. O. Manes house in North Little Rock. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places. Cecilia Buck, '89, Edoline Chester, '89, Linda Dantzler, '90, and Linda Hubbell, '90, "provided the muscle for relandscaping the north side land mark." They moved boxwoods and shrubs and planted roses, azaleas, hydrangeas, and camellias. Suggestions for plants and placement were made by Nancy Brillios, North Little Rock city horticulturalist.

Julie Newsum, '89, worked with 4th grade students at Forest Park Elementary School.

Activities - 1991

A trip to Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile, Alabama, March 20-23, 1991.

Azalea Hill Nursery near Pine Bluff, April 17

Black Forest Nursery near Stuttgart, April 23

Brambleberry Farms - perennials, May 14 and October 17

Nature walk at Wildwood with Carl Hunter, June 1

Master Gardener tour of lawns and gardens, July 23

Twenty Master Gardeners went on a float trip at Pinnacle Mountain State Park led by naturalists from the park, October 2

Fox Orchid Nursery, November 26

Social Events - 1991

A Master Gardener picnic at the zoo.

A Christmas party at Ellen Kane's, '89, home.

Special Events - 1991

The Master Gardener training was held October 15- November 12 at Highland Valley Methodist Church.

Jim Wilson, The Victory Garden TV host, visited North Little Rock presenting programs at Lakewood Gardens on herbs and container plants as well as a plant doctor session. The Master Gardeners hosted an event at the Old Mill in his honor.

Garden Projects - 1992

The Zoo Garden

The Zoo Garden was chaired by Jeff Johnson, '90, and Willie Wiley, '91. "Thanks to the new greenhouse, we started lettuce, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and cucumbers inside."

The Old State House

The Old State House garden was chaired by Ellen Kane, '89. She reported "she was very proud of how the grounds looked for the Clinton election celebration."

The State Hospital Garden

The State Hospital garden was maintained with Roxie Adams, '89, and Sherry Gunter, '88, as co-chairmen.

Pinnacle Mountain

The Pinnacle Mountain butterfly garden was maintained with Jane Gulley, '89, as chairman.

The Master Minutes

The Master Minutes editor was Marie Flickinger, '90. Assistant editor, Stacy Coggins, '90.

Zoo Aviary

The Zoo Aviary project continued under the leadership of Lynn McMahon, '89.

North Little Rock Old Mill

On January 3 fifteen Master Gardeners pruned shrubs and trees and planted a wildflower meadow on the SW corner. The co-chairmen are Cecilia Buck, '89, and Pat Green, '89.

The Contemplation Garden

The Contemplation Garden, under the direction of Ruth Jones, '89, was featured on the "Weekend Gardener" TV program with Bob Bray.

State Hospital Greenhouse

"Greenhouse committee members, with Ruth Owings, '89, in charge of greenhouse production, planted 60-70 flats of marigolds and portulaca seeds....also they pruned and repotted 300-400 wax begonias that were left over from the Flower and Garden Show."

Darlene Younts, '91, reports a funny story told to her by Roxie Adams, '89. "about the perils of working on government property. The Master Gardener volunteers were unloading soil to take to the greenhouse, but found the gate was locked. Dorothy Wilks, '89, and Roxie Adams, '88, walked to the back to find someone to let them in, when Marcia Holder, '90, decided to climb the fence. She was pulling the bags of soil under the fence and storing them in the greenhouse. When she had finished, she climbed the fence to get out when the security guards drove up. They had a hard time convincing the guards they were putting the soil in and not taking it out. The guards finally believed them and let them go. Another exciting day in the life of a Master Gardener."

Baptist Rehabilitation Institute

A "hands-on" plant therapy project was started in February with Jaine Waldron, '91, chairman. These Master Gardeners work "with people who are recuperating from and readjusting their lives after strokes, accidents or other illnesses which affected them physically." Some of the activities were helping patients plant paper-white narcissus and making herbal wreaths.

Arkansas Fish and Game building garden was a brief project in 1992 under the leadership of Jane Gulley, '89.

Regular Master Gardener meetings were held bi-monthly at the Arkla Building, Blue Flame Room.

A fund raising committee met in early 1992 with co-chairmen, Karen Vesole, '90, and Maxine Hamilton, '90.

A clarification of educational and payback time was published in the May, 1992 Master Minutes:

“Educational time (or recertification, as it was previously called) is for those who want to remain in the program longer than one year. Any horticulture program or field trip that you attend and are learning (not working) is education time. Janet will assign each program or field trip education points. You must get 20 education points to qualify for the program next year.

“New graduates into our Master Gardener program are required to payback 40 hours of volunteer time to the community in exchange for the 40 hours of Master Gardener training which you received. Twenty hours of this time is to be paid back at the Extension Center answering the telephone. Twenty hours will be paid back in the volunteer projects of your choice. Returning Master Gardeners from previous years are not required to do telephone time, but may, if they so desire.”

Activities - 1992

Flower and Garden Show - the first annual show was held February 14-16 with the theme of “Spring Comes Early to Arkansas”. The show, held at the Robinson Center, featured seventy commercial exhibits and thirteen completely landscaped gardens. Seventy-five Master Gardeners volunteered during the three days of the show and during the set-up the day before. They worked under the leadership of Pat Green, '89, and Connie Fugedy, '90.

Arbor Day - “Trees for Kids”. Activities for children were held in North Little Rock, West Little Rock, and downtown Little Rock on March 14.

Thirty Master Gardeners made the trip to Larry Lowman's native plant nursery in Wynne, AR on April 22.

Ameriflora '92 at Columbus, Ohio was a celebration of the 500th year since Columbus discovered America. It was billed as a "world's fair" for gardening with nineteen countries sponsoring gardens. Lisa Percy, '89, planned the trip and thirty-two Master Gardeners rode the "bus from Hell" but enjoyed Ameriflora '92 from April 28-May 1.

Another thirty plus Master Gardeners made the annual spring trip to Brambleberry Farm, perennial wholesale operation. As always, the cars were brimming over with plants on the way home.

On May 19 twenty-eight Master Gardeners visited Carl Hunter's home and yard for a talk on "Wildflowers for the Home."

An overnight trip to Fayetteville, AR June 16-17 included visits to Holland Wildflower Farm, Terra Studios, and the University of Arkansas Experimental Farm. Sally Garrison, '89, trip planning committee chairman, arranged for the trip.

A Master Gardener family picnic was held on June 22 at the Little Rock Zoo.

At a July 1 Master Gardener meeting at the Blind School Herb Garden of Exploration, Betty Pagan, '97, taught about herbs and their uses. Following the meeting, there was a Master Gardener tour of homes.

A trip to Scott, AR on July 15 enabled us to visit the biblical herb garden at All Souls Church and Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse, and the Plantation Museum. Lunch was at Cotham's General Store.

On July 28 the Master Gardeners toured the State Plant Board visiting the Apiary (bees) office and labs.

On August 12, a reception was hosted by the Master Gardeners for the National Association of County Agents who were touring the Old Mill project

A one day trip to visit Weiderkehr and Post Wineries at Altus, AR was held on August 19. Those making the trip had a view of the grape harvest, the bottling, the aging process and wine tasting. Lunch was in the Weinkeller Restaurant.

A Master Gardener Projects' Tour was held on September 2. The tour started at the Old Mill and ended at the Pinnacle Mountain butterfly garden where the participants had a sack lunch together.

Master Gardeners Elect First Slate of Officers:

The 1st monthly meeting of the Master Gardeners after the summer break was held on September 8, 1993. Our first slate of officers was elected: President - Sally Garrison, '89; 1st Vice President - Cecilia Buck, '89; 2nd Vice President - Jay Hill, '91; Treasurer - Jim Wilkes, '91; Secretary, Jaine Waldron, '91, and finally Past President, Breck Campbell, '89. The work was minimal for the "past president". *

Headline News for 1993 - Beth Phelps arrives!

The Master Minutes welcomed Beth Phelps with these words in the February, 1993 issue:

"Beth is our new Extension Agent for Pulaski County and will be working with the Master Gardeners' program. She grew up in Hot Springs and is no stranger to Little Rock. After earning a BA in Biology at Hendrix College, she joined the Peace Corps and taught high school science in Kenya. She was located near the capitol city of Nairobi in an area where coffee and tea were the principal crops.

*throughout this history the officers are listed the year they were elected.

"Reflecting her interest in plants and growing things, Beth returned from Africa to obtain her master's degree in Horticulture from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She then accepted a position as Extension Agent for Escambia County, Florida (Pensacola area). Among other duties, she was responsible for the Master Gardeners program."

She is replacing Janet Carson who has accepted a position with the State Cooperative Extension Service.

Resolution Approved by Board of Directors

"The board (current Master Gardener officers) approved a plan where returning Master Gardeners can do up to 12 hours of phone duty to count towards either the 20 required recertification hours or work hours. New Master Gardeners would have to first complete the required 20 hours of phone duty. After that, they may count up to an additional 12 hours of phone duty toward recertification or work hours."

The monthly Master Gardener meetings were held in Arkla's Blue Flame Room.

Garden Projects - 1993

Zoo Vegetable Garden

Jeff Johnson , '90, and Willie Wiley, Jr., '90 , co-chairmen, report in the November Master Minutes: "Okra, edible gourds and some tomatoes are still being harvested, and Chinese cabbage and turnip greens have been planted.

They are collecting leaves from all over the zoo grounds to use for mulch. The leaves are directly worked into the soil using a method called 'trench composting'."

According to the June, 1993 Master Minutes "the zoo garden was featured as the first KATV Channel 7 Weather Garden this year. Jeff Johnson, '90, and Mickey Williams, '91, did a great job as television 'celebrities'!"

The Old State House

Ellen Kane, '89, and Mary Lee McHenry, '91, are co-chairmen. In the July, 1993 Master Minutes Ruth Gibson, '90, writes "The gardens at the Old State House have recovered from the election of our new President when the Democratic National Committee had plantings from all four beds removed for the evening of November 3. Birnamwood Nursery was in charge of this project and after the election, the beds were planted again with new pansies and some shrubs were replaced."

Pinnacle Mountain

Jane Gulley, '89, is the chairman of this committee which includes the hummingbird garden and native plant gardens. The committee toured the new arboretum being established at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

The Master Minutes

Julie Eckberg, '91, is the editor.

Zoo Aviary

The chairman, Lynn McMahon, '89, reports in the Master Minutes, "For the first time ever, the soil is being turned - a back-breaking effort! This will give a fresher look to the packed soil."

North Little Rock Old Mill

Linda Dantzler, '90, and Joe Dickens, '90, are co-chairmen of the project.

Contemplation Garden and Arts Center Courtyard Gardens

Ruth Jones, '90, and Ginger Coggins, '89, are co-chairmen of this project for the second year. In the June, 1993, Master Minutes we read a description of the purpose of the Garden:

Contemplation Garden
McArthur Park / Art Center
Marcia Holder, M.G. '90

"This garden is dedicated to all those who have suffered the tragedy of violent crime.

May its beauty and peace rejuvenate our spirits as we continue to work towards a safer world."

-April 22, 1990

"These words are inscribed on a plaque in the rock portion of the Contemplation Garden. Once a year, a vigil is held at the garden culminating activities of Victims of Violent Crimes Week. (This garden is a memorial for Victims of Violent Crimes.)"

"The garden was built by the city of Little Rock with a monetary gift from a private source. The city provides supplies and maintains the garden and pond in McArthur Park along with the rest of the McArthur Park acreage. This is the third year that the Master Gardeners have been caring for the garden.....The Fine Arts Club of the Arkansas Arts Center finances the continuing project....."

State Hospital Garden

The garden at the State Hospital is planted and maintained by a committee under the leadership of Roxie Adams, '89, and Sherry Gunter, '88.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Breck Campbell, '90, writes a "Greenhouse Update" in the June, 1993, Master Minutes:

"During 1992 there were several major activities at the Master Gardener greenhouse. First was the cleanup day soon after we were given permission to use the facility. The yard was almost waist high in weeds and the greenhouse only had one bench. About 20 Master Gardeners armed with weed eaters, rakes, scythes, mowers and lopers attacked the yard and completely cleared it. In amongst the weeds, we found many potted shrubs which were set aside to salvage later - photinias, ligustrums, helleri hollies, aucuba, etc."

"The greenhouse itself was empty except for one bench along the north side, a propagation table with a mister and a HUGE Ficus tree. (We still have the Ficus tree. Many of us have wondered if it would even be possible to get it out since it is so large.) Several Master Gardeners built benches for the south side and the middle area of the greenhouse. We made a bench for mixing potting soil and put in a sink adjacent to it. We also built a small desk for records....."

Breck Campbell, '90, is the chairman of Grounds and Structures; Mary Frances Roman, '90, Purchasing; Ruth Owings, '89, Frances Young, '91, and Dorothy Wilks, '91, Production and Growing.

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held February 12 - 14, 1993 at the Robinson Center. Pat Green, '89, was in charge of volunteers.

