

Pulaski County Master Minutes

January, 2008

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

Volume 18, Issue 1



January

By Gy Alexander

- Bucks are losing their antlers
- Black bears give birth to cubs.
- Black bears in Arkansas do not truly hibernate, they "deep sleep".
- A bald eagle doesn't get its white head until adulthood
 - Pileated woodpeckers can be heard.
- Avoid walking on the lawn when it's covered with a layer of frost or icy snow. Blades of grass can be easily damaged when frozen.
 - Browse seed catalogs.
 - Belgian endives in season
 - Persimmons in season.
- Make seed-starting pots: Open one full page of newspaper so it lies flat. Fold in half lengthwise. Fold in half again so you have a long, narrow strip of folded newspaper. Start at one end and roll newspaper around a pint jar or glass. Jar is used only as a form to roll the paper. Leave about 1/2 inch of the bottom of the jar uncovered. Part of the paper should overlap the open end. Push ends of paper into the open end of jar. Don't worry about being neat. Stuff the overlapping newspaper into the jar. Pull jar out of newspaper so you have the pot in your hand. Push the bottom of the jar into the paper cut squashing the folded bottom to flatten. This will seal the bottom of your pot. Once pot is filled with soil, the bottom will be secure. Pull jar out, and you have a finished paper pot.

The 2008 Horticulture Highlights CD is now available

The 2008 is updated with new information:

- An electronic version of the new book "Arkansas Common Landscape Problems"
- New fact sheets on lawn care
- A photo-illustrated plan database of more than 100 Arkansas shrub varieties
 - Plant disease videos
 - New fruit fact sheets

The CD also includes those favorite features that have made the CD essential to hundreds of Arkansas gardeners. There are:

- Hundreds of Janet Carson Q and A's
- More than 400 "Plant of the Week" articles and photos
 - More than 150 publications, including publications on insect control, plant diseases and weeds
- Tomato and vegetable information including control of disease and insects
- A plant disease image library containing over 160 images
 - A tree Identification Key and database

The CD is \$11 and may be purchased Pulaski County Extension Office or online at www.uaex.edu.

"Whose woods these are I think I know.

**His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow."**

- Robert Frost, Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

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.

SEED EXCHANGE



At our February and March MG meetings, plan to bring your extra seeds to exchange with other Master Gardeners!! If possible bring the following information (on an index card or other paper) about your seed(s) for the exchange:

- Identification
- Plant type (i.e. vine, shrub, annual, etc.)
- Growth conditions: (Shade, sun, drought resistant, etc.)

Meet you in the Narthex by the sign in!!!

Celia Thaxter

By Christine Palade

Have you ever heard of Celia Thaxter? If you have and you have read her prose and poetry as well, I have nothing further to add to what you most probably already know. If you haven't, let me acquaint or reacquaint you with her.

Celia Loughton Thaxter (1835-1894) was born in Portsmouth, NH. Her father built one of the first resort hotels on the New England coast. It was a gathering place for literary and artistic greats of the time. After her father's death, Celia assumed the hostess duties of the hotel her father built on Appledore Island.

In the last year of her life Celia published her most famous book, AN ISLAND GARDEN. In it she describes her garden and its flowers in detail (with beautiful lithographs by Childe Hassam, an American Impressionist Artist). She refers to it

as a "cutting garden of old fashioned flowers". Her arrangements, done in many small bottles and vases, filled her living room and decorated the hotel. The plants in her garden were not arranged in any color scheme, but by height.

Celia's cottage burned together with the Appledore House Hotel in 1914. The garden was recreated in 1977 by Dr. John M. Kingsbury, founder and first director of the Shoals Marine Laboratory at the same site where Celia's garden used to be. Some of her original plants are still in the garden: the snowdrops, the hops vine and the day lilies. The other plants for the garden are raised annually in the greenhouses of the Thompson School of Applied Sciences at the University of New Hampshire under the direction of Mr. C. Robarge. He also provided and installed the garden watering system.

Like so many environmental and preservationist endeavors, the garden is supported entirely by donations and the loving work of its admirers and caretakers living on the New Hampshire and Maine seacoast.

