

Pulaski County Master Minutes

June, 2007

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

Volume 17, Issue 6



The program for the June Master Gardener meeting will be a panel of Pulaski County Master Gardeners. The panel will address horticultural questions asked them by the attending Master Gardener members. Questions concerning roses, annuals, perennials, vegetables and herbs will be addressed.



Raised Beds

By Lorraine Hensley

Just because the gardener is working with a limited amount of yard space doesn't mean he can't still grow some of his favorite veggies for his own table. There's nothing quite like the taste of true home grown tomatoes or crispy bell peppers. And these can be grown in small raised beds. Try it and I think you'll enjoy the experience.

There are so many rocks, poor soil and hills in central Arkansas many home gardeners prefer to

use raised beds when they design landscaping around their homes. Most shrubbery and plants are in raised beds but you might want to think vegetables and see what happens. For it's a pretty much fool proof way to give your plants a home they can "live" with. And that's the name of the game--flourishing and healthy plants. If this is what you are either currently doing or contemplating then be aware that careful planning is essential for this type of gardening. Consider how you want the completed project to look as you build and place your beds. These things are going to be with you for a long while so make them of concrete blocks or rot-resistant materials such as lumber which has been treated for outdoor use or perhaps you can find some used railroad ties. Consider the inevitable weeding any garden requires and size your beds accordingly. Be good to yourself or to anyone who weeds those beds by making them no more than 3--4 feet wide. They can then be tended without ever stepping into the bed.

Raised beds need a well-drained site with at least 6 hours of sunlight daily. Since the beds are never stepped in after they have been constructed plan for paths about 1-2 feet wide between them to accommodate the gardener. And this is all before you think about the necessary soil which can come from your local plant nursery or maybe as you remove soil to build and lay out the paths between beds you will have all you need. Don't forget to work in several inches of organic matter in whatever you decide to use. A soil test from your local extension office or big box store will tell you if you need additional soil supplements.

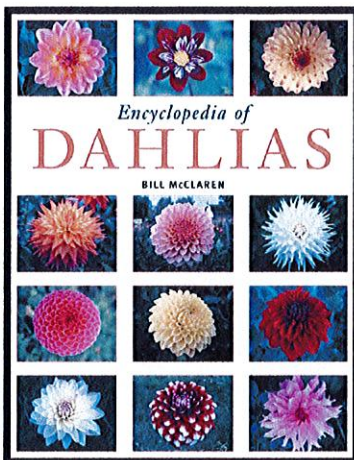
Know that although raised beds warm up faster in the spring they also dry out faster as the weather warms up. This translates to earlier veggies for the table and also more irrigation for the garden. Some experts recommend planting vegetables in blocks instead of rows and to interplant crops which mature at different times. Experiment until you find the method that fits your purpose and garden. Most of all--simply enjoy the whole process.

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Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding



Encyclopedia of Dahlias

Author Bill McClaren

Hardcover with 211 pages

If you are a dahlia lover, you will truly enjoy this delightful and beautifully illustrated encyclopedia. Nearly 700 dahlias are included, complete with notes on their history, awards and cultural peculiarities. 800 photographs of the most beautiful dahlias ever. Additional chapters on dahlia care and propagation and the proper care of tubers make this a very well rounded reference. I include dahlias in my garden every year and found this book fascinating. Dahlias in the landscape are breath taking. You will find them to be a beautiful and easy-to-grow garden flower. This book makes a good gift for any dahlia lover or gardener.

About the Author

Bill McClaren has been growing and showing dahlias for nearly 50 years. For the past 20 years, he has hybridized all forms of dahlias; over 100 of his varieties are listed in the American Dahlia Society Handbook. He is a member of the American Dahlia Society, serving 10 years as research chairman, and is the founder of the Montana Dahlia Society. He instructs dahlia judging schools throughout the USA and Canada.

"Hayes Starburst" Hydrangea

William R. Bowen

A new Hydrangea cultivar, 'Hayes Starburst' was discovered as a spontaneous seedling in the rocky hillside garden of Hayes Jackson just north of Anniston, Alabama. Hayes is the urban regional extension agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Anniston, AL, where he works with local community-based programs concerning urban horticulture and environmental issues and he Calhoun County Master Gardeners. He also earned an MS in biology from Jacksonville State University where yours truly was head of the Biology Department from 1990 to 2001. Hayes has botanized and collected in China, the Himalayas, Japan, Korea, Guatemala, Viet Nam and Thailand, seeking plants for Southern landscapes, many of which he has incorporated into his own seven-acre garden. However, one of his best finds comes from his own backyard: the *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Hayes Starburst.'



