

Pulaski County Master Minutes

July, 2004

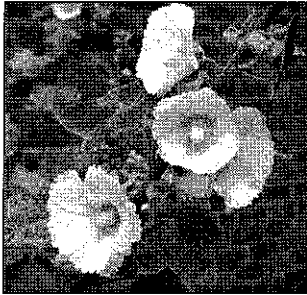
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 15, Issue 6

Hollyhocks

By Lorraine Hensley

Buddleia davidii



Historic Arkansas Museum's Hollyhocks

Easy to grow and colorful in your garden the hollyhock has been a favorite in the New World for 200 years or more. The *Alcea*, or Mallow, is most commonly known as hollyhock and has tall quite showy flowers. A close relative, the *Althaea rosea*, has shorter stems and perhaps blooms that are not so striking. This is a plant that keeps coming back in favor just when it seems no one is growing them anymore. It keeps popping up in contemporary gardens for many to enjoy. Some of us grow nostalgic for the past when hollyhocks were considered the norm in many gardens.

Although perennials, they are often described as biennials. They develop roots and foliage and flower in the following spring or summer and die after the first or second season. As biennials, they normally do not flower the first year from seed. They need to grow that first year and then send up those huge stalks the next spring or summer. After flowering, the mother plant dies and sets hundreds of seeds to repeat the cycle. They thrive in full sun and do better planted against a structure such as a wall or fence for this helps support the large stalks and allows a good airflow. They like a fertile alkaline soil and the young plants need moist soil to develop a healthy tap root. They don't like wet feet so be sure where you plant them is fairly well-drained for it's important to your success in growing this plant. Heavy clay soils with their ability to hold water will encourage root rot.

A disease called Hollyhock Rust (*Puccinia malvacearum*) is always a potential problem for the gardener attempting to grow this plant. But it's about the only one. If you grow hollyhocks and find reddish bumps on the underside of leaves you have identified rust. It over winters in cold climates by infecting the plant crowns. Although there is no cure for the disease it usually only affects those plants already under stress. Seems to be part of the plant world culture: a weak or stressed plant invites disease. So feed your plants well with compost and be sure they don't dry out in the summer heat.

If you are looking for something to plant and enjoy in your garden as your parents and grandparents did you might want to try the hollyhock. It's worth the little effort it takes to grow them.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

Plants are such world travelers and isn't it wonderful that they are. The *Buddleia davidii* came to the western world by way of Shanghai and then sent to Kew in 1887. Eventually these global adventurers found a warm welcome in your local landscape nurseries where the buddleia of your dreams may be waiting for you.

Butterfly bush is the common name for this plant and is named appropriately for it attracts large numbers and many varieties of butterflies to your garden. The plant is so worthwhile even without the additional flashes of color and movement from the butterflies and the show costs the gardener nothing but the little time spent caring for the butterfly bush.

A permanent shrub the buddleia likes full sun/filtered shade with the proviso that few plants can survive long summer days in full sun during the "dog days" of July and August. If a buddleia is on your wish list it's helpful to remember the "filtered shade" part of the buddleia's preferences. This plant also likes moderately rich and well-drained soil and can do well in fairly dry conditions once established. This plant also prefers dry feet to keep its roots from rotting.

There are many cultivars of butterfly bush but generally speaking they can reach a height of 6' -12' feet and have a spread is 4'-15'. Blooms can be purple, pink, and white. Or red and will bloom all summer. They need mulch in the fall and pruned to the ground in late winter, generally in late February or early March. Blooms tend to be larger and more prolific on new growth and you need to treat this plant as if it were an herbaceous perennial rather than a shrub.

Propagation is from stem cuttings or seeds. It is fairly easy to root from cuttings in warm weather and seeds need to pre chill for 4 weeks. Germination requires light and .30-90 days of 70-75 degree temperatures. Or, you could stop by your local landscape nursery and take one or two home for your garden. Giving this world traveler a home in your garden is good for your landscape, good for the butterflies and hummingbirds and the gardener. Your landscape is more beautiful for the buddleia's inclusion, the flying population certainly like it and the gardener gets to enjoy the aerial routines and beautiful blossoms.



