

## Pulaski County Master Minutes

March, 2009

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

Volume 18, Issue 3

### March Meeting



Dan Scheiman will be the speaker at our March Master Gardener Meeting. He is Bird Conservation Director for Audubon Arkansas, the state office of National Audubon Society. Dan has a B.S. from Cornell University, M.S. from Eastern Illinois University, and Ph.D. from Purdue University. His projects include the Important Bird Areas program, the Arkansas Wren Survey, and Grand Prairie restoration. He has been birding for 21 years. In the four years he has lived in Arkansas he has seen 327 of the 406 bird species found in the state.



### Tour of the Park Hill Water Works Project

May 31<sup>st</sup>: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The committee welcomes everyone to come and tour their project.

For more information contact Jane Diesing 771-0132.

### Land Planarian

By Mary Frances Branton

Kingdom: Metazoa; Phylum: Platyhelminthes; Species: Bipalium kewense

Have you ever seen a land planarian eat an earthworm? The University of Florida reports that the land planarian is a voracious predator of earthworms. The planarian eats them by first strangling them and then sucking out their juices until they are dead. This fall, I found three of them in my yard, two under rocks and one in my driveway after a rain.



Planarians like a cool, moist place and avoid light. They come out night and after a rain and can be found in the driveway in a slimy pathway that they excrete. They have a head shaped like a half moon or shovel. In some areas they are called "shovel-headed worms". The worms are small and thin usually from 2-12 inches in length. They can stretch double their normal length at times. The top of the worm is usually gray to greenish-brown with darker stripes. The stomach is found about midway on the ventral surface. A protrusible muscular plicate pharynx serves as a feeding organ and is attached to a three-branched intestine.

The planarian can reproduce by two methods: laying eggs in a cocoon or by fragmentation. About twice a month, the posterior adheres to a surface and the parent worm pulls away. The posterior is immediately mobile and within 7 to 10 days, a new head begins to form. Do not attempt to destroy them by chopping them in two because that just increases their population in your yard. Use an orange oil to destroy and prevent them from multiplying.

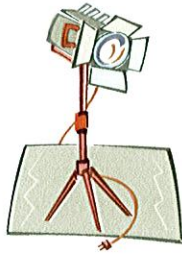
The planarians were commonly found in American greenhouses as early as 1901. They were spread to new locations when potted plants, where they were living were shipped out. They have been found along the east coast and in the southern states that are humid. They are usually seen in the fall and spring. Planarians are cannibalistic and should be destroyed to protect our beneficial earthworms.

Information is from University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences; Nancy Hinkle, Cooperative Extension entomologist with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.



### Arkansas Is Our Campus

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## Project Spotlight

By Carol Randle

Located at Wildwood Park for the Arts, 20919 Denny Road in Little Rock is the Doris Carre' Gay Asian Garden. Project chairman is Thomas Bruce. Co-chairman is Warren Boop. Project members are: Faye Bard; Anne Crow; Mike Fess; Nancy Fitts; Debra Fuqua; Sandy Furrer; Marcella Grimmett; Gina Jenkins; Sarah Jines; Jan Paulus; Charlotte Perdue; Jeanne Rollins; Jackie Walker; and Earline Zahn.

The Doris Carre' Gay Garden was started in the early 1990s as a memorial to Doris Gay (a longtime Wildwood opera devotee) by her friends after she died of brain cancer. Little Rock garden designer P. Allen Smith was hired to create a garden plan. He brought large boulders and positioned them just north of the Lucy Lockett Cabe Festival Theatre to create a rock grotto that was to be the site of a future central water feature. After two years the plans for continued development were put on hold due to a lack of adequate funding. A number of informal efforts were made to restart the project over the next few years with the episodic help of the Wildwood Garden Docents, but no major advances were possible. The Gay Asian Garden remained a pretty woodland site, perhaps one half acre in size, but its potential remained unrealized.

Dr. Warren Boop, on behalf of the Wildwood Garden Docents tried several times to interest the Master Gardener program in taking on this project but the project was not approved until the Fall of 2007. The first year that Master Gardeners were assigned to the project was 2008. During 2008 the group met generally on Tuesday mornings, although there were times at the outset that infrastructure development required work every day, including weekends.

The Master Gardeners began by planting a bamboo hedge (clumping type) along a small creek bed that forms the western border of the Garden. The purpose of the bamboo was two-fold: to contribute to the Asian look, but also to provide privacy by screening off some other temporary buildings that were in the area. The next large project was to re-engineer the Grotto area, since floodwaters frequently flowed into the pool area carrying trash and sediment. New rock and topsoil was brought in, a berm was built along the northern edge of the Grotto

and trenches were dug to re-route the waste water.

