

Pulaski County Master Minutes

November, 2006

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

Volume 17, Issue 10



Join us at the November Master Gardener Meeting where we will present the length of service awards for 2006 followed by the reception for our new Master Gardener Class!

2006 Master Gardener Length of Service Awards Pulaski County

Lifetime

Ann Bridgers
Lois Corley
Mary Evans
Sarah Henson
Marie Jordan
Jerry Quick
Lavon Spears
Dorothy Wilks

10 years

Sue Anderson
Charles Emerson
Mary Ann Francis
Jim Gray
Catherine Johnson
Julia Loyall
John Prather
Mary Roark
Suellen Roberts
Billie Sanders
JoAnna Willson

5 Years

Mary Lou Arrington
Martha Basinger
Kim Cartwright
Thomas Craig
Cathy Dupont
Mary Freeman
Susan Garner
John Gill
Marjem Gill

Susan Gillihan
Virginia Jackson
Becky Kennedy
Patsy Knodel
Nora Ann Lawrence
Frances Lopata
Steve Lopata
Sandie Lubin
Edwina Mann
Cathy Muren
Bonnie Nicholas
Linda Norton
Eugene Seavers
Thelma Shank
Michael Strobel
Debbie Stults
Claudia Utley
Colleen Vollman
Juddie Wachtel
Nancy White
Nancy Wolford



2007 International Master Gardener Conference

Volunteer and registration information has gone out to those Master Gardeners with e-mail addresses. All the forms are also on the Master Gardener Only website www.uaex.edu click on Master Gardener then go to Master Gardener only. Remember the username is *mastergardener* and the password is *compost*. If you do not have computer access and would like a hard copy just let Beth know, 340-6650, and she will be glad to mail you one. It is going to be a great conference!

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.

Bamboo

By Lorraine Hensley

I remember a bamboo fence that served as a privacy screen for part of my driveway when I lived in another state. My next up close and personal contact with bamboo was at a Japanese garden created by another Master Gardener. I was impressed on both occasions by the appearance, versatility and ease of care and then promptly forgot the bamboo plant existed I have now called my long term memory out of limbo and am again considering how useful and esthetically pleasing bamboo can be. This seems a good time to share the information and perhaps pique other gardeners' interest.



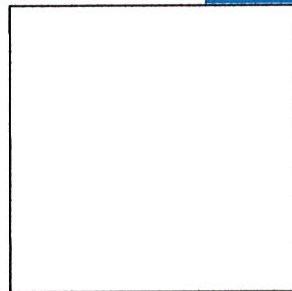
Bamboo is a grass (subfamily Bambusoideae within the family Gramineae). Plant size ranges from inches to over 100 feet and can grow more than a foot daily. My master gardener friend was emphatic when he explained the difference between clumping and running bamboo. Clumping bamboo is the home gardener's choice for it is easier to control than the running variety. The name running bamboo tells you what the problem is with this one. Before planting either, for names can change from region to region, install some type of in-ground barrier prior to planting. The clumping bamboo creeps only a few inches a year due to its somewhat limited root structure. Running bamboo, however, spreads by underground rhizomes and can outrun the gardener. These rhizomes are all connected to the mother plant and become almost impossible to destroy. It is possible to contain the rhizomes with a 2-2 1/2 plastic edging buried around the plants' circumference. Just be sure you

leave no cracks or seams for if you do the bamboo is on the move.



Newly planted bamboo needs lots of water but has a low tolerance for standing water. If new culms are slow to form check the amount of water you give the plant as water is necessary for the culms to form. Full sun and a soil pH between 6.0-6.2 is enjoyed by most bamboo. An annual pruning to remove old or damaged culms should be done while bamboo mites and mealybugs appear to be the only insect/critter problem with the plant. My web gardening expert (Marie Iannotti) tells me it's almost impossible to buy the desirable clumping bamboo from local nurseries. The wise gardener looks for a reputable bamboo dealer via specialized mail-order catalogs and shops for the clumping variety that best suits his landscaping needs. Bamboo has good potential for the home gardener but this plant requires much thought and careful planning in plant choice and preparation. It is well worth the effort.

