

Pulaski County Master Minutes

April, 2004

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 15, Issue 3

Garden Belle: *Monarda didyma*

By Lorraine Hensley



Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*) sounds nice and it is. Bees, butterflies and hummingbirds like it so well they can't seem to stay away. Bees may sting but they are good garden pollinators.

Butterflies and hummingbirds are flying visions of color and purpose as well as pollination helpers. The flowers come in many colors including red ('Cambridge Scarlet'), pink ('Croftway Pink'), and purple ('Aquarius'), adding wonderful splashes of color to your garden. Although it is a hardy perennial herb that grows in all zones, it does have some growth requirements. For the best results, Bee Balm needs full sun or light shade and fertile, light and moist soil. Propagate by division or cuttings rather than by seed for the seed isn't always true to the parent plant. Companion plants for Bee Balm are Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia*), and Lavender (*Lavandula*).

Gardeners can sit in their garden sipping Oswego tea made from the plants' leaves while watching the aerial show of bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. And to make it even better, the tubular flowers are beautiful while the plant itself has a light minty aroma. Most people know Oswego tea as "bee balm" or "monardo" but Oswego is the Native American name for tea made from the plant. The Oswego Indians taught the European settlers how to make this wonderful herb tea. To brew a single serving of tea, place one tablespoon of fresh, or one teaspoon of dried, Bee Balm leaves in a tea strainer and pour one cup of boiling water over it. Steep for ten minutes and bring the tea out. Add sweetener if you like. Take that cup of tea out to your garden --sit and enjoy—

While out there, clip a few blooms for cut flowers in the house. You may want to gather a few more leaves and flowers to add to fruit salads for that extra flavor or use for a delicious garnish in a green salad. Leaves and flowers can also be dried and used for tea or potpourri. Simply bundle 8-10 stems with a rubber band at the cut end and hang upside down to dry. When crisp to the touch, crush and store in airtight containers out of direct sunlight.

Bee Balm is such a multi-purpose plant. She's the belle of the garden who also knows how to make herself useful.

Photo courtesy of www.wisecre-gardens.com

After Hours: Jerry Quick

By Lorraine Hensley

A stroll through the largest Traditional Japanese Garden in North America at the Missouri Botanical Garden was enough for Jerry Quick (class of '91) for he was hooked on the symbolism and quiet serenity of the garden. However, Jerry knew he wanted one he could enjoy with a lot less travel time.

Homework via the internet and his local library formed the basis of his "after hours" efforts. With information at hand, it was time to plan where to put the garden, what elements to use and how to use them. The gathering, plotting and planning led to a Traditional Japanese Garden he and his wife could enjoy any time they chose. They decided on a particular spot for a relaxing view and went for it.

Time spent planning and working was well spent for his Traditional Japanese Garden is beautiful. Looks so good it is profiled in the May issue of Arkansas Gardener magazine. Can't think of a better way to spend those after hours.



Drum Bridge and Stream Garden on the Missouri Botanical Garden Virtual Tour

For your own virtual tour of the fabulous Japanese Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden, go to:

<http://www.mobot.org/hort/tours/intnltour.shtml>

Every master gardener knows how to count hours -- whether volunteer or educational. Twenty of each are required to remain in good standing with the master gardener rules. That's simply the way it's done. We get to learn with educational hours and pay back with volunteer hours. But some of us do so much "after hours" either in the community or in our own yards that most of us never hear about. There are no credits garnered. "After Hours" is an attempt to recognize our friends in the master gardener program who go way more than the extra mile. "After Hours" will name the names -- tell you what they do-- and why they do it.

If you know anyone in the program fitting this description please e-mail me at hleda2@aristotle.com and tell me about them. Then we can tell everyone else!!

Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Flower and Garden Show Presentations by Walter Jennings



"The Inside & Out of Growing Herbs" By Jeannie Wilson, owner of Old Columbus Herb Farms

Chives courtesy of Wise Acre Garden website

The 10 ingredients to successful herb gardening are:

1. Well-drained soil is the most important ingredient to any herb garden. Remember, most herbs are from the Mediterranean which has dry, porous or gravelly soil.
2. Raised beds help to counter clay soil and improve drainage.
3. Sunshine is essential at least 6 hours a day.
4. Air circulation is necessary to prevent fungus and disease problems.
5. Mulch keeps roots cooler in summer and warmer in winter.
6. Avoid over watering.
7. Regularly harvest up to 1/3 of each plant.
8. Fertilization is not necessary with good sandy loam soil amended with compost.
9. Pest Control is not normally a problem, but when it is, use insecticidal soap.
10. Wise plant selection means matching zone and climate requirements.

Jeannie Wilson talked about each individual herb, weaving in their history and uses around the world, and recommend varieties for Arkansas. She presented a convincing argument to try Stevia as substitute for normal sweeteners.

Another interesting tip was to use hydrogen peroxide solution (1/20 water) as effective fungicide for herbs.

"The Well-Designed Mixed Garden" by Tracy DeSabato

What an interest and entertaining speaker! The time went by so fast you didn't want her to end. She presented so much information on the foundation, color schemes, scale, and proportions to fit every garden site. I was so fascinated with her plant color hues scale and things like "Fibonacci Number Series" that I wanted to purchase her book but purchasing line was too long for me. I am going have to order.

"Heirloom Bulbs for Every Garden" by Scott Kunst

Scott Kunst's love for heirloom, or historical, plants came through strong. He said these plants are a living connection with gardeners from the past. Some are merely our family members' favorite garden plants; others are noted plants grown by important people in history. Heirlooms are "tried and tested". Thus, they are often tougher, more vigorous, fragrant, and more graceful. A 'period appropriate planting' can enhance the look of an older home or landscape.

Master Gardeners are the Show By Mary Evans

What a success! The master gardeners ARE the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show. Thanks for all your great help.

The Q&A Cafe was a well- greased machine and operated like clock-work. It was a smash... folks were found "hanging out" with master gardeners throughout the weekend.

Jan King and Judy Bradsher were the "Dynamic Duo" of late night shopping.

Merilyn Tilley and Karin Briscoe arranged for awesome speakers. Jeanne Spencer did an artful job with the art exhibits, high school art competition, poster & t-shirts.

Ray Sarmiento again pulled together hard working volunteers. David Dodson was our show "printer."

Our "fearless leader", Beth Phelps was voted the People's Choice, "Volunteer of the Year."

And the greenhouse committee once again provided the beautiful Azaleas. This year we had two special posters printed for display explaining about the Azaleas. Jennifer Gibson, of the U of A Extension Office, helped with the giant Azalea sign.

Garden Show Awards:

Horticultural Excellence Awards:

Best Hardscape - Arkansas Garden Center

Best Water Feature - Grand Designs

Best Use of Plants - Horticare

Best Interpretation of the Theme - Good Earth

American Horticultural Society Environmental Award - Grand Designs

People's Choice:

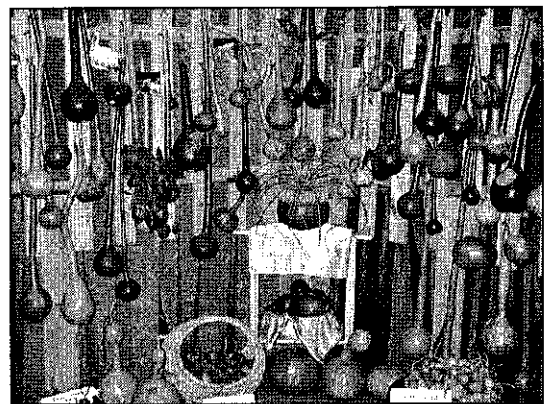
Best Garden - Horticare

Best Booth - Horticare

Volunteer of the Year - Beth Phelps



Willows for sale at the show - Cheryl Kennedy



Gourds for sale at the Flower & Garden Show - courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy



Best in Show: 2004 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Gardens as Art



From the ground up, Master Gardeners pitched in... (Steve Lopata)



Checking out the exhibits... (Cheryl Kennedy)



Selling t-shirts... (Cheryl Kennedy)



The horticulture... (Steve Lopata)



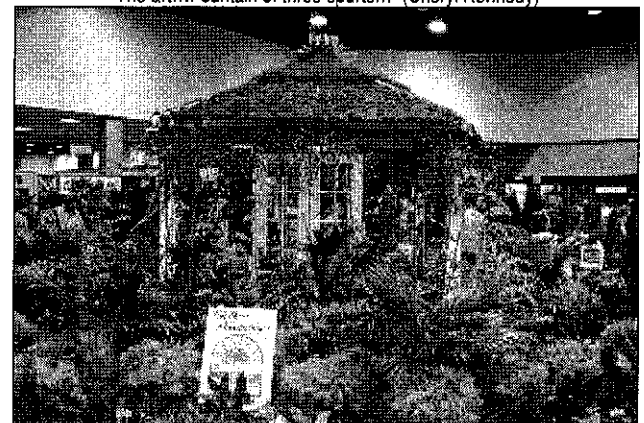
And tickets... (Cheryl Kennedy)



The art...Fountain of three spouts... (Cheryl Kennedy)



Manning the Q&A Café... (Cheryl Kennedy)



And the centerpiece display... (Cheryl Kennedy)

Approximately 285 Master Gardeners contributed +1200 hours to the successful 2004 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. Participants enjoyed a variety of vendors, plainspoken speakers, excellent exhibits, dramatic displays, and awesome answers to their questions at the Q & A Café, the Master Gardener booth at the show.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

April, 2004

- 1-4 Garvan Gardens Tulip Extravaganza
 3 Wildwood Spring 2004 Gardening Series: Jane Gulley: "Roses - Wild and Tame". Cost is \$5.00 (\$3.00 for Wildwood members). 501-821-7275.
 2-3 Arkansas County Home & Garden Show, Dewitt, County Fairgrounds. Info: 870-946-3231
 3-4 Wildflower Weekend at Petit Jean State Park. Contact: Lori Anderson 501-727-5441.
 4 Wildflower Walk, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Kingfisher Trail. 501-868-5806.
 17 PCMG Greenhouse Spring Sale. 8a.m.-noon.
 17 "A Spring Celebration" at Trinity United Methodist Church with an herbal lunch. Tickets available from Herb Society members at MG meetings.
 17 Wildwood Spring 2004 Gardening Series: Theo Whitsell: "Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants". Cost is \$5.00 (\$3.00 for Wildwood members). 501-821-7275.
 17 Saline County Master Gardener Annual Show and Sale
 20 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.
 22 Janet Carson: "Container Gardening". Garvan Woodland Gardens. 800-366-4664.
 24 -- 2004 Spring Garden Tour sponsored by Little Rock
 --25 Council of Garden Clubs. Info: 663-7515
 25 Edible and Medicinal Plants, Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 501-868-5806.
 29 Lavish Herbal Feast, Ozark Folk Center. 870-269-3851.

May, 2004

- 5 Marlsgate Tour. Info: Beverly House: 225-4996.
 6 Master Gardener Spring Picnic, Lakeside Country Club.
 7 - 9 Southern Garden History Society 22nd Annual Meeting, New Orleans, La. "Native Plants and Creole Gardens". (336-721-7328); www.southerngardenhistory.org.
 9 Mother's Day Rose Tour. Fort Smith Rose Society features seven private gardens. Info:479-646-5326
 14 Pulaski County Day
 16 -- Master Gardener State Meeting, UCA Campus,
 --18 Conway.
 18 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting, 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.
 21- Garden Glory Days, Ozark Folk Center State Park.
 30 Info: 870-269-3851
 29 Spring Garden Festival, Fairfield Bay, Ed Leamon Memorial Park on Dave Creek Parkway.
 Info:501-745-7117

June, 2004

- 1 Tour of Master Gardeners gardens
 5 Spring Flowers of the Ouachitas with John Pelton at Wildwood Info:501-821-7275
 8 Janet Carson: "Gardening to Beat the Heat". Garvan Woodlands Gardens. (members only).
 12 Wild Orchids of the Ouachitas with Carl Hunter at Wildwood. Info:501-821-7275
 15 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.
 19 Early Wildflowers of the Ouachitas with Carl Hunter at Wildwood. Info: 501-821-7275
 26 Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds to your Garden at Wildwood. Info: 501-821-7275



Susan Purvis, an art teacher at Gibbs Elementary Magnet School for International Studies, will speak at the PCMG meeting on "The Gardens of Japanese Relocation Camps in Arkansas" on April 20, 2004, at 11:30a.m. at St James United Methodist Church.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Greenhouse Sale
Saturday, April 17, 2004, 8a.m. until noon
 7th and Palm, one block east of War Memorial Stadium
 Over 70 varieties available including:

Flowers

Marigolds, *Petunia*, *Cosmos*, *Zinnia*, moonflower, ageratum, Queen Ann's Lace, candlestick tree, *Cleome*, red salvia (*Salvia Coccinea*), *Portulaca* (double mix), *Rudbeckia*-Indian Summer, pink Confederate roses, aster, strawflower (*Helichrysum Bracteantha*), *Celosia argentea cristata*, larkspur (*Consolida*) – giant Imperial mix, carnations – Clove Drop, and *Coreopsis grandiflora*, 'Early Sunrise'

Vegetables

Hot peppers, sweet peppers, tomatoes, squash, and eggplant

Herbs

Parsley, chives, thyme, sweetherb (*Stevia rebaudiana*), catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), basil, fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*, 'Sweet Florence'), hyssop, and oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)

Other

Professional potting soil sold by large bag only \$10

Remember: The proceeds from Greenhouse Sale provide funding necessary for other Master Gardeners' Projects.

Walter Jennings



April Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

Harden off summer bedding plants. Slowly acclimate to outside conditions.

Indoors

Keep your houseplants indoors until the middle or end of the month. Then slowly acclimate them to the sun. Otherwise, they can sunburn.

If any over wintered tropical blooming plants, like Mandevilla, have weak and spindly stems, they should be pruned.

Lawns

Apply fertilizer after your lawn is completely green. Clip back established ground cover. Repair dead patches in ground cover by tearing them out. Add compost and peat moss into the soil then replant bare areas with divisions taken from outer edges.

If you plan to start a new lawn from seed, prepare the soil now. Rake the surface level and add a general fertilizer. Aerate and feed lawns with a high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for greener grass. Use a spreader to ensure even coverage. Water lawns regularly.

Perennials & Bulbs

Leave foliage on spring bulbs at least 6 weeks or until they die back. They need to replenish their strength for next year. Check for thrips on your daffodils. If you find infestation, remove and destroy the infested part. If you are shopping the garden centers for young perennial plants this time of the year. Look for the ones that have the fullest, sturdiest growth and the best foliage color. You will find either divisions or spring-sown seedlings. The divisions may be more expensive but they do produce larger plants the first year.

Roses

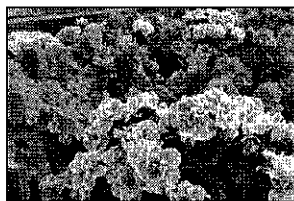
For roses that only bloom in the spring, prune if needed, after plants bloom.

Trees & Shrubs

Keep a close eye on fruit trees for pests this time of year. Follow a regular spraying program.

After spring blooming plants bloom, prune as needed.

These include forsythia, camellias, azaleas, spring blooming spireas, and dogwoods.



Azaleas grown at the Greenhouse.

Vegetables & Herbs

Cool season crops, like lettuce and English peas, can be planted until the middle of the month.

Some people start planting their tomatoes at the first of April, but it is better to wait until at least the middle of the month.

Be sure to rotate vegetable crops every year for three years to help control pests.

Monthly Blooms

Ajuga, golden alyssum, anemone, anise Florida, azaleas, red-leafed barberry, bellis, beauty bush, bleeding heart, red buckeye, calycanthus, candytuft, clematis, columbine, coral bells, daffodils, English daisies, daylilies, deutzia, dianthus, dogwood, epimedium, foam flower, forget-me-nots, fringe tree, fritillaria, grass pinks, heather, bearded iris, yellow jessamine, kerria, leopard's bane, lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, lunaria, lungwort, maple, meadow rue, mertensia, mock orange, moneywort, muscari, oxalis, pansies, peonies, phlox, polemonium, primroses, ranunculus, rosemary, roses, sage, St. John's Wort, scilla campanulata, Scotch broom, shooting star, snowflake, Solomon's seal, spireas, styrax japonica, tamarisk, thrift, Tradescantia, trillium, tulips, viburnum carlesi, viburnum opulus sterile, viburnum tomentosum, vinca, violas, wild violets, weigela, and sweet William.



Bearded iris at the Greenhouse.

Advanced Master Gardener Training

April 5, 12, 19: "Landscape Design Shortcourse, Hot Springs.

April 6, 13, 20: "Landscape Design Shortcourse, Pine Bluff.

Contact Jennifer Gibson at 501-671-2231 for more information.

Ride the Gardening Wave

Southern Region Master Gardener Meeting & Cruise
June 24 - 28, 2004

Information @ <http://www.poetravel.com>
or call Teresa at Poe Travel, 376-4171

Proceed to the Greenhouse...

If you are looking for flowers, herbs, potting soil or vegetables for your garden this spring, remember the Greenhouse sale. Please stop by the Greenhouse, at the corner of 7th Street and Palm, on Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Your support of the sale provides monies for the Greenhouse to support Master Gardener projects.

Proceeds for projects...

Photos are courtesy of Steve Corley



What Works! Compiled By Sharon Davis

- A safe way to kill weeds on a patio, drive way or side walk is to use boiling water. This will also kill pests.
- Vinegar will kill grass on a driveway, sidewalk or patio.
- Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant. Laetitia East, one of our new MGs
- "A Japanese Garden is a naturalistic scene, encompassing a view in a small area. It is an expression of the whole of nature... Simplicity is the keynote- regardless of the size and scope...Base your plan on an all-green garden, which is easier to maintain...and is not seasonal..."

The Mid- South Garden Guide

Trading Post Compiled by Sharon Davis



- Mary Vancura has "garlic chives" and "money plant" to give away. (666-5988)
- Nancy Wolford has "monkey grass" to give away and wants "Japanese Room Iris". (851-0443)
- Tracy Rhodes has 3 iron trellises that are approximately 4' by 6' to give away. (219-8739)

The easiest and least expensive way to propagate plants is by dividing and replanting or gathering seeds. Each month at the general meeting, The Trading Post clipboard is passed around so that you can list your extra plants and seeds and request other plants and seeds in exchange. Please use the Trading Post instead of bringing your extra plants and seeds to the meetings.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

"Annuals for Arkansas Summers" By Shane Reynolds

To qualify as one of Shane's 'summer survivors', the flower must be:

- 1) the best of the garden flowers;
- 2) both heat and drought tolerant;
- 3) insect and disease resistant;
- 4) tolerant of temperature extremes and rainy weather;
- 5) flowering from spring into fall without cleaning, dead-heading, or pinching.



1. Lady in red salvia

Shane's picks for 2004:

Agastache ___ *Ageratum* ___ *Alternanthera* ___ dragonwing
begonia ___ *Calibrachoa* ___ *Capsicum*- ornamental
 peppers ___ *Cleome* ___ *coleus* ___ *Coreopsis* ___
Crossandra ___ *Cuphea* ___ *Dianthus* 'Purple Bouquet' ___
Dichondra ___ Dusty Miller 'Silver Dust' ___ *Evolvulus* ___
 geraniums- not ivy or Martha Washingtons but Fantasia
 Series ___ *Gomphrena* ___ *Helichrysium* 'Silver Mist' ___
Hibiscus moscheutos ___ *Ipomea* ___ *Iresine* ___ *Lantana* ___
Melampodium ___ moneywort ___ ornamental millet ___
Nicotiana ___ *Penta* ___ easy wave petunias ___ *Portulaca* ___
 purslane ___ *Plumbago* ___ *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldstrum' ___
 salvias ___ *Salvia leucantha* ___ *Salvia gregii* ___ *Salvia*
coccinea ___ *Salvia farinacea* ___ *Sanvitalia* 'Mandarin
 Orange' ___ *Spilanthes* 'Peek-a-Boo' ___ *tirella* ___ *Tithonia* ___
Trachelium- Devotion series ___ *Verbena*- Aztec series ___
Vinca- Cooler, Pacifica and Mediterranean series ___ *Zinnia*.

Shane Reynolds, of Reynolds Greenhouse in Hot Springs, was the guest speaker at the March Master Gardener Meeting. His informative presentation had MGs scrambling for pen and paper. For those unprepared at the meeting, this is a summary of his program.



2. *Rudbeckia fulgida*

1. Courtesy of the UA Extension Service Website.
2. Courtesy of Carl G. Hunter and the Ozark Society Foundation.

What Works and the Trading Post are the Master Gardener forums to propagate the wealth of our gardens. Share your tips or list your produce on the clipboards circulated during the monthly meetings; or write to:
 Sharon Davis @ sedavis@aristotle.net, or @ #6 Alanbrook Cove, Sherwood, Ar. 72120.
 Although not required, if you sign your name you will be credited.

== Internet Pipelines By Walter Jennings

www.cfr.washington.edu/research

By clicking on "Horticultural Myths", you will uncover an array of garden myths that research has proven wrong. One example is "Myth of Soil Amendments" shared with us by Dr. Jim Robbins in our February meeting.

www.oldcolumbus.com

This is Jeannie Wilson's site for her "Old Columbus Herb Farm" in Columbus, Arkansas. The lady knows her herbs.

www.oldhousegardens.com

If you're looking for heirloom bulbs, this is Scott Kunst's site (speaker at the 2004 Flower and Garden Show) that specializes in historical plants.

