

Pulaski County Master Minutes

February, 2009

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

Volume 18, Issue 2

MEETING

Bob Byers will be the speaker at the February meeting. Bob came to Hot Springs in 1994 as curator of Garvan Woodland Gardens, the University of Arkansas' botanical garden, and currently serves as the garden's director of operations. He works with a highly dedicated staff to upgrade the Gardens' public services, including consultation and design work on \$8.7 million of completed and upcoming state funded capital improvements and numerous programs and gardens funded by over \$10 million in private donations. He also works with about 450 volunteers helping to build and publicize facilities and programs. He will give us an update on the gardens improvements.



Pulaski County Master Gardener 2009 dues are due. Dues are \$15.00 before April 1st and \$20.00 after. You can pay your dues and pick up your 2009 membership card at the February or March Master Gardener meeting. You can also mail a check made out to the PCMG to

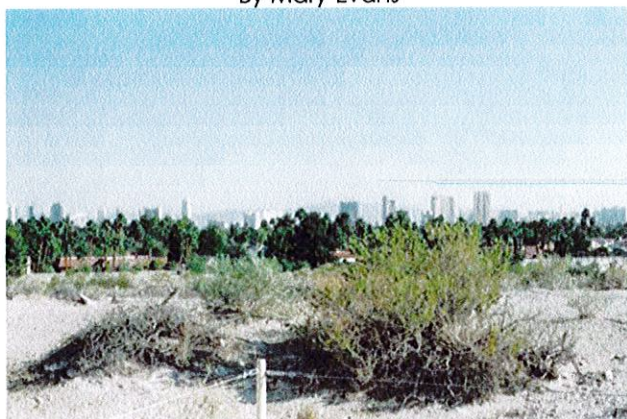
Judy Woodard
P.O. Box 8106
Jacksonville, AR 72078.

Dues are used to support our projects, printing and mailing the Master Minutes, supplies,

equipment and reference material for the Master Gardener office.

Las Vegas Gardens

By Mary Evans

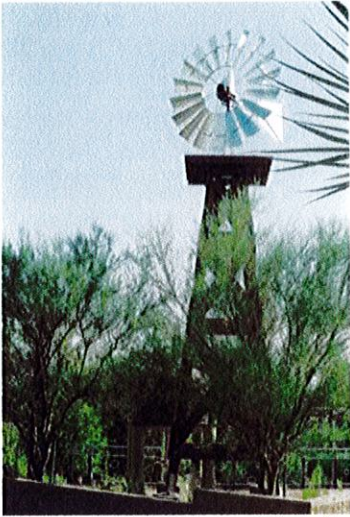


Las Vegas is more than just bright lights. Vegas has a great history. Life here has always centered on the old springs. Home to the Pautie Indians, passing wagon trains on the Old Spanish Trail & Mormons who lived in the area also used the springs. Las Vegas, the city, has been close to death many times & always re-invented herself, just in time. What you see now is the latest re-incarnation. In the 1960's the springs dried up as a result of over use. Las Vegas could not survive now without Hoover Dam.

A common misconception among those that have never been to the desert is there is nothing worth seeing. They couldn't be more wrong. Over the years I have spent a lot of time in our desert areas. Last September we had a family history vacation in Utah & I had to pick someone up at the airport in Las Vegas. Her flight was at 10:00 pm. What to do all day? Check out local gardens! Never mind that it was only 106* (dry heat) that day. My first stop was at **Springs Preserve**, located right in down town. The parking lot itself is a botanical experience, and then you enter through a box canyon. Most paths are paved & easy to use. All paths have water stations to refill your water bottles.

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Demonstration Garden Windmill

The botanical garden covers about 8 acres and is just over 1 year old now. An indicator of how awesome this place is, they are already booked up for several years with field trips. They offer an outstanding educational facility. There are indoor, as well as outdoor classrooms, one with cute mushroom stools to sit on. They have an enabling garden with raised beds, including all kinds of vegetables, herbs, fruits, and even flowers, as we know them. Another demonstration area has a huge layout of mulch and other soil conservation choices such as drainage options, such as dry streambeds. All types of irrigation methods from rain barrels to windmills, which is a great study in xeriscape & water conservation. They offer classes for adults & also have Master Gardener volunteers working there. Other areas include huge cactus/succulent display gardens (some in rock gardens), as well as huge Joshua trees, a multitude of palms and native plants. To see the rugged perennials and ornamental grasses growing in that harsh environment, demonstrates how tough they really are.

Water is huge in Vegas! Ori Gen is the water exhibit/museum. After the "Ori Gen experience" you will see how the desert teeters on the edge, realize the fragility of life and how much all life depends on water. The folks here nailed it with the word, "experience." As you enter the building you are confronted with water flowing across (under) the floor. This is just the first illusion. Ori Gen focuses on the formation, history, culture

and fragility of the Las Vegas Valley. The exhibit also includes a history of the Colorado River, Lake Mead and Hoover Dam. Everything about water including live fish and inter-active exhibits with rocks, shells, fossils and soil samples. One section was devoted entirely to the Mormon settlement in mid 1850's and other historic ranches. A person could spend an entire day playing in there. Outside is a replica of a Paiute village, complete with dwellings, a creek, native crops and other items reflecting how their life was in the Vegas valley.

The site of the springs is still there. Over 2.5 miles of hiking trails that take you through the preserved (natural) landscape that still surrounds the springs. You expect to see a roadrunner run through. The Vegas skyline is the backdrop.

One of my favorite things: the containers. Every kind you can imagine with everything from Lantana to palm trees. Some were huge-mongous with gigantic barrel cactus, palms, Ocotillo, small desert trees and monster grasses. Especially interesting were the giant, scone-like planters, mounted on the walls of the administration building.



