

2008

# Pulaski County Master Minutes

May, 2007

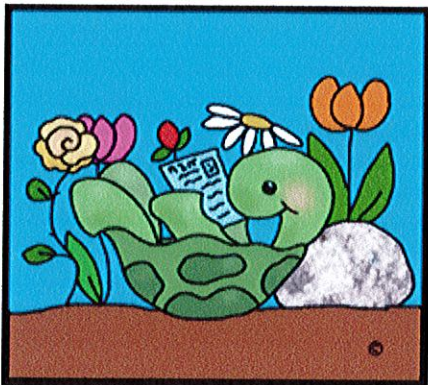
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 18, Issue 5



Michael Fess will be the speaker at our May meeting. Michael was born in Haynesville, Louisiana in 1935. He graduated from Magnolia High School in 1953 and attended Southern State College's engineering school, now SAU. He received his BS in Physics from Centenary College in Shreveport, LA in 1958. He was a successful real estate developer for over 30 years, awarded CCIM in the early 1970's.

He is the current chairman of the Red River Sculpture Society which he and six other sculptors formed in 1994. He also created the RRSS sculpture-lease plan for office buildings, hospital and public areas. He was inducted to the Sculpture Hall of Fame in 1998 (Louisiana), and helped organized the Visual Arts Hall of Fame in 1998. He moved to Little Rock in the fall of 2001, and currently is a member of the Sculptors Guild and a board member for the Sculptors Dominion International Invitational in San Antonio.



No more weeds from birdseed!  
Microwave seed for one minute  
per pound.  
Only microwave seed you're going to  
use right away. Microwaving causes  
seeds to soften making it more  
vulnerable to rot if in storage.



**You are invited to the  
Master Gardener's spring picnic  
May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30**

**Wildwood for the Performing  
Catered by Whole Hog**

**Happy Hour by our own Clark Trim owner  
of Colonial Wine & Spirits  
Program by Janet Carson**

**Plant exchange and fun, fun, fun**

**A chance to see the new Master Gardener  
project and the lovely grounds at Wildwood.**

**Price per person \$12.00.**

**We will be taking money at the May meeting or  
mail your money to Sandy Harrison, 118 Hickory  
Creek Cir. LR, 72212.**

**Dead line is at the May 20th meeting.**

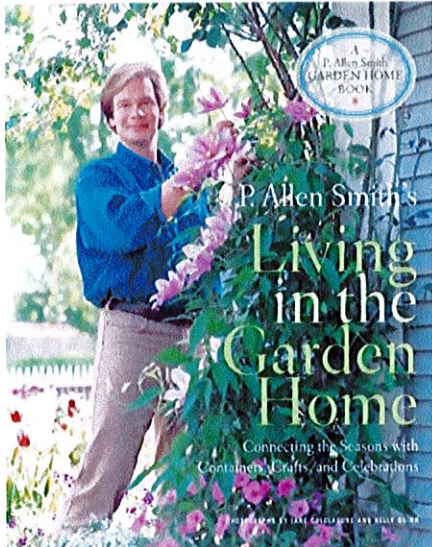
## *Arkansas Is Our Campus*

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

#### P. Allen Smith: Living In The Garden Home, Connecting the Seasons with Containers, Crafts and Celebrations



In his new book, P. Allen Smith inspires us to extend the definition of our living spaces to our gardens. He teaches us that while Mother Nature works her magic, there is a multitude of ways we can shape, enhance and accentuate our gardens. With step by step instructions and illustrations to each of the 50 projects, we can get inspired and dive right in. I must confess that P. Allen Smith is my Garden Guru and I have all of his books, all autographed...just like many of you! You will find a recipe to create a Mother's Day Container Garden. Of course, you could present Mom with the Container Garden and this book...Nice Gift.