The March, 1993, Master Minutes reports "Congratulations to the Master Gardeners on the Flower and Garden Show first prize award for Most Educational Booth! Special thanks to Carl Montgomery and Lakewood Gardens for providing the plant materials for the booth, to Hilda Boger, '92, for the applied Master Gardener banner, and especially to Marvinia Petrik, '92, and Cathy Rodgers, '92, for setting up the booth."

Cecilia Buck, '89, and Breck Campbell, '90, accepted the first place award for the Master Gardeners.

Baptist Rehabilitation Institute

This committee, under the leadership of Jaine Waldron, '91, reported about some of their activities in the March, 1993 Master Minutes:

"On February 6 Ann Bridgers, '91, group did a Valentine fresh flower arrangement, with individual little pots and decorative bows added to the flowers. The group led by Bill Burgin, '92, transplanted tomato seedlings on February 13th, and also demonstrated how to start vegetables and flowers from seeds. The plant therapy group also has taken on the project of enhancing the courtyard area to make it look like 'Master Gardeners' have been there. This is a good example of the spirit of Master Gardeners. This group of M.G. volunteers do so much with the people inside, but saw a chance to brighten and beautify another area not only for the patients, but also to show others what we are about....."

Jacksonville City Hall

A new project has been started with Joan Zumwalt, '91, as the chairman. They are caring for three burms and maintaining beds around the entire building. In August they reported that they had planted 250 mums with at least 400 more to be planted soon for the Fall Festival.

War Memorial Bus Stop Garden

The chairman of this garden is

Committee Assignments for 1993:

Fund raising	Karen Vesole
Newsletter	Julia Eckberg, editor Helen Pitcock, assistant editor
Program Planning	Mary Lee McHenry Ann Bridgers
Publicity	Ruth Gibson
Social Activities	Mary Frances Roman
Trip Planning	Sally Garrison Sarah Henson

Activities - 1993

Fourteen Master Gardeners traveled by bus to Tulsa April 13-14 to visit the Conservatory, Woodward Park, the Arboretum, Swan Lake, and the Philbrook Art Museum, staying at the Embassy Suites. On April 14, touring in the rain, we enjoyed a surprise garden, called "The Magic Garden". Ruth Gibson, '90, writes in the Master Minutes "the owner said she is 88 years old, which should reassure all of us that gardening will keep us young."

The Master Gardeners with 100 guests had a picnic on April 16, 1993 with Jim Wilson of The Victory Garden and Mayor Patrick Hays. The picnic was held at The Old Mill and was sponsored by Lakewood Gardens Nursery and the city of North Little Rock.

Jim Wilson and Carl Hunter led seminars at Lakewood Gardens on April 17.

The Garland County Master Gardeners hosted a trip to the 20th Century Garden in Hot Springs on May 13. We rode the boat, the "Belle of Hot Springs" to get to the garden. According to the MM June, 1993 "This garden has been developed by Mrs. Verna C. Garvan, who in 1985 bequested it to the Landscape Architecture Program in the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The property is composed of several large peninsulas with over four miles of shore line (the part that is open to the public today consists of around forty acres), native forests of pines, oaks, hickory, sweet gum, hawthorne, redbud and many dogwoods."

On May 25 twenty-four Master Gardeners made the trip to Brambleberry Farm near Center Ridge. The hosts were Ed and Karen Robinson and their daughter, Rebecca Palek. Besides touring the perennial greenhouses, we saw a slide show and video tapes on perennials.

On June 8 nearly 100 people toured the following Master Gardeners' gardens: Breck Campbell, '90, Jay Hill, '91, Cornie Thomas, Hilda Boger, '92, Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, and Karen Vesole, '90. The tour was arranged by Jay Hill, '91.

On June 17 the Master Gardeners were off to Clarksville to tour the University of Arkansas Experiment Station.

According to the September, 1993 Master Minutes, "Twenty Pulaski County Master Gardeners were in San Antonio, Texas August 12 - 15 for the Master Gardeners of North America Convention in the River Center Marriott on the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk. Our own Lynn McMahon, '89, was a guest presenter and her seminar on Interior Landscapes was very well received."

Breck Campbell, '90, who had been sick the entire time he was at the convention, was healed almost instantaneously by being named the Grand Prize Winner of a Troybilt Tiller."

Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery was the destination of 30 Master Gardeners on September 28, 1993.

On October 4, 1993 there was another tour to Brambleberry Farms - "strictly a buying trip" - because they are closing their business on October 15.

A tour of Master Gardener projects was held with the new class of Master Gardeners on October 6, 1993.

A Fall Foliage bus tour to Harrison was enjoyed by a group of Master Gardeners. Even though it was a little early for the fall color, the MG were undaunted. They enjoyed a stop at Cliff House Scenic Point, lunch at the Rockhouse Bar-B-Q in Harrison, and Maplewood Cemetery where, according to Martha Staples, '89, report in the December, 1993-January, 1994 Master Minutes, "there were many beautiful maple trees in red and yellow." She also reports that the group drove by the old "Baker Prairie" on the outskirts of Harrison. "Here we saw goldenrod, chicory, asters, paintbrush, fleabane and several native grasses."

Social Events - 1993

Under the direction of the social chairmen, Marie Flickinger, '90, and Lois Corley, '91, the following events took place:

A fall family picnic was held at Burns Park on October 7, 1993 with 100 Master Gardeners and their families in attendance.

A Christmas party, with refreshments provided by the class of '92, was held at the Brady Family and Community Education Building.

Miscellaneous - 1993

"The Pulaski County Master Gardener Association is now a non-profit corporation registered with the state of Arkansas," according to the July, 1993 Master Minutes.

"The Master Gardener's Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to be presented to the general membership to consider implementation of \$10 annual dues for returning members. This would be used to cover the cost of the newsletter and the projects. A vote will be taken at the September 14, 1993 meeting", MM August, 1993. The motion passed at the September 14 meeting.

Ellen Kane, '89, was elected as the new secretary for the Master Gardener Board of Directors to replace Jaine Waldron, '91.

Garden Projects - 1994

The Zoo Vegetable Garden

This garden was temporarily discontinued. The committee was continuing a temporary garden at the State Hospital greenhouse. Jeff Johnson, '90, and Mickey Williams, '91, are the chairmen.

The Old State House

The chairmen are Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, and Cathy Rodgers, '92.

Pinnacle Mountain

The chairmen are Jane Gulley, '89, and Sally Garrison, '89. In the October, 1994 Master Minutes it was reported "The Pinnacle project is expanding to include working with the new arboretum. Additional volunteers will be holding tours on a 4th grade level for children and helping with plantings and upkeep.

The Master Minutes

The co-editors are Kathy Johnson, '93, and Carol Wallis, '93.

Zoo Aviary

The chairmen are Lynn McMahon, '89 and Kathy Johnson, '93.

North Little Rock Old Mill

Joe Dickens, '90, and Marie Flickinger, '90, are co-chairmen. The July, 1994 Master Minutes reports the volunteers "are hosting a lot of tours in cooperation with the North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission.

Contemplation Garden

The co-chairmen are Ruth Jones, '90, and Ginger Coggins, '89.

State Hospital

Ruth Gibson, '90, and Jo Anne Hulse, '91, were co-chairmen.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Clark Taplin, '92, and Debbie Coates, '92, were co-chairmen.

Flower and Garden Show

Cecilia Buck, '89, was in charge of the Master Gardener's booth. Many Master Gardeners volunteered at the show which was held at the Statehouse Convention Center February 25 - 27, 1994.

Baptist Rehabilitation

Co-chairmen were Mary Ann Dillaha, '91, and Lavon Spears, '91.

Jacksonville City Hall

Joan Zumwalt, '91, and Dottie Heckenback, '90, were co-chairmen.

War Memorial Bus Stop/Extension Office

Elmer and Marjorie Van Egmond, '92, were the co-chairs.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Nancy Wade, '88, was the chairman. In the July, 1994 Master Minutes the chairman reports "New Dawn roses were planted in May on each side of the front gates along Broadway. The project included the clearing and planting of an area two city blocks long. Other plans are being considered for the interior and additional rose fences as well as identifying all existing old roses."

Governor's Mansion

A vegetable garden project was undertaken at the Governor's Mansion. In the October, 1994 Master Minutes the chairman reports "The fall garden is in."

Activities - 1994

March 15, 1994 - the Master Gardeners toured the gardens of Dick Butler. Thousands and thousands of daffodils were in bloom on the terraced landscape that sloped toward the Arkansas River.

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners joined Janet Carson on a State Master Gardener trip to New Orleans and gardens of the deep South from April 20 - 23, 1994.

We toured three spring gardens at the homes of P. Allen Smith, Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, and Betsy Gray on a Little Rock Beauties tour May 12, 1994.

A spring picnic was attended by about 85 Master Gardeners on May 19, 1994 at the Lakewood Pavilion in North Little Rock. Wincie Hughes, '92, the social chairman, was in charge of arrangements.

May 24 found the Master Gardeners at Clark Taplin's, '92, for a Flowers in the Field tour. He grows fields of flowers for cutting.

Marie Jordan, '91, and Kate Lynn, '91, planned a trip for the Master Gardeners to Scott, Arkansas for lunch and a tour of Marlsgate Plantation. Thirty-seven Master Gardeners toured on June 2 for this tour billed as "Daylilies, Plantation, Herbs". The group also visited Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse.

On June 14, 1994 a group of Master Gardeners toured the gardens and estate of Mickey Williams, '91. Three Master Gardeners, Stacey Coggins, '90, Breck Campbell, '90, and Jeff Johnson, '90, met us at their vegetable gardens. They garden at the Pulaski County Penal Farm Gardens. Finally the group visited the gardens of Ellen Kane, '89.

The Clarksville Experiment Station Fruit Crops tour was on June 15.

Bonnie LoBianco, '92, and Melanie Holland, '92, were in charge of planning the trip on July 7, 1994 to Bob Hambuchen's in Conway. He has over 100 varieties of hostas.

Master Gardeners planned and executed a garden display at the entryway of the 4-H Center for the FCE National meeting on August 9, 10, and 11. We also decorated each of the luncheon tables for the 2000 people who were expected to attend. The decorations were under the direction of Kathryn Cobb, '93.

On September 14, 1994 a group toured the wildflower gardens of Carl Hunter. Shirley Garnett, '88, described the garden in the December, 1994 Master Minutes: "Mr. Hunter has accomplished magic in designing a domesticated wildlife vista around his home, with over 140 specimens transferred in the past year."

The Master Gardeners visited Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne, Arkansas on September 27, 1994. He specializes in native plants, exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. Carolyn Henslee, '91, was the planner for this trip.

A Fall Foliage tour to Eureka Springs was held on October 18-19, 1994.

A Christmas party on December 8, 1994 rounded out the Master Gardener activities for the year.

Miscellaneous - 1994

The nominating committee made the following recommendation for new officers for the 1994-1995 officers: President, Jay Hill, '91; 1st Vice President, Jane Gulley, '89; 2nd Vice President, David Dodson, '93; Secretary, Ann Bridgers, '91; and Treasurer, Ann Cooper, '90. The officers were elected at the September 13, 1994 meeting.

Master Gardener meetings were held monthly in the ARKLA Blue Flame Room in Little Rock.

Garden Projects - 1995

Zoo Vegetable Garden

Although the vegetable garden was "currently on hold due to construction at the Zoo," the chairmen were Mickey Williams, '91, and Jeff Johnson, '90.

The Old State House

"The four front gardens are beautiful with the Showstopper species of white and salmon-colored impatiens. Three shades of salmon-colored impatiens cover the inside area of each garden, with white ones outlining the beds. The Helleri Holly are lush and full of new, green growth, providing a lovely border around each garden..." was reported in the August, 1995 Master Minutes. The chairmen are Linda Holbert, '93, and Betty Jane Daugherty, '92.

Pinnacle Mountain

Chairmen Marie Jordan, '91, and Kate Lynn, '91, report "they have been planning and planting rocks to phlox on several planting work days....The beds in front of the visitor center bloomed with fringe tree, crested iris, bird's foot violets, phlox and spiderwort."

Master Minutes

Kathy Johnson, '93, is the editor.

North Little Rock Old Mill

The Old Mill was under the direction of Joe Dickens, '90, and Cecilia Buck, '89. In the December, 1995 Master Minutes it was reported "they now have automatic irrigation, so the watering situation is better."

Contemplation Garden

The chairmen for the Contemplation Garden are

State Hospital

Co-chairmen for the garden are Jane Gulley, '89, and Karen Vesole, '90. (more to add on prisoners)

State Hospital Greenhouse

Clark Taplin, '92, and Phyllis Watson, '93, are the co-chairmen of this project. In the December, 1995 Master Minutes it was reported "the committee made about \$1,496.00 on the pansy sale.the azaleas for the Flower and Garden Show will arrive in mid-January."

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held February 24, 25, and 26 at the Statehouse Convention Center. There were 14 landscaped gardens and 70 commercial exhibits.

Activities - 1995

On March 1, 1995 the Master Gardeners toured Carl Ameson's Native Plant Garden in Calion, Arkansas.

