

Pulaski County Master Minutes

April, 2005

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

Volume 16, Issue 3

Beautiful, Wonderfully Sweet, Invasive Honeysuckle By Susie Gillihan *Lonicera japonica* Thunb., Japanese honeysuckle



Introduced into the United States as an ornamental vine more than 100 years ago, smothering native plants in woodlands throughout the eastern United States – Photo courtesy of John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, <http://www.invasive.org/>

Now don't misunderstand, I love the smell of honeysuckle. I have even been known to buy a fragrance that had the wonderful scent of honeysuckle. I just don't want it in my garden! When I did a survey of my border garden this year, imagine my dismay when I found some of my beautiful old plants being over taken by this vine.

What does one do when the border is filled with plants and up pops this vine? I have learned over the years that where one finds Honeysuckle one will often find poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*, syn. *Rhus radicans*), as well. That presents another problem. One of the recommended ways to get rid of honeysuckle is to gently pull it out by the roots. At this time of the year, it is easy to find and pull up the unwanted vine, but lurking nearby just may be the dreaded poison ivy. If you should choose pulling up the vine be aware and take precautions. Always wear your gloves and wash hands carefully after pulling up roots and vines. Honeysuckle vines can run as far as thirty feet and will easily root along the way.

While many plants are still in the dormant stage, now is the time that Roundup can be used. 1.5-2% solution of Roundup to one gallon of water is the recommended solution,

or per instructions on the label. Roundup should be applied while surrounding vegetation is dormant. Roundup should be applied carefully with a hand held sprayer. Spray coverage should be uniform and complete. Roundup is non selective and much care should be taken to protect wanted plants.*

Good luck to you and if honeysuckle is your favorite wild flower, please forgive me!

*U.S. Department of Agriculture and resources service 1970 Selected Weeds of the United States

*Randy Nybor
Illinois Department of Conservation

According to the USDA NRCS National Plants Database, <http://plants.usda.gov/>, *Lonicera japonica* Thunb., Japanese honeysuckle or Chinese honeysuckle, is considered invasive by many authoritative sources. Honeysuckle appears on the "State Noxious Weed Lists" for 43 states; it does not appear on the list for Arkansas.



Photo courtesy of Robert H. Mohlenbrock. USDA SCS. 1991. Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth, TX. Courtesy of [USDA NRCS Wetland Science Institute](http://www.usda.gov/nrcs).

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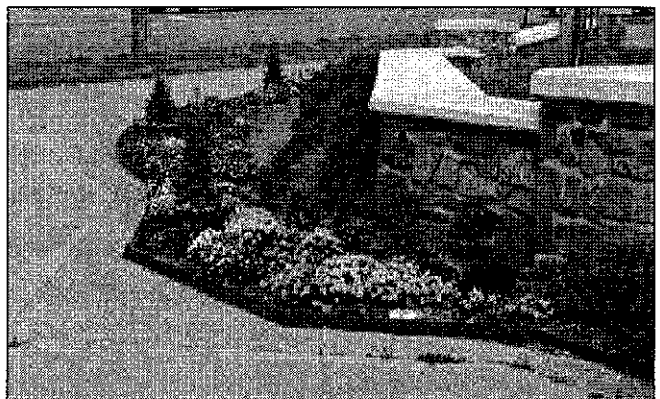
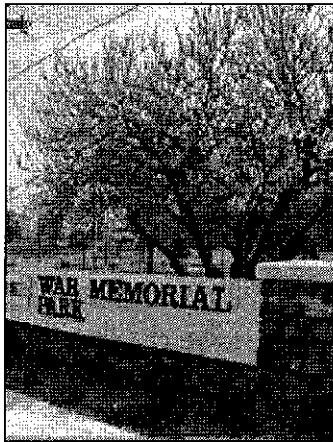


War Memorial Project Problems by Julia Loyall Photos by Bonnie Wells



In January, 2004, when my pansies looked wretched, the pansies and dwarf nandinas at Fair Park and Markham Street bus stop looked just fabulous, and I admired the fine work of the War Memorial Master Gardeners daily as I drove my grandson to school. Weeks later, we were horrified to turn that corner and find the shrubs and pansies uprooted, and a gaping hole with water pipes visible where the garden had been.