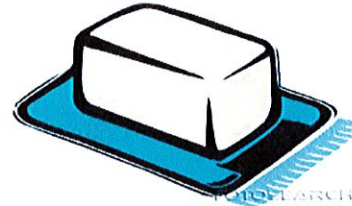
Spring, Summer, Autumn or Winter it's always a fine time to add beauty, style and enjoyment to our garden home.

About the Author:

P. Allen Smith is one of America's best known garden designers and lifestyle contributors. He is the poster boy for the joy of gardening. He lives and gardens in Little Rock, Arkansas.

### Basil Butter

4 tbsp room temperature butter  
3 tbsp basil leaves, finely chopped  
Blend together place on a sheet of plastic wrap, roll into a log and refrigerate.  
Delicious on bread or corn on the cob.  
Enjoy! Debra Redding



## NATIVE PLANT ID WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, MAY 17 - SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2008  
Make like a tree and leave the hustle and bustle of city life behind for a fun and informative Plant ID Workshop.

Whether you're an amateur outdoor person or a professional natural resource manager, you'll find Eric Sundell's hands-on approach and engaging learning style entertaining as well as educational. Participants will be introduced to many of Arkansas' most important native trees, shrubs, vines and wildflowers and will learn the basic skills needed to identify those species. This is an outdoor event so come prepared for the weather and to walk some trails.

Registration fee is \$100 plus tax, which includes instructor's fee, all meals, transportation to the trails and materials. Register online at [uawri.org](http://uawri.org). Accommodations Overnight accommodations are available.

Please call 501.727.5435 for reservations.  
LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS SO REGISTER EARLY!  
For more information contact Sandy Davies at 501.215.7990

*And so it criticized each flower,  
This supercilious seed;  
Until it woke one summer hour,  
  
And found itself a weed.  
- Mildred Howells, *The Different Seed**

# Calendar



by Laurie pierce

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Travel Committee is hosting a trip to the Midsouth Hydrangea Society Garden Tour and Plant Sale on June 7. Meet at I-630 and Shackelford Road at 7:30 a.m. For details contact Wanda Bray at 753-4867.

Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, invites you to view its late spring blooms in May and June: Satsuki and Tisbury azaleas, roses, hydrangeas, daylilies and wildflowers. Details at garvangardens.org, (800) 366-4664 or (501) 262-9300.

The monthly Plant Swap to the Governor Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center in Pine Bluff continues on June 14. Bring a plant, cuttings, seeds or bulbs to trade with other plant lovers. And on June 21, the nature center will host its fourth annual Gardening in the Bayou Plant Show, Contest and Sale. Details at dellarivers.com or (870) 534-0011.

Lori Spencer will present "Butterflies and Moths of Arkansas" on June 24 at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, Fayetteville. Details at (479) 750-2620 or bgozarks.org.

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Travel Committee invites you Long Creek Herb Farm in Blue Eye, Mo., on July 8. For details contact Wanda Bray at 753-4867 or Marcella Grimmett at 821-3148..

Chris Olsen and Botanica Gardens, seasonal tours continue with a summer garden tour at the Heights home of Bill and Jane Hardin at 10 a.m. July 19. A gourmet brunch will be served, and Olsen will give a talk on creating your own

paradise. The cost is \$45. More information at chrisholson.com or 614-3008.

About 18 Master Gardeners traveled to the Pine Ridge Gardens nursery at London, Arkansas March 27 and brought home about a dozen native plants each. A good time was had by all with lunch at Russellville on the way back.



Photo Courtesy of David Werling

## Calling All Moms

Moms-to-be, Moms and Grandmothers We have a new online club for Moms in Arkansas. ArkansasMoms.com. This website is sponsored by Today's THV, Channel 11.

You can log in and join all the fun. We have lots of info about children, marriage, recipes and even gardening.

Our own fellow Master Gardener, Debra Redding writes a weekly blog on gardening....Check It Out!



