

Pulaski County Master Minutes

October, 2007

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

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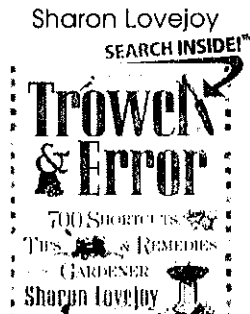


Our speaker will be Steve Dobbs, the Director of Grounds and Landscape for the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith "Brilliant Landscape Color with Foliage". He has been a presenter at the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show and the International Master Gardener Convention this past spring.

Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

Trowel and Error- Over 700 shortcuts, tips and remedies for the Gardener



Ever since she was old enough to help her Grandmother in the garden, Sharon Lovejoy has spent her life working with plants.

She has accumulated over 700 tips, remedies, shortcuts and cure-alls. As an avid collector of gardening books, I am proud to add this charming book to my library. Sharon's homespun gardening advice makes an original, inviting, whimsically illustrated and

dead-on helpful book. Topics range from tricks and tools that bend the rules to using lures to attract allies. This book is a great resource for any gardener from beginner to expert and a sheer delight to read. Trust me, if you choose to buy a copy for a gift make sure you purchase one for you...you won't regret it!

About The Author

Sharon Lovejoy is a contributing editor for Country Living Gardener magazine and a frequent guest on HGTV. She is the author and illustrator of several gardening books, Sharon lives and gardens in California and Maine.

Ark Extended Learning Center

Autumn's Fall Color Palette, Mary Evans Tues, Oct 23, 6:30-8:30 pm

Spring Bulb Extravaganza, Mary Evans, Tues, Nov 1, 6:30-8:30 pm

Floral Design I, Shane Cranford, Tuesdays, Oct 16- Nov 6, 6:00-8:00 pm

Floral Design II, Shane Cranford, Tuesdays Nov 13- Dec 11 6:00-8:00 pm

Holiday Floral Workshop, Shane Cranford, Thursdays, Nov 1 & 8, 6:00-8:00 pm

Landscape Design, Tanner Weeks, Wednesdays, Oct 17-Nov 28, 6:00-8:00 pm



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 Beautiful World of Bougainvillea

By Susie Gillihan



Bougainvillea has become a very colorful and popular plant for spring and summer color making a great addition for a colorful patio or deck in the backyard. So let's try and have a general overview on Bougainvillea care blooming, light, water, soil, origin and more.

Bougainvilleas are perhaps the most popular and one of the most widely grown tropical vines. Bougainvilleas are native to the coast of Brazil. In the 1760's the French botanist Philibert Commerson discovered the colorful vining plant and named it bougainvillea after his friend and captain, Louis A. deBouganinville, a noted lawyer, mathematician and explorer from Canada.

The plant has spiny, cascading stems which end with colorful bracts of red, purple and other shades to shield small white, inconspicuous flowers.

The plant can be used in a multiple of ways, but in our area it is used as an annual vine or as a container plant. They are beautiful plants for hanging baskets.

The plant will thrive in almost any soil as long as it is well drained and fertile. Soils that work for other plants will be fine for your bougainvillea

When planting in containers or hanging baskets use a soil media that drains well but don't let your plants dry out between watering. If you want to be a successful with bougainvillea keep containers moist but also they need to be well drained. No sitting plants in standing water! Do not use saucers under you bougainvillea pots.

A healthy plant in a container will drink lots of water the warm times of the year. In cooler

periods or when you bring your plant indoors for the winter water requirement will be much less.

For best results put your plant in full sun. If you want good blooming give them least 5 hours a day of full sunlight as a minimum. Less than 5 hours the plant will not bloom very well

Bougainvilleas are hardy throughout the south but young growth will be damaged by frost. Optimum growing temperatures are warm days (70-85) and cool nights (60-70). In our zone plants must be protected in winter months.