When I called committee chairman Shirley Gunnells about what had happened, she explained that roots from trees behind the garden wall had not only been making it hard to dig and plant, but had been growing into the underground sewer and water pipes. The Little Parks and Recreation Commission provides supplies for War Memorial Project, and the parks department workers were correcting the problems. They transplanted some trees. The pipes were replaced, and an underground concrete wall poured to protect the pipes from future damage. The pipes were covered with sidewalk, which made the west side of the garden considerably smaller.



The War Memorial Project was enlarged to include the east corner of the Fair Park and Markham intersection by the tennis center wall, where there were a few shrubs. The Parks Commission provided plants, mulch and fertilizer, and the begonias and other annuals looked just great with the dwarf nandinas and pittosporum. However, the plants were slow-growing, and as summer heat increased, began to wither, and some to die.

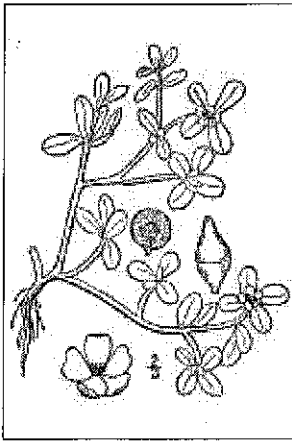
Our Beth Phelps called the parks department about the problem, and the workers discovered that someone had removed the sprinkler caps, so that only plants next to sprinklers were getting water. This was remedied but late for complete recovery.

In late October the project committee was able to plant and mulch the fall garden with materials supplied by Parks and Recreation, and as before, their pansies looked spectacular in January. The east side particularly, with red nandinas, green pittosporum, purple flowering kale, and gold and blue pansies, was a treat for tired folks traveling east along Markham Street. Thank you, War Memorial Committee, for brightening our commute.

War Memorial Committee has seven members, including two couples: Jan & William Bowen, Glenda Brazzel, Dick & Wini Carter, Marsha Friedman, and Chairman, Shirley Gunnells. They all meet for spring and fall planting, and individuals take weekly turns keeping up the garden and bus bench curb appeal.



William & Jan Bowen, and Glenda Brazzel are members of the War Memorial Committee. Photo courtesy of David Werling



Portulaca, Purslane by Lorraine Hensley

Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. Illustrated flora of the northern states and Canada. Vol. 2: 40.
Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society.

If you are interested in a "good weed" for your garden then Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*) is the perfect plant for you. Purslane is a common name for some plants of the *Portulacaceae*, a family of herbs and a few small shrubs. *P. oleracea*, a common trailing weed, and

Portulaca grandiflora, the upright variety, are common in America. The people of France and Italy knew this plant as "Ruellius" about the same time period that the British were cultivating the plant they called purslane in 1582. Many North American wildflowers and cultivated varieties are members of this family. The small showy-blossomed rose moss or barden purslane (*P. grandiflora*) introduced by Brazil to North America belong to this group.

Used as a food in India this plant has myriad uses that range from toothache medications to a source of vitamin C. Their seeds were boiled in wine and were then used to relieve the pain of swollen gums (does make one wonder about the wine's potency). Really doesn't make much difference as long as it worked. Another recipe to relieve swollen gums, to relieve infection and to set loosened teeth was to combine the leaves with oil of Roses and apply as necessary for the needed relief. When the leaves were bruised and applied to the forehead the poultice functioned as a coolant.

Sow seeds outdoors after the last frost in a sunny location with poor soil. If you want to get a head start on your plants, sow seeds indoors in March and transplant following the last frost. Thin your plants to stand about 6" apart. Sometimes they will self-sow but the plant may display undesirable characteristics. These plants thrive with plenty of sunlight and tolerate fairly dry soil.

The *Portulaca oleraceae* are low-spreading and sun-loving plants which means they are perfect for hot dry slopes or a rock garden. Or, plant them en masse in a sunny garden spot with poor soil. They are generally treated as tender perennials and are usually grown as annuals. Leaves are fleshy and cylindrical or spoon shaped and the vivid blossoms showcase anywhere they are planted. Additional incentives to use this plant in your garden are the ease of growing and the beauty of their blooms.

If you are looking for a beautiful and useful weed for your garden this is the plant to fill those needs.

According to an Animal Science study at Cornell University, *P. oleracea* contains many biologically active compounds (and, in some cases, potentially toxic compounds) and is a source of many nutrients such as free oxalic acids, alkaloids, omega-3 fatty acids, coumarins, flavonoids, cardiac glycosides, and anthraquinone glycosides. It has high contents of Omega-3 fatty acids and protein (compared to other vegetables) which varies with the growing conditions and the age of the plant.

