

## Pulaski County Master Minutes

December, 2005 / January, 2006 <http://www.arhomeandgarden.org> <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 16, Issue 11

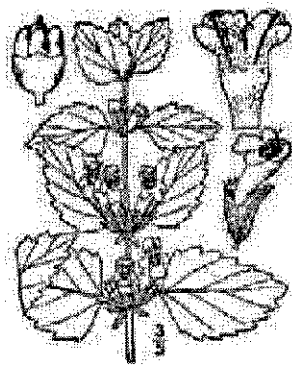
### Aroma Therapy By Libby Thalheimer

This spring, I am planning my own version of 'Aroma Therapy'. I've decided to move my herbs into a narrow bed along my driveway on the east side of the house. This area gets morning through early afternoon sun and is irrigated. It is also right outside my kitchen door, the door I use most often. My previous herb garden had been on the south side of our house, but it was a casualty of remodeling at our house.

In addition to the herbs I want in my kitchen, (*Allium cepa*, spring onions; *Allium savitum*, garlic; *Allium tuberosum* and *schoenoprasum*, chives; *Anthriscus cerefolium*, chervil; *Artemisia dracuncululus*, tarragon; *Coriander savitum*, the leaves; cilantro and the seeds: coriander; *Mentha*, mint; *Ocimum basilicum*, basil; *Origanum majorana*, marjoram; *Origanum vulgare*, oregano; *Rosemarinus officinalis*, rosemary; *Salvia officinalis*, sage) I plan to have an area of lemon scented foliage plants that I can enjoy brushing up against on my way in and out of the door.

I've chosen a variety of annuals and perennials with a range of forms, with little or no consideration of their flowers: *Melissa officinalis*, lemon balm; *Cymbopogon citratus*, lemongrass; *Thymus x citriodorus*, lemon scented thyme; *Monarda citriodora*, lemon mint; *Aloysia triphylla*, lemon verbena, and *Pelargonium crispum*, lemon scented geranium.

*Melissa officinalis*, lemon balm, is a perennial herb with soft, light green, heavily veined ovate leaves growing on erect multi-branching square stems. The white to light blue flowers are not very significant, but will attract bees into your garden. Lemon balm is very hardy; self-sowing and spreading.



northern states and Canada. Vol. 3: 137. Courtesy of Kentucky Native Plant Society. Scanned by Omnitek Inc.

It prefers slightly moist, well-drained soil. Pinch back to keep lemon balm compact or (if growing for tea and flavorings) to encourage fresh, young growth which is more aromatic. The leaves can be used in cooking as a substitute for lemon peel, or to perk up salads. Mulch plants for the winter.

Photo courtesy of USDA Plant Database - Britton, N.L., and A. Brown 1913. Illustrated flora of the

*Cymbopogon citratus*, lemongrass, a member of the grass family (*Gramineae*) is treated as an annual in zone 7, or it can be grown in pots and moved inside in winter. Like most grasses, lemongrass is a quick grower, growing in dense clumps of long (2'-3') grey-green flat blades. It prefers well-drained, light-textured but fertile soil. To propagate lemongrass, divide old clumps in the spring or summer.

The fragrant leaves are tough, but may be used fresh or dried to make teas. The fleshy base of lemongrass is used in some Asian dishes.



© 2003 Floridata.com. Photo courtesy of Floridata.com.

*Thymus X citriodorus*, lemon thyme, is a semi-woody rounded sub-shrub with aromatic, small, somewhat fuzzy, gray-green oval leaves. In summer, thyme produces masses of tiny lilac to purple flowers. To keep plants dense, take out flowerheads before they set seeds. Although thyme may be grown from seeds, to get the desired fragrance,

propagate in the summer from cuttings taken from non-woody, fast-growing shoots; or divide rooted stems into sections and replant. Thyme prefers moist, well-drained soil.

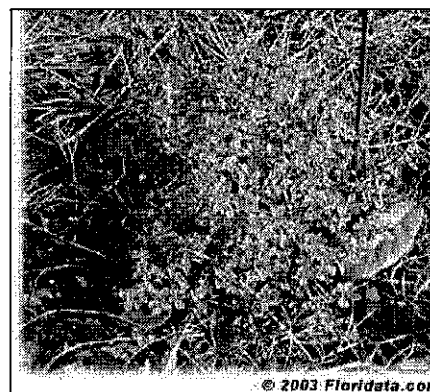


Photo courtesy of Floridata.com

This is a hybrid between *T. vulgaris* and *T. pulegioides* called 'Argenteus' - it has a citrus scent and silver leaves.

..... Continued on Page 3

### 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.

## Winter Rain by Susie Gillihan

Today when I look out my window I see a beautiful sunshine. It is a little nippy, but certainly not cold. It has been an unusual year for Arkansas and Arkansas gardeners. Those of us with out automatic watering systems have been busy all summer and fall moving water hoses from one spot to another trying our best to keep things alive. When fall finally arrived, I had hoped for the long awaited rain and cooler weather, but it didn't come.

\* The average rainfall across the state for October 2005 was 0.14 inches. This is 3.37 inches below the long term average. The exceptional dryness this year is in stark contrasts to October 2004 with rainfall of 8.15 inches. Little Rock is off on its warmest start on record through November 9, 2005 with the average temperature being 77.4 degrees which is 10 degrees above normal. Long term drought has also set across Arkansas; records show that 2005 is the driest on record.

Other indications of the drought are the low river levels across Arkansas and the very dry soil levels statewide. Due to the lack of rain and warm temperatures, soil moisture across the state remain exceptionally low. This of course is not news to those of us that have been working in our gardens all fall. The earth is crying out for rain, the soil is like unto dust. Planting can be a real challenge with this kind of weather. Fall plantings especially need additional moisture. We must be on top of things this fall and pray for our winter rains.

With this being said the forecast from the National Weather Service states that the drought will continue across Arkansas for the foreseeable future. The amount of precipitation needed to end the drought across Arkansas ranges from six to twelve inches. Some times when it is cool and dry it is hard to remember that our plants need water even in the dormant stages of winter. We must do our best to keep our plants alive and well until the blessed winter rains arrive. Hopefully it won't come on the very day we have planned for our biggest party of the year!

\*Paul Iniguez, National Weather Service, Little Rock, AR  
[Paul.iniguez@noaa.gov](mailto:Paul.iniguez@noaa.gov).

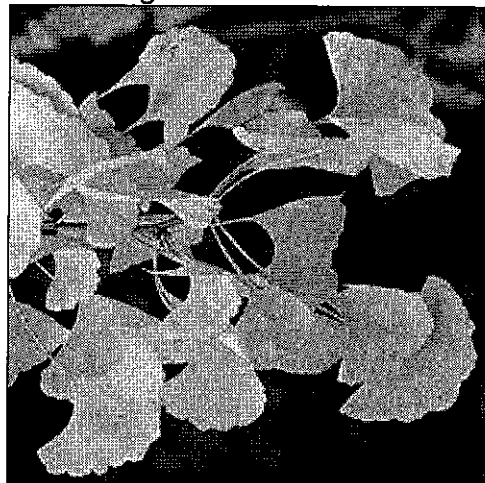
According to Ohio State University at:  
[http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/Plantlist/gi\\_iloba.html](http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/Plantlist/gi_iloba.html)

"*Ginkgo*" is derived from the Japanese word *ginkyo*, meaning "silver apricot", referring to the fruit, which is eaten in Japan; "*biloba*" translates as "two-lobed", referring to the split-in-the-middle character of its fan-shaped leaf blades. Once thought to be extinct, *Ginkgo* was discovered in China in the mid-1700s and is now dispersed throughout the world, having lived on Earth for over 150 million years.

*Ginkgo biloba* can grow to be a huge, bold-textured, urban-tolerant shade tree that is also one of the oldest trees still living on Earth, actually a deciduous gymnosperm by botanical classification.

## The Fall Garden

*Ginkgo biloba* Fairmount\*



I love fall and it is of course the most perfect time to all that clean up work that needs to be done. We have been blessed with beautiful days of sunshine this fall and the leaves seem to me to as beautiful as I can remember.\* Dr. Tamaria Walkingstick, from the University of Arkansas states it is the warm sunny days and cool nights that give us these glorious colors. Dr. Walkingstick tells us that the amount of rainfall has little to do with fall color. It is a true blessing to live in an area with such rich beautiful color. Fall also brings lots of work to do in the garden. Now is the time to start raking leaves and using them for composting. Composting will provide fertile soil for you garden beds and mulch will protect your beds during the winter.

After raking leaves turn you thoughts to other parts of your garden. Now is the time to clean up beds and get ready for winter. Perennials with sturdy stalks can stay in your garden as long as they have leaves and look nice and you want to leave it around for a while. I still have some very pretty plants in bloom that I will leave until the last minute to cut back. Once you are ready to cut them simply cut down to the ground and wait for spring to return.

