

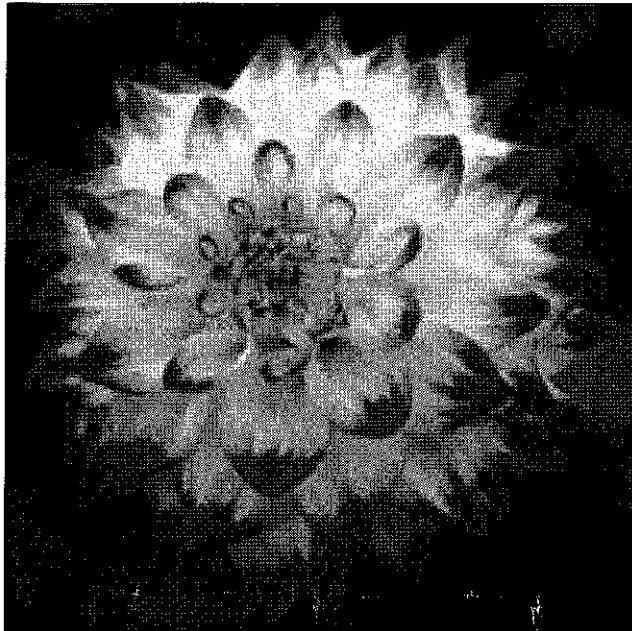
Pulaski County Master Minutes

July, 2005

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

Volume 16, Issue 6

The Beautiful and Bold Dahlia By Susie Gillihan



Dahlia Matchmaker

A few years ago, my husband and I visited the beautiful gardens at Windsor Castle, Windsor, England. I was in total awe when I saw the Dahlia garden. The flowers were so bright and bold, unlike any I had ever seen. While I was standing there taking it all in, an English gardener nearby said "the Dahlia aren't so much this year are they?" I had never been keen on the Dahlia before, but decided that when I returned to Arkansas I would sure give them a try. I must tell you that I have learned by doing that I will never have that kind of results, but have learned a thing or two about the growing.

Dahlias are classified by flower type, single flower, anemone flower, collarete, peony flower, Pompom decorative, ball, cactus and semi-cactus. There are two groups of Dahlias, bedding dahlias, which are grown annually from seed, and half-hardy tuberous border perennials. The tuberous dahlia is what we will discuss here.

Dahlias come in a wide range of colors and size depending on the type chosen. Plant height varies according to group; giant decorative reach up to 4-5 feet, but single flower types are rarely more than 2 feet.

Although dahlias will thrive in any good garden soil that is neither too alkaline nor acidic, they prefer a slightly acid, well drained loam. These plants are greedy feeders, so be sure to dig a heavy dressing of compost or other organic matter into the soil in the fall. In addition, add 4 heaped teaspoons per sq/yd of sterilized bone meal dressing, leaving the surface rough so that frost and winter can break it down well.

It is important to stake your dahlia when planting. Use a good sturdy stake, slightly shorter than the eventual height of the plant. The crown should be planted about 2 inches below the surface. Cover the tuber with more soil and planting mixture. After filling the hole, press the soil with your fingers. Don't water in the tubers.

When tubers are first set out, they may be harmed by over watering. In fact it is fine for the roots to search for moisture. During hot sunny weather, water plants on heavy clay soils every five days, in lighter soils every 3 days.

Plants that have been planted in a well prepared soil will not need much extra fertilizer. Mulching well with composted manure will help growth. An additional feeding can be given with a handful of well balanced fertilizer.

I wish you luck with this beautiful plant. I must confess that I am still trying to reach the perfection of the beautiful plants I saw in England. But then I remember I don't garden in England. I am very happy here in my beautiful Arkansas where my soil is mostly shale, the summers are hot and humid, and this year, at least, the weather is dry.

Happy Gardening! Susie Gillihan

** Photo courtesy of Wayside Gardens*

**research from "Growing your favorite plants" 1990*

Interested in dahlias?

Check out the 2005 Calendar of North American
Dahlia Shows at:
<http://www.dahlias.net/Shows.htm>

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.

