

Pulaski County Master Minutes

May, 2004

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

Volume 15, Issue 4

Designed With Peace in Mind By Susie Gillihan



Mike Zimmerman in his Japanese Garden –
Photo courtesy of Cathy Zimmerman

A Japanese Garden is a representation of the universe and its elements: fire- in the form of a stone or iron lantern; earth- in the form of stone; and water, air, plant, and animal life- in

their true forms. Gardens are essentially divided between dry landscape and the pond garden types. Even in a dry garden there is always some water, notably in dripping basins or suggested by waterfall chains from down spouts.

The garden path is not merely a functional entry into the garden. It is philosophical path separating the viewer step-by-step from the work-a-day week, which he leaves behind. Its stones are placed with careful irregularity and leads to a path, or larger stone. The stones are stopping points for vistas or views and represent meditative pauses in the personal experience of contacting the universe via the garden experience.

Stones generally form the basic supporting framework of a Japanese garden, and they should look as though they had always lived in the spot in which one sees them. Jagged stones are used to suggest mountain areas or water-worn pebbles are used in stream courses and along shorelines. These landscape effects are often more symbolic than realistic. For example, there generally is an island in either a stream or pond, which suggests the island of everlasting life, or Nirvana-a place without time or space, of ultimate peace and tranquility.

A Japanese Garden is not planted with the idea of presenting a display of flowers; flowers are never used in beds or borders. The Japanese often enjoy their gardens most in the austere condition of winter when the trees are bare and the foliage is at a minimum. They often trim camellias, azaleas, and other flowering shrubs to produce a minimum of flowers. In fact, severe discipline governs the use of flowers, which are used at only one point in the house, the tokonoma, a special architectural alcove built for the purpose. Fresh flowering plant materials are never used decoratively on the dining table or at odd points about the house; never worn as corsages; never used at weddings or funerals. Essentially as a matter of philosophy, flowers and plants are considered to have a very special life of their own as an expression of nature and are never used as decorations.*

Mike Zimmerman has designed his garden with an Oriental philosophy. For the past two years, Mike has had a dream in mind concerning his garden and he and his wife work tirelessly at completing that dream. Mike has a great respect of love and for beauty. He has created sacred places in his garden. The garden has well placed rocks and lovely paths that lead past beautiful Maple trees to shrines, and places to sit and contemplate. His garden is built in never ending circles that represent the never-ending circle of life.

Mike works hard at creating his own space of tranquility, but realizes that the work will never be done. That is the wonderful love of gardening, with continuing changes of new plants put in and new designs placed into his lovely oriental garden. Mike believes that to be human is to be creative, and that certainly shows in his beautiful garden.

Mike Zimmerman is a R.N. at the VA hospital. He and his wife, Cathy, live in Sherwood, AR.

*professor Lennox Tierney, Art director- Japanese Friendship Garden, San Diego, CA. Consultant/Donor, Mingei Museum, San Diego, CA

Chris Olsen
2004 Friend of the
Pulaski County Master Gardeners

See page 2.
Photo by Lynn Winningham



A Minor Change by Beth Phelps

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Program has grown, and grown and grown. There are now 315 active Master Gardener Volunteers. This has made it necessary to change our treasury to stay within the IRS guidelines and avoid incorporating as a 501(c)(3), a separate legal entity with all of the liabilities.

According to IRS and University of Arkansas guidelines, we can not have more than \$5,000 in gross income each year. With our greenhouse sales, Continuing Education seminars, trips and social events we are over this limit. To take care of this problem for Master Gardener groups around the state, the Cooperative Extension Service has set up County Extension Accounts which do not have this limit, since they are County Office Accounts. This will allow the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to operate as they have been with the exception that excess income will be deposited in the Pulaski County Extension Service Account and held for the use of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Mary Freeman, Master Gardener treasurer, will continue to keep an accounting of the Fund, make deposits and write checks from both accounts.

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.