Have you wondered where you can buy a Chia Pet? Visit www.chia.com



Congratulations to the 2006 Master Gardener Class



John Anthony
Doyle Bailey
Jane Blackall
Lisa Bomar
Mary Frances Branton
Buddy Brock
Martha Coop
Brenda Coop
Johnny Eagles
Tom Evans
Mike Fess
Annadell Fowler
Linda Fritz
Dottie Funk
Marylea Gazette
Marcella Grimmett
Linda Helm
Mary Helen Henry
Dave Hermanson
Arline Jackson
Richard Jarrell
Cindy Kane
Bill Kelly
Lorraine Lambert
Mark Matteson
Christine Palade
Christina Phelps
Donna Roetzel
Kathy Sherwood
Rose Shields
Suzanne Steele
Randy Watkins
Phoebe Wessinger
Joy Willis
Earline Zahn



Blackberry and Candy Lilies By Susan Rose



Blackberry Lily

Belamcanda chinensis or Blackberry Lily derives its name from the clusters of shiny black seeds exposed when seed capsules split open. Originally from China and Japan, the Blackberry lily is actually in the Iris family. The leaves of the lily are fan-shaped similar to the bearded irises and they can grow 1 to 3 feet tall. They can be grown in zones 5-10 in the U.S. It grows well in average soil and does best in full sun (although it can tolerate some shade). The blackberry lily blooms in late summer and the flowers are orange with red dots. The actual flower is only 2 inches across. Each plant will have several flowers over the next few weeks and several planted together make a good display. Blackberry lily can be propagated by division of rhizomes or seed. Seeds will need at least a 4 to 6 week cold stratification period. It usually takes two years for the plant to produce flowers.



Candy Lily

Pardancanda norrisii or Candy Lily is a cross between the Blackberry lily and *Pardanthopsis dichotoma*. It is similar to the Blackberry lily but has slightly larger flowers in a wider range of colors from blue and purples through yellows, reds, oranges and bi-colors, with or without dark spots on the flowers. They prefer full sun to partial shade with average to rich soil that is well-drained. Each flower lasts one day but the plant can produce multiple blooms for several weeks. Both of these plants are wonderful in the landscape and give us such unusual colors in the late summer when most other flowering plants in the landscape are gone. Both can be found at most garden centers around town.

References: www.walterreeves.com
www.plantoftheweek.org

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

By Carol Randle



In 1995 the Governor's Vegetable Garden became a Master Gardener Project. It is located on the grounds of the Governor's Mansion. The earliest soil testing report is dated February 17, 1994. The first schematic is of the 1995 planting. The Master Gardeners were looking for a vegetable garden to add to their projects. Dr. Fred Henker, who was a vegetable gardener, and the mansion administrator met together and the vegetable garden was added. The small vegetable garden that was already there needed someone knowledgeable about vegetables to help. So it became a Master Gardener Project.



The first committee for the Governor's Mansion included: Don Thompson and Ann Ward (co-chairmen); Dr. Fred Henker (who is now deceased); Jackie Houca; Cheryl Kennedy; Jan King; Nancy Kumpuris; and Rich Lawson.

The present committee chairman is Elisabeth Dillon. She is assisted by co-chairman Claudia Stallings, Lisa G. Ferris, Debbie Mickel, Leslie

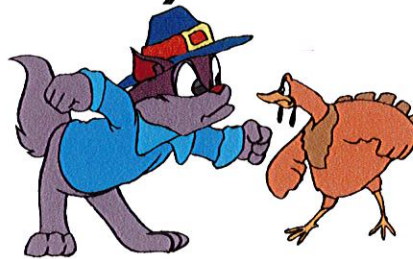
Middleton, Aleta Newell, Joe Reed, Laura Robinette, Claudia Utley, Charlie Vestal, and Mildred Walton.

The vegetables planted are used by the mansion cooks. The committee plants and cultivates these vegetables, including: tomatoes; sweet and other potatoes; collards; cabbage; broccoli; onions; English Peas; southern peas; bush beans; lettuce; radishes; spinach; beets; garlic; swiss chard; cucumbers; and greens.

I'm sure these good vegetables had a role to play in Governor Huckabee's weight loss.



Turkey Humor...



Q. Why did they let the turkey join the band?
A. He had the drumsticks!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Gladys.
Gladys who?
Gladys Thanksgiving. Aren't you

Q. Why do Turkeys gobble, gobble?
A. They never learned good table manners!

OFFICER PROFILE Jet Cuffman – Member at Large

By Betty Deere



Jet joined the 2002 class. She jokes about being member at large: "I thought they just wanted a large member!" She originally got interested in Master Gardeners due to the influence of two good friends who were Master Gardeners: Marian Berry and Lynn Parker. They had all worked together on the butterfly garden at their children's elementary school. More persuasion came from her friend and ex-mother-in-law who wanted her to do the program--so she and Jenny Smith signed up. "It's been too much fun!" she says.

Jet has worked on two different projects: the Arts Center and recently with the Clinton Library Scholar's Garden -- "Both beautiful places and beautiful MG's to work with".

