

Pulaski County Master Minutes

July, 2006

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

Volume 17, Issue 6



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Have you been to an interesting garden lately? Would you be willing to write an article about it or tell your story to a member of the newsletter team?



Are you a new Master Gardener and would like to share your experience or something interesting that you have learned this past year?

Read any good books or articles lately that you would like to share with other Master Gardeners?



Get the picture? We need your INPUT!! Please email Jennice with your story. Not comfortable with writing an article? A member of our newsletter team will get with you and write about your experience for you?

SO WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR???

What a desolate place would a world without flowers!
It would be a face without a smile, a feast with out a
welcome. Clara L. Balfour



**Thank you to Fairway Lawns for donating their
fertilization and weed control services to the Pulaski
County Extension Office Master Gardener Project.**

Peppers

By Deborah Streiffert Moore



Plant peppers in May or June. When buying Pepper plants, choose ones with strong, green healthy-looking leaves. Peppers require 14-16 hours of light a day. They are seldom infested with pests.

Pepper plants require good drainage. One trick is to put 2 or 3 matches in the hole with each plant.

The plants like the sulfur.

All peppers start out green then ripen to yellow and red. The peppers fire and pungency depend on the weather and the sun. The hotter and brighter the sun the spicier the pepper. (Do not plant bell peppers near hot peppers.)

One medium sized pepper will provide almost all the daily adult requirement of vitamin C. Both green and red peppers are high in Vitamin A, the red pepper ten times more than the green. Peppers contain vitamin B 1, B2 and D and contain minerals such as calcium, phosphorus and iron.



The capsalcin, the heat-producing component releases endorphins in the brain. The more you eat the more you will be able to tolerate the heat. Drinking water will only spread the capsalcin throughout your mouth. Milk or dairy products are cooling. Beer is also cooling. It rinses the volatile oils away and the alcohol dissolves the irritating oils. (Vodka and Tequila are effective too.) If you break the pepper up, the flavor will be hotter than used whole. Crushed peppers will be hotter still and ground into powder the hottest. Always wash your hands immediately or wear gloves when handling peppers.

To roast peppers, broil about 4 inches from the broiler. Turn peppers as they roast. The skins will blacken. When the peppers are roasted, place in a paper bag for 10 minutes. After this the skins will rub off.

Bibliography

The Mid-South Garden Guide, Published by the Memphis Garden Club "Peppers, Peppers, Peppers" by Marlena Spicler.

Wild Flowers in My Garden By Susie Gillihan

It must have been twenty years ago or more that I planted my first wild flowers. My granddaughter was a first year medical student and on a very lean budget. For Mothers Day that year she gave me a can of "Wild Flower" seeds. I was so proud of the seeds but really didn't have a place for them. I had the lot next to my house that was vacant and had not been cleared off yet. I bought a little bag of potting soil and found a spot that got a good deal of sun light and sprinkled the seeds on the soil and then just lightly covered them with soil. The next spring I was delighted to find a good stand of Purple Cone flowers, a few Bee balms and one butterfly weed. These plants were left on their own to grow and divide for several years before I was ready to start building a new garden on that lot.

When I began to build my new garden I was very careful not disturb my little stand of wild flowers. I was busy building beds and amending the soil for my new "store bought" plants. After clearing out trees and letting in more sun light, I began to find more and more beautiful wild flowers. I am sure that I pulled some for weeds before I found out how to identify the plants.

Before I became a Master Gardener I went to one of Carl Hunters classes on wild flowers and was so impressed by what I saw that day. We saw acres of beautiful wild flowers growing on their own with no help from man. Mr. Hunter had a way about him that made one want to save all those lovely plants. I was later invited to visit his home and was inspired with his most beautiful garden.

Meeting Mr. Hunter had peaked my interest and I began to try to identify the flowers I found in my little garden. It wasn't until I purchased Mr. Hunter's book "Wildflowers of Arkansas" that I was able to identify many of the plants by the growing characteristics, size, habitat, distribution, leaf shape and time of bloom.

I have learned that there are nine species in the genus Rosa that have been discovered in Arkansas. I am delighted that I have two beautiful species in my own little garden, Prairie Rose, and Memorial Rose. They are beautiful in the spring and don't get the dreaded "black spot" during the summer!

I learned that there are more than six beautiful species of coneflower. I only have two but hope to have more in the years to come.