The basin of the Grotto was dug out, filling it with gravel and sand, and placing "decorator" rocks in the center. Extensive plantings were made along the sides of the "virtual" creek that drains the Grotto, including ground covers, Siberian and Louisiana Iris, and a select number of Encore Azaleas. The stepping stone path across the creek bed was improved, and the lush planting of Royal, Christmas, and Woodland Ferns alongside the walkway were cleaned up. Trees that caused excess shading were removed and some

Camellia bushes were added where other shrubs (Virginia Sweetspire) had not thrived. Extensive pruning of the Florida Anise plants that surrounded the Grotto area was done.

Two Japanese type bridges were added for decorative purposes, with four red Chinese benches placed strategically.

The project's goals for 2009 are: to construct a waterfall in the Grotto (now under way); to build an Oriental Tea House at the back of

the garden, with a raised dragon-proof boardwalk leading inside; to expand the size of the public area by cutting back brush to the north of the developed area; to add additional decorator plants of the Asian type; to build a flagstone plaza around the Tea House for public

gatherings; and to keep the area clean and add delicate touches of annual color as needed; to create a peaceful and reflective garden that is in keeping with an Asian philosophy, but nestled in (and showcasing) the Ouachita Mountain trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that are prototypical for western Little Rock.



Photo Courtesy of Herb Dicker

## MARCH CHECKLIST

By Carol Randle



### ANNUALS

Fertilize your pansies, violas, and other winter annual color when we get a warm day.

Deadhead any spent flowers and water if they appear too dry.

### PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Hybrid roses need severe pruning every year. If you haven't pruned, do so immediately. The same applies to Buddleia and summer blooming Spirea. These plants bloom on the new growth, and heavy pruning encourages plenty of new growth, and therefore more blooms. All of these plants will get woody and gangly if they are not pruned hard each season. Other summer bloomers that can still be pruned include Althea, Vitex, and Crape Myrtles.

(CAUTION: PLEASE DON'T COMMIT CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER!) They don't have to have severe pruning every year-it is dependent on the shape and size you want in the landscape. Ornamental grasses should be cut back to 4-6 inches before they start growing again. Divide established perennials and replant at their proper depth in an enlarged area with organic matter and fertilizer. Prune Wisteria roots about 2 feet from main trunk. Pull or cut away sprouts of Lilac and Forsythia and transplant. Root cuttings from Azaleas, Camellias, Carnations, Chrysanthemums, Shasta Daisies, Roses and other flowering shrubs (8" with two buds underground) in a cold frame. Lightly fertilize your bulbs now with a complete fertilizer.

Be sure to allow the foliage to have a minimum of six weeks of green growth following bloom, so flower buds can reset for next spring.

### LAWNS

If your lawn is showing signs of green, it is from winter weeds. Spray with a broad leaf weed killer if you have an abundance of them, or spot spray or pull them. A few clumps of wild onions (or

garlic) can easily be dug. Pre-emergent herbicides should be applied from now through mid March to keep the summer annual weed seeds from germinating.

### TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant bare root trees while dormant. Soak bare root plants in water to hydrate the roots.

Lacebugs on Azaleas don't become active until April or May- depending on the spring we have.

You can begin to monitor for them then, and spray as needed. Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub insecticide, also known as Merit, claims that one application in February or early March, can give you a 12 month period of control.

### VEGETABLES AND HERBS

If you didn't prepare your beds in January do it as soon as possible. Cool season crops, from carrots to turnips, can be planted until mid April. Sweet corn can be planted about the middle of the month. Seeds for warm weather crops, such as tomatoes and peppers can be started in the greenhouse or your windowsills. It takes six to eight weeks to get good size transplants. Our last frost date is March 20 to April 1, depending on what part of the county you live in. Get the Year Round Home Garden Planting Chart from the county extension office. It tells you when to plant and gives the first and last frost dates.

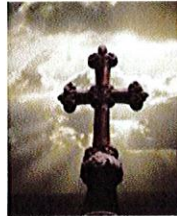
### MARCH BLOOMS

Anise Florida, Azaleas, Camellias, Glory of the Snow, Crabapples, Daffodils, Forsythia, Hyacinths, Early Iris, Carolina Jasmine, Kerria, Star Magnolia, Maple, Virginia Bluebells, Grape Hyacinth, Oxalis, