

Pulaski County Master Minutes

July, 2007

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

Volume 17, Issue 7

Garden Thugs

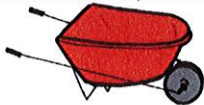
By: Lorraine Hensley

Garden thugs are those plants that are not native to an area and take over when they move in. The takeover maneuvers damage the natives that had been doing just fine—thank you. And that sounds like thuggish behavior to me. Those plants are literally taking over turf that doesn't belong to them.

Plants that gardeners generally consider invasive such as the aggressive dandelions, forget-me-nots and others the gardener could name do not make the list of garden thugs. Although they may be busy spreading outside their garden parameters and present a continuing maintenance problem for the gardener they are not true garden thugs.

These thugs are a non-native species that came to this country with some of the early settlers. They were brought with a purpose in mind for some were used as ornamentals, others for erosion control and yet others were used as fencing materials. They had jobs to do and did them quite well. So well these non-natives are out of control and are displacing our native plants and endangering the fragile relationships existing in these plant colonies.

Awareness for the gardener brings the responsibility to monitor plants in his own garden for these invasive garden thugs quickly spread to natural areas and destroy those habitats. And no one wants that to happen. Gardeners can help lessen this destruction by tending their own back yards with care. Keep an eye out and when a suspected plant is in flower take it to your local extension office for identification purposes and recommendations for plant control.



Purple loosestrife is considered as a noxious weed in some states but for a long time it was sold in others as a perennial plant that was not picky about soil requirements and whose bright lavender-pink flower stalks were considered a nice addition to the garden. Removing this plant bully requires digging up the whole planting and if that's too difficult the gardener may cut it off at ground level.

If this is done the plant stump must be painted with an appropriate herbicide which is repeated as often as necessary. If all that time and effort are required to remove one plant imagine what it would require to remove several. And this is just one of the problem plants.

Checking with your local extension office is the best course of action to take when the gardener is confronted with plants considered garden thugs in his or other states. The last thing we, as gardeners, need to do is ignore our responsibility to help curtail these insidious plants. We can fill the role of "plant buster" in our own back yards.

Trading Post

Kathleen Wesson 663-9146 has Cast Iron Plant and Variegated Jasmine

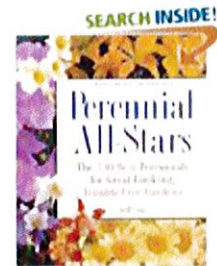
Arkansas Is Our Campus

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 Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.

Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

Perennial All Stars—The 150 Best Perennials for Great-Looking, Trouble-Free Gardens
Author: Jeff Cox
Hardcover with 344 pages



About The Author:

Gardeners across the country have gotten to know Jeff Cox through his columns in "Organic Gardening" magazine and as the host of HGTV's show "Grow It". Jeff is an enthusiastic gardener with more than one dozen books to his credit. He has over 25 years of gardening experience, has gardened in Pennsylvania and currently in California. Each of the 150 perennial all stars have a dedicated 2 pages with beautiful full color photographs. For each of the all-stars there are complete details regarding how to grow, how to propagate, the right site and the perfect co-stars. This book is very interesting and useful. You should plan on doing some digging when you read it and you may even wear out your first copy! "Each and every perennial in this book is an excellent garden plant that is truly worthy of the title perennial all-star"——Jeff Cox

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.
- Doug Larson

Positively Arkansas on Channel 11 started a gardening segment titled Master Gardener Monday in Feb 2006. The segment is scheduled every two weeks and has featured several of our Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Debra Redding has been featured consistently for the past 16 months and was recently asked to do the gardening segment on a weekly basis. She will begin doing weekly segments in September!
Congrats Debra!

Fun With New Plants

By Trudy Goolsby

I enjoy trying out new plants in my garden. Luckily, garden centers surprise me every year with unusual plants. Three years ago I saw Angelonia and fell in love with it. It blooms all summer with orchid-like flowers on stalks. They come in purple, lavender, lavender pink, and white. The plants get 2 to 3 feet high, are drought and heat resistant, and need no staking or deadheading. I cannot have enough of them. Unfortunately, they do not come in six packs, and full grown plants are pricey. Park Seed Company now offers seeds. I had no problem getting them up. Just start them around the 15th of January. Last year I found a blue-black Salvia (Blue Anis Sage). It is a perennial, grows 3 to 4 feet high, and has intense ultramarine blue flowers. They are tubular and are held at the stalk with a black tube. Bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds like them. This salvia from Texas should make it through our winters (zone 8 - 10) with mulch. Mine did. This spring I spotted a lemon-yellow Cape Fuchsia. It is another plant with tubular flowers, but these are hanging down in masses. The plants get 4 to 5 feet tall, have shiny green leaves, and get this: they are evergreen in zone 7 and warmer. I am looking forward to seeing how the plant will do. The Brooklyn Botanic Garden website states that there are cultivars with red, peach, and pink flowers available.



Pictures from the Maumelle Center



Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

**A Vegetable Garden
Without which no home is complete.**

Planting for Success:
First you plant 3 rows of peas
Perseverance
Politeness
Prayer
Next to the peas, you plant 2 rows of squash
Squash gossip
Squash criticism
Next to the squash, you plant 3 rows of lettuce
Let us be happy
Let us love one another
Let us be honest
No garden is complete without turnips
Turn up for church
Turn up with ideas
Turnip up with determination
God gave us 2 end:
On to sit on
One to think with
Success depends on which ever end you use
best:
Heads you win
Tails you lose

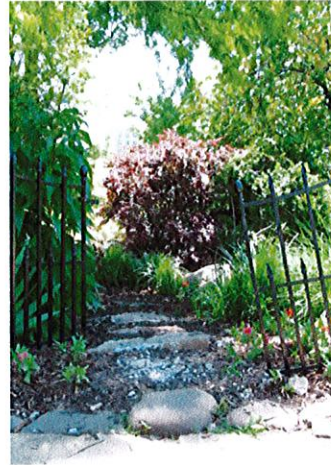
By Father Andrew Bauchak

Contemplation Garden



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

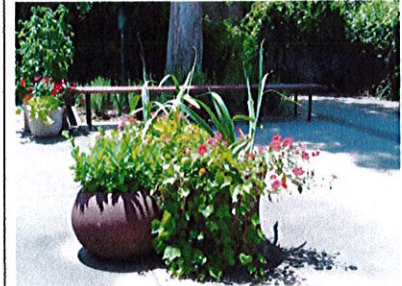
Contemplation Garden, continued



**God made rainy days, so gardeners could
get the housework done.**



Arkansas Arts Center



Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

Calendar by Laurie Pierce



July

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.

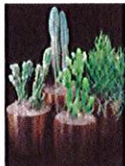
Those interested in volunteering at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, are invited to a volunteer training session titled "Summer Interests & Ornamental Grasses" on July 12. Garden director Bob Byers will teach about summer interest in Garvan Woodland Gardens from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and Gene Lichliter 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.



August

Those interested in volunteering at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, are invited to a volunteer training session titled "Ferns & Garden of the Pine Wind" on Aug. 2. The training sessions will feature local fern expert Don Crank and a tutorial on the Garden of the Pine Wind by Bob Byers. Pre-registration is required: (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.

The 2007 Southern Living Idea House in Red Oak Ridge, Hot Springs, offers \$5 tours 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.

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"Teddy Bear Tea," a tea party on the veranda, will be at 3 p.m. Aug. 14 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs. In case of inclement weather, tea will be served in the Millsap Bride's Hall. Reservations at (800) 366-4664 or garvangardens.org.

"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.

"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.





Checklist By Carol Randle

ANNUALS

Keep your annuals deadheaded. Especially in the heat of summer your annuals (and all plants) need to be watched for signs of wilting. Be sure your plants get enough water. Plants in containers will need watering daily to maintain their good looks. Mulching flower beds will help to conserve moisture and keep your plants looking pretty. Water early in the morning so your plants will be fresh in the hot afternoon sun. Fertilize annuals, peonies, and camellias early in June.

ROSES

Feed roses with a complete fertilizer in June. Weed well. Remove faded blooms and clean up around plant. Watch for aphids, mildew, and blackspot and spray when necessary. Cut roses above a five-leaf cluster to encourage growth. Plant chives or garlic in between roses to discourage aphids.

GENERAL YARD CARE

Pick up all leaves and faded flowers and add them to the compost pile. They are a favorite spot for slugs and snails to hide. Turn and dampen your compost often. Flies will breed in the grass clippings if you do not turn it regularly.

BULBS

In early June divide narcissus bulb clumps. If you decide to store bulbs rather than leaving them in the ground, remember to replant in late summer or early fall. Wait until the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs turns yellow before removing. Lift and replant Lycoris as foliage yellows. This prevents it from getting too deep as it multiplies. Iris should be left alone for 6 weeks after blooming. Then lift and divide and cut back foliage to 3 inches.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Harvest your lettuce, peas, carrots, radishes, and onions now. The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day. That's when they contain the most sugar. Other vegetables, such as lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them. Blossom end rot on tomatoes, caused by calcium deficiency, can be treated with 'Stop Rot'. Dust corn and potatoes with Sevin.

LAWNS

Water lawns regularly. Deep water lawns, trees, and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and avoid heat stress. Watch for yellow patches, leaf curl, or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs. Set your lawnmower at a higher level. Taller grass will shade the roots from heat. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile. Never add your cuttings after a weed treatment. Install new edging around borders and beds and check existing edging after storms. Don't install edging after long periods of rain because the ground will swell and once it dries the edging will move.

JUNE BLOOMS

Alstroemeria, Artemesia, Asters, Astilbe, Balloon Flowers, Beauty-Berry, Blackberries, Buddleia, Cannas, Columbine, Coreopsis, Daisies, Day Lilies, Delphinium, Dianthus, Hydrangeas, Japanese Iris, Lantana, Magnolia, Mint, Monarda, Nandina, Oxalis, Petunia, Phlox, English primrose, Roses, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Spirea, Strawberries, Sweet Peas, Sweet William, Thyme, Verbena, Yarrow and Yucca.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Board met on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, at 10 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Present were Mary Freeman, Beth Phelps, Marilyn Tilley, Jim Dyer, Jet Cuffman, Sandy Harrison, Jackie Wright and Judy Woodard. Chair, Marilyn Tilley, presided.

The minutes of the May meeting were accepted. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Mary Freeman. Mary reported that the Greenhouse sales were \$2,098.80. The Spring Picnic cost more than expected because Corky's bid did not include tax in their original quote. Income for the year exceeds expenses by \$2791.28 because we have not yet been billed for the printing of the notebooks.

Old Business

- IMGC requires 16 hours to qualify for reduced registration fee. Therefore any hours earned over the 16 required may be applied to county project hours.
- More than 4,000 volunteer hours were contributed to IMGC.

New Business

- Reinstatement was approved for Tom Bruce and Debra Fuqua with the requirement that Debra work the telephones for 20 hours because she dropped out of the program before she completed this requirement.
- The board discussed a suggestion to start a Care Committee that would earn volunteer hours working in fellow Master Gardeners' home gardens when they are disabled or had a short term situation that limited their ability to garden i.e. long term illness of a family member. The consensus was that this is something we should do when the opportunity arises but that earned hours should be limited to sanctioned public service projects.
- Sandy asked for suggestions for the nominating committee. Their report is to be presented in the September Master Minutes and election will be held at the October Master Gardener meeting.

- AEDQ invited the PCMG to have a booth at their Watershed Appreciation Day, September 8th. Jackie Wright volunteered to be the lead in putting the display together and organize Master Gardeners to staff the booth from 4 to 8 p.m.
- The August board meeting date was set for Tuesday, August 21 at 9 a.m. It will include a potluck salad luncheon. Business for that meeting is project evaluations and member applications.
- Elizabeth Dillon requested an additional \$300 be approved for the Governor's Mansion vegetable garden project. They want to purchase new tomato cages and cucumber trellises. The cost of these purchases will include their \$100 appropriation. Sandy moved the expense be approved. Judy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Announcements

- Beth announced that the Pinnacle Mountain project was nominated for the 1007 Take Pride in America Award given by the U.S. Department of Interior.
- Claudia Barone, River Market Project Chair asked Beth to bring to the board her frustration with Master Gardeners not following through with their project commitment and not responding to her efforts to contact them. There was discussion about the fact that this a perennial frustration for committee chairs. There was also discussion about requiring volunteer hours being tied to project committees. No motion was made and the board will revisit this issue at a later date.

PULASKI COUNTY MASTERS GARDENERS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, June 19, 2007, at 11:30 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. President Marilyn Tilley called the meeting to order and invited committee chairs to give their reports.

Lois Corley (Greenhouse) reported that they have bags of irises for sale for \$1.00 per bag, also that the greenhouse is finished until the fall.

Bob Bray (Travel Committee) reported that all trips have had good turnouts with 20 attending the trip to Mark Grumbine's Iris Farm, 44 to Ann Woods in Searcy and 19 to East End Daylily Farm. The next trip will be to Dollie Fusslies' in Sheridan on Sept. 22. We will meet at 9:45 am at the commuter parking lot.

Merilyn Tilley made the following announcements:

- Thanks to the Social Committee for a successful picnic.
- The Pinnacle Project was nominated for an award. It was a finalist in a program called "Take Pride In America" offered by the Dept. of Interior.
- We will have a Master Gardener booth at Watershed Appreciation Day Sept. 8 at War Memorial. Jackie Wright will chair this project. Call her if interested in helping man the booth hours that will need to be covered are 4-8 p.m.
- NLR Laman Library will offer Summer Gardening Seminars.
- Rochelle Greenwood brought white bearded irises to give away after the meeting.

Beth Phelps made the following announcements:

- She thanked all new members who have completed their phone time and reminded those who haven't to please contact her.
- There will be no meetings in July & August but the newsletter will continue to go out.

Program: Panel of Master Gardeners-Gardening Questions & Answers. Panel consists of: Jane Gulley, Mary Evans, Martha Basinger, and Mary Roark.

Merilyn Tilley closed the meeting & reminded everyone not to forget their own projects for their hours and no meetings in July & August.



Photo By Lynn Winningham

Martha Basinger, Mary Evans, Mary Roark & Jane Gulley



Photo by Cheryl Kennedy

Left to right: James Christian, handmade cedar bird feeder; Ann Green, Square Foot Gardening book; Laura Robinette, tote; Theresa Crowson, vegetable basket from Martha Basinger's garden; Wanda Bray, peony; Susan Rose, peony; and Don Ford, T-shirt.

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.athomeandgarden.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.athomeandgarden.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
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



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- Dave Hermanson
- Helen Hronas
- Julia Loyall
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- Cheryl Kennedy
- David Werling
- Lynn Winningham