For more information, see:

<http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/medicinal/portula.html>

For a complete list of the compounds of *Portulaca*, see:

[http://sun.ars-](http://sun.ars-grin.gov:8080/npgspub/xsql/duke/plantdisp.xsql?taxon=783)

[grin.gov:8080/npgspub/xsql/duke/plantdisp.xsql?taxon=783](http://sun.ars-grin.gov:8080/npgspub/xsql/duke/plantdisp.xsql?taxon=783)

USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program.

Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Databases. [Online Database] National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. 29 March 2005.

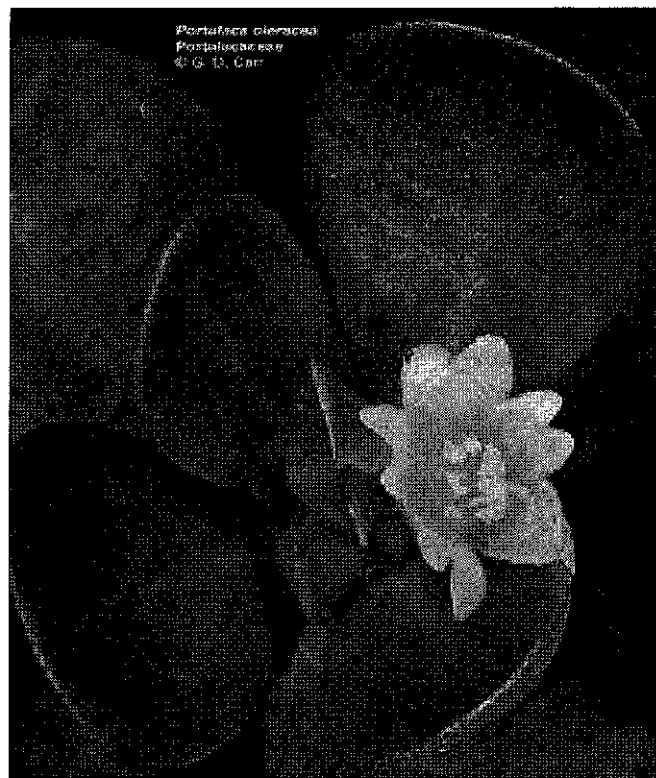


Photo courtesy of GD Carr at the University of Hawaii.

http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/carr/images/por_ole_fl.jpg

Lorraine Hensley is feature writer for the Master Minutes.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

April, 2005

- 1-10 3rd Annual Tulip Extravaganza, Garvan Gardens
 2 Wildflower Saturday Millwood State Park 800-898-2800
 2-3 Wildflower Wandering, DeGray Lake Resort State Park.
 2-3 Wildflower Weekend, Petit Jean State Park
 3 Wildflower Hike, Arkansas Arboretum Trail, 868-5806
 5 Landscape Design 101, John Beneke @AELC. 666-0759
 6 Polk Co Master Gardener program 'Dr. Gerald Klingaman on Shade Gardening' at 6:00pm. Tower Room at Rich Mtn Community College.
 7 Garden Basics @ AELC, Mary Evans. 666- 0759.
 9 Saline County Master Gardener Plant Show & Sale 8:00 to noon, at the Saline Co. Fair Grounds. Hear Janet Carson, Chris Olsen, and Pat & Ed McDonald.
 9-10 Blooming Weekend, Lake Catherine State Park
 12 Patio Border Gardens, Mary Evans, AELC, 666- 0759.
 12 Landscape Design 101 with John Beneke @AELC. 666- 0759.
 13-16 The Wonder of Wildflowers, Village Creek State Park, 800-238-9406
 14 Garden Basics @ AELC with Mary Evans. 666- 0759.
 15 Montgomery Co Master Gardeners 'Plantastic Plant & Craft Sale' with Janet Carson and Crystal Hill Gardens, 7:30 am-2:30 pm, 105 Hwy. 270 E, Montgomery Co Courthouse, Mt. Ida. Contact Carolyn Meeks at 870-867-2311 or Cyndee Turnquist at 870-356-4443.
 15 Margaret Philips Memorial Dogwood Tour, Courthouse Gazebo, Jasper, AR. 9am School buses depart & return by 3pm. 870-446-5122
 15-16 8th Annual Arkansas Co. Spring & Garden Show, Arkansas Co Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, Dr. Kim Pittcock, and vendor sales. Contact Ken Adams (CEA) at 870-946-3231.
 16 Master Gardener Greenhouse Sale, 8:00-noon.
 16 Native American Herbs and Remedies Workshop. Parkin Archeological State Park, 800-755-2500
 19 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. @ St. James United Methodist Church.
 19-21 Ar Urban Forestry Council's annual conference, "Arkansas Tree Health Checkup: Healthy Trees for Healthy Communities". Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs. Call the AUFC office at 1-800-958-5865.
 19 Year Round Annual Color, Mary Evans, AELC, 666-0759.
 19 Landscape Design 101, John Beneke @AELC. 666- 0759.
 21 Workday at St James UMC 9:00-12:00.
 21 Garden Basics with Mary Evans, AELC. 666- 0759.
 22-23 Spring Garden Tour, Little Council of Garden Clubs
 26 Landscape Design 101, John Beneke @AELC. 666- 0759.
 30 Master Gardener Greenhouse Sale, 8:00-11:00.

