

## Pulaski County Master Minutes

October, 2006

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

Volume 17, Issue 9



Join us at the October Master Gardener Meeting where Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines will discuss the "The Big Dam River Bridge" and "The Two River Park". Come learn more about these two projects in Pulaski County!

### Glorious Fall



I suppose I am blessed with a very short memory and already I am forgetting the awful days of summer when it was hard to breathe it was so hot, and I was ready to throw in the trowel and forget about gardening forever.

Here comes the most wonderful time of the year when I can walk in my garden and enjoy the fall colors and the beauty all around me.

It is a season of excitement for the little ones to "Trick or Treat" or maybe go to fall festivals that are going on all around the state.

Is there any thing more wonderful than a crisp apple just off the tree? And now is the time when

the wild Muscadines are ripe in the forest. What a glorious treat!

I love to see the lovely wild Asters that are now in full bloom along the roadside and in my garden. I have the fiery blaze of a trained fire bush (Pyracantha) trained on a fence. The birds love the berries and I most admit they don't stay around long.

The lovely American Beauty Berry (callicarpa) with its bright violet berries is one of my favorites. I use it as a specimen plant in my garden. It really is putting on a show now.

Blooming now is the Sedum "Autumn Joy" I really enjoy this plant. It does well with little water in the summer, thrives in our summer heat and gives a good showing in the fall.

Now also is the time for the Sweet autumn clematis to bloom. It is blooming now on my garden fence and also along the roadways.

Now is the time for southern girls like me to enjoy the wonderful persimmons (Diospyros Kaki). The beautiful amber ornaments can be seen along the roadside at this time.

The showy reds of the clusterberry (Contoneaster) are hard to miss this season.

Yes fall is a season full of cooler weather, festivals, children's visits and beautiful color.

Wonderful, beautiful, cool fall.

Happy gardening,  
Susie Gillihan

# SALE!

**Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>  
8 AM to 11 AM**

**Plant Sales at the Master Gardener  
Greenhouse**

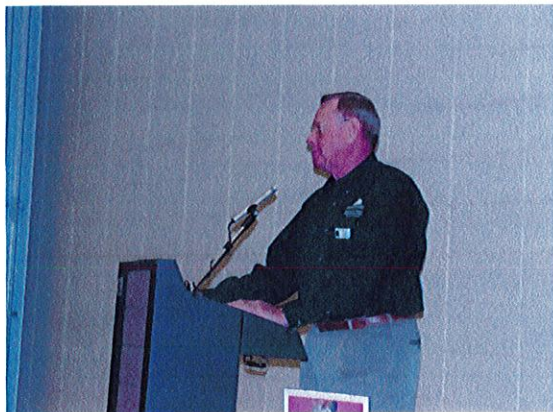
**Pansies, Viola, Snapdragon, Foxgloves  
& More**

### 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.

## OFFICER PROFILE

Past President  
 Dick Blankerbeker  
 By Betty Deere



*Photo Courtesy of Jim Dyer*

As past-president of 2005, Dick will officially be off the officer's list as the new officers are elected in September. Dick was a 1995 MG class graduate and has worked tirelessly for eleven years now. He has made a tremendous contribution to this Master Gardener's Club!

First of all, he joined MG a couple of years before retiring in 1998 so "I wouldn't just sit on the porch," and I believe we can safely say he has not done that. One would think he deserves to sit awhile on the porch, but read on to see how he spends his time and energy.

A self-proclaimed "displaced Yankee," Dick graduated from Penn State in Forestry and worked for a company named Koppers for 40 years, ending up in Arkansas 24 years ago with a crosstie-treating plant. He and his wife, Elsie, celebrate their 50th anniversary next month (quite an accomplishment nowadays); they have four grown children, and eight grandchildren. Two of his children live in the Little Rock area and two live in Ohio. "I have three boys and a girl-- 'my princess'—I guess a father's only daughter is always his princess. Four grandchildren live here and four up North".

During his career time, Dick spent 30 years in the Army Reserves as a Colonel, and in a whooping understatement he says: "That kept me busy." He also is past District Governor of NE Arkansas Rotary District and has been on the North Little Rock Tree Board for 15 years. Presently he is on the NLR

Senior Citizens Commission. Oh, yes, in addition he has been a member of the Pulaski College Board of Trustees for ten years. This is the man who was worried about just sitting on the porch and rusting away!

Projects Dick has worked on start with the Old Mill ("It was close to where I live"), then on to the Green House project for 6-8 years, and recently he was one of the founders of the Patrick Henry Hayes Senior Center project. As for his favorite plant, he laughingly says: "My nickname is 'Mr. Tomato', I grow all kinds of tomatoes—big ones, little ones, old heirloom types and new ones too."

What makes him laugh? He says without hesitation, "My grandkids! They are such a joy and I'm fortunate to have them spread from ages 22 to five years of age. My children's ages had an eleven year spread and my grandkids have a big spread too."

Our interview ended with these words: "I want to say that I think the Master Gardener group is a wonderful group of people and I've enjoyed everything I've ever done with them...the volunteer spirit is alive and well here...they're very special...and I'm on my way now out in the yard to do a little fertilizing."

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### Workday at St. James

***As a thank you to St. James for providing the Pulaski County Master Gardeners meeting space at no charge we will have a workday. There will be several projects including raking, weeding, pruning, spreading mulch, etc. Bring your tools. Rain date Friday, Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.***



## Extension Master Gardener Logo & Slogan Contest



### Logo & Slogan Contest Invitation

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007 and as part of that celebration you are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity.

The Extension Master Gardener Program needs a new logo for the website and to demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. As extension is developed, the logo and slogan will be utilized with new standardized curriculum.

This partnership will signify the cooperation of all State Master Gardener Programs will use this identification for marketing and promotion of a national unified program. State and local logos will still be utilized by may have the option of adding the International logo and slogan. The new logo and the title will be trademarked and protected by the USDA/CSREES.

The Extension Master Gardener Program is a platform for each state partner to share materials increasing the availability of information for volunteers and Extension personnel to share with the general public.

### Guidelines

Submissions of a qualifying nature will be passed on to a panel appointed by the EMG-ECH committee.

Appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics and the use of space used to measure the logo & slogan's merit. The winning logo & slogan will demonstrate the mission and understanding of the Extension Master Gardener Program to the general population.

### LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

- \*Logos must be legible, simple and clear.
- \*Logos must be effective in black and white and in color.
- \*Both grayscale and color versions must be submitted.

- \*Logos should be no more than two Pantalone colors plus black.
- \*Logos must be scalable as it will be used on websites, stationary and banners.
- \*Submit high resolution images 640 x 480 dpi.
- \*File format must be JPG, eps or Illustrator on a CD-ROM.
- \*Logo and slogan should relate.
- \*Submit logo and slogan as separate files.

### SLOGAN SPECIFICATIONS

- \*Slogan should be appropriate and must reflect the mission of the Extension Master Gardener Program.
- \*Slogan should be short and to the point.
- \*Slogan should relate with logo.
- \*Submit slogan and logo as separate files.

### PRIZE

Registration and lodging at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2 through May 5, 2007.

### DEADLINE FOR JUDGEMENT

Entries will be accepted beginning October 15th and the contest will close on February 15th (postmark deadline). The committee will judge the entries and select the winner by March 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference.

### SUBMISSION

Art submitted to the contest will not be return to the artist. More than one original art piece can be entered per Master Gardener.

Please mail all submission to:

Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH  
 Western Area Specialist, Horticulture  
 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension  
 5305 Mill Street  
 Reno, NV 89502  
 Phone: 775.784.4848 ext 125; Fax: 775.784.4881  
 or  
 Email: badertscherk@unce.unr.edu

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This is the garden: colors come and go,  
 Frail azures fluttering from night's outer wing  
 Strong silent greens serenely lingering,  
 Absolute lights like baths of golden snow.

E.E. Cummings (1894-1962)

**Arkansas Extended Learning Center**  
**666-0759**  
[www.extendedlearning.org](http://www.extendedlearning.org)

Landscape Design-Tuesday nights-Oct 24,31, Nov 7,14

Landscape Construction-Tuesday nights-Jan 23, 30, Feb 6, 13

**Ted Lewis**

Floral Design-Tuesday nights Oct 3, 10, 17, 24 again Jan 9, 16, 23, 30

Holiday Floral Workshop Nov 7 & 14

Floral Design II Tuesday nights Feb 20, 27, Mar 6,13

**Mary Evans**

The Green Thumb Gardener (basics) Thursday nights Oct 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16

Fall Bloomers Sept 19, Tues

Fall Bulb Blast! Oct 24, Tues

Your Winter Garden Nov 7, Tues

Spring Planting Frenzy! Feb 20, Tues

**Lamb's Ears**

By Lorraine Hensley

Silver Carpet Lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*) is a wonderful addition to any garden but it's especially appropriate if there are children waiting to plant something of their very own. Originating in the Caucasus region to Iran this plant has come a long way to add beauty to the home garden and delight to any young gardener who enjoys stroking the velvety leaves.

Grown primarily for the color and texture of their fuzzy and silvery gray-green foliage they are a low-growing quickly spreading plant. These are tough plants and spread out to form a thick mat of foliage with flowers borne on 12-18 inch flower stalks in late spring or early summer. If you don't care for

the flowers you might want to try the "Silver Carpet" Lamb's ear for it doesn't bear flowers.



There are other cultivars, in addition to the Silver Carpet, that do not bear flowers so read the bedding tags to be sure you bring home plants you want to keep and can enjoy. Bear in mind that the non-flowering cultivars grow a bit more slowly than those that flower. Flowering and non-flowering plants spread pretty quickly but are easily kept within bounds.

This plant forms a ground cover so thick weeds can't penetrate them which is good news for the gardener. They do require full sun and a garden site with good drainage. They thrive in almost any type garden soil. Neither drought, pests nor diseases bother the plant. Lamb's ears spreads by creeping under ground roots and is easy to divide in the spring. If the original plant starts dying in the center be sure to make your divisions from the fresh outer vegetation and put the old woody centers in your garden trash. Its low lying leaves can become brown and tattered later in the season but a little clean-up is all that is required. As easy as these plants are to divide you might choose to plant some in another sunny and well-drained bed or to share with a friend. Problems with this plant are generally water related for the bottom foliage is close to the ground and remains just damp enough for mildew to form and slugs to get comfortable. So check them often and consistently for powdery mildew and slugs.

Beautiful foliage and requiring low maintenance the Lamb's Ear a wonderful all round winner for the home gardener.

**OFFICER PROFILE**  
**Don Davis, Member-At-Large**  
**By Betty Deere**



Don, our "At Large" member, will shift in September to the 2nd vice-president spot, and continue serving the gardening community. As you read further, you will see that he also continues to serve our community in a broader sense. (You might say he is a "Server-At-Large".)

Inspired by his mother's love of flowers, Don says:

"She had many flower beds and containers over-flowing with beautiful annuals". He confesses he was not THAT interested in flowers in his youth, but became so after his mother died. At that time he began planting a few flowers and shrubs in his yard, to honor her memory. He realized then that he truly enjoyed preparing beds and planting different things. Later, the AR Flower and Gardening Show, plus Janet Carson's Saturday radio show, were both instrumental in engaging his gardening interests. And his favorite plants? "I have lots of favorites: Homestead purple verbena, daylilies, clematis, hydrangeas, Gerber daisies, white and purple Echinacea's and hostas are a few I enjoy."

As he approached retirement his gardening passion was peaking. As he puts it: "I didn't know anything about gardening but I loved everything about it. One Saturday morning Janet mentioned applications were being taken for the MG Program. I was hooked, I applied, and the rest is history." He graduated in the 2002 class.

Don is a retired educator, having taught choral music in the public schools for fifteen years (8 years at Bald Knob Special School District and 7 years at Jacksonville High School). He served as the Director of Music and Activities for the Pulaski County Special School District for fifteen years and taught music at Arkansas State University in Beebe for four years. During his 34 years in education he also held the position of a "part time" Minister of Music in several Southern Baptist churches.

Married for 45 years to his wife Glenda, they have lived in Jacksonville since 1972. They have three adult children—one boy and two girls. They are blessed with three grandsons; two (ages 7 and 10) in Pennsylvania and one (age 16) in NLR. In addition, Don says: "I cannot leave out our dog Sophie, a black 2-year-old shih tzu".

Besides gardening, Don enjoys "a little woodworking, and piddling, and I visit the fitness center on a somewhat regular basis".