Larry Loman's Nursery in Wynne, Arkansas was the destination of a group of Master Gardeners on March 16.

A tour on April 21, 1995 in the Clinton/Shirley, Arkansas area included a visit to rhododendron gardens of Sue and Bradley Mohr. After lunch there was a very interesting tour of the Shirley Community Development Corporation's Shitake Mushroom Commercial Operation. The Master Gardeners saw how Shitake Mushrooms are grown commercially by inoculating logs, keeping them wet, etc. From there the group toured Bob Galbraith's Greenhouse and Florist in Clinton.

On May 11 the annual spring picnic was held at the Old Mill and Lakewood Pavilion in North Little Rock. Barbeque and the annual plant swap were highlights.

On May 19 a group of Master Gardeners toured Morrison's Garden and the 20th Century Garden in Hot Springs.

The annual tour of Master Gardeners' gardens visited the gardens of Bill Burgin, '92; Jean Roberts, '92; and Dana Nixon, '93, on June 13, 1995. Everyone ate their sack lunch at the Nixon's home.

June 21, 1995 found the Master Gardeners traveling to Conway to visit Hambuchen's and Stout's gardens. Both feature hostas and day lilies.

On July 11, 1995 the group enjoyed a herb garden tour visiting the Arkansas School for the Blind, the Territorial Restoration, and the Governor's Mansion. Rosemary Punch was served on the tour. Jan King's, '94, recipe follows:

Rosemary Punch

- 2 cups Rosemary Infusion (directions follow)
- 2 large cans pineapple juice, strained (one for the infusion, one for the punch itself)
- 1 12 oz. frozen lemonade, made up
- 1 large bottle ginger ale

Rosemary Infusion: Put 1 large can of strained pineapple juice in a glass pitcher and stuff with fresh rosemary, stems and all. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Next morning, put juice and rosemary in an enamel or glass pan and heat to just before the boiling point. Remove from heat and set aside, covered, to steep for 30 minutes. Makes 5 cups of infusion.

Punch: Mix together the infusion, the remaining large can of strained pineapple juice, the lemonade, and the large bottle of ginger ale just before serving or mix all together except the ginger ale and refrigerate until ready to serve and then add the ginger ale (to preserve the 'fizz').

Copied from August, 1995 Master Minutes

On October 9 - 10, 1995 the State Master Gardener Conference was held in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. An interesting side trip was to the Little Portion Monastery nearby. Five-year service certificates were awarded at the meeting. The following Pulaski County Master Gardeners received the certificates for five years of service:

Pat Green, Ellen Kane, Ruth Owings, Ruth Jones, Sally Garrison, Dotty Heckenbach, Linda Dantzler, Cecelia Buck, Ann Cooper, Ann Ward, Martha Staples, Don Thompson, Ruth Parker, Pat Marchese, Ruth Gibson, Breck Campbell, Anne Turner, Olivia Patterson, Marcia Holder, Joe Dickens, Roxie Adams, Dorothy Viers, Gail Roberson, Linda Hubbell, Marie Flickenger, Ginger Coggins, Karen Vesole, Kay Shurgar, Jane Gulley, Shirley Garnett, Stacy Coggins, Nancy Wade, Aleta Newell, Maxine Hamilton, and Dick Carter.

Picture here from Nov. '95 MM p. 6

Miscellaneous - 1995

On December 7, 1995 the Master Gardeners held their annual Christmas party.

The membership present at the April monthly meeting voted to buy good reference books annually for the Master Gardener library at the Extension Office.

Linda Dantzler, '90, has started a Sunshine Committee to send cards or other acknowledgements in the event of illness, birth, death, etc. in the Master Gardener membership.

Ann Ward, '88, was elected Secretary by acclamation following her nomination by the nominating committee. She replaces Ann Bridgers, '91.

1996

Officers:

President	Jane Gulley
First Vice President	David Dodson
Second Vice President	Phyllis Watson
Secretary	Ann Ward
Treasurer	Ann Cooper

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter	Cheryl Kennedy, Editor
	Laura Lasiter, Data Entry
	Claude Epperson, Mailing List
Publicity Program	Cathy Rodgers
	Ruth Jones, Co-Chair
	Bettye Jane Daugherty, Co-Chair
Travel	Ray Sarmiento
Social	

Garden Projects - 1996

The Old State House

Dick Carter, '90, and Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, are the co-chairmen for the project. However, work has been temporarily discontinued while the building is being renovated.

Pinnacle Mountain

The March, 1996 Master Minutes reports "The unique challenge for the Pinnacle committee is the regulation that plantings are limited exclusively to flowers, plant and trees native to Arkansas. The committee is indebted to author Carl Hunter for the native plants he is furnishing." The new committee chairman is Martha Whitehurst, '94, with co-chairmen Maxine Hamilton, '90, and Bonnie Cargile, '92.

North Little Rock Old Mill

Linda Hubell, '90, is chairman of the project. Joe Dickens, '90, is co-chairman. In the August, 1996 Master Minutes there is an interesting history of the Old Mill. Excerpts from this written by Helen Hronas, '95, follow:

"Justin Matthews envisioned a memorial to the pioneer spirit when he commissioned Dionicio Rodriguez to create a free-form concrete sculpture in a ravine in the undeveloped wilds of Lakewood in 1932. Recognized as the foremost artisan of his time in this style of sculpture, Rodriguez did not disappoint - it is said that foresters can identify specific species of wood, so true to nature is his work.

Over the past 60 years, his twisted-branch bridges and mill in this quiet North Little Rock subdivision have become known far and wide. The classic '30s movie, "Gone With the Wind," opened with a lovely shot of the Old Mill. The structure has become a national tourist attraction, and an estimated 100,000 visitors see the park each year.

Master Gardeners are on call to meet sightseers who arrive in buses from all over the country. MGs conduct tours, giving historical background and discussing and identifying plants is the group has an interest in horticulture.....

Master Gardeners work closely with the North Little Rock Landscape Division since there is more work than could possibly be done by volunteers....."

Contemplation Garden

Lynn Coates, '94, and Debby Coates, '92, are co-chairmen. Lynn Coates reports in the June, 1996 Master Minutes that "seven duck nests slowed work down a bit, but the eggs have hatched, and committee members have sighted many baby ducklings swimming on the lake. Nice bonus, and a successful habitat created....."

State Hospital

Ruth Owings, '89, and Francis Young, '91, are the co-chairmen of the project. In the October, 1996 Master Minutes it was reported : "Congratulation to the State Hospital Committee! Beth received a glowing thank-you letter from the assistant hospital administrator, Addie Morris, Ph.D. Dr. Morris says they have received many wonderful comments about the beautiful flower beds maintained by Master Gardeners. The hard work is greatly appreciated."

State Hospital Greenhouse

Lois Corley, '91, is the chairman. Co-chairmen are Clark Taplin, '92, and Phyllis Watson, '93.

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held February 23, 24, and 25, 1996. The theme was "Beyond the Garden Gate". Board President-elect, Pat Green, '89, is the chairman of the the 1996 show. Cecilia Buck, '89, is chairman of the speakers committee. The Greenhouse committee each year nurtures the "Pink Dream" azaleas that provide the show logo.

Baptist Rehabilitation/Horticulture Therapy

Gail Roberson, '89, is chairman of the committee. Hilda Boger, '92, is co-chair.

Arts Center Courtyard

Lynn Coates, '94, is the chairman of the committee.

Jacksonville City Hall

Ken Milligan, '94, is the chairman; Dottie Heckenbach, '90, and Joan Zumwalt, '91, are co-chairmen. In the February, 1996 Master Minutes it says about the project, "Beginning three years ago, extensive beds have been developed incorporating four large berms and brick borders. The major display in the fall coordinates with the city's 'Mums, Music and Muscadines' festival, so the committee plants and tends 600 chrysanthemums, in addition to the other flowers and plants."

War Memorial Bus Stop

The July, 1996 Master Minutes says "The cheerful garden gracing the corner of West Markham and Fair Park Boulevard always catches the eye of passersby. It stays fresh and well-kept through the efforts of Master Gardeners.....Recently, tired pansies and daffodils were replaced by a winning combination of red salvia and white begonias. The background of mounded shrubs, specimen trees and quaint rock wall enhances the colorful display." The co-chairmen of the project are Wini Carter, '92, and Ann Cooper, '90.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Helen Hronas, '95, writes in the April, 1996 Master Minutes, "Mount Holly Cemetery is a shady, park-like oasis in the midst of downtown Little Rock and appears on the National Register of Historic Places." Nancy Wade, '88, is the chairman.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

The May, 1996 Master Minutes reports "The garden is pleasantly situated at the southeast corner of the mansion grounds and is surrounded by a neat white picket fence. There are convenient walkways within the 30 by 40-foot plot, and rich, black soil contributes to the success of the project." Bill Burgin, '92, is the chairman of the committee.

Victorian Cottage

This project was started in April, 1995. The 110-year-old cottage had been restored but the yard was an "untouched, unsightly patch of weeds and dirt..." The house is painted in typical Victorian colors - blue-grey with cream and brick-red trim. The Master Minutes of September, 1996 further states "An antique brick walk neatly laid out in herringbone-style is centered between segments of a sturdy white picket fence. Pale pink 'Early Dawn' and an old-fashioned red climbing rose trail across the fence. 'Sweet Autumn' clematis, salvaged by Master Gardeners from among the weeds, now climb a trellis at the corner porch columns and on the picket fence....". Marie Flickinger, '90, is the chairman of the project.

Pulaski County Extension Office

Debby Coates, '92, is the chairman of this project. Boon Nam Blackwell, '92, is the co-chairman.

Activities - 1996

On March 14, 1996 the Master Gardeners traveled to Camden to visit the gardens of Thera Lou Adams and Roxanne Danielson.

On April 12, 1996 the Master Gardeners toured the Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery.

On April 22-25, 1996 the Master Gardeners were on a trip to Texas. They toured the Tyler Rose Garden (home of 38,000 plants), Blue Mountain Nursery, lunch at the National Wildflower Research Center with an escorted tour of a wildflower meadow in full bloom. They visited the Zilker Botanical Gardens, toured with Madalene Hill, author of 'Southern Herb Growing' and founder of the Herb House in Round Top, Texas. Finally, the group visited the Antique Rose Emporium to see old roses, the Powell Plant Farm, which is the largest wholesale grower of bedding plants in the West, and the famous Marshall Pottery Factory of Marshall, Texas.

On May 17 a bus trip was planned for Memphis to visit the Memphis Botanical Gardens and Dixon Gallery Gardens.

The annual Family Picnic was held at Pinnacle Mountain State Park on June 4, 1996.

A tour of Master Gardeners' gardens drew a large crowd. The group toured the North Little Rock gardens of Max Thorn, '91, Jan King, '94, and Billie Massey, '95. The group had their sack lunch at the Old Mill.

On June 25, 1996 a bus trip was planned to the Clarksville Experimental Station.

On September 25-26, 1996 the Master Gardeners toured the Hodges Gardens in Natchez, Mississippi and the American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana.

The State Master Gardeners' Conference was held in Hot Springs, Arkansas on October 10-12, 1996.

On December 12, 1996 the annual Christmas party was held at the Adult Center on 12th Street in Little Rock.

Miscellaneous - 1996

Breck Campbell, '90, and Carl Hunter worked with the board of directors of the Aerospace Museum to develop a wildflower meadow to the east and west of the museum building. "There will periodically be opportunities for Master Gardeners to get involved with the planting", reports the April, 1996 Master Minutes. This is a short term Master Gardener project.

At the April, 1996 MG meeting Carl Hunter was thanked for all his contributions to the MG program by making him an honorary Master Gardener. He was presented with an official Master Gardener certificate and an MG cap at the meeting. He has worked extensively with the Pinnacle Mountain project.

On September 10, 1996 the Master Gardeners began meeting in the new Arkansas Cooperative Extension Building auditorium on University Avenue.

1997

Officers:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Past President

David Dodson
Bettye Jane Daugherty
Connie Smith
Ann Ward
Ann Cooper
Jane Gulley

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter

Nan Jo Dube, editor
Hilda Baldrige, data entry
Laurie Pierce, layout
Anita Chamberlin
Martha Jones

Social
Travel

Garden Projects - 1997

Pinnacle Mountain

Martha Whitehurst, '94, is the chairman of the project. Co-chairmen are Bonnie Cargile, '92, and Mackie Hamilton, '90. The December, 1996 Master Minutes reports: "Marilyn Dunavant, president, The Partners for Pinnacle, Inc., sent a very nice 'thank you' letter to Beth and the Pulaski County Master Gardeners on behalf of its board and members. They wanted to express their appreciation for the volunteer work that Master

Gardeners have given to Pinnacle Mountain State Park for several years. At least 100 Master Gardeners have provided labor and expertise for a number of important projects, including designing and/or maintaining the front of the Visitor Information Center, the front gate, the wildflower meadow and working in the Arboretum. Mrs. Dunavant said that the labor and expertise of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners have enhanced the park's natural attractions, and many visitors specifically mention the beauty of the Visitor Information Center's entrance. She also said that, without a doubt, the work of the Master Gardeners has contributed significantly to the natural allure of Pinnacle Mountain State Park. She extended their sincere gratitude for the excellent work the Pulaski County Master Gardeners have provided."