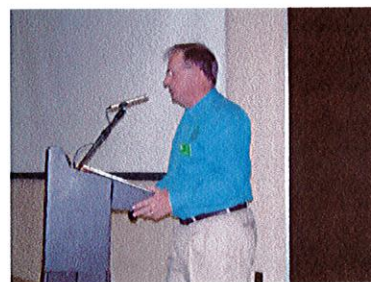
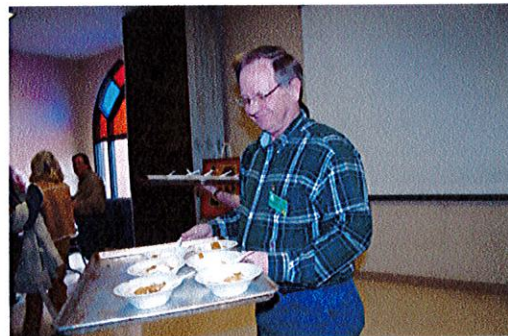


JIMMIE "JIM" DYER, beloved husband, father and Pa Paw, slipped from mortality into eternity on Friday, April 18, 2008. Beloved by all who knew him, Jim was born June 25, 1943, to Dewey and Marie, the youngest of eight siblings and was raised in Van Buren, Ark. He graduated from Arkansas State Teacher's College (now UCA) in Conway, Ark. While attending college he met the love of his life, Jacqueline "Jackie" Watson and they were married Aug. 15, 1965. They were married 43 wonderful years. Jim served three years active duty in the Army during the Vietnam conflict and was an officer in the Signal Corps. He retired from the Army Reserve in 2003 as a Colonel, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal and the Legion of Merit. A lifelong educator and school administrator, Jim retired from the North Little Rock School District in 2001. He attended Asbury United Methodist Church, where he served on the Board of the Asbury Christian Child Development Center (ACCDC). He is famous at Asbury for his homemade sweet rolls which he would prepare with his friends early Sunday mornings for the church members. A strong and robust individual, Jim loved traveling and documenting his travels with hundreds of photographs. He recently discovered digital cameras, and was a talented photographer. His hobbies included gardening and painting. He was a Master Gardener. He loved building things out of wood with his hands. He was an amazing cook, even if he was not inclined to follow a recipe. His talent for cooking

was such that he could accidentally marinate a pork loin in dishwashing soap, and it still turned out delicious. He loved laughing and had an infectious laugh that brought a smile to everyone's face. He made everybody happy.

He is the proud father of two beautiful daughters, Cindy and Christy, whom he loved dearly. He enjoyed a close relationship with both of his girls. Not a day went by that he did not talk to either of them. He was willing to drop everything at a moment's notice if his family or a friend needed his help. During his life, Jim was completely and totally devoted to his family. He loved painting with his son-in-law Mike, and going to Razorback games with his other son-in-law Matt. Even with all of his many talents, Jim's favorite activity was playing at the park and spending time with his grandson, Miles.

He is preceded in death by his parents Dewey and Ethel Marie Gooding Dyer; his siblings Dewey Jr., Quince, Robert and Mary Lou Carter. He is survived by his beloved wife Jackie; daughter Cindy Cole (Mike), daughter Christy Harward (Matt); and his grandson Miles Harward; sisters Juanita Fox, Doris Rainwater; and brother Roy.