Bougainvillea can be heavy feeders; slow or timed-release fertilizers are acceptable. Plants grow best with small amounts of nutrients constantly available. Do not apply fertilizers to dry soil.

As temperatures drops in the fall, cease feeding, back off the watering and move them to a cooler room (50-60) and let them rest for the colder months.

Plants should be repotted every three years in a loose friable soil potting mix. Fertilize regularly with will composted organic matter and keep pots well mulched.

Enjoy the beauty of this wonderful plant and be careful of those wicked thorns.



Just published!

The Creative Herbal Home
By Susan Belsinger & Tina Marie Wilcox

216 pages with 40 black & white photographs

The creative herbal home is a guide for both the beginner just introduced to herbs and to the more experienced home herbalist. It contains basic and detailed information about using common household ingredients combined with herbs & essential oils to make an array of herbal products for the home.

Herbal cohorts, Susan Belsinger and Tina Marie Wilcox have been working together for over ten years on projects and presentations, from gardening to teaching and writing from their respective homes. Susan lives in Maryland, and Tina Marie in Arkansas. With infectious enthusiasm, both women love sharing their knowledge of herbs, plants and gardening with like-minded people. They passionately agree that *herbs are a way of life*.

Inside **The Creative Herbal Home** you will find:

- Herbs
- Plant chemicals
- Essential oils
- Infusions & decoctions
- Household preparations
- Definition of terms
- Gardening comforts sources
- Body care
- Herbal kits
- Tinctures
- Ingredients

Living with herbs series is published by Herbspirit

To order copies of the Creative Herbal Home:

Single retail copies are \$17.95 each plus \$4 s/h

For more information contact:

Tina Marie Wilcox

197 Velvet Lane

Leslie, AR 72645

870-447-2248

braidnboots@alltel.net



WAR MEMORIAL PARK ENTRANCE PROJECT

By Carol Randle

Drivers traveling by the southeast and southwest corners of Fair Park and Markham will enjoy looking at the gardens located there.

Originally this area was called the Bus Stop Garden. It was started in 1994 as a partnership with Little Rock Parks and Recreation as a part of their Adopt-A-Park Program. This is a continuing partnership. The Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department provides to the project plants, fertilizer, and whatever else is needed. There already existed partnerships concerning the Contemplation Garden and the Zoo Garden (which existed at that time).

Glenda Brazzel is the chairman of this project. She is assisted by co-chairman Barry Holt and by committee members: Amelia Leung; Carolyn Jolley; Helen Hronas; Judy Chapman; Marcia Kelly; Marsha Friedman; Rose Bradley; and Rose Crane.

Currently the two gardens wrap around the east and west corners of Markham onto Fair Park Avenue.

Each spring and fall the city of Little Rock delivers annuals requested by the committee. They plant these and maintain the beds by weeding; cleaning up litter, raking leaves and doing whatever else is needed. After group planting, each member is assigned a week to check and clean up the beds.

Be sure to check out these corners the next time you drive by the War Memorial Park Entrance.

Naked Ladies

By Christine Dettbarn Palade

We moved to Little Rock in August 2005, just after Katrina hit; on her heels was Rita. We were happy to move away from the Gulf Coast. Moving is always traumatic, and in my case it meant to leave a garden behind in Galveston, TX that had been carefully tended and developed over 13 years.

When we arrived in Little Rock the backyard we inherited was forlorn and unattended, a garden that seemed dead and devoid of life. There was, however, in the back some sort of a "berm", kind of an elevation that was supposed to redirect the rain water away from the house. When we arrived, there was nothing on that berm, except broken pieces of rock, old bricks, giant periwinkle, and lots of weeds. There were two nice things, a birdbath and a statue of a lady.



We were unpacking. Lo and behold, one morning we looked out of our bedroom window. I could not believe what I saw: Hundreds of naked ladies, as I call them! It was the most unusual sight I ever had the privilege of witnessing. They were dancing and swaying in the wind in complete unison. What a strange and wonderful sight. In the midst of chaos nature sometimes displays the most beautiful treasures. This sight made me wonder and then realize, most treasures of nature turn up in the most unexpected places and times.