Perennials that fall over should be cleaned up right away. Cutting away their foliage and stems will keep them from rotting during the cool wet months.

Of course now is the time to plant bulbs of your choice. There are so many wonderful colors and varieties to choose from. One of my losses this year was a wonderful Ginkgo Tree. My fault, I wasn't careful enough about the planting and with this dry summer it was neglected and didn't get the water it needed. I hope I have learned from my mistakes and next year a beautiful Ginkgo will be planted to take its place. I will be more careful about the planting and watering this time around.

Photo courtesy of Wayside Gardens: [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com)  
\*Fall Color in Arkansas, Dr. Tamara Walkingstick

## Aroma Therapy By Libby Thalheimer

Continued from Page 1

*Thymus X citriodorus* is a hybrid of *Thymus vulgaris* and *T. pulegioides*, also called mother-of-thyme, that grows 4-12" high. There are several cultivars of lemon thyme, including 'Argenteus' with silver-edged leaves, 'Aureus' with gold flecks in the leaves, and 'Archer's Gold', with yellow-edged leaves. Their leaves are used fresh or dry to season poultry, fish, meats and vegetables.

*Monarda citriodora*, lemon mint, blooms white (with small purple spots) to pink tubular flowers from late spring into September. Plants are single or sparsely branching stems with narrow, simple, green aromatic leaves. Bees adore these plants. Lemon mint can be used to make teas and potpourris. This annual monarda prefers a well-drained soil, even a sandy soil. Allow lemon mint seed heads to dry and drop to re-seed.



Photo courtesy of Image Archive of

Central Texas Plants: <http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/bio406d/>

*Aloysia triphylla*, lemon verbena, is a small woody shrub with a strong lemon fragrance and flavor. Tender stems and long pointed leaves have small, pale lavender flowers from summer to autumn. Propagate from soft-tip cuttings taken in spring or semi-hardwood cuttings in summer. This verbena prefers a well-drained, loamy or light textured soil.

Prune hard in autumn. Hardy in zones 8-11, lemon verbena needs winter protection. Plant in a sheltered area and mulch heavily for the winter. If you have a sunny location inside, try bringing it indoors for winter.

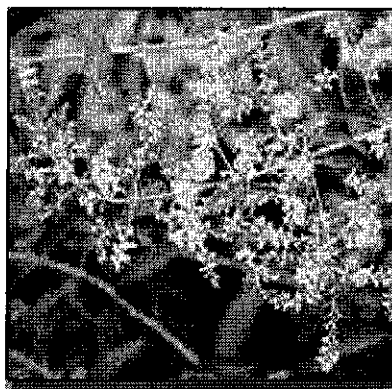


Photo courtesy of GardenGuides.com  
[www.gardenguides.com/herbs/lemon](http://www.gardenguides.com/herbs/lemon)

*Pelargonium crispum*, lemon geraniums, are tender, shrubby perennials (zones 9-11) that are grown as annuals in Arkansas. These *pelargoniums* have a few erect branches, small lobed leaves with crinkled margins and larger than expected pink flowers with dark markings. They typically grow to 1' - 3' high. To propagate, take softwood cuttings from spring to fall.



Photo of Scented Geranium 'Lemon' (*Pelargonium crispum*) courtesy of Happenstance at Dave's Garden. See <http://davesgarden.com/pl/showimage/43430/>

Ironically, the scented geraniums fare better in our hot, humid summers than other species of pelargonium. In the past, I've not had much success with other pelargoniums. But this may be the strongest scented of the plants I've researched, so it's in my plans.

Grow lemon geraniums in pots or hanging baskets where their roots can be crowded (but not root bound). The pots can then be moved indoors to a sunny spot for the winter. They need good drainage, preferring to be a bit dry. Fertilize only occasionally with a well-balanced, all-purpose fertilizer, as too much nitrogen will lessen a plant's fragrance.

The fresh leaves of *Pelargonium crispum* are used to flavor jellies and iced drinks, and the dried leaves to make potpourris and sachets.

My little lemon drop will have the erect multi-branching lemon balm, with its soft, light green ovate leaves; the clumping spray of the grey-green lemongrass; the small mound of silver lemon thyme; the upright stems and two-lipped tubular flowers of lemon mint; the narrow pointed leaves of the shrubby lemon verbena; and the erect growing lemon geranium with its frilly foliage. A contrast in styles, but all plants grow in well-drained soil in the sun, and all smell divine.

