

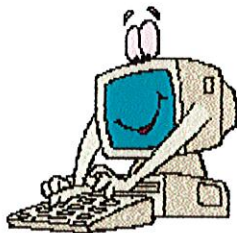
Pulaski County Master Minutes

August, 2006

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

Volume 17, Issue 7

**We received fantastic feedback from those who received the July Master Minutes on line.
Would you like to try it?
Email Jennice and get on the list!**



Cornerstone Bible Fellowship Church will be erecting a memorial garden for Master Gardener Sharon Davis who passed away earlier this year. They plan to start work in the garden in September and are looking for the following plants for the area:

Crepe Myrtles (red and white)
Variegated Lirope
Dusty Miller
Burgundy Mums
White and Burgundy Iris
Daffodils
Yellow Stella de-Oro Day Lilies
Dwarf Cannas
Large Cannas
Stargazer Lilies
A Rose of Sharon
Red Sedum
Dwarf Nandina

If you would like to donate plants or help with creating this garden, please contact Bobbie Riffle and wriffle@comcast.net or 834-5025



"
A person who loves his or her work is like a plant
in the right spot
There growth is maximized and the yield is
greatest." - Jeff Cox

A Garden of Wonder

If you are like most gardeners I know, one of your pleasures is seeking out small and wonderful gardens as well as the grandiose. One that I have visited I would like to share with you.

My husband and I were "snowbirds" that year and had gone to Texas for the winter. We did lots of sightseeing and looking at new things, trying new customs and foods and having a generally good time.

We had traveled to Del Rio, Texas for a few days and there I had my first true experience with true desert country. A desert is an area that receives 10 inches of annual rainfall or less in a year. Now that is not much rain according to our standards and the landscape was not very inviting.

One warm winter day my husband and I drove to Langtry, Texas. It is located 50 miles west of Del Rio, Texas in Val Verde County. Langtry is in the Seminole Canyon State Park on the edge of the Chihuahuan Desert. While the desert extends into West Texas and New Mexico most of it lies in Mexico. To tell you that I was unimpressed by the landscape is an understatement. We were going to visit the rock art, called pictographs. Some of these were painted some 4,000 years ago. If you go and want to see first hand, be aware that it is a very steep descent into a canyon floor near the edge of the Pecos River. One must climb in and climb out. No other way! It is not for the faint of heart or weak knees and back. The people of the Lower Pecos area disappeared in the early 1700's. They may have joined other tribes (like the Apaches), gone to northern Mexico, or joined the Spanish missions.

What intrigued me about these people is how did they live in such an unforgiving climate? I was told that the temperature could reach 160 degrees on the desert floor. I got some of my answers when I visited the Cactus garden in Langtry.

The garden was really quite beautiful. All plants in the garden are native to that area and each plant

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was labeled by name and what the plant was used for. How ingenious these Pecos people were.

Prickly pear cactus- one of the most common cactuses in the desert, the Prickly Pear is a source of food and is also a source of water. The cactus can store water in its pads after a rain.

Yucca- there are a number of different species of yucca that grow in Chihuahuan Desert the one that seems to be the most useful is the Torrey Yucca or Spanish Dagger. The fiber from the leaves to make mats, baskets, sandals, carrying bags, and paintbrushes. The Yucca was also used for food- flower buds and fruits were eaten raw or cooked and the heart of the yucca was cooked in an underground pit for two days and then eaten. The yucca root was also used for food.

Sotol- the long woody flower stalk of Sotol has been used in West Texas and Mexico to construct temporary shelters, corrals, and other structures. The "heart" or leaf base was cooked in an underground pit by Native Americans who lived in this area. The narrow, tough leaves were used to weave baskets, mats and other items.

Lechugilla--is the indicator plant of the Chihuahuan Desert. Lechugilla grows nowhere else in the world-just the Chihuahuan Desert. It is a member of the Agave plant family. Native Americans used this plant as a source of fibers, food, medicine, drink, and soap. Lechugilla is the source of hard fibers, called "istle" which is used for rope, twine, and other materials.

After my visit I have a better understanding of the landscape of desert country and therefore am able to enjoy it more. I hope you may one day have the privilege to visit a garden like this.