Don further serves the community by volunteering at his church (First Baptist in Sherwood) with landscaping and visitor outreach. He is also a deacon, and he and Glenda have been attending there since his retirement. He is also a member of the City Beautification Committee with the City of Jacksonville. His MG project is with Jacksonville City Hall, and (as one might guess) he has been chairperson of that project for the past two years. He says: "This is a great working committee and a joy to be around!"

What makes Don laugh? "I laugh at myself when I do stupid things. I laugh at funny (but clean) stories or jokes, comedies on TV (Mayberry RFD, Cosby Show, etc.). I laugh a lot around my friends. I think I'm a relatively happy person and I laugh a lot." As for his favorite foods, he says: "I like Mexican, Chinese, shrimp, etc., etc., etc. I love it all!!!"

## Why Master Gardeners Need Basic Plant Biology 101?

By William R. Bowen

In working with a revision of the chapter on "Basic Horticulture" for the MG Training Manual for MG County 76 and a Powerpoint presentation for PCMG, I have argued that all Master Gardeners need to know something about plants in general.

That point was remarkably and sharply driven home when I read the Oct/Nov issue of Birds and Blooms. What initially appeared to be a well-done article on larch, a beautiful deciduous tree related to pines and other conifers, reflected ignorance about plant biology. Reading the article exposed one glaring problem. It repeatedly refers to "male and female flowers," which later transform into brown and woody cones. Those statements simply are scientifically wrong!!!

Conifers and flowering plants are both seed plants. However, there is a significant biological difference between conifers, cycads, and all of the so-called "gymnosperms" and the flowering plants (monocots and dicots) in the way in which seeds are produced. In conifers, seed formation begins each spring with separate yellowish staminate or "male" cones and purplish ovulate or "female" cones — these are NOT FLOWERS! A year or so later, the ovulate ("female") cone mature and turn brown. It is still an ovulate cone but now it is shedding seeds. In sharp contrast, flowers and only flowers occur in all flowering plants—and ultimately the "female" part of the flower produces seeds but within fruits — NOT cones! Cones simply do not occur in flowering plants and, most certainly, there are *NO flowers in conifers*.

No wonder the author(s) wanted to remain anonymous!! Whoever the author(s) is, she/he needs to be educated — and therefore enlightened — about the elements of basic plant biology before she/he attempts to write more about basic plant biology in a nationally distributed magazine.

What does this mean for Master Gardeners? All Master Gardeners interact with the public and have numerous opportunities to educate others about plants and horticulture. They must provide accurate information in order to gain the public's respect. Therefore, I believe that it is absolutely essential for all Master Gardeners to know something about the very basic botanical differences between the three groups of true plants: 1) the non-seed producing ferns; 2) the conifers that include the related cone/seed-

producing fern-like cycads but which are not true ferns); and 3) the flowering plants. The gross mistake in this article published in a widely distributed bird and gardening magazine clearly supports that opinion. Hence, the need for Plants 101 during MG training is obvious.



### Top 10 Reasons to Buy a Garden Gnome



It's a closely guarded secret that Neil Armstrong's first swing with a golf club on the Moon in 1969, was foiled not by his cumbersome suit, but by a garden gnome that had been left there by nations unknown. This unexpected development was edited out of film shot by his fellow astronaut.



Marie Antoinette did not say "Laissez manger gâteau" (Let them eat cake.) What she said was "let the little man go", the little man being a gnome from the wilds of northern France, who had gotten lost in Paris. Marie was very fond of miniature things, as evidenced by her hobby farm built on the grounds of the Palace of Versailles.



Charles Darwin went to his grave, knowing that the missing link in the evolution of Man, was the gnome. He simply didn't think anyone would believe him.



Cleopatra did not commit suicide. She was knocked on her asp by a gnome who popped up in her palace, surprising the Alexandrian Amazon. He had tunneled his way from Bavaria, and taken a wrong turn at the Red Sea.

6

Sigmund Freud had a fixation on gnomes. He saw them everywhere, from his garden to his office. In his personal diary, he pondered on whether they were a figment of imagination stirred by unresolved feelings for his pet chicken, or whether after all, a gnome was just a gnome.

5

Abraham Lincoln was really a gnome on stilts. Really!

4

The White House rose garden is rife with real, live gnomes. Security has yet to deal with them, because they are short, old, and belligerent, and have been mistaken for members of the Senate.

