

Pulaski County Master Minutes

August, 2004

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

Volume 15, Issue 7

Scavenging or Recycling? By Ann Beck

A group of folks, who looked a lot like some Master Gardeners we know, were observed right after the Master Gardeners' Garden Tour on June 1, 2004, sifting through the remains at the site of a local nursery that, sadly, has closed. Word had circulated during the tour that elephant ears were there free for the taking, but would shortly be paved over by new owners of the property.

This news was startling enough to draw one of the thriftier gardeners away from the one dollar bargain table at White Wagon Farm. And the rumor was not only true but an understatement. Along with elephant ears in abundance were ferns, Wandering Jew, a few clay pots, lots of plastic ones (some fitted out as hanging baskets) and a deep, black rectangular basin that the same thrifty gardener visualizes as a liner for a miniature water feature or a tiny reflecting pool.

What a heroic plant rescue effort. But on the off chance that is misinterpreted as pilfering, the participants will remain anonymous. However, if anyone has cuttings of aquatic plants to share, Ann Beck has a place for them.

Come for Tea – Please!

I would like to make some manure tea, but only after lining up several Master Gardeners to share it with - the recipe makes a big batch. Can you join me? Promise? Plan to bring your own scones.

Ann Beck (224-0487)

Ann Beck is a guest writer. She is on the Baptist Rehab Committee.

According to Bearville Sheep Farm:

One ton of sheep manure averages NPK values equivalent to 100 pounds of a 20-9-17 chemical fertilizer.

For more information on Bearville's organically fed sheep dried, double-shredded, odorless and (tea)-bagged 100% Organic Sheep Manure, go to:

<http://www.gbsias.com/~bearvill/>

According to BioCycle, Journal of Composting and Recycling:

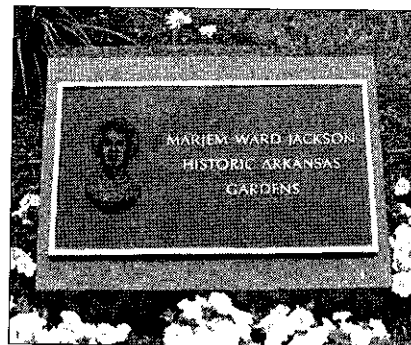
Quality of the composted litter when it is removed from the barns at A&J Farms is highly uniform. Values of N: P: K run close to 5:4.5:4.

For more information about composted chicken litter, go to:

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/magazine/biocyclus/august/article4.htm>

Marjem W. Jackson Historic Arkansas Gardens By John Gill

The Marjem Ward Jackson Historic Arkansas Gardens, the 2004 Master Gardener Project of the Year, were dedicated to the City of Little Rock on July 29, 2004. The gardens were



presented to the City by Mrs. Jackson's children; Vernon Jackson, III, Douglas Ward Jackson and Marjem Gill and their families in honor of their mother. Speaking on behalf of the family, Douglas Jackson commemorated their mother's service to the community as President of the Little Rock Garden Club and many other civil activities.

Master of Ceremonies Bob Lanford, Secretary of the Little Rock Visitor Information Center Foundation, officially designated the gardens in Mrs. Jackson's honor and presented them to the City of Little Rock for their care and maintenance in perpetuity. Barry Travis, Executive Director of the Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission, noted that the gardens were especially brilliant for a mid-summer day in Arkansas. On behalf of the Commission, he accepted them to be maintained by the Commission. Assistant City Manager, Bob Turner, stated his astonishment that the gardens, and Curran Hall itself, lay on what just a few years ago was a desolate place; noting only great vision could have accomplished the current beautiful reception for visitors to the City of Little Rock. All of the speakers expressed appreciation to the project chairman, Carolyn Newbern, and to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners for their role in saving original plants on the site and their continuing hard work in bringing the gardens alive. Mr. Lanford also expressed appreciation to Brian Day, Director of the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department which helped in construction of the gardens.

The gardens are located at 615 East Capitol Avenue in Little Rock at the Little Rock Visitor Information Center. A wine and cheese reception following the dedication was attended by many Master Gardeners.

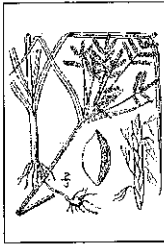
John Gill is a guest writer for the Master Minutes. He and his wife, Marjem, volunteer on the Curran Hall Committee. John also serves on the 3Ps.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

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.

Ode to Nut Grass By Susie Gillihan



Cyperus rotundus, Nutgrass
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database /
Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.
*Illustrated flora of the northern
states and Canada. Vol. 1: 304.*

I see you standing there
Beautiful and green.