Happy gardening, Susie Gillihan

* Linda Evans
Education Specialist
Amistad NRA



Family: Agavaceae



Recommended Temperature Zone:
USDA: 7-10

Frost Tolerance: **Hardy to 0°F (-18°C)**

Minimum Avg. Temperature: **50°F (10°C)**

Heat Tolerance: **Excellent**

Sun Exposure: **Full sun**

Origin: **USA (Texas), Mexico (Chihuahua)**

Growth Habits: **Clumping succulent rosette, up to 18 inches tall (45 cm), 2 feet wide (60 cm)**

Watering Needs: **Does better with some summer water in the low desert, probably no water everywhere else**

Propagation: Offsets, seeds

"By the time you find greener pastures, you can't climb the fence!"

AUGUST CALENDAR

By Laurie Pierce

ARKANSAS EVENTS

- 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 through 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 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.
- 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



- Take the Sting Out of Fire Ants will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 31 at Zilker Garden Center, 2200 Barton Springs Road in Austin, Texas. This free Seminar by Wizzie Brown, Travis County Extension Service entomologist, will cover how to identify fire ants by looking at the mound as well as the ant. The talk will also address the various habits of fire ants and management strategies to reduce the

number of mounds on your property. For more information, contact gisathccs@aol.com or (512) 854-9600.

- **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
- "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. 20th – 22nd. The event will include orchid vendors and speakers from the United State and abroad. For more information, visit hotos.org.
- "Fantasy in the Garden: Gardening With Wit and Wisdom" is the theme for the Charleston Garden Festival 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Oct. 19-20 in Charleston, S.C. For more information, visit charlestongardenfestival.org, telephone (843) 723-9293 or e-mail info@charlestongardenfestival.org.

POISON IVY
William R. Bowen

How well do you know poison ivy? Can one get poison ivy rash by:

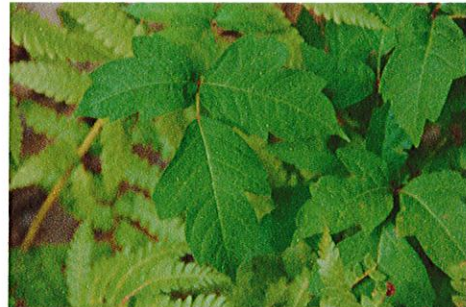
1. Walking near a plant without touching it?
2. Burning the plant?
3. Touching someone else's rash?
4. Touching a pet that has been in contact with the plant?
5. Handling clothes or tools that touched the plant?
6. Brushing a leaf without breaking or crushing it?

Here are the facts and answers:

A native North American plant, poison ivy was first named by Captain John Smith in 1609. This toxic plant is capable of producing a memorable case of contact dermatitis, a skin rash that is blistery,

oozing, exceedingly itchy, and which lasts at least a week. Poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) is one of 3 dermatitis-causing plants in North America, the others being poison oak (*T. diversilobum*) and poison sumac (*Rhus vernex*). It is common throughout North America, including Arkansas, whereas poison oak is most common in the west and poison sumac in the east. Poison ivy belongs to the cashew family, Anacardiaceae, which includes the cashew and lacquer tree. While the cashew embryo (the nut) is safe, the plant and seed shell are not. The lacquer tree is the pre-synthetic source of the hard black lacquer that adorns oriental furniture and curios. If used carelessly, this lacquer also causes severe dermatitis. Poison ivy will grow as a vine, appearing as a ground cover or a vine on trees and fences, and the yards and gardens of Master Gardeners are no exception. This spring, I found 3 new young plants in our back yard.

Poison ivy is a beautiful woody vine, easily recognized with its characteristic compound leaves. Each trifoliate leaf has 3 leaflets. Each leaflet is 2-4 inches long, with a surface that initially is green and glossy (waxy) with invisible leaf hairs, a shape that is usually lobed or notched, and a margin that is usually entire (smooth), rarely serrated. Beneath, it is lighter green and sometimes slightly fuzzy.



Variation does occur. Leaflets may lack lobes. As they age, they may become dull green. While other plants in the lawn and garden, such as the leaves of paperback maple, wild strawberry and blackberry, and Virginia creeper, superficially may resemble it, the trifoliate leaves of poison ivy are definitely recognizable once one is aware of their characteristic appearance.