Her favorite plants are foxglove and all viburnums: "Right now I mostly fill in holes my 16-month old great Dane puppy digs!" Jet is very respectful of nature and is vigilant to not upset the balance of nature and maintain a healthy environment. "I love organic gardening and I've never used chemicals or sprays in my yard! I have a host of beneficial insects and birds and I don't want to upset the balance!" Pausing then she confesses: "Also, I'm a bit lazy!" (However, we all know she's modestly joking because we know how much more "back and hand" work it takes to garden the environmentally-friendly way.)

Jet has been married to Stephen Cuffman, an attorney, for 17 years. They are parents to two teenage boys: Hayden and Creighton. "They keep me on my toes!" They also have a Great Dane and two cats. She says her hobbies are running, biking and kayaking, "Which I am trying to get out of the house to do this morning!" Then she adds, "Oh, I knit too and of course, there's gardening!"

What makes her laugh? "My boys when they sing together--especially rap songs. And my husband when he's silly...and always my girlfriends!!!"

As for her favorite foods, she says: "I love to cook--my favorite foods are too many to name--that's why I'm a lifelong member of Weight Watchers. My girlfriends are so fun to cook with, we get together and make big batches of tamales, tomato sauce, salsa and pesto. We've also been known to have a tasty cocktail or two while we cook! We just need to do it more often!"

Talking with Jet, it is abundantly clear that she is a person who loves gardening and nature, her friends and family, and fun and laughter! She personifies the slogan: Live, Laugh, Love!



Plant Profile: Diamond Frost...As Seen on TV!

By Debra Redding

A couple of weeks ago, I was bragging about this plant on the noon show, Positively Arkansas. Since then I have had a lot of questions regarding this plant so I thought it was worthy of a Plant Profile in Master Minutes. I always try several new plants in my garden each year and this was one of them. It proved to be one of the best performers in my garden. Diamond Frost has bloomed non-stop for me since spring and as of this date is still blooming and as beautiful as it was in May. It did very well thru out the humid summer. It was very drought tolerant and low maintenance. I tend to look for those things in a plant. I purchased this plant locally, at The Good Earth and since then have seen it at other garden centers. Looking back at our gardens it is interesting to note what worked and what didn't, our success and failure. Gardening is trial and error, lessons learned and that is what makes us better Gardeners. Make a note about this plant and try it next spring...it is amazing!

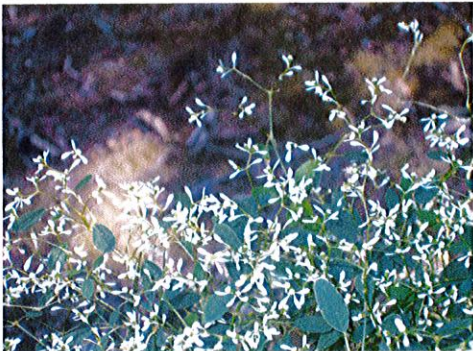


Photo Courtesy of Jerry Redding

Diamond Frost
Euphorbia

Characteristics: Heat Tolerant, Drought Tolerant

Exposure: Plant in sun or partial shade

Height: 12-18"

Spacing: 10-12"

Hardy Temp: 30°F

Zones: 10

Uses: Plant alone or in combinations in all container types and landscapes

Features: Heat and drought tolerant plant, clouds of airy white flowers all season, low maintenance

Awards: Top 5 Performer...University of Florida
Penn State
North Carolina State
University of Georgia
Ohio State University

Extension

Norfolk Botanical Garden

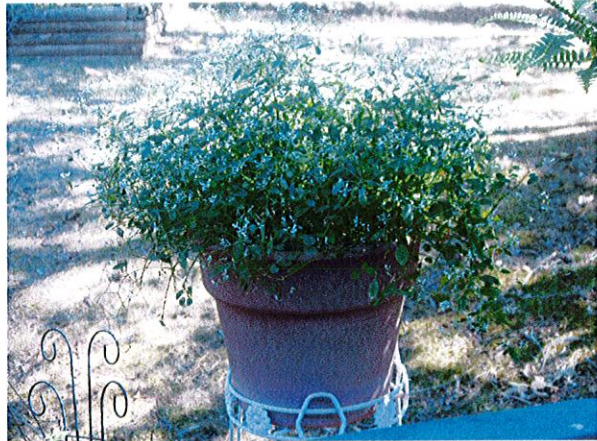
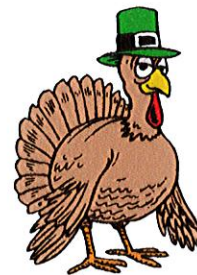