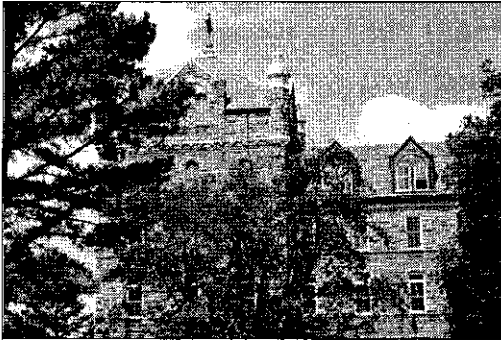
Photo courtesy of the USDA website: <http://plants.usda.gov>

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: Travelling to Subiaco/Wiedekehr Village



Subiaco- photo by Oneal Dedman

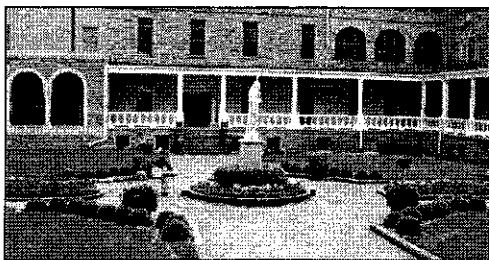
By Bob Bray



Wiedekehr Cellar with Emily Wiedekehr - photo by Oneal Dedman

It did an Arkansas farm boy's heart good to leave Interstate 40 and head west of Dardanelle on Arkansas State Highway 22. We were headed to Subiaco Abbey and Academy. There was not an orange barrel in sight. Thursday, June 17th had dawned sunny and warm. The cows in the pastures along the way were already trying to cool down. I noticed it was only the light-colored cows that had waded out into the stock ponds. The dark ones simply gathered under the shade of a huge oak tree. Do you suppose the Jersey and the Brown Swiss needed the moisturizer for their fairer hides?

Suddenly ahead of us appeared the beautiful Subiaco Abbey. Perched atop its own mountain, the abbey is home to a Benedictine monastery and an all-boys high school. Brother Francis, who was a retail horticulturist before coming to Subiaco from Kentucky, led our group on a tour. Twenty-five Master Gardeners, their spouses, and some friends, had made the trip.



The Quadrangle-photo by Jean Kuelzman

The complex overlooks the Abbey's cemetery to the north. Subiaco is a place for quiet reflection and a renewal of spirit.

Some of us on the tour were mildly amused that our secretary, Susan Crisp, had brought along her insect repellent kit. Later on, it didn't seem nearly as amusing as we applied ointment to our chigger and tick bites.

The Abbey's East Park has flower beds, a gazebo, a goldfish pond, and a belvedere. Someone had been weeding the flower beds when they were called away to another duty. The unfinished weeding reminded many of us about how our gardens looked back home. Brother Francis, also like many of us, has a list of things he would like to do in his garden. He wants to add a small waterfall to the goldfish pond and fountain. He would also like to try to re-establish honey bee hives. Killer mites have twice wiped

out their bee colonies in the last few years. Our own Sandy Harrison made sure Brother Francis has the name and address of Ed Levi of the Apiary Section of the Arkansas Plant Board. Levi had just presented a very interesting program on bees at the June 15th Master Gardener General Meeting.



Brother Francis- the tour of Subiaco-Jean Kuelzman

From the abbey, part of the group traveled on to the Wiedekehr Village near Altus for lunch and a tour of the winery. Emily Wiedekehr, a fifth generation of the Wiedekehr family in Altus, was our guide. We visited the wine cellars and the production area. Emily told us she often works along the line where the wine is bottled. Her job is to attach the fancy gold foil to the top of the bottles. She says she often gets behind like Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz did on the famous "I Love Lucy" episode where they tried to keep up with the chocolate candy on a conveyor belt.

Watch for information on our next Master Gardener trip coming up this fall and make plans to join us.

Travel Committee



Front: Judy Gregory, Marcia Kelly, Dolores LeCompte, Ben Jordan, and Beverly House. Back: Nan Matthews, Tom Stuart, Bob and Wanda Bray. Photo by 3Ps

The 2004 Travel Committee is led by Bob and Wanda Bray (Co/Chair). The committee includes Ben Jordan, Beverly House, Dolores LeCompte, Debbie Mickel, Frank Meeks, Ila Newberry, Jan King, Judy Gregory, Marcia Kelly, Marilyn Tilley, Nan Matthews, Paul McDonnell, Steve Lopata, and Tom Stuart.

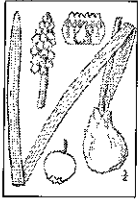


Best in Show



Gardens of Memories

By Susan Gillihan



Grape hyacinth, *Muscari botryoides* (L.) P. Mill drawing courtesy of USDA Plant website: <http://plants.usda.gov> Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada*. Vol. 1: 510. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

*The year was 1864 and the Civil War was raging out of control. The Johnson family lived on a small family farm in Bates County Missouri. The family had reached the decision that they had to move west for safety. The family gathered up all of the possession that they could load onto wagons and headed out to LaCygne, Kansas. The family was already well on the way when the youngest Johnson girl remembered the beautiful Hyacinth plants in the garden. They had been handed down to the family from other family members and she could not bring herself to leave them behind. Mr. Johnson reluctantly allowed the girl to ride her horse back to the home place to dig up a clump of the treasured plants.

