

Pulaski County Master Minutes

March, 2006

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

Volume 17, Issue 2

March Meeting Speaker

Bob Byers, the director of operations for Garvan Woodland Gardens will be the featured speaker at the March Master Gardeners meeting. Following a degree in Music Education from the University of Central Arkansas, Bob worked in the landscape industry before completing a Master of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University. A licensed landscape architect, Bob has worked for the National Park Service at Apostle Islands, WI, and for design firms in Florida and Alabama.

Bob came to Hot Springs in 1994 as curator of Garvan Woodland Gardens following four years as a visiting lecturer at the University of Arkansas. He works with a highly dedicated staff to upgrade the Gardens' public services, including \$8.2 million of completed and upcoming state funded capital improvements and numerous programs and gardens funded by over \$5 million in private donations. He also work with over 300 volunteers helping to build and publicize facilities and programs.

At the meeting, Bob will be discussing new additions to the gardens and upcoming events.



As You Requested

Bananas Foster by Jim Dyer

Serves 8

4 large all yellow bananas
1 cup of brown sugar
½ cup of butter or margarine
½ tsp cinnamon

Fresh lemon juice. You can brush the lemon juice over the bananas to keep them from turning brown prior to cooking

Directions:

Peel and halve bananas lengthwise and split down the middle (4 pieces per banana). Melt butter and sugar in chafing dish or small skillet. Add bananas. Cook until tender. Add cinnamon. Serve hot over scoop of vanilla ice cream if desired.

Variation: 1 tsp. Banana liquor and 2 Tbsp. Light rum may be added just before serving. The rum can be ignited for a special occasion!

Three Sisters of Amity Daffodil Hill at Garvan Gardens



This impressive display welcomes spring with true dramatic flair. See thousands of golden chalices raised to the coming season in late February. March brings cheerful flowers in white, yellow and pink complemented by hyacinths and spring-flowering shrubs. See 235 varieties of Narcissus in one of the Gardens' most colorful shows of the year

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.

Arkansas FireWise helps communities counter wildfire threats

By Laurie Pierce



Wind blows embers from a homeowner's burning pile of brush. Dead grass and pine needles fuel the fire. A wildland fire is born. The rural fire department is miles away. Will firefighters reach the house before the fire?

Each year, thousands of acres of Arkansas wildland and many homes are threatened or destroyed during the fire season that lasts from early spring until late fall. Arkansas cannot prevent every wildfire, but they can lessen the effects of wildfire on their homes and property.

"We're trying to help homeowners learn to protect themselves by creating an environment in which they will be safe from wildfire," says Firewise Communities/USA Project Manager Judith Cook. "Many forested areas in Arkansas have become very desirable places to live. (In the United States) our population has nearly tripled over the last 100 years, and much of the growth is going into traditionally natural areas. Many people who move into these areas, which are very picturesque, arrive with urban expectations. They may not recognize wildfire as a hazard and assume that the fire department is able to provide the same kind of protection that they do in the city. In most cases it's true that the fire department can. Should a wildfire occur, however, dozens of homes can be threatened at the same time, and this can overwhelm a smaller fire department."

Firewise, a national fire prevention program administered locally by the Arkansas Forestry Commission, targets homeowners, builders, developers, and community leaders who live in and near naturalized areas. Volunteer labor and equipment purchased with federal grants lessen wildfire's effects on houses by eliminating exterior fire hazards such as trees that hang over roofs, dead limbs and brush, and poor access for emergency vehicles. "The Firewise Communities/USA program was build around the notion of the home ignition zone—a house and its surroundings out to 100-150 feet," Cook says. "A house burns because of its relationship with everything in its surroundings. To avoid home ignition, the homeowner must eliminate the potential relationship a wildfire can have with his home. This can be accomplished by interrupting the natural path a fire takes. We help the people who move into these areas learn to prepare their home ignition zones in case of fire," the national Firewise program manager says. "Fire can occur without catastrophic home loss."

Local fire departments often provide Firewise leadership and support, Cook says. "Volunteer fire departments and the smaller fire departments have been an extremely important part of the growth of the program because they're able to bring information to

their specific communities and work with the residents there to develop prevention methods that work for their area."

"Firewise lets people know what they need to do so fires can't get to them," said Norphlet Volunteer Fire Department Chief Sonny Harper. "We look at a house and evaluate if you have limbs right near you and (how close it is to) the woods. This is a community. By going to their houses we became closer with the population of Norphlet."

Firewise Communities/USA participation begins when concerned citizens organize a Firewise board to identify high-risk areas and implement a location solution.