North Little Rock Old Mill

Wincie Hughes, '92, is the chairman of the project; Jack Singleton, '94, co-chairman in charge of tours.

Contemplation Garden

Kelly Quinn, '95, is the chairman of this project; Lisa Mantle, '95, is the co-chairman.

State Hospital

Marian Berry, '92, is the chairman of the State Hospital committee; Ruth Owings, '89, is the co-chairman.

Helen Hronas, '95, writes in the February, 1997 Master Minutes about the project: "Looking for plants that will withstand Arkansas' hot and dry summers? Many years of trial and error in the direct, all-day sunshine that beams down at the front entrance to the State Hospital Administrative Building made experts of some of these committee members! Last summer's plantings were so remarkably beautiful that Assistant Hospital Administrator, Dr. Addie Morris, wrote a glowing letter of appreciation to Beth Phelps for the efforts of this hardworking committee.....'It's been a real challenge to keep this bed looking fresh with a minimum of watering when it is in full sun and surrounded by brick and paving,' Marian Berry said."

State Hospital Greenhouse

Lois Corley, '91, is the chairman; Jim, '91, and Dorothy, '91, Wilkes are the co-chairmen.

Helen Hronas, '95, writes in the December, 1996 Master Minutes: "Tucked into a remote corner of the State Hospital grounds is a veritable beehive of activity - the Master Gardener greenhouse. An agreement made when Janet Carson was Pulaski County Extension Agent allows MGs the use of the greenhouse on the condition that MGs furnish plants for the flower garden in front of the State Hospital administrative building.....Their Number One priority is the production of flowers and vegetables for most Master Gardener projects, but they do many other things as well. Lois Corley, a five -year veteran MG who's been chairman of the committee since fall 1995, says the group begins its work each January when a shipment of azaleas arrives for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. MGs transplant the azaleas into six-inch pots and check them every day to keep moisture and temperature constant so they will be at peak bloom for the Flower and Garden Show in February.....then they plant seeds for annuals perennials, herbs and garden vegetables...." Their plants are used in the various MG projects; some are sold at spring sales to raise money. Proceeds of the greenhouse sales are used for seeds, plants and supplies so that the greenhouse is self-supporting.

Flower and Garden Show

The Show was held February 21-23, 1997 at the State House Convention Center. Breck Campbell, '90, and Jay Hill, '91, assigned the volunteer workers.

Baptist Rehabilitation

Gail Roberson, '89, is the chairman of this committee. Hilda Boger, '92, is co-chairman.

Helen Hronas, '95, writes in the November, 1996 Master Minutes about the origin of this committee: "Baptist Rehab personnel first suggested the idea to Janet Carson, and the committee's first chair, Jaine Waldron, '91, organized and implemented the plan. The committee uses plants to help patients engage in hands-on activities and actually becomes part of their therapy. While other MG projects work with plants, this one works directly with people, says current chairman, Gail Roberson.....The first two Saturdays of every month are work days, and each group (within the committee) is responsible for presenting the program at the Rehab Center every fourth time (about four to six times a year).....All the presentations have a 'plant' angle to them.....At one program, MGs helped patients do leaf rubbings which they made into greeting cards." Other projects have been to stencil flower pots and pot plants; making birdhouses out of gourds (which had been grown by the MG); and making dried wreaths and potpourri.

Art Center Courtyard

Jane Watkins, '96, is the chairman; Irene Davis, '90, the co-chair.

Jacksonville City Hall

Kenn Milligan, '94, Dottie Heckenbach, '90, and Joan Zumwalt, '91, are the co-chairmen of this committee.

War Memorial (Bus Stop)

Patty Wingfield, '94, and Kevin Allis, '94, are co-chairmen of this committee.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Nancy Wade, '88, is the chairman and Ruth Parker, '90, is the co-chairman.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

Karen Andersen, '95, is the chairman and Fred Henker, '91, is the co-chairman.

Victorian Cottage

Anne Jarrard, '95, and Marie Flickinger, '90, are the co-chairmen of this project. This cottage is known as the Barth-Hempfling House. It is located in North Little Rock at 507 Main Street. It was built in 1886.

Pulaski County Extension Office

Jane Gulley, '89, and Boon Nam Blackwell, '92, are the co-chairmen of this new committee.

Helen Hronas, '95, writes in the March, 1997 Master Minutes as follows: "While the public receives tons of helpful horticultural information there, the County Extension Office landscaping has not been exactly a great advertisement for the efficacy of that advice/.....Last fall a small group of MGs (Jane Gulley, '89, Boon-Nam and Quentin Blackwell, '92, Bobbye Dennis, '91, Jim Bowling '93, and Ann Ward, '88) struggled to remove at least forty thoroughly diseased rose bushes from the grounds. Weedy old beds were reshaped, edged, and planted with 200 Ice Follies jonquil bulbs and several white Cherokee crape myrtles....Boon Nam plans to concentrate on the lawn, a thin bermuda at present. With some feeding and water, it should spring back quickly."

River Market Committee

A new project has grown from the opening of the new River Market in Little Rock. The committee, chaired by Kathy Scheibner, '93, "gave away dozens of Jerusalem artichokes, gladioluses and canna bulbs (donated by MG) while conducting a mini-clinic to answer the horticulture questions of visitors. MGs staffed a booth provided free by the city and decorated with fresh slowlers and a special backdrop of the MGs logo with flowers painted on canvas by Lisa Mantle, '95. Committee members distributed educational pamphlets and helpful advice to the public all morning, concentrating this Saturday on growing annuals. Chairman Kathy Scheibner says plans are for the booth to be operated two Saturdays each month.....the River Market committee was established in Fall 1996."

Activities - 1997

On March 14 Master Gardeners took a daffodil trip to Old Washington State Park.

On May 7, 8, and 9th Janet Carson and Beth Phelps sponsored a trip entitled "Springtime in Saint Louis". The group flew to St. Louis; toured the Missouri Botanical Garden; toured the DeMenil and Cupples mansions; enjoyed a city tour which included a visit to the Cathedral of St. Louis ; and enjoyed a winery tour and tasting in Hermann, Missouri.

May 30 - Carl Hunter escorted MG on a Hot Springs tour.

The annual MG picnic was held on June 12 at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

A tour of Heifer Project International was held on July 8.

Several MGs attended the 1997 International Master Gardener's Conference in Sacramento, California on July 15 - 18.

Miscellaneous - 1997

The February, 1997 Master Minutes congratulated the following people for receiving their five year pins: Robert Murray, Ray Robbins, Dorothy Wilks, Jim Wilks, and Catherine Hepinstall.

The November, 1997 Master Minutes congratulated additional people who received their five-year pins: Marian Berry, Anthony Black, Boon-Nam Blackwell, Hilda Boger, Pam Bredlow, Bonnie Cargile, Wini Carter, Jim Christian, Bettye Jane Daugherty, Margaret Fizer, Kay Groce, Dorothy Hobbs, Lena Holland, Wincie Hughes, Jo Ann Jernigan, Roger Kordsmeier, Melba Lemond, Sandra Miller, Norma Parker, Alice Preston, Leslie Scott, Marge Van Egmond, and Mildred Walton.

The Statewide Master Gardener Meeting was held in Fayetteville, Arkansas on October 13-14, 1997.

North Little Rock Old Mill

The chairman was Wincie Hughes, '92; the co-chairman, Sue Anderson, '96.

Contemplation Garden

The chairman was Kelly Quinn, '95 ; the co-chairman, Lisa Hanson Mantle, '95.

State Hospital

This project was chaired by Connie Panos, '95; Marion Berry, '92, was co-chairman.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Lois Corley, '91, was chairman of this committee; Mary Evans, '90, was co-chairman.

Flower and Garden Show

The seventh annual Flower and Garden Show was held at the Statehouse Convention Center February 20-22, 1998. The theme was "Accents of Spring". The show featured landscaped gardens, garden seminars, a trade show, flower show, florist's competition and children's activities.

Baptist Rehabilitation

Aleta Newell, '90 , Hilda Boger, '92 , and Mildred Walton, '92, were co- chairman of this committee.

Art Center Courtyard

Suellen Roberts, '96, and Mary Ann Francis, '96, were co-chairmen.

Jacksonville City Hall

Rebecca Camp, '94, was chairman of the project.

War Memorial Park (Bus Stop)

Terri Bonner, '96, and Martha Chisenhall, '96, were co-chairmen.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Nancy Wade, '88, and Ruth Parker, '90, were co-chairmen.

Governor's Mansion Garden

Fred Henker, '91, and Mildred Walton, '92, were co-chairmen.

Victorian Cottage

Anne Jarrard, '95, was chairman of the project.

Pulaski County Extension Office

Jane Gulley, '89, was the chairman; Boon Nam Blackwell, '92, was the co-chairman.

River Market Downtown

Kathy Scheibner, '93, was the chairman; Pat Petkoff, '93, was the co-chairman.

Cammack Village UALR Fruit Garden

Ann Ward, '88, was the chairman of this project. This was a new project for 1998. See Projects - 2003 - for the history of this project.

Activities - 1998

Janet Carson led a Master Gardener tour of English Country Gardens May 13-22, 1998. The group visited the Chelsea Flower Show, Kew Gardens, Sissinghurst Garden, Sheffield Park Garden, and Exbury Court Gardens.

The annual Master Gardener picnic was held on June 12, 1998 at Pinnacle Mountain.

The Master Gardener state meeting was held in Little Rock September 28-29, 1998. Pat Green, '89, was chairman of the event which took place at the C. A. Vines 4-H Center in Ferndale.

A fall foliage shopping tour was planned for October to tour Northwest Arkansas. The group visited Terra Studios, Holland Wildflower Farm, and Ames Fruit Orchard.

Miscellaneous - 1998

The Green Team, in its fourth year of existence in 1998, is a six-week garden club program at Immaculate Conception School in North Little Rock. The program developed by Master Gardener, Margaret Fizer, '92, "is to encourage young people to explore all aspects of gardening while fostering stewardship of the earth and its beauty."

The gardeners are in the third to eighth grade. The five teams of children with their adult volunteers maintain five gardens on the grounds of Immaculate Conception School. There are three flower gardens, designed by Master Gardener Margaret Breen, '97, one herb garden, and one vegetable garden. The vegetable garden is a "Square Foot Garden" planned by Margaret Fizer.

Speakers enhance the gardening experience. Recycling is taught through the Green Team Recycles program.

Master Gardener gardening aprons were sold for \$15.00. The aprons were made by Master Gardeners. They featured big pockets for pruners, cell phones, or other tools. The funds raised went into the treasury to be used to help on garden projects or buy books for the Master Gardener library.

A Master Gardener story for the history books

This true story, "At the Intersection of Flowers and Faith" was written by Jack Singleton, '94.

"I was at the Old Mill, doing some weeding and deadheading, and was dressed appropriately for such an effort. We'd had a rain the day before and the weeds were a joy to pull. I tend to be a messy, barehanded weeder, and the soil was still damp, so after an hour of work, my hands, face, and jeans were stylishly grunge.

A young couple arrived dressed in their Sunday best, and was soon joined by a dozen friends. It was obvious they had come for an Old Mill wedding, and they visited with friends, joked and laughed and occasionally looked at their watches. As time passed, they joked less and checked watches more, and finally the young couple came over to me and she asked, "Do you happen to know a minister?" It seems the pastor who was to help with the wedding had not arrived, and they needed a backup.

"I'm a pastor," I said. Sharing this news, I stood up from the weeding task and watched as the young people took a step backwards to observe perhaps the grubbiest gardener in the history of their brief lives. I could see disbelief in their eyes. What they really wanted from me was a reputable minister's name or phone number. My vocational authenticity on the line, I washed my hands in the lake, and retrieved my ministerial credentials card from my wallet. The couple moved a short distance away and joined in an animated discussion of the merits of using a gardener - even a Master Gardener - as a wedding officiant. It's mentally hard to move from weeding official to wedding official on such short notice. I took a break, then returned to my chores. Another ten minutes passed, and the couple conferred, and then approached me once more to see if I would help out.

The wedding was now an hour late, the guests restless, and the dirt under my nails was now less troubling to their spirits. The bride-to-be asked if I didn't need a book or something to do a wedding? "No," I replied, "after 30 years of weddings, I think we can manage it together." So the little late wedding party gathered on the edge of the lake, and with their friends and family standing behind them, and the "grunge officiant" in front of them, the young couple began married life together.

It wasn't the perfect wedding. I learned long ago there is no such thing. But it might have been a good beginning for a life together - with all the surprises and adaptations that any marriage will require. Creating a beautiful marriage is like creating a garden. It takes planning, lots of hard work, a willingness to change, taking care of "weeds", hope in what the future will bring, and looking beyond the failures, so that one day your breath is taken away by the beauty of the endeavor."