Poison ivy vines flower May through July, producing small yellowish-white or light green flower clusters in the leaf axils. In the fall, the leaves of poison ivy turn a brilliant red and white-to-gray clusters of smooth berries appear and which remain attached through winter and spring. Birds

and other animals eat the berries and readily disperse the seeds. Invariably, young poison ivy plants will appear every spring in our gardens and even lawns.

The "poison" in poison ivy is an oleoresin known as urushiol (you-roo-shee-ol) contained in a sticky, oily sap. This sap is secreted within resin ducts (not unlike the latex ducts of a rubber tree) that extend throughout the root, stem and leaves of poison ivy. These resin ducts are independent of the plant's vascular system. The sap is a clear liquid, which, after exposure to air for an hour, turns black through oxidation.

So how does one make contact? The urushiol sap is under considerable pressure within these ducts. I and a student found in the 1980s that cutting a vine with an axe will shoot a stream of sap droplets over 8 ft. Invisible at first, they are evident as black dots after one hour. Just brushing against a leaf will produce black resin dots at the tip of the leaf hairs within an hour. Hours later, dermatitis develops as a reddish, itchy, blistering rash. It does not matter whether it is clear or blackened; the sap is non-volatile and contains stable urushiol that can produce contact dermatitis years later. Contaminated clothes and pets are a good source of the substance. Just pulling out vines or contact with dead vines can result in dermatitis.

Contact dermatitis from poison ivy can be so severe that you may have to be hospitalized. Using a weedeater will spray your legs with lots of urushiol sap; if legs are bare and scratched, a severe reaction can occur. Worse yet is to burn poison ivy. The ensuing smoke contains urushiol which, when breathed, will cause dermatitis in your lungs and GI tract. Using firewood with attached poison ivy vines (dead or alive) has serious consequences. Firefighters dealing with a forest fire are especially prone to such problems.

What does urushiol do? Only one nanogram (billionth of a gram) is needed to produce a rash. Urushiol penetrates the skin surface and bonds to cells deep inside. Bonding takes place within 10 minutes. Once bonding occurs, it becomes very difficult if not impossible to remove. Once absorbed into the skin, it triggers a T cell-mediated immune response. The body's immune system recognizes urushiol as a foreign substance and attacks it in an inflammatory response. The result is dermatitis. The rash is not immediately noticeable, taking hours to a day to become blistering, oozing and itchy. Once developed, the rash can last over a week. It is not contagious but breaking the blisters only serves to spread the urushiol and the rash. Sensitivity to urushiol can develop at any time. Some 80 percent of the human population is

sensitive to poison ivy. The irony is that urushiol in the absence of the immune attack would be harmless. Birds and animals do not elicit an immune response; hence, poison ivy is not toxic to them.

To prevent poison ivy dermatitis, the first thing is to avoid contact. If you are not now sensitive to the urushiol, the odds are that you will be later. Wear long sleeves and pants. If the plant is a seedling, use disposable latex gloves to loosen the seedling from the soil, carefully remove it, and place it and gloves in a plastic bag for disposal. If it is mature, first kill it. Roundup will work but spraying may kill desirable plants including the host tree. Instead, try applying concentrated Roundup with a Q-tip to several leaves. Once the vine is dead, use long handled pruners (or an axe) but always protect yourself with an old towel over the cutting area. Wash your pruner's blades in soapy water and rinse in strong running water. Carefully dispose of the vine, including dead leaves, the towel and gloves in a plastic bag.



If contact does occur, wash the affected skin **immediately** (within 10 minutes after contact) with soap and running water even though it seemingly is invisible. Once the urushiol sap oxidizes and blackens, it is too late! Drugstores carry a number of remedies. Some are skin treatments that prevent urushiol from interacting with the skin; one example is *Ivy Block*, which contains a clay-like substance called bentoquatam. Others, such as *Zanfel*, claim to remove the bound urushiol and thereby alleviate the ensuing rash. Others tell me it really works. *Cortaid* is new with similar claims. The old standby for itches, calamine lotion, is not very effective. As always, some remedies are better than others and what works for one person may not help another.