The Cooperative Extension website offers a database of over 220 ornamental plants (trees, shrubs, perennials, ground covers). The database, developed as an on-line study guide for the commercial ornamental horticulture certification exam, is so large that it has been broken into segments. Trees are separated from shrubs, etc. Even within a group, say trees, they are separated alphabetically. When you click on a group, i.e. Trees A-F, you will see a table complete with common name, scientific name, brief comments, and then a thumbnail photo. If you click on the common name or the thumbnail you will be taken to a full photo page for each plant. Enjoy! Beth Phelps

http://www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/ornamentals/plant_material/plant_database/default.asp

Or, you can track it down by going to:

www.uaex.edu

and click on:

Agriculture

Horticulture

Ornamentals

Plant Material Information

Plant Database

To visit a fun an informative website, go to:



<http://www.wiseacre-gardens.com/gardenlink.html>

Coming Attractions

Saline County Master Gardeners Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale

Saturday, April 17, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Saline County Fairgrounds

- 10:00 a.m. Bob Byers, Director, Garvan Woodland Gardens
"Garvan Woodland Gardens: Arkansas' Botanical Garden"
10:45 a.m. Chris Olsen, owner of Horticare
"Wake Up! It's Spring! Planting With Color"
11:30 a.m. Janet Carson, Horticulture Specialist
"Arkansas Select Plants"

Large selection of azaleas and more for sale
Information and literature on combating fire ants
Arkansas Select Plant table, information and examples
Bring soil samples for testing
Wide variety of vendors and crafts, i.e. birdhouses
Master Gardener cook books on sale
For more information call the Saline County Extension Office at 501-303-5672. There is no cost for this event.

American Lung Association of Arkansas

The American Lung Association of Arkansas has contacted Little Rock's top architects, home builders and interior designers to create children's playhouses which will go on display in early May at University Mall. These designer playhouses will be auctioned at a cocktail reception on the evening of May 16, 2004. Horticare is providing themed landscapes for each of these fabulous playhouses. Master Gardeners are invited to attend a lecture by Chris Olsen of Horticare at 10:00 am Tuesday, May 11, 2004 in the Lower Atrium of University Mall. Chris will speak for about thirty minutes, and then give a tour of the playhouses and landscapes. Refreshments will be served.

Julie Crouch, Special Events Officer

Spring Garden Festival

The Ed Leamon Memorial Park gardens in Fairfield Bay are beautiful at any time of the year but particularly so in the spring. On May 29, 2004, take a tour of the gardens, shop at the plant sale, bring questions and sick plants to the Van Buren County Master Gardeners Plant and Garden Problem Clinic, talk with a soil specialist and pick up soil testing packets, enjoy the North Central Arkansas Foundation for the Arts and Education art show and sale, as well as other festivities from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. All events are free. You must be present for the drawing to win door prizes. The park is located on Dave Creek Parkway through the main entrance gate to Fairfield Bay on Hwy 16. For more information call the Van Buren County Extension office at 501-745-7117.



3Ps Committee

Pulling together members from all over the county, with diverse backgrounds, interests, and talents has allowed our Master Gardener program to become a veritable gardening force. This force tends to thirty different projects around our communities, some publicly visible, some not. The program's success enables us to draw an impressive number of new recruits each year. The diversity, division, and recruiting have been beneficial to our program, but they can come at a cost: members feeling disconnected.

At a retention conference a few years ago, this potential cost was addressed. Something more was needed to prevent disconnection from draining away members. The Promotions, Publicity, and Public Relations Committee, better known as the 3Ps, was created to fill this important hole for the PCMG program.

To encourage us to wear our name tags, the committee gives candy to all members who wear theirs to meetings. They solicit door prizes to give away at each general meeting, and sponsor the license plate drawing for members who turn in their volunteer hours each month, publishing the winners' pictures in the Master Minutes. These are all ways to help us get to know one another.

Now, 3Ps has started a new program, 'Thanks for the Smiles!' a campaign to capture Master Gardeners on film. Our pictures will be compiled in a permanent 'Memory Book' in addition to illustrating articles in the "Master Minutes".

Beginning at the February Master Gardener Meeting, group photos of several committees were taken. The committee plans to photograph the door prize winners and license plate winners each month as well. Each month in the Master Minutes' Classifieds, Page 10, a list will be published of the committees to be photographed either before or after the next general meeting. For this campaign to be successful, your cooperation is needed. Please check the Classifieds each month to know when your committee is scheduled to be photographed. Then make plans to arrive early/stay late on the meeting day.

Barbara Daniel, Betty Deere, Cheryl Kennedy, David Dodson, David Werling, Jim Dyer, Joan Bullard, John Gill, Judy Woodard, Kandy Jones, Laetitia East, Lynn Winningham, Paul McDonnell, Rose Hogan, Sharon Davis, Steve Lopata, and Suellen Roberts serve on this committee, which has no meetings!