Photo Courtesy of Jerry Redding

"Diamond Frost has earned these awards. It just kept flowering and flowering all season. It never stopped, period! We planted it in containers and the garden, and in both cases it was outstanding. The habit was perfect, never exceeding 20 inches in height and maintenance was minimal", Dr. Allan Armitage, University of Georgia.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



**2006 Water Conference:
"Arkansas Water: Preparing
Local Leaders for
Water Challenges."**

The Public Policy Center and our co-sponsors are excited to present the 2006 Water Conference:

"Arkansas Water: Preparing Local Leaders for Water Challenges." The full-day conference will be held on November 17th at the Vines 4-H Center in Ferndale. The keynote speaker will be Arkansas' own James Lee Witt, former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Services

This important conference will feature leading experts discussing the "state of the law," the "state of the science" and the road ahead for Arkansas water quality and water rights issues. We encourage representatives from state, county and city government, the Arkansas Conservation Districts, high schools and universities and nonprofit organizations to attend. The 2006 Water Conference will also have interesting information for professors and students, lawyers, landowners and other concerned citizens. Note that there is scholarship money for students.

For more information contact: Lorrie Barr,
Program Associate, Public Policy Center, University
of Arkansas,
Division of Agriculture - Extension
Phone: 501-671-2147, Mobile: 501-213-7776, Fax:
501-671-2046.



**Cool Season Bloomers - Extend Fall
Color into Winter**

By Beth Phelps



One of the joys of gardening in the south is that we can have interest and color in the landscape year-round.

Pansies and violas are proven winners in the winter landscape. Planted in October or November, they will perform in the landscape or containers through mid-Spring giving Arkansas gardens continuous color through the sometimes dreary winter months. But, don't limit yourself to these familiar favorites.

For the past couple of years I have been adding ornamental mustard to my fall planting and have grown to love the foliage in combination with my pansies. There are several varieties available; my favorite is pink mustard for its large burgundy colored leaves.

Leaf lettuces, thyme, parsley, oregano, and salad burnet are evergreens whose foliage will add texture to the winter landscape, and make wonderful container companions for pansies and violas.

Snapdragons will not bloom continuously all winter, but they will bloom well into the fall and pick up again in early spring. Actually, I have snapdragons in containers in my garden that have bloomed just about continuously for two years. There are not always a lot of flowers, but there are almost always at least a few, even as I write this in late August.

An annual to put on your list for cool season color is diascia; relatively new on the garden scene is an All-America Selections award winning annual that will bloom in the garden until temperatures dip below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Often those of us in the central and southern part of the state make it through the winter with temperatures that never dip below zero.

Other cool season attention grabbers to try in your fall to winter landscape - dianthus, ornamental cabbage and kale, 'Bright Lights' chard, stock, primroses and hellebores. Perk up your late fall landscape and extend your gardening season by trying some cool season bloomers.

Time for Changes



As I write this we are down into the month of October and the weather is still warm and dry. The plants are still crying for relief from the ongoing drought. I watch the weather reports daily hoping to see that relief is on the way, but so far in my neck of the woods the cooling rains have missed us.

The water hoses are still getting a work out as I see my shrubs suffering from lack of water and I know that they are trying to set buds for the spring. Not enough water, no flowers.

I have been getting all the outside plants in. Remember all the ones that looked so pretty in the spring and summer? Well, now is the time and past time to give them some relief from ever-changing weather patterns and get them into safety. I'm sure most of you have already taken care of that. I must admit that I have been slow about bringing in my tender plants because of the warm weather, but I also know that winter can come down like a hammer any time and I must get prepared. Because I have a small house and not much room to store plants over the winter I have been taking lots of clippings and hope to propagate my beautiful plants by that method.

It is not too late to plan on a bed of beautiful tulips or some other spring bulb of your choice. There are so many to choose from that it is hard for me with my limited budget to select the ones I really can't live without. I have promised myself that this

year I will be more aware of the water needs of the plants I select.

There is nothing that brings as much pleasure to me as planting a large bed of pansies. The colors offered this year are spectacular! Now I have the pleasure of selecting just the right color to fill in my beds. I always seem to buy too many, and my back is screaming before the last flat is in the ground. Never mind it is all worth the pain!

There is much to do in November, prepare beds for the spring, and clean the beds of weeds, trash and diseased leaves. There is a ton of mulch (well it looks like a ton) to be put down, and plants to be cut back and ready for winter sleep. Things not done in the fall will come back to haunt me in the spring if not done. November is not a month to waste precious gardening time

I am still looking for the rain to come and the night temperatures to drop to normal and let nature do her job. My job is just to help out a bit when I can.

Happy Gardening,

Susie Gillihan

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds
- 2 teaspoons butter, melted
- 1 pinch salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).
2. Toss seeds in a bowl with the melted butter and salt. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes or until golden brown; stir occasionally.



Seed catalogs on the internet:

- **The Smithsonian Institution Libraries'** catalog collection of both Burpee and their competitors' catalogs includes about 10,000 seed and nursery catalogs dating from 1830 to the present. These catalogs not only document the history of seeds and agricultural products, of botany and plant research, and of graphic arts in advertising, but also a social history, through the text and illustrations, showing changing fashions in flowers and vegetables. The collection is part of the Burpee Collection donated to the Horticulture Services Division by Mrs. David Burpee in 1982. The seed and nursery catalogs are part of the Smithsonian Libraries Trade Literature Collection, held in the National Museum of American History Library (NMAH). The Library's Trade Literature Collection is available to the public by appointment only, but because this collection is unique and irreplaceable, items do not circulate.

<http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/SeedNurseryCatalogs/intro.htm>

- **Biographies of American Seedsmen & Nurserymen** Compiled by Marca L. Woodhams, Librarian, Horticulture Branch Library, Smithsonian Institution Libraries One hundred individual biographies covering the careers of commercial nurserymen who established and expanded the American seed and plant sales industry starting in the 1800s. Listings' lengths vary from four to forty lines with an emphasis on horticultural sales or product innovations. Each biography includes abbreviated citations with links to sources.

<http://www.sil.si.edu/digitalcollections/SeedNurseryCatalogs/resources.htm>

- **Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service** offers some tips on ordering from seed catalogs.

http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/FieldOps/Cgs/h_gard.htm

- **Heirloom Tomato and Vegetable Seed Catalog** Specializing in over 600 Varieties of Heirloom Tomato Seeds! Our 2007 online tomato seed catalog includes hundreds of

varieties of rare and unique tomatoes and vegetable seed varieties once offered in American seed catalogs in the early 1900's.

www.tomatobob.com

- **The Harris Seeds Company** began its catalog operation in 1879. Harris Seeds was managed by a succession of Harris family members for 100 years. Joe Harris, the last of the company managers, was chiefly responsible for an introduction of a wide selection of exceptional quality vegetable hybrids. Many of these hybrids remain as leading cultivars in the professional and home garden marketplace. Excellence in plant breeding was a key factor for the company's success during this century. Remaining in Rochester, New York since 1879, Harris Seeds markets vegetable and flower seeds as well as plants and growing supplies to gardeners and professional growers throughout the USA. Harris Seeds conducts extensive vegetable and flower variety trials in Rochester as well as many other areas of the Northeast. A germination lab inside its Rochester facility ensures that the seeds it sells are of the highest quality.

<http://gardeners.harriseseeds.com/>

- In a span of three generations, **Park Seed Co.** has grown from a one page list of seeds handed out to neighbors and friends to the largest family-owned direct-marketing horticulture company in the U.S. Park Seed offers gardeners, through its catalogs and corresponding web sites, thousands of choice seeds, plants, bulbs, and gardening aids. But even as the company expands and evolves to meet new challenges, the founder's tradition of giving first priority to our customer's success and gardening pleasure is still a guiding principle.

<http://www.parkseed.com/>



Upcoming Events

By Laurie Pierce

2006 EVENTS

The Laman Library, North Little Rock, will be the venue for the Arkansas African Violet Society Show and Sale on Nov. 10-11. 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. Lake Dardanelle State Park, Russellville, will conduct free American bald eagle cruises from November through February. Reservations are required. (479) 967-5516 or lakedardanelle@arkansas.com.



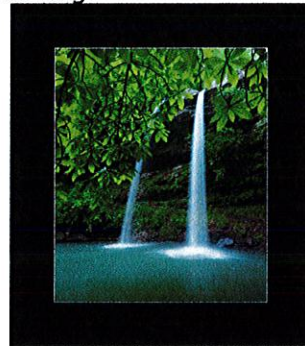
The Winthrop Rockefeller Center, Morrilton, will conduct a Heritage Gardening Workshop 5-8 p.m. Nov. 17 and 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Nov. 18 atop Petit Jean Mountain. Featured speakers will include Tom Dillard, Denis Adams, Julie Holland, Jane Gulley, Robert Cowie, Tina Marie Wilcox and Mike Yeargan. Registration 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.

The Ridgway Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, will feature a Holiday Wreath Exhibition 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 18-Jan. 7 with creations by area floral designers. Some wreaths

will be sold through a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting the Missouri Botanical Garden. Admission included with Garden admission or membership. (314) 577-5100 or mobot.org.

The Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View, will conduct Ozark Holidays Nov. 23-25 with a Thanksgiving buffet, holiday music concerts, Christmas Bazaar and craft demonstrations. The 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Gospel concert costs \$9, \$6 for ages 6-12; the 7:30 p.m. Holiday concerts on Friday and Saturday cost \$2. Telephone (870) 269-3851 for Thanksgiving dinner reservations and information or e-mail ozarkfolkcenter@arkansas.com.

Tim Ernst's images of the Buffalo River will be the subject of a big screen photographic slide show and art sale Dec. 1 at the Lyric Theater in Harrison. (870) 391-3504, ozarkartscouncil@alltel.net or theyricharrison.org.



Join Paul White of Native Tones Landscaping, herbalist Susan Belsings and Tina Marie Wilcox to harvest and prepare natural materials for Deck the Halls Ozark from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Ozark Folk Center, Mountain View. Participants will collect and condition greenery, vines and herbs on Thursday and Friday before the hands-on workshop on Saturday. The group will also identify plants and uses, and learn sustainable harvesting and pruning techniques. (870) 269-3851, ozarkfolkcenter@arkansas.com or ozarkfolkcenter.com Designer Chris Olsen of Little Rock's Botanica Gardens will conduct a Winter Blues tour of his home from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Dec. 2. The winter wonderland tour of the house includes a dessert party with pastries, coffee bar and wine. The cost is \$30. Preregistration is required. (501) 614-3000.

Upcoming Events cont. 2007 EVENTS

The Winthrop Rockefeller Center, Morrilton, will host a Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop on Jan. 26 atop Petit Jean Mountain. The workshop will be conducted in conjunction with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Forestry Commission, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Quail Unlimited and Audubon Arkansas. Preregistration is required. For more information, contact Sandy Davies at (501) 727-6211 or (501) 215-7990 or e-mail her at daviess@uawrc.net.

Green Building Series: Green Rooftops, January 18, 1 to 4 pm,
Whitmire Wildflower Garden of the Shaw Nature Reserve of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, will present Green Rooftops on Jan. 18 as part of its Green Building Series. Session includes hands-on tours and demonstrations. Bring questions, comments, photos and drawings for discussion. The cost is \$12, \$8 for garden members. Register at (636) 451-3512.



MULTIPLYING AND DIVIDING (PLANT ARITHMETIC)

By Betty Deere

I have a big yard—a really big yard—which I’m obsessed to “plant up” every square inch of, and which often results in a cash flow problem. So therefore I’m always on the lookout for “come-back plants” (as my Aunt Myrtice used to call perennials) and for plants that have babies (multiply and divide...get it?). So my yard priorities are to fill in spaces with plants that (1) “stay--stay pretty all season long and stay (return) next year, and (2) multiply so I can divide and spread around.

What fits that bill? Well, peonies do, but they can only be divided every 5-10 years. They are beautiful, interesting plants and deserve an article all their own. Iris, however, are absolute perfect candidates for this job. They can look pretty all season long, they “stay”, they’re easy, and their blooms are beautiful. They are not actually going to bloom all season long, but their tall, slender green blades can be trimmed (you want to keep the blades for awhile to make magic for next year’s blooms) to make a “fan” shape, creating a very attractive garden accent.

And you can weave other plants, like Shasta Daisies in and amongst the green “fans”, since daisies bloom a little later than iris. As the “fans” get older and weathered, the daisies provide a little cover for them (much like children and grandchildren do for us older and more weathered folks).

Iris usually get too crowded and profit from being divided every three-five years. To say that they are easy to grow (and divide) is an understatement. They adapt easily to most anyplace you put them down (like some people you know). They require very little care, and they come in a wide variety of sizes and colors.

Once I dug up a clump of iris from an old abandoned home-place around Heber Springs, which, due to the difficulty in extracting it from its grass-bound spot in the brick earth, I knew it had not been watered or cared-for in many years. Taking it home, I plopped the unwieldy clump down under a tree, too tired to plant it right away. Somehow I let it go for a whole season, and guess what! The next spring, right under the tree where I had plopped it, that ragamuffin clump put forth a

magnificent display of yellow blooms, putting to shame all the rest of my carefully home-schooled iris. Years later, it's still doing it, I never planted it, just piled some rocks around it. Iris are tough! (Some people are like this, born and left in a barren place, given no nourishment or care, and against all odds, they grow to be spectacularly lovely and productive people. You just have to marvel at them!) (While others, well, what can we say?)

Of all iris, the bearded iris is the most common, and comes in tall, intermediate, and dwarf varieties. Other iris types include bulbous, spuria, Japanese, Siberian, and Dutch. The Siberian iris rarely needs dividing, but the others prosper from division.

Division is simple. Late summer and early fall are ideal times to divide all three types bearded iris. They grow from long, fleshy surface roots called rhizomes, with little hair-like feeder roots extending out. Just dig up a clump, shake or wash off the dirt so you can see what you're doing, and as gently as possible pull apart the rhizomes. Sometimes they are stuck so tight you have to rather ungraciously jerk/yank them apart. If you have arthritic gardening hands like I do, you might use a garden fork instead of your fingers and hands.

Doing this is easy: set the fork into the clump, and do a rock 'n roll motion, twisting and teasing the clump apart. Don't feel guilty, like you're being unkind, because dividing truly does invigorate the mother plant, freeing up her energy. (Kinda like having a baby unburdens a mother and frees up her energy!)

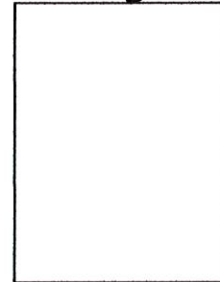
Be sure each division has a young, viable rhizome and feeder roots, not old and withered. If the rhizome is on the decline it won't have the energy to make the move, and start over. (This could be likened to a woman having a baby after say, forty-nine—unless, that is, you are Susan Sarandon!) Before you replant, trim the foliage to a fan shape, cutting it back to about five inches. Each division should have at least one growing point (or fan of leaves) and a few inches of healthy rhizome with feeder roots.

Then dig a hole big enough to hold all the little hairy roots without squashing them. Form a mound of dirt in the middle of the hole and spread the roots evenly over the mound. Then fill in with dirt,

leaving the rhizome 1-inch below the surface. Water and mulch. Your reward? Next year you'll have an expanded family of beautiful exotic irises in your garden!



Trading Post



I have two large "Lord Baltimore" hardy hibiscus plants in pots that I am willing to give away to a good home (or homes), once they go dormant and I can cut them back. They are too big to move right now. I didn't think they would get as big as they have and there is really no place I want to plant them in my yard.

Bonnie Wells - 228-0802
wellsaid@sbcglobal.net



Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals - If you didn't get all of your winter annuals planted, now is the time. They must have their root system established before it gets too cold. Be sure to fertilize when you plant and side dress during the winter on warm days. In addition to pansies, consider dianthus, dusty miller, snapdragons, and violas. For vertical interest, try mustard, kale, collards or chard. If you didn't get any plants from the Master Gardeners Greenhouse, check out the local nurseries for other winter annuals.

General Yard - Rake leaves and compost. Keep your water gardens and fishponds free of debris. Putting a net over the water can help catch any leaves when they fall. This is a good time to send in a soil test because labs are less busy now. Soil test kits are available at the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension office. Before putting your tools away for the season, clean and lightly coat with oil to prevent rusting.



Indoors - After Thanksgiving, stores will be filling up with poinsettias, Christmas cactus, and amaryllis bulbs. Poinsettias will last for several months if given the right conditions - warmth, bright light, and even moisture. Amaryllis bulbs should be potted at least six weeks in advance for holiday use. Larger bulbs usually have bigger flowers and multiple bloom spikes. If you buy bulbs, select a pot slightly bigger than the bulb. Amaryllis prefers to be crowded.

Perennials & Bulbs - Are you cleaning and dividing your perennials? Don't throw the extra plants away, pass them along. Put an ad in the

Trading Post. (Call Libby, 663-1151 or email smell34@aol.com) After a killing frost, mulch your beds 3" deep. Plant any bulbs now through December. Planting in masses looks better than planting in rows.

Trees & Shrubs - If you have a question about when to plant or when to prune. A good general rule is "Fall is for planting and spring is for pruning". Do you have any trees and shrubs you want to move to new locations? This is the best time to relocate them. The soil is warmer now than it will be in the spring and the roots will have time to establish new roots and will give them a good start next year. Want new plants? Try some of our native trees and shrubs (dogwood, fringe tree (Chionanthus virginicus),

sourwood, and hawthorn) or plant for edible fruit, such as persimmons, figs, serviceberry, pomegranates.

Vegetables & Herbs - Fall and winter are quieter times in our vegetable gardens but there are still things to do. After you have planted the winter vegetables, cleaned up, and composted, try to prepare some of the beds for spring planting. Then in February instead of waiting for the soil to dry out, you can plant sugar and snow peas. Plant a cover crop on the other beds.