Best in Show: Chris Olsen, Friend of the Master Gardeners by Mary Evans

Several years ago at the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show we were building a butterfly house. We were way out on a limb, because no one had ever built a butterfly house. Needless to say, we put a lot of planning into it. And we had a limited budget. So I had to beg/borrow all the supplies that I could. One of the items needed was mulch.....a lot of it. I called out to Horticare (because I know Chris is "easy.") and asked about the possibility of borrowing some from him, since he was going to "be there anyway." No problem. They came with a dump truck full, dumped it, pushed it around with a bobcat & even loaned us tools. After the show was over, they came with the bobcat & hauled it all off. What a deal!

Well, during the show, I had to go into a water feature. Keep in mind it's February & I had to roll up my jeans. I hadn't shaved my legs for quite some time. I asked Chris not to look, but of course he did. And he had to point it out to everyone else. So from then on.....the deal became: We could borrow the mulch, but ONLY if I promised to shave my legs. So true to his word, at the next show, he checked. In front of everyone, before we could have the mulch. It was a curious sight on the show floor when he checked the first time.

We borrowed mulch from him for several years after that. I think people at the show have become accustomed to the checking process.

It is just a small personal sacrifice on my part on behalf of the master gardeners. And Chris checks me all year round now. At the state meeting in Searcy when he was a speaker, he told everyone about our "arrangement." Of course I had to explain. (Thank goodness my legs were shaved.)

Chris loves the master gardeners. Seems that every year at the show we need to borrow something or forget something, he is always willing to loan to us. He has gone out of his way to give programs at several of our state meetings. He loves and supports our programs. He helps to get the word out about our programs. He gives us a master gardener discount at his nursery. He even gives us a wine and cheese party every year at Horticare. And every year in February, I shave my legs at least once for the mulch.

By the way, the Horticare display at the 2004 Arkansas Annual Flower & Garden Show was the People's Choice Award Winner 2004 for the Booth & Garden Division.

2004 Friend of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Congratulations to Chris Olsen, President of Horticare Companies, on his election as the 2004 Friend of the PCMGs. The Horticare Companies, located at 7901 Stagecoach Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, or on the web at <http://www.horticare.net/> were founded in 1980. The companies consist of a nursery, landscaping, irrigation, lawn chemical, and landscape maintenance operations. To visit Our Friend, visit Horticare Nursery Monday thru Saturday 8am to 5:30pm. Open Sundays (March thru May, September thru November) 12pm to 5pm.

Allow us to introduce to you.....

Historic Arkansas Museum Committee



Juddie Wachtel, Mary Lou Arrington, and Trudy Goolsby

Photo by Lynn Winningham

Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project Committee



In Back: Fran Ables, Mary Vancura, and Gay McDaniel
Jim Dyer, Carolyn France, Sharl Hill, and Jennie Cole

Photo by Jim Tyler

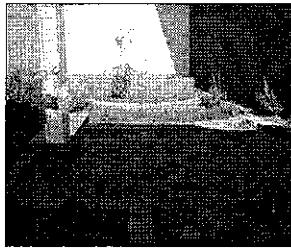
After Hours: Jim Alberson

By Lorraine Hensley



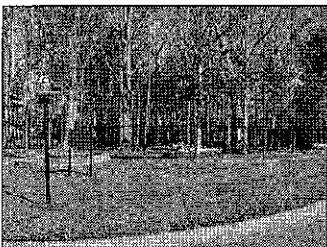
You can take the boy off the farm but you can't take the farm out of the boy. Most of us have heard this one but Jim Alberson (class of '99) is living proof of this adage. Jim's "after hours" horticultural activities have common denominators: respect for his community and those who live there.

He works alone at the Amboy United Methodist Church, 311 East Military Road, in North Little Rock. This master gardener spends 2 days a month there cutting grass, general clean up, and taking care of the flower beds which he has also planted. The most difficult initial project there was an area between two buildings which had become grown up and unkempt. Following the general clean up between these two structures he received a surprise. As he began digging prefatory to planting he found about 6 inches of concrete under the dirt. He broke the concrete into chunks and used a wheel barrow to remove them. He then used landscape stones to build flower beds in a tier design and placed an angel figurine on a pedestal which he then accented with various plants. Currently, those two days a month are spent primarily on maintenance chores and replacing plants as needed.