God Bless & Keep Him  
Photos Courtesy of Lynn Winningham



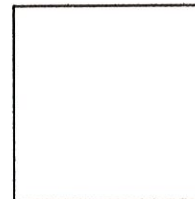
## Plot and Grading

By Lorraine Hensley

Having established soil type and degree of acidity it is now time to add a vital new tool to your collection. Most serious gardeners already have a yardstick, a 100 foot measuring tape, scale ruler, wooden stakes, string and a line level. Now we need to add overlay sheets and graph paper. We are going to make a scale drawing of the area to be landscaped by making a plot plan. Draw to the largest scale the paper will allow: usually 1/4 inch equaling 1 foot. This plot plan is your base. Everything else you plan for your landscaping efforts "grows" from this plan. A generally accepted procedure is to first mark the boundaries and dimensions of the area you plan to landscape. Also note the location of utilities, gradients(s) and contour lines, both high and low points. Indicate on your plan contours of adjoining property that will affect your planning by draining water into your yard. Also mark down spouts. Mark your house and note all doors and windows. The rooms from which they open should also be marked. Note your driveway and any other buildings on the site. Remember to mark existing plantings that are "keepers" and pay particular attention to marking those beautiful mature trees. Make several copies of the plot plan and put at least one copy in a safe place. Once around is enough. Don't think I've ever met the gardener eager to measure and mark out a plot plan twice. By this time it's pretty clear to some that it's decision time: either continue or call a professional for the job. We are now ready to make a grading plan. Sounds simple and it is; however, making changes is the first step in a wide variety of landscaping projects. A primary reason for grading is that many houses have not been designed to fit the land. And, according to Betty Ajay's Guide to Home Landscaping, the . . . "land must be rearranged to fit the house."

A complete grading plan must be done before any soil is moved. Money can also be saved by moving soil from high areas to low spots. We need to move soil from where it's not wanted to where it is needed. By doing this less soil needs to be purchased and less excess soil trucked away from the yard. To measure the grade of a slope the consensus re: procedure is to mark a board in feet then butt it against a stake at the top of the slope. Level, then measure from the board's bottom to the ground—while really difficult slopes require one to either to sprout a second pair of hands or to dragoon a friend to help out. This procedure, however, gives the measure of vertical drop to the measure of horizontal distance. This information is necessary prior to moving any soil for grading purposes.

If your house has an exposed foundation you may want to cover it for esthetic reasons. Different procedures are used to achieve that goal. Which one to use depends on if the land the house is sitting on is level or slope and what degree and kind of slope is exists. Betty Ajay's Guide to Home Landscaping and The Reader's Digest Practical Guide to Home Landscaping both do a good job of providing this information which includes line drawings of the various techniques. In order to protect those mature trees that grace the landscape it is especially important not to raise or lower the soil covering the tree's fibrous roots. These are the tiny root hairs at the very tips of the larger roots. The tree receives it's nourishment through these tiny fibers. Secondary function of the well is to protect the tree's bark. If is earth piled up around a bark injury it causes rot and the tree's circulation is cut off. When that happens your tree dies. Unless the soil is porous enough to permit rapid water dispersal drainage tiles also need to be installed. For those who have reached this point it's now time for the fun part. Place your overlay sheet on your plot plan. Mark all grading information and measurements on the overlay. Nest, mark on the overlay existing plants and mature trees you wish to keep.





## Checklist By Carol Randle

### GENERAL YARD

Many gardeners plant useful vegetable gardens OR beautiful fragrant flower gardens. Try combining the two by planting Nasturtium and Marigold in with your vegetables, or herbs around your flower garden. Plant Lily-of-the-valley or other flowering bulbs around the trunks of your trees to enhance the yard's natural beauty. Plant corn with strawflower for a colorful border and instead of building a fence.

### ANNUALS

Annuals are widely available now. If possible, purchase smaller plants without flowers or pinch off the blooms when you plant. This will allow the plants to build good roots instead of spending their energy on blooms. Choose shorter bushy plants because the larger ones are more established already and may not transplant as well. A dark green color is generally a good indicator of a strong healthy plant.

(Make sure that they are not light colored or yellowing. Nor should they have brown patches.) When planting your annuals, if you loosen up the roots a bit before planting it will stimulate stronger growth.

In the sun, transplant Ageratum, Begonia, Chrysanthemum, Dianthus, Verbena, Vinca, Sweet Alyssum, Celosia, Marigold, Petunia, and Zinnia. Or for shade, Browallia, Dahlia, Lobelia, Coleus, and Impatiens.

