

# Pulaski County Master Minutes

October, 2008

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

Volume 18, Issue 10



Join us at the October meeting where Gene Lichliter will be speaking on ornamental grasses. Join us at the November meeting where service awards will be presented.

## **Pulaski County Master Gardeners Years of Service Awards 2008**

### 15 Years or Life-Time (Class of 1993)

Jim Bowling  
Joyce Bumgardner  
David Dodson  
Linda Holbert  
Laura Lasiter  
Maxine Ramage  
Kathy Scheibner

### 10 Years (Class of 1998)

Shirley Acchione  
Rose Bradley  
Jim Campbell  
Lois Clifton  
Rose Crane  
Lee Gershner  
Ann Green  
Sandy Harrison  
Lorraine Hensley  
Joan Humphries  
Nancy Kirsch  
Nan Matthews

Gena Norris  
Tammy Pope  
Louis Sanders  
Frances Searcy  
Jeannie Spencer  
Claudia Stallings  
Pat Wallace  
Laura Anne Warren

### 5 Years (Class of 2003)

Jane Baldwin	Bill Bowen
Jan Bowen	Carma Boyd
Joan Bullard	Judy Chapman
Jennie Cole	Theresa Crowson
Laverne Davis	Betty Deere
Laetitia East	Steve Engel
Peggy Farrell	Carolyn France
Betty French	Nann Gaylor
Judy Gregory	Sandi Hall
Beverly House	Frank James
Walter Jennings	Marcia Kelly
Vicky Kessel	Mary Beth Kirkland
Teri Landers	Darla Lavender
Patti Ledbetter	Sandy Lubin
Chris Oxner	Connie Prewitt
Joe Reed	Susan Rose
Cathy Spivey	Tom Stuart
Clark Trim	Carolyn Truner
David Werling	Judy Woodard

Congratulations to all!!

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

**New Member Reception after the November  
18<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

**The Master Gardener Christmas party will be  
Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Park Hill Christian  
Church**

**Cost is \$12.50 per person**

**Deadline for reservations is December 1<sup>st</sup>**

## *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.

### Project Spotlight for October

By Carol Randle

The Three Ps Committee (Publicity, Public Relations, and Promotion) was started in 1997; it came out of a statewide conference. The aims were: to make the public aware of the many local Master Gardener projects; to promote a positive public image of Master Gardener's; and to improve active relationships with the larger community and Master Gardener program supporters.

Committee co-chairmen are David Werling and Trudy Kumpe. Photographers are: David Werling; Lisa Bomar; Linda Fritz; Cheryl Kennedy; Steve Lopata; Ann Owen; Margaret Schultz; Bonnie Wells; and Lynn Winningham.

Taking care of myriad other aspects of the committee's work are:

Trudy Kumpe; Nan Matthews; Sue Ellen Roberts; Susan Willcoxon; and Judy Woodard.

One of the biggest recent projects the 3 Ps have undertaken was the pictorial directory which took many, many hours of work and is greatly appreciated by the Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Over the years the committee has become more focused on member needs, interests and retention. Examples of this are the seed and plant swaps, first contact greeters, door prizes, photography, and the aforementioned directory. The committee meets on an "as needed" basis. Their goal is to support the historical mission of the 3 Ps and the current internal Master Gardener efforts including photography. Photos taken by the

committee members could well be used to acquaint those who are not Master Gardener members with our activities. Thank you to the 3Ps for their efforts in our behalf.



Janet Carson will present How Green is Your Garden on October 20 at 11:00 a.m. as part of the Fine Arts Club of Arkansas 2008-2009 series of art-related programs. Carson, who brings the art of gardening to life, will talk about ways to create a greener landscape. Topics will include environmentally friendly plants that are easily grown, disease resistant, and have low water needs; native plants that do well in the Arkansas landscape; and invasive plants to avoid.

The program will begin with a coffee at 10:30 a.m. The lecture will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by a luncheon in Best Impressions restaurant. Fine Arts Club members may attend the coffee and lecture at no charge; tickets for the coffee and lecture only are \$10 for non-members. Tickets for the coffee, lecture and luncheon are \$35 for members and non-members. The deadline for luncheon reservations is October 16, 2008. Call 501-396-0351 for reservations and additional information.

To receive information about all Fine Arts Club (FAC) events, join the FAC for only \$25/year. Contact the Arkansas Arts Center Volunteer Office at 501-396-0351.