Beautiful violets, they are to be loved or hated by the gardener. Once the violet is established it is a challenge to remove from the garden, but what could

be prettier than the first beautiful little flowers in the spring. The violet family is widely distributed in Arkansas; there are over a dozen different species to be found in our state.

I think my favorite of all the wild flowers are the beautiful Asters. In the fall they can always be counted on to produce lovely purple or white flowers. The flowers seem to be dancing on the end of long arching stems. I protect them all summer for that show in the fall.



Aster sericeus Silky Aster

One other plant I would like to mention here is the "Sunflower" according to Mr. Hunter there are over 1000 genera and 25,000 species and is world wide in distribution. It is the largest family in Arkansas flora consisting of nearly 300 species! Wow! I have two species in my garden: the Tickseed, and the Narrow Leaf. They are beautiful and I prize them each and everyone.

Now of course there are other wild flowers that I pull and destroy each chance I get. Who likes to have a bed of Bull Nettle in the middle of a lovely bed of Zinnias? Not me.

If you think you might like to learn more about wild flowers I recommend Mr. Hunters book "Wildflowers of Arkansas" and become acquainted with a few of these beautiful trouble free plants.

Thank you Carl for educating us to the beauty around us in our own state along the highways and riverbanks and open fields.

Please remember don't dig up the plants you find in the wild, but rather harvest the seeds and plant.

* Wildflowers of Arkansas by Carl Hunter
Ozark Society Foundation
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Publisher

2007 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Information

Some of you have indicated in the past a desire to get more involved with the planning of the show. We have a number of committees (listed below) in which you can become involved and your input would be welcomed and encouraged.

Decorations: Assist with the overall look of the show and AF&GS venues.

Education: Coordinate speakers/demonstrations for education workshops.

Publicity: Assist with promotion and media exposure.

Sponsors: Develop program and solicit sponsors for show.

Speakers: Coordinate speakers for show, assist with hospitality of out of town speakers during show.

Venues: Assist with the organization and development of AF&GS venues such as the silent auction, afternoon tea, Big Backyard, etc.

If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please contact Nancy Leonhardt, Executive Director, at 501-821-4000 or email her at nancy@arflowerandgardenshow.com.



Opportunities for Continuing Education Points

Lamen Library in NLR has 2 more sessions in their gardening series left. Each session is from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Sat., July 15th - Composting 101: Recycling Nature's Way by Robert Hunter, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

Sat., August 12th - Guests That Won't Leave: Invasive Plants by Judith K. Jardine, Arkansas Native Plant Society. For directions to the library call 771-1995.

Member Photo-Shoot Continued in September

by David Werling



Wouldn't it be great if we could remember all names and faces of everyone we meet at our events. Well, by the end of the year none of us will have to worry about a "senior moment" in recalling someone, because we will be able to slip out our new MG photo directory and know who we met on the last tour, meeting etc.

Of course this works only if you get your photo taken. Before and after the June meeting, 127 did just that in 1/2 hour before and after the meeting. We had five able photographers so there was no waiting. There will be a similar photo session at the September Meeting and a special mid week shoot after work for those of you working folks (to be announced).

The lighting wasn't always the greatest at the June Meeting and many of us had that red faced look of being too much out in the Arkansas sun. But, I'll tell you a little secret. As the MG photo editor I can brighten up your appearance, give your red face a tan, and even "airbrush" out any little nasty that unwantedly made an appearance just in time for your photo. I was happy that there were so few "mug shots". We have some good photographers in our group. I want to thank everyone who assisted us in June, especially Linda Chakales who gamely volunteered on the spot to take some photos--she did a good job. That's her photo in the ones above.

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Balsamic Vinegar



When summer arrives, we always make sure to have plenty of balsamic vinegar on hand. This sweet and savory elixir is a vital ingredient in salad dressings, marinades and sauces. Premium varieties can also be drizzled over grilled meats

or even used as a dessert topping. Summer, the time of year when salads and foods from the grill dominate the menu, is the best time of year to rediscover balsamic vinegar.

An independent group named the CTAB ranks balsamic vinegars of the commercial variety on a scale of 0 to 4. The CTAB ranks commercially produced balsamic vinegars from many of Modena's producers. However, several holdout producers do not use this independent ranking system, preferring their own designation or displaying no ranking on their labels at all.