If you have other suggestions, or warnings, for my lemon scented garden, please let me know.

[libby.thalheimer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libby.thalheimer@sbcglobal.net)

Information for this article obtained from: USDA Plant Database, Floridata.com, Image Archive of Central Texas Plants, GardenGuides.com, sallys-place.com, Wildflowers of Arkansas, Botanica, and The Southern Living Garden Book.



## December/January Calendar By Ruth Jones

### January, 2006

- 3 Weddings & Special Events – AELC - J Ted Lewis
- 10 Weddings & Special Events – AELC - J Ted Lewis
- 17 Weddings & Special Events – AELC - J Ted Lewis
- 17 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting. 11:30 a.m.  
St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley
- 24 Weddings & Special Events – AELC - J Ted Lewis.
- 26 Your Winter Garden – AELC – Mary Evans



### Speaker for the January Master Gardener Program

The program for January 17<sup>th</sup> Master Gardener meeting will be Jennifer Vickery, assistant director of communications and

marketing for the U of A Cooperative Extension Service, and project manager for Horticulture Highlights 2006<sup>®</sup>. She will demonstrate the Horticulture Highlights 2006<sup>®</sup>.

The CD is for sale just in time for the holidays, and it's bigger and better than ever. Whether you're all thumbs or a green thumb in the garden, the CD has the information you're looking for from Extension experts.

New on the 2006 version are dozens of clips from Janet Carson's "Today's Garden" television show. Also, the CD is searchable, a feature not found on the 2005 version. You'll also find hundreds of gardening Q&As, along with fact sheets and gardening calendars.

### Announcements from Janet Carson:

Our October kick off event for County 76 was a huge success! We have over 135 Master Gardeners hard at work planning great things for our Arkansas program. We told you in the fall that we would offer Master Gardeners another opportunity to join with this program.

For any Master Gardeners wanting to join County 76, and who did not attend the session in October, there is an opportunity between 1 and 3 pm on January 9 to do so. Do remember that to be a part of County 76 you must be a member in good standing in the county program and have attended Master Gardener leadership training in the past. Starting at 3 pm, all County 76 members are invited to attend a communications session teaching you methods we will be implementing to try to keep communications open for all County 76 members. At 3:30 the County 76 committees will meet and work on their goals and objectives. Each County 76 member did choose a project or committee to work on. Each committee chairman will be setting an agenda for these sessions.

On Tuesday, Jan 10, we will have a County 76 membership meeting to vote on bylaws, hear updates on what the committees are doing, and any other business that needs to be discussed.

We do know that we are taking a chance with the weather, holding a meeting in January. I will not be depositing your checks for this event until the day of the event--in case bad weather occurs. The 4-H Center is wonderful to work with and they understand about weather. I will be turning in meal counts and lodging needs on January 4. However, this is one time we will allow cancellations for weather--and I will send back the checks if we cancel.

Also, please note that the dates for the 2006 MG Leadership Program have been set for September 25 & 26, 2006. More information will be coming concerning these meetings.

Many of you have asked about the state MG meeting. It will be in Hot Springs, May 21-23, 2006. Our facility will be the Hot Springs Convention Center. We do have a block of rooms at the Embassy Suites and the Austin Hotels. There is a bit of difference with the hotels, but they are both joined to the convention center. The rate at the Embassy Suites (501) 624-9200 is \$109 which includes breakfast and managers reception. The rooms are all suites like last year. The rate at the Austin (501)-623-6600 is \$80 which includes breakfast. These are more a standard hotel room. You can begin making reservations if you want.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Janet B. Carson, [jcarson@uaex.edu](mailto:jcarson@uaex.edu)

Extension Horticulture Specialist

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

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(501) 671-2174; fax (501)671-2303

### Keep Arkansas Beautiful Awards Application

If your committee is interested in entering your project, please note that the application packet must be completed and postmarked by February 10, 2006. Mail to: KAB Awards, Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, One Capitol Mall, Ste. 4A-109, Little Rock, AR 72201. The Pulaski County Extension Office Project and The Pinnacle Mountain Project have been recognized in the past. The Pulaski County Extension Office Project won the Crystal Award of Excellence in 2003.