## Enclosures

By Lorraine Hensley

Some gardeners prefer not to enclose their creation and that's fine as it works for them. Some of us need to fence it in—to enclose their concept of a beautiful garden. However we decide we have all expended a lot of time, effort, and dollars to develop additional space for our families to enjoy. Various enclosures offer the same opportunities for dealing with outdoor space that interior walls and room dividers provide within a house. According to Betty Ajay (Guide to Home Landscaping) enclosure elements are not strictly for practical use but should also add to the overall landscape design. She warns, however, against shaping your landscape area into a series of **small** outdoor rooms. For this gives a disjointed and cluttered aspect to the total project. Rather, enclosure elements should "... divide the land so that its maximum potential for usefulness and beauty is realized."

There are generally just three types of enclosures used: walls, fences, and hedges. Specific purpose, terrain quality, architecture of the house, availability of materials and how deep your pockets are all variables in deciding which is the most appropriate for you.

Ajay says all outdoor living areas should be screened from public view. Think of this as closing the living room blinds. The purpose is the same—privacy. Additionally, undesirable views should be screened off so they cannot be seen—especially in those areas most used by family members. We are speaking generally of areas containing garbage cans, gardening equipment, and compost piles. This may be all you need to do in order to complete your harmonious landscape design.

Most people (Ajay) are more relaxed in a partially enclosed area than in a large empty space. A low wall of two feet or less can often provide this security. Additionally, it is very difficult to use plants in meaningful ways in large open areas. Vertical planes consisting of a fence, hedge, wall, whatever, form the structure around which plants can be grouped in related patterns. Skillful use of screening materials can also increase

rather than decrease the visual size of an area. Ajay tells us that Japanese gardeners use interior screening with wonderful skill even in the smallest areas. The "sodegaki," or sleeve wall, is a much-used device. The "sodegaki" is a short fence built at a right angle to the house and is usually placed next to a doorway. When one steps out of the house only a small part of the landscape area can be seen. The rest remains hidden until the end of the fence is reached. The purpose is to reveal your landscape in controlled stages in order to increase your appreciation of its beauty.

If the decision is to break up a large space or create new divisions within your landscape area these vertical enclosures must be coordinated with your walks. Stroll around the areas where an enclosure might be useful and keep in mind the effect it will have as you look about. If necessary, the position of the walks can be changed. (Praise be the walks are not yet a reality—just marked on your plan or staked.) You may decide to make cardboard cutouts of fences, hedges, and walls and hold them vertically in various positions on the drawing. Or, it may be best to drive tall stakes in the ground and fasten sheets or heavy paper to the stakes positioning them in relation to the walks previously staked. By shifting around both vertical and horizontal plants a pattern should be achieved that suits both the gardener's practical and aesthetic needs.



An annotated bibliography of materials used for these landscape articles should appear in the next issue of this newsletter and it signals the completion of the series of articles. For those of you who want to continue reading in specific areas the bibliography should give you a place to start. I can only hope readers have enjoyed these articles maybe half as much as I have enjoyed sharing the fruits of my research with you.

### Garden Visits

By Deborah Streiffert Moore

While in Fort Collins, CO on a business trip, my sister and I were able to visit the "Gardens on Spring Creek", a community botanic garden. This garden is 18 acres and contains a Children's garden, a xeric garden, a community garden, and a compost demonstration site. There are future plans for a "Garden of Eatin'" and an Experiential garden.



I was really impressed with the children's garden. The children's garden contains two giant watering cans made out of highway culvert. One of the giant watering cans is a water feature where children can operate a hand pump to make water pour out into a maze carved in stone. The children's garden also contains secret hideouts, scarecrow sculptures, a shelter with a living roof, and a bicycle rack that is a replica of garden tools. (The gardens are easily accessible off the Spring Creek Bike Trail.)

Also, while in Fort Collins, CO, we visited the Colorado State University Annual Flower Trial Garden. This garden is used for research on how flowers develop under the unique environmental conditions of the Rocky Mountain Region.

I would recommend a visit to both gardens if you are in the area.

### South Georgia Cavier

Submitted By Debra Redding

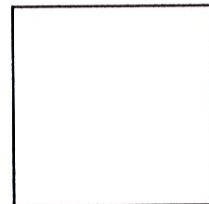
- 2--15 oz cans of black-eyed peas, drained
  - 1--15 oz can of whole kernel corn, drained
  - 1-10 oz Rotel
  - 2 cups of chopped red bell peppers
  - 1/2 cup chopped fresh jalapeno peppers
  - 1/2 cup chopped onion
  - 1--8 oz bottle Italian salad dressing
  - 1--4 oz jar chopped pimentos, drained
- In a large bowl, combine all ingredients and stir gently.

Cover and refrigerate overnight. Serve with chips of your choice.  
I take this recipe to potlucks and football games and it's scores big.....  
Enjoy!