After the family settled into their new home in LaCygne a new garden was started and the beautiful plants settled in nicely into their new home. It wasn't long until a neighbor Maritta McClanahan was given a clump of the plants for own garden. Later Carolyne McClanahan was given a start of the plant. Years later her daughter Mary Straw and her husband moved to Little Rock and with them they brought a clump of the beautiful plant to place in their garden in Sherwood, Arkansas. The plants thrived very well in the hot humid Arkansas climate. *

Three years ago tragedy stuck the Straw family when their beautiful little Granddaughter died suddenly. This little girl was a special child in Mary's church family, and a memorial garden was planted in her honor, complete with a water feature and a small garden bed. Ringing that bed are beautiful clumps of Hyacinths. This is a story of *Breanna's Garden.* and the lovely Hyacinth plants that have survived all these years with her family and friends.

Pass along plants are a tradition in the South. The climate here is very adaptable to moving of plants. The winters are not to harsh and the sun shines a good number of hours during all seasons. Many families have gardens loaded with lovely plants given to them by mothers, aunts, and grandmothers. Many gardeners in our area have a wonderful memory book of plants when they stroll among the precious pass a-long plants in the garden.

A few plants that are happy to be divided and passed a-long are hosta, four o'clocks, ferns, day lilies, iris, roses, peony, columbine, ageratum and astible are just a few of many. A happy gardener is a sharing gardener. Perhaps now is the time to start your own garden of memories to share with your family and friends.

Do you have a special plant or story about your pass-a-long plants? I bet you do!

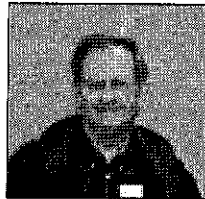
*As a memory retold by Mary Beth Straw.

Susan Gillihan writes feature articles for Master Minutes and is on the Jacksonville City Hall Committee.

Mea culpa! By Libby Thalheimer

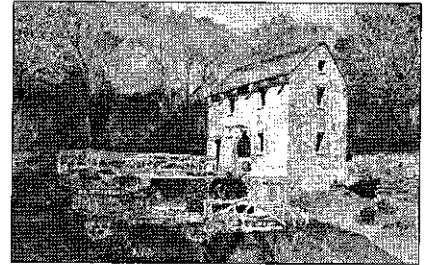
Master Gardener Picnic photographs on page 7 of the June issue of the Master Minutes were incorrectly credited to Lynn Winningham. Lynn just sent them to me. The credit is due to Jim Dyer. Sorry about that...

But that error allowed me to learn a little bit more about Jim Dyer. Not only does he contribute great photographs for Master



Meet Jim Dyer, my new role model.

Minutes and 3Ps, he hosted his cohorts on the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project Committee with a mini-tour and lunch (as reported below), and he serves on Pinnacle Mountain Committee and the Social Committee. This is one active Master Gardener. And, he's an artist.



Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project Committee By Jim Dyer

The Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project Committee members worked for about an hour on Thursday, June 17th. Afterwards, the committee conducted a mini-garden tour and lunch. Three gardens of the project members, Fran Ables, Laverne Davis, and Jim Dyer, were scheduled for touring. After touring the gardens, lunch was served at the home of Jim and Jackie Dyer. Eight of the thirteen committee members made the tour. We had a great time and plan to conduct more of the mini-tours this summer. I recommend this to other committees.

2004 Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project Committee members are: Ann Green, Carolyn France, Fran Ables, Gay McDaniel, Jennie Cole, Peggy Farrell, Laverne Davis, Mary Vancura, Patti Ledbetter, Phyllis Colclasure, Jim Dyer, Ruth Owings, and Sharl Hill.



Photo of Fran Ables' garden courtesy of Fran Ables



Calendar By Ruth Jones

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.
- 10 River Market Committee Clinics at the River Market.
- 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.
- 24 | River Market Committee Clinics at the River Market.



2005 International Master Gardener Conference, Celebrate 100 years of Gardening on the Canadian Prairies July 24 - 27, 2005 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

2005 Arkansas Master Gardener Meeting is May 12- 14, 2005 (Thursday - Saturday) at the Embassy Suites in Rogers.



August, 2004

- 7 River Market Committee Clinics at the River Market.
- 19 Candlelight Tour of Japanese Garden, Memphis Botanic Gardens. 901-685-1566.
- 24 River Market Committee Clinics at the River Market.
- 30 Herb Harvest Dinner, Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View , AR. 870-269-3851.

Arkansas Home Grown Markets

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

September, 2004

- 9 Getting Ready for Fall, Janet Carson, Garvan Woodland Gardens. 800-366-4664.
- 21 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 1130 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.
- 21 Turf Management and Soil Testing, Darrin Henderson, Garvan Woodland Gardens, 800-366-4664.

Arkansas Urban Forestry Council 13th Annual Conference "Urban Forestry*Practically Speaking"

July 13, 14, and 15, 2004
 University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR
 If you have any questions you can contact:
 Peter Rausch - Forester with the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department at 501.374.8733 (O), 501.529.8733 (M), or www.littlerockforestry.org.

