

Pulaski County Master Minutes

February, 2005

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

Volume 16, Issue 1



The Oreganos, 2005 Herb of the Year by Linda Moyer

Drawing courtesy of West Virginia University Extension Service
<http://wvu.edu>

Each year the International Herb Association (IHA) designates the Herb of the Year. This year it is oregano/ marjoram. Oregano is one of the ten most popular herbs used in cooking. Most of us think of pizza when we think of oregano but its hot, spicy flavor is great in stews, gravies, soups, and casseroles. Oregano is from the Mediterranean region of Europe and Asia. It has become naturalized in much of eastern US, where it is called wild marjoram. This oregano tastes like grass, so if you want oregano for cooking, skip this one. Greek oregano is from Greece and Turkey and is the one best for cooking.

One of the reasons to grow your own oregano is many species of oregano are used in our cooking spices. Different oregano species have a different flavor. For this reason, over the years you might have decided that one commercial brand was better than another because of the taste. The best tasting plants have white flowers.

The most common oreganos are:

1. Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) Zone 7-9 there are many varieties of this oregano with a wide range of flavor intensity.
2. Sweet Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*) Zone 8-10 soft stemmed perennial, 12 inches tall, pink-lavender flowers, has a pungent, sweet sage like aroma. It has a milder taste than Greek Oregano.
3. Pot Marjoram (*Origanum onites*) Zone 8-10 it has a flavor between Sweet Marjoram and Oregano. It is sometimes described as delicately warm.
4. Italian Oregano (*Origanum x majoricum*) was created by crossing oregano (*Origanum vulgare*) and sweet Marjoram (*Origanum majorana*). It is a sterile hybrid and must be grown with stem cuttings. It has white flowers instead of the usual purple. It spreads to form a mound about 2-4 feet in diameter. Since it tastes savory and sweet at the same time, it can be used to season eggs, meats, soups, and vegetables. Use in blends with other savory herbs like basil and tarragon.
5. Dittany of Crete (*Origanum dictamnus*) Zone 7 is not used in cooking.
6. Greek Oregano (*Origanum vulgare hirtum*) Zone 5-11 white flowers, very hardy, this is the strongest flavored oregano. It is strong, hot, and slightly bitter.

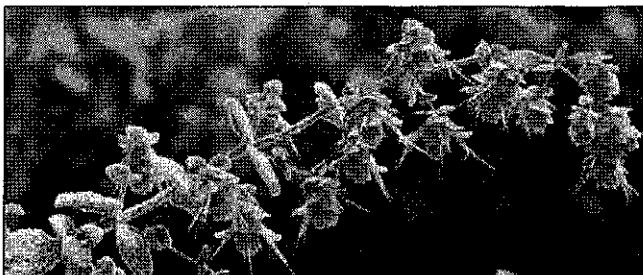
Since it is in the mint family, it is an easy perennial to grow. They prefer dry, warm, well-drained soil with lots of sun. More sunlight will intensify the flavor. Most will grow from seed but buying plants will insure that you get a flavorful plant. At the nursery, you can crush a leaf, if it doesn't have an aroma, don't buy. Most of the oreganos will over winter here in Arkansas. Pot marjoram and Sweet Marjoram are Zone 8 but may over winter in a protected area. Try to grow at least two plants because they can get woody during the growing season and the leaves will turn bitter. With two plants you can cut one back while still harvesting leaves and flowers from the other one.

To harvest oregano, cut the stems about two inches above the ground. Use the leaves fresh or dry on the stems. Harvest before the flowers open up. After the plant flowers, the leaves turn bitter. After drying, strip the leaves from the stems and store in an airtight container, such as a canning jar. Or use any recycled small jar.

Check your local garden center/mail order catalogs for seeds/plants and plant in your garden. Have a wonderful harvest!

For more information, check out this website:
The International Herb Association <http://www.iherb.org/>

Linda Moyer writes a monthly column and feature articles for the Master Minutes. She is also active on the Jacksonville City Hall Committee with her husband, Mike.



Dittany of Crete (*Origanum dictamnus*)
Photo courtesy of Gernot Katzer's Spice Dictionary,
http://www-ang.kfuniqraz.ac.at/~katzer/engl/generic_frame.html?Orig_vul.html

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.