Whatever troubles climate change may bring to the world's plant species, rising carbon dioxide in the atmosphere may be good for poison ivy. Recent outdoor experiments published earlier this year found that poison ivy grew 5 times more than most other plants in the ever-increasing carbon dioxide-enriched environment. Worse, the concentration of urushiol also increased dramatically!

The bottom line: **LEARN TO RECOGNIZE POISON IVY AND AVOID IT!**



Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals, Perennials & Bulbs

Many early blooming perennials have completed their cycle and are becoming dormant - not dying. Clean up the dead and dying leaves. New annual plants can be planted now for the fall. You can divide daylilies and iris by digging up the entire clump and removing the soil from the roots. Pull the crowns apart by hand or split with a knife. Replant the divisions 12 to 18 inches apart.

During cleaning up, scatter any annual/biannual/perennial seeds from plants you want next year.

Fruit

After fruiting, remove old canes from blackberries. Next year's fruit is produced on these years canes. Keep the grass short around all fruit trees. Throw away any fruit you find that has been affected by fungus. Water as needed.

General Yard

Watering is the most important thing to do this month. Always water according to the weather and early in the morning to prevent mildew. Avoid the peak demand time of 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. An inch to an inch and a half of water is what most plants need. Make sure water is penetrating the soil, not running off. If water begins to run off, stop and water for shorter periods so it can penetrate the earth. Watch your raised beds and container plants closely. They will dry out fast. Don't forget your compost pile; it needs water to keep the decomposition process going.

Use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds, poison ivy and honeysuckle. Continue to get rid of weeds before they go to seed. As the plants decline, clean them up and throw away the spent debris. If the plants have simply completed their natural life cycle, add this to the compost pile. If the plants were infested with insects or disease, then dispose of this material. Good sanitation is often the best method for combating problems.

Lawns

After watering, mowing is the most important thing to do for your lawn. Don't mow more than one third of the leaf blade at one time. Cutting the grass too short can stress your lawn. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

Trees & Shrubs

Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now. They are forming flower buds for next spring. For webworms on trees, remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) to the leaves. To control lacebugs, spray with insecticidal soap or Malathion. When using any fungicide, herbicide or insecticide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. Otherwise, too much of the chemical may be absorbed and damage the plants.

Vegetables & Herbs

Keep your garden clean of weeds. Gather herbs for drying as they mature. Harvest about once a week. Use sharp scissors or a garden knife when harvesting your herbs. If collecting leaves, cut the whole stem before stripping away the foliage. With small-leafed perennials, rosemary and thyme save only the leaves and discard the stems - or use them for potpourris. When harvesting herbs that spread from a central growing point, like parsley and sorrel, harvest the outer-stems or leaves first. If you're collecting leaves or flowers from bushy plants, do so from the top of the plant; new growth will come from below. If your garden has stopped producing, you can still get fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmer's markets.

Now is the time to plant your fall vegetable garden. Transplants are best for tomatoes, peppers and cabbage, if you can find them.

Monthly Blooms

Agastache, hyssop; *Ageratum*; *Alcea rosea*, althea; *Allium tuberosum*, garlic; anise mint; *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly weed; *Asters*; balsam; *Belamcanda chinensis*, blackberry lily; *Browallia*, bush violet; *Buddleja davidii*, buddleia; *Callicarpa*, beauty-berry; *Campsis*, trumpet creeper; *Cannas*; *Celosia*, cockscomb; *Chelone*, turtleheads; *Clematis*; *Cleome*, spider flower; *Clerodendron*; *Clethra alnifolia*, sweet pepperbush; *Crocosmia*, montbretia; *Crotalaria*; *Dahlias*; *Datura*, angel's trumpet; *Echeveria*; *Echinacea*, coneflower; *Eupatorium*; *Chrysanthemum parthenium*, feverfew; funkia; *Gaura*; *Gladioli*; *Hibiscus*; *Hosta*; *Hydrangea*; *Kerria*, Japanese rose; *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape (or crepe) myrtle; *Lantana*; *Liatris*, blazing star; *Linaria*, toadflax; *Lobelia*; *Lycoris squamigera*, spider lily; marigolds; *Mirabilis jalapa*,