"Devil's Tongues" in hugemongous pots in the parking lot.

The Desert Living Center is a green building and offers classes from recycling to protecting natural resources, green building products for both indoors & out. Wish I'd had more time in there. There is also an outdoor amphitheatre & a small, enclosed zoo, featuring mostly critters with scales

Another garden I went to was **The Ethel M Botanical Garden** ("M" as in "Mars") aka Ethel's Chocolate Lounge. (Somehow "Chocolate Lounge" sounds obscene.) When Ethel moved to Vegas, she had to have a garden. I must say it is a nice one. Ethel claims to be Nevada's largest collection of cactus, succulents & other drought tolerant ornamentals. She has over 300 species. Half are cactus & succulents, the other are native trees & shrubs. Most are native to Nevada and/or the southwest. The paths are paved & easily accessible. There are also some narrow footpaths (scenic routes) to slip off onto. A lot of the garden would qualify as "rock garden." Ethel has nice rocks, too. The garden has lots of wonderful shade trees. Everything is well labeled.

This is the only garden I've ever been to that you can come out "heavier" than when you went in. You get to tour Ethel's (real) chocolate factory, which is quite large & see how the chocolate is made. Then you have the opportunity to buy some on your way through the gift shop that exits to the garden. I don't recommend buying it first at 106*.



Springs Preserve Cactus Garden

The best time to view flowers in the desert is winter/early spring, especially following a wet winter. I hear that's the best time for wildflowers in Death Valley, too. I bet after IMGC, I will have a Death Valley story to tell. Death Valley has been on my list for a long, long time.....

Springs Preserve 3701 W Alta Dr, Las Vegas 702-258-3205

<http://www.springspreserve.org/html/gardens.html>

Ethel's Chocolate Lounge 2 Cactus Garden Dr, Henderson, NV 702-435-2655

<http://www.ethelchocolate.com>

2009 Master Gardener & Horticulture Events



February

10th – County 76 General Membership Meeting
On February 10, 2009, the general County 76 Membership meeting will be held at the U of A Extension Office in Little Rock. County 76 is the statewide advisory group for the Arkansas Master Gardener program. It is open to any Master Gardener who is in good standing in their county program. The meeting will be held in the auditorium at the extension office, 2301 S. University, Little Rock, 72204, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Topics for this meeting include Leadership Training, 2009 calendar and project work time. This is also the time when members can change projects. We encourage all members to attend and support County 76.

County 76 is open to all Master Gardeners who have completed one year in the program, re-certified and remain in good standing on the local level and agree to attend the next leadership training (if they have not attended leadership training previously). Membership term is unlimited for those who re-certify. For more information about County 76 visit the website <http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly/county76/default.htm>

Remember the username is **mastergardener** and the password is **compost**

14th – Jefferson County Lawn & Garden Show, Pine Bluff, AR

Tree City Morrilton, the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton and the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute will co-sponsor a free, open to the public, Tree Care workshop on Wednesday, February 18, 2009, from 9 a.m. until noon. The workshop will be held in the Koontz Room of the Business Technical Center on the campus of UACCM. Presenters include Jim Robbins, John Slater, and Stephen Vann.

There is no charge for the workshop, but registration by February 16th is required. Please contact Sandy Davies at 501 215-7990 or at sdavies@uawri.org or Aaron Spivey at aspivey@uaccm.edu to register or for more information.

21st – Spring's A Coming Seminar. 8:30am – 3:30pm. First Baptist Church, 224 King Avenue, Mountain View, AR 72560. Cost is \$15.00. Limited seating. Register by February 16, 2009. Topics include Shade Gardening, Heritage Gardening, Must Have Plants by Janet Carson and Beekeeping by Jon Zawislak.

WHAT: 2nd Annual Ozark Seed Swap
WHEN: February 21, 2009, 12-3PM
WHERE: Ozark Folk Center Bois D' Arc Conference Center, Mountain View, Arkansas. 870-269-3851 1032 Park Ave Mountain View, AR 72560, US
COST: None.

For more information contact
Dr. Brian Campbell brianc@uca.edu (501) 450-3178 M-F,
Tina Marie Wilcox tina.wilcox@arkansas.gov (870) 269-3851, M-F,
Dr. Alison Hall alisonh@uca.edu (501) 376-2166 TT, (501) 450-5498 MWF

27 - March 1 – Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, Little Rock, AR, Statehouse Convention Center.

(See article below)

March

6 - 8 – River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Fort Smith, AR.

19 – Advanced Master Gardener Training: Edible Landscaping, 9am to 4:30pm, Little Rock, AR. Registration form available soon.

April

18 – Advanced Master Gardener Training: Vines of All Kinds, 8:30am to 4pm, Jonesboro Extension Office.

May

2 – "Diamond Jubilee" Iris Show Exhibition & Iris Art Sale. Corner of Hillcrest and Kavanaugh Blvd in Little Rock, AR. Grace Lutheran Church. 1-4pm. Free admission. Contact Barbara 501-455-1478.

June

7-9 – State Master Gardener Meeting, West Memphis, AR.

Garden Bling

By Lorraine Hensley



Don't be fooled this time of year if the gardener in your family is slouching in a chair looking at a few catalogs and doing a space cadet imitation.

What you see is a working gardener getting ready to get ready to garden. That gardener is deep in thought trying to make decisions about what to plant and where to plant it to achieve the best garden he's ever planted. Thought he had it last year but this one is going to move that one to second place on the list of the best all-around personal garden. Garden bling is his primary focus this year and that means choosing annuals that announce the changing seasons simply by their beautiful presence. And that requires a lot of thought as in what to plant and where to plant it. Always keeping in mind that those plants also have to agree with your planting decisions for if they are not pleased they may sulk, wither or die.