October, 2004

- 1- 2 Herb Harvest Fall Festival, The Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, 879-269-3851.
- 10 Central Arkansas Rose Society Show, University Mall.
- 15- Unusual plant sale and seminars, Garvan Woodland Gardens 800-366-4664.
- 17 Gardens 800-366-4664.
- 19 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a. m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Avoid the Peak!

Re-set your sprinkler system today for deep watering. Your yard needs at least one inch of water per week. But remember to 'Avoid the Peak!' between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m.

November, 2004

- 4 Bulbs with Janet Carson at Garvan Woodland Gardens 800-366-4664.
- 16 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Operation Wildflower scenic drives:

- 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

February, 2005

- 25 - 27 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show



July Monthly Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

Rejuvenate by cutting every other plant back by one third to one half. After they recover, you can cut the other ones back. Or, replace spent annuals now for fall color. Also deadheading the spent blooms will help the plants to continue blooming.

Fruit Trees and Small Fruits

Rabbiteye blueberries, blackberries and peaches are in season. Keep canes that are bearing fruit moist throughout the summer. Remove old canes after they have finished producing fruit. If your fruit trees appear to be producing too much fruit make sure you thin it out some. Keep grass around your fruit trees short. Grass deprives the trees of nitrogen. Throw away any fruit you find that have been affected by scab (a fungus).

Lawns

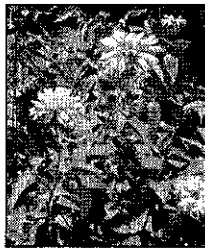
Water according to the weather. Remember to "Avoid the Peak!" Pay close attention to raised beds and container plants. Deep water lawns to encourage deep rooting and to avoid heat stress. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs. Raise your lawnmower's height for the summer. Cutting the grass too short can stress your lawn. Mow centipede at a height of 1 1/2 to 2 inches, Kentucky bluegrass 2 to 3 inches, Zoysia 1 to 2 inches, St. Augustine 2 1/2 to 4 inches, common Bermuda 1 to 2 inches, and improved Bermuda 1/2 to 1 inch. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile but never add your cuttings after a weed treatment.

Perennials & Bulbs

Keep flowerbeds well weeded. Remove faded blooms.

Make sure you keep the soil moist but not soggy around ferns. They may become dormant if they get too dry.

Now is the time to pick those beautiful perennials for a fresh bouquet indoors. This will also encourage more blooms on most perennials. Divide irises this month.



Helianthus

Roses

Lightly prune bush roses to encourage fall bloom. Continue spraying roses for black spot. Use a registered fungicide (i.e. Funginex) or an organic one (i.e. 4 t. baking soda + 1 t. liquid soap /or vegetable oil per gallon of water) on affected foliage (try not to spray the soil) for fungal problems.



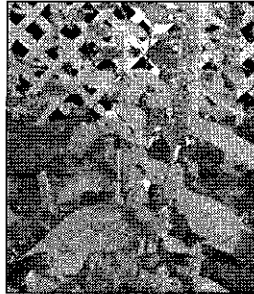
Gardenia augusta

Trees & Shrubs

Deep water newly planted trees and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and to avoid heat stress. Now it is the time to prune hydrangeas. As soon as the flower color begins to fade, remove some of the older canes at the soil line. This will reduce plant size, encourage new canes, and leave enough existing canes for good flower production

next year.

Vegetables & Herbs



Hyssopus, anise mint

Vegetable gardens are producing well but insects will also be competing for their share of your harvest. Try to keep ahead of the weeds and insects. Tomatoes will stop setting fruit when the temperature is above 90 during the day and above 70 at night but they will start again, when the temperatures cool off.

If you need to use pesticides, be sure to read and follow label directions, especially if the weather is hot and dry. Spraying early in the day will help to avoid the heat and to avoid killing any beneficial insects, such as honeybees. Make sure there is ample water in the plants before you spray. July and August are the times to start your fall garden. Harvest blooms of lavender now to keep the plants tidy and encourage more blooms. Cut sprigs of Rosemary and freeze whole for future use. Cut back about three-quarters of the new growth on your thyme plants regularly throughout the summer. For a nice fragrance in your kitchen, tie several branches of sage together and hang it upside down in your kitchen. Pinch the stems of basil regularly to prevent flowering. Harvest about once a week. Clip the flower stalks off garlic. Once the leaves have turned brown, garlic can be harvested.

Yard

Turn and dampen your compost often. Flies will breed in the grass clippings if you do not turn it regularly. Mulch your shallow rooted shrubs (rhododendron and azaleas) to keep the roots cool. Remove suckers from roses, azaleas, camellia, rhododendron and other trees and shrubs as they appear. Cut back shoots of wisteria.