The garden is open only from the end of June through August. The boat ride from Portsmouth to Appledore Island is about one hour. It now houses the "Shoals Marine Laboratory", where students can learn the science of marine life. The Island cannot be reached by car. Its rugged and natural environment is the perfect setting for Celia's refurbished exquisite flower garden. Her love of nature and of her garden is expressed in her prose and poetry as well as in her famous book AN ISLAND GARDEN, which I recommend to everybody who loves and cares about beautiful flowers and the wonders of nature.





**TALKIN' YARD
NATURALLY**
By Betty Deere

Strange as it may seem, the Chicago Botanic Garden has an Owl Prowl the 25th of January. Most of us probably can't go to Chicago to join in the fun, but we can go out in our backyards and hoot like an owl. If you have owl neighbors, they'll hoot right back at you! That's a good thing. Because they eat pests like voles and gophers and other stuff.



Here's the dirt on dirt. The dirt you grow your flowers or veggies in is absolutely vital to the health and beauty of your plants. Soil is a mixture of organic material plus very small mineral and rock particles. The mix of your dirt is absolutely crucial to the health of your plants because it is partnered in relationship with the roots. The roots gather moisture and fertility, and then use soil as a storehouse for food elements and water. Roots also make use of soil to anchor plants and hold them in place. If your plants are falling over, go to the "root of the problem", as the old saying goes. Bottom line: the healthier the soil, the healthier your garden, and the healthier you are when you eat the healthy veggies grown in that soil.

Believe it or not, the soil of a famous French vineyard is so prized that the vineyard workers must scrape it off their shoes before they leave work each night.

Here are some tips on how to make your soil shoe-scraping good. First, we all know the pH (acid or alkaline) is important. Some plants like it acid (i.e. roses, azaleas, gardenias, rhododendrons, English holly, and camellias). And some like it alkaline (i.e. lilacs, mimosas, bougainvilleas, common garden petunias and bird of paradise flowers).

There's an easy way to test the pH, that you can do yourself quite simply.

*Take 1 tablespoon of wet garden soil and sprinkle a pinch of baking soda on it. If it fizzes, gurgles or otherwise gags, it is acidic and its pH is under five. To raise it, add lime.

*If nothing happened, test 1 tablespoon of wet garden soil with ½ teaspoon of distilled white vinegar. If there's fizzing, etc., then the soil is alkaline. The more excited the fizzing, the higher the soil's pH level. To lower it, add sulfur.

So if you have any plants that aren't doing as well as you think they should be, it just might be the pH is wrong, and you can easily test it and fix it.

Second tip: Lots of gardeners enrich their soil with Epsom salt. They say it helps grow stronger stalks, greener leaves and more hardy blossoms. It also makes plants less vulnerable to disease. Sprinkle about 1 cup Epsom salt over every 100 square feet (or 10' by 10' patch). Of course, it goes without saying to use less if your garden area is smaller. It's easy to figure that out.



Tidying our Tools for winter: it's good to sanitize our tools over winter, so we don't transfer diseases back into our garden next spring. Thoroughly washing tools with soap and water usually does it. If you want to go stronger, soak them in a little bit of bleach in a gallon of water, then rinse really well.

It's also a good idea to wash your gloves and gardening shoes well before putting away...if case they have bacteria on them.

Internet Pipelines

By Libby Thalheimer



www.cityofchicago.org

Search for: Green Roof Basics

In the simplest terms, a green roof is plants on top of a roof. Also known as a rooftop garden, a green roof typically consists of the following components: an insulation layer, a waterproof membrane to protect the building from leaks, a root barrier to prevent roots from penetrating the waterproof membrane; a drainage layer, usually made of lightweight gravel, clay, or plastic; a geotextile or filter mat that allows water to soak through but prevents erosion of fine soil particles; a growing medium; plants; and, sometimes, a wind blanket. See the award winning City Hall Rooftop Garden as well as facts sheets on rooftop gardening.

