

Pulaski County Master Minutes

January 2007

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

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Our Winter Garden



We have been blessed with a beautiful fall, with lots of rain and cool nights and in my neck of the woods no frost as yet. The trees in my garden were beautiful this fall. The dogwoods that I fretted about all summer all survived and were just beautiful with their colorful leaves and now striking red fruit. I am blessed to have a lovely old sweet gum in my garden that is a pain to clean up after, but pays for itself with the most beautiful foliage in the fall. The hickory nut has been very fruitful and the squirrels are busy lying away for the cold winter days to come. The foliage on that tree is so lovely and can light up a dreary gray day. Sprinkle in the green of the pines and one has a beautiful tapestry of color.

Of course there is still plenty of work to be done in the garden, cleaning up fallen limbs and leaves, pulling out the annuals that have been beautiful all year, but are now past their prime and ready to give way to cold weather plants. Most of you, I'm sure, have all this done and are now ready to set back and enjoy the leisure all gardeners so richly deserve after a long hot summer of struggle just to keep gardens alive and at their best.

I enjoy this season of the year because one can really get a good idea of the bones of the

garden. In the winter is a good time to make choices if the garden is just as I like it, or if changes need to be made. I am guilty of holding on to a plant that gives me pleasure for just a very short time of the year, and then just takes up my limited garden space. In the winter I can take a good hard look and make the decision if it is worth keeping or has it lived out its life and ready to give way to something hardier and will take the conditions in my garden better. I admit here that it is a very hard thing for me to give up a plant even if it is a water hog!

I enjoy having the time to read all my gardening magazines and look at all the beautiful catalogs and dream of having a perfect garden one day. Dreams are the thing that keeps gardeners like me going, I know in my heart of hearts that I will never reach that perfect place, but am determined to keep on trying.

Happy gardening,

Susie Gillihan

Special thanks to Big Photos.com

Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society
You still have time to be a charter member of the Ouachita Hosta and Shade Plant Society. Send your application and dues (\$10.00 for individual, \$15.00 for families) to Yvonne Becker, 19 Jabali Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909.

Our February meeting will be at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, February 3, 2007 in the Garland County Library, Hot Springs Arkansas. Our program will be given by Linda Orton, Vice President Mid-South Hydrangea Society. She will talk on: "Different Hydrangeas Species: Propagation and Pruning."

Come join us at our meeting whether or not you join now.

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Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project

By Carol Randle

Located behind the University of Arkansas President's Home on the Cammack Campus at University Avenue and Hawthorne Street is the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project.

It became a Master Gardener Project in 1997. It was President Sugg's Fruit Garden and was designed by Dr. John Clark from the University of Arkansas. The garden was to have fruit that was commonly grown in the home garden. Varieties of fruit were those developed by the University of Arkansas. President Sugg suggested that the Master Gardeners could maintain the garden and make it a fruit demonstration project that people could view to benefit their own home gardens.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Dyer

Dr. Clark talks with our committee about muscadine grapes

Jim Dyer is the project chairman. He is assisted by the following project members: Fran Ables; Mary Battreal; Phyllis Colclasure; Jennie Cole; Laverne Davis; Carolyn France; Judithann Freeman; Shirley Gunnels; Charl Hill; Doyle Hughes; Walter Jennings; Gay McDaniel; Ila Newberry; Ruth Ownings; Frances Story; Mary Vancura; and Laura Anne Wilson.

The project committee maintains the fruits that are in the garden; plants new plants when needed; weeds and fertilizes the garden; and

plants annuals for color in the garden. In the garden now are: 4 strawberry beds containing Cardinal, Demarvel, Earlyglow, and Lateglow; 2 rows of Thornless Blackberries that include Navajo, Arapaho, Apache, and Ouachita; 1 row of Ozark Blue Highbush Blueberries; 1 row of Tifblue and Climax Rabbit Eye Blueberries; and 1 Grape Arbor with Sweet Jenny and Ison Muscadines.