Annuals are desired and valued primarily because they provide lots of wonderful color quickly to the landscape for long time periods.

Another plus for your annuals/bling is their versatility and hardiness. And it never hurts to remember they are relatively inexpensive so deep pockets are not necessary here. Be sure to read your plant tags at the nursery so you know if you are buying true annuals. True

annuals sprout from seed, flower, set seed and die within one season. Some plants that are not hardy such as begonias, impatiens, and geraniums also successfully play the role of annuals in the garden. And don't forget the biennials that complete their cycle in two growing seasons. Just be aware of which you are planting so you will know what to expect. Each season of the year brings just the kind of annual needed for that colorful garden bling. Annuals are generally grouped as tender, half-hardy, and hardy. Spring is such a special time of the year that's where we will begin to "ring in" the gardener's New Year. This is when we plant the tender annuals such as vinca, zinnia, and impatiens. These plants can't tolerate freezing temperatures and should be planted after all danger of frost is past. This would be somewhere about mid-April. Half-hardy annuals like allysum, dianthus, and petunias can survive a light frost and are among those plants that provide late spring and summer color. Plant these in the spring after all danger of frost has passed. Hardy annuals such as ornamental kale and pansies help provide the fall and winter gardens with just enough splashes of color to delight the eye. Take the time to choose carefully and read the plant tags of those you may decide to take home with you. Reading that tag gives the gardener all the information needed to plant garden bling successfully. And we all understand that plants of any kind do well if their needs are met. I've found the concept of "garden bling" another interesting and fun way to look at a landscape from a slightly different perspective. I hope you also have a bit of fun with the concept.



"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."
 - Henry David Thoreau

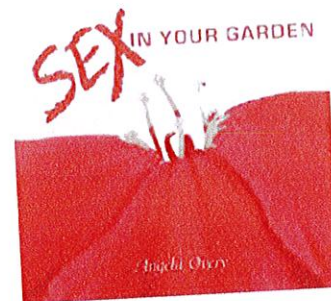
In Memoriam



Bill Bowen, Pulaski County Master Gardener, passed away, January 20, 2009. He was in the Master Gardener class of 2003 and worked on the Maumelle Community Center project and the Master Minutes staff. Bill also developed the basic botany training materials being used statewide for Master Gardener training. Memorials can be made to the JSU Foundation, William R. Bowen Student Research Fund, Jacksonville State University, 700 Pelham Road, Jacksonville, AL 36265. His wife Jan is a Pulaski County Master Gardener. Keep Jan and the Bowen family in your thoughts and prayers.

Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding



Sex In Your Garden
 Author: Angela Overy

Catchy title, right? At least, I got your attention. Basically, this is a "how and why" book on plant reproduction with more than 250 beautiful botanical photographs. The author makes botany interesting and funny while providing eight chapters of useful information. A clear and concise study of the reproductive processes of garden plants and their relationships to their various pollinators, this book is certainly an eye-opener as a coffee table book and a light-hearted, clever read. Angela Overy has written for Denver Botanic Garden and Fine Gardening Magazine. She lives and gardens in Colorado.

Resolve to keep a garden journal

Submitted by Jan Partain



Celebrate the arrival of a new year by making resolutions for your garden and landscape. The best way to transform your gardening dreams into reality is to create a plan and write it down in a journal.

A journal can be used to record what you plant, where you planted them and to track your progress using photographs. Select a blank notebook from your local stationary store for your journal and start planning. It's also an ideal place to get creative and sketch your dream garden or your plans for the next batch of plantings. A log like this is a great way to keep track of what thrives in your garden and what doesn't.

Document your progress

A journal is ideal for noting tasks and keeping track of developments. For example, if you tested your soil and added lime to "sweeten" it, include a copy of the test results, the date and jot down the amount of lime. Then make a note to test your soil pH again next spring. If you didn't get around to pruning your azaleas (Rhododendrons) last year, write a reminder to do so after they finish flowering this spring.

Track weather patterns

Tracking weather is a useful task that can help you make gardening decisions. A plant struggling in autumn might be suffering the effects of a prolonged midsummer drought. Once you relate rainfall to plant health, you can resolve to either move the plant or pay closer attention to its water needs this year. A plant showing signs of distress in early summer may be exhibiting delayed symptoms of a late spring freeze. Knowing this will help you avoid unnecessary pest control measures.

Note new plants

Every time you plant something new, record the dates, locations and plant names, including varieties. Plant tags get lost and memories get foggy, but your garden journal will always be there to refer to. What was the name of that especially beautiful zinnia variety you planted last year? A flip of the page will give you your answer. You can also tape plant tags into your journal or attach an envelope to a page to hold your tags.

Draw your garden

Sketch your vegetable garden each year to keep track of what you planted where. It's best to avoid planting similar crops in the same location more than once every three years. Knowing where you planted tomatoes the last few years will keep you from planting them (or related plants, like peppers and eggplants) in the same spot this year.

Make a wish list

Snip photographs from garden design magazines and paste them in your journal to refer to when choosing plants for your landscape. Keep a camera on you at all times and take snapshots of plant combinations that strike your fancy and place prints of these in your journal, too. Bring your journal with you when you shop for new plants to help you recreate the look you want to achieve.

Make a wish list of your gardening goals for the upcoming season and then create a timeline for achieving those goals. If the information seems overwhelming, break the goals down into small tasks that you can accomplish in one day or over a weekend. You'll feel good knowing you're making progress.