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### Bless the Bugs

Bless this house, oh Lord, we cry.  
Please keep it cool in mid-July.  
Bless the walls where termites dine,  
While ants and roaches march in time.  
Bless our yard where spiders pass  
Fire ant castles in the grass.  
Bless the garage, a home to please  
Carpenter beetles, ticks and fleas.  
Bless the love bugs, two by two,  
The gnats and mosquitoes that feed on you.  
Millions of creatures that fly or crawl,  
In Mississippi, Lord, you've put them all!!  
But this is home, and here we'll stay,  
So thank you Lord, for insect spray.



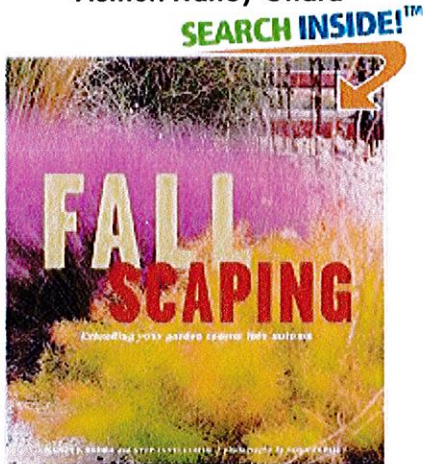
Submitted by Jan Bowen

### Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

#### Fallscaping: Extending Your Garden Season Into Autumn

Author: Nancy Ondra



Gardens in the Fall are often deemed the poor step children of their showier Spring and Summer counterparts, and there is simply no good reason why this should be the case. Fall offers our gardens dazzling foliage colors, vivid blossoms and tantalizing berries. Ornamental grasses treasured for their ethereal seed heads and trees and shrubs prized for their brilliant colors.

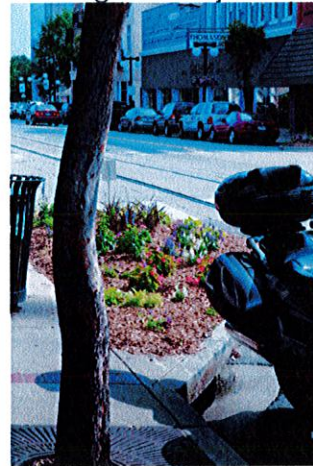
Nancy offers us number of fall-friendly garden plans, complete with shopping list s. The book ends with a Fall Garden Care Primer with useful details and lush photographs. I bet this book will fill a gap in many a gardening library, including mine.

Nancy Ondra is the author of 10 gardening books. She lives and gardens in Pennsylvania.



Photos Courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

Argenta Project



Extension Office Project





## Checklist By Carol Randle

### PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich your beds with organic soil amendment. List 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 lilacs. 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 (assuming the squirrels didn't get them as they did mine) 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 hang 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 or four years.

### GENERAL YARD

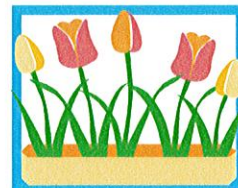
Clean up the planting areas as you harvest fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Rake up fallen leaves and fruit. Compost all disease free organic refuse. Don't put diseased plants on the street for pickup. You don't want to give someone else your problem. Bag up with your regular garbage. Or you can burn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

### 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, Eleagnus 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.



## Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Debra Redding

Pulaski County Master Gardeners  
Board Meeting Tuesday, September 16, 2008  
10 a.m. St. James United Methodist Church

Members present: Don Davis, Beth Phelps, Debra Redding, Marilyn Tilley, Mary Roark, Martha Basinger, Mary Freeman, Judy Woodard, Mac Huffman, and Jet Cuffman.

Minutes from the July 2008 Board meeting were approved. Treasurer's Report was approved.

There was discussion about the cost of printing and mailing the Master Minutes. Judy Woodard will research the cost per person to send out the Master Minutes newsletter and report back at the October board meeting.

### New Business:

1. Leave of absence request for Bill Bowen was approved.
2. Reinstatement request from Anne Speed was approved.
3. Fall workday at St. James will on Tuesday, October 21st following our meeting.  
Please bring a sack lunch and we'll have lunch together after the meeting.
4. 2008 Master Gardener class will begin tomorrow and 31 people were accepted.  
Beth will e-mail a class schedule with topic information to the membership.

5. Project participation inquiry--Don Davis heard from the chairmen and many of them are concerned about participation and earning project hours. We need to support our MG projects! Don shared with the board an analysis he did of the Old Mill committee and were members where getting their hours. There was a lot of discussion about doing the same for each committee. The Board decided that this was not necessary unless the board was going to make restrictions on how Master Gardeners got their volunteer hours and making a requirement that so many have to be on their assigned project.