The goals of the project committee are to maintain the garden and demonstrate how fruit can be produced in the home garden. They hold classes or workshops on pruning grapes, blueberries, and blackberries. This year Dr. Clark and Dr. Garcia from the University of Arkansas presented workshops on the different fruits in the garden.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Dyer

Members are preparing the soil and planting new blackberry plants donated by the University of Arkansas.

The last three years the committee has conducted mini tours during the summer months. Three tours started each time by meeting at the project garden and working for about an hour. Then they went to two or three of their members' gardens for a tour. Around lunch time they had lunch at the home of one of the members. They say this has been a great opportunity to get to know each other better. They also get to see what other people are doing with their yards. There have been three tours each summer.

The members of the committee also have a learning activity at one or more of the yards. Activities have included: container planting, propagating plants, and soil sterilization. The committee meets on Wednesdays as needed.



Photo Courtesy of Jim Dyer

Dr. Garcia from the University of Arkansas talks with the committee about strawberries

2007 Arkansas Horticulture Highlights CD

Gardening in Arkansas can be a challenge as well as a joy. Finding good reference material that applies just to Arkansas can be even more daunting. One good tool that has been compiled by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service is the 2007 Arkansas Horticulture Highlights CD.

This updated CD is loaded with information and is a compilation of much of the horticulture work that has gone on this year. If you want to know how to kill fire ants, check out the insect guide. Crape myrtle covered in powdery mildew? There is a list of approved fungicides that will control it. Crabgrass taking over your lawn? There are recommendations for pre and post control. Information included for pest control of insects, diseases and weeds lists the actual chemical name plus trade names and timing of applications.

Included on the CD is a compilation of the gardening Question and Answers that have been used in weekly columns. These are searchable so if you have a question on your tomatoes, plug it in and all the references will be listed. There is also a month by month gardening calendar.

Over 300 plant of the week columns are on the site. There is also a fabulous hydrangea and crape myrtle database, complete with

pictures. It can help you select just the right hydrangea or crape myrtle for your yard. Need help choosing a plant? There are sixteen video clips on everything from butterfly gardening to how to plant a tree or shrub. There is a plant disease image library with over 100 plant disease images and a list of deer resistant landscape plants.

If you are in the market to plant a new tree, or want help in identifying one, there is an excellent tree database and tree key to help with that. For the tree key simply answer a few simple questions such as deciduous or evergreen leaf, compound leaf or simple leaf, etc. and with a few clicks, you should be able to identify one of hundreds of common Arkansas trees. You can also view images of many of the trees in Arkansas in the tree database.

Over 100 horticulture fact sheets, covering everything from how to read your soil sample form, to home spray guides for fruit trees, lawn calendars and more on included. Instead of keeping up with the paper version or finding them on a website, all you have to do is put in the CD and the information is there. In addition there is contact information for all county extension offices on the CD. The 2007 Horticulture Highlights CD may be purchased at your local county extension office for \$11 which includes tax, or order online at: <http://www.uaex.edu/hortcd.htm> for \$10.25 plus shipping and tax. If ordered online the total cost is \$12.00. For more information contact your local county extension office.

The 2007 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show - "Carousel of Gardens" is just around the corner, March 2, 3 and 4, 2007 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. Attached is the volunteer sign up form.

Assignments will be finalized and volunteers contacted in mid- February. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ray Sarmiento at 803-9838 or Beth Phelps at bphelps@uaex.edu.

For more information about the 2007 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show visit www.arflowerandgardenshow.org

Raising a Greenhouse

Dunbar Garden is in need of a few hard working and willing volunteers to help us erect a greenhouse. The greenhouse will be the new home for our proposed aquaculture program and serve as another classroom for the children to utilize. This greenhouse will be erected on a concrete pad that has already been installed. It will require screwdrivers, ratchet sets, wrenches and pliers. I am in need of 6 to 8 volunteers on each scheduled work-day. Lunch will be provided.

The following days are scheduled as Greenhouse Construction days. We will work from 9 AM till 2 PM weather permitting. If the temperature is above freezing and it is not raining we will work that day.

