

Pulaski County Master Minutes

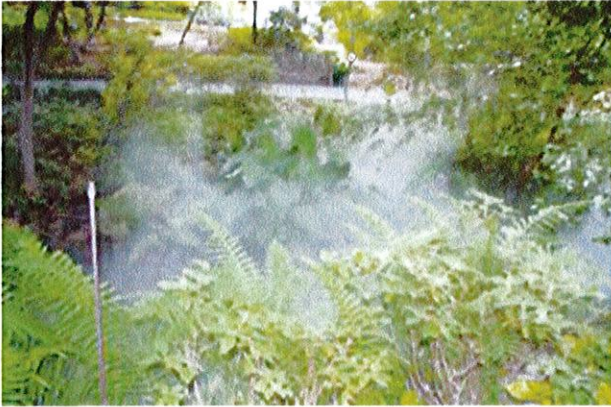
August, 2007

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

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Dallas Arboretum/Botanic Garden

By Bren Coop



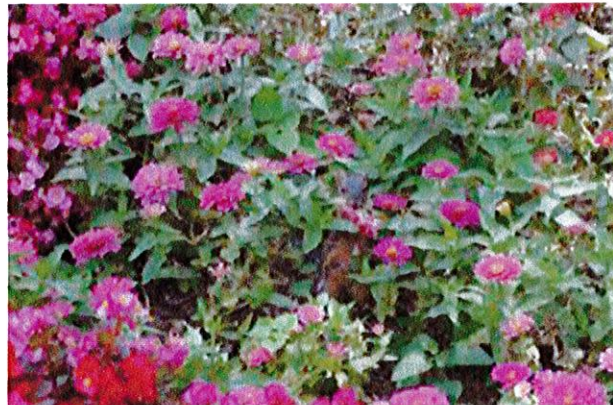
"From the whimsical to the divine" ...that's the way Martha Coop described this fabulous, 66-acre garden when we visited there in June. The weather was pretty warm—(we recommend going earlier in the spring or in the fall when the temperatures start to mediate)—but we had a grand time and definitely recommend that you put Dallas on your list of gardens to visit if you haven't already done so!

The gardens are divided into areas which can be visited to fulfill a particular interest in case you don't want to spend an entire day wandering around trying to take it all in. Some of our favorites were the fern dell, where a lovely mist helped cool as well as add to the mystery and romance of the area. An adjacent tree house (a plant-covered structure surrounding a large tree with colorful limbs and benches inside) was a bit of whimsy for this area.

The Trial Garden was very interesting with many varieties of new plants from an assortment of seed and plant companies being tried. Adjacent to this were trials of containers—mixed bouquets in large clay pots being tried for the combinations and their endurance. There was a magnolia lane, a weeping-cherry lane, vine-covered arbors and pergolas, lots of wisteria; a

wonderful crepe myrtle path leading to the toad fountains; a woman's garden with pools and benches which invited contemplation. And there were buddleias of every color (inviting scores of butterflies) encircling a lily pond with lots of lilies nearby.

There is a golf-cart train which is available to help you see a good portion of the grounds, but only a stroll through will enable you to discover the squirrel having a feast in a zinnia bed! Two flower-covered VWs (a beetle and a bus) helped carry out the 2007 spring festival theme of Flower Power. (a bit more whimsy)



Can you see the squirrel?

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.

The DeGolyer Estate shares part of its 21,000 square foot house by hosting tours of the house and by using some of the space for a really nice teahouse restaurant. Descendants of the family continue to share stories about the lovely people who had the vision to start the gardens.

It would be easy to ramble on about these beautiful gardens, but, instead, you should plan to go! Visit dallasarboretum.org for more information and breathtaking views.

Internet Pipelines

By Libby Thalheimer

A rain garden is designed to absorb storm water run-off from hardscaped surfaces such as roofs and paving. The garden is planted with perennial native plants in bowl-shaped or saucer-shaped beds. To learn more, check out these sites:

- <http://www.raingardens.org>

Rain Gardens of West Michigan is an environmental education program focused on storm-water education, and on the values of using rain gardens and native plants in the landscape to improve urban and suburban water quality.

- <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1052/harvest.html>

*Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use - Patricia H. Waterfall, Extension Agent
University of Arizona Cooperative*

- http://www.hgtv.com/hgtv/gardening/article/0,1785,HGTV_3546_2165903,00.html

Collecting the rain that falls on your roof can help your garden and save some of your water usage.

Master gardener Paul James, conservation expert Gina Hungerford and rain barrel builder Jeff Greer explain how to start your own water conservation system with easy-to-install rain barrels.

- <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/main.jhtml?xml=/gardening/2007/07/17/gain117.xml>

Rain gardens - Elspeth Thompson investigates how to turn the rain to your advantage

- <http://www.raingardennetwork.com/about.htm>

Building a rain garden (or a couple of rain gardens) in your own yard is probably the easiest and most cost efficient thing you can do to reduce your contribution to storm-water pollution.

Update Your Directory

Jack Singleton has a new phone number
812-2070

Trading Post

Barbara Koros would like to trade her purple Achimenes (Orchid Pansy) for a different color
Please call her at 753-3013



Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

- Sam Keen

Master Gardener Open House

10/04/2007 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Master Gardener members are invited to the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute to tour the renovated facility. There will be morning and afternoon tours with lunch served. Come see the new president's lodge, new culinary classrooms, museum, gift shop and expanded lobby and meeting rooms. Overnight accommodations are available October 3 or October 4 at a special Master Gardener rate for this event only. For more information or to receive a registration form, call Sandy Davies at 501.727.5435 or e-mail at sdavies@uawri.org.

OLD MILL PROJECT

By Carol Randle

The Old mill is located at the corner of Fairway and Lakeshore Drive in North Little Rock. It was built in 1933 by the Justin Matthews Company. It was built as a replica of an 1800s grist mill.

The mill was originally named "T.R. Pugh Memorial Mill" in honor of Thomas R. Pugh, a staunch friend and benefactor of Justin Matthews.

The mill was given to the city of North Little Rock in 1976. In 1986 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The concrete sculptures are from Mexican artist Senor Dionicio Rodriguez. Arkansas has one of the most representative collections of all his work. The mill appeared in the opening scenes of the movie, "Gone with the Wind". It is used by many brides to be and graduates as a lovely background for their engagement, wedding, and graduation pictures.

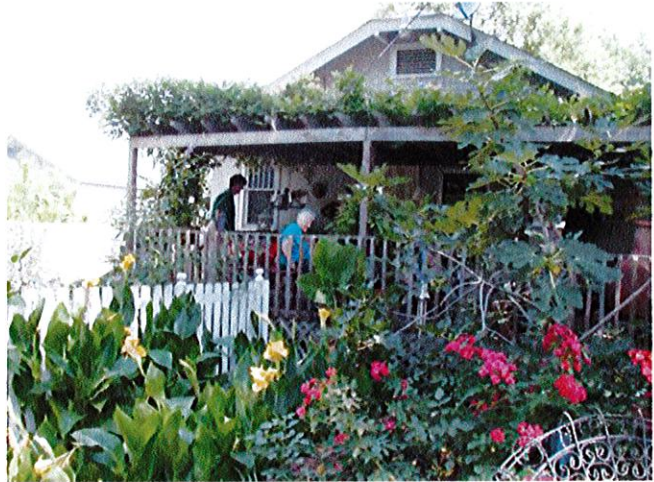
The Old Mill was the first Master Gardener project on the north side of the river.

The project chairman is Judy Bradsher. The co-chairman is Judy Woodard. They are assisted by committee members: Pat Green; Becky Hight; Becky Kennedy; Bren Coop; Bob Bumgardner; Carol Chappell; Devon Beck; Kim Cartwright; Lori Lambert; Martha Coop; Patsy Knodel; Phyllis Richmond; Steve Clark; Susan Wilcoxson; Suzanne Steele; and Wincie Hughes.

The committee meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. They work on seasonal plantings, new beds, and maintaining the gardens. They are keenly aware of the high traffic received by the Old Mill and are continually trying to improve their beds by adding new perennials in addition to the seasonal plants.

Plants used by the committee are: Coleus; Dianthus; Petunias; Lantana; Hostas; Begonias; Salvia; Columbine; Astilbe; Persian Shield; Azaleas; Pieris Japonica; Iris; Foxglove; Cleyera; and Verbascum.

Spend some time enjoying the Old Mill with your family and make wonderful memories and great photographs.



A view of Arline's porch from the backyard



Most of the Park Hill group: Margaret Breen, Jane Diesing, Sue Anderson, Arline Jackson, Oneal Dedman, Gena Norris, Peggy Gay, Lois Clifton, Micky Barsocchi, Cindy Somervell.

Photos courtesy of Bonnie Wells

Flowers in a city are like lipstick on a woman- it just makes you look better to have a little color.

Lady Bird Johnson



Calendar

by Laurie Pierce



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.

September

Those interested in volunteering at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, are invited to a volunteer training session titled "Soils I and II" on Sept. 6. Garden director Bob Byers and local expert Larry Averill will teach the first session from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and the second session from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Preregistration is required for volunteer training: (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300. "Savannah Tea", a tea party on the veranda, will be at 3 p.m. Sept. 11 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs. In case of inclement weather, tea will be served in the Millsap Bride's Hall. The tea party costs \$13 for GWG members, \$16 for non-members. Reservations at (800) 366-4664 or garvangardens.org.

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.

Garvan Gardens will host a "Landscape Design Symposium" taught by Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and Bob Byers, Landscape Architect and Garden Director of Garvan Woodland Gardens.

The symposium serves those interested in learning residential or small commercial landscape design. Participants will learn how to prepare a small scale design for their home or business.

Topics covered include basic design, recommended plant materials for various uses, designing for low maintenance, and creating and using a base map of your property. A design exercise for a permanent planting at the gardens reinforces classroom and individual learning.

Cost for the three-day event is \$55 for GWG members, \$70 for non-members and includes all materials needed for the class. Sessions will be held on September 12, 19, and 26 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs Lunch is not included, but will be available on site. Make reservations online

<http://www.garvangardens.org/> or by calling 501-262-9300.

EarthWays Center, 3617 Grandel Square, St. Louis, will host its sixth annual EarthWays Green Homes Festival and House Tour Sept. 29-30 in St. Louis. Details at (314) 577-0220 or earthwayscenter.org.

October

"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.

Landscape Construction Workshop at Winthrop
Rockefeller Institute
10/26/2007 - 10/27/2007

Learn beautiful landscaping techniques for your yard. For more information or to receive a registration form, call Sandy Davies at 501.727.5435 or e-mail at sdavies@uawri.org.



Master Gardener Only Events

Master Gardener Fall Jubilee
(Leadership Training)
Arkansas 4-H Center
Ferndale, AR
October 16-17, 2007

County 76 Meeting & Officers Election
State Extension Office
Little Rock, AR
November 12, 2007

2008 State Master Gardener Meeting
Holiday Inn Convention Center
Springdale, AR
May 29 -31, 2008

DOLLIE'S outhouse GARDEN

Please join us for a fun day outing on Saturday, September 22, to Dollie's Outhouse Garden near Sheridan. Dollie Fusilier has a fantastic garden and it's huge! You may have seen her featured on Janet Carson's show sometime back. Her yard contains a little bit of everything – flowers, trees, plants, fish pond, water features and yard art – both sun and shade areas. She's an amazing lady who has done most of her yard by herself. She says her house is all done in antiques. There is even a room that is done like an old country store which you might enjoy if the yard isn't enough.

Dollie's garden club has insisted on treating us to lunch so we will need to RSVP to Bob and Wanda Bray by September 18, at 753-4867.

This will be a carpool trip departing the commuter parking lot at I-630 and Shackleford Road at 9:45 a.m. We will pass out directions to Dollie's at the parking lot.

Remember, guests are welcome. We just need to give an accurate count to the ladies preparing food. There is no cost for this trip other than riders sharing cost of gas with the drivers.





Checklist By Carol Randle



FLOWER TIPS

To prepare a bed for wildflowers begin to prepare the soil now. Remove the debris and weeds and mix in compost. Sow seeds in October for spring flowers. Lay the finished flower stalks of foxglove on the ground where you want new plants to grow or sprinkle the seeds from the dried pods.

Continue to keep the soil around your Shasta Daisies and ferns moist but not wet.

Continue to water container plants daily, as needed. Make sure you have provided adequate drainage. Feed every two weeks.

Pick sweet peas regularly to encourage more blooms. Early blooming perennials begin to decline in August. Many have completed their life cycles and are becoming dormant . . . not dying. Clean up the dead and dying leaves.

Now is the time to divide daylilies and iris by digging up the entire clump and removing the soil from the roots. Pull the crowns apart by

hand or split with a knife. Replant the divisions 12 to 18 inches apart. To encourage continual blooming, deadhead annuals, browallia, torenia, and verbena.



VEGETABLE AND HERB TIPS

Keep your garden clean of weeds. Gather herbs for drying as they mature. Harvest about once a week. Use sharp scissors or a garden knife when harvesting your herbs. If collecting leaves, cut the whole stem before stripping away the foliage. With small-leaved perennials, rosemary and thyme, save only the leaves and discard the stems . . . or use them for potpourris. When harvesting herbs that spread from a central growing point, like parsley and sorrel, harvest the outer-stems or leaves first. If you are collecting leaves or flowers from bushy plants, do so from the top of the plant; new growth will come from below. If your garden has stopped producing, you can still get fresh fruits and vegetables from our local farmer's markets. Now is the time to plant your fall vegetable garden. Transplants are best for tomatoes, peppers and cabbage, if you can find them.



FRUIT TIPS

Remove suckers and old canes from blackberries as they appear. Remove all but two runners on strawberry plants. Water blueberries often during hot weather. Continue to keep the grass short around your fruit trees. Grass deprives the trees of nitrogen. Throw away any fruit you find that has been affected by fungus.



TREES AND SHRUBS TIPS

Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now. They are forming flower buds for next spring. For web worms on trees, remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* ((BT) to the leaves. To control lacebugs, spray with insecticidal soap or malathion. When using any fungicide, herbicide or insecticide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. Otherwise, too much of the chemical may be absorbed and damage the plants.



GENERAL YARD AND LAWN TIPS

Watering is the most important thing to do this month. Always water according to the weather and early in the morning to prevent mildew. Avoid the peak demand time of 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. An inch to an inch and a half of water is what most plants need. Make sure water is penetrating the soil, not running off. If water begins to run off, stop and water for shorter periods so it can penetrate the earth. After watering, mowing is the most important

thing to do for your lawn. Don't mow more than one third of the leaf blade at one time.

Cutting

the grass too short can stress your lawn.

Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

Use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds, poison ivy and honeysuckle. Continue to get rid of weeds before they go to seed. At the plants

decline, clean them up and throw away the spent debris. If the plants have simply completed their natural life cycle, add this to the compost

pile. If the plants were infested with insects or disease, then dispose of this material. Good sanitation is often the best method for combating problems.

AUGUST BLOOMS

Agastache, Hyssop; Ageratum; Alcea rosea, Althea; Allium tuberosum, Garlic; Anise Mint; Asclepias tuberosa, Butterfly Weed; Asters; Balsam; Belamcanda Chinensis, Blackberry Lily; Browallia, Bush Violet; Buddleia; Beautyberry; Trumpet Creeper; Cannas; Celosia, Cockscomb; Turtleheads; Clematis; Cleome, Spider Flower; Clerodendron; Sweet Pepperbush; Dahlias; Angel's Trumpet; Echeveria; Echinacea, Coneflower; Eupatorium; Chrysanthemum parthenium, Fever Few; Gaura; Gladioli; Hibiscus; Hostas; Hydrangea; Kerria, Japanese Rose; Crape Myrtle; Lantana; Liatris, Blazing Star; Lobelia; Lycoris squamigera, Spider Lily; Marigolds; Miscanthus; Monarda, Bergamot; Mondo Grass; Nicotiana, Flowering Tobacco; Marjoram; Oxalis; Fountain Grasses; Phlox; Portulaca; Roses; Rosemary; Rudbeckia; Salvias; Thyme; Torenia; Periwinkle; Zephyranthes grandiflora, Pink Storm Lilies; and Zinnias.

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 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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bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



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- Libby Thalheimer

Photographers



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- David Werling
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