A superb new cold hardy Hydrangea, 'Hayes Starburst' has a relatively compact growth habit of 3-4 ft H and W. It has sterile inflorescences with double star-shaped inflorescences, which develop new petals from the center of each flower over many weeks. This results in a much longer flowering time than that of the existing *H. Arborescens* varieties. It likes sunny to light shaded areas that are well drained. Pruning before the end of February apparently results in long stems with large inflorescences whereas no pruning produces more and smaller flower heads. 'Hayes Starburst' is also extremely popular and very difficult to find. I was able to locate bare-root plants and 3 of 4 are still alive. Presumably they are relatively fast to grow.

Calendar

by Laurie Pierce

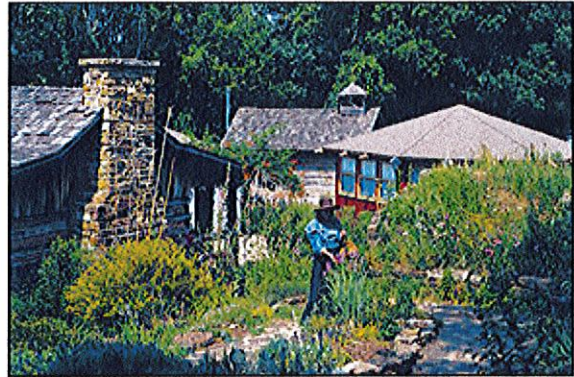


June

The 2007 Southern Living Idea House in Red Oak Ridge, Hot Springs, offers \$5 tours from June through Sept. 30. Nestled between lakes Catherine and Hamilton, Red Oak Ridge is an 800-acre, gated community developed by Chenal Properties, Inc., and includes trails, two fishing lakes and a private pool. The Red Oak Ridge idea house is a 4,500-square-foot brick home with Georgian and French architectural influences designed by Rick Gary of Plano, Texas, and will be featured in the August issue of Southern Living magazine. More information at 800-888-7749 or redoakridge.com.

July

The Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, and the Whitaker Music Festival will host an old-fashioned Independence Day on the lawn of the Cohen Amphitheater with music by The Flying Mules beginning at 7:30 p.m. July 4. Garden admission is free after 5 p.m., and the Children's Garden will remain open until 7 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. Pack a picnic or purchase sandwiches and beverages on site. No pets or barbecue grills, please. Call (800) 642-8842 for details or visit mobot.org.



Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, will conduct Herbal Cold Soap Making Workshop July 5-7. Herbal instructor Marion Spear will teach the cold methods of soap making with natural herbs for therapeutic properties and rejuvenating scents and students will go home with 25 or more bars of sweet-smelling, healthful, hand-made soap. The cost is \$150, and included all tools and supplies, but does not include room and board at the state park. Details at (870) 269-3851, ozarkfolkcenter@arkansas.com or ozarkfolkcenter.com.

"Red Hat Tea", a tea party on the veranda, will be at 3 p.m. July 10 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs. The tea party costs \$13 for GWG members, \$16 for non-members. The theme for the Aug. 14 Tuesday tea party will be "Teddy Bear Tea." In inclement weather, tea parties will be served in the Millsap Bride's Hall. Reservations at (800) 366-4664 or garvangardens.org.

Those interested in volunteering at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, are invited to a volunteer training session titled "Summer Interests & Ornamental Grasses" on July 12. Garden director Bob Byers will teach about summer interest in Garvan Woodland Gardens from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Gene Lichliter will talk about ornamental grasses from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Aug. 2 volunteer training is titled "Ferns & Garden of the Pine Wind" and will feature local fern expert Don Crank and a tutorial on the Garden of the Pine Wind by Bob Byers. Pre-registration is required for volunteer training: (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.

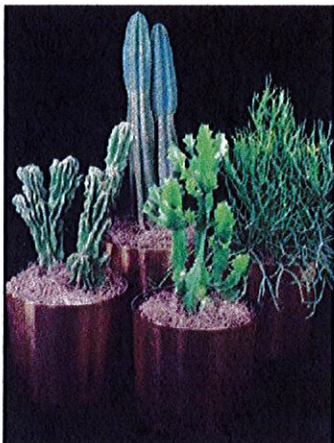
Memphis Botanic Garden will host a Japanese Garden Candlelight Tour 7-9 p.m. on July 12th.

The first hour will be filled with activities and information on various traditions from Japanese culture such as dance and drumming, while the second hour will feature stories of Japanese folklore and garden symbolism while touring the candlelit garden. The cost is \$8, \$5 for garden members. (901) 685-1566, Ext. 110 or memphisbotanicgarden.com.