<http://ap.google.com>

Search for: Clinton Library Gets 'Green' Roof By ANDREW DeMILLO - Nov 18, 2007

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Bill Clinton likes to brag about his presidential library being an eco-friendly building. Now even the roof is going green. Over the past two weeks, workers have been hoisting 90 species of plants and more than four truckloads of soil atop the William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum to create a garden on an area surrounding Clinton's penthouse apartment. Instead of bare concrete, the glass and steel building will be topped with strawberries, ferns, switch grass, roses and other greenery..."

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/rooftop59.html>

Website published by City Farmer, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture, explains rooftop gardening basics, including the reasons to use rooftop gardening, suitable roofs, risk of water leakage and roof damage, and other considerations of the design and construction of rooftop gardens.

<http://www.greenroofs.com/>

The greenroof industry resource portal.

www.greenroofs.net

In 1999, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, a small network consisting of public and private organizations, was founded as a direct result of a research project on the benefits of green roofs and barriers to industry development entitled "Greenbacks from Green Roofs" prepared by Steven Peck, Monica Kuhn, Dr. Brad Bass and Chris Callaghan. Green Roofs for Healthy Cities - North America Inc. is now a rapidly growing not-for-profit industry association working to promote the industry throughout North America. To learn more about it visit their website.

www.roofscapes.com

With its roots in stormwater engineering, hydrology and horticulture, Roofscapes, Inc. has been pushing the North American green roof industry ahead for nearly a decade. We are an engineering firm dedicated to developing the most elegant and efficient performance-based green roofs.

Master Gardeners,

Help us name County 76's newest project and win a free registration to the 2008 State Master Gardener Meeting. The new project is modeled after a program from Galveston County Texas. They call it the Writers Guild, but it is so much more than that. The project will focus on writing, plus graphic design, photography and PowerPoint presentations. Training will be given to Master Gardeners to help them develop and/or enhance their journalistic skills. We now need a name befitting the scope of this new venture.

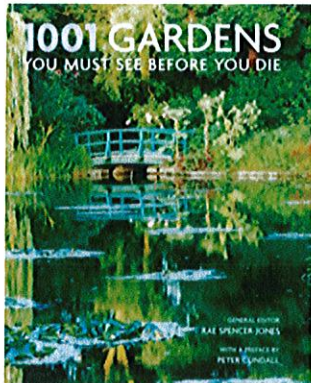
Help us by sending your suggestions to Janet Carson (jcarson@uaex.edu) or Julie Smith (jsmith@uaex.edu). The contest is open to all Master Gardeners and will end Feb. 1. We'll announce the winner at the County 76 meeting Feb. 12. If there are multiple entries of the same name, the person who sent it in first will win the free registration.

Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

1001 Gardens To See Before You Die

Author: Rae Spencer Jones



A guide to inspiring landscapes designed by the world's most outstanding gardeners, architects and garden designers. From the contemplative, tranquil spaces of the Japanese temple gardens to the surreal Las Pozas in the Mexican Jungle, these are gardens that are sometimes startlingly unusual, but always interesting and beautiful. Whether it is the traditional European floral display of Monet's garden at Giverny or the exuberant diversity of the lush tropical gardens of Bali, gardens speak of the intimate relationship between man and the environment.

Arabic and Persian gardens celebrate water, providing a haven from the harsh realities of desert life. Zen gardens were designed to replicate the perfection of the natural world in miniature--a single garden encompassing the entire world. These and hundreds more gardens are shown and described for your reading pleasure. Stunning photographs and details provide inspiration for those who enjoy gardening
fascinating reading for those who simply enjoy gardens.

Rae Spencer Jones is a freelance horticultural journalist and author. She lives and gardens in Britain.

The Living Fossils III: The Wollemi Pine

By William R. Bowen

"This is the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur alive on Earth (1994. Dr. Carrick Chambers, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sidney, Australia)". The accidental discovery of a small grove of Wollemi pines in a remote "hidden" canyon not far from Sydney, Australia, was the major botanical discovery of the 20th century.



The Terrain



Growing on the moist edge

In 1994, David Noble of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service stumbled on these unusual and rare trees deep in the Blue Mountains within the Wollemi National Park some 100 miles northwest of Sydney. The trees were identified as *Wollemia nobilis*, an ancient pine that belongs to the ancient coniferous family Aracariaceae whose fossil record dates back over 200 million years ago to the time of dinosaurs.