We haven't finished yet. Due, in large part, to Jim's endeavors the Maumelle AARP chapter adopted the Pyeatte-Mason Cemetery located in Maumelle as a community project. This cemetery is on the National Historic Register and Jim serves as committee chair. Work days are the 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month normally in the spring and fall of the year. A group of a half a dozen Maumelle residents, including Jim, work hard on this project.

Jim Alberson sees his efforts "after hours" as a means of respecting those early settlers who built for the future. He respects the past and those who lived it. Part of his after hours' efforts consists of attempts to preserve that past for the present and future. Another part satisfies the need of an inveterate "farm



boy" to garden in the fresh air. As an active Master Gardener, Jim Alberson serves on the Curran Hall and Park Hill Senior Center committees.

Master Gardeners learn with educational hours and pay back with volunteer hours. Twenty of each is required to remain in good standing. But some do so much "after hours" in the community or in their own yards where there are no credits garnered. "After Hours" is an attempt to recognize Master Gardeners who go that 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!!

Photos by Lynn Winningham and Beverly Alberson.

Highlights of the LRCGC Tour

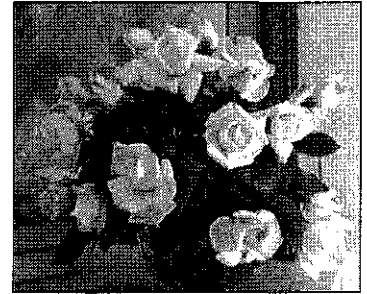
Photographs by Cheryl Kennedy



Ashley porch



Gray stream



Hillcrest Hall Bouquet



McHenry Iris



Kronos Angel



Calendar By Ruth Jones

May, 2004

- 1 Garden Day at St. James Methodist Church- 9:00 a.m.
- 1 PCMG Greenhouse spring sale- 8:00 a.m. to noon
- 1 Shade Garden Workshop- Mary Evans. Info: 664-7863
- 5-11 National Herb Week.
- 5 Marisgate 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.
- 8 Hypertufa, the Basics in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 9 Mother's Day Rose Tour. Fort Smith Rose Society features seven private gardens. Info:479-646-5326
- 11 Herb Garden Basics- Mary Evans. Info: 6647863
- 13 Summer Bloomers- Mary Evans. Info: 664-7863
- 14 Pulaski County Day
- 15 Garden Tour with A Twist- Mary Evans. Info: 664-7863
- 15 Mosaics, Free Form in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 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
- 22 Mosaics, Free Form at Logoly State Park. 1 to 4 pm. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 22 Hypertufa, the Basics at Logoly State Park. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 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 Ouachita with John Pelton at Wildwood Info:501-821-7275
- 5 Mosaics, Free Form in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 8 Janet Carson: "Gardening to Beat the Heat". Garvan Woodlands Gardens. (members only).
- 10 Summer Patio Gardens- Mary Evans. Info: 664-7863
- 12 Wild Orchids of the Ouachita with Carl Hunter at Wildwood. Info:501-821-7275
- 12 Hypertufa, the Basics at Logoly State Park. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 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 Ouachita with Carl Hunter at Wildwood. Info: 501-821-7275

- 19 Hypertufa, the Basics in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 25-- Butterfly Festival, Mt. Magazine State Park.
- 26 Info: 479-963-2244
- 26 Attracting Butterflies and Hummingbirds to you Garden at Wildwood. Info: 501-821-7275
- 26 Hypertufa, Beyond the Basics in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.

July, 2004

- 10 North American Butterfly Association Count, Queen Wilhelmina State Park. Info: 479-394-2863
- 10 Hypertufa, Beyond the Basics in Logoly State Park. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 17 Hypertufa, Beyond the Basics in NLR. 9 to noon. Call 375-0068 or 870- 695-3451.
- 22 Butterfly Gardening at Garvan Gardens- Janet Carson Workshop. Members \$25. Non Members \$30. Info: 800-366-4664. Registration opens June 15th.