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.

Leadership Training & County 76 Launch - October 11 & 12

This year's Leadership Training is also the launch date for the new County 76 state level Master Gardener organization. Although lots of organizational planning has taken place, the initial direction for our new group will be determined by those that can attend Leadership Training and become a charter member. The second day of Leadership Training will be focused on the identification and launch of a number of Sanctioned Projects in County 76. Project Leaders will be elected and the initial direction will be determined by those that can participate.

Who is eligible to attend: Master Gardeners that completed basic training in 2004 or earlier, are in good standing in their home county, and have met the recertification requirements for this year are eligible to attend and become charter members. ** County Agents that have a Master Gardener organization in their county are also eligible and encouraged to attend.**

Registration and cost information will be distributed state wide in the next two weeks. All that are eligible and wish to attend are welcome. This year we will not be limiting the number of attendees per county to make room for all who want to attend.

This is a great opportunity to become involved at the beginning of a new organization, meet other Master Gardeners from around the state, and help move Arkansas's Master Gardener program to the next level. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, let me know.

Janet B. Carson
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fax (501)671-2303

Dig In Here...

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

- Master Gardener Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly>
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

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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
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Amy Sanders Library Project By Carol Randle



Library patrons arriving on Thursday mornings at the Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood may be surprised to see several people, some wearing green shirts, carrying

trowels, shovels, rakes or plants. Some may be planting things by the entrance; some may be working in the "sign" bed; some may be planting flowers by the statue. All are having a good time filling the flower beds with color and making the library grounds beautiful. New friendships are formed; knowledge is exchanged; ideas are born; brainstorming occurs; and each member feels fulfilled and happy when the day's work is done. Some members have even been known to work in the rain, not even noticing how wet they are until they get in their cars to go home!

In 2003, Sara Beth Dawson, a member of the Central Arkansas Library System board of trustees, approached Mayor Harmon with a suggestion. She proposed that the city of Sherwood provide funding and heavy manual labor (through the city parks directed by Sonny Janssen) for the beautification of the Amy Sanders Library grounds. The library building and grounds are owned by the city of Sherwood and the building is leased by the Central Arkansas Library System. She proposed that C.A.L.S. would provide the design for the grounds through their landscape designer, Linda Chambers. Sara Beth, a Master Gardener, volunteered to do the bed preparations and planting. She was helped by two other Master Gardeners: Bonnie Nicholas and Oneal Dedman, and by artist and library patron, Kathy Bay. Director of Parks, Sonny Janssen, has given much help to this effort by providing the heavy manual work and by supplying needed things such as mulch. Ginann Swindle and the library staff helped by providing a place to store supplies and by encouraging the gardeners. They even did some extra watering at times to help the gardeners.

In June of 2003 Beth Phelps received a request for the Amy Sanders Library to become an official master Gardener Project. After following the usual procedures the request was granted. The first organizational meeting was held in January of 2004.

The original committee consisted of nine members: Sara Beth Dawson; Bonnie Nicholas; Oneal Dedman; Debbie Stults; Edward Douglas; Julie McPherson; Barbara Daniel; Liz Edwards; and Gena Norris. They regularly met each Thursday morning and other times were added as needed.

The committee began with six beds; the two Front Entry beds; the Railroad Tie Tree Bed; the Book Drop Bed; the Amy Sanders Woodland Sign Bed; and the Statue Bed. Some of these were renovated and some were completely redone.

This year two beautiful *Loropetalum* greet library patrons as they enter the front walk. Between the *Loropetalum* and the front

wall are "Purple Palace" *Heuchera* (Coral Bells), "Golden Globe" *Lysimachia*, *Perilla*, and sweet potato plants. Against the entry walls are Lemon Lace Japanese Maples.



In the Statue Bed, *Impatiens* have been planted in front of and behind the dwarf holly bushes and in the circle surrounding the statue itself.