You never wilt, or even bow your head,
Even during the very worse drought.

I gently tug at you and pull you free
But what do I see?

Another Nut Grass just waiting to be.

Now I have decided that you are
Smarter than me.

I give up; I'll just let you be.

I know God had a reason for your very existence,
But so far it has eluded me.

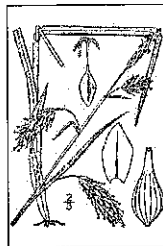
Could you be the cure for some terrible disease and we
Just can't see?

I am sure when I'm gone and someone else is tending
This garden, there you will be.

Still standing, beautiful and green.

Nutgrass is often confused with nutsedge.

Carex castanea, Nutsedge
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database /
Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913.
*Illustrated flora of the northern
states and Canada. Vol. 1: 411.*



Remember, there is no Master
Gardener General Meeting in August.

After Hours--Martha Bassinger By Lorraine Hensley

Martha Bassinger,
Master Gardener (class of 2001)
and co-chair of the Old Mill
committee, has found a unique way
to define an after hours project.
Both she and her husband fish.
Sometimes it requires several
weeks and other times it requires



several months to catch enough fish. All this takes place in the
pond on their property. It simply takes a while to catch enough for
what they call a "fish cookery" for the committee working at the
Old Mill. As a master gardener, Martha understands a need to
scrape off shoes, scrub hands and attend a purely social function.

The Bassingers supply the place and the fish and the
committee members bring a covered dish they choose. Good
food, good company and good conversation all in a comfortable
out of doors setting. This annual event began in the fall of 2002
and has continued to date. This "fish cookery" takes place in the
fall of the year and sometimes it's cool enough for a big fire in the
fire pit. For all is not horticulture with master gardeners. This is an
opportunity to relax and summarize the year's activities and
simply socialize with those with whom you have shared sweat,
dirt, pleasure, and self-satisfaction during the year.

The Bassingers have always enjoyed having people in
their home for they consider this a sharing of the gifts God has
given them. No one owns anything, according to Martha, for we
are actually stewards of that which life has provided. They work
hard to maintain their property and share when they can with
family and friends. The sharing allows them to give back to the
Creator.

And share they do. Just ask an Old Mill committee
member who has attended one of the Bassingers' fish cookeries.

Photo courtesy of the 3Ps

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

Government Websites:

<http://plants.usda.gov> This national plant database provides
standardized information about US plants. It includes names, plant
symbols, checklists, distributional data, characteristics, images, plant
links and references. Link topic areas include Culturally Significant Plants,
Plant Photos, Plants & Names: Floras, Databases and Nomenclature,
and Educational.

www.nbi.gov/disciplines/botany The National Biological Information
System site provides many links for topics that include gardening
information: Botany for Kids, Collections and Organizations, General
Reference Sources Taxonomies, Plant Identification Tools, General Plant
Databases, General Image Collections, Websites with Extensive
Botanical Links, and Dictionaries, Glossaries, Encyclopedias.

Jacksonville City Hall Committee Fish Fry By Linda Moyer



Don Davis with Judy and Mayor Swaim at the Jacksonville City Hall Garden

On July 9, 2004, Chairpersons Dotty Heckenbach and Don Davis had a tour of the Jacksonville City Hall grounds with Mayor Swaim and his wife, Judy; Public Works Director Jimmy Oakley; members of the committee with their spouses, and our own Beth Phelps. Mayor Swaim commented on how beautiful the grounds looked and how proud he was of the work done by the Master Gardeners.

Tour the grounds at Jacksonville City Hall



Beth Phelps and Dotty Heckenbach

Joanne Wilson, Sandi Hall and Susie Gillihan



Wendell Redmond at the Fish Fry

After the tour, a fish fry was held at Wendell and Elise Redmond's house. They had a brief but heavy shower just before we arrived. But that didn't stop the fish fry. Eighteen members and their spouses attended and every one had a great time.

Photos courtesy of Linda Moyer

From Dull to Dazzle By Susie Gillihan

For the past few years we have seen many uses for ornamental grasses in our gardens. There are many varieties with mixed colors and designs; some are annual and some perennial. Some are very invasive with the drop seed varieties and others are not. With so many choices to choose from, the uses for grasses in gardens are endless.

There is a garden near where I live that really looked great with the exception of one area. The space had been long forgotten and neglected. Black plastic had been put down and then covered with white gravel. At some point shrubs had been added. For years, the area had been overlooked and forgotten and had become a real eyesore.