May, 2005

- 3 Overview of Landscape Plants, John Benke, @ AELC, 666-0759.
 4 Wildflower Gardening at Wildwood Park, 501-821-7275.
 5 MG Picnic at Camp Aldersgate at 5:30pm with an informal tour of the grounds, Corky's BBQ, program by Martin L. Smith and a plant exchange.
 5 Spring Herb Dinner, Ozark Folk Center State Park. For reservations, call 870-269-3851.
 5 Garden Basics @ AELC with Mary Evans. 666- 0759.
 6-7 Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza, Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, 870-269-3851.
 10 Overview of Landscape Plants with John Benke, @ AELC, 666-0759.
 12-14 2005 State MG Meeting, Embassy Suites, Rogers, Arkansas.
 14 Shade Gardens, Mary Evans, AELC, 666-0759.
 17 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley
 20-28 Garden Glory Days, Ozark Folk Center State Park. Info: 870-269-3851.
 21 Hot Summer Survivors, Mary Evans, AELC, 666-0759.

June, 2005

- 18 Lunch on the Wild Side, Wildwood Park. Identify edibles and how to use them for a delicious meal. \$5.00. Contact: 501-821-7275.
 21 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m. At St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley.
 24-26 Mt. Magazine Butterfly Festival. Tim Ernst & Janet Carson will speak.

Mark your calendars

As a thank you for the use of their facility, at no cost, Pulaski County Master Gardeners will have a workday at St. James UMC on Thursday, April 21st 9 a.m. - Noon. We prune crape myrtles, to encourage their natural shape, hollies and azaleas. We will also weed and along with other general landscape chores. Bring hedge trimmers, hand pruners, rakes, shovels, hand trowels, etc.

The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs, Inc.

The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs will sponsor it's annual garden tour on Saturday April 23rd 10:00am to 4:00pm., and Sunday April 24th 1:00 pm to 4:00pm. The self guided walking tour will be conducted in gardens in Little Rock and Maumelle. Garden owners as well as landscape and horticulture experts will be on hand to answer questions about the gardens and their designs. Hillcrest Hall, headquarters for the Council will be open for refreshments and rest stops both days. Tickets are \$12.00 in advance; \$15.00 the day of the tour.



Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

- Harden off summer bedding plants. Slowly acclimate to outside conditions.
- After spring blooming plants bloom, prune as needed. These include forsythia, camellias, azaleas, spring blooming spireas, and dogwoods.

Indoors

- Keep your houseplants indoors until the middle or end of the month. Then slowly acclimate them to the sun. Otherwise, they can sunburn.
- If any overwintered tropical blooming plants, like Mandevilla, have weak and spindly stems, they should be pruned.

Lawns

- Apply fertilizer after your lawn is completely green.
- Clip back established ground cover. Repair dead patches in ground cover by tearing them out. Add compost and peat moss into the soil then replant bare areas with divisions taken from outer edges.
- If you plan to start a new lawn from seed, prepare the soil now. Rake the surface level and add a general fertilizer.
- Aerate and feed lawns with a high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for greener grass. Use a spreader to ensure even coverage.
- Water lawns regularly.

Perennials & Bulbs

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

Roses

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

Trees & Shrubs

- Keep a close eye on fruit trees for pests this time of year. Follow a regular spraying program.
- After spring blooming plants bloom, prune as needed. These include forsythia, camellias, azaleas, spring blooming spireas, and dogwoods.