This year we have added many plants to the Woodland Sign Bed, some annuals and some perennials. We have planted *Caladium* bulbs, green and purple sweet potato plants; *Impatiens*, *Hosta*, lime green *Heucherella*; and an arborvitae "Crisps Cypress". *Lamium* (Dead Nettle), *Digitalis* (Foxgloves), *Platycodon Grandiflora* (Balloon Flower) have also been added. Pulling the whole bed together are stepping stones that wander through the bed.

The Book Drop Garden has been turned into a Butterfly Garden filled with purple *Echinacea* (Cone Flower) and yellow *lantana*. These plants are sun loving and heat resistant.

In the Tree Bed are daylilies, bearded Iris, *Aster*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Echinacea*, and purple *Verbena*.

The Master Gardeners working on the Amy Sanders Library Project this year are: Sara Beth Dawson; Debbie Stults; Bonnie Nicholas; Barbara Daniel; Brenda Bobbitt; Ed Douglas; Martha Basinger; Michael McCourt; Nell Teague; Oneal Dedman; Liz Edwards; and Carol Randle.

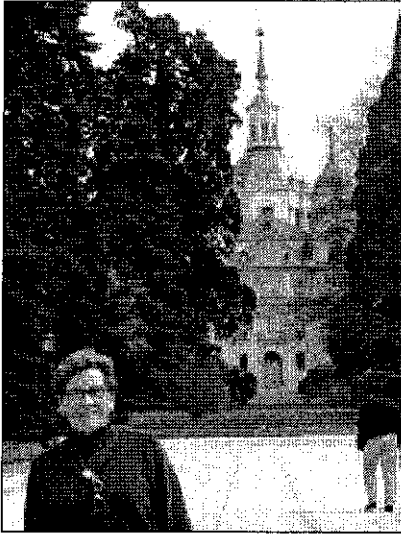
Our vision for the future includes completely surrounding the library building with beautiful color. We must fill three more beds to reach our goal.

Come by and see our beautiful beds at the Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood.



Front row: Barbara Daniel; Carol Randle; Second row: Nell Teague, Michael McCourt, Bonnie Nicholas, Liz Edwards; Back Row: Debbie Stults, Oneal Dedman, Sara Beth Dawson, Brenda Bobbitt. Ed Douglas and Martha Basinger are not in the picture. Photos courtesy of the Amy Sanders Library Committee

La Granja of San Ildefonso, Spain by Trudy Kumpe



Sue Griffin in the park

My friends and I decided to take a guided day trip to see Segovia and La Granja (the farm) located northwest of Madrid, Spain. After touring the Roman aqueduct, the castle, and cathedral in Segovia, we drove to the Spanish hermitage and spent the afternoon wandering through the huge gardens of La Granja, nestled in the side of the mountains.

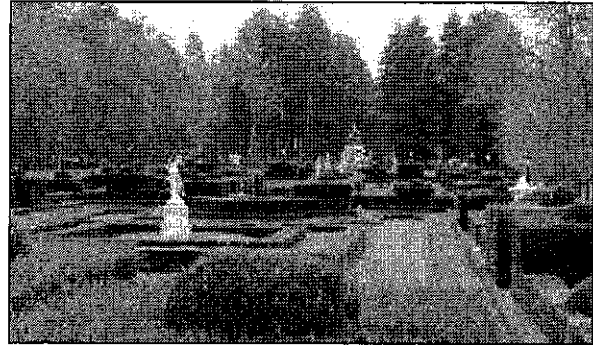
La Granja consists of a palace with parterres and gorgeous fountains that rival Versailles in France. The French-born King Philip V, grandson of Louis XIV, employed French artists Renee Carlier and Esteban Boutelet to copy the world-famous Versailles. Begun in 1721, their design took twenty years of diligent work to provide the subterranean structure and plumbing for the level terraces of the gardens and fountains.

When we walked into the estate, we were dwarfed by huge, ancient trees in the entrance garden. Written in Spanish, a legend listed the trees as a giant sequoia, cedar, ginkgo, juniper. Looking at my friend, Sue "Griffin in the park", you have an idea of the size of the trees, as well as the mythology we discovered in the sculptures in the gardens-to-view.