As you may have guessed, weeds and unwanted grass had pushed through the black plastic and had over run the entire area. The shrubs, left unattended over time, needed attention. Birds had dropped seeds from Privet and wild berry vines, and they had flourished in this space, making it a hard area to clean out.

After looking at this area for years, a group got together and decided to do something, but what? The area is in full sun, facing west. There was no water easily available so that eliminated many plants that might have been chosen for this spot.

The first problem was to clear the area of all plants, rocks and rotting black plastic. The soil was a mess. Compacted and full of hard red clay, the bed was almost as hard as concrete and very difficult to work. Amendments to the soil were made to make the bed more alive and workable.

With that work completed, next came the challenge of what to plant in this area. After much discussion and studying the area and situation, ornamental grasses were chosen. There were so many to choose from that it took a while to select what would look best and survive in the area. Pampas Grass was one selection, along with Ribbon Grass and Zebra grass. For added color Purple Foliage Switch Grass was planted for contrast.

After planting the grasses, soaker hoses were put down in the area and covered with pine bark mulch. From the very beginning of the plantings, the area has been beautiful. After three seasons, it is one of the more beautiful spots in an already lovely garden. The gentle swaying of the grasses in the summer breeze, and the lovely plumes of the Pampas and the seed heads of other grasses in the fall is truly spectacular. The tall seed heads and plumes of pampas flowers add winter interest to an otherwise dull area.

After the initial watering of plants, the area has never needed additional watering. That is a big plus in landscape design. Controlling weeds is a simple matter of pulling up a stray weed or so in the spring.

The following is a list of some of the many varieties that can be found in our area, or by catalog sales.

Calamagrostis "Karl Foerster" 2001 perennial plant of the year
Cortaderia Pumila, compact Pampas grass, medium size white plumes, very showy.

Miscanthus *Huron Sunrise*, outstanding full burgundy flowers. Good show mid-August.

Purple Fountain Grass. Stunning foliage, annual in our area.

Purple Foliage Switch Grass. Compact, drought resistant, lovely foliage and flower.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

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.

September, 2004

- 9 Getting Ready for Fall, Janet Carson, Garvan Woodland Gardens. 800-366-4664.
- 16 Vertical Gardening with vines, The Dixon Gallery and Gardens in Memphis. 901-761-5250.
- 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.
- 30 Herb Harvest Dinner, Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, AR. 870-269-3851.

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.
- 30 Fall Foliage River Cruises, Pinnacle State Park. Advanced payment required. 501-868-5806.

November, 2004

- 4 Bulbs with Janet Carson at Garvan Woodland Gardens 800-366-4664.
- 6 Mushroom Workshop 10am to 4pm. Pinnacle state Park. \$10 advance payment required. 501-868-5806.
- 16 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Holiday Light Display at Garvan Gardens:
November 20 - December 30, 2004, 5pm to 9pm.
Over a million twinkling lights

February, 2005

- 25 - 27 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show



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.



Arkansas Home Grown Markets

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

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.

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

Trading Post



I have 2 Mulberries (about 12" tall) available.
Mary Douglas: 225-2584 or persimmonplace@juno.com



August Checklist By Linda Moyer



Annuals, Perennials & Bulbs

Many early blooming perennials have completed their cycle and are becoming dormant - not dying. Clean up the dead and dying leaves. New annual plants can be planted

now for the fall. You can divide daylilies and iris by digging up the entire clump and removing the soil from the roots. Pull the crowns apart by hand or split with a knife. Replant the divisions 12 to 18 inches apart.

During cleaning up, scatter any annual/biannual/perennial seeds from plants you want next year.

Fruit

After fruiting, remove old canes from blackberries. Next year's fruit is produced on this year's canes. Keep the grass short around all fruit trees. Throw away any fruit you find that has been affected by fungus. Water as needed.

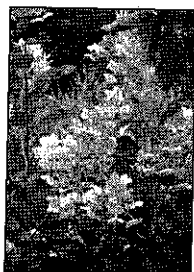
General Yard

Watering is the most important thing to do this month. Always water according to the weather and early in the morning to prevent mildew. Avoid the peak demand time of 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. An inch to an inch and a half of water is what most plants need. Make sure water is penetrating the soil, not running off. If water begins to run off, stop and water for shorter periods so it can penetrate the earth. Watch your raised beds and container plants closely. They will dry out fast. Don't forget your compost pile; it needs water to keep the decomposition process going.

Use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds, poison ivy and honeysuckle. Continue to get rid of weeds before they go to seed. As the plants decline, clean them up and throw away the spent debris. If the plants have simply completed their natural life cycle, add this to the compost pile. If the plants were infested with insects or disease, then dispose of this material. Good sanitation is often the best method for combating problems.