Monthly Blooms

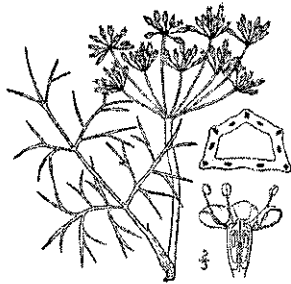
Althea, anise mint, artemisia, aster, balsam, beautyberry, belamcanda, buddleia, butterflyweed, campsis, cannas, chive, cleome, clerodendrum, coneflower, coreopsis, crape myrtle, crinum, dahlias, daisies, echeveria, euphorbia, feverfew, garlic, gaura, gladioli, hemerocallis, hibiscus, hostas, hydrangea, hyssop, ironweed, kerria, lantana, liatris, lilies, lythrum, lycoris, marigolds, marjoram, miscanthus, mullein, nicotiana, oregano, oxalis, petunias, phlox, portulaca, roses, rudbeckia, sage, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, tansy, thyme, tuberose, verbena, veronica, zebra grass, and zinnia.



Echinacea, coneflower

Photos courtesy of Libby Thalheimer

Fennel



Foeniculum foeniculum,
Fennel
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database /
Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.
Illustrated flora of the northern
states and Canada. Vol. 2: 643.

Fennel is a beautiful plant and thrives anywhere. It has a thick perennial root stock and strong stems that are about 4 to 5 feet in height and are erect and cylindrical. They are bright green and very smooth with many branches bearing leaves cut into fine segments. Producing bright golden flowers in large flat terminal umbels, with from 12 to 20 rays, they are beauties in your garden during July and August. If used primarily in cooking the stems are cut down to ensure a continuing supply of green leaves for flavoring and garnishing.

Easily propagated by seeds and sown in ordinary soil after all danger of frost is past, these plantings will last for years. Fennel likes plenty of sun and is adapted to dry and sunny conditions though the yield increases if planted on rich soil. Germination takes about 2 weeks. Thin the seedlings to 12 inches apart and do not over-water. Seeds are harvested in late summer as they turn greenish-gray. According to the experts, care must be taken for fennel may damage neighboring plants such as bush beans, tomatoes, caraway and kohlrabi. If coriander seeds are planted nearby the fennel won't fruit.

Fennel roots were formerly used in medicine but the fruit is now seen as more useful for medicinal purposes. Fennel seed has been used as an antispasmodic, diuretic, expectorant, laxative, and stimulant. The seed has also been used to stimulate lactation, as a remedy for colic and to improve the taste of other medicines. To make fennel tea, steep ½ teaspoon of crushed fennel seed in a cup of boiling water for 10 minutes. Or simply chew a handful of the seeds which have a pleasant, licorice-like flavor.

In Italy and France, the tender leaves are used for garnishes and to add flavor to salads. Roman bakers sometimes put the leaves under their baking loaves to make the bread taste better. The stems are also used in soups in Italy but are generally eaten raw as a salad.

The food and flavor industry adds fennel seeds to meats, vegetable products, fish sauces, soups, salad dressings, stews, breads, pastries, teas, and alcoholic beverages. Crushed seed has been used as a substitute for juniper in flavoring gin.

Although poor people used to eat fennel to help satisfy their hunger pangs on fast days and make unsavory food more palatable, wealthy households also made good use of fennel. This beautiful easily grown plant still has many beneficial uses for those in today's world.

Hydrangeas

By Lorraine Hensley

Hydrangeas traveled via Britain to the New World during the 18th century and have made themselves a welcome guest in many gardens. They may be picky in deciding what they do and do not like but compensate for that with their beautiful blooms. And you also get to choose their color.

The common name for this plant is Garden Hydrangea, hortensia and the botanical name is *Hydrangea macrophylla*. The Garden Hydrangea came from the Greek hydro and aggeion. (water vessel) The name is generally thought to refer to the cup shaped leaves and not the amount of water the plant needs in hot weather. This plant can use 10/12 gallons of water daily in hot weather, loves the sun and a compost rich soil. They also like a balanced fertilizer spring meal.

When you give them what they like, then it becomes your turn to choose blossom color: pink, blue, or something in between. No need to test the soil in the hydrangea bed for the plant will clearly tell you if your soil is acid or alkaline. If you want blue flowers, add aluminum sulfate to the soil prior to budding to make your soil more acid.

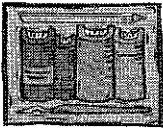


Photo of his garden courtesy of Jim Dyer

If your dream color is pink, then add super phosphate to "sweeten" your soil and pink blossoms are yours. Do this yearly and the colors will just deepen. Start planning and working in the winter to achieve your color scheme for good spring or summer results.