Hold photographs of your garden

Keep before and after photos of your garden. It's fun to look back at what your garden looked like before all your hard work and how far it has come in a few years. Take time to appreciate your accomplishments and pat yourself on the back for the improvements you've made.

A journal can be as detailed as you have the time and desire to make it. It can be a list of facts, a place to express your feelings or both. Resolve to write in it once a week while information is fresh in your mind, but don't make it a chore — on sunny days, sit outside in a comfortable chair, with a cup of tea to make notes amidst all your plants for inspiration.

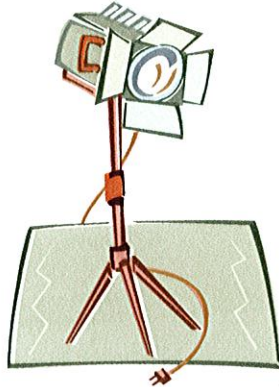
<http://www.homedepotgardenclub.com/gc-server/web/main>

**The wind that sighs before the dawn
Chases the gloom of night,
The curtains of the East are drawn,
And suddenly — 't is light.**

— *Le Vent de l'Esprit*, Sir Lewis Morris (1833 – 1907)

Project Spotlight

By Carol Randle



Located at Pinnacle Mountain is the Pinnacle Mountain State Park Project. Project chairman is Bill Kelly. Project members are: Hilda Boger; Marie Jordan; Bonnie Cargile; Ben Jordan; Karen Baris; Mary Frances Branton; Shannon Chamberlin; Richelle Daniel; Kelly DeBusk; Cathy Fakouri; Don Ford; Lee Gershner; Robert Green; Ann Green; George Harper; Linda Helm; Mary Helen Henry; Jenny Jackson; JoAnn Janssen; Judy Johnson; Nancy Kirsh; Frances Lopata; Brenda O'Reilly; Ann Owen; Thelma Shank; Dean Talley; Ted Treadway; Bonnie Wells; David Werling; and Sharon Williams.

The Butterfly Garden and the two gardens at the Visitor Center were started by a small number of Master Gardener volunteers. Two years later, in 1990, the Pulaski County Master Gardeners formerly adopted the project. Since that time, a working group of Master Gardeners has developed and maintained six gardens totaling about 3,300 sq. ft. These gardens contain nearly 100 species, mostly wildflowers, with a few native shrubs and trees.

Master Gardeners designed and installed an automated irrigation system with timers to serve all six gardens. Another ongoing activity is labeling all plants in the gardens. All of the areas are works in progress and function as both laboratory and showcase for Arkansas native plants.

The butterfly garden contains some cultivated plants, because, at the time it was developed, wildflowers were not readily available on the market. Master Gardeners have converted this garden to all native plants.

Originally, the two wildflower gardens at the Center were filled with good soil, and a variety of plants were moved, with permission, from the wild. Various additional wildflower specimens have been added since the project began. Plants have come from the wild, from members' gardens, and occasionally from nurseries that carry native plants.

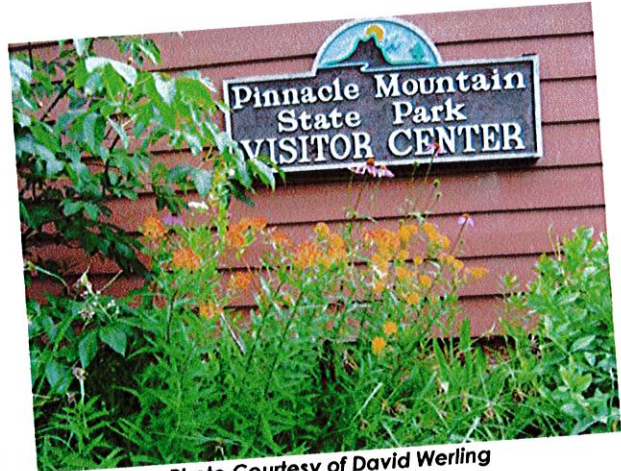


Photo Courtesy of David Werling

Master Gardeners established the Meadow, the largest of the gardens, from a virtual rock pile. Master Gardeners moved tons of riprap to create a wall and two cross-dams to slow water flow from the parking lot. They also hauled many truckloads of soil and topsoil to the area at their own expense. Master Gardeners and other volunteers donated all the plants in this area.

They have also lain stepping stone paths to encourage visitors to walk through the Meadow and read the labels that identify plants.

The two gardens at the front gate are tiered with boulders provided and moved by Pinnacle Mountain State Park workers. These gardens, which are partially shaded, also showcase Arkansas native plants and wildflowers.

The project has received several awards and citations, including being named a finalist in the "Keep Arkansas Beautiful" statewide competition and being nominated by Pulaski County Master Gardeners for the Master Gardener State Project of the Year for 2003.

We need to check out this massive project, enjoy our native wildflowers and plants and thank the members of this project for their hard work.

"Dream Gardens"

Arkansas Flower & Garden Show 2009
By Mary Evans



To start off this year, I must tell you about the new & improved website. Not only is it good looking, there is a wealth of information on there, including speaker schedules & events, vendors, gardens, florists, flower show, and lots more. Particularly impressive is the Photo Gallery. Be sure to check it out! The website is www.arflowerandgardenshow.org. This year we will "**Dream Gardens.**" Also watch for an insert in your Central Arkansas Water bills.

Show dates are Friday, Feb 27- Sunday, March 1. Show hours for Friday and Saturday are 9:00 am – 6:00 pm. & Sunday 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Ticket prices are: Adults \$7.50. Seniors (60+) \$5.00, youth (6-12) \$1.00 & children under 6 are free. Three-day passes are \$10.00. Remember if you **volunteer** to work before, during or after the show you have free admission for the duration of the show. Beth has already sent out the pink sign up forms. (Remember setup is Wednesday & Thursday.) To volunteer, contact Ray Sarmiento at annsarmiento@aol.com or Beth Phelps at 340-6650 or bphelps@uaex.edu. This year we have 8 gardens & about 100 vendors. The ever-popular **wine garden** will be returning this year.

This year the **shuttle** has a few changes. We have two places to park, War Memorial Stadium in LR or Dickey Stephens Park in NLR. At War Memorial we will park in the east parking lot on Friday, west parking lot on Sat. & Sun. Look for the garden show (parking) signs. This year **the shuttle will have a \$1.00 fee!** Be sure to plan for that! The shuttle is worth it at any price! Children under 12 are free. The shuttle is available for everyone! Check the website for lots of other parking options, shuttle & trolley schedule.

Friends of The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is something new this year. "Members only" will receive

show passes, invitations to garden tours, an autumn garden dinner/wine tasting party, subscription to quarterly newsletter & calendar. Membership is \$100 per year. For more info contact Krista at 821-4000.

The **AF&GS store** will be open again. The shop will be located in the upstairs atrium at the top of the escalator. The statewide (high school) **art competition** was sponsored again by Arkansas Burger Company. The winners for this year are: 1st Jay Williams, 2nd Emma Gist & 3rd Caylie Gillum, all from LRCAC. The first place art goes on all promotional materials as well as the show t-shirts & posters. All of the entries will be on display in the main show downstairs. Also in the atrium will be the judged, professional florist's competition, **Arkansas Florist Assoc.** A lot of hard work goes into this, don't miss it.

The theme for the flower show this year is "**Dreaming In Technicolor.**" Their show will be upstairs in the same location as last year. An excellent chance for winning a blue ribbon is the **horticulture exhibits** by the council of garden clubs. It is a great opportunity for the public to learn about plants, flowers, varieties, etc. To submit an entry, contact Mary Latendresse at 868-3032 or mplatendresse@gmail.com.

One mission of The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show is to provide scholarships & grants. A fairly new project is the grant program, "**Greening of Arkansas.**" These grants are awarded to community gardens, neighborhood parks and civic groups among others. To learn about how to apply for a grant and to see the list of current grant projects check out the website. The projects are very interesting and fun to read about. One source of funds for this is the **silent auction**. Feel free to donate, knowing it is for a good cause. The silent auction will be in the main hall.

Ideas are welcome! If anyone has any ideas for things you would like to see at future shows, contact Mary Evans at ARGardengoddess@aol.com.

Saturday is Family Day!

"**The Big Backyard**" is an interactive children's learning area. Kids can learn about the Heifer Project's gift animal program and pet some real animals. "Worms To The Wise" will teach kids about the value & benefits of earthworms. They can get up close & personal with live worms in portable worm farms. Clinton Elementary is back with their green team & butterfly garden. 4-H will cover resources, environment & wildlife habitats. Besides "The big Backyard" we have 4 other speakers on children's topics. (See speaker schedules.)

"Dream Garden Giveaway"

This year you will be asked to fill out an evaluation form. When you turn in the completed form, you will be entered to win the drawing. I hear this drawing has a wide range of surprises! Good luck!

"Garden Railways" Feature garden.....

The **garden railway** garden is co-produced by the **Central Arkansas Garden Railway Society & PCMGs**. If you saw it in 2003, ya gotta see it again. The layout is totally different this time. Our trains will pass by the same things real trains pass by. The railroaders have new & exciting "toys" to display. No worries, Thomas The Tank will be here again. Garden railways are a growing hobby. These guys (big boys) are passionate! Not to mention they are great fun! They will have a steam engine as well as other engines & accessories to demonstrate. Two speakers from the railway garden will be at the Garden How To's stage. Bruce Stockbridge (Volunteer of The Year, 2003) will talk about the trains & related accessories. Mary Evans will talk about miniature plants to compliment the scale of the trains. Bruce & Mary will both speak Friday & Saturday afternoons.

Two BIG "Pre-Show" Events

"Wine, Dine & Garden With Beth Phelps & Janet Carson"

This event will be held at the home of Clark Trim & Henrik Thostrup. Clark is a Master Gardener & Henrik is a European educated & trained, executive chef. This event will take place two nights, Thurs. Feb 19th & Fri. Feb. 20th, 6:30-8:30 pm. Both Beth & Janet will be there the 19th & Beth only on the 20th. In addition to the program, there will be a wine tasting of about 20 wines from around the world, paired with gourmet food dishes prepared by Henrik Thostrup. AF&GS Board of Directors presents this event. Tickets can be purchased at Colonial Wine & Spirits, 223-3120, located at 11,200 W. Markham (just west of Shackleford Rd) or by contacting Clark Trim at 803-9260 or clark@arWineSales.com The event is **\$25.00** with proceeds going to AF&GS (grants & scholarships.) **Limited to 100 per night!**

"The Green Revolution" Rebecca Kolls speaks at The Good Earth

Many of you may be familiar with **Rebecca Kolls**. She has hosted many TV shows on (ABC, NBC, HGTV, CNN,) is a published author and has her own magazine, "Seasons By Rebecca." She has a very long and impressive resume' (she's been on Oprah!) Rebecca will speak at The Good Earth Thursday, Feb. 26th at 6:00 pm. AGAIN at the show on Friday, Feb. 27th (see speaker schedule.) A book signing will follow the

presentation on Friday. Rebecca is sponsored by The Good Earth. All proceeds go to AF&GS (grants & scholarships.) Tickets are available at The Good Earth, 15,601 Cantrell Rd., Little Rock, AR 72223 or contact Jennifer Gibson at 868-4666 or gibson2217@yahoo.com. Advance tickets may be purchased by mail. Tickets are **\$10.00** & include a **free** 3-day pass. **Tickets must be must be purchased in advance.** Attendance is **limited to 150**, get your tickets now!

Speakers!



2009 Premier Speakers

We have a great line-up of speakers this year! Rain gardens are a hot new topic. Sculpture in the garden is always popular. Janet Carson needs no introduction. Jennifer Bartley is author of the book, "Designing The New Kitchen Garden: An American Potager Handbook." She will speak twice, followed by book signings. Rebecca Kolls will do one presentation at Good Earth & a different one at the show. A book signing will follow the show talk. Tina Marie Wilcox will speak on Friday & Saturday, two different topics, with a book signing after each. One BIG change is the location. The **Premier speakers will be located in the Fulton Room (downstairs.)** The Fulton Room is located down the interior hall, from the ticket window, past the escalator to the Peabody.

Friday, Feb. 27th

10:00 "**Rain Gardens-Beautiful Landscapes Reduce Stormwater Pollution And Improve Water Quality**", Mark Robertson, MESA Landscape Assoc, Inc. Little Rock

11:30 "**Designing the New Kitchen Garden**" Jennifer Bartley, author

1:00 "**Digging For Dollars-Save Big bucks With Frugal Gardening**" Rebecca Kolls, author

3:00 "**Growing a Kitchen Garden From Scratch-From Removing Bermuda Grass to Building Soil to Harvesting Vegetables, Herbs & Edible Flowers**" Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center

Saturday, Feb 28

10:00 "**Garden Bones**" Michael Fess, Pulaski County Master Gardener

11:30 **"Four Seasons Of Garden Color"** Janet Carson, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Horticulture Specialist

1:00 **"Designing The New Kitchen Garden"** Jennifer Bartley, author

2:00 **Arkansas Flower & Garden Show Awards Presentation**

3:00 **"The Folk Kids' Mountain Garden at the Ozark Folk Center- From Conception to Realization, a Garden to Provide the Experience of Ozark Folk Life Through Play"** Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center

"Garden How To's" Speakers (Master Gardener stage)
We have "dreamed" up another year of fun on the main show floor. We have 3 florists lined up. Tentatively one is doing a "dream" wedding on Sunday. There are two schools with kids to talk. Hear about the Little Rock, Council of Garden Clubs' **"Spring Garden Tour."** Learn the "facts" about bamboo & the "proper" way to plant a tree. We have 2 Master Gardeners that are also Master Naturalists. They will give us details about this exciting new program.

Bromeliads, orchids, honeybees, wild birds, foolproof perennials, drought tolerant plants and green gardening techniques. Hands-on demonstrations on how to make "pot people" and recycled yard art. Chris Olsen will talk about decorating the garden. Tina Marie Wilcox will be talking/selling/signing her new book, "The Creative Herbal Home." There will be 2 speakers on Friday & Sat in connection to the "feature" garden, the garden railway. This is a huge hobby and growing in popularity.And have you heard about the new mosquito repellent systems to install in the garden?

**Garden How To's Speakers 2009
(Master Gardener stage)**



Friday, Feb 27th

- 10:30 **"Honeybees"** Speaker to be announced. 30 minutes.
- 11:00 **"Honeybees"** continued.
- 11:30 **"Spring Garden Tour"** Jeanne Spencer, LR Council of Garden Clubs
- 12:00 **"Butterflies, Their Habits & Their Friends"** Pat Gipson & 4th Graders, Howard Perrin Elementary School, Benton
- 12:30 Speaker/Topic to be announced. Arkansas Florist's Assoc.

- 1:00 **"Basics Of Orchid Growing"** Yvonne Becker, Ark Orchid Society
- 1:30 **"Loco-Motion In The Garden, Garden Railways"** Bruce Stockbridge, Central AR Garden Railway Society
- 2:00 **"Planting (Loco) Commotion, Plants For The Railroad Garden"** Mary Evans, AR Extended Learning Center
- 2:30 **"Making Pot People With Clay Pots"** David Dodson, Master Gardener
- 3:00 **"Dream About Wild Birds"** Jim Allen, Wild Birds Unlimited in the Heights.
- 3:30 **"Want To Be A Master Naturalist?"** Ann Owen & Martha Bowden, Central Ark. Master Naturalists & Master Gardeners

Saturday, Feb 28

- 10:00 **"Bamboo Q & A"** Dale "Mr. Bamboo" Almond, Arkansas Bamboo Connection
- 10:30 **"Proper Planting & Training of Young Trees"** Tracey Bemis, Bemis Tree Farm
- 11:00 **"Must Have Perennials"** Polly Henderson, Culberson's Greenhouses
- 11:30 **"Spring Garden Tour"** Jeanne Spencer, LR council of Garden Clubs
- 12:00 **"Gardening With Kids & The Benefits"** Norma Simmons & Kids, Access Academy
- 12:30 Speaker/Topic to be announced. Arkansas Florist's Assoc.
- 1:00 **"Conserving Water In The Home Landscape"** Marian Spears, Ozark Folk Center
- 1:30 **"Mosquito X, Take The Bite Out Of Summer"** Greg Curtis, The Good Earth
- 2:00 **"Bromeliads To Know & Grow"** Michael Seal, The Funny Farm, Poplarville, MS

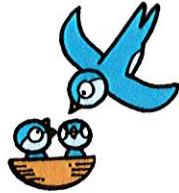
- 2:30 **"Loco-Motion In The Garden, Garden Railways"** Bruce Stockbridge, Central AR Garden Railway Society
- 3:00 **"Planting (Loco) Commotion, Plants For The Garden Railroad"** Mary Evans, AR Extended Learning Center
- 3:30 **"Jealousy In The Garden Is A Virtue"** Chris Olsen, Botanica Gardens

Sunday, March 1

- 11:00 To Be Announced.
- 12:00 **"Eco Green Ideas For The Garden"** Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center
- 1:00 Tentative topic, **"Dream Garden Wedding"** Tanarah Haynie, AIFD, Distinctive Designs By Tanarah, Maumelle
- 2:00 **"Dream It, Make It, With Recycled Art"** Kandy Jones, Garage Sale Queen



Checklist By Carol Randle



BIRD HELP

Provide fresh water near the birds' shelter. To attract a variety of birds, feed them cornmeal mixed with peanut butter, cracked corn, chopped fruits, suet, or sunflower seeds or plant Barberry, Beautyberry, Coralberry, Cottoneaster, Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly, Mahonia, Possum Haw, and Viburnum which all provides fruits and berries in a February landscape.



SEEDLINGS

When starting seeds indoors, use clean containers and a sterile, soilless potting mix, and raise them in a ventilated area. Prevent "damping-off" disease, a fungus that attacks seedlings, causing them to shrivel and die right at soil level.

HOUSEPLANTS

Repot your houseplants now. They will soon repay you with a fresh growth surge. For indoor bloom: Cyclamen; Kalanchoe, Orchids, and pre-chilled bulbs (Hyacinths, Paper-whites, and Daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring flowering shrub (such as Forsythia, Fruit Trees, Oriental Magnolia, or Quince) into one gallon of warm water with two tablespoons of ammonia. Enclose the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open.

PLANNING AND DREAMING

(Dreaming of your perfect flowerbed or yard is a winter pastime . . . with the help of plant catalogs!) Place your orders now with mail-order plant nurseries. They tend to work on a first-come, first-serve basis. Not to worry-they will not ship your order until it is safe to do so.

YARD

Inspect your yard for winter damage. Take off damaged, dried or blackened branches. If you are unsure, wait. A dormant limb can look dead but still have life in it. Apply lime to lawns if not done in December or January. Fertilize trees with a high nitrogen fertilizer if not done in January. Apply pre-emergence herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill spurweed and other winter weeds now, before they have time to set seeds. Mow or shear to 4-6 inches winter creeper Euonymus, Japanese Honeysuckle, English Ivy, Mondo Grass, Monkey Grass, Pachysandra, Pampas Grass, Crown Vetch, and Vinca Minor. Shear to 6-8 inches Santolina, Lavender Cotton, and Junipers. Apply pre-emergence herbicides in ground covers.



ROSES

Place orders for bare root roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant roses. Water in roses with "Superthrive" or other root stimulator. Top dress roses with Cottonseed and Bone Meal and cover with a layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure will limit nutgrass and weed seeds. Mid-February, prune roses (hybrid teas 8" to 18") to maintain their size and vigor. Only prune ever-blooming climbers to invigorate older plants or to remove weak canes, not annually.

SHRUBS

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER! Cut back dwarf Crape Myrtles to within six inches of the ground. Only prune back larger Crape Myrtle Shrubs if needed to maintain size, or to remove suckers. Thin tree forms of Crape Myrtles every 3-5 years. ANNUAL PRUNING OF THIS TREE DESTROYS ITS NATURAL APPEARANCE AND IS NOT NEEDED. Remove largest third of Buddleia, Hydrangea, Nandina, and Spirea canes. Remove dead wood and branches that turn in or overlap in the center of broadleaf evergreens. Wherever the plant is cut it will thicken, so prune above a twig growing outward not above a leaf bud. DO NOT PRUNE FORSYTHIA OR FLOWERING QUINCE UNTIL AFTER BLOOM. Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (8" with at least two buds underground) in a cold frame.

SHOOTS

Prune back by one-third to one half tropical bloomers that are overwintering indoors. Apply a slow release fertilizer to annuals and overwintering tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label. Prune undesirable limbs and tip terminals on fruit trees and grapevines and thin out crowded shoots. Leave some branches of fruit and berry trees for small animals to eat this winter. Remove older canes of blueberry plants. Cut back lateral branches of blackberries to one foot.

**TILLER TIME**

Put out asparagus crowns and strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable. Outdoors, sow broccoli, cabbage, onion sets, English Peas, and seed potatoes. Place orders for seeds early to ensure availability.

**GET RID OF BUGS**

Use insecticidal soap to control aphids on cool season annuals and vegetable plants. For borers, mites, aphids, or scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, roses and the perennial border. The most effective spray of the year is before leaf buds start emerging. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions. (Usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to be above 40 degrees for three days and no rain is expected for 24 hours.) Spraying plants before leaf buds open avoids burning them. Note: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese Maples, Walnut, Beech or Magnolia Trees.

DOGWOODS

February is the best time to plant Dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side. Plant ball and burlap trees and shrubs and bare-root plant material that are still dormant. Soak the roots in water overnight before planting. If you cannot plant right away, cover the roots with moist soil or compost and store in shady location. For new planting sites, test soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend the entire area with mulch, compost, etc.

**FEBRUARY BLOOMS**

Flowering Almond, Anise Florida, Arum, Bridal Veil, Camellia, Crocus, Daffodil, Forsythia, Helleborus, Hyacinth, Iris (Stylosas and Reticulatas), Carolina Jasmine, Kerria, Loropetalum, Oriental Magnolia, Muscari, Pansies, Phlox, Primrose, Pussy Willow, Quince, Redbud, Scilla Sibirica, Snowdrops, Spirea Thunbergi, Viola, and Violet are in bloom this month.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Debra Redding

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 10am St James United Methodist Church

Members Present: Mary Freeman, Martha Basinger, Don Davis, Beth Phelps, Merilyn Tilley, Judy Woodard and Debra Redding.