The Shaw Nature Reserve, Gray Summit, Mo., will conduct a workshop titled "Gardening in Dry Sun and Shade" 1-4 p.m. July 12. The cost is \$12.

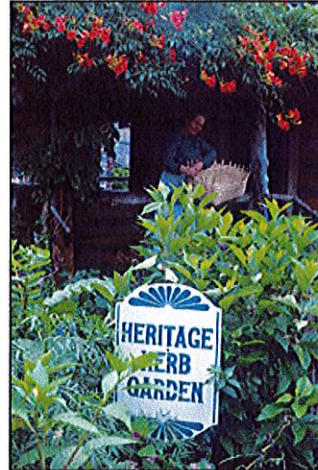
Forthcoming workshops include "Prairie Reconstruction: Site Prep and Seed Collecting" on Aug. 9 and "Prairie Reconstruction: Seeding and Maintenance" on Sept. 6. Details at shawnature.org or (636) 451-3512.

Earth Ways Center, 3617 Grandel Square, St. Louis, will host a class titled "Greening Your Home? No Greenwashing Allowed!" from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 19. The class will focus on the basics of true green building and the pitfalls of "greenwashing:" claims of green that are not really green. The cost is \$15 and includes a pizza dinner. Register by telephone or email: (314) 577-0220 or earthways.center@mobot.org



The Henry Shaw Cactus Society will host its 65th annual show and sale July 21-29 at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. Details at hscactus.org or (800) 642-8842.

Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, will host Christmas in July on July 25. The morning workshop will feature traditional Ozark herbal cooking; the afternoon session will focus on herbal Christmas crafts and gifts. The cost is \$65 and includes lunch. Details at (870) 269-3851, ozarkfolkcenter@arkansas.com or ozarkfolkcenter.com.



"Chapungu: Nature, Man, and Myth," a collection of 23 contemporary African stone carvings of people, animals and mythical creatures by the Shona artists of Zimbabwe will be on exhibit at the Missouri Botanical Garden through Oct. 31. The exhibition is primarily outdoors, but smaller works are on display and for sale inside the Brookings Center. Admission to see the carvings is free with regular garden admission or membership. On Thursday evenings in July, "Chapungu Nights" will feature self-guided tours, live music and cocktails. Admission to "Chapungu Nights" costs \$10 (\$5 for garden members). Call (800) 642-8842 for details or visit mobot.org.

August

"Nature Arts: Mind, Body, & Soul" is the theme for a garden craft workshop 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 20 at Memphis Botanic Garden. Two of Memphis' best multi-media artists will lead students in creating three personalized projects with a focus on nature's gifts: a handmade journal for the mind, a body pampering project and a decor item to please the soul. The cost is \$65, \$60 for members of the botanic garden. Bring your own lunch to enjoy on the garden grounds during the mid-day break. (901) 685-1566 or memphisbotanicgarden.com.



Project Spotlight

Park Hill Water Works Project

By Carol Randall

Monday mornings will find Gena Norris and her committee members working at the Park Hill Water Works Project. The Water Works is located north of West "D" Street on Magnolia Street in the Park Hill area of North Little Rock. Standing here are a "Firehouse" and the Water Works Building. Both buildings are made of rock built in the Art Deco style of the 1930s.



Committee members are: Arline Jackson; Lois Clifton; Peggy Gay; Cindy Somervell; Lynda Harkenreader; Shirley McGrew; Jane Diesing; Michael Strobel; Sue Anderson; Lisa Bomar; Oneal Dedman; Rose Shields and (s) Margaret Breen.

Before 1999, the committee was at a location called the Victorian Cottage. It was on Main Street in North Little Rock across the street from the North Little Rock Argenta Library. The city sold the cottage so the committee picked up its plants and moved to the Water Works Building. At that time, the North Little Rock History Commission was located in the Water Works Building. The building was owned by the North Little Rock Water Department. It is now owned by Central Arkansas Water who is allowing the North Little Rock Department of Volunteerism to utilize the space.

The scheduled workday is Monday morning. Work starts anytime from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. depending on how hot it is. At this time the committee is working on the "Get there as soon

as you can" schedule. Some members who cannot work on Monday volunteer to water and weed and dead head. Other members who can not come on Mondays "sneak" up to trim hedges and spray round-up on the rock walkways. All work is greatly appreciated.

The project members do everything they can to make the garden beautiful and an enjoyment for the neighborhood. This project is located off the beaten path for most people. The neighbors, however, appreciate the work; they often stop, admire and comment.

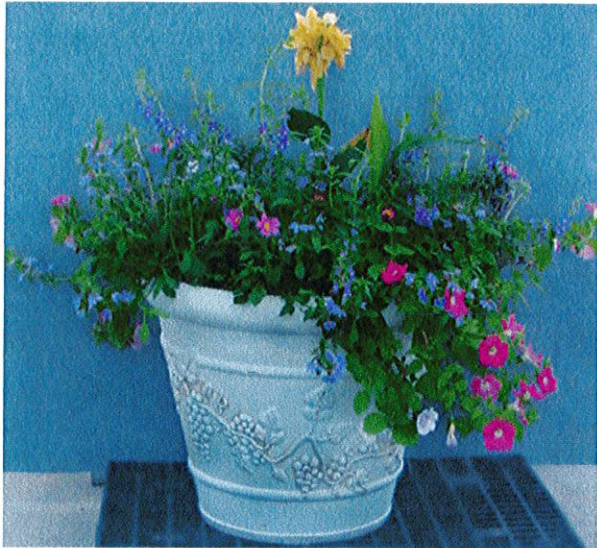
Plants used in this project include: Autumn Joy Sedum; Yarrow; Phlox; Peonies; Lilies; Turks Cap; Perennial Geranium; Perennial Sage; Butterfly Guara; Pentas; Butterfly Weed; Pink Flowering Almond; Bridal Wreath Spirea; Ladies' Mantle; Hostas; Strawberry Begonia; Cannas and Muscadine. There is also an Herb Garden. The committee tries to be a garden with several different specimens or "pass- a-longs".

The goal for our project is to continue to try different types of plants. All members are encouraged to try any plant they wish to. They strive to plant mostly perennials with different types of annuals for color.

Go off the beaten path and enjoy the beautiful flower beds at the Park Hill Water Works.



Container Gardening



There are many reasons for container gardening. To list them all would be a big task so I will just name a few; disabled with a need for easy accessibility, gardeners with problem soil, homeowners with little or no land, elderly with limited mobility, apartment/condominium dwellers, and plant lovers who just can't get enough of nature. The question is which category do I fit in? Well I hate the word elderly (who in the world thought up such a hateful word), but I suppose that is where I fit in. I find that as much as I would love to, I can no longer dig a flower bed, pull weeds, and drag around heavy hoses from one side of the garden to another. It is sad, but a fact that I must learn to accept. That fact however doesn't have to keep me from loving to plant and keeping a very beautiful garden of containers filled to the brim with lovely plants.

Convenience plays a big part in container gardening. Having everything at my fingertips is a tremendous advantage. The mobility of container gardening makes it easy to rearrange and re-sculpture my garden and to add new elements of interest and beauty. Just as a garden can be a work of art, a well planned container garden can be attractive as well as useful. Carefully selecting plants will result in a beautiful, yet functional display...

Appropriate containers are available in many sizes, shapes and materials. All containers whether clay, wood, plastic, or ceramic should

have an adequate number of holes in the bottom for good drainage as it is essential to the growth of plants. I prefer the lightweight plastic container for ease of handling.

A fairly lightweight mix is needed for container gardening. Container medium must be porous in order to support plants, because roots require both air and water. Package potting soil available at local garden centers is relatively lightweight and makes a good medium.

Fertilize plants with the recommended rate of a water-soluble fertilizer every two to three weeks.

An occasional application of fish emulsion or compost will add trace elements to the soil. Do not add more than the recommended rate of any fertilizer. Doing so may cause fertilizer burn and kill plants.



Pay particular attention to watering container plants, because the volume of soil is relatively small, containers can dry out very quickly, especially if they are on a concrete patio or in full sunlight. Apply water until it runs out of the drainage hole. Clay pots require watering more frequently because of the porous material. Selecting plants for the pots is a place to let love of art and composition come into play. Plant what you like, I do. It is my own little garden and I try to play around with colors, small plants, some tall, some short, some upright, and some draping over the edge of the pot. Select plants for the light requirement and let Mother Nature do her work.

Happy Gardening
Susie Gillihan

Pictures from the International Master Gardener Conference

Photos by Bren Coop



IMGC Welcome



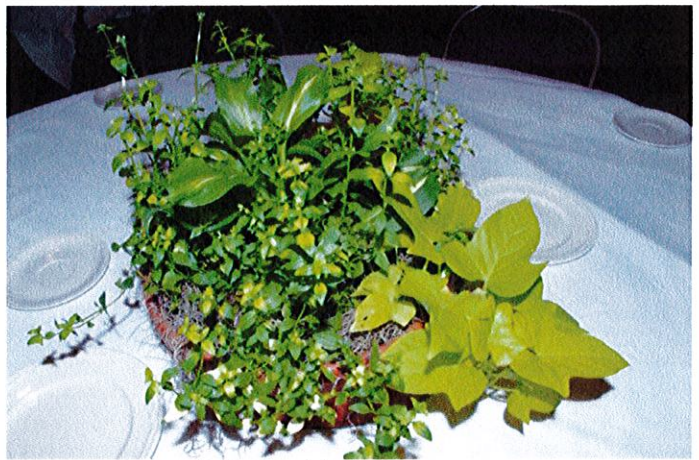
Brenda Ferralasco, a volunteer from Jonesboro, working at the registration desk, assisting another volunteer



T Shirts and extra bags waiting extradition



How many Master Gardeners does it take...?