April through October

Arkansas Home Grown Markets

- All Tuesdays - YWCA 12th and Cleveland
- Thursdays - Lakewood Village
- Saturdays - Second Presbyterian Church
- Markets open at 6:30 am



Fran Ables, Pulaski County Master Gardener, will present a program on "Influences on the Southern Garden" at the PCMG meeting on May18, 2004, at 11:30a.m. at St James United Methodist Church.

May Special on Compost and Hardwood Mulch

The City of Little Rock Public Works is running a special during May on compost and hardwood mulch - \$15.00 a pickup load for hardwood mulch and \$18.00 a pickup load for compost. In June the price goes back to \$25.00 per ton for either compost or mulch. Both are available at the landfill on Ironton Road Cut-Off. The landfill is open weekdays and on Saturdays following a week-day holiday. If there is no week-day holiday in the month they are open the last Saturday of the month. They have a quality composting operation and I know many Master Gardeners' gardens and our projects have benefited from the compost and mulch they produce.



May Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

Purchase some annuals without flowers so that you can enjoy the blooms longer. Choose shorter bushy plants because the larger ones are more established already and may not transplant as well. A dark green color is generally a good indicator of a strong healthy plant (Make sure that they are not light colored or yellowing. Nor should they have brown patches.) When planting your annuals if you loosen up the roots a bit before planting it will stimulate stronger growth.

General Yard

Many gardeners plant useful vegetable gardens OR beautiful fragrant flower gardens. Try combining the two by planting nasturtium and marigold in with your vegetables or herbs around your flower garden. Plant lily-of-the valley or other flowering bulbs around the trunks of your trees to enhance the yard's natural beauty. Plant corn with strawflower for a colorful border and instead of building a fence.

Lawns

If your soil is well prepared, it is still not too late to lay turf or sow lawn seed. Feed lawn with high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for really green grass. Make sure you use a spreader to ensure the fertilizer is spread evenly.

De-thatch, edge and weed as needed.

If you have pine trees on or near your lawn, make sure that you rake the needles regularly. Pine needles will kill anything underneath them. They pack so tight that light is unable to get through. This also makes them an excellent mulch and natural weed killer under trees and shrubs.

If you wish to use weed killers you should do so now while the grass is growing rapidly. Do not use a weed killer if your soil is too wet, too dry or if you have a young lawn. Do not mow your lawn for at least a week after an application. Never add your cuttings to the compost after a treatment.

When mowing your lawn make sure you use a mower with a sharp blade. If the blade is dull it will tear the young seedlings from the soil.

Add gentle curves to your lawn for the appearance of a larger area. Gentle curves are also easier to mow than sharp curves or corners.

Long grass around fruit trees will slow the establishment of young trees. Keep it well trimmed.

Remove runners from strawberries for more fruit production or use this growth method. Plant new strawberries on top of old ones. Allow the runners to cover the beds as thick as they can get. Later in the fall cover them with about two or three inches of soil. The following spring you will be surprised at the strong production of foliage. The first year may be less productive than years to come.

Vegetables & Herbs

Remember to rotate vegetable crops to help control pests, disease and keep the soil in good shape.

Monthly Blooms

Abelia, allium, azalea, Canterbury bells, chives, clematis, columbine, coreopsis, cornflowers, late daffodils, early daisies, daylilies, deutzia, blue fescue, forget-me-not, foxglove, gaura, golden rain tree, heather, French hollyhock, honeysuckle, hydrangea, wild indigo, bearded iris, Siberian iris, flag iris, kerria, lamium, Asiatic lilies, Peruvian lilies, mock orange, milk weed, money plant, nicotiana, nierembergia, oxalis, pansies, peonies, phlox, pinks, poppies, English primrose, evening primrose, roses, rosemary, culinary sage, salvias, sedum acre, Japanese snowball, Solomon's seal, spiderwort, spirea, strawberries, hybrid teas, thyme, sweet William, veronica, viola and yarrow.

Central Arkansas Water Peak Demand Management Program: What is *peak demand overload* and how can you help?