The Wollemi pine is named after the Wollemi National Park in which it was found. Wollemi is an aboriginal word meaning "look around you, keep your eyes open and watch it". The scientific name *Wollemi nobilis* is a reflection of its majestic qualities and honor its discoverer, David Noble.



Wollemi leaves and cone

The Wollemi pine is a majestic conifer that grows over 120 feet high in the wild with a trunk over 34 feet wide. At least one tree is believed to be over 1000 years old. It has unusual foliage with light apple green growing tips in spring and early summer contrasting against the older dark foliage. Another unique feature is its pattern of branching in which each branch has two ranks of leaves. Its bark is extremely unusual, looking very much like bubbly chocolate! Among Wollemi Pine's nearest relatives are the Norfolk Island Pine, Monkey Puzzle tree, and Kauri Pine (New Zealand).



The Bark



Living and fossil leaves

Since the original discovery, two more small grooves have been found nearby on moist ledges in deep remote "rainforest" canyons. The exact location is a well-kept secret. Although less than 100 trees remain today, they were thought to be widespread across Gondwana, the ancient supercontinent that existed before Australia broke off from Antarctica and began its movement northward. The oldest known Wollemi Pine fossil dates back 90 million years ago. It is believed that the Pines have existed since the Jurassic period 200 million years ago. Before the Wollemi Pines were rediscovered in 1994, they were presumed extinct for around two million years. Indeed, the grove had survived over 17 ages over the past millennia. Imagine a plant that once lived with dinosaurs and then outlived them! For those interested, seedlings are now available from the Smithsonian Institute. They should easily survive both indoors and outdoors. The images accompanying this article were obtained with permission from Jaime Plaza, Botanical Gardens Trust, Sydney, Australia.

**"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues."
- Hal Borland**

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights by Debra Redding

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007 at 10AM ST JAMES METHODIST CHURCH

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beth Phelps, Debra Redding, Mary Roark, Martha Basinger, Marilyn Tilley, Jim Dyer, Mary Freeman, Jim Silvi, Don Davis, and Judy Woodard

MINUTES from 10-16-07 were approved. TREASURER'S REPORT was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Budget for 2008 presented by Mary Freeman and approved.
2. Nominations for Friend of Master Gardeners and Project of the Year forms were presented by Don Davis and approved. Send forms to entire membership, to be turned in by Jan 1, vote at Jan meeting, with no nomination from the floor.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. New Master Gardeners Class reception today following meeting.
2. Stuff Committee - Orders due today.
3. License Plates- Ask Sue Ellen how many we have. Beth will call Oxford and find out the cost.
4. Past Treasurer Board Position- Mary Freeman has agreed to stay on as Assistant Treasurer for 2 yrs. Beth states that this may require a review/change in the Bylaws. Jim Dyer will appoint a By-Laws committee to review the Bylaws and will include Beth, Judy Woodard and Don Davis and possibly others.
5. July Meeting- Martha Basinger will present to the membership an idea to have a July meeting that would be for fun, fellowship and education. Marilyn Tilley suggested that she ask for a show of hands to indicate an interest. Martha Basinger reported that she has talked to Trudy Kumpe, Chair of the 3Ps committee about ideas to increase excitement at the meetings. Beth suggested a Q&A brown bag lunch following the meetings.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Presented and approved.

1. Pamela Adam-Smith-----Illness---- approved
2. Phyllis Richmond-----Family Changes---approved
3. Laura Wiltshire-----Job Situation --- will go inactive.

GENERAL MEETING AGENDA:

1. Introduce new Master Gardeners to Membership.
2. Recognize Bert Turner as our 2007 Friend of Master Gardeners and Arkansas Friend of Master Gardeners for 2007.
3. Recognize 5 Years of Service, 10 Years of Service and Lifetime Members.
4. Social and Travel and Greenhouse Committee Reports
5. Turn in hours to Beth . Also let Beth know if you want to switch projects ASAP.