Master Gardeners correctly prune crape myrtles at St. James UMC 2004 workday. Remember to come help this year on April 12 from 9:00 until noon. Photo courtesy of 3Ps.

Vegetables & Herbs

- Cool season crops, like lettuce and English peas, can be planted until the middle of the month.
- Some people start planting their tomatoes at the first of April, but it is better to wait until at least the middle of the month.
- Be sure to rotate vegetable crops every year for three years to help control pests.

Monthly Blooms

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

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.

Jim Robbins, Horticulture Specialist with the U of A CES, with the help of Paul Boliou in Communications, has updated the Crape myrtle Database with better photographs and information. See: (http://www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/ornamentals/plant_material/crapemyrtle/default.htm). One highlight is the addition of a printable table that might be helpful in making a purchasing decision. See: (http://www.aragriculture.org/horticulture/ornamentals/plant_material/crapemyrtle/db/crapemyrtle_db_table_11_2004.pdf).

Fertile Grounds

Garland County Master Gardener Educational Classes
Christ of the Hills Methodist Church in Hot Springs Village
Monday, April 4 -

7:00 p.m. **Irises**---- Karen Johnson, Master Gardener
8:00 p.m. **Daylilies**---- Yvonne Becker, Master Gardener, Hot Springs Daylily Society, Arkansas Master Gardener of the Year for 2004

Monday, April 11 -

7:00 p.m. **Herb Gardens**
8:00 p.m. **Cooking with Herbs**
Both presented by Arlo Duba, Master Gardener, Arkansas Gardener of the Year for 2001, superb gardener and herb chef.

Monday, April 18 -

7:00 p.m. **Weed Control in Beds and Lawns**
8:00 p.m. **Proper Use of Pesticides and Fungicides**
Presented by Jimmy Driggers, CES Agent Staff Chair and Melvin Daniel, CES Agent for Horticulture.

The fee for each session is \$5 per session for non-Master Gardeners and \$3 per session for Master Gardeners. Fees are used to cover program costs and to support county beautification efforts. For more details, call the U of A Garland County CES at (501) 623-6841.

Arkansas Judges Symposium

The Arkansas Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges is sponsoring the Arkansas Judges Symposium May 1 - 3, 2005 at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. Registration is \$235 which includes outlines, meals and lodging. This symposium is open to everyone even if you have no interest in becoming a flower show judge.

You can register for a one day course. Design is May 2 and registration is \$25.00. Horticulture will be May 3 and registration is \$25.00.

For more information call contact Betty Henderson 868-1196 or donbetty1234@wmconnect.com.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners: Heritage Gardening Day May 7th, 2005, 10:00am until 3:00pm

Tour four downtown Little Rock Locations:

- Historic Arkansas Museum, 200 E. Third St.
- Old State House Museum, 300 W. Markham
- Mount Holly Cemetery, 1200 Broadway (at I-630)
- Curran Hall, 615 E. Capital Ave. (5th St.)

Cost: Free shuttle and trolley buses

No Registration Required

Speakers include Tom Dillard and Janet B. Carson. Contact Pulaski County MG's at 501.340.6650 or Carolyn Newbern at 501.663.1222

*More details on speakers can be found at the Extension calendar:
<http://calendar.uaex.edu/main/CALENDAR.ASP>
Look under the Home and Garden Section.*

'Bluebirds, Blossoms & Boulders' Arkansas State Master Gardener Meeting

Embassy Suites Hotel, Rogers AR,
May 12-14, 2005

Tours :

- Palette of Gardens – Rogers
- Ozark Country Acres – Bentonville
- History in Bloom – Peel/Compton
- Forest Oasis – Bella Vista

Seminars:

- Ferns for Arkansas Gardens – *Gerald Klingaman*
- It all started with a skunk in the swimming pool
– *Marcella Thompson*
- Discovering your landscape style – *Al Einert*
- Perennials, they've been in the backyard too long
– *Brian Pirtle*
- Must have shrubs for Arkansas – *Mike Schnelle*
- Herbs to grow and use – *Jeanne Wilson*
- Color without flowers – *Steve Dobbs*
- Propagation Secrets – *Mark Rockwell*
- Keeping Plants Green and Water Blue – *Katie Teague*
- One Picture is Worth a Million Pixels – *Charles Billman*
Subtitle: I've Got One (digital camera) – Now What do I Do?
- Principles of Organic Gardening – *Heather Friedrich*
- Disease Resistant Roses – *Jim and Bonnie Seals*
- The Secret Life of Bamboo – *Gordon Powell*
- Steppables – a new way to look at groundcover
– *Susan Davison*
- Latin for Dummies – *Pam Rankin*
- Down Memory Lane: Getting in Touch with our Gardening
"Roots" - *Joyce Mendenhall*
- Where have all the bluebirds gone – *Jim Janssen*
- Gardening at new Heights: Pergolas, Arbors, and Pagodas
– *Al Einert*