In Central Arkansas, we are blessed with an abundant supply of high-quality and affordable drinking water. However, during the summer months, it is possible to stress the water delivery system to the limit simply because so many lawn sprinklers come on at the same time – usually between 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. on weekday mornings. This time also is household rush-hour — when everyone is busy showering, cooking, washing dishes and clothing, and getting ready for the day.

While a water system can tolerate spikes in demand, the continued use of higher-than-normal amounts during a specific time period in a neighborhood can cause *peak demand overload*. Peak demand or the maximum usage of water by customers usually occurs at the same time we are experiencing our hottest temperatures and our lawns and gardens are most thirsty. Operating the distribution pipeline and pumping system at or near capacity for an extended period can cause low water pressure in affected neighborhoods.

The positive side is that residents of a neighborhood can avoid spikes in demand by working together to change the time they water their lawns. Central Arkansas Water is asking sprinkler customers west of Interstate 430 in Little Rock to *AVOID THE PEAK!* by not watering between 5:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. It's an easy way to help the local water utility with managing peak demand and spreading out water usage.

For information on re-setting your in-ground sprinkler system, call your sprinkler installer/maintenance company. For information about water service, call Central Arkansas Water at 372-5161.

Avoid the Peak! between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.
Re-set your sprinkler system today!



What Works!

Trading Post



Compiled By Sharon Davis

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.

- For ant bites, dab with a solution of water with baking soda.
- For insect bites and stings, apply witch hazel, oil of eucalyptus, or essence of lavender.
- For bee stings, remove the stinger at once, and then treat with a solution of water and baking soda.
- Pulaski County Extension Office Committee wants pachysandra and vinca minor. They work at the Extension Office every Thursday. If you have these plants to share, please contact Cathy Muren 868-9472 or Virginia Jackson 868-4180.
- Carl Hunter has pine cones, clean, sacked, great mulch for large pots. (501) 455-1538
- Fran Lopata has Ageratum, perennials. (501) 223-8099
- Lou Sanders has green Aucubas (Small). (501) 221-9722
- Laetitia East has Liriope (you dig). (501) 661-9388
- Bonnie Wells has variegated (white/green) vinca-perennial- sun/shade. (501) 228-0802
- Mary Vancura has Money tree plant- helipris. (501)666-5988

For gardeners, broadcasting is simply scattering seeds where you want them to grow. In What Works, you broadcast your deeds, or gardening experiences, hopefully in good time, so that we all benefit from your successes and failures.

Applied Research Opportunities for Master Gardeners by Janet B. Carson

We have talked in the past about the potential for Master Gardeners to help with applied research. The plants distributed each year at the Master Gardener State Meeting are one example of this research. There are two new opportunities for Master Gardeners to be involved.

- The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service is interested in locating two or three (or more) gardens in the state that are heavily infested with root-knot nematodes. We would like to test several products for their effectiveness.
- The University of Utah is looking for gardeners who grow or are interested in growing castor beans. The gardener can be provided seeds if they don't currently have them. The castor beans would be grown all season and in August and September you would collect seeds and some soil and water. Sampling kits will be provided for you.

The easiest and least expensive way to propagate plants is by dividing and replanting plants and gathering seeds. You may bring your extra plants and seeds to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care of your plant. To guarantee an exchange, list your divided plants and seeds in The Trading Post.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Janet B. Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist
University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service
P.O. Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 671-2174, fax (501)671-2303

Thank you, Healthy Lawns & Shrubs

Once again, we want to acknowledge Stan McDaniel and Healthy Lawns & Shrubs for treating the turf at the Pulaski County Extension Service at no cost. We appreciate your donation.

Beth Phelps

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Memorial Fund

The Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners has formalized a Memorial Fund into which gifts may be made. These gifts may be made "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" any designated person and may be specified for a particular use. Those specified uses might include trees to be placed on public property; garden related books for libraries; funds to be used for a specific Master Gardener project (benches, boulders, birdbaths, statues, or other hardscape); or for general Master Gardener program support.

Donations should be sent to: Pulaski County Master Gardener Program, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.



Book Reviews



By Bonnie Nicholas

Real Gardeners' True Confessions

By Pat Stone

A Storey Publishing Book, 1996, 168 pages, \$12.95

This book takes the basic skills of gardening that every gardener should know and goes through them simply, clearly, and humorously. You can avoid the most common home gardening faux pas just by reading this book.

Some odds and ends from Stone's passages:

1. The bigger and flashier the flower, the more sun it needs to get that way.
2. Chinese gardening proverb states that the best fertilizer is the gardener's footsteps.
3. The most frequent culprit of an ailing plant is soil drainage. Solutions are raised beds or French drains.
4. "Garden" means "walled enclosure" and pH is "potential hydrogen."
5. No good gardener is an island.
6. Work at growing soil as well as plants.
7. Stick your tomato plants in a chopped-down, but not turned-under, bed of overwintered hairy Vetch. This will produce outstanding yields.

There are twenty chapters beginning with Site with Foresight and ending with Seed Starting: The Cycle Goes On. The intermission is on page 77 and lists eleven hilarious sins—nine of which I've committed myself.

= = Internet Pipelines By Walter Jennings

1. Get set for an amazing visual trip: go to www.cheryls gardenparty.com the web site of our Master Gardener Cheryl Kennedy. Click on "garden of the month" then 2004, then historic garden. Enjoy the tour of our Curran Hall project!
Beth Phelps
2. Local weather info can be found at a lot of websites, but there is one web location from the National Weather Service where a gardener can find it all with one click of a button—local forecast; climatology with overnight local rain totals, heating degree days to date and freeze temperatures; hazardous weather bulletins; and radar images of violent storms active in Arkansas.
NOAA link to Pulaski County weather:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/forecasts/ARZ044.php?zo=1>
NOAA link to local forecasts anywhere in the US:
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/>

David Werling

By Cheryl Kennedy

Reprinted with permission from cheryls gardenparty.com

About a month ago, I attended the Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Heirloom Gardening class. I had signed up long before I realized my hours would be at even more of a premium than usual, and by the time the actual moment drew near, I hesitated to invest a whole day at a seminar. However, it turned out to be time and effort well spent. Also, as one of the attendees, I brought home *Restoring American Gardens*. The author, Denise Wiles Adams, spoke that day, and her photos and discussion reintroduced me to many plants I had forgotten from my own grandmother's garden.

Denise is a frequent writer for publications such as *Fine Gardening*, *The Herbarist*, *Perennial Plants*, and *Country Gardens*, and her gardens have been featured in a number of regional and national publications. She earned her Ph.D. in horticulture at Ohio State University and owned an heirloom flower and herb nursery for about 10 years. For the book, she distilled her plant list (more than 1,000, representing all regions of the country) from a database of more than 25,000 plants and hundreds of antique nursery catalogs, plus old books, journals, photo albums, and postcards.

She says the first chapter should help people who want to "accurately document a historic landscape, as well as those searching for some historic garden details to enhance their own landscapes." The second discusses the most common garden elements, along with appropriate plant lists and references to American horticultural literature and designers, from the earliest years of the United States to World War II. The third chapter shows plant palette changes and development with considerations of climate and heritage. The remainder of the book (more than 300 additional pages) is devoted to the encyclopedia of trees, shrubs, vines, roses, annuals, biennials, perennials, and bulbs. Proving that Denise has covered all the bases, the appendices include All-American ornamentals and regional plant lists, historic plant sources, and, as a good horticultural citizen, a list of potentially invasive heirlooms.

The book is generously illustrated with the old pictures she's collected, plus lovely photos Denise has taken of her own garden and many others she has visited. You may wonder if this Ph.D. has created an ivory tower tome, albeit a pretty one. However, her writing is informative, descriptive, and to the point — in one word, practical. But beware — the fetching illustrations will beguile you into adding a lot of "new" heirlooms to your borders.

For more information on *Restoring American Gardens*, An *Encyclopedia of Heirloom Ornamental Plants 1640-1940*, go to:
<http://www.timberpress.com/books/index.cfm?do=details&ID=727>.

From the April 13, 2004 Diary Section of Cheryl Kennedy's website, click on the sublink for April 13 on the noted page:
<http://www.cheryls gardenparty.com/2004/Diary/April04/DiaryApril04Wk2.htm>

Iris By Lorraine Hensley



Bearded irises at the Greenhouse

When you see irises in bloom think "split personality" and you are on the mark. For the iris has quite a history. Dedicated early to the Virgin Mary as a symbol of her pain at Christ's suffering, this unassuming bloom came to also symbolically represent the kings of France. Clovis, the French king at the time, credited the iris with showing the French troops a way out of a trap engineered by the Goths. King Clovis and his troops needed to cross a river to escape their enemies and Clovis was familiar enough with the iris to know they grew and prospered in a well drained soil. When Clovis saw them growing in certain areas of the river he told his men they could safely cross where the irises were pointing out the river shallows. In gratitude Clovis adopted the flower as his emblem. Louis VII's banner, during the second French Crusade, proudly displayed a symbol of the iris. This symbol was called the fleur de Louis which in time became the Fleur-de-lis.

For those iris lovers among us, the most important information to have where irises are concerned is they cannot and will not abide wet feet. Plant them in August or September either on a slope or in raised beds with tops of the rhizomes exposed and the roots spread downward in the soil. A light application of fertilizer in early spring with another application about a month later provides your plants with the food needed for a beautiful and healthy plant. Use a fertilizer appropriate for your soil but do avoid using one high in nitrogen.

Thin iris clumps before the need to do so is obvious. Old divisions at the plant's center may be removed while leaving new growth in the ground or you may choose to dig up the entire clump and replant the rhizomes. Cut the bloom stems close to the ground following the blooming period but leave the healthy green leaves alone for they help your plants store food for another wonderful blooming period the following year. Irises give back so much in return for not much more than keeping their feet dry and they have done so for hundreds of years. Give them what they need and enjoy the beauty they provide.

Gardeners in this century have quite a wide range of choice when planting time comes around. Bearded irises are generally available as dwarf bearded (12 to 15 inches in height), intermediate bearded (16 to 18 inches), or tall bearded (well over 2 feet high). Or, consider the Siberian iris if you would like to enjoy the iris bloom after the bearded varieties. For that's when the Siberian beardless irises come into their own. It's difficult to determine just which iris cultivars were dedicated to the Virgin Mary or became the symbol of the kings of France. Makes no difference in the pleasure they bring us in this century.

Photo courtesy of Steve Corley

Hypertufa Workshops By Kandy Jones

Spring is here! Just makes ya' want to get outside doesn't it? The Garage Sale Queen (Kandy Jones) & Habitat Hattie (Linda Goza), Master Gardeners, are having a great time playing in the mud. Hypertufa Classes are in full swing at Kandy's backyard in North Little Rock and at Logoly State Park in McNeil.

"Playing in the Mud" - Hypertufa, the Basics
Hypertufa is an artificial medium with properties similar to the tufa rock from which old stone sinks and animal troughs in England were carved. It is lighter than regular concrete, water permeable and weather resistant. It ages beautifully with a look of old rock. Different ingredients create unique textures that can be molded or sculpted. The only limitation is lack of imagination - and we've got "plenty" to share. Create a personal touch for your garden or a special gift for the gardener in your life.

"Playing in the Mud" - Hypertufa, Beyond the Basics
Ok, you've made a planter or a birdbath, now you want to go beyond the basics. We'll look at textures, techniques, and using armatures.

"Mosaics - Free Form"
This is great for beginners or just folks that want to get some new ideas. You are highly encouraged to bring a piece (maybe a tabletop, stepping stone, or a statue) that you thought would really be neat as a mosaic. You are also encouraged to bring old dishes, jewelry, or other fun bobbles. We'll also have a bunch of fun stuff to select from.

Check out <http://www.garagesalequeen.biz/>, the website for people with a sense of humor and an urge to create. The site has some construction "situations" so mark it and come back often. Class info will soon be available through our website.