Monthly Color - Asters, ornamental cabbage, camellias, chrysanthemums, clerodendron, dahlias, English daisies, dianthus, dogwood, euonymus, eupatorium, gaura, ginkgo, ornamental grasses, gums, oakleaf hydrangea, kale, larkspur, maples, poppies, roses, rosehips, snapdragon, solidago, sourwood, stock, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, viburnums, viola, Virginia creeper, wallflowers, and witch hazel.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board met on Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Jet Cuffman, Sandy Harrison, Beth Phelps, Jim Dyer, Don Davis, Jackie Wright and Marilyn Tilley. Chair, Marilyn Tilley presided.

The minutes were approved as circulated.

The balance in our treasury is \$18,487.55, \$1,060.64 below the start of the year.

Old Business

- Trudy Kumpe will make an announcement at the membership meeting about the photos. More than 100 have not had their photos made.
- Sandy Harrison will work with Don Davis to recruit volunteers and review charges to the standing committees.

New Business

- Treasurer Mary Freeman has accepted a full time job. The board discussed the need for assistance at the Tuesday meetings because Mary will not be able to attend for some time.
- The Board voted to reinstate Peggy Muncey, a former PCMG who become inactive in 2001.
- The Board voted to purchase 100 tall plant labels @ \$27.80, and 200 regular size plant labels @ \$24.50 for projects and to sell to members
- Marilyn Tilley, chair of the State Hospital Master Gardener Project reported that the project will need to be inactive because the State Hospital does not currently have appropriate space for the project because of new construction.

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday October 17, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at St.

James Methodist Church. President, Marilyn Tilley, presided.

Marilyn made the following announcements:

- Tracy Rhodes is our new Keep LR Beautiful Representative. If you have thoughts or suggestions about that program please report them to her.
- Anita Chamberlain's husband Gary passed away.



Marilyn Tilley-Photo courtesy of David Werling

Beth made the following announcements:

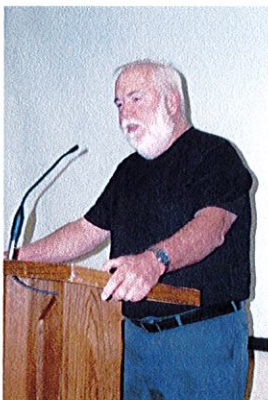
- Please enter Door 3 when you come to the meetings. The welcome center with sign-in sheets and other materials and notices will be down to the end of the hall and to the left. Tables outside Door 3 are for plant exchange.
- To register as a volunteer for the International conference, one must first get on the "Master Gardener Only" part of the website, with "compost" as the password. There are four pages. The last page is the sign up form. If you need a paper copy please call the office.
- Nov. meeting will be in the sanctuary. A reception for New MGs will be in the meeting room.
- Oct .19th 12:30-3:00 will be a workday on the grounds of St. James, in thanksgiving for their letting us use their meeting rooms. We divide hostas and day lilies. Rain day is October 20th.
- Please report your hours.
- If you wish to volunteer for a committee or change committees please notify Beth.
- The Cornerstone Church in North Little Rock is building a memorial garden in the name of Sharon Davis.

- The Extension Service Public Policy Center has prepared ballot issue publications to inform voters about issues on the November ballot. The publications give pros and cons for each issue and are nonpartisan. The issues are Higher Education Bonds, and Bingos as Raffles.

Committee Reports:

- Wincie Hughes reported that our holiday party will be on December 12th, at Parkhill Christian Church in North Little Rock on J.F.K. Cost is \$10 and will be catered by the men of the church. There will be special entertainment. A list is being circulated for volunteers to prepare food for the New MG reception next month. They need finger food on trays ready-to-serve.
- Jeanne Spencer reported that the Flower & Garden Show will have a new event. The Gardeners' Showcase will be open to the public. Entrants may build a 3 foot by 5 foot garden in the exhibit room.
- Trudy Kumpe announced that the 3Ps are taking pictures in the hallway and encouraged all those who have not had pictures made to join them after the meeting.
- Lois Corley announced that the Greenhouse sale will be Saturday, October 21st from 8 a.m. until noon. There will not be a second sale the following week. They have lots of Foxglove in several sizes.
- The travel committee reported that the trip to Mt. Magazine did not have enough registrants.

Jim Dyer introduced our speaker, Judge Buddy Villines, who told us about Two Rivers Park and The Big Dam Bridge.



Judge Buddy Villines
Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Wincie Hughes
Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Lois Corley
Photo Courtesy of David Werling



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? Email it to Jennice and we will add to 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

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative
Extension Service

2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650



Join us for the Master Gardener Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 12th

Parkhill Christian Church on JFK
\$10 per person

More details to follow!



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
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



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