We decided not to tour the palace, so we walked west through a huge formal parterre. Noting that they probably did not have Master Gardeners to maintain the evergreen yew along the pathways, we saw several varieties of evergreen plants (weeds?!) in the original plantings. At the end of this west parterre, we admired a colossal fountain, the Fuente de le Fama, a circular pool with fish statues that spray water towards the tall, rocky crag in the center. The rocky portion of the fountain represented Mount Parnassus and was topped by a statue of Fame (Fama) on a winged horse or Pegasus. Turning south from the fountain, we found a larger pathway.

The pathway led us to the center of Los Ocho Calles, or the eight avenues. In the center, a large octagonal area had a statue of Apollo and Pandora with eight different pathways (which we couldn't do in one afternoon) leading out to other fountains. Each of the pathways was decorated with an archway with statues of various mythical gods or heroes. Though there were no perennials or annuals planted at the

time of our early April visit, the beauty of the deciduous trees and dried plants that had wintered over were an artist's palette of grays, evergreens, and browns. In fact, had the trees been full of leaves, we would have missed sighting a stork on one of the houses near the pathways.

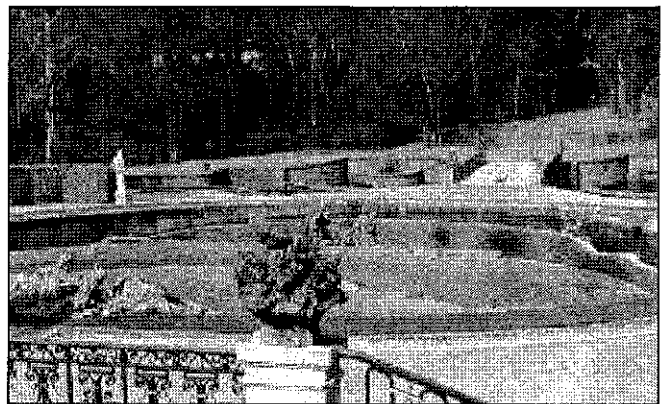


West parterre

From Los Ocho Calles we walked to the chief parterre which can be viewed from the palace. Cutting through two parterre beds, the fountain of Amphitrite cascaded down the hillside to a shell shaped pool. Marble statues and people like me posed along the sides of the two parterre beds. Since Amphitrite was the spouse of Neptune, it seemed logical that we would find a fountain dedicated to him.

The lower level of the Amphitrite led to the Neptune fountain. Behind Neptune, the Carreras de Caballos were racing down the hillside. Remarkably, this hermitage has a wonderful supply of water that comes from a dam built behind the property to catch the mountain run-off. With so many fountains, the dry, hot climate in the summer requires a generous source.

Below the Neptune fountain, our final stop was the Eolo Fountain, a clam shaped pool that was dedicated to Aeolus, the god of the wind. Seeing La Granja in early spring gave us a perspective of the splendor of the fountains in the gardens, so that seeing the gardens in summer that adorn those structures must be magnificent!



Eolo Fountain

Photos courtesy of Trudy Kumpe, guest writer for Master Minutes.



July Calendar By Ruth Jones

July, 2005

- 16 Using Herbs As Ornamentals - 9-11 a.m. AELC
666-0759
- 30 Annual Central Arkansas Iris Society Rhizome Sale.
8 am Hillcrest Hall (Kavanaugh & Lee)

August, 2005

- 18 Arkansas Unit of the Herb Society Potluck Supper.
5:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Hall. See below for more info.

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

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.

The Arkansas Unit of the Herb Society of America invites Pulaski County Master Gardeners to join them for a Herbal Pot-luck Super and Program August 18th, 5:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Hall (formally the Garden Center at Kavanaugh and Lee in Hillcrest). The program will be "Oregano - the Herb of the Year 2005" presented by Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center Herbalist.

If attending please R.S.V.P. by August 8th to Jean Harper 821-3860, so the Herb Society will know how much food is needed. Master Gardeners are not being ask to bring a dish, however if you would like to let Jean know when you R.S.V.P.