Pulaski County Master Gardeners: Tropical Paradise in Arkansas Gardens June 23, 2005 9:00 am until 3:30 pm

C.A. Vines Arkansas 4-H center, 1 4-H Way (Ferndale Cut-Off),
Cost: \$30.00. Registration Deadline: June 13, 2005
Norman Winter: "Exotic Flowers and Tropical Foliage for
the Arkansas Landscape"
Norman Winter: "Incorporating Tropical Plants in
Arkansas Gardens"
Gordon Powell: "Bamboos Behaved"
Dr. Gerald Klingaman: "Microclimates-Creating a Tropical
Paradise"

*Contact Person: Beth Phelps (CEA Pulaski Co) 501.340.6650
bphelps@uaex.edu*



Kudzu, Imagine... by Libby Thalheimer

Pueraria montana var. lobata (Willd.) Maesen & S. Almeida
Pea family (Fabaceae)

Photo courtesy of Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group.

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pulo1.htm>

Kudzu was introduced to the United States in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by the Japanese government in their garden filled with plants from Japan. We were seduced by its beauty, the large leaves and sweet-smelling purple blooms in long hanging clusters. It became "the" new ornamental for American gardeners. In the 1920s, nursery operators touted its use as fodder, and we were convinced of its superiority. During the Great Depression, the Soil Conservation Service hired young men to plant kudzu to fight soil erosion. Farmers were actually paid an incentive to plant fields of the vines in the 1940s. The U.S. government stopped advocating the use of kudzu in 1953, but it wasn't until 1972 that the USDA declared kudzu to be a weed. It has now spread over seven million acres of the South and overwhelmed us with its tenacity.

When kudzu came south, it thrived as nowhere else, not even its native land. Kudzu grows primarily by runners and rhizomes and by vines rooting at nodes to form new plants. (It can spread somewhat through one or two viable seeds contained in a cluster of pods that mature in the fall, but it takes several years for these hard-coated seeds to germinate.) The vines grow as much as a foot per day during our hot humid summers, climbing everything they contact. According to Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group, kudzu roots are fleshy, massive tap roots, about 7 inches in diameter, 6 feet long, and weighing as much as 400 pounds. As many as thirty kudzu vines may grow from a single root crown.

While they may help prevent erosion, it is not without a cost. The vines (with stems 1/2 - 4 inches in diameter) also destroy anything they cover by preventing sunlight from getting through, by girdling, and by breaking branches or uprooting entirely through the sheer force of their weight. This realization led the U.S. Forest Service to look for ways to kill kudzu. Their research found that one herbicide actually allowed kudzu to grow better while many had little effect on it. Even with the most effective herbicides, you can imagine that it would take years of treatment to kill a 400 pound kudzu root! And we all know that the least bit of remaining root crown can mean re-establishment.

Cutting vines just above ground level and destroying all cut material every month for two growing seasons has been somewhat successful. (The Plant Conservation Alliance suggests feeding the cut kudzu to livestock, burning it, or sending it to a landfill in tightly sealed plastic bags as the best options for their disposal.) Cutting must be repeated as new growth reappears followed up with an application of an herbicide. Efforts are being organized by the U.S. Forest Service to begin a search for biological control agents for kudzu.

In China and Japan, ground kudzu root (called kuzu) has been commonly used in foods and medicines for centuries. A drug extracted from kudzu root, based on a 2,000 year old Chinese herbal medicine, may help in the treatment of alcoholism. (Several years of testing will be required before the drug is available for human consumption in the US).

Some other alternative uses suggested for our abundant supply of kudzu are:

- Grown in fields as fodder for goats
- Cut kudzu hay, high in nutritive value
- The rubber-like vines used in decorative art creations
- Paper made from kudzu
- For recipes cooking with kudzu: check out Diane Hoots of Dahlonega, Georgia, in her book, [Kudzu: The Vine to Love or Hate](#), co-written with Juanita Baldwin, and [The Book of Kudzu: A Culinary and Healing Guide](#) by William Shurtleff and Akiko Aoyagi.