3

Dinosaurs became extinct with the proliferation of carnivorous gnomes. However, the gnomes were scared of mice, and have been hiding from them, ever since.

2

Gnomes are a peaceful, home-loving species, who only travel now when kidnapped and posed in front of tourist attractions for the amusement of unfeeling cretins. Originally from Europe, gnomes traveled from land to land, seeking a country without television sitcoms and re-runs of Dr. Phil. Finding none, they went underground and have yet to be liberated from their self-imposed exile.

1

Because David Letterman doesn't have one.



## An Adventure in Russia By Edwina Mann

On June 30 thirteen travelers and I began an eleven day adventure to Russia. The trip was a tour sponsored by Ouachita Baptist University International Travel Program led by Bill Dixon. We arrived in Moscow on July 1. After a few hours rest, we boarded an overnight train to St. Petersburg. The "sleeper cars" left much to be desired but it got us there! St. Petersburg is known as the "Venice of the North" and is an incredibly beautiful city. There were beautifully groomed flowers at every public monument and park. On the third day of our visit, we drove through the countryside to Catherine's Palace also known as the summer palace. Catherine became empress in 1741 and spared no expense making the palace equal to any palace in Europe. After the tour of the spectacular palace, the garden tour was of even more interest to me.

On July 4 we visited another jewel of Russian palaces, Peterhof, with its gardens, parks and fountains. The palace was opened in August 1732. The landscape includes 150 fountains, a number of cascades, and numerous wonderful gardens. The fountain area leads to a bathhouse which is on the Gulf of Finland and on to the Baltic Sea.

We made our way back to Moscow by the overnight train and arrived back there at 5:30 am. Our visit to the Kremlin was most interesting. The definition of Kremlin is "...a walled complex of buildings set aside for governmental use." The first photo shows Putin's office building with a garden. The Kremlin gardeners were formally bedded and well attended. We saw the gardeners at work caring for them.



Photo Courtesy of Edwina Mann

Later during the trip, we visited several smaller cities of Russia in the area called, "The Golden Ring," located in the Moscow environs. Many smaller cathedrals and monasteries were visited. Some of the buildings are now museums. We visited north to Sergeyev-Posad. The Church of the Holy Spirit was built in 1476 amidst the fir trees there. This area was called the "spiritual center" of Russia by the guide. We walked through a field to reach a small building where the citizens came to dip in the water which was to have special powers of healing and good luck. We continued on to an area named Abramtseva. In early years of the empire, many artists, musicians, and writers came to this area for inspiration because of the beauty of the area. The guide asked members of the group to pose like a famous painting., in costumes provided by him.

East from Moscow, we visited the town of Suzdal, an ancient town first mentioned in 1024. It is now known for its outdoor museum of historical buildings. The windmills of the museum were quite interesting. The bells of the Cathedral of the Transfiguration (1582-94) were played while we visited there. This view of Suzdal shows the terrain and some of the historical buildings in the background.



Before traveling to Russia, I had pictured a dark and dreary country, but I found the country to be colorful and bright with more golden trimmed cathedrals and public buildings than I could ever have imagined. There are still a lot of dull-colored apartments where many people live, but the public buildings and downtown areas were wonderful. Although in a very different setting, many of the bedding plants and wildflowers we saw are plants with which we are familiar. This brief article and few photographs are unable to convey the flavor of the country. I encourage you to visit.



## October Calendar

By Laurie Pierce

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](http://naturalstateexpo.org), (501) 837-7959 or [NaturalStateExpo@yahoo.com](mailto:NaturalStateExpo@yahoo.com).

More than 15 nurseries and retail garden stores from across Arkansas will participate in the fourth annual Plant and Landscape Sale Oct 13-15 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs. For more information call (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.

Brent Heath of Brent and Becky's Bulbs will present a seminar and sign his book, *Daffodils of North America*, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 4 in Fayetteville. For more information about fees and registration or to pre-order the book call Joyce Mendenhall at (479) 444-1755 or Cindi Cope at (479) 521-0934. Cope can also be reached by e-mail at [copecindi@aol.com](mailto:copecindi@aol.com).