The CTAB ranking system only applies to commercial balsamic. Non-commercial balsamics are made the traditional way. The best are aged for over 12 years, as aging is an important factor in the development of flavor. The aging process uses the Solera system, which incorporates a series of barrels of decreasing size. Every year, a portion of balsamic from a younger, larger barrel is taken out and added to the next barrel down the line. This culminates in a finished product at the end of the rack. Traditional Balsamic Vinegar of Modena is prohibitively expensive, with a 100ml bottle costing over \$80.

Commercial balsamics are made by blending traditional balsamic with simple red wine vinegar. Basically, the higher the ratio of traditional to red wine yields a higher rank. However there are many other factors, including the quality of the wine vinegar and the age of the traditional, that affect the ranking of a commercial balsamic. A "0 leaf" balsamic might be 95% red wine vinegar with a splash of traditional and some caramel coloring to give it a dark color. A "1 leaf" is much better than a "0 leaf" and is the perfect balsamic for making a salad dressing recipe.

At the "2 leaf" level, the sweetness of the traditional balsamic begins to overpower the tartness of the red wine vinegar. A "2 leaf" may be too sweet for some people's tastes when used in a salad dressing. "2 leaf" balsamics are better for use in marinades, or as a drizzle over finished dishes. A "3 leaf" is an even sweeter product - and twice the price of a "2 leaf". Its richness makes it a perfect condiment for fish, lamb or beef; either in a gravy or sauce or drizzled straight out of the bottle. A "4 leaf" is syrupy sweet with only a hint of vinegar acid. This specialty item is used as a dessert topping, drizzled over ice cream or cake. In Modena it is popular to drizzle it over Parmigiano Reggiano or Grana Padano cheese as a dessert too.

Before the advent of the leaf system, there was a lot of confusion about balsamic vinegar. It can be very confusing staring at a shelf with \$5 bottles sitting right next to \$20 bottles. As we all know, price is not always an indication of quality, so be sure to look for the leaves!

Balsamic vinegar can only be produced in Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy. The process of making it begins by cooking Trebbiano grape juice. This cooking reduces the water content of the juice, turning it into a syrup called must. The must is then poured into the first wooden barrel of a Solera series, mixed with an older balsamic vinegar batch to begin the acetification process. Each year 50% of the vinegar is transferred down the line to a slightly smaller barrel, along the way acquiring some of the flavors of the different woods. The only approved woods are oak, cherry, chestnut, mulberry, acacia, juniper, and ash.



A BUG'S LIFE: Did you know that there are 136 species of fireflies???

Bradford Pear

By Lorraine Hensley



The Bradford Pear (*Pyrus calleryana* "Bradford") is easily identified in almost every community within its growing range. Although the species is a native of China the Bradford cultivar is seen in communities statewide. Easily recognized by the unique shape and white showy flowers that appear in early spring, (usually prior to the tree leafing out) the Bradford Pear is a wonderful harbinger of spring.

Although beautiful to see the flowers have an unpleasant odor with small round, brown fruit appearing following the blooming period. Foliage color is outstanding in the fall as it turns to a deep red or sometimes an orange-red color. A rapid grower this tree increases in height from 12 to 15 feet over an 8 to 10 year period with a short life span of about 25 to 30 years.

This tree grows best in full sun but can tolerate a little shade and doesn't need a highly fertile soil. The Bradford tolerates most soil types and conditions and is resistant to most diseases and most pests, including fire blight, and is relatively free of insect problems. Sounds almost trouble and maintenance free but it does suffer from severe branch splitting particularly in trees 15 years and older. The narrow branching angles cause trees to split in half particularly under storm and ice conditions. You can prune in an attempt to correct the problem

but it's pretty hard to do. If you want to try pruning do so in winter or in early spring before growth begins.

It can be used as a specimen or street tree and does well in an urban area due to its pollution tolerance. If you decide this is the tree for you give some thought to the relatively short life span it enjoys. With an increasingly mobile society this trait doesn't seem to weigh as heavily in the decision making process as it once might have. It does, however, need to be considered. The gardener also needs to consider the possibility of this tree splitting under snow and ice accumulation. We've not had much snow and ice over the past few winters but when we have true "winter weather" there's more than enough snow and ice to go around.



Several related cultivars are listed in case you want to try something just a little different. The "Aristocrat" has a stronger branching structure than the Bradford but is more susceptible to fire blight and the "Chanticleer" is more narrow than the Bradford but is also more susceptible to fire blight than the Bradford.