Jack Singleton was pastor of the First Christian Church, Sherwood, when this incident took place.

1999

Officers:

President	Connie Ruth Smith
First Vice President	Martha Jones
Second Vice President	Carolyn Newbern
Secretary	Patty Wingfield
Treasurer	Kevin Allis
Past President	Bettye Jane Daugherty

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter	Rose Hogan, Chairman Cheryl Kennedy, Co-chairman
Social	*Susan Crisp, Chairman
Speakers Bureau	Linda Dantzler, Chairman Bettye Jane Daugherty, Co-chair
Sunshine	Linda Dantzler, Chairman
Travel	Nancy Cockman, Chairman Jean Moffett, Co-chairman

*Susan Crisp resigned in March, 1999. She was replaced by Jane Druff, '96.

Garden Projects - 1999

The Old State House

It was reported in the June, 1999 Master Minutes the following report of the Old State House which has been undergoing renovation: "With the gala reopening of the First State Capital on Markham less than three weeks away, Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, chairman, reports that 35 Master Gardeners are poised to extend the restoration onto the grounds. Already 'New Dawn' roses have been planted along the fence on the north edge (the LaHarpe side. Ed Garetson, who is in charge of the grounds, expects the fountain in the front of the building to be installed the first week in June. After that, Master Gardeners will work their magic on the grounds around the fountain, as well as at the entrance of the building."

The Master Minutes of December/January 2000 reports that "The Old State House is slated to appear in a Department of Parks and Tourism advertisement."

Pinnacle Mountain

Jeanne Lizar, '93, is the chairman.

A wildflower and butterfly demonstration garden was designed by Master Gardeners. A wildflower meadow is the latest addition to the project.

The Master Minutes

Rose Hogan, '97, chairman/editor
Cheryl Kennedy, '94, co-chairman/layout

North Little Rock Old Mill

Rochelle Greenwood, '97, chairman

Sue Anderson, '96, co-chairman

Beth Phelps writes in a May, 1999 letter to the membership: "Thanks to the North Little Rock Horticulture Society for their donation of \$75 to be used on the Old Mill project. The group is disbanding and liquidated their bank account. The note addressed to the Master Gardeners said 'Thank you so much, you do a good job. The Old Mill is so pretty. We are so proud of it.'"

Contemplation Garden

Lisa Mantle, '95, is the chairman.

This garden, located in MacArthur park is a memorial garden dedicated to victims of violent crime. The Master Gardeners plant and maintain seasonal color, prune and perform general maintenance on this garden working very closely with the City of Little Rock's Parks and Recreation Department.

State Hospital

Connie Panos, '95, is the chairman.

Marian Berry, '92, is the co-chairman.

Master Gardeners design, plant and maintain flower beds in front of the Administration Building at the State Hospital. In exchange for this effort the State Hospital gives the Master Gardeners the use of the greenhouse.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Mary Evans, '90, is the chairman.

Lois Corley, '91, is the co-chairman.

One of the projects of this committee is to force a greenhouse full of pink azaleas for the Flower and Garden Show.

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held February 19-21, 1999 at the Statehouse Convention Center. The Pulaski County Master Gardeners provide the majority of the 250 volunteers necessary to run the show. Several Master Gardeners also serve on the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show board.

Baptist Rehabilitation Horticulture Therapy

Mildred Walton, '92, is the chairman.

The Master Gardeners plan and present a horticulture therapy program two Saturdays a month at Baptist Rehabilitation Institute.

Art Center Courtyard

Suellen Roberts, '96, is the chairman
Jim Campbell, '97, is the co-chairman.

In the December/January 2000 Master Minutes "Suellen Roberts describes the Arkansas Arts Center as a container gardening project. The committee tends the inner and outer courtyards and the entrance and curbside planters. Since the Arts Center sits on city property, the plants, fertilizer, and mulch are provided by the city of Little Rock greenhouse. The past two summers' heat and drought have presented a real challenge - the containers demanded a 'two-a-day' watering schedule."

Jacksonville City Hall

Rebecca Camp, '94, is chairman.
Dottie Heckenbach, '90, is co-chairman.

This committee designs, plants and maintains the flowerbeds in front of the new City Hall in Jacksonville. Planting mums for the Mums, Music and Muscadine Festival held at the end of September is a major part of this project.

War Memorial Park (Bus Stop)

Dick, '90, and Wini, '92, Carter are the co-chairmen.

At the entrance to War Memorial Park at the corner of Fair Park and Markham Streets in Little Rock, Master Gardeners design, plant, and maintain a large flower bed with color all year.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Sally Sanderson, '95, is the chairman.

On the National Historic register Mt. Holly Cemetery has lots of heritage roses planted many years ago. Master Gardeners working on this project are trying to save the older plants, propagate the heritage roses, and grow them on the wrought iron fence around the cemetery.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

Aleta Newell, '90, is the chairman.
Fred Henker, '91, is the co-chairman.

In the December/January 2000 Master Minutes chairman Aleta Newell says "the January 21 tornado provided needed sunlight for project vegetables by removing trees at the Governor's Mansion. Dry weather forced additional watering, and the committee will build up the soil this next season. Mansion kitchen personnel gather and use the produce daily."

Victorian Cottage

Anne Jarrard, '95, is the chairman.

The April, 1999 Master Minutes describes the project as "providing a period landscape and kitchen herb garden at the Victorian Cottage, an historic home in downtown North Little Rock."

Pulaski County Extension Office

Betty Pagan, '97, is the chairman.
Guy Baltz, '97, is the co-chairman.
Boon-Nam Blackwell, '92, is turf chairman.

The Master Gardeners have re-landscaped the grounds of the Extension Office with several perennial beds, a foundation planting and seasonal flower beds.

River Market

Kathy Scheibner, '93, is the chairman.
Pat Petkoff, '93, is the co-chairman.

Master Gardeners staff a clinic at the Little Rock River Market twice a month on Saturday to accept soil samples, give timely gardening tips and answer landscape/garden questions for the general public.

Cammack Home Fruit Demonstration

Ann Ward, '88, is the chairman.

A small committee helps University of Arkansas fruit crops specialists maintain this planting of strawberries, blackberries, grapes, and blueberries. It is hoped that this garden will eventually be a home fruit production demonstration.

Park Hill Water Works

The Art Deco building is located in the Park Hill area of North Little Rock and houses the North Little Rock History Commission. The Pulaski County Master Gardeners are in the process of designing and developing the landscape.

Speakers Bureau

Linda Dantzler, '90, and Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, are co-chairmen of this committee

Master Gardeners with expertise in specific areas volunteer to present educational programs to civic organizations, church groups, neighborhood associations and garden clubs.

Activities - 1999

The statewide Master Gardener conference was held in Camden, Arkansas April 12-13, 1999.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners received several awards: Jack Singleton, '94, for his *Funny Bone Award-winning story about taking Miss Laura's girls on a tour of the Old Mill; the Master Minutes received the Outstanding Newsletter Award based on three issues from January, 1998-March, 1999.

Ten Master Gardeners received ten-years of service pins: Cecilia Buck, Sally Garrison, Jane Gulley, Ellen Kane, Pat Marchese, Ruth Owings, Olivia Patterson, Gail Roberson, Martha Staples and Don Thompson.

Twenty-one Master Gardeners received five-years of service pins.

*The Funny Bone story by Jack Singleton can be read in its entirety in the June, 1999 issue of the Master Minutes.

The headline read: "Join Us For 'Paris In April' - And London, Too!" On April 27, 1999 the Master Gardeners toured Pine Ridge Gardens, northwest of London (AR). The group then drove from London to Paris (AR) to visit Subiaco Academy for a tour of the grounds and lunch. From Subiaco the group traveled west through Paris to Branch to visit Carden-Harris Nursery. Finally, back to Mt. Magazine for a half-mile wildflower walk.

Janet Carson and Kruger Tours led a Master Gardener tour of Southern Gardens. The featured gardens on the tour included: the Biltmore Estate, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens in Nashville, Gardens of the Opryland Hotel, Plant Delights in Raleigh, McMinnville Nurseries, University of Tennessee Trial Gardens and the arboretum at the University of North Carolina. The tour was May 2 - 8, 1999.

On May 20, 1999 the Master Gardeners traveled to Hot Springs, boarded the Belle of Hot Springs and arrived at the Garvan Woodland Gardens by water. Garland County Master Gardeners led the tour which included the rose garden, Japanese Maple hill, and hydrangeas among others.

The annual picnic was held at the 4H Center, Ferndale, AR on June 3, 1999. Featured events were: a wildflower walk with Carl Hunter, a bar-b-que dinner, and a plant swap.

The annual Pulaski County Master Gardener tour of gardens was held on June 8, 1999. The tour began at the Cammack Village research plots and continued to the homes of : Ruth Jones, '90, Kathleen Wesson, '94, and Lou, '97, and Cathy Sanders, '94. The tour concluded at the Pulaski County Extension Office with sack lunches.

The 1999 International Master Gardener Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas August 19 - 22, 1999 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. The theme was "The World of Gardening".

The annual Winter Holiday party was held at St. James Methodist Church on December 7, 1999. A social time, a pot luck dinner, and entertainment were featured.

Miscellaneous - 1999

A Brief History of the Master Gardener program

The April, 1999 issue of the Master Minutes had a brief history of the program written by Cheryl Kennedy. Exerpts follow from that article:

"MGs come to the rescue in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and four Canadian provinces. Most of the public's questions are answered by phone, but sometimes people show up in person for help, sample in hand, and in some areas, MGs even make house calls."

"Washington state initiated the Master Gardener program in the early '70s. Dr. David Gibby, then an extension agent in the Seattle-Tacoma area, had been experimenting with mass media to reach the public, but that only increased demand - he had ever more people to reach, and on a 'very low budget.'"

"After some more brain-storming, he decided to offer training to gardeners in exchange for their providing answers to the public. The first MG class of 120, trained in 1973, was an immediate success. The program quickly spread to other counties and then to other states."

"Pulaski, Garland, Saline and Jefferson were the first counties to bring Master Gardening to Arkansas, getting into the act in 1988."

Pulaski County Master Gardeners in the News

"The June 6, 1999 Arkansas Times included a supplement which highlighted Master Gardeners Rita Hopkins Johnson, '95, Nancy and Duncan Porter, '94, and Jane Gulley, '89, as well as the Old Mill, a Master Gardener project."

"The Contemplation Garden in MacArthur Park provided the opportunity for an enticing feature photo for the picnicking article in the June 25, 1999 Weekend magazine published by the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette."

A Study Committee is Formed

Martha Jones, '95, Master Gardener president formed a study committee to "take a look at where we've been and where we want to go in the future.....begin by looking at our objectives as stated in the By-Laws to see how we are doing so far and then consider how we can more effectively meet these objectives, change or add to them as needed, and consider the future....."

The first meeting of the 18-member committee met on November 16, 1999. The committee consists of past presidents, the current executive board, and several at-large members.

A Statewide Advisory Board Formed

"An advisory board has been formed to help with planning and guidelines as the Master Gardener program continues to grow. The representatives for the southeast district, which includes Pulaski County, are Gail Northcutt, Arkansas County, and Gerald Andrews, Jefferson County. Martha Jones from Pulaski County will serve as an alternate."

"The first meeting of the Board was held in August, 1999. The discussion included the diversity of size, age, and management of the county programs and the need for advanced Master Gardener training - a train-the-trainer type system....."

"The board decided to form committees to work on the following areas: a start-up manual, i.e. bylaws and guidelines; recruiting and retaining volunteers; project guidelines; public relations; and district training/events."

2000

Officers:

President	Martha Jones
First Vice President	Carolyn Newbern
Second Vice President	Suellen Roberts
Secretary	Sandy Harrison
Treasurer	John Prather

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter	Rose Hogan
	Cheryl Kennedy
Travel	Paul McDonnell
	Jean Moffett
Social	Jane Druff
Sunshine	Linda Dantzler

Garden Project - 2000

The Old State House

Sylvia Orton, '98, and Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, are the co-chairmen. According to the March, 2000 Master Minutes "In June of 1999 we were allowed to resume a popular Master Gardening project at the Old State House. The second oldest of our gardening projects, started in 1990, was put on hold for three years during the renovation/reconstruction of the building.

"The highlight of the grounds is the garden surrounding the restored 19th century Victorian fountainSurrounded by dwarf boxwoods and Boston ferns, the edge of the fountain is lined by grape hyacinth and narcissus.....Giant pansies provide color in the winter in the flat beds located in front and behind the fountain. In the summer, impatiens will fill the beds. Also highlighting the area are tulips and daffodils."

Pinnacle Mountain

Jeanne Lizar, '93, is the chairman.

North Little Rock Old Mill

Rochelle Greenwood, '97, and Sue Anderson, '96, are the co-chairmen.

Contemplation Garden

Lisa Mantle, '95, is the chairman.