Just e-mail or call with any questions:
Garage Sale Queen, Kandy Jones, 501-375-0068
410 W. 5th St., No. Little Rock, AR 72114
gsg@sbcglobal.net

or
Habitat Hattie, Linda Goza, 870-695-3451
Logoly State Park,
Hwy 79 between Camden & Magnolia, McNeil, AR
goza@magnolia-net.com

Have you caught the Garage Sale Queen on KATV, Channel 7's Good Morning Arkansas, Saturday Edition, a semi-kinda-sorta regular segment? That's right...it's the Redneck Martha Stewart (without the jail time) sharing her southern "art of recycling."

"I am always doing that which I cannot do in order that I may learn how to do it." - Pablo Picasso

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights by Susan Crisp



Carolyn Newbern has been appointed to serve as the Southeast District Representative on the 2004 -2006 Statewide Master Gardener Advisory Board. Members from around Arkansas were appointed to represent Master Gardeners in working with Janet Carson to plan events and to develop policies and guidelines that will impact the Master Gardener program.

Board Meeting on April 20, 2004

- ✓ Minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved.
- ✓ Congratulations to Carolyn Newbern who was appointed to the Master Gardeners' State Advisory Board.
- ✓ By-law change will be voted on at May meeting.
- ✓ Heirloom Gardening Seminar very successful with 164 attending.
- ✓ Board recommends that that our President sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service on behalf of the Pulaski County Master Gardner Program.
- ✓ Dick Blankenbeker will ask at General Meeting who will attend in May (State Meeting same day).
- ✓ War Memorial Project under renovation.
- ✓ Greenhouse Chairperson will be consulted about the use of the memorial funds collected for Ann Morgan.
- ✓ Leave of Absence application for Alton Gardner discussed and approved.
- ✓ Members who do not sign in before meeting must wait until after meeting. This should cut down on traffic to the front of the room during the meeting.

Lakewood Gardens Discount

In appreciation for all the work we do to beautify the community, Lakewood Gardens, 3101 North Hills Blvd, North Little Rock, is offering a 15% discount to all Master Gardeners. Please take your name tag with you for identification.

Photos courtesy of 3Ps: Jim Dyer, Jim Tyler and David Werling.

General Meeting on April 20, 2004

- ✓ Carolyn Newbern appointed to the Master Gardeners' State Advisory Board.
- ✓ Saturday, May 1st is Garden Day at St. James Methodist Church. Please come help out.
- ✓ Heirloom Seminar was successful with 164 attending.
- ✓ May picnic on Thursday, May 6th at the Lakeside Country Club. RSVP by Friday, April 30th.
- ✓ Marlsgate Tour is Wednesday, May 5th at 10 a.m. Cookies and punch for \$10.00. RSVP by May 1st. Call Bob Bray or Beverly House.
- ✓ By-law changes regarding Member-At-Large positions will be voted on at May meeting.
- ✓ Tour of Subiaco pepper groves and area wineries on June 17th. Check your Master Minutes for more information.
- ✓ Greenhouse plant sale scheduled for Saturday, May 1st at 8:00 a.m.
- ✓ May meeting will be at the same time and place even though State meeting is the same day.
- ✓ Susan Purvis will give program on "The Gardens of Japanese Relocation Camps in Arkansas" at the October meeting.
- ✓ Beth Phelps spoke about the Arkansas Select Program.



Prize winners at the April meeting:
Davies Campbell - Orchid; Joan Bullard - flowers; Pat Green - bromeliad

Classifieds

Thanks for the Smiles!

Due to the scheduling conflict with the state meeting, no committees will be photographed at the May meeting. However, after the meeting, the prize winners' picture will be taken. 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.

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.

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. If you arrive late, you may still sign in for credit, but please wait until after the meeting has concluded to avoid being a distraction.



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

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

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Hocott's Garden Center currently has full or part time cashier positions available. Apply in person, or contact Kristy @ 663-8376.
Hourly wages and discounts
Gardening knowledge and experience preferred.

Correction for April, 2004 issue, page 3: Photographs of the 2004 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show were taken by Steve Lopata and Cheryl Kennedy.

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
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340-6650



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