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2007 11:30 AM ST JAMES METHODIST CHURCH

WELCOME by Jim Dyer and meeting to order.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Lois Corley, Greenhouse—She reports total sales of \$7,873.89 and thanks membership for their help and attendance.
2. Wincie Hughes, Social---She reminded everyone of the reception for the new Master Gardeners following the meeting today. Thanks to all for their help and all the wonderful food. Winter Holiday Party is December 13th.
3. Wanda Bray, Travel---Next trip planned is to Garvan Gardens for the Christmas Lights Tour on 11-29-07 we will leave on a bus at 4p.m. Cost is \$48 per person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Budget for 2008 was approved and will be posted.
2. Forms for the Project of the Year and Friend of Master Gardener will be sent out

via e-mail or hard copy by request, forms are due Jan 1st and a vote will be taken at January meeting. Beth explained that there will be no nominations from the floor.

3. July Meeting idea presented by Martha Basinger. A fun, fellowship meeting with a program and no business. Vote via show of hands and it was approved.
4. Beth presented Bert Turner with Friend of Master Gardener award, Judy Bradsher spoke of Bert Turner's support of the Old Mill project. Bert thanked the Master Gardeners for the award and all their hard work at the Old Mill and other projects.
5. Jim Dyer announced that the Jacksonville City Hall project was awarded 2nd Place as Arkansas Project of the Year and the award was presented at the Fall Jubilee.
6. Beth asked that hours are to be turned in to her by Dec 1st and let her know if you want to switch projects ASAP.
7. Beth reminded the group that there are 2 new projects to choose from this year... Argenta and Wildwood Park. And that Master Gardeners are needed on the Standing Committees - Travel, Social, 3Ps, etc. Reimbursements from Chairs to go to Mary Freeman or Judy Woodard ASAP.
8. Beth reminded everyone that orders for Master Gardener Stuff are due today.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

1. Names of new 2007 Master Gardener Class were called by Jim Dyer and all stood as they were called.
2. Advanced Master Gardeners Awards to Lois Corley and Tom Mertens.
3. Beth presented 5 Years of Service awards to Class of 2002 and 10 Years of Service to Class of 1997 and 15 Years of Service/ Life Time Master Gardener to Class of 1992.



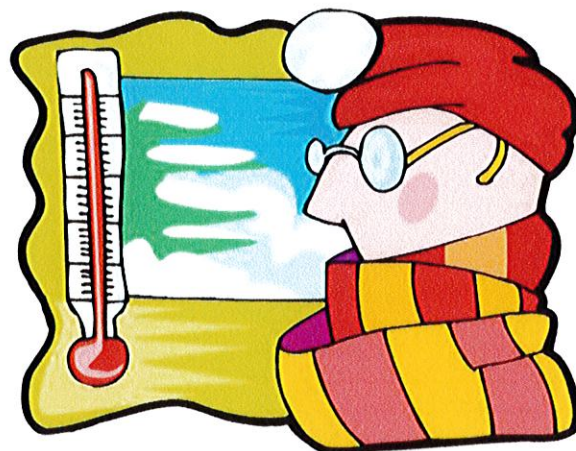
Quail and Songbird Habitat Workshop at WRI
 February 1 -2, 2008 Winthrop Rockefeller
 Institute on Petit Jean Mountain
 1 Rockefeller Dr.
 Morrilton, AR 72110
 Conway County

Cost: \$165.00 for full workshop. Other options available.

Registration deadline is January 28, 2008.
 For more information contact Sandy Davies at
 866-972-7778 or sdavies@uawri.org to register.

Speakers / Topics

Don McKenzie - Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
 Steve Fowler - Biology and Habitat Requirements for Quail
 Dan Scheiman - Biology and Habitat Requirements for other Bird Species
 Rex Roberg - Habitat Management Practices



January is the quietest month in the garden. ... But just because it looks quiet doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs the pure rainfall while microorganisms convert tilled-under fodder into usable nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms' tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come."

- Rosalie Muller Wright, Editor of Sunset Magazine, 1/99

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
gardenrat@comcast.net
412-8299

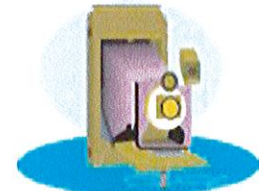
The deadline is the second Friday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:
Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



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 Werling
- Lynn Winningham