State Hospital

Rose Bradley, '98, and Marian Berry, '92, are the co-chairmen.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Lois Corley, '91, and Mary Evans, '90, are the co-chairmen. According to an article in the September, 2000 Master Minutes: "In early September, the Greenhouse will receive approximately 10,000 annual and perennial starts. The starts are shipped in 11" x 22" flats containing around 250 plants each.

Within two days, the MG's will have transplanted the starts into six-packs and four-inch pots. At that time, the nurturing begins, which includes daily watering and attention.

Six weeks later, voila! We all have the plants we need for our projects and the rest are available to MG's at the Greenhouse's fall sale.....Following the fall plantings and sale, the Greenhouse Committee will start in January getting ready for the annual Flower and Garden Show. The trick is to force-bloom azaleas so they will be in full color at just the right time.....Immediately following the Flower and Garden Show, the committee will receive the order on all the spring annuals and perennials. The same planting and nurturing schedules followed in the fall must now be repeated."

"Thanks to Granite Mountain Quarries and the Pulaski County Public Works Department, the Greenhouse Committee now has an outside shade house to expand its growing area."

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held February 25-27. The theme was "Flying Colors". There were 90 booths, 7 gardens, the florist competition, the flower show, and the butterfly house.

Baptist Rehabilitation Horticulture Therapy

Debbie Cummings, '95, and Sandi Kosowski, '97, are co-chairmen.

Art Center Courtyard

Co-chairmen for the project are Suellen Roberts, '96, and Jim Campbell, '97.

Jacksonville City Hall

Kathlene Cole, '96, is the chairman.

War Memorial Park (Bus Stop)

Bill Trimble, '98, is the chairman.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Co-chairmen of the project are Sally Sanderson, '95, and Alice Holcomb, '97.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

Aleta Newell, '90, and Claudia Stallings, '98, are the co-chairmen.

Pulaski County Extension Office

Julia Loyall, '96, and Joan Humphries, '98, are the co-chairmen.

According to an article in the November 2000 Master Minutes: "The Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office on Roosevelt Road has six small plots on campus which demonstrate six types of turf grass suitable and commercially available in the Pulaski County area and elsewhere in Arkansas. These show samples of Tifgreen Bermuda, Saint Augustine, Zoysia Matrella, Zoysia Z52 (Meyer), Zoysia El Toro and a blend of several turf-type fescues.....Project lawn team captain Guy Baltz, '97, started each plot this spring with sod obtained from local nurseries and grass farms. The unusual summer heat caused early loss of the fescue sod, which is being replaced now that 100 degree days seem to be behind us."

River Market Clinic

Laura Anne Wilson, '98, and Barbara Johnson, '93, are the co-chairmen.

Cammack Fruit Demonstration

Ruth Owings, '89, is the chairman.

Park Hill Water Works

Peggy Gay, '97, and Eddie Beasley, '97, are co-chairmen.

State Extension Office

Judy Cass, '97, is the chairman.

A Special Project - The Green Team

According to the June, 2000 Master Minutes: "The Green Team at the Immaculate Conception School in North Little Rock....tackles gardening with an attitude that ensures the Master Gardener program will be carried on well into the future!

"The Green Team was started by Margaret Fizer, '92. Six years ago, there was a lot of talk about local gang activity. Margaret was looking for a way to counter the negatives of gangs with something positive, and came up with the idea of starting her own gang - the Green Team.

"Kim Booth, , has continued with Margaret Fizer's concepts for the last two years, as well as Margaret Breen, '97, for plant selection, garden design and major support of the students!.....

"The Green Team sessions included "The Beneficials", planting/work sessions, a Wild Life lesson with a real alligator, naming the gardens and painting clay pots, complete with begonias for Mother's Day. Past Green Teams have studied birds, butterflies, and honeybees.

"Each year the Green Team plants five gardens on the grounds of Immaculate Conception School. Naming the gardens allows the students to claim the space and fosters pride in ownership for the year.

The gardens for the year 2000 were named "Yo Mama's" - gardens surrounding a wooden patio with all-white blooming plants as well as Solomon's seal, hostas, etc.

"The Big 'V'" is a small vegetable garden planted on the 'square foot' gardening concept.

"Funny Faces" is the name given to a large, colorful butterfly garden.

"Flower Power" is a garden with nandinas, pansies, hostas, and dianthus.

"The Red Worm Wigglers" is an herb garden.

Beth Phelps announced two new committees in her November 2, 2000 letter:

Habitat for Humanity Project - Master Gardeners would serve as mentors to new home owners.

Youth Garden Resource Committee - "Jack Singleton, '94, is working on this committee which will meet from time to time to share youth gardening experiences, successes and failures, with teachers, parents and others interested in starting a youth gardening project."

Activities - 2000

A group of Master Gardeners traveled with Janet Carson to the Philadelphia Flower Show, Longwood Gardens, Winterthur, and Bartram Gardens March 4-7.

On March 21 the Master Gardeners made a trip to Char Rouch's garden of daffodils.

Master Gardeners went on a "Dallas A' Bloom" trip to the Dallas Arboretum April 7-9.

The annual statewide Master Gardener meeting was held at Fairfield Bay, April 23-25.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners made a trip to Faulkner County on April 13.

The annual spring picnic was held at The Old Mill in North Little Rock on May 18. Hors d'oeuvres were served at the Mill and bar b-q at the Lakewood Pavilion.

A Master Gardener tour of the Grandview Prairie Wildflowers was held on June 15. Grandview Prairie is a part of Arkansas' prairie land that has never been plowed and is preserved by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. A stop was made at the Old Columbus Herb Farm.

On October 26-27 the Master Gardeners traveled to Eureka Springs for a Fall Foliage tour. Stops were made at the Eureka Springs Gardens and Thorncrown Chapel.

The annual Winter Holiday Party was a pot luck at the Burns Park Hospitality House on December 11.

Miscellaneous - 2000

(Insert page about Futuring Committee at December 1999)
(Also insert green sheet about Continuing Education Survey at May 31, 2000.)

The home of Pulaski Master Gardener Virginia Johnson, '91, was featured February 6 on HGTV. The program is called "Restore America", and Bob Vila hosts the show.

The Master Minutes for February, 2000 reported the following information: "Altogether we put 7,291 hours into our projects during 1999. We spent 5,016 hours learning more about gardening.....We gave 2,054 hours to community outreach, and another 1,140 hours helping people when they called in to the Cooperative Extension Office with their gardening questions. That's a total of 15,501 hours in just one year!"

Ten year Volunteer Service Awards went to the following Master Gardeners: Breck Campbell, Dick Carter, Ann Cooper, Linda Dantzler, Irene Davis, Marie Flickinger, Ruth Gibson, Pat Green, Dottie Heckenbach, Marcia Holder, Linda Hubbell, Ruth Jones, Aleta Newell and Dorothy Veirs.

The Discovery Museum in Little Rock asked Master Gardeners to participate in a Bug Fest July 7-9 with an informational booth to promote the MG program and our projects, as well as, answer gardening questions. Margaret Breen, '97, and Trudy Goolsby, '95, were among the MG volunteers.

Master Gardeners were featured in Southern Living magazine - Nancy and Duncan, '94, Porter's porch and garden in May; Jan King's, '94, garden in June.

Mentors are used for the Master Gardener trainees. Beth writes in a July 31, 2000 letter: "This is a great opportunity to get to know new volunteers entering the program. Mentors responsibilities include contacting their trainees before the classes begin, touching base with them during the training, and encouraging them to come to the monthly meetings.....The purpose of mentors is to make the new Master Gardeners feel welcome and a part of the group."

Beth writes in the same letter about Arkansas' charter Junior Master Gardener Group, the Oakbrooke Green Team with Team leader, Jack Singleton, '94.

A Master- Gardeners-Only Web site! In the October 2000 Master Minutes it is reported that "this web site is meant to aid program management and promote communications between the counties. It is new and still under construction. At times, the site may be inaccessible while changes and updates are being made."

Changes made in MG reporting: "Starting January 1, 2001 no travel time to and from projects can be reported."

2001

Officers:

President	Jane Druff
First Vice President	Lou Sanders
Second Vice President	Nancy Kirsch
Secretary	Jean Moffett
Treasurer	John Prather
Past President	Suellen Roberts

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter	Rose Hogan, Chairman Cheryl Kennedy, Co-chair
Travel	Paul McDonnell
Social	Susan Crisp
Sunshine	Linda Dantzler

Garden Projects - 2001

The Old State House

The Chairman was Sylvia Orton, '98. Co-chairmen were Bettye Jane Daugherty, '92, and Cyndy Daugherty, '98.

The Old State House Garden was featured in January on Janet Carson's AETN TV program, "Today's Garden".

The Old State House was selected as the Arkansas Master Gardener Project of the Year at the Statewide Master Gardener Conference in Ft. Smith.

Pinnacle Mountain

Marie Jordan, '91, Chairman; Nancy Kirsch, '98, Co-chairman; Lisa Ferris, '98, Saturday Chair; and Lisa Booth, '99, Greenhouse Chair.

North Little Rock Old Mill

Marilyn Wheeler, '96, Chairman; Anita Chamberlin, '94, Co-chairman.

Contemplation Garden

Lisa Mantle, '95, Chairman; Myra Runyon, '95, Co-chairman.

State Hospital

Rose Bradley, '98, Chairman; Marian Berry, '92, Co-chairman.

State Hospital Greenhouse

Lois Corley, '91, Chairman; Ann Morgan, '97, Co-chairman.

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held at the Little Rock Convention Center March 2-4. The theme was "The Nature of Things...Celebrating 10 Years of Gardens".

Baptist Rehabilitation Horticulture Therapy

Debbie Cummings, '95, Chairman; Jerry Quick, '91, Co-chairman.

Art Center

Suellen Roberts, '96, Chairman; Jim Campbell, '97, Co-chairman.

Jacksonville City Hall

Kathlene Cole, '96, Chairman; Joanna Wilson, '96, Co-chairman.
Quoting from the November, 2001 Master Minutes a little history of the project:

"This property held military facilities during the war years. James Reed, the previous mayor, wanted fast-growing Jacksonville to have a larger city hall appropriate to its increasing size. When the government offered the land for sale, he urged the city to purchase it.....

At the time, the director of City Beautification was Ophelia Blasingame, an accomplished gardener who designed the landscape. It was she who obtained the massive rocks which anchor the entrance beds and add interest and textural contrast around the lawn.....

Following Ophelia's design, the city constructed three oblong raised beds with low brick walls along West Main Road....and two kidney-shaped berms.....Joan Zumwalt, '91, designed the row of pines and long oval berm along the freeway access road.

At first, Master Gardeners Joan Zumwalt and Dotty Heckenbach, '90, worked as volunteers on the gardens. Joan particularly pushed for it to become a Master Gardener project, which was approved in April, 1993."

War Memorial (Bus Stop)

Bill Trimble, '98, Chairman.

Mount Holly Cemetery

Sally Sanderson, '95, Chairman.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

Elizabeth Dillon, '97, Chairman; Claudia Stallings, '98, Co-chairman.

Pulaski County Extension Office

Julia Loyall, '96, Chairman; Joan Humphries, '98, Co-chairman. The September, 2001 Master Minutes reported on the expansion of the herb garden as follows:

"The Pulaski County Extension Office project Committee is proud of the newly expanded demonstration herb garden. This year, the herb garden's size has doubled and reaches far closer to the street, with a figure-of-eight design of interlocking ovals. Betty Pagan, '97, who planned and began the first section of the garden in early 1998, planned the addition; Ellen Kane, '89, helped plant, and the Master Gardener team maintains it.....

Layout of both sections of the garden follows the traditional open knot garden concept. Outer borders are low-growing plants which eventually form a hedge. Paths make the garden open for the visitor to enjoy and the gardener to harvest."

River Market

Laura Anne Wilson, '98, Chairman; Claudia Barone, '99, Co-chairman.

Cammack - U of A Systems

?, Chairman; Ann Ward, '88, Co-chairman.

Park Hill Water Works

Margaret Breen, '97, Chairman; Eddie Beasley, '97, Co-chairman.

State Extension Office

According to the May, 2001 Master Minutes:

"The state office on South University Avenue is unique as a Master Gardener project because it currently has no specific chairman or committee. Instead, we are all on call when Beth Phelps needs a crew to pull weeds or plant annuals. Keeping the entrance beds full of color is the extent of our involvement at present, and it's fun to contribute to such a splendid landscape.....

Master Gardeners Judy Cass, '97, and Denise Rowland, '97, originally in charge of the committee, thought they would need a giant committee when they first saw the ground. Judy chaired and co-chaired nearly four years, but, as the permanent plantings progressed, the annual beds did not provide enough work for a committee to earn required hours. She especially enjoyed mentoring a group of 4H teens from 9th and 10th grades as they did community service in the entrance garden."

Activities - 2001

On March 22 a group of Master Gardeners toured the daffodil garden of Char Rouch as well as Bixler's Gardens.