For more information: E-mail [info@keeparkansasbeautiful.com](mailto:info@keeparkansasbeautiful.com) or call 501-682-3507 or 1-888-742-8701



## Checklist By Linda Moyer

### Annuals

Fertilize winter annuals regularly when we have any warm spell. Water regularly, especially before a heavy freeze.

### General Yard

Winter has always been concerned the slowest time in the garden, but it can be very busy if you start planning for next year's garden. Now is the time to order seed catalogs. Remove plants that aren't thriving in their current locations. Try to ascertain the reason for the lack of success. Often it's a matter of planting depth, or an over-accumulation of mulch, or a diseased root system.

### Indoors

Enjoy the blooms of forced bulbs such as hyacinth and paper whites. Amaryllis bulbs will add more color. Pot them and give a little water after you get them home. After growth starts, water well and keep in the sunlight. They will bloom in six to eight weeks. Stake because they will get tall and top heavy. If you are going to over winter poinsettias, place them in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now. Reduce watering and begin feeding again in spring. Don't allow potted azaleas to dry out. The soil must remain moist.

### Lawns

Remove fallen leaves that may smother grass and plants. Apply lime to lawn in December or January.

### Perennials & Bulbs

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp; but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early spring. Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early spring.

There is still time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Try to get them in the ground by the end of December to ensure they have ample chilling hours. If you can't plant immediately, store them in a cool location to start the chilling process. Spring bulbs need a minimum of 12 - 16 weeks of cool temperatures for them to be able to stretch and bloom. When planting, be sure to pick a site with well drained soil. Plant two to three times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground.

### Roses

Don't prune roses until the early spring.

### Trees & Shrubs

Plant camellias for winter color. They come in colors ranging from whites, to pinks, to reds, and mixtures. Anyone

who can grow azaleas, can grow camellias. Plant in a well drained area out of the afternoon sun. Evergreen trees and shrubs will drop some of their older leaves. If the flower buds and newer foliage at the end of the branch are ok, don't worry. It is normal. Be sure to water regularly if it doesn't rain.

### Vegetables & Herbs

Start cool weather vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in 6-8 weeks. In late January, poppies and sweet peas can be planted directly in the ground. Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to give the green materials time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather, if plants are mulched, it will resume in spring and produce greens into May. Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

### December Color

Camellias, dogwood, hollies, nandina, osmanthus, aquifolium, possum haw, rosehips, tea plant, viburnums and violas.

*Osmanthus fragrans* – Tea olive

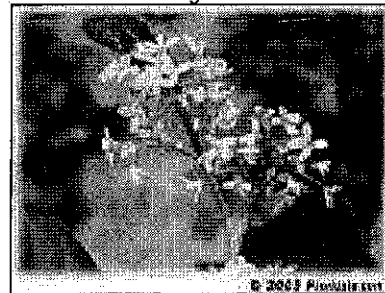


Photo courtesy of FloridaData.com

### January Color

Camellias, heather, hellebores, hollies, winter honeysuckle and jasmine, mahonia, possum haw, flowering quince and witch hazel.

*Mahonia nervosa* (Pursh) Nutt. – Cascade barberry



Photo courtesy of the USDA Database. ©J.S. Peterson. USDA NRCS NPDC. Goethe Arboretum, Sacramento, CA. June 3, 2003.

## "Come To A Garden Party" Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Update By Mary Evans

"Come To A Garden Party" is the theme of our show this year. And that is precisely what we are going to have! The dates are March 3, 4, and 5. Our show grows & gets better every year. It couldn't happen without the help of all the Master Gardener volunteers. Thanks for all you do. Sign up early for great volunteer opportunities. Be sure to send in your pink volunteer form to Beth Phelps. Contact her at 340-6650 or [bp Phelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bp Phelps@uaex.edu); or Ray Sarmiento at 835-2890 or [annsarmiento@aol.com](mailto:annsarmiento@aol.com).

Be sure to check out the **website**: [www.arflowerandgardenshow.org](http://www.arflowerandgardenshow.org) for schedules, prices & updates.

Once again the **shuttle** will be offered, free of charge, from War Memorial Stadium. Can't beat the price & convenience! There are several other events taking place in downtown that weekend.... The shuttle is recommended! The **food court**, as well as a **wine garden** will be available.

The high school **art competition** was held again & we have a winner. Again the design will be featured on the official show poster & the t-shirts. There were complaints last year about the design fading on the shirts. We have a new vendor this year! Better t-shirts! First come-first served at the show. All entries will be exhibited at the show. The 3 winning pieces will be available in the silent auction. The other artists will be exhibiting & selling art again.