Gerald Klingaman Retires

Gerald Klingaman, U of A Horticulture Specialist, is retiring August 1. They are having a retirement reception for Gerald and are collecting a book of letters about Gerald. If any of you would like to send a letter for this book, please send them to the UA Dept. of Horticulture, 316 Plant Science Building, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

They are also setting up a horticulture scholarship fund in his honor. This is a surprise for Gerald. If you would like to contribute, please send a check to the above address made payable to UA Hort. Dept.

Gerald is a great asset to horticulture in our state, and we will miss him in Extension.

Janet B. Carson

Play in the Mud, this Summer

The Garage Sale Queen's Hypertufa classes are in full swing for this summer. Most classes are in her backyard, but she is also teaching at the Arkansas Arts Center and various statewide locations through special requests.

For more info:
The Garage Sale Queen
Kandy Jones
gsg@sbcglobal.net
www.garagesalequeen.biz
501 375-0068

Arkansas Home Grown Markets

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

River Valley Master Gardener Tour in September

We will be traveling to Tulsa, OK via bus to visit the new Philbrook grounds. The Italianate garden has been recently renovated. A docent will show the highlights to us. Afterwards, we'll eat in the museum's restaurant and MG's will have the option of touring the art gallery, touring Woodward park which includes a nice rose garden, or they can go to the Tulsa Garden Center (which isn't a nursery, but they do have a gift shop).

The trip is open to any MGs. We're leaving 9/20 first thing in the morning. We should be back about 5:30 that same day. It looks like the cost will be \$50 which includes lunch. If you can't make it to Italy, then this is the next best thing. Or maybe the next to next best thing. Look for more information soon.



July Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

If your annuals are getting leggy, rejuvenate by cutting every other plant back by one third to one half. After they recover, you can cut the other ones back. Also deadheading the spent blooms will help the plants to continue blooming.

Fruit Trees and Small Fruits

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

General Yard

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

Lawns

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

Perennials & Bulbs

Keep flowerbeds well weeded. Remove faded blooms. Make sure you keep the soil moist but not soggy around ferns. They may become dormant if they get too dry. Now is the time to pick those beautiful perennials for a fresh bouquet indoors. This will also encourage more blooms on most perennials. Divide irises this month.

Roses

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

Trees & Shrub

Be sure to water deeply newly planted trees and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and to avoid heat stress. Now it is the time to prune hydrangeas. As soon as the flower

color begins to fade, remove some of the older canes at the soil line. This will reduce plant size, encourage new canes, and leave enough existing canes for good flower production next year.

Vegetables & Herbs

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

If you need to use pesticides, be sure to read and follow label directions, especially if the weather is hot and dry. Spraying early in the day will help to avoid the heat and to avoid killing any beneficial insects, such as honeybees. Make sure there is ample water in the plants before you spray.

July and August are the times to start your fall garden.

Harvest blooms of lavender now to keep the plants tidy and encourage more blooms. Cut sprigs of Rosemary and freeze whole for future use. Cut back about three-quarters of the new growth on your thyme plants regularly throughout the summer. For a nice fragrance in your kitchen, tie several branches of sage together and hang it upside down in your kitchen. Pinch the stems of basil regularly to prevent flowering. Harvest about once a week. Clip the flower stalks off garlic. Once the leaves have turned brown, garlic can be harvested.

Monthly Blooms

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

A Rainy day in July

By Susie Gillihan

How rare it is to have a rainy in July

This is the month of blistering

Heat!

How blessed are we to have a good

All night rain with a

Morning with crisp cool

Breeze.

We thank you Lord for this wonderful

Day and may we be thankful

For the blessed relief.

Forgive us Lord for thinking of

August and September

And what heat it will bring.

Remind us Lord to be thankful for

Today.



What Works!

What Works and the Trading Post are the Master Gardener forums to propagate the wealth of our gardens.

Share your tips or list your produce on the clipboards circulated during the monthly meetings; or write to:

Libby Thalheimer at 5005 Crestwood, Little Rock, Ar 72207 or smell34@aol.com.