Saturday, January 6, 2007, 9-2
Saturday, January 13, 2007, 9-2
Saturday, January 20, 2007, 9-2
Saturday, January 27, 2007, 9-2

Please pass this email along to anyone you think would be interested in helping Dunbar achieve this feat!

Contact me with your preferred work day schedule and I will make sure we have tools and lunch available for you.

Seed Catalogs Equal Winter Planning

By Debra Redding

After the Holidays, I am filled with excitement by what I know is just around the corner. My mailbox will soon be stuffed with seed catalogs from all over the country. This will then lead to my favorite winter time activity...the planning scheming and dreaming of my garden.

Whenever I see a seed catalog it always takes me back to my childhood. I remember my Mother and her friend getting together and ohing and ahing over the newly arrived seed catalog. As a child, I could not figure out exactly what they found so exciting about that

catalog with its endless pages and pictures of flowers. It would still be twenty years before I developed an interest in gardening. And now I know.

Here is a list of 20 websites that you might find interesting. Almost all of them will send you a seed catalog or you can choose to browse thru their online catalog. One of my favorite garden quotes is from Laura Simon, author of Dear Mr. Jefferson...Letters from a Nantucket Gardener.

"One thing I've learned about gardening, it's that those lush, bountiful beds of summer aren't achieved by inspired whim in the spring but by careful planning in the winter."

I wish you a warm, wonderful winter of planning!

www.cooksgarden.com

www.burpee.com

www.parkseed.com

www.johnnyseeds.com

www.thompson-morgan.com

www.territorial-seed.com

www.2bseeds.com

www.watersuntogether.com

www.seedsofchange.com

www.victoryseeds.com

www.thymegarden.com

www.stokeseeds.com

www.whiteflowerfarm.com

www.seedstrust.com

www.reneesgarden.com

www.rareseeds.com

www.gardeners.com

www.hwildflower.com

www.selectseeds.com

www.naturehills.com

2007 EVENTS
By Laurie Pierce

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.

Texas A&M University Office of Continuing and Professional Studies will conduct a five-day Turfgrass Ecology and Management course Jan. 22-26 in College Station, Texas. Preregistration is required. <http://capso.tamu.edu/all-programs/turfgrass>



Yarrow

By Lorraine Hensley

One of the items the earliest colonists brought with them to North America was Yarrow sometimes referred to as milfoil or bloodwort. This plant proved so useful that it wasn't long before yarrow found its way into the Native American's medicine bag. Used for medicinal purposes Yarrow was also important to surgeons during the American Civil War, where the crushed root was applied to bullet and shrapnel wounds.



Cultivated varieties of Yarrow (Achilles) have moved about so much they are now staples in gardens around the world. Though the yarrow is no longer widely used for medicinal purposes there is much to recommend them with their soft, aromatic clumps and exceptional performance as filler plants and along the edges of the garden.



"Moonshine," a hybrid found in England, resulted from a pairing of *Achillea taygetea* and *A. clypeolata* blends well with just about any other color in the garden. The gray-green fern shaped leaves and soft lemon yellow flowers place this yarrow on any gardener's list and as a bonus, the Moonshine yarrow blooms for long periods of time. Hardiness zones are 4 to 9 and the season of bloom is from June to September. Deadheading the spent flower heads encourages further blooming. The 16-24 inch sturdy stems keep the flowers erect which is another plus. Yarrow likes dry, unimproved soil with full sun and, like most plants, does not like wet feet. A heavy compacted soil is anathema to this plant. Allow for good air circulation to prevent fungal diseases and contact with the foliage can cause some skin irritation.

This hybrid spreads in the spring by sending out underground rhizomes. To propagate cut some into 1 and 1/2 pieces and plant about 1 and 1/2 inches deep. Propagate either in early spring or early fall. Either way the plants still have enough time to get comfortable prior to winter's arrival. Deadhead for continued bloom and cutting it back following its second bloom will help the sturdy-stalks keep the flower heads upright. The tough stalks on this yarrow will keep those flower heads standing tall. Even when not in bloom yarrow still looks good in the garden due to the neat 24-inch mound of gray-green foliage that also works to delineate the areas where stronger hued colors begin. This multi-use and low maintenance plant has earned space in anyone's garden.