I will keep looking....



Photos Courtesy of Christine Dettbarn Palade

Plant Profile of Red Spider Lily

Family: **Amaryllidaceae** (amaryllis family)

Description: In gardens throughout the southeastern US at the height of the hurricane season each October tall leafless stalks topped with brilliant red flowers appear seemingly overnight and out of nowhere. Each of the flowers has extremely long anthers, giving the 8 in (20cm) cluster a spider like appearance. Only after the flowers have withered in a week or two do the narrow, strap-like basal leaves appear. The leaves look neat and are non-invasive and deteriorate by the following summer. For several weeks there is no clue that the lily is there waiting for its time.

Location:

Native to China and Japan, now widely naturalized in the southeastern United States as well as Arkansas.

Culture:

The lilies are easy to grow. Plant one bulb almost anywhere in your landscape and it will come up year after year.

Light: partial shade to full sun

Moisture: tolerant of dry periods

Hardiness: USDA Zones 7-10

Propagation: Divide bulbs in early summer while dormant

Usage:

In mixed borders, meadows and natural areas. Does well in the filtered shade of large trees.

Features:

The bright red flowers of the "hurricane lily" make it one of the showiest plants in the October garden. You'll forget where they are until they emerge each fall. There are similar species of *Lycoris*: golden spider lily (*L. aurea*) white (*L. albiflora*), salmon/orange (*L. sanguinea*). Another close relative, the surprise or naked lady (*L. squamiger*) has more lily like flowers that are light pink.

Source: Steve Christman@floridata.com

Caladiums

By Lorraine Hensley



This tropical foliage plant knows exactly what it wants-- a warm bed. No cold feet for this one.

Caladiums need a warm and moist soil to grow and prosper and if the ground is not warm enough for them, they either grow very slowly or the tubers rot. A soil temperature of around 70 degrees is about right for these warmth-loving tubers.

The two primary types of caladium varieties are the fancy and lance-leaved with the fancy leafed boasting large heart-shaped leaves and growing best in semi-shade. It can reach a height of 12 to 30 inches depending on the specific variety and growing conditions. The lance, or strap-leaved kind, have narrow, long leaves and are best used as accents in borders, hanging baskets and in large patio planters.

Grown for their outstanding multi-colored decorative leaves their striking foliage provides a wonderful accent in pots, borders and in garden beds. Foliage color consists of combinations of red, pink, green or white with colored midribs and contrasting backgrounds and borders. These interesting colors and patterns assure this tuber a welcome by most gardeners.

Caladiums need protection from full sun and all varieties prefer dappled or moderate shade. Water frequently and do so consistently just keeping the soil evenly moist but not soaked. If planted in a container don't let them sit in water. Feed your caladiums with a water-soluble fertilizer on a regular basis in order to aid foliage growth.

If you want to save your tubers for planting next year dig them in the fall before the leaves have lost all their color. Spread them out and allow them to dry for at least a week. Then cut or pull the dry foliage from the tubers and remove all of the dry soil. Pack the tubers so they don't touch each other in dry peat moss or vermiculite for storage. Store in a garage or other protected area where the temperature will not drop below 50 degrees.



The biggest problem with caladiums is tuber rot, which is a fungal decay of tubers either in storage or in the ground. Store your tubers to avoid high humidity and cool temperatures. Never, ever, store in your fridge. Sometimes spots of light tan to brown appear on their lower leaves. Remove the diseased leaves when they appear. If the edges of the leaves appear to be burned you may have allowed fertilizer to touch the foliage, watered in the hottest part of the day or have not given the plant enough water.

All in all, caladiums require minimal care and their varicolored foliage provides bountiful reward for the gardener.



Master Gardener

By Susie Gillihan

I wanted to be a Master Gardener from the first time I heard about the program. I was working then and was just waiting until I turned 65 so I could retire and join this very elite group.

I have not been disappointed. I have had the privileged to meet so many wonderful people and go to lectures given by very knowledgeable folks that I feel that I have really benefited from this wonderful program.

I so enjoyed working with the wonderful group at Jacksonville and even enjoyed my time working the phones! One thing I learned was how little I do know about the wonderful art of gardening.

It was while working in a community out reach program that I got to know my wonderful friend that I would like to introduce to you today. Her name is Linda Mikesell. When Linda was just a young woman in her early thirties with two beautiful little girls and a wonderful husband that she was stricken with CMT also known as Peroneal Muscular Atrophy



disease

Linda spent weeks in hospital being given all kinds of testing and surgeries while doctors searched for her diagnosis. During all this long time she suffered long periods of time away from her family and friends.

When she came home she was weak, tired, worn out, and afraid of the future, but determined that she would raise her family and that she did, with the help of her wonderful husband Reg and her family, and most of all her love for God and her never

ending faith that through Him she could do any thing. She had two choices, give up, or give it all to God and let Him guide her in her life. Her choice is evident in the way she raised her children and the work she does each day for her church.

When I meet Linda she was by that time a grandmother of three beautiful children. She and her husband had been transferred to North Little Rock by the railroad and she had left behind her beloved state of Iowa with its wonderful deep rich soil and good growing conditions to the thin soil and lots of shale and rock of Gravel Ridge. Gardening was indeed a challenge. Linda worked tirelessly in the garden at First Christian Church of North Little Rock, Arkansas and was my inspiration to join in the work there. Whenever we have a workday and I am feeling tired, my back is hurting, and my legs are weak I think of Linda. She is there always with braces on both legs doing more than her share of the work. A weed doesn't stand a chance around Linda Mikesell. There is a beautiful garden at First Christian Church with a great garden crew and I am proud to be part of it. We invite you to come and look at our little garden and see what lots of work and faith can do.

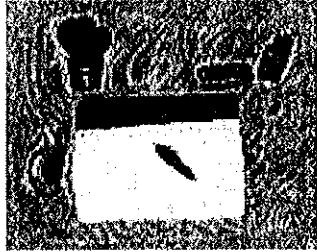


Linda Mikesell is indeed the Master's Gardener. I hope that each person that reads this little epistle with find or already has a wonderful gardening friend like Linda.

Yes the Master Gardener program has given me many opportunities and one of the best of these is meeting wonderful people like Linda Mikesell. Linda's life lesson is Phillipians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.

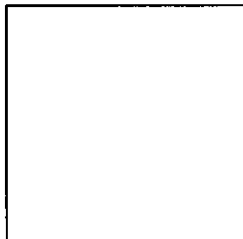
Happy Gardening
Susie Gillihan.

Calendar



By Laurie Pierce

October



Ozark Folk Center Annual Herb Fest
 October 5th & 6th
 Guest Speaker is Felder Rushing

Central Arkansas Rose Society
 Annual Rose Show on October 7th
 Faulkner County Natural Resource Center in
 Conway

The Garvan Woodland Gardens annual plant and landscape sale will be Oct. 12-14 in Hot Springs. The event will include demonstrations, informational booths and activities for children, and the Tent Café will offer sandwiches, soups and salads for lunch. Admission is \$8, \$7 for seniors and children ages 6-12. Information at (800) 366-4664 or garvangardens.org.

The Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, will host sales by both the Greater St. Louis Daffodil Society and the Mid-America Regional Lily Society on Oct. 20 and 21. Details at (800) 642-8842 or mobot.org.



A Heart of Texas Orchid Society seminar, show and sale will be Oct. 26-27 at Zilker Botanical Garden Center in Austin, Texas. Details at (512) 455-4300 or hotos.org.



Children can collect seeds and create their own wildflower seed packets with help from the Wild Ones Native Plant Society on Oct. 28 at the Missouri Botanical Garden. There will also be native plant stories and crafts. Details at mobot.org or (800) 642-8842.



"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. Call (800) 642-8842 for details or visit mobot.org.

November



Those interested in volunteering at Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, are invited to a volunteer training session titled "Japanese Maples & Winter Interests" on Nov. 9. Japanese maples will be the focus from 9 to 11:30 a.m., and winter interests will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required for volunteer training: (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.



"Victorian Tea", a tea party on the veranda, will be at 3 p.m. Nov. 13 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkrige 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.

Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs will host Holiday Lights from noon to 9 p.m. from Nov. 17-Dec. 31 (except Thanksgiving and Christmas). Admission costs \$5, \$3 for ages 6-12 and free for ages 5 and younger. Information at (800) 366-4664 or garvangardens.org.



"Holiday Design Extravaganza" will begin Nov. 29 at Memphis Botanic Garden. Six of the Mid-South's premiere floral designers will demonstrate holiday designs. The showcase creations will be auctioned after each session, with a hands-on workshop to follow. (901) 685-4128 or memphisbotanicgarden.com.

December



"Holiday High Tea," a tea party on the veranda, will be at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkrige 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.



GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honeybees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No, Sir, they pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow, and, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

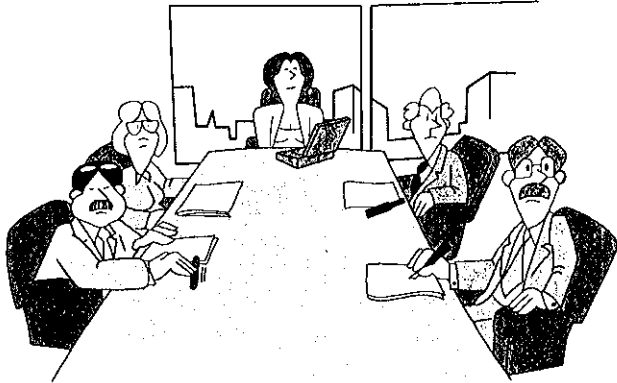
ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: "Dumb and Dumber", Lord. It's a story about...

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Jackie Wright



The Pulaski County Master Gardener Board met on Tuesday, September 18, 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 Walker, Don Davis, and Judy Woodard. Also present were Debra Redding, Mary Roark, and Martha Basinger. President, Marilyn Tilley, presided.

The minutes of the June Board meeting were approved as corrected. Corrected minutes will be sent out by e-mail.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer, Mary Freeman. At the end of July we had approximately \$1,034 less than in January. Jim Dyer reported that he contacted all project chairs about outstanding invoices and has heard back from most of them. Mary reported that the state office for the training room for last year has not yet billed us. It will be about \$800. The report was approved.

Old Business

New Projects. There was a discussion about the new projects. Sandy moved we table the Whit Stephens Nature Center project because they will not be ready to plant until May. The motion was seconded and approved. Don Davis moved we present the Wildwood and Argenta projects for the consideration of the membership. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business

- Beth read the St. James Save Sanctuary Outside Group Policy Acknowledgement

form. She signed on behalf of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Program. She is furnishing a copy for the minute book.

- Sandy gave the nominating Committee Report and introduced the nominees.
 - President – Jim Dyer
 - First Vice President – Don Davis
 - Second Vice President – Martha Basinger
 - Treasurer – Judy Woodard
 - Assistant Treasurer – Mary Freeman
 - Secretary – Debra Redding
 - Member At Large - Mary Roark

The slate will be presented and officers elected at the September meeting and take office in October. If elected, the Board, with continuing members, will be as follows:

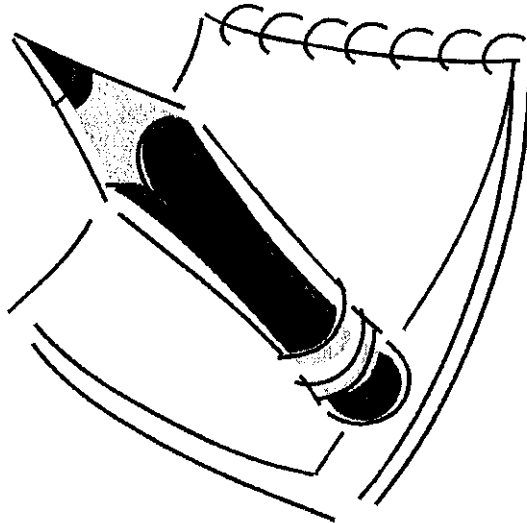
President - Jim Dyer

- First Vice President – Don Davis
- Second Vice President – Martha Basinger
- Treasurer – Judy Woodard
- Assistant Treasurer – Mary Freeman
- Secretary – Debra Redding
- Member At Large - Mary Roark
- Continuing Member at Large – Jim Silvi
- Past President – Marilyn Tilley

- Leave of Absence was approved for Jim Tyler. Leave of Absence was approved for Charli Anne Vestal contingent of dues payment. Reinstatement was approved for Earl Hillard.
- A motion was made and seconded that we renew Arkansas Gardener Magazine subscription for three years for \$54.95. The motion was approved.
- Beth announced that the Fall Jubilee will be October 16 and 17. Jet moved that the registration fees for any board member to attend be paid from the treasury. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Beth announced that at an October 23d meeting of the Quorum Court the County Extension office entertains the Court with dinner and a short program about the Extension Office. Jet moved that \$250 be appropriated for the dinner. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Beth reported on a conversation with the State Extension Office about a new greenhouse. No action was taken.

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Membership Meeting
HIGHLIGHTS



The Pulaski County Master Gardeners met on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at 1130 a.m. at St. James Methodist Church. Chair, Marilyn Tilley, presided.

Sandy Harrison presented the Nominating Committee Report. Mary Wildgen moved we accept the Nominating Committee's Report and elect the nominees. The motion was approved. The PCMG Board will take office in October:

- President - Jim Dyer
- First Vice President - Don Davis
- Second Vice President - Martha Basinger
- Treasurer - Judy Woodard
- Assistant Treasurer - Mary Freeman
- Secretary - Debra Redding
- Member At Large - Mary Roark
- Continuing Member at Large - Jim Silvi
- Past President - Marilyn Tilley

Jim Dyer presented a Power Point on the two proposed new projects, Argenta and Wildwood. The members voted to approve Argenta. The members voted to approve Wildwood by a narrow margin. The Wildwood project will be further explored to answer questions and concerns voiced by members.

Committee Reports

- Travel - We will carpool to Dollie Fusilier's Garden on Sept. 22 at 9:45 a.m. Details are in the last mailing. A bus trip is planned to Mt. Magazine on Oct. 25. Cost is \$50.00
- There will be a Butterfly Gardening Workshop on Oct. 11. Cost is \$5.00
- Dwayne Hancock, Curran Hall chair thanked the members for helping with their workday during the convention. They have several flowering quince for any project that needs them.
- Jane Gully reported for the retention committee. They called 86 who have not completed their volunteer hours. They were pleased with the results and gained several good ideas from those called. We can now turn in our hours on-line.
- Rochelle Greenwood asked for volunteers to mentor the new membership class.
- Lois Corley announced that the greenhouse would have a wide variety of plants to sell because Judy Bradsher has donated perennials. The sales will be October 13, 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and October 20, 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Program

Don Davis announced that next month's program will be given by Steve Dobbs, the landscape architect for the U of A Ft. Smith campus.

Power Point programs were given by Susan Rose on the Baptist Rehabilitation Horticulture Therapy Project and by Judy Bradsher of the Old Mill Project.





Checklist By Carol Randle

GENERAL YARD

Clean up the planting areas as you harvest fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Rake up fallen leaves and fruit. Compost all disease-free organic refuse. Don't put diseased plants on the street for pickup. You don't want to give someone else your problem. Bag up with your regular garbage. Or you can burn the diseased plants.

Protect container plants for winter. Mulch tender plants that can't be moved. Continue watering lawns, trees, shrubs, vines and all new plantings until the rains come. Don't forget to water plants in sheltered areas. Well-watered plants survive freezing temperatures better than dry ones. Cut back ground covers that have spread out of bounds. Prune vines.

Plant flat and slightly sloped areas with ground cover so roots will get a head start before winter. Do not plant steep slopes or the rains will wash plants away.

LAWNS

Sow seeds for new lawns. If there is an early frost, be sure to keep the ground moist so the seedlings will continue to develop roots until the ground freezes. Grass grows best this time of year in the cooler, wetter conditions. Aerate lawns now.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich beds with organic soil amendment. Lift and divide plants that have finished blooming. Most perennials bloom better if they are divided and replanted every three years or so. Remove suckers from roses and lilac. Winterize, protect or lift tender perennials for winter storage. Mark dormant bulbs so they won't be destroyed when ground is prepared for spring planting. Be ready when shipments of bulbs such as crocus, daffodils, irises, day lilies, freesias, hyacinth and tulips arrive at nurseries, then plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Spray your trees for peach leaf curl if they were victims this year. Apply a dormant spray to reduce over-wintering pests and fungus diseases when the leaves fall from fruit trees. Mulch fruit and berries well to preserve moisture in the soil. They need a lot of water. They are the only food that contains approximately 80% water. Set out strawberries during fall rains for fruit next May. If planted in spring, plants won't bear well until the following year.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

By mid-October, or if frost is predicted, pick all tomatoes whether they are ripe or not. Store ripe tomatoes on the counter and wrap green tomatoes in newspaper and store in a cool dark pantry or closet. They will ripen slowly. If you have more ripe tomatoes than you can eat, freeze them to use in sauces. Or hand the entire plants (with unpicked fruit) upside down in the garage.

In late October cut back asparagus stalks to the ground. Mark the location. Mulch three or four inches. Prepare vegetable beds for spring and remove all debris. Cool weather annual herbs such as cilantro and parsley can be planted now. Warm weather herbs such as basil and dill should be gathered now and dried. Tarragon should be divided annually. Chives and sweet woodruff should be divided every three to four years.

OCTOBER BLOOMS

Abelia, Ageratum, Sweet Alyssum, Asters, Barberry, Beautyberry, Bittersweet Vine, Buddleia, Ornamental Cabbage, Calendula, Camellias, Cannas, Celosia, Chelone, Chinese Pistache, Chrysanthemums, Clerodendron, Crape Myrtle, Dahlias, Dianthus, Dogwood, Elaeagnus Pungens, Euonymus, Eupatorium, Four O'Clock, Gaura, Ornamental Grasses, Gums, Hibiscus, Kale, Kerria, Lantana, Larkspur, Lobelia, Maples, Marigolds, Mexican Sage, Nierembergia, Sweet Peas, Petunias, Poppies, Roses, Rosehips, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragon, Solidago, Stock, Torenia, Tricyrtis, Verbena, Viburnum, Viola, Virginia Creeper, Wisteria, 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/mastergardeneronline>
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
412-8299

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



Master Minutes Staff

- Bren Coop
- Bill Bowen
- Betty Deere
- Susie Gillihan
- Lorraine Hensley
- Dave Hermanson
- Helen Hronas
- Julia Loyall
- Linda Moyer
- Laurie Pierce
- Jennice Ratley
- Carol Randle
- Debra Redding
- Libby Thalheimer

Photographers



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

January 31, 2008

Dear Pulaski County Master Gardeners:

We have kicked off 2008 by getting committees organized and planning for the year. The committee chairs have their 2008 committee lists and should have or should soon be contacting their members. If you are not sure what committee you are on let me know. Committee chair and co-chairs are listed on the Helpful Numbers sheet which is the last page of your 2008 Master Gardener list which you should receive next week.