A Really Big Show

Flower & Garden Show Update by Mary Evans

The 2005 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is just around the corner, Feb 25-27. This year's theme is "Springtime in Arkansas." It's always spring at the garden show. Drop in & see what's new.

The Q&A Café was such a success last year, we are doing it again! The Master Gardeners had a great time meeting/greeting the public. Again, we need very outgoing volunteers for this job! We will have educational programs on the ½ hour Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Janet Carson will do her show live on Saturday morning. Stop in & ask your gardening questions live on the air. We will be giving out soil boxes for soil samples again. And Jack Singleton will head up the Junior Master Gardener section. Anyone involved in youth gardening, beautification or community gardens should contact Jack at 753-1325 to participate. The Q & A Café will be in the same location as last year. Look for the giant pink Azaleas.

Jeanne Spencer has done it again! The artists will be showing & selling their work again at various locations in the show. Jeanne had a great response to the high school art competition with about 70 entries. The 1st place winner's work will appear on the official 2005 poster & t-shirts available for sale at the show. Limited supply, no pre-orders...

Bigger & better requires more space. We had to move more stuff upstairs. The flower show, horticulture exhibits, t-shirt & poster sales, book sales, speakers, art exhibits & sales, florists' competition & the afternoon tea will be upstairs.

Think about what you may have at home that might be entered into the horticulture exhibits. This is very educational for the public. Lots of opportunities to win ribbons here... There are 10 classes to choose from. Contact Karin Briscoe at 225-8098 or Karinbriscoe@comcast.net.

The afternoon tea will be offered Friday 1:00 & 3:00, Saturday 1:00 & 3:00, Sunday 2:00. The cost will be \$25.00. Reservations required. Tables seat four. Contact Nancy at 821-4000 or check the website (below.) No volunteer opportunities here.

The gardens, vendor booths, food court, ticket sales, Q & A Café, silent auction & art exhibits will remain downstairs. Again the shuttle (CAT) will run from War Memorial Stadium. Curb service and it's FREE! As you enter the atrium, be sure to look outside at the AF&GS garden, done mostly by master gardeners & other sponsors.

For more information, be sure to check out the new website, www.arflowerandgardenshow.org.

It's not too late to volunteer. Be sure to send in your pink registration forms. If you'd like to help, contact Beth at 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu OR Ray Sarmiento at 835-2890 or raysarm@aol.com. See you there!

2005 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show Speakers Schedule

Friday - February 25

10:00 A.M. Kevin Quinn, Communication Specialist,
University of Arkansas Extension Service
Digital Photography

11:15 A.M. Cinde Bauer Drilling, Landscape Architecture, Inc.
Arkansas Forest at the Clinton Presidential Center & Park

1:00 P.M. Lana Nelson, Lana's Flowers, Clinton,
AR, Arkansas Florist Association
Spring Floral Design

2:15 P.M. Leonard Miller, Founder/Designer/Director of
Lendonwood Gardens, Grove, OK, Pres. Elect of
American Rhododendron Society
Trees and Shrubs for the Shade Garden

3:30 P.M. Dr. William Mathis, Founder/Owner, The
WildOrchid Company, Doylestown, PA
Hardy Orchids for Your Perennial Garden

Saturday - February 26

10:00 A.M. Rand Retzlöff, Grand Designs, Little Rock, AR
Shady Characters

11:15 A.M. Leonard Miller, Founder/Designer/Director of
Lendonwood Gardens, Grove, OK, Pres. Elect of
American Rhododendron Society
Gardening with Rhododendrons in the South

1:00 P.M. Todd Meier, Editor-in-Chief of Fine Gardening
Magazine, Newtown, CT
The Secrets to Successfully Combining Plants

2:15 P.M. Chris Olsen, The Horticare Company, Little Rock
Containers with Class - Planting the Wow Factor!

3:30 P.M. Dr. William Mathis, Founder/Owner, The Wild
Orchid Company, Doylestown, PA
Hardy Orchids for Your Perennial Garden

Sunday - February 27

1:00 P.M. Robert Treadway, American Iris Society Judge
and Ass't Regional V.P., Carlisle, AR
Growing Louisiana and Bearded Iris in Arkansas

2:15 P.M. Janet Carson, Horticulture Specialist, University of
Arkansas Extension Service
Preparing for Spring Planting

Opportunities Aboard

2005 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Horticulture

Come add to the beauty of this year's Horticulture Division of the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs' Flower Show. Just cut specimens from your yard - shrubs, ferns, herbs, bulbs, perennials or one of your favorite houseplants. It's fun, easy to enter and is very educational for you and the public.