Gardeners understand that for most positives where a plant is concerned there are also negatives. The individual gardener decides when the positives outweigh the negatives and "goes for it" or not.

OFFICER PROFILE

Secretary Jackie Wright

By Betty Deere



Jackie joined Master Gardeners in the class of 2000. She became interested in gardening because "beautiful gardens do something for my soul. I love to linger in the garden and meditate". However, she says, she had a little problem, which was: "very few things grew for me, and I was entirely unsuccessful at teaching myself". So that's why she wanted to become a Master Gardener

A librarian at the Arkansas Supreme Court for 20 years, she had in mind to do lots of gardening upon retiring. She knew several Master Gardeners in her church that really enjoyed the program and activities. So after retirement in 1998, she got started on the process and she and another church friend, Lynn Phelps, joined Master Gardeners at the same time. In reply to what kind of gardening Jackie likes best, she said: "Lettuce gardening! I had a wonderful lettuce garden going until it got too hot. My son made me a vegetable garden last year but it didn't do too well. So we got out and amended the soil with compost, manure and the like. I had beautiful Bibb, leafy, and baby romaine lettuce this spring, and I plan to do it again in the fall when it turns cool. Jackie's hobbies and

activities illustrate how versatile she is: she sings with the Chamber Singers and she helps prepare taxes for AARP during January, February and March. She also volunteers at Wildwood for different events. Plus she enjoys taking art and drawing classes at UALR. As for family, Jackie is a widow and lives alone but has two sons in Little Rock and one son in Oklahoma City, not too far away. She has four grandchildren and one Great-grand son! She is currently in Oklahoma City helping with the wedding of her youngest granddaughter. She is a busy woman!

Curran Hall is the project Jackie has worked on and is eager to learn what the future of that beautiful place will be. And what makes her laugh? "I'm an easy laugh...I laugh at any ole joke!"

Life Quest of Arkansas is offer some summer garden tours planned by our own Betty French.

July 5th- Howard Gardener's Urban Farm - This project provides inner city youth the opportunity to grow vegetables and flowers to sell at the Rivermarket to earn money during the summer break. It is part of a larger project called Inner City Future Net, which seeks to help inner-city youth to find purpose in their lives through work and study.

July 12th - Ferndale Gardens of Joy Wheeler.

July 19th - The Arkansas Unit of the Herbs Society of America will host a tour of the Garden of Exploration at the AR School for the Blind where the unit members will answer questions about growing herbs and how to use them. This garden is designed esp. for the blind as a scent garden and is one of a few such gardens in the country.

July 26th - Linda Goza, naturalist at Pinnacle State Park will lead a tour of the six habitats there.

For more information, information about registration cost and to register call 225-6073.

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM PROJECT



By Carol Randle

In the year 2000 the Historic Arkansas Museum requested help from the Master Gardener Board. Trudy Goolsby had been taking care of the flowerbeds and vegetable garden there by herself for six years and needed help.

Project Chairman Trudy Goolsby is helped by project members: Tracy Edens, Tish Henslee, Nann Gaylor, Mary Ann Arrington, and Juddie Wachtel. They meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

The project members take care of the flowerbeds and the vegetable garden. They raise old varieties of flowers: Confederate Roses, other old varieties of Roses; Hollyhocks; and Zinnias to name a few. There is a separate Rose bed. They raise old varieties of these vegetables in the vegetable garden: beans; squash; corn; tomatoes, and Lima Beans.

No modern fertilizers, sprays, or chemicals are used; only things that would have been used during that time period are used.

Visitors to the museum often ask questions about the plants. They want to know the names of plants, especially the Confederate Rose and one of the Hollyhocks.

The goal for which the project members are working is to keep the flowerbeds and vegetable garden growing and to add some wildflowers along the fence.

The next time you visit the Historic Arkansas Museum (HAM) be sure to look at the flowerbeds and vegetable garden and appreciate the hard work these project members are doing.



AR Heritage Gardening Territorial Fair-Plant sale
Photo Courtesy of David Welling



Cherokee Rose at Historic Arkansas
Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

Have you seen your project spotlighted in the Master Minutes? If you have not sent your information in, please send your information to Carol Randle so that we can get your project in an upcoming newsletter!!





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" on 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.

Checklist Continued

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.

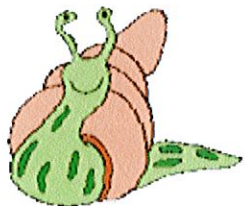
For a nice fragrance in your kitchen, tie several branches of sage together and hang it upside down in your kitchen. Pinch the stems of basil regularly to prevent flowering. Harvest about once a week. Clip the flower stalks off garlic. Once the leaves have turned brown, garlic can be harvested.

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, gladiol, 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.

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.

"A slug is just a snail with a housing problem!"



THE TEN LAWS OF GARDENING!

1. Nothing ever looks like it does on the seed packet.
2. Your lawn is always slightly bigger than your desire to mow it.
3. Whichever garden tool you want is always at the back of the shed.
4. The only way to ensure rain, is to give the garden a good soaking.
5. Weeds grow at precisely the rate you pull them out.
6. Autumn follows summer, winter follows autumn, drought follows planting.
7. Evergreens go a funny shade of brown in the winter.
8. The only way to guarantee some color all year round is to buy a garden gnome.
9. However bare the lawn, grass will appear in the cracks between the patio paving stones.
10. "Annuals" mean disappointment once a year.



Question:

America's oldest seed company is...

- A. Burpee
- B. Ferry-Morse
- C. Park Seed

Answer:

Ferry Morse - founded in 1856

Park Seed - founded in 1868

Burpee - founded in 1876

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Board met on Wednesday, June 20, 2006 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Dick Blankenbeker, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Sandy Harrison, Don Davis, Jim Dyer, Jet Cuffman, Mary Freeman, and Beth Phelps. President, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- The minutes were approved as circulated.
- Treasurer, Mary Freeman, reported that our balance is \$21,112.28. The Spring Picnic cost \$1387.24, receipts for the picnic were \$1,233.00.

Old Business

- Don Davis, Beth Phelps, Linda Moyer and Dottie Heckenbach met with the Jacksonville Pathfinder's Greenhouse people and they are ready to go this fall. Beth will write a letter of understanding.
- Trudy Kumpe's committee is geared up for the pictorial directory. They will start taking pictures today. She will report at the September meeting.
- The Long Range Planning Report item, Retention and Recruiting, was discussed. Jim Dyer will contact school districts proposing that we give five-minute talks on Master Gardeners to the retiring teachers in an effort to recruit more minority participants. Continuing Education Chair, Ila Newberry, will be asked to develop workshops and programs that will be open to the public.



New Business

- Pinnacle Project requested permission to present periodic wild flower identification workshops for the Pinnacle Committee members for education hours. The consensus was that they do not need board permission as this is within CE policies. Projects may have garden programs for our committees and earn one point per hour.
- Dick Blankenbeker moved that PCMG contribute \$1,000 to help sponsor the 2007 International MG Conference. Jett Cuffman seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Chair, Sandy Harrison, appointed Dick Blankenbeker to chair the nominating committee. She appointed Don Davis to

serve on the committee and accepted suggestions for a third member.

- Sandy Harrison asked for suggestions for nominations for Budget Committee, Search Committee-for meeting time and space, and for Greenhouse Exploratory Committee.
- The Board will meet August 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the County Extension Office to review '06 class applications and project evaluations.

Announcements

- The Pinnacle Park Committee received an award from Partners for Pinnacle for efforts in the Wildflower Meadow, Visitor Center beds, and entrance beds of Visitors' Center Drive.
- Curran Hall Concerns: Public Hearing for anyone interested, Tues., June 20, 5:00 p.m., Room 103, Robinson Center—for explanation of proposed changes.
- County 76 Report — County 76 is selling Master Gardener accessories as a fund raiser and compiling a list for Speaker's Bureau.
- Faulkner County Garden Tours—would like to tour Pulaski County Master Gardener gardens and projects. Contact-Dawn Jackson at (h) 501-328-3333 or (c)501-240-8958.
- NLR Laman Library—Summer Gardening Seminars are on the sticky board.
- AR Flower and Garden Show—Planning Committee Positions are available for Interested Master Gardeners.
- PCMG's on "Positively Arkansas" (12:00 noon, KTHV):
Susan Rose—June 12th and Pam Adam-Smith—June 26th
Debra Redding—July 3rd and Phyllis Barrier—July 17th.

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Wednesday, June 20, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church with 142 members present. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.
Special recognition:

- Special recognition was given to Pulaski County MG Celebrity who appeared on KTHV's "Positively Arkansas": Susan Rose—June 12th.
The following PCMGs will appear in the future: Pam Adam-Smith—June 26th

Debra Redding—July 3rd and Phyllis Barrier—July 17th

- The Pinnacle Park Committee received an award from Partners for Pinnacle for efforts in the Wildflower Meadow, Visitor Center beds, and entrance beds of Visitors' Center Drive. Beth accepted the award and announced that it will be in our trophy case.

Committee Reports

- 3 Ps: Trudy Kump and David Werling are taking pictures in the hall outside the meeting room. Please visit them before you leave the building.

Announcements/Reminders from Beth Phelps

- Committee chairs please turn in your project information to the Master Minutes staff.
 - There will be a Public Hearing this evening @ 5:00pm, Room 103 at Robinson Center regarding the use of Curran Hall.
 - County 76 Accessories Order Form is on the Sticky Board and at the www.uaex.edu website on the Master Gardener page. They are Compiling a List for a Speakers' Bureau
 - Opportunities to serve on the AR Flower and Garden Show Planning Committee are on the Sticky Board
 - Continuing Education hours may be earned at the Summer Seminars at NLR Laman Library. More information is on the Sticky Board.
 - Faulkner County MG's (Conway) would like to tour PCMGs' gardens and projects. If you would like to host them contact Dawn Jackson @ (h) 501-328-3333 or (c)501-240-8958
 - Check Announcement Board and calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
 - Name tags are on the back table
 - Applications for membership will be sent out in July. Turn in names and addresses.
 - If you attended all seminars at the state meeting your CE hours will be different than if attended all tours. Call the office if you have questions.
 - No MG meetings in July and August. Have a great summer, keep the projects looking great and see you at the September meeting on the 19th.

Program: Panel of PCMG members. Jane Gulley took questions about Roses; Dick Blankenbeker, vegetables; Mary Roark, herbs; and Beth Phelps for all else.



Photo Courtesy of David Werling

Books Worth a Look by Master Gardeners by Sue Jennings



Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

It is a moving story and a quick read about a boy's life growing up in Afghanistan. Many flowers, plants and trees are mentioned and hold memories for the main character. Very beautiful, lush descriptions of the landscape. It is a powerful, heartbreaking and sometimes sad story about a country in ruin. A good book for the beach.

Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals by Michael Pollan

Very, very interesting book if you have ever wondered where the food you eat comes from. Although this can be a bit dull and slow at times, I highly recommend this for everyone. The author goes into great detail about the significance of corn and oil in the American diet and about just how the organic market works. I promise, you'll walk into the grocery store a changed person after reading this book

Both of these books are available at Central Arkansas Library System.

July Calendar

ARKANSAS EVENTS

The Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, Pine Bluff, will host a plant swap 10 a.m.-noon July 22. Bring labeled plants, cuttings, seeds or bulbs to trade with other plant lovers. There will also be a presentation about Arkansas native plants. Free. (870) 534-0011 or deltarivers.com

The Altus Chamber of Commerce will host its annual Altus Grape Festival 5-11 p.m. July 28 and 9 a.m.-11 p.m. July 29. Events will include cellar and vineyard tours, grape stomps and wine tastings, amateur wine making contest, food, music, crafts, street dances and games. Free. More information is available at altusarkansas.com or (479) 468-4684.

The Good Gardens Series at Laman Library, North Little Rock, will present "Guests That Won't Leave: Invasive Plants" 10 a.m.-noon on Aug. 12. Jude Jardine, a soil conservation technician for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Hamburg, will talk about the threat that imported species often pose to plants native to Arkansas and recommend hardy native alternatives. Visit laman.net or telephone 771-1995 Ext. 109

Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, will present a Landscape Design Workshop featuring Janet Carson on Sept. 6, 13 and 20. The cost is \$50 for GWG Members, \$65 for Non-Members. Pre-paid registration is required. The registration fee includes snacks; lunch is on your own. Call (501) 262-9300.

The Dierks Chamber of Commerce will carry on the tradition of old forest festivals celebrated throughout Arkansas from the 20s thru the early 50s with the 34th annual Pine Tree Festival Aug. 4-5 at City Park. Events include games, contests, beauty pageant, talent contest, BBQ cook-off, craft and food vendors, car, tractor and heavy equipment show, and a country music concert. Admission is free except for the concert. More information is available at dierkschamber.com or (870) 286-2911.