Spent flowers should be removed to allow the plant to direct its strength to growing and producing new buds rather than seeds. Further, larger flower clusters will be produced if the plant is thinned down to half the original number of stems. While pinching out the tips of the new growth prior to budding will produce more flowers, the clusters will be smaller.

When ready to prune Hydrangeas, just remove any stems which have already bloomed for they only flower on the tips of new growth. However, the French Hydrangeas flower from buds formed on new growth from the previous year. This means pruning immediately after the early summer blooming. Late fall or early spring are good times to prune most varieties. Just be careful and understand which variety is in your garden and then enjoy the results of your careful husbandry.



Book Review
By Bonnie Nicholas

Landscaping With Antique Roses
By Liz DrUITT and Michael Shoup



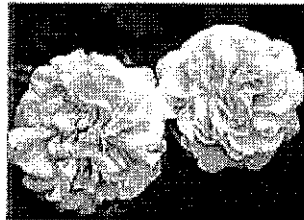
The Taunton Press, 1992,
228 pages, \$34.95

For your grandchildren follow the advice of the poet Alexander Pope: "Be not the first by whom the new are tried nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

Rooting cuttings of family heirloom roses gives us a chance to share our ancestors' horticultural keepsakes. Read this book and you'll be inspired to rustling and propagating old garden roses. If you do, you are helping to preserve these treasures for the 21st centuryand beyond.

Landscaping With Antique Roses has it all: designing and integrating roses into the landscape, planting, protecting, pruning, and a thorough encyclopedia of old garden roses. There's also a history, a rose use chart (well worth copying for your reference file), list of sources, and a list of reprints of classics in rose literature.

A MUST READ.



Centifolias- photo by www.heirloomroses.com

Oak Forest Community Garden
Howard Stephens, Chair



On a recent day at Oak Forest- photo courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

== Internet Pipelines

Excerpts from the June 2004 issue of "Today's Garden", The National Garden Bureau. 1311 Butterfield Road, Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL 60515
Phone: 630-963-0770; Fax: 630-963-8864;
Email: aas.ngb@attglobal.net; Website: www.ngb.org

The National Garden Bureau conducted research, looking for sites that offer gardeners reliable information, great graphics or both. If anyone is looking for information whether they garden or just wish for a garden, these sites are recommended for user-friendly navigation, content and images.

University Websites:

All land-grant (state) universities conduct cooperative extension programs. Many extension programs include websites brimming with gardening information; some of the information is intended for professionals, but you will find plenty of tips and directions for the gardener. You will find specific information for your state.

www.ext.colostate.edu Colorado State University offers hundreds of publications, gardening online, cooperative extension locations, and a Plant Select link for plants that thrive in Rocky Mountain gardens.

www.hort.cornell.edu/gardening Cornell University's Home Gardening" provides searchable flower and vegetable databases for selecting the perfect plants for your garden, flower and vegetable fact sheets, and garden photos illustrating garden design techniques. View photos and read about a Cornell University horticulturist's garden.

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer The North Carolina State University "Hort On the Internet" has tons of links conveniently categorized by Plant Groups, Garden Topics, and Sources of Information. "Quick Reference" topics include Hardiness Zones, Scientific Names, Fertilizer, Flowers, Herbs, Pest Management, Soil, and Vegetables.

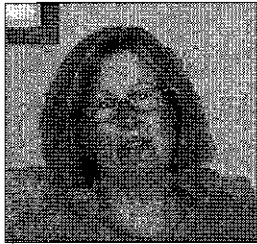
www.webgarden.osu.edu Ohio State University's "WebGarden" offers an illustrated plant dictionary with 1,200 entries, a collection of 200 short gardening how-to videos, and a downloadable plant database for your handheld. The "Plant Facts" database searches for content from over 46 university and government sources. Over 600 frequently asked gardening questions, and more.

www.extension.uiuc.edu The University of Illinois "Horticulture & Home Garden" includes a listing of Extension Web sites in "Hort Corner" and "Ask an Expert". The U of I Plant Clinic services include plant identification; disease diagnosis; insect and weed injury and recommendations.

www.uwex.edu/ces PowerPoint presentations for vegetables are available to view and download on this University of Wisconsin Extension site. Bulletins are available at every Wisconsin county extension office by clicking on County Offices and selecting a county.

After Hours: Vicky Kessel

By Lorraine Hensley



Master Gardener Vicky Kessel (class of 2003) is typical of those who love to garden. Put her down anywhere and she will find a little ground and plant on it. That's exactly what she is doing to beds by the entrance door of the Planned Parenthood Health Center at 5512

West Markham St. as her "after hours" project.

There are two beds and each are about 8' long and taper in width from 3' to 4' and are covered by a roof overhang that keeps out all the rain and much of the sun. They are quite shallow with a concrete bottom--face north--and can handle just a small amount of soil amendments at any given time. This gardener's nightmare was re-defined as a horticultural challenge.