6. Request for special funding: Beth requested reimbursement for \$244.42 for the supplies necessary to fix the sprinkler system at the County Extension Office. Request was approved.

7. Beth requested \$250.00 for the purchase of food for the Interpretive Event with the Quorum Court. Request was approved.

### General Meeting Announcements:

1. Nominating Committee Report and the Election of Officers--Marilyn Tilley to present.
2. Special Thanks to the Social Committee for the Ice Cream Social at Chris Olsen's House/Garden.
3. October 21st Fall Workday at St James following our meeting... bring a sack lunch!
4. Travel Committee--Wine and Cheese Party at the Good Earth this Friday at 5:30pm.
5. MG 20th Birthday Party Celebration on Monday, October 13 at the 4H Center.
6. Program--Jack Singleton, Master Gardener talks about Butterfly Gardening.

## Pulaski County Master Gardeners Membership Meeting Tuesday, September 16, 2008

President Don Davis called the meeting to order. He asked the Social Committee to stand and thanked them for a job well done at the Ice Cream Social at Chris Olsen's House/Garden.

Don made the following announcements

1. After our meeting October 21st we'll have a Fall Workday at St. James. He encouraged everyone to bring a sack lunch and we'll have lunch together.
2. Several people brought plants to share and they will be outside in the front after the meeting Moneywort, Creeping Jenny and bromeliads.

Travel Committee--Marcella Grimmett reminded everyone about the Wine and Cheese Party at the Good Earth this Friday, Sept. 19 at 5:30pm.

Clark Trim will provide wine and beer and we will get a 20% discount for any purchases at the Good Earth.

Marcella Grimmitt announced that on Nov. 8th the Herb Society will have a social at the Governor's Mansion, cost is \$30 with \$5 off the new Herb Society Cookbook.

Marcella announced that the Travel Committee has planed a Fall Foliage Tour for Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>. Meet at the commuter lot on Shackelford Rd at 9:30 am. The cost is \$42. We will travel to the Rockefeller Institute for a tour and lunch before heading to Petit Jean Mountain State Park.

Greenhouse Committee--Tom Stramel announced Plant Sales on October 4 and October 18. He also asked that if you drop off trays or pots at the greenhouse please place them in sacks before tossing over the fence.

Beth Phelps welcomed everyone back and thanked the Social Committee the great job that the Social Committee did at the Ice Cream Social at Chris Olsen's House/Garden.

Beth announced:

1. The 2008 MG Class will begin tomorrow and we have accepted 31 people. The schedule will be e-mailed to the membership and if you wish to join the class for lunch please let me know the Monday before by noon.
2. Report your MG hours soon; reports go to Janet Carson on Dec 1.
3. Fall Workday at St James will be October 21 following the meeting, bring you tools, rakes etc. Remember this is our thank you to St, James for providing our meeting space.
4. Master Gardener 20th Birthday Party Celebration will be Monday, October 13 at the 4H Center. The speakers will be free but there will be a charge for lunch. Also, the grounds at the Governor's Mansion will be open on October 13th. If you need directions to the 4H Center let Beth know.
5. Ballot issues/General election fact sheets produced by the Cooperative Extension Service

Public Policy Institute are available at welcome area.

Nominating Committee--Merylyn Tilley presented the following slate per the Committee's recommendations:

- President--Don Davis
- 1st Vice President--Martha Basinger
- 2nd Vice President--Jet Cuffman
- Treasurer--Judy Woodard
- Assistant Treasurer--Mary Freeman
- Secretary--Debra Redding
- Member At Large--Mac Huffman

Membership voted to approve this Slate of Officers for 2008/2009.

Merylyn Tilley announced an all day gardening seminar at the Arlington Hotel/Garvan Gardens this fall being conducted by Horticulture Magazine.

Beth Phelps reviewed the officers responsibilities -- 1<sup>st</sup> VP coordinates projects and get project chairman, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP is responsible for arranging our programs and coordinating the standing committees. Beth asked you let her know if you are interested in serving on the MG Board--volunteer to serve.

Beth Phelps reminded everyone about the Race for the Cure Master Gardener Green Team. If you would like to join the Green Team for the Race for the Cure please sign up online, the password is: Mastergardener.

Beth announced that a Proclamation from Judge Buddy Villines was issued recognizing the Old Mill as Arkansas Master Gardener Project of the Year.

Vice President Martha Basinger introduced our speaker--Jack Singleton, MG and his topic will be Butterfly Gardening.







## 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



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



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



Cheryl Kennedy  
David Werling  
Lynn Winningham