3Ps at the February, 2004 meeting: Lynn Winningham, David Werling, Sharon Davis-Chairman, Laetitia East, and Suellen Roberts
Back: Cheryl Kennedy, Jim Dyer, Judy Woodard, Joan Bullard, Barbara Daniel, Vivian Fritts, and Steve Lopata

Photo courtesy of the 3Ps

The 3Ps will gladly accept any prizes you wish to donate as a door prize.

Best in Show

Wildflowers of Arkansas Program

Excerpts from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department Website

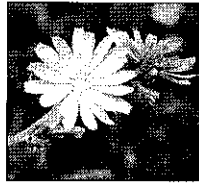


"The Natural State" is turning over 200,000 acres of highway roadsides into natural gardens with more than 600 species of wildflowers. Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) is using wildflowers in three ways: a Wildflower Route Program to preserve existing wildflower populations; Operation Wildflower to establish new wildflower populations; and the Wildflower Sign program to increase public awareness of the AHTD Wildflower Program. The goals are to help reduce long-term maintenance costs, enhance wildlife habitat, beautify roadsides, and preserve native plants. Operation Wildflower establishes new wildflower populations with donated seed along primary highways. Planting sites are limited by safety restrictions, accessibility, soil characteristics, and the availability of seed.



For free brochures on the Wildflowers of Arkansas Program, write to: Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Dept. 10324 Interstate 30, PO Box 2261, Little Rock, Ar. 72203-2261 Or go to:

http://www.ahtd.state.ar.us/Environ/ahtd_wildflower_program.htm

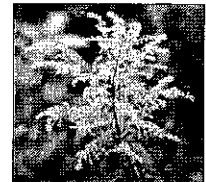


Operation Wildflower scenic drives beginning in May:

- U.S. Highway 62, 412 & 63: Eureka Springs east through Powhatan
- U. S. Highway 49 south: Jonesboro to Brinkley
- U.S. 167 south: Little Rock to El Dorado
- U.S. 70 in July: Hot Springs southwest to junction U.S. 71
- U.S. Highway 270: Hot Springs to Mena
- U. S. 71: I-40 north to Fayetteville
- Scenic Byway 7: Hot Springs to Harrison
- U. S. 70: Carlisle east to Hazen

Arkansas wildflowers used:

Carolina larkspur (*Delphinium carolinium*); downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*); Mexican hat (*Ratibida columnifera*); Queen Ann's lace (*Daucus carota*); rose vervain (*Glandularia canadensis*); black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*); Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*); showy evening primrose (*Oenothera speciosa*); wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*); pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*); goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*); lance-leaved coreopsis (*Coreopsis lanceolata*); Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*); Chicory (*Coreopsis intybus*); plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*); spider lily (*Hymenocallis caroliniana*); rough blazing star (*Liatrus aspera*); bird's foot violet (*Viola pedata*); cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*); butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*); Arkansas beard tongue (*Penstemon arkansanus*); ox-eyed daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*); purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*); tickseed (*Bidens aristosa*)



Photos courtesy of Wise Acre Gardens website

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Susan Crisp

Board Meeting, March 16, 2004 General Meeting, March 16, 2004

- ✓ Minutes of the last meeting and Treasurer's reports were approved.
- ✓ New Project Chairs:
Cammack – Jim Dyer, Fran Ables and Mary Vancura
War Memorial – Shirley Gunnels
- ✓ Report on Two River Park meeting.
- ✓ Proposed By-Laws changes concerning terms for the Members-At-Large will be in the next Master Minutes and voted on at the April meeting.
- ✓ The Pulaski County Kite Festival is April 24th from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Two Rivers Park, Volunteers are needed contact Beth.
- ✓ Pulaski County Day, May 14th – lunch hour at River Market. Master Gardeners have been asked to have an educational display.
- ✓ Denise Adams book will be purchased for library.
- ✓ New University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Guidelines for Master Gardeners Financial Operations were discussed. The Board will develop a plan to comply.
- ✓ Audit Committee appointed by Nancy Kirsch.

- ✓ President Nancy Kirsch welcomed members and announced the passing of Ann Morgan. Individuals can make a memorial contribution. She will be greatly missed.
- ✓ New Project Chairs:
Cammack – Jim Dyer, Fran Ables and Mary Vancura
War Memorial – Shirley Gunnels



Shane Reynolds presents the program.