Your horticulture must be pre-registered, so contact Karin Briscoe (Master Gardener) at 225-8098 or karinbriscoe@comcast.net for registration blanks and a Classification guide. Plants will be received Thursday, Feb. 24 from 7:00 am until 5:30 pm at the Statehouse Convention Center, upstairs in the hallway of "Ballroom A". Someone will be at the back dock and also inside the entryway for those who need help and to show you where to take your plants.

Please don't be hesitant and think you must have something unique. As long as the plants are grown by you and in good health, we want them. Water containers will be furnished at the show. Container-grown plants must be well groomed and clean. Your exhibit must be named, but if you do not know just call for help.

You may have a Blue Ribbon!

LAWN & GARDEN SEMINAR & SHOW "Gardening – A Family Affair"

Pine Bluff Convention Center – Pine Bluff, AR 71601
Saturday, February 12, 2005 – 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
*For more information, please call 534-1033

Rogers Historical Museum

322 South Second Street, Rogers, Arkansas
January 15, 2005 - March 13, 2005

Web Address: www.rogersarkansas.com/museum
Contact Information: 479-621-1154
E-Mail: gbland@mynewroads.com

This Smithsonian traveling exhibition explores the history of landscape design in America from 1900-2000, focusing on five grand gardens originally created in the early 1900s on large private estates. The exhibit includes photographs, reproductions of design plans, magazine articles, and oral histories. The museum will augment the exhibit with objects and photographs exploring ornamental gardens in Northwest Arkansas.

Exploring Garden Transformations, 1900-2000 American Garden Legacy Series

Reprinted from the Horticulture Services Division
Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services
http://www.sites.si.edu/exhibitions/exhibit_main.asp?id=51

At the beginning of the last century, wealthy Americans hired landscape architects to design and install specialty gardens

on their estates. Some designers enjoyed national reputations and were known for a specific style, such as Italianate or Colonial Revival. Others worked locally, often designing gardens for an entire "social set." Although most of these elaborate estate gardens are long gone, their well-documented pasts provide rich resources for exploring garden history.

The first exhibition in the American Garden Legacy series, *Exploring Garden Transformations, 1900-2000*, traces the aesthetic, organic, and functional evolution of five estate gardens during the last century. Once the pride of luxurious estates, some fell into neglect during the Depression or later, when high taxes and upkeep costs contributed to their demise. Others survived through family stewardship or a strong sense of community ownership. Today, all five of these revitalized Edens are enjoyed as parks, historic gardens, community cultural centers, or residential property.

Featured in the exhibition are Grosse Pointe War Memorial (formerly The Moorings) in Michigan; Beacon Hill in Newport, Rhode Island; Shirley Plantation on the James River in Virginia; Thornewood in Tacoma, Washington; and Weld in Brookline, Massachusetts. The estate owners—industrialists, descendants of America's first settlers, a banker, and a diplomat—hired the best landscape architects and designers of the day, including the Olmsted Brothers, Charles A. Platt, and Ellen Shipman.

Exhibition imagery draws heavily from the collections of the Smithsonian's Horticulture Services Division, primarily its Archives of American Gardens, and the Smithsonian Institution Libraries. Reproductions of hand-colored glass lantern slides from the Archives' Garden Club of America Collection are complemented by an array of reproduced design plans, period photographs, correspondence, publications, and seed catalog images.



*Trial Garden, The Moorings, Grosse Pointe, Michigan
Designed by Eleanor Roche, ca. 1981*

Opportunities for local programming, including garden club or nursery involvement, further enrich the exhibition's potential.