Trees & Shrubs

Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now. They are forming flower buds for next spring. For webworms on trees, remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) to the leaves. To control lace bugs, spray with insecticidal soap or malathion. When using any fungicide, herbicide or insecticide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. Otherwise, too much of the chemical may be absorbed and damage the plants.



Lawns

After watering, mowing is the most important thing to do for your lawn. Don't mow more than one third of the leaf blade at one time. Cutting the grass too short can stress your lawn. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

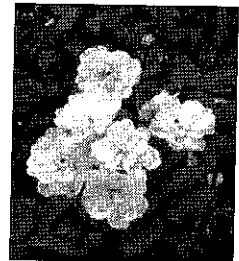
Vegetables & Herbs

Keep your garden clean of weeds. Gather herbs for drying as they mature. Harvest about once a week. Use sharp scissors or a garden knife when harvesting your herbs. If collecting leaves, cut the whole stem before stripping away the foliage. With small-leaved perennial herbs, such as rosemary and thyme, save only the leaves and discard the stems - or use them for potpourris. When harvesting herbs that spread from a central growing point, like parsley and sorrel, harvest the outer-stems or leaves first. If you're collecting leaves or flowers from bushy plants, do so from the top of the plant; new growth will come from below. If your garden has stopped producing, you can still get fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmer's markets.

Now is the time to plant your fall vegetable garden. Transplants are best for tomatoes, peppers and cabbage, if you can find them.

Monthly Blooms

Agastache, hyssop; *Ageratum*; *Alcea rosea*, althea; *Allium tuberosum*, garlic; anise mint; *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly weed; *Asters*; balsam; *Belamcanda chinensis*, blackberry lily; *Browallia*, bush violet; *Buddleia davidii*, buddleia; *Callicarpa*, beauty-berry; *Campsis*, trumpet creeper; *Cannas*; *Celosia*, cockscomb; *Chelone*, turtleheads; *Clematis*; *Cleome*, spider flower; *Clerodendron*; *Clethra alnifolia*, sweet pepperbush; *Crocsmia*, montbretia; *Crotalaria*; *Dahlias*; *Datura*, angel's trumpet; *Echeveria*; *Echinacea*, coneflower; *Eupatorium*; *Chrysanthemum parthenium*, feverfew; funkia; *Gaura*; *Gladioli*; *Hibiscus*; *Hosta*; *Hydrangea*; *Kerria*, Japanese rose; *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape (or crepe) myrtle; *Lantana*; *Liatris*, blazing star; *Linaria*, toadflax; *Lobelia*; *Lycoris squamigera*, spider lily; marigolds; *Mirabilis jalapa*, four-o'clocks; *Miscanthus*; *Mentha*, mint; *Monarda*, bergamot; *Ophiopogon*, mondo grass; *Nicotiana*, flowering tobacco; *Origanum*, marjoram; *Oxalis*, wood sorrel; *Pennisetum*, fountain grasses; *Phlox*; *Physostegia*, false dragon head; *Portulaca*, rose moss; *Rosa*, roses; *Rosmarinus*, rosemary; *Rudbeckia*, coneflower; *Salvias*, sage; *Euphorbia marginata*, snow-on-the-mountain; *Spirea*; *Tamarix*, tamarisk; *Tanacetum vulgare*, tansy; *Thymus*, thyme; *Torenia*, wishbone flower; *Poltanthes tuberosa*, tuberose; *Veronia*, ironweed; *Veronicas*, speedwell; *Vinca*, periwinkle; *Zephyranthes grandiflora*, pink storm lilies; and *Zinnias*.



Photos of plants in bloom at the Curran Hall Dedication, courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

Classifieds

Slate of officers August 3, 2004
The nominating committee presents the following slate of officers for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners, to be voted on at the September 21, 2004, meeting. The term of service will be from October 2004 through September 2005.

- President: Dick Blankenkemper
- 1st Vice-President: Sandy Harrison
- 2nd Vice-President: Marilyn Tilley
- Secretary: Jackie Wright
- Treasurer: Mary Freeman
- At-Large: Ila Newberry
- At-Large: Don Davis

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Newbern
Jim Tyler
Patty Wingfield

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.

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

We send our condolences to Master Gardener Ann Ward, who lost her daughter on July 26, 2004.

Thank you for all of your calls and cards, thoughts and prayers after the death of my father. Your thoughtfulness has been appreciated.

Dick Blankenkemper

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...

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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
bp Phelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

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