Again there will be an **afternoon tea**. Schedule: Friday 1:00 & 3:00. Saturday 1:00 & 3:00. And once Sunday at 2:00. Reservations can be made early. Contact Nancy at 821-4000 for details.

The "Q & A Café" continues to be popular. The public enjoys meeting with experienced Master Gardeners. We need outgoing MG's to volunteer to be "greeters" in this area. We will have lots of educational materials available, as well as the hands on demonstrations/speakers. What a fun area! A list of speakers is pending.

The council of garden clubs needs entries for the **horticulture exhibits** in the flower show section. There are lots of opportunities to win ribbons here. This is very educational to the public. Think about what you might have at home, even in the yard, that you could bring. There are 10 classes to choose from. Contact Karin Briscoe at 225-8098 or [Karinbriscoe@comcast.net](mailto:Karinbriscoe@comcast.net) for more details.

**New for 2006:** Starting at noon on Friday, there will be an "Insect Festival" for the kids. The U of A will have a "Plant Diagnostics" booth. Bring in your plants, bugs or other samples to be analyzed. On Sunday, we are going to have a

**garden party upstairs.** Everything you need to have an outdoor party will be there. Starting at noon, Janet Carson will have the featured chefs. There will be scads of demonstrations including topiaries, containers, garden clubs, wine, etc. To participate, or for more info, contact: Janet Carson at [jcarson@uaex.edu](mailto:jcarson@uaex.edu) or check the website. The chefs will have special, pre-show wine dinners. The schedule is: Acadia-January 26. Brave New Restaurant- February 5. And Bene Vita- February 23.

We have a new vendor, "The Funny Farm," coming from Poplarville, MS. He sells Bromelads! You gotta see them to believe them. And what he does with them! He puts together an eye-popping exhibit! His nursery was wiped out by Hurricane Katrina. He is making a comeback. Be sure to bring your wallets, you'll need them. Let's welcome Michael to Arkansas! He will also appear at the Q & A Café!

### Speaker's Schedule!

#### Friday-

- 11:00 Becky McPeake ( U of A extension- wildlife specialist) "Deterring Bambi & other Wildlife From The Garden"
- 1:00 Michael Shoup (Antique Rose Emporium) "Roses In The Southern Garden"
- 2:30 Rand Retzloff (Grand Designs, LR) 'Au Natural'- Native Plants & Natural Landscapes

#### Saturday-

- 10:00 Norman Winter (U of Ms) "Tropical Gardening; Not Just A Look, But An Attitude"
- 11:30 Bruce Cochran (Ark Extended Learning Center) "The Global Vineyard: Grape Growing & Wine Styles At Home & Abroad"
- 1:00 Norman Winter (U of MS)"Hot New Plants & Ideas For The Landscape"
- 2:30 Kim Pittcock (ASU) "Spice Up Your Landscape With Ornamental Grasses"
- 3:45 Chris Olson (Botanica-LR& Today's THV) "Entertaining With Class In The Garden"

#### Sunday-

**Garden Party!** Starting at noon in the speaker area upstairs. Featured chefs at noon.

Mitzi Burch (Horticare) "Containers For A Garden Party"  
Ben VanMalderen "Topiaries"

Our garden party will take over the entire convention center. Be sure to check out the new style program for times/locations of events. We don't want you to miss anything!

The new programs will come out in the Arkansas Democrat/Gazette the weekend prior to the show. Check them out!

## Cookin' with Compost

Attention Master Gardeners! Last year's "Cookin' with Compost" booth at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, was a huge success. Composting is a passion and a challenge for many Arkansas gardeners, and our booth was packed with people seeking information, advice, and encouragement.

Our booth was a success because of the expertise offered by volunteer Master Gardeners from all over the state. Let's do it again! If you can volunteer even a few hours at the Dept. Environmental Quality Composting Booth, I PROMISE you'll find you are providing valuable, appreciated information to your fellow gardeners. (Don't worry about the "compost expert" label!) All you really need is (1) your personal gardening expertise and (2) your personal experiences in composting. You'll spend about as much time encouraging people to begin composting as you will answering questions from composters

The 2006 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is set for March 3 – 5, 2006. The booth will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Contact me right away if you'd like to work in the booth. We'll assign work hours after the holidays.

We had a great time last year. I hope you can help!