Although not required, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Coffee grounds make excellent mulch for acid-loving plants such as evergreens, tomatoes, azaleas, camellias, and roses. After you finish your morning coffee, instead of putting the grounds down the drain, save them for a day or two & let them dry out then spread them around your garden.

If you need larger quantities of coffee grounds, talk to your favorite Starbucks. Their *Grounds for Your Garden* program encourages customers to reuse these spent grounds as a nitrogen-rich fertilizer. They will gladly save them for you!

Rachel Carson: biologist, writer, ecologist (1907-1964) A marine biologist by training, Rachel Carson worked for many years as the editor-in-chief of all publications of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. After that career, she devoted the rest of her life to writing about the interconnectedness of nature and all living things. Her book The Sea Around Us stayed on the *New York Times* best-seller list for 86 weeks. But Carson is best known for her prophetic 1962 work, *The Silent Spring*. It exposed the hazards of the profligate use of the pesticide DDT & helped set the stage for the modern environmental movement. To quote Ms. Carson from 1954: "The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction."

Thank you, Rachel Carson, for speaking truth to power. To learn more about Rachel Carson's life and work, visit www.rachelcarson.org.

Gaylord Nelson 1916-2005

Earth Day founder, former Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, died last weekend. The first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, attracted an estimated 20 million people. Nelson's congressional legacy also included the 1964 Wilderness Act, legislation to protect the 2,100 mile Appalachian Trail and create a national hiking system. Nelson devoted the last years of his life to the Wilderness Society. In 1995, President Clinton awarded Nelson the nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

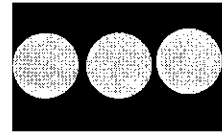
"I wanted a demonstration by so many people that politicians would say, 'Holy cow, people care about this.' That's just what Earth Day did." - Gaylord Nelson

Courtesy of the dailyapple

Trading Post



- Delores Le Compte (664-4795) wants three to four dozen red bricks that look like:



- Delores Le Compte (664-4795) wants someone to build a cold frame. She has two windows.
- Dorothy Veirs has lots of liriopie; super for eroded areas.

The easiest and cheapest way to propagate plants is by dividing and replanting or gathering seeds. If you bring your extra plants/seeds to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings, leave plants outside with a short card listing the name and care of your plant. To guarantee an exchange, list your divided plants and seeds in The Trading Post.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Thoreau earned his place in history on July 4, 1845, when he moved to Walden Pond, "to live deliberately." Three years earlier, his brother John had died of lockjaw & Thoreau decided to write a book commemorating a canoe trip he had taken with John in 1839.

Seeking a quiet place to write, he followed a friend's suggestion and built a small cabin on the north shore of Walden Pond on a piece of land owned by his friend and mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Over the past century and a half, millions have read his musings on his life there and been inspired. His time at Walden, slightly over two years, demonstrated the natural harmony that was possible when a thinking man went to live simply, reading books, writing in his diary, cultivating his beans, and walking in the woods. During his life, Thoreau was little known outside his small social and intellectual circle. Yet his reputation as a prophet for ecological thought and the value of wilderness, born at Walden, now grows with each passing year. He articulated the idea that humans are part of nature and that we function best, as individuals and societies, when we are conscious of that fact.

"I went to the woods because I wished to *live deliberately*, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

To subscribe to the dailyapple, write to: ElizDarwin@aol.com



Book Review By Bonnie Nicholas

No One Gardens Alone: A Life of Elizabeth Lawrence
by Emily Herring Wilson
2004, Beacon Press \$26.00

Have you ever read A Southern Garden, The Little Bulbs, Gardens in Winter, Lob's Woods, Gardening for Love, A Rock Garden in the South, A Garden of One's Own, or The Garden Gate? If so, you know Elizabeth Lawrence. She was an old fashioned kind of garden writer, collecting scientific information – much of it from records of several thousand plants she had grown in her own gardens – and then personalizing it. She would describe a plant I'd never seen and call it by a name I couldn't spell or pronounce. I'd immediately want to find *Iris unguicularis* so I could experience the "whiff" of the first breath of spring.