IMGC Table Topper



Flower beds at the Curtis home



Barry Thomas' pond on tour



Barbara and Alf Koros



P Allen Smith Garden Retreat
Photos by Lynn Winningham



Lynn Phelps MG Volunteer, Jet Cuffman & Patty Wingfield



Marilyn Tilley in her backyard

The travel committee has a trip planned for June 23rd to East End Community to a great daylily show. There will be 85 different daylilies blooming to be admired and purchased. Lunch will be at the Bistro in East End and plan on visiting several roadside vendors afterwards. We will meet at the Shackelford Commuter parking lot at 9 a.m.

Previous trip for June planned for Sheridan has been postponed until September because of the freeze.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Board met on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Jet Cuffman, Mary Freeman, Beth Phelps, Jim Dyer, Don Davis, Jim Silvi, Jackie Wright and Judy Woodard. Jim Dyer presided.

The minutes of the April meeting were accepted as circulated. The minutes of the February meeting were corrected as follows: The request for funds by the Pathfinders Greenhouse was to build a misting system.

The treasurer's report was given by Mary Freeman. The report is included with these minutes. The motion was approved. Mary reported that the Maumelle Community Center asked for \$200 to purchase flagstones and mulch to finish a walkway. The motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Beth reported that the IMGC expenses came in within the budget. The silent auction netted approximately \$4600.
- The Audit report was submitted and is included with the minutes. The report states that the books are in good order; there are no discrepancies and no recommendations. The report was accepted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Margery Long requested Sustainer Status. The board voted to grant her sustainer status.
- Beth announced that Dick Blankenbeker would like us to partner with the North Little Rock Tree board to present an educational program about trees. We would be a co-sponsor but would not incur any financial responsibility. Jim Silvi moved that we participate with the NLRTB on an educational workshop on trees. Don second the motion. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Beth reminded the board that it is time for the nominating committee to begin its work. June is our last meeting before the summer break and the slate will need to be presented

at the September meeting. Sandy will be the chair.

- Don Davis announced that the program for June will be a panel discussion and question and answers from the members.

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners Membership met on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at St. James Methodist Church at 11:30 a.m. First Vice President Jim Dyer presided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jim announced that the audit committee met and congratulated Mary and Judy for keeping out books straight.
- Jim announced that the project chairs need to plan for changes in leadership if such is needed.
- Lois Corley announced that the spring greenhouse sales netted \$3,574.05. They had more plants to sell because of contributions by the Pathfinder Greenhouse.
- Wincie Hughes announced that the spring picnic will be Thursday night at 6:30 at Camp Aldersgate. Corky's BarBQ will cater and Alex Stewart and his string band will entertain.
- Marcella Grimmett announced that there will be a Herb Society program on Sat. May 18.
- Bob Bray announced a May 31 road trip to Searcy. Details are attached.
- Mary Wildgen thanked her committee for their hard work on "Taste of Arkansas," a very popular event at the international meeting and asked that the members thank those businesses that participated.
- Beth made the following announcements:
- Thanks to all for hard work on IMGC. 1208 were registered, making this the largest meeting ever.
- CDs containing photos and handouts from the meeting are available for \$5.00
- Speakers, programs and handouts will be on the website later this month.
- Upcoming events are on the sticky board.
- Purple Irls are on the sidewalk for those who wish to pick them up.
- Please pick up your ice chests at the county office.

Don Davis introduced the speaker. Larry Avril presented a program and power point about coleus.

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/mastergardenersonly>

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 2006, these volunteers gave **23,418** hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent, Staff Chair

Don't forget to report your hours to the extension office every month!

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
661-1677

The deadline is the second Friday of each month.

For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
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2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

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- Dave Hermanson
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- Linda Moyer
- Laurie Pierce
- Jennice Ratley
- Carol Randle
- Debra Redding
- Libby Thalheimer

Photographers



- Jim Dyer
- Cheryl Kennedy
- David Werling
- Lynn Winningham