*Exploring Garden Transformations, 1900-2000 has been made possible by
W. Atlee Burpee & Co.*



Calendar By Ruth Jones

February, 2005

- 1-28 Exploring Garden Transformations: A Traveling Exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. Rogers Historical Museum. 479-621-1154
- 8 Spring Planting Frenzy! (AELC). Call 666-0759.
- 12 18th Annual Lawn & Garden Seminar and Show Pine Bluff Convention Center 1-800-534-1033
- 15 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley
- 19-28 Daffodil Days, Garvan Woodland Gardens. 501-262-9300
- 21-23 5th Annual Home, Lawn & Garden Show, Hot Springs Convention Center.
- 25 - 27 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

March, 2005

- 1 Farmers Market at Riverfront Park opens until the end of September. 501-375-2552
- 1-11 Daffodil Days, Garvan Woodland Gardens. 501-262-9300
- 1-13 Exploring Garden Transformations: A Traveling Exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. Rogers Historical Museum. 479-621-1154
- 1-31 27th Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival. Exact date TBA 501-330-2403
- 2 Botanical Program for Adults about wildflowers. Museum of the Arkansas Grand Prairie _ 800-673-7001
- 11-12 11th Annual Camden Daffodil Festival. 870-836-0023
- 11-13 Arkansas River Valley Lawn and Garden Show. Ft. Smith Convention Center. 479-646-6902
- 12 5th Annual Garden Seminar, The Peel Mansion, Bentonville. 479-273-9664
- 15 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley
- 18-29 37th Annual Jonquil Festival, Old Washington State Historic Park. 870-983-2660
- 19 6th Annual South Arkansas Garden Show. Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, Smackover, 870-725-2877
- 27 Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival. Exact date to be announced. 501-330-2403
- 28-31 3rd Annual Tulip Extravaganza, Garvan Woodland Gardens 501-262-9300

April, 2005

- 1-10 3rd Annual Tulip Extravaganza, Garvan Woodland Gardens 501-262-9300
- 2 Wildflower Saturday Millwood State Park 800-898-2800
- 2-3 Wildflower Wandering, DeGray Lake Resort State Park. 501-865-2801
- 2-3 Wildflower Weekend, Petit Jean State Park

April, 2005 continued

- 3 Wildflower Hike, Arkansas Arboretum Trail, 501-868-5806
- 9-10 Blooming Weekend, Lake Catherine State Park, 501-844-4176
- 13-16 The Wonder of Wildflowers, Village Creek State Park, 800-238-9406
- 15 Margaret Philips Memorial Dogwood Tour, Courthouse Gazebo, Jasper, AR. 9am School buses depart & return by 3pm. 870-446-5122
- 16 Native American Herbs and Remedies Workshop. Parkin Archeological State Park, 800-755-2500

Cross County Master Gardeners invite you to a series of presentations by Larry Lowman, of Ridgecrest Nursery, at the Cross County Library in Wynne, AR. The programs will begin at 6:30 pm and last about 1.5 hours. There is no cost.

The topics will include:

- February 1: Edible and Medicinal Spring-Blooming Native Plants
 - February 8: The Hazel Family
 - February 15: The Magnolia Family
 - February 22: Native Perennials for the Southern Garden
- Contact the Cross County Extension Office at 870-238-5745 for more information.

The Baxter County Master Gardeners will present their 11th annual gardening seminar, "Developing an Ozark Green Thumb" on Saturday, March 12, at the Family Life Center, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 312 W. North St., Mountain Home, AR.

Guest speaker, Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, will speak on Getting the Garden Ready for Spring. Guest speaker, Dr. Kim Pittcock, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, will present a program on Propagation: From Apples to Zinnias. Mark Keaton, Baxter County Extension Agent, will speak on Lawns for North Arkansas. Baxter County Master Gardener Lucinda Reynolds will speak on Low Maintenance Gardening. Horticultural display tables and exhibits, and information on Baxter County Master Gardener projects will be presented for attendee viewing. This event is open to the public, and offers horticultural education useful to gardeners of all skill levels. The seminar hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00. Registration is required by March 5th.

For more seminar information, (870) 492-6767 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

To register: Send name, address, phone number, email address (for confirmation), and a \$10.00 check made out to BCMG, to the following address by March 5th:
281 Lorraine Place, Mountain Home, AR 72653



February Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

During any warm weather, you can fertilize and water your pansies and other winter annual plants. They will last until summer. If you grow your own transplants – vegetables and/or flowers, you need to decide when to plant them. Check your seed packets for how many weeks before the last frost date to plant. The Year-Round Home Garden Planting Chart (MP422) has the upper half of Pulaski County as being April 1 and the lower half as March 20. So take your pick of dates.

General Yard

February is the end of the dormant season and signals the end of transplanting. If you have any plants to move, now is the time. If pruning is needed, do it before moving. This makes the plant easier to handle. If the temperatures are cold the day you move them, be sure to wrap the root ball, and get them in the ground as quickly as possible.