Small, thin, and fair, Elizabeth Lawrence must have seemed too delicate for heavy work, until she lifted rocks. She was quiet and reticent, and seemed shy until she argued. She was a natural gardener. Writing about her efforts proved to be a challenge. She got help from all her friends.

Encouragement to try something new was Lawrence's most original contribution to garden literature. Her standard of gardening declared that the garden was a place to be enjoyed every month (every day) of the year.

Still in print, A Southern Garden continues to be called a "classic" in discussions of American garden literature. It reads like a letter from one gardener to another.

As the days get too hot to physically be in your garden, I recommend a glass of iced tea and this biography. It will be time well spent.

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

= = = Internet Pipelines

According to the National Garden Bureau, Inc., the following are useful gardening links to the web:

(For growing information specific to our area, they recommend that you contact our County Extension agent. The following are a sampling of sites offering reliable information and user-friendly navigation.)

General Gardening

1. All-America Selections
www.all-americanselections.org

All-America Selections is a non-profit organization that tests new flower and vegetable varieties for home gardening. The AAS website offers a searchable database of 1933-present AAS Winners, AAS Trial Ground information, a searchable database of AAS Display Gardens, Store Locators for AAS Winners, and direct links to AAS winner seed sources.

2. Internet Directory for Botany
www.bgbm.org/idb/botgard.html

Internet Directory for Botany provides lists and links to worldwide organizations that provide gardening information. You can link to botanical gardens, museums, horticultural societies, as well as university botany departments.

3. Plants National Database
<http://www.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.

For other suggestions, visit the National Garden Bureau, Inc. website at:

<http://www.ngb.org/index.cfm>

The National Garden Bureau website "Year Of" offers flower and vegetable fact sheets with images, "Today's Garden" contains 55 gardening bulletins, "How A Garden Grows" features a photo gallery with fact sheets, and the "Membership Directory" links to member mail-order seed and plant company secure ordering sites where you can purchase thousands of flowers, vegetables and herbs to grow from seeds.

Pentas By Lorraine Hensley



Penta lanceolata photo courtesy of:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/coastalplants/penta.html>

With more than 40 species from which to choose the penta truly offers something for everyone. Primarily evergreen perennials, biennials, and shrubs they come to us from forest margins and scrub in the Arabian Peninsula, tropical Africa, and Madagascar. I'm constantly amazed at how well traveled many of the plants now prospering in Arkansas gardens are and Pentas are always welcome.

The Butterfly Red (*Penta lanceolata*) was my choice and three plants are now making themselves at home in my garden. This annual is a unique and hardy plant that can be grown in sun to partial sun and is fairly drought tolerant as well. Also called the Egyptian starflower this upright garden plant is becoming increasingly popular in gardens and does just as well as a container plant. They grow about 22 inches tall and boast large star shaped flowers up to 3 inches across. The colorful penta blooms from spring to autumn with star-shaped blossoms of pink, magenta, blue, lilac or white depending upon which variety you chose. Hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies are fond of this plant as is the gardener for this beauty is easy to care for and provides a colorful accent for your garden. Just watch out for aphids and spider mites and enjoy the addition to your landscape.

Other varieties include the "California Lavender" which is a dwarf, shrubby perennial or the "California Pink", a compact herbaceous perennial. The garden center where I found my pentas did not have any perennial varieties but I'm thinking hard about a little more intensive shopping next spring and I just may be able to find some perennials for my landscape. Doesn't matter all that much for the annual pentas have a wonderful plant vigor and provide a place for those little "flyers" most of us enjoy watching.

You might want to check the space in your landscape and add a few of these plants to your garden. Hardy, stress tolerant and beautiful these bloomers seem to keep right on going when other plants are stressed by the Arkansas "dog days" of summer for these are heat and drought resistant stunners.

Active Master Gardeners: Photos by David Werling



Rivermarket MGs - Clinic: Helen Simpson, Judy Gregory, Laura Anne Wilson, Steve Lopata, Jane Baldwin. Not Shown: Claudia Barone, Connie Prewitt, Dena Dixon, Eugene Seavers.