**Master Gardener Discounts**

"I Like It A Lot"  
The Good Earth  
The Garden Center



Know of other businesses that offer a discount to Master Gardeners? E-mail it to Jennice and we will add it the next 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.  
Master Minutes Staff

**Dig in Here....**

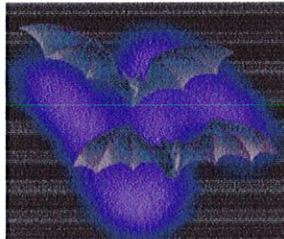
For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:  
Master Gardener Website:  
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly> Username: mastergardener, password: compost  
PC Cooperative Extension Website:  
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>  
U of A Cooperative Extension Website:  
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>  
Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Ark. 72204  
340-6650

**Read 'em and Reap...**

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural – related information to the residents of the county. In 2005, these volunteers gave more than **13,370** hours of service.  
Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent, Staff Chair



**News & Notes**

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to:

**Jennice Ratley**  
22 Cobble Hill Road  
Little Rock, Ark. 72211  
[jenniceratley@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)  
340-6650



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The Whitmire Wildflower Garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden in Gray Summit, Mo., will be the site of a seminar titled Native Plant School: Native Home Gardening With Small Flowering Trees from 1 to 4 p.m. Nov. 9. The seminar includes hands-on tours and demonstrations. Bring questions, comments, photos, drawings, and plant specimens for discussion. The cost is \$12, \$8 for garden members. For reservations telephone (636) 451-3512.

The Laman Library, North Little Rock, will be the venue for the Arkansas African Society Show and Sale on Nov. 10. For more information call 771-1995 Ext. 123.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park in western Pulaski County will host a Fall Hayride with a campfire and hot chocolate from 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 11. Dress warm in layers and bring a blanket. The cost is \$8, \$6 for ages 12 and younger. Prepaid registration is required. 868-5806.



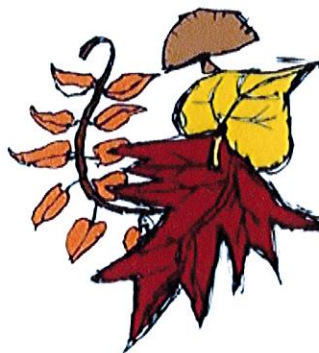
The Winthrop Rockefeller Center, Morrilton, will conduct a Heritage Gardening Workshop 5-8 p.m. Nov. 17 and 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 18 atop Petit Jean Mountain. Featured speakers will include Tom Dillard, Denis Adams, Julie Holland, Jane Gulley, Robert Cowie, Tina Marie Wilcox and Mike Yeargan. Registration is required by Nov. 10. For more information, contact Sandy Davies at (501) 727-6211 or (501) 215-5435 or e-mail her at [daviess@uawrc.net](mailto:daviess@uawrc.net).

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**GWG Annual Plant Sale: "An Earth and Epicurean Experience"**  
A Weekend of Food, Fun, & Flora

October is the perfect time to beautify your backyard or garden space with foliage in rich, warm hues that signify the arrival of autumn. It's also the

time to spruce up your landscaping with new garden accessories or an outdoor building project. To help you re-energize your outdoor living spaces and prepare them for the cooler temperatures, we've invited over fifteen nurseries and retail garden stores from across the state to participate in our fourth annual plant and landscape sale. In addition to the sale of horticulture and landscaping items, this year's event will offer homegrown and organic products, such as jams, jellies, pickles, salsas, relishes, and sauces derived from garden and fruit crops. The three-day plant and food fiesta will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, October 13, and conclude at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 15.

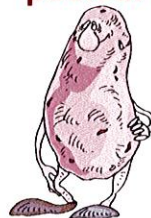


For more information contact:  
Garvan Woodland Gardens  
550 Arkridge Road - P.O. Box 22240  
Hot Springs National Park, AR 71903  
800-366-4664 \* 501-262-9300

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### Jokes and Humor for Gardeners

**Why do potatoes make good detectives?  
Because they keep their eyes peeled.**



**My wife's a water sign. I'm an earth sign.  
Together we make mud.**  
- Rodney Dangerfield



## Checklist By Linda Moyer

### General Yard

Clean up the planting areas as you harvest fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Rake up fallen leaves and fruit. Compost all disease-free organic refuse. Don't put diseased plants on the street for pickup. You don't want to give someone else your problem. Bag up with your regular garbage. Or you can burn the diseased plants.