Checklist By Linda Moyer

Annuals

Fertilize winter annuals regularly when we have any warm spell. Water regularly, especially before a heavy freeze.



General Yard

Winter has always been concerned the slowest time in the garden, but it can be very busy if you start planning for next year's garden. Now is the time to order seed catalogs. Remove plants that aren't thriving in their current locations. Try to ascertain the reason for the lack of success. Often it's a matter of planting depth, or an over-accumulation of mulch, or a diseased root system.

Indoors

Enjoy the blooms of forced bulbs such as hyacinth and paper whites. Amaryllis bulbs will add more color. Pot them and give a little water after you get them home. After growth starts, water well and keep in the sunlight. They will bloom in six to eight weeks. Stake because they will get tall and top heavy. If you are going to over winter poinsettias, place them in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now. Reduce watering and begin feeding again in spring. Don't allow potted azaleas to dry out. The soil must remain moist.



Lawns

Remove fallen leaves that may smother grass and plants. Apply lime to lawn in December or January.

Perennials & Bulbs

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp; but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early spring. Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early spring.

There is still time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Try to get them in the ground by the end of December to ensure they have ample chilling hours. If you can't plant immediately, store them in a cool location to start the chilling process. Spring bulbs need a minimum of 12 - 16 weeks of cool temperatures for them to be able to stretch and bloom. When planting, be sure to pick a site with well drained soil. Plant two to three times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground.



Roses

Don't prune roses until the early spring.

Trees & Shrubs

Plant camellias for winter color. They come in colors ranging from whites, to pinks, to reds, and mixtures. Anyone, who can grow azaleas, can grow camellias. Plant in a well drained area out of the afternoon sun. Evergreen trees and shrubs will drop some of their older leaves. If the flower buds and newer foliage at the end of the branch are ok, don't worry. It is normal. Be sure to water regularly if it doesn't rain.

Vegetables & Herbs

Start cool weather vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in 6-8 weeks. Check the Year-Round Home Garden Planting Chart (MP 422) by Dr. Steve E. Izbekor for a list of plants that can be planted in the lat winter and early spring. The chart is available from the county Cooperative Extension office. In late January, poppies and sweet peas can be planted directly in the ground. Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to

give the green materials time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather, if plants are mulched, it will resume in spring and produce greens into May. Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.



January Color

Camellias, heather, hellebores, hollies, winter honeysuckle and jasmine, mahonia, possum haw, flowering quince and witch hazel.

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.

FLOWER POWER

Can you find the hidden words?

L	L	C	J	A	E	A	A	V	M	U	I	T	R	U	T	S	A	N
O	U	R	H	A	I	W	I	E	A	I	N	U	T	E	P	A	P	P
B	P	T	T	R	I	C	O	N	L	P	I	L	U	T	I	O	R	I
E	I	E	N	V	O	S	A	S	E	A	K	N	A	L	P	I	M	C
L	N	N	I	E	Y	S	H	C	V	D	Z	M	H	P	M	M	U	E
I	D	I	C	R	N	A	E	C	A	N	R	A	Y	R	B	N	M	B
A	I	M	A	B	B	Z	L	C	U	A	D	A	O	E	D	D	E	O
L	H	S	Y	E	V	U	Y	U	R	F	R	S	G	B	P	N	H	U
H	C	A	H	N	A	C	T	T	M	H	E	O	I	W	S	O	T	G
I	R	J	T	A	L	D	S	T	I	I	N	I	V	M	S	I	N	A
B	O	P	E	A	I	I	P	V	E	I	R	O	R	A	I	T	A	I
I	E	N	M	N	D	E	L	V	A	R	J	P	J	R	E	A	S	N
S	S	E	M	I	O	U	X	Y	R	H	C	H	N	I	W	N	Y	V
C	N	G	P	N	T	E	L	O	I	V	V	U	T	G	L	R	R	I
U	C	S	Y	P	A	I	R	E	T	S	I	W	P	O	E	A	H	L
S	A	R	E	T	S	A	B	L	U	E	B	E	L	L	D	C	C	L
L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	V	Y	S	I	A	D	D	E	D	P	E
E	V	O	L	G	X	O	F	M	U	I	N	A	R	E	G	C	J	A
G	A	E	G	N	A	R	D	Y	H	S	I	R	I	C	A	L	I	L