- ✓ Thank yous went out to all that worked at the Flower and Garden Show and to those who helped trim Crepe Myrtle trees at the church.
- ✓ Spring picnic will be Thursday, May 6th at the Lakeside Country Club. RSVP forms will be mailed. The cost is \$12.00.
- ✓ Marlgate Tour is Wednesday, May 5th at 10 a.m. for \$10. Cookies and punch will be served. RSVP by April 26th.
- ✓ Greenhouse sale is April 17th from 8 a.m. - Noon.
- ✓ Congratulations to Beth for Arkansas Flower and Garden Show Volunteer of the Year Award.
- ✓ T-shirts are available from the Flower and Garden Show (see Mary Evans). Books are also for sale (see Marilyn Tilley).
- ✓ Proposed By-law changes concerning the terms for the Board Member-At-Large positions will go out in next month's minutes.
- ✓ Please pay your dues. See Mary Freeman, Treasurer.
- ✓ LR City Greenhouse Work Days are March 26th and 27th, 8 a.m. – Noon at 33rd and Gaines Streets. Plants for the War Memorial, Art Center and Contemplation Garden projects.
- ✓ Herb Society luncheon tickets are on sale.
- ✓ Members were reminded to check the sticky board in the back to find out about up-coming garden events around the State.
- ✓ "What's Hot in Arkansas" presented by Shane Reynolds was the program.

Proposed By-Law Changes: Beth Phelps

Here are the proposed by-laws changes that we will vote on at the April Master Gardener Meeting. They simply change the length of term for Members-At-Large so that they serve 2 years.

Article IV Section 4: Proposed:

A. Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are selected. No officer shall serve more than two terms in the same office. Exceptions are the Treasurer, who is not limited to two terms, and the two Members at Large, who have two-year terms (one elected each year.)

Article IV. Section 5: Proposed:

F. Board Members at large shall represent the membership of the PCMG at all Board meetings and serve on ad-hoc committees at the discretion of the President.



Patsy Knodel – Frog, Pat McDonald - license plate, Ruth Jones- flower bouquet

Master Gardener dues for 2004

If you have not paid your dues, please send \$15 payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners to:

Mary Freeman
16301 Faulkner Lake Rd.
North Little Rock, AR 72117

Photographs are courtesy of Jim Dyer and Jim Tyler, 3-Ps committee.

Classifieds

Thanks for the Smiles!

April meeting:

At 11:00 - Old State House
Pulaski Co. Extension Office
Mt. Holly

Park Hill Senior Center

After the meeting: Baptist Rehab

Park Hill Water Works

Master Minutes Newsletter

Prize Winners

Please note that Old Mill has been
rescheduled for the June meeting.

Please check in at the back left hand
corner of the meeting room before the
meeting, so we'll know who's there. After
the meeting, please come toward the front
left corner and left hand wall, to let the
crowd clear before the pictures are taken.

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master
Gardener members who have concerns to
be shared please contact the Retention
Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

We send our condolences to Lois Corley
and her family on the death of her sister,
Ann Morgan; on March 1st. Ann was a
dedicated Master Gardener and served on
the Greenhouse Committee.

City Beautiful Nominations

Little Rock and North Little Rock are
recognizing homeowners with exceptional
and publicly visible landscapes.

Nomination forms are available in the
County Extension Office, and the City
Beautification Commission of each city.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Memorial Fund

Donations to the PCMG Memorial Fund
may be made "In Memory of" or "In Honor
of" anyone. Gifts may be specified for a
particular use (i.e. trees on public property;
garden books for library; Master Gardener
projects: benches, birdbaths, statues, or
other hardscape); or for General Master
Gardener program support.

Donations should be sent to:

PCMG Memorial Fund

2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural
problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly>
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Cooperative Extension Service
Website:
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service
Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative Extension
Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

Garden Belle, <i>Monarda didyma</i>	1
After Hours: Jerry Quick	1
Flower & Garden Show Presentations	2
Master Gardeners are the Show	2
Best in Show: 2004 Ar. F&G Show	3
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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained
volunteers working with the University of Arkansas
Cooperative Service and Pulaski County
Government to provide demonstration gardens and
horticultural - related information to the residents of
the county. In 2003, these volunteers gave more than
10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent, Staff
Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to
submit interesting
information, committee
reports, newsworthy
photos, etc. to the
newsletter.

Bring your information to
the Master Gardener
meeting, or send it to:
Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
663-1151

The deadline is the third
Tuesday of each month.
For late breaking news
after the deadline, send
information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
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Lorraine Hensley
Walter Jennings
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