Please be sure to read the proposed by-laws changes enclosed with this issue of the Master Minutes. We will be voting on those at our March 18th meeting. To save trees and copies, I did not copy the complete by-laws because you have a copy in the Volunteer Manual in the front of your Master Gardener notebook.

Enclosed with this Master Minutes are the nominations for the 2008 Pulaski County Master Gardener Project of the Year and the 2008 Pulaski County Friend of Master Gardeners. We will vote at our February 19th meeting.

What a crowd - 229 Master Gardeners attended the January meeting! I know it was crowded and I am sorry. We'll ask to have more chairs set up for the February meeting. St. James expects the construction of the new Praise Worship Center to be opened around Easter so hopefully, by our April meeting; we will be able to meet there which will give us much more room. Thanks to St. James for their continued support of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Program.

Be on the look out for the 2008 Master Gardener list which will be mailed next week. We will not do a new photo directory each year because of the cost. Please add: Ronita West, 1801 Champlin #1103, Little Rock, AR 72223, 412-5129, ronitawest@hotmail.com. Ronita has moved to Little Rock from Fayetteville where she was a Master Gardener. Also, please add Bonnie Cargile, 20824 Country Creek Rd, Little Rock 72223, 868-5404. Bonnie's name was inadvertently left of the list.

Please remember to put your name on your monthly report form before you turn it in. We have already received one without a name this year.

Hope to see you at our February 19th meeting 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at St. James. Our program will be Eric Swindle on Native Shrubs.

Sincerely,

Beth Phelps
County Extension Agent – Staff Chair

Pulaski County Extension Service
2901 West Roosevelt Road
Little Rock AR 72204
Phone 501 340-6650
Fax 501 340-6669
bphelps@uaex.edu

PLEASE READ:

Below are changes to the Pulaski County Master Gardener By-Laws proposed by the Pulaski County Master Gardener Board to add an Assistant Treasurer position. The additions are in bold italics. The Board feels the position is needed to help train and support the Treasurer. The record keeping and the Cooperative Extension Service Financial Guidelines for Master Gardener Groups have increased the complexity of the Treasurer's job. An Assistant Treasurer will help train new treasurers and support the treasurer. Our By-Laws require a 30 day notice before a voting to change so we will vote on these proposed changes at our March 18th meeting. You have a copy of the current by-laws in your Master Gardener Volunteer Manual which is part of your Master Gardener Notebook. If you have questions give Beth Phelps, 340-6650 or Jim Dyer, 666-7934, a call. Article IX Finances was added to keep the Pulaski County Master Gardeners in compliance with the guidelines for Master Gardener groups.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS AND ELECTION

Section 1. Designations

The officers of PCMG shall be: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, *Assistant Treasurer, Immediate Past President*, and 2 Board Members-at-Large.

Section 3. Nominations and Election

A. The election of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Member-at-Large shall be held at the September meeting, and newly elected officers shall begin their term at the October meeting.

Section 4. Term of Office

A. Officers shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are selected. No officer shall serve more than two terms in the same office, except the Treasurer, *Assistant Treasurer, and the two Members at Large, who shall have two-year terms.*

Section 5. Duties of Officers

F. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the treasurer to fulfill the business of the Association and shall:

- 1. Consider the first year of the term as a training year for the Treasurer position.*
- 2. Consider the second year of the term, following two years as Treasurer, as an advisory position to the newly elected treasurer.*
- 3. Serve on the budget committee in preparation of the annual budget.*

G. Immediate Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee and shall serve as Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Designation

The Board of Directors shall consist of: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, *Assistant Treasurer*, 2 Board Members-at-Large and Immediate Past President. The County Extension Agent, providing leadership to the Master Gardener program, shall serve as advisor to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX
FINANCES

Section 5. The PCMG shall comply with the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service Guidelines for County Financial Operations for Master Gardener Groups.