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service will conduct "Pine Tree Forestry and Wildlife Field Day" 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Aug. 26 at the Pine Tree Station in Colt (St. Francis County). For more information, call (870) 460-1749.

White River Days, Sept. 1-3, will celebrate the history and ecology of the White River and Bull Shoals-White River State Park in Lakeview. Admission is free, but river and lake cruises cost extra. (870) 431-5521.

Queen Wilhelmina State Park, Mena, will host "Wings of Wonder" Sept. 2-4. Visitors can walk among the butterflies in the Zola C. Casbeer Memorial Butterfly Conservatory outside the lodge on Rich Mountain, and butterfly talks will focus on why butterflies flock to the mountain and how to attract them to the backyard garden. For more information, contact queenwilhelmina.com or (479) 394-2863.

Petit Jean State Park, Morrilton, will celebrate its 83rd birthday with Petit Jean Founders Day on Sept. 2. Activities for families will celebrate the beginning of the park and the Arkansas state parks system. Admission is free. Visit petitjeanstatepark.com or telephone (501) 727-5441.

Cossatot River State Park-Natural Area, Wickes, will guide visitors through the natural area with park interpreters during a 10-11 a.m. nature hike on Sept. 4. Number and ability of participants will determine length and difficulty of hike. Contact the park for details about this free event: (870) 385-2201 or cossatotriver@arkansas.com.

The Arkansas Sustainability Network will present the first Natural State Expo for green technology, sustainable business, and community resources Oct. 7 at the Statehouse Convention Center. The event will include talks by innovators, inventors, entrepreneurs and artists, exhibit booths and children's activities. More information is available from naturalstateexpo.org. (501) 837-7959 or NaturalStateExpo@yahoo.com.

REGIONAL EVENTS

Memphis Botanic Garden will host a Japanese Garden Candlelight Tour 6-8 p.m. Sept. 8. The first hour will be filled with activities and information on various traditions from Japanese culture, while the second hour will feature stories of Japanese folklore and garden symbolism as told by Ikebana International docents while touring the candlelit garden. The cost is \$7, \$5 for garden members. (901) 685-1566, Ext. 110 or memphisbotanicgarden.com.

Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden at Nathanael Greene Park in Springfield, Mo., will be the venue for the annual Japanese Fall Festival Sept. 8-10. The event, just north of Branson, will feature cultural demonstrations, martial artists, traditional Japanese music, booths and exhibits within the Japanese garden. More information is available by calling (417) 864-1049. The annual Central Arkansas Iris Society Rhizome Sale will be 8 a.m.-noon Sept. 23 at Council of Garden Clubs headquarters located on Kavanaugh Boulevard. (501) 663-9882.

"Celebration of the Herbal Harvest: A Focus on Culinary Herbs" is the theme of the Herb Association of Texas convention Sept. 22-23 in San Antonio. The event will include a field trip, a cooking class, herbal refreshments throughout both days, lectures and a vendor fair with local growers selling herb plants and related products. Preregistration is required. Telephone (830) 257-6732 or (830) 257-8256, visit texasherbs.org or e-mail info@texasherbs.org

The Heart O' Texas Orchid Society, Austin, will host the 91st semiannual Southwest Region Orchid Growers Association Meeting Oct. 20 - 22. The event will include orchid vendors and speakers from the United States and abroad. For more information, visit hotos.org.



Do you know of any businesses that give Master Gardeners a discount? Please email these to Jennice and we will publish them in the August newsletter!

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.



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



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 2005, these volunteers gave **13,370** hours of service and community outreach.

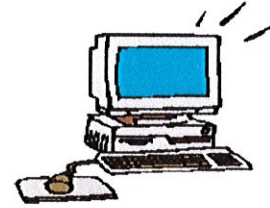
Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent, Staff Chair

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:
Jennice Ratley
22 Coble Hill Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72211
jenniceratley@sbcglobal.net
217-9671

The deadline is the second Friday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:
Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Via The Web???

Email Jennice if you are interested.



Master Minutes Staff

- Bill Bowen
- Betty Deere
- Susie Gillihan
- Lorraine Hensley
- Helen Hronas
- Ruth Jones
- Gretchen Kling
- Julia Loyall
- Linda Moyer
- Bonnie Nicholas
- Laurie Pierce
- Carol Randle
- Jennice Ratley
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- Photographers
- Barbara Daniel
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- Cheryl Kennedy
- David Werling
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