Vicky and several other local Planned Parenthood board members came together one Saturday in March 2001 and began pulling some old azalea bushes and generally cleaned up the beds. A local landscaping professional not only advised the group but also sold them half a dozen mahonias and a huge bag of organic material at cost to get them started. Then he trucked away their debris at no charge.

Because bed size precludes more than one person working in them Vicky plants and generally cares for them as a personal choice. She waters them weekly with an additional 2 hours of monthly maintenance from March to October. The big cleanup in October requires about 3 hours with an additional 5 to 6 hours dedicated to bed preparation and planting in March and April. Two dwarf nandinas have joined the original mahonias in beds that also boast the summer annuals dracaena, impatiens and variegated vinca.

She finds the project satisfying as it gives her the confidence to try various plantings and textures for she feels anything she can do is a decided improvement. The rejuvenated beds also bring some much needed warmth to the building's exterior. Currently, the Planned Parenthood organization is involved in fund raising activities and Vicky's efforts are indicative of more extensive future physical plant and landscaping improvements. This master gardener seems to be planting the "corner" where she is with her after hours' project and achieving self-satisfaction in the process.

*Questions Vicki has for her fellow Master Gardeners are:

- What happened to two newly-planted cleomes that were lush and looking great until late May when they went brown and toppled over in a two week time frame?
- What can she do to make the beds more attractive in the fall/winter/early spring.

*Please send your responses to vickessel@aol.com

Vicky Kessel serves on the Mt. Holly Cemetery Committee.

Toads

By Dorothy Veirs

There are many species of toads. Those found in Arkansas are the American and the common toad.

The common garden toad with the name of Bufo Woodhousei is a plus in your garden. He eats all the slugs and pests that infest your garden. It is estimated that a garden toad will eat up to 10,000 garden pests in the three summer months in Arkansas.

Having a pond in your garden encourages these wonderful scavengers. How many of you have watched the tadpoles as they grew legs and eventually emerged as toads? Though the toads lay millions of eggs, it is estimated that only five percent live to maturity. They will live 3 or 4 years in your garden. Don't put out slug bait or spray your yard for ticks and fleas. Those are sure death for your toads. They eat beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, slugs, and moths.

Toads, like birds, have calls indigenous to their species. Their calls fill the evenings. In England, toads were in such demand that they fetched a shilling a piece, and the vendors said the gardener should treat them with utmost hospitality.

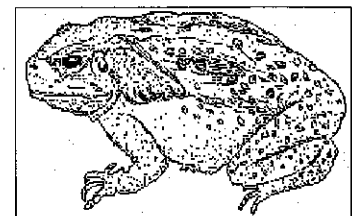
Toads like a shady area with mulch that provides shelter, moisture, and food for them. A child's pool, half of a barrel, or a bucket sunk down in your shady garden will provide a home for the toads to lay their eggs. Put some rocks and soil in the bucket, and forget about the mosquito larva since they provide food for the tadpoles. Don't add goldfish; they will eat the tadpoles.

If you have a nice-sized pot with a piece broken out of it, then recycle it for a home for your toads. Dig down about an inch into the soil and sink the opening of your pot down, adding some mulch inside and around the pot. A bird bath or a lid on the ground that can hold water will provide a spot for the nocturnal toad to rest and cool off.

Toads secrete a poison that discourages predators (as well as dogs and cats) from catching them.

The next time your children come home with a jar of tadpoles, raise them and enrich your backyard while also providing a natural bug exterminator.

By the way, don't be afraid to touch a toad. They are certainly not beautiful when you look at their bumpy skin, but they are soft to the touch and will not bite or sting. An old wives tale says they will give you warts, but this isn't true. As the English vendors say, "Just treat them with the utmost hospitality, and they will serve you well by eating all those nasty garden pests."



Dorothy Veirs is a guest writer for Master Minutes. She volunteers on the Social Committee.

Clip art courtesy of <http://allaboutfrog.org>

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Susan Crisp

Board Meeting June 2, 2004

Minutes approved from April's meeting.

Treasurer's report for April and May was approved.

Continuing Education Committee report was given with two recommendations for purchases approved.

Ila Newberry and George Harper will review current policies on earned committee monies to make sure that policies state that money left after all event/activity bills are paid be deposited into the Pulaski County Master Gardener Treasury. Committees can then request money to assist with future events, activities or projects.

Audit Report by Chairman Bob Bumgardner was approved.

Retention Committee recommendation on reinstatement of returning Master Gardeners was approved by the Board.

The report will be included in the July Master Minutes.

Leave of Absence application for Barbara Powell was approved.

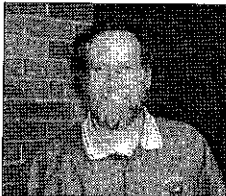
Carolyn Newbern, Past President, will serve as Chairman of Nominating Committee and appoint committee members.