On March 25-27 the Statewide Master Gardener conference was held in Ft. Smith. The theme was "Roots, Shoots, Baskets and Boots."

Master Gardeners toured Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs on April 17.

On April 22 Master Gardeners visited Jeb Leggett's Nursery at Mt. Vernon.

On August 22-26 Janet Carson hosted a tour "Vancouver Gardens of British Columbia. A group of Pulaski County MG joined her for that tour.

The annual Master Gardener picnic was held on May 24 at the Old Mill and Lakewood Pavilion. The picnic featured bar-b-q and a plant exchange.

Several Pulaski County Master Gardeners attended the International Master Gardener conference at Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, Florida on May 28-June 1.

On June 5 the annual tour of Master Gardener's gardens was enjoyed by a large group of Master Gardeners.

An unusual program at our monthly Master Gardener meeting was a panel of Master Gardener experts: Breck Campbell, '90, Mary Evans, '90, Jane Gulley, '89, Jan King, '94, and Beth Phelps.

The new Master Gardeners were taken on September 26 on a tour of the current Master Gardener projects.

On December 4 the annual Christmas Social was held at the University Park Adult Leisure Center on 12th Street.

Miscellaneous - 2001

Statewide Advisory Board. " The Master Gardener Advisory Board is made up of 10 Master Gardeners from around the state. Two individuals serve from each district and there are two "at large" positions. Each person on the board serves for two years on a rotating basis.

Pulaski County is in the Southeast District. Garil Northcutt, term expiration 2002, from Arkansas County, and Gerald Andrews, term expiration 2001, from Jefferson County, are our representatives. Martha Thompson, Pulaski County, is the alternate. Jane Druff, '96, is our nominee to replace Gerald when his term expires."

In Beth Phelps' April letter she states "Jane has been appointed to the Statewide Master Gardener Advisory Board.....They work on guidelines, policies and planning for the Master Gardener program in Arkansas."

Master Gardener Educator Program. In Beth Phelps' April letter to the membership she states ""Applications are now being accepted for the Master Gardener Educator Program. This is a train the trainer type program being offered at the state level to train Master Gardeners as experts in subject areas. These Master Gardener Educators will then conduct Master Gardener training in their area of expertise around the state. The first 2 areas of training will be herbaceous ornamentals and vegetables/herbs."

The following Master Gardeners have completed 10 years active volunteer service: Ann Bridgers, Lois Corley, Mary Evans, Carolyn Henslee, Sarah Henson, Catherine Hepinstall, Jay Hill, Virginia Johnson, Marie Jordan, Mary Lee McHenry, Jerry Quick, Lavon Spears, Dorothy Wilks, James Wilks, and Frances Young.

(Insert sheet from May, 2001 concerning Proposed Changes to Bylaws)

In Beth Phelps' June letter she says "Thanks to everyone who volunteered with the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Garden Tour. Master Gardeners were asked to be in the gardens to answer questions and identify plants. This certainly fits into the goal of providing education and extending the efforts of the Cooperative Extension Service. The Council of Garden Clubs has made a \$300.00 donation to the Pulaski County Master Gardener Association in appreciation of Master Gardener participation."

The July Master Minutes reports "The first 'Friend of the Master Gardener Award' was presented to Marilyn Mason, Bryan Day and Joe Scerbo in the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department Horticultural Division. They raise and furnish the plants (and provide manpower and mulch) for the Arkansas Arts Center, the Contemplation Garden and War Memorial Park projects."

The August, 2001 issue of Active Years, a monthly magazine with local features had a story about Jack Singleton, '94, and his Oakbrooke Elementary School project, the Green Team.

A Master Gardener-only web page! Beth relates the following information in her October, 2001 letter: "Remember there is a Master Gardener only page on the Cooperative Extension Service Web Site. The Master Minutes can be found there in color. Go to www.uaex.edu, click on Home and Garden, click on Master Gardener, and scroll the menu on the left of your screen to Master Gardener Only Site. Click on it. The username is `mastergardener`, the password is `compost`. This is also where you can find out what's happening with Master Gardening around the state."

Dues increase. At the October PCMG meeting, the membership voted to increase the dues to \$15.00 per year. New Master Gardeners do not pay dues the first year.

The December, 2001 Master Minutes states "Our sincere appreciation to the anonymous friend who paid the fee to use the State Extension Office auditorium for the Pulaski County Master Gardener meetings in 2002."

Project time. "Last year (2001) MG's donated more than 10,162 hours to horticultural causes in Pulaski County. The CES values each hour of our time at \$14.20. That means our work in 2001 was worth more than \$144,300 (not to mention the increased value of the properties we cared for!)"

2002

Officers:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Carolyn Newbern
Nancy Kirsch
Dick Blankenkober
Pat Green
John Prather

Committee Chairmen:

Newsletter
Publicity

Program
Travel
Social
Speakers Bureau
Sunshine

Linda Moyer
Cheryl Kennedy and Suellen
Roberts

Ila Newberry
Susan Crisp
Pat Green
Linda Dantzler

Garden Projects - 2002

The Old State House - Patty Wingfield, '94, chairman

Pinnacle Mountain - Nancy Kirsch, '98, chairman; Marie Jordan, '91, co-chairman; and Lisa Ferris, '98, Saturday chairman

North Little Rock Old Mill - Marilyn Wheeler, '96, chairman; Anita Chamberlin, '94, co-chairman.

Contemplation Garden

State Hospital - Carol Mendel, 2000, and Merilyn Tilley, 2000, are co-chairmen of the project. According to the Helen Hronas, '95, reporting in the August Master Minutes "An imaginative, updated landscape was approved for the garden in the Fall 2001, and included rock paths that meander to a garden bench, bird bath and butterfly houses. We now had just the two large gardens on each side of the flagpole and the small strip behind it. Fifty dwarf boxwoods, a rock bench, concrete birdbath, and stepping-stones were donated. Carl Hunter, Arkansas' favorite wildflower expert gave us seeds and made himself available as our 'mentor'."

State Hospital Greenhouse - Lois Corley, '91, chairman; Ann Morgan, '97, co-chairman.

Flower and Garden Show

The Flower and Garden Show was held March 1-3 at the Statehouse Convention Center.

Baptist Rehabilitation -Jerry Quick, '91, chairman.

Art Center Courtyard - Suellen Roberts, '96, chairman; Jim Campbell, '97,
co-chairman.

Jacksonville City Hall -Mike Moyer, 2000, chairman.

War Memorial Park (Bus Stop) - Bill Trimble, '98, chairman.

Mount Holly Cemetery -Sally Sanderson, '95, chairman.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden - Elisabeth Dillon, '97, chairman;
Claudia Stallings, '98, co-chairman.

Pulaski County Extension Office - Mary Ann Francis, '96, and Bernice
Johnson, '99, co-chairmen.

River Market Downtown - Claudia Barone, '99, chairman.

Cammack Village - UALR - Fruit Garden - Lynn Phelps, 2000, chairman;
Ruth Owings, '89, and Ann Ward, '88, co-
chairman.

Park Hill Water Works - Gena Norris, '98, chairman; Margaret Breen, '97,
co-chairman.

State Extension Office - Jane Gulley, '89, chairman.

Curran Hall

Grand opening scheduled for May 18, 2002. Curran Hall, an 1843 Greek Revival house, has been restored as Little Rock Visitor Information Center. Master Gardeners identified and kept plants historic to Little Rock. They will help maintain the restored gardens and add seasonal color while retaining the spirit of an historic garden in a public setting.

New proposed projects approved:

Historic Arkansas Museum (formerly Arkansas Territorial Restoration).

Oak Forest Community Garden - this is a gardening mentoring project working with the Oak Forest Community Garden

Activities - 2002

On April 19 23 people left with Janet Carson for a trip to Holland. They visited Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft, Ghent, Brugge, and Brussels in Belgium.

May 5 -7 The state Master Gardener meeting was held in Jonesboro. About 30 M.G. from Pulaski County attended.

May 9 The annual picnic was held at Lakeside Country Club, Little Rock.

Activities - 2002 (cont)

May 21 -22 Additional education training was offered to Pulaski County Master Gardeners who have completed at least three (3) full calendar years of membership and fulfilled all requirements, including paying dues. Upon completion of this training some students will be asked to share their knowledge with others either by working one on one with a representative of a civic organization, church group, school, or by making a presentation to a group. This training session was entitled "Perennials for the Garden."

June 4 The annual Master Gardener tour of gardens featured the following gardens: Carol Mendel, 2000; Betty Jane Daugherty, '92; Marilyn Tilley, 2000; Arkansas State Hospital Garden; and lunch at the Master Gardener Greenhouse.

June 11 An unusual Master Gardener program was presented which featured a panel of Master Gardeners who answered gardening questions in their field of expertise. The panelists were: Mary Evans, '90, (perennials and annuals); Breck Campbell, '90, (vegetables); Jane Gulley, '89, (roses); and Beth Phelps (turf and trees).

June 19 A workshop was offered to anyone interested who needed continuing education hours. St. Vincent Rehab in Sherwood presented a how-to-build workshop including lectures on landscape design, building a fountain, a contained garden, an herbal garden, a nature watch area, assembling lawn furniture, building a retaining wall, raised bed garden and wheelchair gardening.

October 28 - 30 30 Master Gardeners traveled to Eureka Springs and Fayetteville visiting gardens and enjoying the beautiful fall foliage.

November 6 -7 Leadership training was held at the Ferndale 4-H Center for officers and other Master Gardener leaders.

December 12 The Winter Holiday party was held at Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock.

Miscellaneous - 2002

A new committee has been formed - the 3 P's. That stands for Publicity, Public Relations, and Promotion Committee or "3 peas in a pod". In the February Master Minutes they asked "Has your project won an award? Is your project garden looking particularly shipshape? Are you planning an activity that the public can attend, such as the River Market Clinic? Let us know and we'll tell the community-at-large." The member of this new committee are: Suellen Roberts, '96, and Cheryl Kennedy, '94.

Another new committee has been organized - the "Stuff" committee. This committee will be merchandising "stuff" - tee shirts, caps, and other merchandise. Committee members are Nancye McCowan, 2000; Jan King, '94; and Nan Matthews, '98.

On January 8 the Board voted to provide each project with \$100.00

Beth has a new position in addition to shepherding the Master Gardener program - Staff Chairman. She will be supervising the staff at the Pulaski County Extension office as well as the general horticulture program.

Master Gardeners have a web site - www.uaex.edu ; User name - mastergardener; Password - compost.

Miscellaneous 2002 (cont)

The Old Mill project in North Little Rock was chosen as our entry in the State Project of the Year. The winner will be announced at the State meeting.

Jane Druff, '96, was elected chairperson of the State Master Gardener Advisory Board, according to an announcement at the February 12 meeting.

According to the April Master Minutes: "The Master Gardener Educator program is scheduled to begin with a training session at the 4-H center March 13-14. The two representatives from Pulaski County are Nancye McCowan, 2000, in the area of perennials and annuals, and Dick Blankenbeker, '95, in the area of vegetables and herbs.

Carolyn Newbern, '94, will chair a Project Evaluation committee that will consider new project requests.

The first statewide training session for the Junior Master Gardener program was held May 14. This is an international program of the Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands on" gardening, develops an appreciation for the environment, and cultivates the mind. JMG inspires youth to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects and rewards them with certification.

According to the June Master Minutes: "The State Advanced Master Gardener training session on herbs will be at Mt. Home in July, the first in a series of sessions to achieve Advanced Master Gardener certification."

The Little Rock Garden Club Council has donated \$300.00 as thanks for Master Gardeners who served as guides at their recent Tour of Gardens.

Miscellaneous 2002 (cont)

Minor changes have been made to the By Laws because of our being dissolved as a corporation.

(include ByLaws which can be found after the September, 2002 letter from Beth)

A new Retention Committee under the chairmanship of Jane Gulley, '89, met to investigate why people drop out of the Master Gardener program. A list of those who have been placed on an inactive list and those who have been dropped due to lack of completion of volunteer hours will go to Retention Committee, who will contact these members to conduct a survey. The results of the survey were that the people were very satisfied with the program. The problem was with their own lives being too crowded at this time. Most expressed an interest in returning to the program at a later date, if this would be possible.

2003

Officers:

President
First Vice President
Second Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
At-large members

Nancy Kirsch
Dick Blankenbeker
Sylvia Orton
Susan Crisp
Mary Freeman
George Harper
Ila Newberry

Committee Chairman:

Master Minutes
Promotion, Public Relations
and Publicity
Social
Speakers Bureau
Sunshine
Travel
Retention
Continuing Education
Master Gardener Stuff

Libby Thalheimer
Cheryl Kennedy
Suellen Roberts
Susan Crisp
Pat Green
Linda Dantzler
Ila Newberry
Jane Gulley
Meg Fox
Nancye McCowan

Garden Projects - 2003

The Old State House - Patty Wingfield, '94, chairman; Janie Ballard, 2000, co-chairman.