"We started with our neighborhood association," says Fayetteville Fire Department Battalion Chief Terry Lawson. "We have a president's association where all the presidents of the neighborhood associations come together and we make a presentation to them about the Firewise program. "It's a proactive approach where people in our community and neighborhoods can work with fire departments, the Arkansas Forestry Commission, and the U.S. Forest Service to protect their homes," he says. Two hundred seventy-three of Arkansas' 960 fire departments have been trained to assess wildland fire risks to homes in their fire districts by the Arkansas Forestry Commission. And Arkansas' Firewise Communities has received nearly \$350,00 to complete assessment projects and purchase fire reduction equipment such as chainsaws, leaf blowers, ladders and protective equipment.

"In Arkansas the Firewise program works through the Arkansas Forestry Commission, and there is a dedicated person there, David Samuel, who has introduced Firewise to residents of fire prone areas all over the state," Cook says. The Firewise Communities/USA program is established in 40 states with 124 recognized communities.

Laurie Pierce works for the Arkansas Forestry Commission and the co-editor of the Master Minutes.

WEBSITE HITS

Party crashers will adore Cheryl's Garden Party. The venue is the World Wide Web at cherylsyardenparty.com, and the site is hosted by Pulaski County Master Gardeners' own Cheryl Kennedy. cherylsyardenparty.com is well-designed and amazingly beautiful – don't miss the readers' gallery of photos – and includes extensive calendars of garden events and educational workshops. There's even a section about our own Beth Phelps with hints and tips that's she's written for various publications over the years. And Mary Evans will soon be writing about perennials for the site. Cheryl is a delightful host: Her garden party pages are well organized, and the atmosphere is witty, warm, and well-written.

Cathy Fakouri says her favorite website originates from the deserts of California. Visit www.feralflowers.com for some amazing colors. "There are over 100 slides but I usually just click on the slide show. Wish the sight had music but then I can just play what I like," she says.

March Plant Profile
 By Loraine Hensley

EYE CANDY

The ornamental sweet potato is actually a "hot" potato. I have seen different cultivars everywhere I looked this last summer: in gardens, hanging baskets, and containers. They all looked as though they were enjoying their summer homes and the riotous colors were sumptuous. I planted several cultivars in an effort to achieve a diverse color range and was truly impressed. Planted them in a huge pot next to my driveway and enjoyed eye candy each time I went in or out.

The scientific name is *Ipomoea batatas* but most gardeners know it as Sweet potato or Sweet potato vine from the morning glory family and is considered a tender perennial vine. Non-ornamental sweet potatoes are delicious almost any way they are prepared but you really don't want to eat the ornamental tubers for they have very little flavor. Regular sweet potatoes are selected in large part for their sugar content in the tuber and ability to resist disease. Ornamentals, however, are chosen for their distinctive foliage. Remember the seeds of both are highly toxic.

Haven't been able to find any information regarding blooms on the ornamental and certainly haven't seen any on mine or my neighbor's plants. Well drained soil with a fairly high organic content in full sun is the ideal home for this specie. Plenty of water is also a growth requirement, and it does grow and grow and grow. If it begins to spread where it shouldn't, simply cut it back to its proper space. I've also read that these plants can be over wintered. Bring the whole pot indoors (my pot is too big for this) before a heavy frost then cut it back and place in a sunny locations. Water sparingly through the winter and when spring comes around, your plant is ready to move into its new summer home.

Various cultivars should be readily available as you browse your local nurseries if over wintering seems too much hassle. I've listed several ornamentals in a wide range of color simply to give you an idea of what's available.



Black Beauty: Leaves are heart shaped and are dark purple.

Lady Fingers: Leaves divided into 5 green lobes
Tricolor: Foliage is lobed and comes in variegated green, pink and white.

Sweet Caroline: bronze copper colored foliage with darker veins.

Have springtime fun in your local nurseries and if you haven't tried the ornamental potato give it a space and enjoy your eye catching "hot potato" garden.

Perennial Plant Association Names 2006
Perennial Plant of the Year

HILLIARD, OH-The Perennial Plant Association has named *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Feuerhexe' (Firewitch) the 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year.



Cheddar pink is the common name of this excellent sun exposure perennial. It is an evergreen selection with bluish-gray, silvery foliage and purplish-pink fragrant flowers in mid-spring. Rebloom can occur in the summer and into the fall. Firewitch is hardy from zones 3 to 9. Nature mats of this cheddar pink have foliage 3 to 4 inches tall and 6 to 12 inches wide. Flowers will reach 6 to 8 inches wide. This evergreen perennial performs best in full sun in well-drained soils. "The Perennial Plant of the Year Program helps consumers select plants that perennial industry experts find to be outstanding and easily grown," said Steven Still, Executive Director, Perennial Plant Association. "The homeowners can have great confidence that the Perennial Plant of the Year will grow well in the garden."

State Panel Brands Three Plants Noxious

Classification needs board approval
By Nancy Cole, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

The nursery and plants committee of the Arkansas State Plant Board voted unanimously to add three species to the state's "noxious weeds" list.

Water hyacinth, rooted water hyacinth and Japanese blood grass would be classified as "public nuisances" and added to the Arkansas' official list of "noxious weeds" if the committee's recommendation is approved by the full Plant Board.

"Final approval for adding those three plants to the list could come only after a public comment period and public hearings", said Darryl Little, director of the Plant Board. Placement on the "noxious weeds" list is the first step toward possible prohibition. The list includes more than 30 species, among them Bermuda grass, red rice, thistles and banyard grass.

Little said invasive species of exotic, or nonnative plants are a serious environmental problem-and potential candidates for Arkansas' noxious weeds list. Among those species are mimosa, kudzu, Chinese privet and Callery pear, the rootstock for Bradford pear trees.

The committee also voted to establish a list of prohibited plants, which could not be sold in Arkansas and might be subject to regulatory controls. Now the only such prohibited plant is purple loosestrife, or *Lythrum salicaria*, a perennial with pink or purple flowers that can overtake wetlands. Purple loosestrife has invaded large areas around the Great Lakes and replaced entire ecosystems.

Paul Shell, who manages the Plant Board's plant inspection and quarantine division, said invasive species are second only to habitat loss in terms of threats to the environment. "Water hyacinths already have survived the winter in wetland along the lower Arkansas River and near Camden", he said. Water hyacinths are categorized as Zone 9 plants, which should require warmer temperatures than those found in the southern part of the state. Given the ability of plants to adapt to new environments, committee member Richard Collins said it did not surprise him to learn about water hyacinths, and he urged the committee to "nip [these plants] in the bud."

Donna Pittman-King, chairman of the nursery and plants committee and a nursery operator in Magnolia, also supported the new classification for water hyacinths. Although some municipalities and industries might oppose the designation-because they use the plants in their water filtration systems-several committee members said other plants could work as well. The committee also supported the noxious-plant classification for Japanese blood grass, or "Red Baron," even though no problems have been reported so far in Arkansas.

"The chances you're taking with anything exotic is far too great," Collins said. Pittman-King said that "although [Japanese blood grass is] a good seller there are other grasses that could easily take its place."

December 15, 2005

To: State MG Coordinators and Master Gardener Programs
RE: Louisiana Master Gardener Hurricane

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners,
Thirteen of our Louisiana Master Gardener programs, representing 30 parishes (almost half of our state) have been directly impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Five parish Extension offices were completely destroyed with others receiving wind and flood damage. Many extension agents and Master Gardeners have been and are still displaced, and numerous agents' and LMGs' homes have been damaged and destroyed. Currently, utilities and services are still not available in some areas.

The LSU AgCenter, in cooperation with the Louisiana 4-H Foundation, has developed a Louisiana Master Gardener Hurricane Relief Fund for individual LMGs and LMG programs that were directly impacted by the hurricanes. This fund will help with specific identified needs of those people and programs most affected and will help to rebuild our Garden Extension Volunteer Program in Louisiana.

Many of you have asked how you can help with the 're-greening' of areas devastated by the hurricanes. While plant materials, supplies, and hands-on help are needed, the biggest impact in helping us obtain these items and help our Master Gardener programs recover is through your monetary donation. Our Master Gardener programs are varied and diversified and touch a great number of people, directly and indirectly, from youth to seniors. Your gift is important to help us once again reach these people.

Selected examples of short and long term identified needs:

- *Urban shade tree reforestation program
- *Educational materials specific to addressing post-hurricane horticulture
- *Replacing teaching and demonstration gardens at schools, community centers, and botanical garden.
- *Community tree evaluation and remediation
- *City parks and public gardens volunteer assistance
- *Youth gardening projects
- *Replacing parish LMG library gardening books

Checks should be made out to the "Louisiana 4-H Foundation," with "Hurricane-Master Gardener" in the memo field. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift to help our Master Gardener programs get back on their feet. The past few months have been difficult for the people of our state, but with the kindness of people like you, we are recovering.

Sincerely,
Robert J Souvestre
State Master Gardener Coordinator
137 Julian Miller Hall-Horticulture
Baton Rouge, LA 70803
(225) 578-1030
bsouvestre@agcenter.lsu.edu



Checklist By Linda Moyer

March Monthly Checklist

Annuals

Fertilize your pansies, violas and other winter annual color when we get a warm day. Deadhead any spent flowers and water if they appear too dry.

Lawns

If your lawn is showing signs of green, it is from winter weeds. Spray with a broad leaf weed killer if you have an abundance of them, or spot spray or pull them. A few clumps of wild onions (or garlic) can easily be dug. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied from now through mid March to keep the summer annual weed seeds from germinating.

Perennials & Bulbs

Hybrid roses need severe pruning every year. If you haven't pruned, do so within the next few weeks. The same applies to buddleia and summer blooming spiraea. These plants bloom on the new growth, and heavy pruning encourages plenty of new growth, and therefore more blooms. All of these plants will get woody and gangly if they are not pruned hard each season. Other summer bloomers that can still be pruned include althea, vitex, and crape myrtles. They don't have to have severe pruning every year—it is dependent on the shape and size you want in the landscape. Ornamental grasses should be cut back to 4-6 inches before they start growing again. Divide established perennials and replant at their proper depth in an enlarged area with organic matter and fertilizer. Prune wisteria roots about 2 feet from main trunk. Pull or cut away sprouts of lilac and forsythia and transplant. Root cuttings from azaleas, camellias, carnations, chrysanthemums, shasta daisies, hollies, pinks, roses and other flowering shrubs (~8" with two buds underground) in a cold frame.

Lightly fertilize your bulbs now with a complete fertilizer. Be sure to allow the foliage to have a minimum of six weeks of green growth following bloom, so flower buds can reset for next spring.

Trees & Shrubs

Plant bare root trees while dormant. Lacebugs on azaleas don't become active until April or May—depending on the spring we have. You can begin to monitor for them then, and spray as needed. Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub insecticide, also known as Merit, claims that one application in February or early March, can give you a 12 month period of control.

Vegetables & Herbs

If you didn't prepare your beds in January, do it as soon as possible. Cool season crops, from carrots to turnips, can be planted until mid April. Sweet corn can be planted about the middle of the month. Seeds for warm weather crops, such as tomatoes and peppers can be started in the greenhouse or your windowsills. It takes six to eight weeks to get good size transplants.



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March Blooms

Anise Florida (*Illicium floridanum*), azaleas (*Rhododendron*), camellias (*Stewartia*), Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa*), crabapples (*Malus*), daffodils (*Narcissus*), forsythia, hyacinths (*Hyacinthus orientalis*), early iris (*Iris*), Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*), kerria, star magnolia (*Magnolia stella*), maple (*Acer*), Virginia bluebells (mertensia), Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari*), myosotis, oxalis (*Oxalis crassipes*), pansies, flowering peach (*Prunus persica*), pearl bush, phlox subulata (*Phlox*), photina, English primrose (*Primula*), quince (*Cydonia sinensis*), redbud (*Cercis*), spirea, tulips (*Tulipa* hybrids), Burkwood Viburnum (*Viburnum burkwoodii*), violets (*Viola* spp.), Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*), and woodbine.

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.

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Through the Grapevine is a monthly exchange of ideas, websites, and recipes, for and by Master Gardeners. E-mail tips and tidbits to laurie.pierce@arkansas.gov or look for the grapevine clipboard at the monthly meeting.



SHOW SHOPPERS

Master Minutes asked Pulaski County Master Gardeners what they will be shopping for at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show at the State House Convention Center March 3-5. The show offers so much more than colorful blooms and workshops so don't forget your checkbook.

Debra Redding has been collecting ironwork for her garden for two year. She says the Flower and Garden Show offers good selection and good prices.

Claudia Stallings, who works on the Governor's Mansion vegetable garden, says the best lettuce she's ever had came from seeds purchased at the Flower and Garden Show. She also says to keep an eye out for orchid pepper seeds: The peppers are great for eating and beautiful in flower arrangements.

Kate Althoff looks for unique plants and less common herbs. "I pulled up all my boxwoods and put perennial herbs with annual florals in the front bed," she says.

Jan King is also fan of herbs and recommends Tina Marie Wilcox's booth.

Catherine Hepinstall likes the selection of books, especially those sold at the Pulaski County Master Gardener table.

TRADING POST



Laurie Pierce has six Japanese Hollies she wants out of her front flower bed. Four are medium-sized and healthy. Two are small and scrawny. Come dig 'em up. Laurie is also looking

for a few cubic yards of compost for the aforementioned flower bed. Please call 603-3545 and leave a message.

Dolores LaCompte would like hellebores and offers mint to those who want to come by and dig. The mint fades quickly after it's out of the ground, she reminds us, so plan accordingly. Telephone Delores at 664-4795.

RUBY RED

Did Santa bring you citrus for the holidays? This year our family received crates of grapefruit from both Texas and Florida! We still have a bowl on the counter Here's a simple Grapefruit and Avocado Salad that's dressy enough for guests: Top baby spring greens from the bag with grapefruit and avocado wedges; dress with French, Catalina, or the new Red Raspberry Vinaigrette With Poppy Seed Dressing from Good Seasons.

Here's a fancier version, Lobster, Avocado, and Grapefruit Salad, from the January 2004 edition of Gourmet magazine.

Ingredients: 1 (1 1/4- to 1 1/2-lb) live lobster (see notes); 2 teaspoons finely chopped shallot; 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice; 1/4 teaspoon table salt; 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil; 1 pink or ruby-red grapefruit; 1 firm-ripe California avocado; 1 oz baby arugula (2 cups); coarse sea salt to taste (optional).

Directions: Plunge lobster headfirst into an 8-quart pot of boiling salted water. Cook, covered, over high heat 6 minutes (for 1 1/4-lb lobster) or 7 minutes (for 1 1/2-lb lobster) from time it enters water. Transfer with tongs to sink to drain. When lobster is cool enough to handle, remove meat from tail and claws, keeping meat intact. Discard tomalley, any roe, and shells. Chill lobster, covered, until cold, at least 1 hour. While lobster chills, stir together shallot, lemon juice, and table salt in a small bowl and let stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Add oil in a stream, whisking. Cut peel, including all white pith, from grapefruit with a sharp knife. Cut segments free from membranes and transfer segments to paper towels to drain. Halve avocado lengthwise, discarding pit. (Save 1 half, wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, for another use.) Halve remaining avocado half lengthwise and peel, then cut crosswise into 1/3-inch-thick slices. Cut lobster tail meat crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Divide avocado and all of lobster meat between 2 salad plates and arrange grapefruit around them. Top with arugula and drizzle with dressing. Sprinkle lightly with sea salt (if using) and serve immediately.

Yield: Makes two first-course servings.

Notes: If you don't want to cook a live lobster for this recipe, many markets will steam it for you, or buy 2/3 pound cooked lobster meat from your seafood shop. Lobster can be cooked 1 day ahead and chilled, covered. Slice tail meat just before assembling salad. Dressing can be made 1 day ahead and chilled, covered. Whisk well just before drizzling. Grapefruit segments can be cut 2 hours ahead and chilled in 1 layer on a paper-towel-lined plate, covered with plastic wrap. Avocado can be cut 1 hour ahead and chilled, its surface covered with plastic wrap, on a plate. If your sea salt is very coarse, crush it lightly using a mortar and pestle or the bottom of a heavy skillet.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Memorial Fund

The Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners has formalized a Memorial Fund into which gifts may be made. These gifts may be made "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" any designated person and may be specified for a particular use. Those specified uses might include trees to be placed on public property; garden related books for libraries; funds to be used for a specific Master Gardener project (benches, boulders, birdbaths, statues, or other hardscape); or for general Master Gardener program support.

Donations should be sent to: Pulaski County Master Gardener Program, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.

PROFILE OF OFFICERS: *President Sandy Harrison* by *Betty Deere*



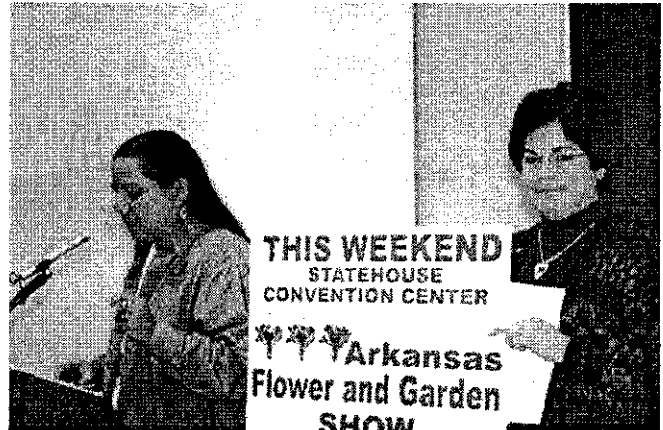
President Sandy Harrison says: "I enjoy Master Gardeners because it puts me in touch with friends and people from various backgrounds that I never would have met except through gardening." Sandy initially became interested in the Master Gardener program when she took a gardening class from Mary Evans. After the class, Mary handed her a MG application, and now six years later, Sandy is our 2006 president.

She has a special interest in learning how to create and maintain an English style garden in central AR. Eleven years ago the family moved to brand new house, and Sandy started from scratch with the yard and landscaping. "I knew a lot about annuals and such but I needed Master Gardeners to learn about soil conditioning, bed preparation, etc."

Born and raised in Little Rock, Sandy is married to physician Bill Harrison, OBGYN. "Now that the children are raised, I work part-time in my husband's office and have two Cairn Terriers (Toby and Holly). "They keep gardening interesting! As I'm planting they are busy digging things up." Her interest in English gardening started while visiting her 28 year old son, Mark, living in England. Since then he has moved around to different places on the globe and Sandy says: "I did a lot of traveling just trying to keep up with Mark."

Educated as a medical technologist, she has worked as an accountant. She also has "worked in various

volunteer organizations forever, my favorite volunteer work was being Volunteer Mom at Catholic High." Now working in husband's office, she does "whatever is needed on any given day."



Favorite Flowers:
"Peonies and Irises are my favorites."



Favorite Reading:
"Jan Karon's series The Mitford Years."



Favorite Food: *"Anything Italian!"*

Other Interests:

"I like hand sewing, like needlepoint, knitting, and embroidery."

What Makes Me Laugh: *"The antics of my dogs!"*

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Board met on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Dick Blankenkober, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Sandy Harrison, Don Davis, Jim Dyer, Jet Cuffman, and Beth Phelps. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- The minutes were approved as circulated.
- In the absence of treasurer, Mary Freeman, the Treasurer's Report was presented by Beth Phelps. Sixty per cent of the members have paid their dues. The report was approved.

Old Business

- The cost of the Bananas Foster treat at the January meeting was approved at \$107.25.

New Business

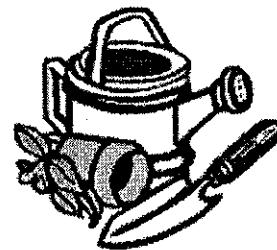
- Leave of Absence Request for Lurha Warren for 2005, and Coy Hively for 2006 were approved. Sustainer status for Sylvia Orton was approved.
- 2005 Audit Report found our finances in good order with no recommendations. A copy will be filed with the minutes.
- Four or five Volunteers are needed to box and code soil samples for mailing to the lab. They will need to work on Fridays for one or two hours.
- Don Davis gave a report on the possibility of using a greenhouse in Jacksonville, owned by and non-profit organization called Pathfinders. On Monday at 2 p.m. Don, Sandy, Dick, Beth, and any other interested board members will meet at Pathfinders to view the site.
- Dick Blankenkober moved that a change be made in our dues structure – that dues be \$15 if paid by April 1, then increase to \$20 as a late penalty; that this be effective in 2007. The motion was seconded and was approved.
- Dick Blankenkober moved that the 3Ps committee be asked to report at the next meeting on the estimated cost of a pictorial directory. The motion was seconded and passed.

- We were requested to have a booth at Earthday on April 14-15 from 9 am until 5 p.m. It was moved and seconded that we decline the invitation. The motion passed.

Announcements by Beth:

- A memorial of \$25 will honor deceased Master Gardener member Sharon Davis, to be contributed to the tree fund at McArthur Park.
- Carolyn Newbern was recognized by Quapaw Quarter Assn. This will be announced at the general meeting.
- Our volunteer hours are valued at \$17.55 per hour. The value of board members is \$100 per hour.
- State Meeting Registration information is available on line or Beth can e-mail. Hard copies are available on request.
- St. James Spring Work Day will be Wednesday, March 15th, 1:00 p.m. Members are to bring pruners and other tools.
- Dues are due by next month. They will be collected at the meeting
- The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs will have their annual garden tour May 6 and 7.
- The Extension Office recently had a Compliance Audit. We need to make some changes in the way we handle our checking accounts. Beth will get clarification and report back to the Board.
- Because Beth will not be able to attend the next board meeting at the regular meeting date, Sandy asked that the March board meeting be held on March 15 at 11 a.m. She will try to arrange lunch for us. The board consensus was that the meeting time should be changed. Final arrangements will be announced by e-mail.

The meeting adjourned at 11:12.



Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- Sandy recognized Carolyn Newbern, who was honored by the Quapaw Quarter Association for historic preservation work, in part with Curran Hall Gardens. She thanked the Audit Committee, Bob Bumgarner, Carlee Adams and George Harper, and our treasurer, Mary Freeman, for keeping us in compliance. She announced that Pulaski County Master Gardeners are saddened by the loss of member Sharon Davis. A memorial will be made in her name to the tree fund at McArthur Park.

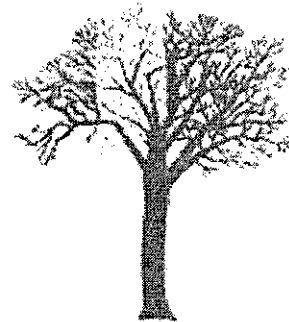
Committee Reports:

- **Travel :** Bob Bray announced the deadline to register for the Dallas trip is Feb. 25. It needs 20 to make. A trip is planned Northwest Arkansas and Northeast Oklahoma in May.
- **3 Ps** will gather after the meeting. David Werling asked for photos of upcoming events. Trudy Kumpe will be co-chair for publicity.
- **Flower and Garden show :** Ray Sarmiento announced they need more volunteers on Sunday to work after the show.
- **Mary Evans** announced that yard signs are available to advertise the Flower and Garden Show. The Democrat Gazette will have a big article about the show on Wed. Call Karen Briscoe at 225-8098 if you want to enter a horticulture specimen. The Sunday tea is cancelled.

Announcements and reminders by Beth:

- The St. James Spring Work Day will be Wednesday, March 15 at 1 p.m. Judy Chapman is liaison with St. James. Volunteers are needed. Please bring pruners and other tools.
- 2006 dues are being collected. They \$15. Michelle and Kim are collecting them.
- Please check the Announcement board and calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
- The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show is March 3-6
- The Master Gardener State Meeting is in Hot Springs May 21-25. Registration information is available on-line or Beth can e-mail. Hard copies are available if you call the office.
- The Horticulture CD is available for purchase.
- Master Minutes editors, Jennice Ratley and Laurie Pierce, were introduced. Project chairs are encouraged to give information to them for the newsletter.
- The County Extension Office needs 4 to 6 volunteers to box and code soil samples to be mailed to the lab on Fridays.
- The Little Rock Council of Gardens will have its annual tour May 6-7 and needs volunteers
- Beth announced that she recently learned that the value of volunteer hours is \$17.55 an hour. The value for board members is \$100 an hour.

Jim Dyer introduced our speaker, Dominic Rosette, from Bedford Photography, who gave a program on digital photography.



Mark Your Calendars:



Arkansas Urban & Community Forestry assistance grant applications are due on **April 15**. The grants, administered by the Arkansas Forestry Commission, are available to non-profit organizations and can be used to purchase trees. More information is available from Patti Erwin at (479) 442-8627 or perwin@dluxlink.com.



The Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Social Committee will travel to the Japanese Garden at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and the Dallas Arboretum **March 29-30**. The cost is \$173 per person double occupancy, \$207 for a single room, and includes bus transportation, Wednesday night accommodation at the Comfort Inn Hotel, entrance fees, and one lunch Wednesday at the Botanic Garden. The registration deadline was Feb. 25; contact Bob or Wanda Bray at (501) 753-4867 for availability. The Brays have also planned a Social Committee trip to Tulsa for **May 9-11**. Call for details and deadlines.



The 13th annual Camden Daffodil Festival will be 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. **March 10** and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **March 11** in Camden. More information is available by calling (870) 836-6426 or (870) 835-0023.



The Peel House Foundation will host its sixth annual Spring Garden Seminar 9 a.m.-noon **March 11** at Compton Gardens, 312 N. Main St., Bentonville. Seminar topics will be "Old Garden Roses in the Landscape," "Pruning and Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs," and "Small Fruits in the Landscape." The cost is \$20 and includes lunch. The will also be an heirloom rose sale featuring 20 varieties including noisettes, bourbons, Chinese, hybrids and tea roses. For more information email michelle@comptongardens.org or call (479) 254-3870.



Signs of Spring Garden Walks will be 1-2:30 p.m. **March 12** and **April 9** at the Memphis Botanic Garden. Free with paid garden admission. More information is available at (901) 685-1566, Ext. 116 or by visiting www.memphisbotanicgarden.com.



The 38th annual Jonquil Festival at Old Washington State Park will be 9 a.m.-5 p.m. **March 17-19**. The festival will feature thousands of jonquils; demonstrations of pioneer crafts

such as blacksmithing, candles-making, and weaving; more than 100 arts and crafts vendors; regional acts performing bluegrass, folk, and gospel music; games for children; historic home tours; and a lunch buffet to be served in the park's Williams Tavern restaurant 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each day. Parking costs \$4. More information is available at (870) 983-2660.



The Eastern Native Tree Society, the University of Arkansas, and USDA Forest Service will host the seventh annual Eastern Old-growth Forest Conference **March 24-25** at the Peabody Hotel in Little Rock. The conference is free, but pre-registration is required. More information is available from Don Bragg, (870) 367-3464, Ext. 18 or dbragg@fs.fed.us.



Wye Mountain Daffodils will be featured for two weeks during **March**, exact dates will depend on the weather. Concessions – barbecue and cobbler – will be available weekends 9 a.m.-5 p.m. During the week, the daffodil field and arts and crafts barn will be open. Flower picking is available in selected areas, and some bulbs may be for sale. Proceeds benefit the United Methodist Church that owns the daffodil field. To get to the Wye Mountain Methodist Church take Arkansas 10 to Arkansas 113, turn right, and follow the signs. More information and dates are available from Betty Harmon at (501) 330-2403.



Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs National Park, will host Tulip Extravaganza **March 20-April 9** featuring more than 80,000 blooming bulbs. There will also be a standard flower show 1-5 p.m. **March 21** by the Grow and Show Garden Club. More information is available at (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.

The Art of Chinese Herbalism will be **March 24-25** at Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View. Admission is \$75 for both days; \$50 for one day. More information is available at (870) 269-3851, ozarkfolkcenter@arkansas.com, or www.ozarkfolkcenter.com.



The Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, Smackover, will host its annual garden and outdoor show 9 a.m.-4 p.m. **March 25**. Admission is free. More information is available at (870) 725-2877.



Mark Your Calendars cont.:



Millwood Lake State Park near Ashdown will conduct guided trail hikes and lake tours that focus on spring wildflowers **March 31-April 1**. Wildflower trail hikes are free; lake tours cost \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12. More information is available at (870) 898-2800.



The 25th annual Spring Festival in the Japanese Garden will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **April 1** and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. **April 2** at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden and features traditional Japanese dance, music, martial arts demonstrations, papermaking, and tea ceremonies. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for ages 4-12, free for ages 4 and younger. More information is available by calling (817) 871-7686.



The ninth annual Arkansas County Master Gardener Spring Home and Garden Show will be 4-8 p.m. **April 7** and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **April 8** at the Arkansas County Fairgrounds in DeWitt. The cost is \$2 admission, and \$15 for the 6:30 p.m. Friday meal and program. For more information contact kadams@uaex.edu or call (870) 946-2993.



Pinnacle Mountain State Park in western Pulaski County will conduct a guided wildflower stroll along the Arkansas Arboretum Trail at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. **April 9**. Free. More information is available by calling (501) 868-5806.



The Margaret Phillips annual Dogwood Tour through the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **April 21** in Newton County. The tour departs the courthouse gazebo in Jasper by school bus and is hosted by the United State Forest Service. The tour covers about 80 miles and includes three or four stops along the way for short hikes and photo shoots. Bring a camera, walking shoes, and lunch. The tour costs \$5. More information is available from shuber@fs.fed.us or by calling (870) 446-5122. Admission: \$5



Saline County Master Gardeners will host their fifth annual plant sale 8 a.m.-noon **April 22** at the Saline County Fair Grounds in Benton. Janet Carson will be the guest speakers, and free soil testing will be available. Admission is free. For more information, contact Ron Matlock at rmatlock@uaex.edu or (501) 303-5672.



Mammoth Spring State Park and Mammoth Spring Garden Club will host Herbfest and Plant Sale 8 a.m.-1 p.m. **April 22**. The event will include tours of the herb garden and free admission. More information is available by calling (870) 625-7364.



The National Arbor Day Foundation will conduct two April seminars at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, Texas. "Hazard Trees" will be 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **April 25** and "Trees, People, and the Law" will be 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **April 26**. The cost is \$125 per seminar or \$225 for both. More information is available at www.arborday.org/programs/conferences/tp1%2Dhazardtrees/ by telephone at (888) 448-7337, or e-mail at conferences@arborday.org.



The 2006 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference will be **May 21-23** in Hot Springs. Early registration continues until March 24 and costs \$90. From March 25-April 31 registration costs \$110. More information is available from Janet Carson, jcarson@uaex.edu.



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