Protect container plants for winter. Mulch tender plants that can't be moved. Continue watering lawns, trees, shrubs, vines and all new plantings until the rains come. Don't forget to water plants in sheltered areas. Well-watered plants survive freezing temperatures better than dry ones. Cut back ground covers that have spread out of bounds. Prune vines. Plant flat and slightly sloped areas with ground cover so roots will get a head start before winter. Do not plant steep slopes or the rains will wash plants away.

### Lawns

Sow seeds for new lawns. If there is an early frost, be sure to keep the ground moist so the seedlings will continue to develop roots until the ground freezes. Grass grows best this time of year in the cooler, wetter conditions. Aerate lawns now.

### Perennials & Bulbs

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich beds with organic soil amendment. Lift and divide plants that have finished blooming. Most perennials bloom better if they are divided and replanted every 3 years or so. Remove suckers from roses and lilac. Winterize, protect or lift tender perennials for winter storage. Mark dormant bulbs so they won't be destroyed when ground is prepared for spring planting. Be ready when shipments of bulbs such as crocus, daffodils, irises, day lilies, freesias, hyacinth and tulips arrive at nurseries, then plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch.

### Trees & Shrubs

Spray your trees for peach leaf curl if they were victims this year. Apply a dormant spray to reduce over-wintering pests and fungus diseases

when the leaves fall from fruit trees. Mulch fruit and berries well to preserve moisture in the soil. They need a lot of water. They are the only food that contains approximately 80% water. Set out strawberries during fall rains for fruit next May. If planted in spring, plants won't bear well until the following year.

### Vegetables & Herbs

By mid-October, or if frost is predicted, pick all tomatoes whether they are ripe or not. Store ripe tomatoes on the counter and wrap green tomatoes in newspaper and store in a cool dark pantry or closet. They will ripen slowly. If you have more ripe tomatoes than you can eat, freeze them to use in sauces. Or hang the entire plants (with unpicked fruit) upside down in the garage.

In late October cut back asparagus stalks to the ground. Mark the location. Mulch 3 to 4 inches. Prepare vegetable beds for spring and remove all debris. Cool weather annual herbs such as cilantro and parsley can be planted now. Warm weather herbs such as basil and dill should be gathered now and dried.

### Monthly Blooms

Abelia, ageratum, sweet alyssum, asters, barberry, beautyberry, bittersweet vine, buddleia, ornamental cabbage, calendula, camellias, cannas, celosia, chelone, Chinese pistache, chrysanthemums, clerodendron, crape myrtle, dahlias, dianthus, dogwood, Elaeagnus pungens, euonymus, eupatorium, four o'clock, gaura, ornamental grasses, gums, hibiscus, kale, kerria, lantana, larkspur, lobelia, maples, marigolds, Mexican sage, nierembergia, sweet peas, petunias, poppies, roses rosehips, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, solidago, stock, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, viburnum, viola, Virginia creeper, wisteria, 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.



## Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- Special Recognition was given to all PCMG Volunteers because September is Arkansas Volunteer Month.
- Sandy expressed appreciation to those to volunteered to mentor the 2006 PCMG Class.
- She thanked the Facilities Search Committee, Judy Woodward, chair, Suellen Roberts, O'Neal Dedman, Nancy Wolford, and Cathy Fakouri. Suellen explained that St. James is building a new building and that we will be welcomed to use the new facility when it is ready. Please use entrance #3 by the playground during the construction. The Sanctuary Doors will be kept locked for safety.
- Sandy reported that Mickie Barsocchi, Juli Oller, and Joe Reed are ill and that Eugene Seavers passed away.

### Committee Reports

- The Social Committee will meet at 10:30, Tuesday, October 17.
- Travel Committee is planning a bus trip to Mt. Magazine for a day, stopping at Petit Jean and Post Winery. The cost will be approximately \$45.
- The Greenhouse sale is tentatively set for Oct. 21 at 8 a.m. The 2007 dates are set to plant pansies. They will be Sept. 7, 8, and 10, 2007 at 7 a.m.
- Photos for the Pictorial Directory will be taken before and after the October meetings, if necessary.

### Beth made the following announcements

- A volunteer is needed Saturday, Nov. 4th to train Girl Scouts in container gardening.
- There are two surveys to be filled out: Search Committee facilities survey and the Advanced Master Gardener Training survey for County 76.