Instead of kudzu, imagine the difference it would have made using native vines such as trumpet creeper (*Campsis radicans*), pipevine (*Aristolochia macrophylla*), passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*), and trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*). All have attractive flowers and fruits, provide food for wildlife, and are all wildflowers of Arkansas.

In memory of Carl G. Hunter, who believed in the beauty and the bounty of Arkansas natives.

Pulaski County Master Gardener March Meeting Highlights By Jackie Wright

Board Meeting, Tuesday, March 15, 2005



Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board meeting, Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Dick Blankenkemper, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Mary Freeman, Sandy Harrison, Nancy Kirsch, Ila Newberry, and Carolyn Newbern. Chair, Dick Blankenkemper presided.

- Minutes were approved from the February meeting.
 - The Treasurer's report as of February 28, 2005, was accepted with a balance of \$15,485.31 in the two bank accounts. We are ahead approximately \$1400 for February and \$2600 for the year.
 - Reminder letters will be sent by the end of the month to those who have not paid.
- OLD BUSINESS**
- Lee Ann Chester will be our representative to the Keep Little Rock Beautiful Steering Committee.
 - Carolyn Newbern announced that our Heritage grant was approved for the full \$5000 requested. Although the signs may cost more than anticipated she will be able to stay within the \$2500 allocated from the Master Gardener budget.
 - Marilyn Tilley reported that there will be two work days in April on the St. James grounds to show appreciation for hosting our meetings, one on a weekday the other on a weekend. Members will be notified by e-mail.
- NEW BUSINESS**
- The State Master Gardener Advisory Committee has been dissolved.
 - Cecelia Buck is confined to a wheel chair. Her name will be referred to the Sunshine Committee.
 - Carl Hunter's name is to be referred to the Sunshine Committee. He has been quite ill with pneumonia and is in the hospital.
- The travel committee has several trips planned:
 March 22nd carpool to Bixler's Nursery at White Hall then to Daffodil Ridge.
 April 5th carpool to Garvan Gardens.
 April 12-15 bus trip to Austin see Texas Wildflowers.
 - Upcoming events:
 Heritage Day Activities Sat., May 7.
 "Tropical Paradise" continuing education program June 23d.
 - Questions about leaves of absence, life member status, and allocation of work hours will be discussed at 9:30 a.m. at the April Board meeting.
 - Nancy Kirsch announced that there will be a public hearing about SB 230, the Watershed Bill, on the 23d of March. Also, HB 1705, will reallocate real estate transfer fees from the Heritage Department, depleting their resources for grants.
 - Janet Carson asked for names of those who will go to the 2005 Meeting in Canada.
 - Janet Carson needs volunteers for the sponsorship committee for the 2007 meeting in Little Rock.
 - Karen Briscoe will announce to the general meeting that she is recruiting Master Gardeners to help with the Little Rock Garden Clubs tour.
 - Carolyn Newbern announced that they have found a Mountain Bluett, a rare antique plant, at Curran Hall.

Master Gardener Picnic
Thursday, May 5, 2005
 At Camp Aldersgate

5:30-6:30 P.M. Informal Tour of Grounds by Staff
 6:30 P.M. Dinner

Cost is \$10.00 per person for Corky's BBQ.
 Program by Martin L. Smith, Registered Landscape Architect
 with Larson Burns & Smith, Inc.

Plant Exchange Bring a plant labeled with the
 common/botanical name, growth conditions, etc. to swap.

**Wear your Master Gardener name tag. Guest name tags will
 be available at the door. **

RSVP by April 29, 2005

Pulaski County Master Gardener March Meeting Highlights By Jackie Wright

General Meeting Tuesday, March 15, 2005

- The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church. Chair Dick Blankenbeker presided.
- Special recognition was given to Carolyn Newbern who announced that the Arkansas Heritage Month Grant was awarded in the full amount requested, \$5,000 for the May 7 program, "Arkansas Gardens: The Roots of Our Heritage". Twenty-one of the 55 applications were funded. They are now recruiting workers to be docents on the busses and greet visitors, and a number of other jobs.