Lawns

If you see green in your lawn, it isn't grass but winter weeds. Use a broadleaf weed killer to prevent these from spreading and blooming. This is also the time for preventing the summer annual weeds. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied from now through mid March to keep the weed seeds from germinating.

Perennials & Bulbs

Give your spring bulbs a light application of fertilizer when they start blooming and again immediately after they finish.

Roses

The end of February is the perfect time to prune your hybrid tea roses. Cut to a height of 8-18 inches with the top bud facing outward. This will open up the center and help with air circulation. Paint the cut end with plain white glue or a commercial sealant to prevent insects from boring into the branch. Antique roses and climbers don't need annual pruning, only prune for shape and size. To improve blooming, climbers may need old or weak canes removed.

Trees & Shrubs

Prune your fruit trees; ornamental shrubs, such as altheas, buddleia (butterfly bush), crape myrtles, summer spireas, vitex; and grape vines at the end of this month. Spray with dormant oil for scale. This year the University of Arkansas Fruit Experiment Station will not be holding their fruit pruning demonstration instead they will have a field day Wednesday, June 29. Ornamental grasses and grasses like monkey and mondo grass should be pruned this month. Don't wait too long because new growth will have started.

Vegetables & Herbs

Now is the time to plant your early spring garden. Cabbage and broccoli transplants can be planted anytime. Cool weather

vegetables, such as English peas, beets, greens, can be sowed directly in the soil.

Monthly Blooms

Outdoors: *Prunus dulcis*, flowering almond; *Pimpinella anisum*, anise; *Arum italicum*, arum; bridal veil; *Camellia*; *Chionodoxa*, glory-of-the-snow; *Crocus*; daffodil; dogwood; forsythia; *Helleborus*, hellebores; *Hyacinthus*, hyacinth; *Iris reticulata*; Carolina jasmine; flowering kale/cabbage; *Kerria*, Japanese rose; *Loropetalum*, fringe flower; Oriental magnolia; *Mahonia*; *Muscari*, pansies, phlox, pinks, primrose, pussy willow, quince, redbud, *Scilla sibirica*, Siberian squill; snowdrops; *Spiraea thunbergii*; viola, violet, winter honeysuckle, and witch hazel.

Indoors: cyclamen, kalanchoe, orchids and pre-chilled bulbs (hyacinths, paper-whites, and daffodils).

Little Rock Opens Second Recycling Drop-Off Center

The second recycling drop-off center in Little Rock is located at St. Margaret's Church at 20900 Chenal Parkway. The center is staffed from 7:00 am until 12:00 noon every Saturday except major holidays.

Additional recycling facilities are located at:

Fair Park Blvd in Little Rock

McCain Blvd. in North Little Rock

E. Keihl at Lois in Sherwood

Hwy 107/North Hills in Sherwood

1300 Marshall in Jacksonville

425 Hyman in Maumelle

For more information, call the Recycling Hotline at 501-340-8787.

Calling all composters!

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is emphasizing Composting in their exhibit at the 2005 AR Flower & Garden Show. They are seeking volunteers, Master Gardeners or master composters who are willing to share their composting stories, experiences and successes at the Flower and Garden Show Feb. 25-27 in Little Rock.

What can you tell others about the best ingredients, ratios, storage containers, how much or how little tender loving care to give a compost pile. What works best? We need you to share your expertise with prospective or beginning composters.

If you are a composter and would like to volunteer to work this booth, sharing information and your composting experience with the general public contact - Suzanne Hirrel, shirrel@uaex.edu, 501-617-2288.

Thanks.

Suzanne Smith Hirrel, Extension Specialist - Waste Management
University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, www.uaex.edu

A Time of Reflection

When Catalogs come, can spring be far behind?

by Susie Gillihan

I love winter. The leaves are all taken care of, the bulbs are planted and sleeping getting ready for the first hint of spring, and the pansies and Violas are strutting their stuff.

There is nothing as beautiful as a clear cold night. The bare limbs of the trees, reflecting the moon light and the beautiful twinkling of the stars above are a treasure.

I look at that beautiful sky and remember my youth living in the prairie country where nothing obscured the beautiful winter sky.

A walk through the garden reminds me that under all the layers of mulch are beautiful plants resting quietly for the season to change again and they will come forth. I know that seeds planted here will soon be waking up and coming to life once more.