Minutes were approved. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business:

1. Memorials: Memorials for Jim Dyer and Pat Mc Donald...a total of \$155 for Jim and \$55 for Pat with an additional \$25 each for their MG Status. Ideas were discussed about how best to honor them. It was decided that Martha would talk to the Cammack committee about doing something for Jim. Beth said that that the Committee has already donated a picnic table in memory of Jim to Cammack Park. It was also decided to talk to the Old Mill committee about their plans for a Butterfly Garden and using Pat's memorials to support that effort.
2. MG Chair Orientation Meeting... Thursday, January 29th from 1p-3p at the Hays Senior Center in NLR. Jet Coffman and Martha Basinger are expecting about 50 people to attend.
3. Memorial for Richard Henry "Dick" Phelps in honor of Beth Phelps was discussed and will be reviewed again next month.
4. MG Projects Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs are all in place and every MG Project have leadership.
5. Red Oak Tree from the State of Arkansas has been planted.

New Business:

1. Leave of Absence were approved for 2008 for Jan Lee, Peggy Leopoulos, Jackie Wright, Nann Gaylor, Tish Henslee and Suzanne O' Donoghue have all requested a leave of absence due to illness/surgery. Judy Woodard will check and make sure dues were paid for 2008.

2. Sustainer Status for Wendell Redmond for 2009 was approved.

3. Reinstatement for Gale Crawford for 2009 was approved.

4. Advanced MG Training: Don will contact Carol Chappell and set up a meeting with the planning committee to take care of the all the details and report back at the next Board meeting regarding March 19th class in Little Rock on Edible Landscaping.

5. Don Davis will ask Bob Bumgardner to serve as Audit committee chair and prepare an audit report for our next meeting, February 18th.

6. Summer MG Meeting in July will be discussed next month by Jet Cuffman.

General Meeting Announcements:

1. MG Leadership Training Meeting on Thursday, January 29
2. Clark Trim, Debra Redding, Steve Lopata and Merilyn Tilley to each discuss the Flower/Garden Show.
3. Award Nominations for the Friend of MG and MG Project of the Year
4. MG Annual Dues are due; please see Judy Woodard today or mail dues to her.
5. Memorial donation for Richard Henry "Dick" Phelps

Pulaski County Master Gardener Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 11:30am St. James United Methodist Church

President Don Davis called the meeting to order and presented Beth Phelps with a Holiday gift from the membership.

Beth Phelps thanks the membership for the gift and for the thoughts and prayers and flowers for her and her family following the death of her Father, Dick Phelps.

President Don Davis announced that we are taking memorials for Richard Henry "Dick" Phelps,

please see Judy Woodard or send her a check for the donation/memorial.
President Don Davis thanked the Social Committee for the Master Gardener Christmas Party and asked them to stand.

David Werling, - Photography Committee - asked new Master Gardeners and other member who have not had your photo taken for the directory to meet after the meeting in the lobby. He also announced that the Photography committee could still use a few good photographers and asked that anyone interested talk to him after the meeting.

Tom Stramel - Greenhouse Committee - stated that Linda Moyer, Pathfinder Greenhouse project, needs workers for seed planting if interested please contact Tom or Linda.

Marcella Grimmett - Travel Committee - announced that there will be a short meeting for those on the Travel Committee following the Membership Meeting today, meet at the right of the stage. Marcella presented Beth Phelps with the new cookbook from the Herb Society.

Steve Lopata announced that there are still a few openings for volunteers for the Flower and Garden Show; see Steve at the right of the stage following the meeting if you are interested.

Merilyn Tilley invited everyone to join the Friends of the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show and to help spread the word about this new organization. Memberships are \$100 and include tickets to the Show, a private garden tour and other bonuses.

Clark Trim invited everyone to join him in a fundraiser for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show- a special evening at Clark's home for Wine, Dine and Garden featuring Janet Carson and Beth Phelps with wine tasting and gourmet food. Tickets are \$25 per person and all proceeds go to the Flower and Garden Show. Tickets are available at the Colonial Wines and Spirits.... tickets are limited!

Debra Redding announced the Speakers for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show this year. A

detailed list will also be in the Master Minutes next issue and on the Flower and Garden Show website. Rebecca Kolls from HGTV's Rebecca's Garden will be the featured speaker.

President Don Davis made the following announcements:

- * Reminded everyone to check the sticky board for upcoming events around the state.
- * February 9th is the deadline for nominations for the MG Project of the Year and Friend of MG.
- * Project and Standing Committee training session will be on Thursday, January 29 at the Hays Senior Center in NLR from 1- 3pm. Contact Jet Cuffman or Martha Basinger for more information, you must RSVP.
- * MG Dues are due, please contact Judy Woodard today or mail the dues to Judy. Dues are \$15 if paid by May 1st, \$20 if late. Please pay today!

Beth Phelps made the following announcement:

- * Stuff Orders are in, please check at the sign-in desk and pick up your order.
- * MG 2009 Calendars are free and at the sign-in desk.
- * Beth asks that all the new MG's raise their hands and encouraged everyone to welcome them.

Vice President Martha Basinger introduced our program -Johnnie Chamberlin from the Arkansas Audubon Society on Rain Gardens and Fourche Creek.



I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.
~Author Unknown



DIG IN HERE...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardenersonly>
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:

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340-6650

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