For better blooms next year, resist the temptation to cut back your Daffodils until they have almost completely died back. The soil around Stargazer Lilies and Daffodils should be kept moist and mulched during the growing period. Later, throughout the summer a thorough drying will do them good. They will not do as well if you keep the bed watered to suit the needs of other plants. Now that all danger of frost has passed (hopefully) you can move your Easter Lily plants out into a sunny spot in the garden. Once Easter Lilies are established in your garden they will bloom in midsummer, rather than Spring.

### INDOORS

Hopefully, all of your houseplants are outside and enjoying the warm weather and the rain. Most want to be in shade or part-shade. Pay careful attention to watering, especially in porches and roofed patios.

### ROSES

Cut back to the ground the oldest canes on Climbing Roses immediately after blooming. Remove suckers and dormant buds at the base of the shoot. Fertilize Roses this month. Spray them every 7 to 10 days with a fungicide. Make sure plants are well irrigated and kept clear of weedy patches and high grass. Remove infested flowers immediately and apply insecticidal soap, Orthene or OrtheneX. Spray

three times, allowing 7 to 10 days to elapse between treatments.

### FRUIT

Fertilize established Blueberry plants and continue through the growing season. Long grass around fruit trees will slow the establishment of young trees. Keep it well trimmed. Remove runners from strawberries for more fruit production or use this growth method:

plant new strawberries on top of old ones. Allow the runners to cover the beds as thick as they can get. Later in the Fall cover them with about two or three inches of soil. The following Spring you will be surprised at the strong production of foliage. The first year may be less productive than years to come.

### PRUNING

Prune Spring-flowering trees and shrubs after bloom. Quince, Spirea, Weigelia, and Wintersweet need occasional shaping, but Pieris, Azaleas, Loropetalum, and Rhododendron seldom need shaping. Root Forsythia and Hydrangea by bending branches to the ground and covering with a rock. Divide Dahlia tubers with a sharp knife. Be sure each sprout is attached to at least a piece of the tuber, as the sprouts make a new plant. Pinch back Asters, Mums, and Phlox. Remove seed pods from bulbs and Bearded Iris.

### VEGETABLES

Remember to rotate vegetable crops to help control pests, disease, and keep the soil in good shape.

### LAWNS

If your soil is well prepared, it is still not too late to lay turf or sow lawn seed. Feed lawn with high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for really green grass. Make sure you use a spreader to ensure the fertilizer is spread evenly. De-thatch, edge, and weed as necessary.

If you have Pine Trees on or near your lawn, make sure that you rake the needles regularly. Pine needles will kill anything underneath them. They pack so tight that light is unable to get through. This also makes them an excellent mulch and natural weed killer under trees and shrubs.

If you wish to use weed killers you should do so now while the grass is growing rapidly. Do not use a weed killer if your soil is too wet, too dry, or if you have a young lawn. Do not mow your lawn for at least a week after an application. Never add your cuttings to the compost after a treatment.

When mowing your lawn, make sure your mower has a sharp blade.

If the blade is dull it will tear the young seedlings from the soil.

Add gentle curves to your lawn for the appearance of a larger area. Gentle curves are also easier to mow than sharp curves or corners.

### PESTS

If slugs are a problem, use diatomaceous earth, commercial baits or a container of beer near the plants. Spray Red Top Photinia with Daconil (2 to 3 times for control). Watch for spider mites and lace bugs on your Azaleas. Control with Dursban or Orthene or with insecticidal soap. Two or three applications beginning around the first of June and repeated at ten-day intervals, may be necessary.

Try spraying with dormant oil to suffocate mites, lace bugs, and their eggs without killing beneficial insects in the area.



## 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 Extensions 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, AR 72204  
 501-340-6650



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 2007, these volunteers gave **22,160** hours of service.  
 Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent,  
 Staff Chair

**Ice Cream Social**  
**July 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Home of Chris Olsen**



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](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)  
 340-6650

### Master Minutes Staff



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 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



Cheryl Kennedy  
 David Werling  
 Lynn Winningham