Winter is a time of reflection, a time to recall the wonderful spring months we had this year with bountiful rain that blessed us with most beautiful gardens. In winter we forget the heat of the summer and the stubborn weeds and plan once again for that perfect garden. In winter, when all the leaves are taken care of we can enjoy the frame work of our gardens.

We have been blessed this December with a beautiful snow. How lovely to see the beautiful flakes falling and to see the beautiful Christmas lights reflecting in them. The shadows of the trees reflecting in the snow are beautiful. The birds flock to my feeders, happy to find a sure easy source of food. In the tallest branches of an Oak tree I can see a squirrels nest. Peeking out and looking us over are the family that lives there. They are safe and sound from all the snow, sleet and high winds. This is a masterpiece of building

Winter is a time to have a little down time from all of our hustle and bustle of garden activities. I hope you will be able to take time to enjoy this most beautiful season of the year.

Our driving time has been a little more dangerous, a little slower and more patience is needed to get to point a to point b, but most of us made it with out too many horror stories, but most of all those of us that live in Arkansas know that in just a few days it will be over. Winter doesn't linger long here.

May you have a Happy New Year and Happy Gardening!

Everyday when I open my mail box I am flooded with the most beautiful new catalogs, brimming over with all the prize plants of the year.

My weary bones begin to loosen up a little just looking at all these beautiful plants. It is the best time of the year to garden. Every one of the plants (according to the catalogs) is guaranteed winners! All are resistance to disease, hot and humid weather and drought. How could I loose?

I begin to thumb through all the beauties and my mind begins to hum with all the wonders that I would love to see growing in my garden. I could use some of the new Encores, and how about the great new roses that are absolutely prize winners. I love all the beautiful new Lilies and all of the Arkansas Select plants. I just can't see one that I can do with out. There are so many new varieties of the beautiful maple trees and all are so lovely I just must find space for at least one more.

Now let me see, if I dig up all the almost prize winners I ordered last year, maybe I could find room to plant more and more.

I really can't see a way out of this ordering frenzy until I get out my trusty calculator and begin adding up all the cost, plus tax, shipping charges and other charges. Of course I still have my credit cards, but ah they do come due at the end of the month. Reason takes over and I begin to scale back a bit. What is a gardener to do when temptation is calling? Take a deep breath and remember the water bill in the summer. All those new plants would have to be treated with tender loving care.

Perhaps I can order just one or two and try my best to take better care of the ones I am obligated to all ready and my birthday is coming up soon, maybe I can drop a hint or two...

Happy reading and dreaming to you.

Earn education hours by researching an article for the Master Minutes. Write an article to earn volunteer hours, or just submit your research to the newsletter staff. We'll be happy to write the article for you.

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.

Pulaski County Master Gardener January Meetings' Highlights by Jackie Wright

Board Meeting, December 17, 2004

- Present were Beth Phelps, Dick Blankenkaker, Carolyn Newbern, Ila Newberry, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Mary Freeman and Sandy Harrison, and Don Davis.
- Minutes were approved from the November meeting
- Treasurer's report was approved. Net income over expenses for the year was \$1,965.87. The balance in the Pulaski County Master Gardeners account is \$13,921.91. Balance in the Extension Office account is \$408.46.
- Chair, Dick Blankenkaker, asked for volunteers for the audit committee
- Beth Phelps presented the volunteer final report. There were 321 active members, and 44 trainees in 2004. We donated 12,071 service hours, and completed 7,507.5 continuing education hours. Ninety eight members have served 5 to 9 years.
- A Leave of Absence for 2004 was granted to Ben Jordan, Marie Jordan, and Pat Wallace.
- A Leave of Absence for 2005 was granted to Alton Gardner.
- Sustainer status was granted to Margaret Breen, Wini Carter, and Dick Carter.
- January Board Meeting will be on January 18 at 10 a.m.
- An orientation for new committee chairs will be at the Hays Senior Center on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- The following expenditure was authorized:
 - The Master Gardener board supports and recommends that Pulaski County Master Gardeners participate in the 2005 Heritage Month Department of Arkansas Heritage grant program authorizing up to \$2,500 to match grants from DAH.