Reports were given by standing committee members:

- There are Canvass Bags leftover from the Garden Show available for purchase.
- Dues are \$15.00 and are due.
- Lynn Phelps: The Spring picnic is 6:30 p.m. on May 5 at Camp Aldersgate. A tour of the grounds will be at 5:30; speaker, landscape architect Martin Smith; cost is \$10. Menu is Bar-BQ. There will also be a plant swap. Look for our mailout.
- Bob Bray announced five travel opportunities.
 - Daffodil Hill at Sheridan, March 22 then to Bixler's new nursery at White Hall. Carpool from Second Presbyterian at 9 a.m. Lunch on our own, help driver pay for gas.
 - Carpool to Garvin Gardens on April 5, leaving Second Presbyterian at 9:30. Admission is \$6.00. We may bring a lunch and drink.
 - A bus trip to Texas will leave at 7 a.m. from Second Presbyterian on April 12, returning Friday, April 15.
 - June 1 or 2 we will have a "Steak-Out" at DeGray Lake, cost is \$33.00.
 - April 26 at 6 p.m. Chris Olsen will host us at his nursery and give us a 15% discount on our purchases.
- Jan King: will take orders for "stuff" when they have new order blanks that show new items.
- Lois Corley: The Greenhouse sale, Saturday, April 16 at 8 a.m. No potting soil is available.
- David Werling: thanked Sharon Davis and Nan Matthews for updating our e-mail list. Sharon is contacting project chairs for schedules and photographers. We want to put photos on-line for prospective attendees at our 2005 International Master Gardener Meeting in Little Rock
- Ray Sarmiento thanked us for working at the Convention Center garden and also for the Flower and Garden Show. 9500 people attended the show, down some from last year, but buying was up. They will add new and exciting things next year.
- Sandy Harrison announced that a continuing education seminar will be held on Thursday, June 23, titled "Tropical Paradise in Arkansas Gardens."
- Mary Evans thanked the Q & A Café workers. She asked those with yard signs to either turn them in or keep them for

next year. They sold out of t-shirts and caps. The tea was a big success. Booths cost \$400.00

- Karen Briscoe asked for volunteers for the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs garden tours on April 23-24. She sent a sign-up list around.
- Nancy Kirsch announced that there will be a public hearing about SB 230, the Watershed Bill, on the 23d of March. Also, HB 1705 is under consideration. It will reallocate real estate transfer fees from the Heritage Department, depleting their resources for grants. For more information contact Ann Speed.
- Chair, Dick Blankenbecker made the following announcements:
 - Check the announcement board and calendar in Master Minutes for special events
 - Place work days on chart
 - There are still a few openings for the State Master Gardener Meeting in Rogers/Bentonville on May 12, 13, 14.
 - Please let Beth know if you plan to attend the International Master Gardener Conference on July 24-27.
 - There are 168 members at today's meeting.
 - Two workdays on the St. James campus will be scheduled in April, one on a weekday, one on a weekend.
 - Carl Hunter is ill and cards will be appropriate. Some of our members have volunteered to work in his yard.
- Carolyn Newbern asked members to direct her to a source for Horse Apples.
- Marilyn Tilley introduced Jane Gulley, Pulaski County Master Gardener, who gave a program on antique roses, telling us which ones grow well in Arkansas.



Photos courtesy of David Werling



Susan Rose was a door prize winner at the meeting.

Classifieds

Greenhouse Sales

The spring sales will be on April 16 from 8:00 until noon, and on April 30 from 8:00 until 11:00 at the Greenhouse, on the corner of 7th & Palm. All profit from the sales go to support our Master Gardener Projects. Please note that we will not be selling potting soil this year.

We send our condolences to the family of Carl Hunter, who died on March 23. Carl was a dedicated Master Gardener and served on the Pinnacle Mountain State Park Committee.

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. Donations should be sent to: PCMG Memorial Fund
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204

Bloom 'n' Garden Expo in
Franklin, Tennessee

April 8 and 9, from 9 am to 8 pm

April 10, from 10 am to 5 pm

Williamson County Ag Expo Park, 4215
Long Lane, Franklin, TN

(Just off I-65 at exit 61-Peytonsville Road)
Hundreds of booths filled with plants, tools, seeds, garden art and antiques, garden exhibits, educational information, workshops, food, and much more.

For MG continuing education hours:

Southern Living Magazine's Garden

Specialist Rick Ludwig will present

seminars entitled "From the Ground Up" and "Creating Contagious Containers"

Produced by the Williamson County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. in association with the University of Tennessee Extension Service of Williamson County. More information at wcmga.net or email mch4@charter.net

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
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



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