Pinnacle Mountain - Nancy Kirsch, '98, chairman. The Pinnacle Mountain State Park Wildflower Meadow is the newest Master Gardener collaboration with Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Pinnacle Mountain received the 3rd place for the Arkansas Master Gardener Project of the Year award at the state meeting.

North Little Rock Old Mill - Judy Bradsher, 2000, Martha Basinger, 2001, Anita Chamberlin, '94, co-chairmen.

Contemplation Garden - Kathy Scheibner, '93, chairman; Jenny Jaroe, '99, co-chairman.

State Hospital - Marilyn Tilley, 2000, and Carol Mendel, 2000, co-chairmen.

State Hospital Greenhouse - Lois Corley, '91, chairman; Ann Morgan, '97, co-chairman.

This committee reports in the Master Minutes: "We propagate from seeds, seedlings, and cuttings to sell to Master Gardeners and to provide plants for the State Hospital, Mt. Holly, NLR Waterworks, Curran Hall, and Heritage Arkansas Museum.

Our first job each year is to force the 128 azaleas needed for the Flower and Garden Show. As soon as we deliver these, we plant annuals and perennials, for sun and shade, to be planted in the spring. We take the summer months off before planting 14,000 pansy and viola plugs and seeds for a variety of perennials. (Last fall we had only 24 plants left after the sale."

Flower and Garden Show -the 12th annual show was held February 28 -
March 2 at the Statehouse Convention Center.

BRI Horticulture Rehabilitation Therapy - Jerry Quick, '91, chairman;
Sharon Mayes, 2000, co-chairman.

Art Center Courtyard - Suellen Roberts, '96, chairman.

Jacksonville City Hall - Mike Moyer, 2000, chairman; Dotty Heckenbach,
'90, and Rebecca Camp, '94, co-chairmen.

War Memorial Park - Kevin Allis, '94, Wini Carter, '92, and Dick Carter, '90,
co-chairmen.

Mount Holly Cemetery - Jim Wierdsma, '99, chairman.

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden - Elisabeth Dillon, '97, chairman.

Pulaski County Extension Office - Cathy Muren, 2001, and Bernice
Johnson, '99, co-chairmen.

According to the March, 2003 Master Minutes: the grounds have
been "relandscaped with several perennial beds, a foundation planting,
seasonal color beds, and a large lawn. According to Beth Phelps, the herb
garden has been used with the County Extension Family and Consumer
Sciences program for training program assistants to use herbs instead of
salt to help reduce sodium in the diet."

Mary Ann Francis, '96, and Julia Loyall, '96, accepted the Keep
Arkansas Beautiful Award on behalf of the Pulaski County Cooperative
Extension Service Office Garden.

River Market Clinic - Claudia Barone, '99, chairman.

Cammack - UA Systems - Ann Green, '98, and Ruth Owings, '89, co-chairmen.

This project began as a Master Gardener project in 1997. A little history of the area is interesting. This " project sits on acreage that is rich in history, first inhabited by a freed slave in 1867 as a homesteader for 34 years, then passing through the hands of a judge from 1901 to 1921 when it was purchased by Wyley Dan Cammack for his wife. Cammack was a real-estate developer who sold the property that became Cammack Village, an FHA housing development, and which remains an incorporated entity within Little Rock proper.

"What began as a two-room cabin with a dog-trot passageway between the rooms....and a double sided stone fireplace, a means of heating inside and cooking outside, was enlarged by each succeeding property holder until it can no longer be called a 'log cabin' but rather a 'log home' ending up with even a ballroom and double staircase with overlooking balustrade.

"These remaining 40 acres were a generous donation (deeded over to the University of Arkansas for \$1.00) by Kate Gaines Broadus Cammack in 1957, to be used for Arkansas cultural education. At that time, the land was heavily wooded and the log house was quite hidden from view.....

"Nowadays....much of it has been cleared; a two-story brick residence sits in the northeast corner of the property and is the home of Dr. B. Alan Sugg, President of the University of Arkansas System, and his wife.....in the middle of all this is the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project.

"....fruits which have been developed by the University of Arkansas are featured....thornless blackberries..... peach trees..... strawberry beds..... muscadines.....blueberries...."

Ann Ward, '88, was the original committee chairman and has either chaired or co-chaired Cammack yearly until 2003. "Early spring finds this committee pruning the fruits, followed by digging up end-of-season annuals and setting out new plants.....weeding the strawberry beds."

To read more about this project see the July, 2001 Master Minutes article by Julia Loyall or the June, 2003 Master Minutes.

Park Hill Water Works - Gena Norris, '98, chairman; and Margaret Breen, '97, co-chairman.

State Extension Office - Jane Gulley, '89, chairman.

Curran Hall - Carolyn Newbern, '94, chairman; Anne Jarrard, '95, co-chairman; Lisa Ferris, '98, (Saturday co-chairman).

Historic Arkansas Museum - Trudy Goolsby, '95, chairman.

A description of this newest project for the Master Gardeners appeared in the February, 2003, edition of the Master Minutes: "A chance conversation with fellow Ozark Society member, David Etchison, (groundskeeper at the museum) brought Trudy's creative hand to the rescue when the museum grounds had reached a low ebb back in 1996.

Dead shrubbery and flowerbeds overgrown with weeds and saplings greeted Trudy who set about to clean and rejuvenate them all. She designed and established new beds and suggested the trellis, which is covered with a profusion of white blooms in spring and healthy evergreen foliage year 'round."

The project was adopted as a Master Gardener project in 2002 and now Trudy has two helpers, Juddie Wachtel, 2001, and Mary Lou Arrington, 2001, new Master Gardeners.

Oak Forest Community Garden - according to the September, 2003 Master Minutes "this project has a purpose somewhat different from other Master Gardener efforts in Pulaski County, in that rather than actually planning and laboring in flower beds for beautification of our surroundings, it is an educational project to help community residents raise food for their own tables. Master Gardener, Howard Stephens, 2000, has spent a rewarding year or so as an advisor to the resident gardeners. (Breck Campbell, '90, has also been helping in the project....)

"Located east of UALR, Curran-Conway Park, 25th and Monroe streets, is a small, not too well known city park with a baseball field and a fenced garden area of raised beds which are rented to area residents for \$5.00 a plot. For an additional \$5.00, one may take advantage of the spacious greenhouse to get an early start on spring planting. The city furnishes water and brings in a huge load of city compost each year. Donated seeds are also available. There are 58 plots where approximately 50 families grow produce to supplement their diets each year. There is a pavilion giving shade from the bright sun and picnic tables and benches where Howard fields informal question and answer sessions from residents. A nice shed provides storage for tools, and each participant has a key to the gate and the greenhouse."

Three new projects approved at the September 9, 2003 general meeting:

Patrick Henry Hayes Senior Center - Take on the two entrance beds and mentor non-Master Gardener volunteers in gardening activities with a committee limited to 15 members.

Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts - Support for gardening related educational activities with a committee of no more than 8 members.

Amy Sanders Library - Support continuing efforts in progress to enhance and maintain beds with a committee limited to 15 members.

Activities - 2003

- March 18 - a visit to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery at Wynne, AR
- May 15 - a Master Gardener picnic in the new ballroom at the Governor's Mansion.
- May 19 -21 - State Master Gardener meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom" held on the campus of Harding College, Searcy. The meeting was hosted by the White County Master Gardeners.
- June 3 - the annual tour of Master Gardeners' gardens. The group visited the gardens of Ann Cooper, '90, and her neighbor; June Owens; Cathy Martindill, 2001; Debbie Mickel, 2002,; Mary Lee McHenry, 91; and ended with lunch at the Pulaski County Extension Office garden.
- June 18 - 22 - International Master Gardener meeting in Greater Cincinnati and northern Kentucky.
- October 2-6 - a Savannah, Georgia tour with Janet Carson
- October 21-23 - a Pulaski County Master Gardener trip to St. Louis visiting the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the St. Louis zoo, and Union Station.
- December 11 - the Master Gardener Holiday social was held at the Park Hill Christian Church, North Little Rock.

Miscellaneous - 2003

A color brochure outlining Master Gardener projects and other public gardens was produced with Rose Hogan, '97, instrumental in seeing this project done.

Trees for Tomorrow -" a letter was received from Peter Rausch regarding plaques for trees donated to Trees for Tomorrow. The trees will cost from \$100 - \$150, depending on the type of tree, and the plaque will cost \$55. Rochelle Greenwood, '97, and Mary Freeman, 2001, will establish procedures to determine the wording on the plaques, acknowledgements, and type of trees to be selected. At this time, there is \$25 in memorial funds for Adrian Williamson, 2000. When other memorial funds are received and the total reaches \$175-\$200 a donation will be made to the Trees for Tomorrow program."

Marian Berry, '92, requested that volunteer hours by Master Gardeners working in the Junior Master Gardener program at Pulaski Heights Elementary School be accepted for credit towards certification. It was agreed that Master Gardeners who have been active for at least one year be allowed to count volunteer hours from this project.

On January 14, 2003 there were 321 certified Master Gardeners in Pulaski County.

Two Pulaski County Master Gardener projects were selected as finalists for the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award: Pulaski County Cooperative Extension office garden, in the Government category; and Pinnacle Mountain State Park, in the Community Involvement category.

The Pinnacle Mountain project received the 3rd place for the Arkansas Master Gardener Project of the Year award given at the state meeting.

"Jane Gulley, '89, shared results from the Retention Committee's contact with members who left the program in 2002. 'No one left disgruntled'. Jane said that all had left because of situations in their personal lives. Much praise was given for the Pulaski County program. Beth and Mrs. McKinney were specifically mentioned as having created such a positive experience."

Sustainer Status: A Master Gardener who has been a member in good standing for a minimum of seven years may apply to be a Master Gardener sustainer.

(insert yellow Sustainer Status application sheet)

Leave of Absence (insert white request form)

Mrs. Ethelyn McKinney retires from her job at the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service office effective March 31, 2003. "According to Beth Phelps, Mrs. McKinney has worked closely with every new class of Master Gardeners since the inception of the Extension program in 1988.....she has worked the entire nineteen years in the Horticulture Agricultural section of the Extension Service office." The MG board voted in April to make her an honorary lifetime Master Gardener.

"Nominations for 'Friend of Master Gardeners' was taken at the general meeting in March, 2003. Nominees were: Ed Garrettson with Arkansas Old State House; Pete Rousch, Urban Forester for Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department; Chris Olson, a nurseryman; and the Pulaski County prisoners who help at the greenhouse. The prisoners won the vote by a show of hands."

Miscellaneous - 2003 (cont)

The following Master Gardeners received 5 year, 10 year, and 15 year pins at the 2003 Statewide Master Gardener meeting:

5 years: Shirley Acchione, Stewart Bell, Lois Clifton, Rose Crane, Lee Gershner, Carl Goodson, Ann Green, Sandy Harrison, Coy Hively, Joan Humphries, Lisa Jackson, Ben Jordan, Nancy Kirsch, Nan Matthews, Gena Norris, Sylvia Orton, Tammy Pope, Carolyn Pickett, Frances Searcy, Beth Shields, Claudia Stallings, J. William Trimble, Cheryl Wilson, and Laura Ann Wilson.

10 year pins - Jim Bowling, Joyce Bumgardner, David Dodson, Linda Holbert, Barbara Johnson, Laura Lasiter, Maxine Ramage, Kathy Scheibner.

15 year pins - Nancy Wade and Ann Ward

"The State Advisory Board has instituted a 15 year Lifetime Membership policy. Volunteer who have been active Master Gardeners for 15 years will be awarded lifetime membership, a special gold nametag and key chain. Lifetime members will be considered active Master Gardeners with all rights and privileges, but they will not have to pay dues and they will not be required to complete volunteer or education hours. Nancy Wade and Ann Ward were the first to receive this honor.

Carolyn Newbern, '94, writes in the May Master Minutes that "between March 24 and 29, 2004, the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau will host the National Tour Association's spring meeting. The goal is to sell Little Rock and Central Arkansas as a travel destination, with plenty of scenic cultural and historic attractions to satisfy varieties of tourism. Many of our PCMG project gardens enhance important tourist attractions - the Arkansas Arts Center and MacArthur Park, Historic Arkansas Museum, Mount Holly Cemetery, the Old State House, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, the Old Mill, the visitor information center at Curran Hall, and War Memorial park." She encourages the committees to be sure that their gardens are in excellent shape for the March meeting.

At the April Master Gardener meeting it was announced that we have "a new Volunteer Manual that contains history, information about Extension, specifics about Pulaski County, etc. and will be a great reference. Also a master copy of the guidelines and policies for officers and committee chairs will be kept at the state office."

Pulaski County Master Gardeners completed four large containers as examples for shade and sun plantings for the Metro area of Little Rock. City workers will use the examples and information provided for other containers.

The Pulaski County Extension project received an award from the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission in the category of ornamentals. The award included a trophy and a cash prize of \$500 to be used at the project site.

New meeting place and new time for 2004: beginning in January, 2004 the Pulaski County Master Gardeners will meet monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at St. James United Methodist Church on Pleasant Valley Drive at 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.