four-o'clocks; *Miscanthus*; *Mentha*, mint; *Monarda*, bergamot; *Ophiopogon*, mondo grass; *Nicotiana*, flowering tobacco; *Origanum*, marjoram; *Oxalis*, wood sorrel; *Pennisetum*, fountain grasses; *Phlox*; *Physostegia*, false dragon head; *Portulaca*, rose moss; *Rosa*, roses; *Rosmarinus*, rosemary; *Rudbeckia*, coneflower; *Salvias*, sage; *Euphorbia marginata*, snow-on-the-mountain; *Spirea*; *Tamarix*, tamarisk; *Tanacetum vulgare*, tansy; *Thymus*, thyme; *Torenia*, wishbone flower; *Polianthes tuberosa*, tuberose; *Veronia*, ironweed; *Veronicas*, speedwell; *Vinca*, periwinkle; *Zephyranthes grandiflora*, pink storm lilies; and *Zinnias*.

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 note from Mary Evans



I'd like to say thanks for all the notes, emails, phone calls & other expressions of sympathy. I have no way of knowing everything that has been done on my behalf. I couldn't have a better bunch of friends than the master gardeners. Most of all I want to thank Beth Phelps for getting the information out & to everyone else for not bringing me a bunch of food I would have to throw out. This would not have been a good time to sterilize my kitchen. My Celiac group took care of my needs in that department. To learn more about Celiac Disease, go to www.celiac.com.

Internet Pipeline by Libby Thalheimer



- <http://www.bgci.org/>

Botanic Gardens Conservation International links over 800 botanic gardens and botanical institutions in more than 120 countries in the world's largest network for plant conservation, environmental education and sustainable development. **BGCI** has considered what makes a botanic garden different from a public park or pleasure gardens. It has defined botanic gardens as follows:
 "Botanic gardens are institutions holding documented collections of living plants for the

purposes of scientific research, conservation, display and education."

Although it is not currently a member of BGCI, Garvan Woodland Gardens is listed as the only botanic garden in Arkansas.

- http://www.aabga.org/public_html/main.cfm

The American Public Gardens Association, formerly known as the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, Inc., is the association for North American public gardens and their professional staff. Its mission is to serve and strengthen public gardens by supporting their work, value, and achievements in horticultural display, education, research, and plant conservation. APGA publishes a monthly newsletter and the quarterly journal, *The Public Garden*, and many other publications, and sponsors six regional meetings and one national conference each year. Important APGA initiatives include the Resource Center, a technical information service for public gardens and the general public, and the North American Plant Collections Consortium, a project to conserve plant germplasm using the collections found in botanical gardens and arboreta.

Arkansas gardens that are members of the American Public Gardens Association:

- <http://www.bgso.org/>
 Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
 P.O. Box 3079, Fayetteville, AR 72702-1072
 (479) 443-6638
- <http://www.garvangardens.com/>
 Garvan Woodland Gardens
 P.O. Box 22240, Hot Springs, AR 71903-2240
 (501) 262-9300
- <http://www.peelmansion.org/>
 Peel House Foundation, Heritage Gardens & Compton Gardens
 400 South Walton Blvd., Bentonville, AR 72712
 (479) 273-9664
- <http://www.uafortsmith.edu/Arboretum/Inde>
 x
 University of Arkansas, Fort Smith
 Plant Operations Building, 5210 Grand Ave., Fort Smith, AR 72013
 (479) 788-7074

Geranium

By Lorraine Hensley



Common geraniums are members of the *Pelargonium* genus although native wildflowers and herbaceous perennials are considered "true" geraniums. The annuals that gardeners love for their brilliant blossoms and interesting leaves can be found used in planting beds or in any type of container the gardener can visualize. There is such a spread of leaf, flower and growth habit they can be a colorful surprise almost anywhere in or around the garden. They can be grown from either seeds or cuttings. However, local nurseries can supply almost any geranium cultivars that grow well in this area.