Becky Allison, Public Outreach Manager  
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality  
501.682.0978, [allison@adeq.state.ar.us](mailto:allison@adeq.state.ar.us)

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According to the U of A Cooperative Extension Service website:

<http://www.arnatural.org/recycling/composting/default.asp>

*Composting offers a YIMBY (Yes! In My Back Yard) solution to the organic components of the municipal solid waste stream.*

*Yard trimmings make up at least 13% of what households put out for disposal. Food wastes comprise another 10% of the total waste volume.*

*That works out to about 200 pounds of yard trimmings and another 150 pounds of food waste per person per year.*

*These 2 segments alone can reduce our total waste volume by almost one fourth and yield an end product - COMPOST, that is a valuable soil amendment.*

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners Memorial Fund 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, or other hardscape); or for general Master Gardener program support.

Send donations to: PCMG Program, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

## Holiday Party



Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham

## Master Gardeners Recognized at November Meeting



5 years



10 years



Don Thompson – Advanced Master Gardener



Ruth Jones – 15 years



New members

### 5 Years of Service – Class of 2000

Pat Boggess, Bonnie Bradford, Judy Bradsher, Davies Campbell, Sara Dawson, Oneal Dedman, George Harper, Shari Hill, Jean Kuelpman, Sharon Mayes, Nancye Mccowan, Pat McDonald, Carol Mendel, Linda Moyer, Michael Moyer, Ila Newberry, Lynn Phelps, Wendel Redmond, Helen Simpson, and Howard Stephens

### 10 Years of Service – Class of 1995

Dick Blankenbeker, Debbie Cummings, Margaret Dorland, Trudy Goolsby, Lew Huddle, Carl Hunter, Joann Janssen, Anne Jarrard, Billie Massey, Suzanne O'Donoghue, and Ray Sarmiento

### 15 Years of Service - Class of 1990

Breck Campbell, Ann Cooper, Linda Dantzler, Irene Davis, Marie Flickinger, Dotty Heckenbach, Ruth Jones, Aleta Newell, and Dorothy Veirs

### Class of 2005 Master Gardeners

Gy Alexander, Dixie Atkins, Karen Baris, Helen Beam, Devon Beck, Carol Chappell, Steve Clark, Cathy Crass, Jane Diesing, Joan Dudley, Tracy Edens, Cathy Fakouri, Cheryl Fallis, Deborah Fewell, Frances Fielder, Dianne Formby, Judithann Freeman, Robert Green, Alan Hall, Cindy Hancock, Georgia Harris, Donna Hartsfield, Becky Hight, Barry Holt, Doyle Hughes, Sue Jennings, Carolyn Jolley, Wayne Kirk, Gretchen Kling, Mikie Langston, Janice Lee, Amelia Leung, Carol Logan, Jane Markham, Susan Marsh, Shirley McGrew, Carolyn Nagel, Barbara Patty, Jan Paulus, Debbie Preston, Jennice Ratley, Carolyn Reed, Julie Richards, Ron Robinette, Jeanne Rollins, Karen Seale, Frankie Smith, Julie Smith, Larry Stobaugh, Frances Story, Tom Stramel, Charlie Vestal, and Hedda Wyne.

Photos courtesy of David Werling and Lynn Winningham



## Pulaski County Master Gardener November Meeting Highlights By Jackie Wright

### Board Meeting

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board met at St. James Methodist Church on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 10 a.m. Present were Dick Blankenkemper, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Mary Freeman, Sandy Harrison, Don Davis, Jim Dyer, Jet Cuffman, and Beth Phelps. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved as circulated and corrected.
- The treasurer's report was approved. The total in our two accounts, \$21,701.47, is higher than normal because all of the bills from the training sessions had not yet been received or paid
  - Treasurer, Mary Freeman announced that four people still have not paid their dues; therefore will be taken off the membership list.
  - Mary stated that she is having difficulty reconciling committee accounts. She will develop a reporting system for the committee chairs who collect money. This will be available for the New Chair Orientation program in January.

### Old Business:

- The New Committee Chair Orientation Program was discussed. Dick Blankenkemper will make arrangements to have the program at the Patrick Henry Hayes Senior Center in North Little Rock on January 26, from 1 to 3 p.m. Marilyn and Jim will provide the agenda for the program. The board discussed who may come. The consensus was that anyone interested in chairing a committee at any time in the future will be encouraged to come in order to build a pool of potential project chairs.
- The chair appointed the following members to the Audit Committee: Bob Bumgardner, Carlee Adams, and George Harper.