The committee will meet and recommend a slate of officers to the membership at the September Meeting.

- ✓ Project description and evaluation forms will be sent out for updates.

- ✓ A plaque commemorating Curran Hall as the 2004 Master Gardener Project of the Year will be purchased to have on display at Curran Hall.

At the November Master Gardener Meeting we will recognize our 5, 10 and 15 Year Master Gardeners, Chris Olsen as Pulaski County Friend of Master Gardeners, and Curran Hall.



June 15, 2004 program was given by Ed Levi for the Arkansas State Plant Board on "Honeybees for the Master Gardener".

Leave of Absence Reinstatement Requirements

20 hours of education hours and 20 hours of work hours per year are required to maintain active membership. For reinstatement to active status after a leave of absence, the year will be divided into quarters and hours will vary according to the quarter the member chooses to return.

Return Requirements:

Jan., Feb., Mar.: 20 hours education + 20 hours work = 40 hours total

April, May, June: 15 hours education + 15 hours work = 30 hours total

July, Aug., Sept.: 10 hours education + 10 hours work = 20 hours total

Oct., Nov., Dec.: 5 hours education + 5 hours work = 10 hours total

Proposed by the Retention Committee

Adopted by the Pulaski County Master Gardener Board June, 2004

General Meeting June 15, 2004

- ✓ Second Vice President Sandy Harrison welcomed the members and thanked those involved with the following:

Curran Hall – 2004 Project of the Year;

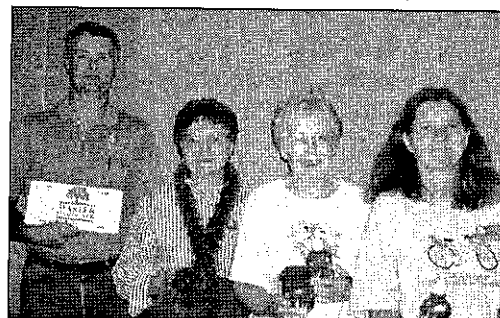
Jan King – Organizer of Master Gardener's Tour of Master Gardener Gardens

Nancy Wolford, Frank James and Mary Evans for sharing their gardens on the tour of Master Gardener gardens;

To all Master Gardeners who helped with St. James' clean-up day

Ray Sarmiento and everyone who helped plant the Arkansas Flower and Gardener Show Garden at the State House Convention Center with Arkansas select plants.

- ✓ Bob Bray announced Subiaco Tour on Thursday, June 17, 2004. He needs all names by today. The Travel Committee is working on a spring 2005 trip to Austin, Texas via Amtrak.
- ✓ Project Chairmen were asked to give Lois Corley a list of the flowers they would like the greenhouse to grow for their projects for planting in the spring. She needs this list by the September meeting. The Greenhouse Committee will have more irises for sale this fall.
- ✓ Next order of "stuff" is this fall.
- ✓ Sharon Davis of 3P's thanked photographers who have taken pictures for the Master Minutes.
- ✓ Audit Committee Report was given. No discrepancies were found and the Treasurer's books are in excellent condition.
- ✓ The Retention Committee recommendation on requirements to return to active status after a leave of absence, which was adopted by the Board, was presented and will be included in the next Master Minutes.
- ✓ Project Chairs will be sent project descriptions and evaluation forms for updating.
- ✓ Contact Beth Phelps or Rochelle Greenwood to sign-up for the PCMG Mentor Program. Applications for new Master Gardeners will be mailed next week.
- ✓ Contact Kandy Jones to donate extra vegetables out of your garden to Potluck.
- ✓ No meeting in July or August. Next Meeting September 21st.



Winners: Don Ford - license Plate, Juddie Wachtel - Boa, Nan Matthews - garden style bath set, and Susan Rose - garden style bath vanity set.

Classifieds

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 the family Carolyn Morton, Pulaski County Master Gardener, who lost her battle with cancer on 6/22/04. Carolyn was in the 2002 Master Gardener Class and served on the State Hospital Project.

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

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, but please wait until after the meeting ends so that you do not cause a distraction.

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...

Hollyhocks	1
<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	1
Best in Show: Travelling...	2
Best in Show: Gardening of Memories	3
Best in Show: Cammack ... Committee	3
Calendar	4
Checklist	5
Fennel	6
Hydrangeas	6
Book Review	7
Internet Pipelines	7
After Hours: Vicki Kessel	8
Toads	8
Highlights of the meetings	9
Classifieds	10



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
bpheips@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Betty Deere
Susie Gillihan
Carl Goodson
Lorraine Hensley
Helen Hronas
Walter Jennings
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Libby Thalheimer

Photographers

Jim Dyer
Cheryl Kennedy
Jim Tyler
David Werling
Lynn Winningham