ACACIA, ASPIDISTRA, ASTER, AZALEA, BEGONIA, BLUEBELL, BOUGAINVILLEA, BUTTERCUP, CARNATION, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CYCLAMEN, DAFFODIL, DAHLIA, DAISY, EDELWEISS, FOXGLOVE, FUCHSIA, GARDENIA, GERANIUM, HIBISCUS, HYACINTH, HYDRANGEA, IRIS, JASMINE, LILAC, LILY, LOBELIA, LUPIN, MARGOLD, NASTURTIUM, ORCHID, PEONY, PRIMROSE, PRIMULA, ROSE, TULIP, VERBENA, VIOLET, WISTERIA.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights by Jackie Wright

Board Meeting Highlights

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

The minutes were approved as circulated.

The balance in the treasury is \$17,265.43, \$1222.12 less that last month. Receipts YTD are \$14,523.43, and expenses are \$16,806.19. The treasurer's report was accepted. The new County Extension Financial person is Kileen Hawkins. Beth met with her for an hour to discuss record-keeping requirements.

Old Business

- The budget committee will meet before the next meeting by phone and e-mail, with the goal to present a budget in January. Jeff will coordinate the meeting.
- Beth reported that the Directory is pretty much finished. That committee will present a printing request at the next meeting.

New Business

- Leave of Absence Requests from Mickey Barsocci and Juli Oller were voted on and approved.
- Beth gave a report for the Stuff Committee chair, Claudia Barone. They have a new vendor for embroidered stuff. Orders in by December 1 will go out in December. The next order will be in April.
- License plates – we have exhausted our supply that we use for door prizes. Oxford can supply them for \$5.00 each. It was moved that we order 26. The motion was voted on and approved.

- Sandy announced that the Continuing Education Committee met on Nov. 1, 2006 to discuss the Long Range Plan. They voted to continue to follow existing guidelines. They will not be active until May, after the International meeting. A written report is filed with these minutes.
- Jim Dyer announced that the January meeting for Project Chairs is tentatively set for Wednesday, January 24, or Thursday, January 25 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hays Center in North Little Rock. He will ask Dick Blankenkemper to make the arrangements.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Membership Meeting Highlights

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday November 21, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. President, Marilyn Tilley, presided.

Marilyn introduced our new members, and then recognized Maurice Dillion as our 2006 Friend of Master Gardeners.

Announcements

- Social Chair Winkle Hughes announced that the Christmas party will be on December 12 at 6:30. The cost will be \$10 each and is due December 8.
- There will be a project chair meeting in January.
- Photographs and data are posted. Please make needed corrections.
- Thanks were given to the social committee for planning the reception for the new members.

Beth Phelps made the following announcements:

- Stuff orders must be postmarked by December 1. The next order will be in March. Orders will be sent in quarterly. We have a new supplier for embroidered stuff and also have "ladies" style shirts. Photos of the merchandise are on the sticky board in the hall.

- Get your hours in as soon as possible. Last year we worked more than 17,000 hours.
- Please register for the Flower and Garden show and the International Meeting.

Ila Newberry donated two tickets to the LSU Football game. The tickets were auctioned to the highest bidder, which was \$260 to be deposited in the Master Gardener account.

There will be no meeting in December.

The meeting adjourned and the members were entertained at the reception for new members.



Ten Year Awardees -Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Maurice Dillon
2006 Friend of Master Gardeners

Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Fifteen Yr Lifetime Awards 2006-Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Five Year Awardees -Photo Courtesy of David Werling



Lavon Spears Getting Fifteen Year Pin Photo
Courtesy of David Werling

**Welcome to the newsletter staff
Debra Redding!
We look forward to working with you!**

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



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
jratley@execustaymidwest.com

661-1677

The deadline is the second Friday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

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