### New Business:

- Leave of Absence Requests:
  - Shannon Chamberlin for 2006 was approved.
  - Marion Lognion for 2005 was approved.
  - Marilyn Henderson for 2005 was approved.
  - Reinstatement of Lisa Farris was approved. She trained in 1998, but left the organization two years ago, before leaves were available. She now has a new job with time for PCMG.
- A two-year subscription to Horticulture Magazine was approved: Cost is \$49.00

### Announcements:

- Claudia Barone will chair the Stuff Committee.
- We need to think about the following awards nominations, which will be made in January: Project of the Year and Friend of Pulaski County Master Gardeners.
- Beth Stewart will chair the Scholars Garden.

### General Meeting

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- Special recognition was given to the following:
  - 53 new members in the Class of 2005.
  - The Social Committee for the new members' reception.
  - PCMG workers who participated in the workday at St. James.
  - Don Thompson on becoming an Advanced Master Gardener.
- Beth Phelps and Sandy Harrison presented 5, 10, and 15 years pins to qualifying members. The 15-year members are entitled to be lifetime members.

### Committee Reports:

- Social committee chair Lynn Phelps gave information about the PCMG Holiday Party. It will on Tues., Dec. 6. She encouraged us to mail our reservations and payments to Susan Garner. Dress will be casual. There is a sign-up sheet for dessert donations.
- Travel. Bob Bray announced, 46 people signed up to go to Garvin Gardens on November 29. The bus will leave at 3:45 from the Commuter lot on Shackelford Road. Members of Garvin Gardens, please bring membership cards. The committee is planning a trip to Tulsa in April or May, by bus for two nights.
- Greenhouse: December 1 is the deadline for project orders.
- Stuff Committee: Orders will be sent in today.
- County 76: Tracy Rhodes asked who would be interested in joining County 76. There will be training offered on Monday and Tuesday, January 9 and 10 at Ferndale. Additional information will be provided. She asked for suggestions about topics to be considered, and names of possible advanced training speakers. These may be communicated to her by e-mail: [Tracy1140@hotmail.com](mailto:Tracy1140@hotmail.com) or Cell phone 412-8008
- The Old Mill Committee will work Nov. 16.
- Mary Evans announced a workday at the Statehouse Convention Center on Thursday or Friday.

### Beth made the following announcements and reminders:

- The Horticulture Highlights CD is ready for purchase at \$10.75 plus shipping and handling. We may order on line at <http://www.uaex.edu> or at the office.
- There will be no December meeting. The Master Gardener Holiday Party will be at the Adult Leisure Center at 12th and University on December 6 at 6 p.m.
- Please check the announcement board and the calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
- There are 36 volunteer hours that cannot be assigned because the forms were sent without names. Please report your hours. The Pulaski County report is due to Janet in early December. All volunteer hours are important, representing approximately \$250,000 in value, and are helpful in obtaining the funds we need.
- Project committee change requests should be made by December 1. E-mail or call the office.
- Sharon Davis had a stroke. The Sunshine Committee has a card for us to sign.

## Classifieds

### St James Workday

Thank you to all of the enthusiastic volunteers who came to the St. James workday, Thursday, November 4th. ALL of the areas that needed to be addressed were taken care of with great expediency and quality work. I will be sure to place an article in our St. James news letter to make our congregation aware of the 200+ hours all of these volunteers gave to our church to show our appreciation for allowing us to meet there each month. - Judy Chapman

**War Memorial Committee** has worked the last month getting their area ready to plant. They recently planted about 16 flats of white and yellow violas and white cabbage. The problem with the sprinkler system that has been an on-going one has been repaired. Committee members working have been Jan Bowen, Marsha Friedman, Glenda Brazzell, and Shirley Gunnels, chairman. They have put in about 40 hours in the last month. We continue to go down and just tidy up--get the cigarette butts, Subway & McDonald cups and other junk out of the beds and off the sidewalk.

Shirley Gunnels

### Need education hours?

Research a new plant for your garden, and then submit your research to the Master Minutes. We will write the article; or if you write it up, you earn education hours as well as volunteer hours.

Master Minutes Staff

### 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.

Our condolences to Carol Randle on the loss of her mother in November.

## 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 Website:  
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>
- U of A Cooperative Extension 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  
[libby.thalheimer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libby.thalheimer@sbcglobal.net)  
663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps  
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2901 W. Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Ark. 72204  
[bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)  
340-6650



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