When planting in the garden remember geraniums flourish with at least four hours of direct sunlight daily. Be mindful that few plants can survive for that period of time in a full midday sun so plant in areas where some shade is available during that time of day. Soil should be well drained and mixed with a 10-20-10 fertilizer as geraniums become stunted and yellowed if they don't have enough nitrogen in their diet. A water-soluble formula can be used every four to six weeks as a follow-up nutrition.

Water well when planting and allow the soil to dry out between watering. Keep a careful eye on your plants for if the leaves wilt they turn yellow and drop off. Wet foliage is ideal for disease development on your plants so keep water off the plant leaves. Dry foliage also allows room for air circulation and enough sunlight can usually prevent the most common problems with this plant. Check regularly

for infestations of aphids, caterpillars, mites and whiteflies. Mulching the beds helps maintain moisture and cools that hot summer soil. Remove spent flowers to prolong the flowering period and pinch back for well-branched and full plants.

If your plans include container gardening with geraniums choose pots or other containers large enough for a good root system to form and to contain enough water to prevent wilting. Don't forget when looking at that beautiful pot to also check for adequate drainage holes. Being picky is not a bad thing when it comes to choosing containers. Plant in a well-drained soil mix and don't allow your plants to stand in water. If potted plants wilt frequently repot into a larger container that allows the root system a little more space to grow.

With just a little regular care and attention the gardener is amply rewarded with beautiful and plentiful blooms over a good blooming period with the additional bonus of attractive and unique foliage.



JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL PROJECT

By Carol Randle



Photo Courtesy of Lynn Winningham

Jacksonville City Hall in Jacksonville, Arkansas, is the location on the fourth Saturday of each month for Master Gardeners to gather. Together they work on beautifying the areas around City Hall. This includes: two entrance beds; two container beds; three brick beds; one marquee bed; one freeway bed, and the landscaped area surrounding City Hall.



Photo Courtesy of Lynn Winningham

In April of 1993 Joan Zumwalt, Dotty Heckenbach, Betty Starrett, Marviina Petrick, and Tony Ashby met with Jacksonville City Hall employees Skip Spears and Jimmy Oakley.

Following this the City hall became a Master Gardener Project. Plants are provided by City Hall. Project members include: Project Chairman Don Davis; Joan Bullard; Thomas Craig; Gale Crawford; Steve Engel; Susan Gillihan; Sandra Hall; Dotty Heckenbach; Ruby Hodo; Michael Moyer; Wendell Redmond; Alice Rhoden; James Silvi; Phyllis Voss; Joanna Wilson; Hedda Wyne; and Marilyn Henderson.

In the Entrance Beds are planted: Juniper; Cannas; Purple Fountain Grass, Dragon Wing Begonias, and Purslane. Purple Angelonium and yellow Nandinas brighten the Brick Beds. The Marquee Bed is new this year. City Hall employees requested the addition of this bed and prepared it for planting. In this bed are: Pampas Grass, Fescue, Knock Out Roses and Crepe Myrtles. The Freeway Bed has in it Marguerite Sweet Potato Vines and Coleus. Many annuals are planted in the beds. In the Fall Tulips are planted there. The project has as its goal planting selected plants and maintaining the plants and beds throughout the year.

City Hall greatly appreciates the efforts of the Master Gardeners on this project and there is a great working relationship between the two.

People driving down the freeway can easily see the Freeway Bed. It is a beautiful sight.

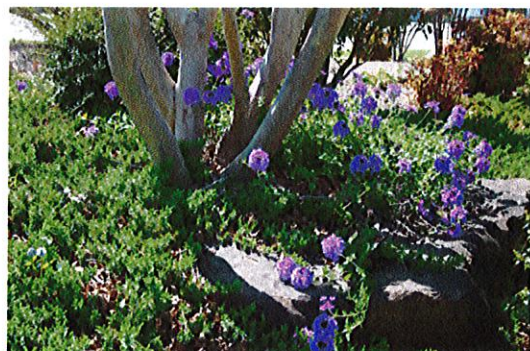


Photo Courtesy of Lynn Winningham

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



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? We NEED your input! Please email us!!!

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

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

- 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
- Libby Thalheimer

- Photographers
- Barbara Daniel
- Jim Dyer
- Cheryl Kennedy
- David Werling
- Bonnie Wells
- Lynn Winningham



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