- Please place work days on chart.
- Check the Announcement board and calendar in Master Minutes for special events.
- Please report your work hours.
- International Master Gardener registration and volunteer commitment forms will be on-line October 2d. Registration will be \$225 to \$250. Master Gardeners who volunteer 16 hours (8 hours on-site) may register for \$125. Volunteers who work on-site must register. The tour committee has organized 11 tours. Ten of the volunteer hours may be used as County project hours.
- Dewayne and Cindy Hancock invite Master Gardeners to visit their garden today at 3216 Hazy Ridge Court.
- The new class starts next week on Wednesday. Master Gardeners are welcome to attend the classes, but please call by Monday if you plan to eat lunch. Lunch costs \$6.50.

Business: Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee offered the following slate of officers for the year 2007:

President, Marilyn Tilley  
 1st Vice President, Don Davis  
Secretary, Jackie Wright  
 Treasurer, Mary Freeman  
 Member at Large, Jim Silvi  
 Past President, Sandy Harrison  
 Returning Member at Large, Jet Cuffman

The slate was elected on a voice vote.

Jim Dyer presented a Power Point Tour of Pulaski County Master Gardener Projects.



### PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS Board Meeting Highlights

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Board met on Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 9 a.m. at the Pulaski County Extension Office. Present were Dick Blankenbeker, Marilyn Tilley, Jackie Wright, Sandy Harrison, Don Davis, Jim Dyer, Jet Cuffman, Mary Freeman, and Beth Phelps. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- The minutes were approved as circulated.
- Treasurer, Mary Freeman, reported that our balance is \$21,162.10 The report was approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Beth reported that 126 photos have been taken for the pictorial directory. More will be made in September and October. Weekend and evening times will be offered. They will also use contributed photos. A written report was given by the three P's Committee. There are a few MGs who do not want their photos in the book. A flower photo or something similar will be substituted for those.
- Pursuant to the Long Range Planning study, a survey was sent to the members about meeting space and planning. The committee to search for suitable space submitted a written report that is included with the minutes. They met with the St. James staff and have arranged for additional space.
- Beth announced that the Leadership Conference will be September 25-26 at the 4-H Center at Ferndale. A County 76 meeting will follow the Leadership Conference.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- The Board considered two applications to be new projects. They decided not to take on new projects at this time, but may reconsider these next year.
- The Board considered the applications for membership, then divided them to take home so each applicant can be called and interviewed about membership. The calls are to be completed by September 1.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Wright, Secretary

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The Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Board met on Tuesday, September 19, 2006 10:00 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, and Trudy Kumpe. Chair, Sandy Harrison, presided.

- The minutes were approved as circulated.
- Treasurer, Mary Freeman, reported that our balance as of August 31st is \$16,640.47. Major expenses were \$1,858.02 for the Greenhouse plants, \$1,030 for training materials for the new class, and \$1,000 donation to the International Conference. The report was approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Trudy Kumpe presented several formatting options for the pictorial directory. The Board voted to use the 8 1/2 x 11 format with room in the margin for three-ring-binder holes. The directory will be distributed with dues payment.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Beth reported that she and the Search Committee met with St. James about needing more space. They will provide a larger sound system so that speakers may be heard.
- Beth explained how International Meeting volunteer hours will be managed. Master Gardeners who volunteer at least 16 hours, 8 of which must be at the meeting, will be eligible for the discounted registration. Registration will be available on October 2d. Volunteers must be registered for the meeting to be eligible to work on-site, but not if work only off-site. They will need 350 to 400 volunteers at the International Meeting. Dick Blankenbeker moved that up to ten hours of International Meeting volunteer hours may be counted as PCMG project time. The motion was approved.
- Jet Cuffman moved that Tracy Rhodes be appointed to be our Keep Little Rock Beautiful representative. The motion was approved.
- The Board voted to approve a \$200 donation to help defray the cost of a dinner for the Pulaski County Quorum Court where Master Gardeners will participate in a program about the County Office.
- The board discussed and filled out a survey on Advanced Training submitted by County 76.
- The board approved an additional \$50 requested by Parkhill Water Works.
- The board approved a three year renewal to Fine Gardening for \$69.95.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Wright, Secretary