AR Heritage Gardening - Curran Hall: Nan Matthews with sprouted beans for planting and Lynn Winningham.



AR Heritage Gardening - MG Trolley Guides Cathy Spivey and Mary Wildgen



AR Heritage Gardening - Statehouse - Dorothy Veirs at the Tussie Mussie Demonstration

Pulaski County Master Gardener June Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

Board Meeting Highlights

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners board met at St. James Methodist Church on June 21, 2005. Present were Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Mary Freeman, Don Davis, and Beth Phelps, Marilyn Tilley presided.

The minutes for the May meetings were approved as circulated. The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Six people have not paid dues. The treasury is down \$1390 from last month because we paid our Heritage Month activity bills. The treasury is up \$1487.05 for the year. Sixty-seven registered for the Picnic. Ninety-three registered for Tropical Paradise.

Old Business

- Everyone who wishes to participate in County 76 must go to the second day of the state annual Leadership Training. The Leader Training fee for board members will be paid.

New Business

- The Board will review applications for the 2005 Master Gardener Training in early August. Applications will be available July 1 and are due on July 22d. Training is Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 1 and 9. Training at the state office will cost \$510 for rent of the auditorium and AV equipment. Registration will go up to \$115 or \$125 to cover expenses.
- The board will evaluate projects and consider proposed new projects on August 23 at 9 a.m. and will make recommendations to the membership at the September meeting.
- President, Dick Blankenkemper will appoint a nominating committee.
- Janet Carson's assistant, Carly, has a new feature on the Extension Service website - Project Spotlight. It is on the Master Gardener Website and is available to the public. The contact e-mail is cmeins@uaex.edu and any committee can submit their project.
- Wonders of the Watershed with Central AR Water, Sat. July 23, 10 - 2 at the Zoo. We will have an educational booth and activity. Volunteers are needed.
- Jack Singleton with Keep Arkansas Beautiful has asked Master Gardener representatives from North Little Rock, Sherwood, Jacksonville, Wrightsville, and Maumelle to serve on these local committees. Don Davis will represent Jacksonville. Nancy Kirsch will represent Little Rock. Others will be contacted for this project.
- We have received several thanks for helping sponsor the State Meeting.
- Dick Blankenkemper will be featured in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Sunday, June 26, as a Volunteer Profile.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, September 20. Newsletters will continue monthly.

Photo courtesy of Laetitia East

General Meeting Highlights

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on June 21, 2005 at 11:30 at St. James Methodist Church. Vice-President Marilyn Tilley presided.

Julie Fullenwider is our new Horticulture Program Assistant, taking Ann Ward's place.

Reports

- Lois Corley announced two work days at the Greenhouse to plant pansies. September 8, & 9 or 10.

New Business

- Wonders of the Watershed with Central AR Water, will be on Sat. July 23, 10 - 2 at the Zoo. Master Gardeners will have an educational booth and activity. We need volunteers.

Beth Phelps made the following announcements:

- Check Announcement Board and calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
- Several time sheets were turned in without names.
- Dick Blankenkemper will be profiled in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on June 26th.
- Please let Beth know if you are interested participating in County 76, this is a new statewide policy-making and leadership group.
- The Extension website is spotlighting Master Gardener Projects. Send information and photos about your project to cmeins@uaex.edu.
- Applications for new members will be mailed July 1, due on July 22d. Training will begin on Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 1 and 9. Call Beth if you want to put anyone on the mailing list for applications.
- Master Minutes will continue to be sent during the summer. The next meeting will be in September.

Program - Marilyn Tilley introduced a Master Gardener Panel which answered questions about gardening.

Jane Gulley, Mary Evans, Suellen Roberts, Beth Phelps, and Breck Campbell were on the panel.

The October program will be about peonies.

Door Prizes were drawn.



Standing: Lynda Harkenreader & Pat Boggess with Oleanders, Cheryl Kennedy with Summer Bouquet; Seated: Georgiana Soderberg with Oleander & Stewart Bell Perilla sprouts