Board Meeting, Tuesday, January 18, 2005

- The Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board met on Tuesday, January 18 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Beth Phelps, Dick Blankenkaker, Carolyn Newbern, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Mary Freeman and Sandy Harrison, and Don Davis, Nancy Kirsch, and guest Carly Meins, Janet Carson's assistant.
- December meeting minutes were approved.
- Treasurer's report as of December 31, 2004 was accepted. The balance in the Pulaski County Master Gardeners account is \$14,089.43. The balance in the Extension Office account is \$145.92. The receipts for the year were \$1,870.85 more than expenses.
- Carolyn Newbern reported on the Heritage Garden project grant.
 - Tom Dillard has agreed to be the speaker and his stipend will be \$500. Purchase of trees and plant labels may be purchased after the grant is approved.
 - Nancy Kirsch moved that we proceed with the planning and work on the project. The motion was approved.
- The Board authorized Mary Freeman to purchase a Visa gift card for up to \$200 to be used for Greenhouse expenses.
- Chair, Dick Blankenkaker, will appoint an audit committee.
- The board granted Paul McDonnell additional time to do his project hours.

Beth made the following announcements:

- State award nominations need to be voted on today.
- The Little Rock City Beautiful Committee has asked the Board to appoint a Master Gardener to serve on the Keep Little Rock Beautiful committee.
- Keep Arkansas Beautiful awards nominations are being accepted.

- Judy Chapman will work with St. James Church for our Spring Workday.
- The International Master Gardener meeting will be in Saskatchewan, Canada in July.
- Dick Blankenkaker, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University Of Arkansas Division Of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service.
- Carolyn Newbern announced that the State Advisory Board has drafted re-entry policies for former members. She asked for ideas concerning what we would like to see the State Advisory Board work on.
- The next Board Meeting will be on February 15 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church.

General Meeting, January 18, 2005

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, January 18, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church.

- Annual dues of \$15 are due.
- Snow day policy: if the schools are closed our meetings are cancelled.

Committee reports:

- Lois Corley announced that the azaleas for the flower and garden show would arrive soon and that they will be ready for that event.
- Carolyn Newbern told the members about the Heritage Garden Grant and the May 7th Heritage Garden Activities.
- Karin Briscoe made information available for those who might wish to enter the horticulture event at the flower and garden show. She urged us to participate.
- Mary Evans:
 - Asked for volunteers for the Q & A Café at the show.
 - Volunteer workers are needed at the Convention Center Garden.
 - Garden show t-shirts will go on sale before the show.
- Baptist Rehabilitation Project was elected PCMG project of the year.
- Barry Travis, from Little Rock Convention Center was elected to be our 2005 Friend of PCMG.
- Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award Nominations application deadline is February 11.

Beth Phelps made the following announcements and reminders:

- PCMG contributed 10,450.5 work hours to our projects; 7,930.5 Education hours and 2,040 Community Outreach hours during 2004. This is the equivalent to \$200,000.00.
- She reminded us of Leave of Absence and Sustainer policies.
- Check the Announcement board and Calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
- Please put work days on the chart.
- Pick up "stuff."
- The International Master Gardener Conference will be in Saskatchewan in July.
- Membership rosters are in the mail.
- Kathy Matthews, from the Arkansas Department of Arkansas Heritage told us about this state agency, its mission and goals.
- Door prizes were awarded.

Door prize winner, Betty Glasscock
Photo courtesy of Jim Dyer



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.

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. However, you may still sign in for credit.

The Benton County Master Gardeners are hard at work planning the 2005 State MG Meeting, scheduled for May 12-14, 2005. The host hotel is the Embassy Suites with an address of Rogers Arkansas. We have reserved a substantial block of rooms for May 12 & 13, but wanted to give you all a heads up that May 14 (starting in the morning) is the UA campus graduation and I am sure there will be lots of parents booking rooms also. Many of you have already begun making reservations, and if you think you are planning on attending you can make a reservation at 479-254-8400. The rate they are giving us is \$85 which is very good for Embassy Suites (be sure to mention MG's. The rooms can accommodate up to 3 or 4 people--there are two double beds and a couch that makes a bed. You can cancel closer to the meeting if you find that you will not be attending. Please do not feel that if you don't book now, you won't have a room, but we just found out about graduation and wanted to share with you all.
Janet Carson

Dig In Here...

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

- Master Gardener Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardenersonly>
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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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 2004, 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:

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340-6650



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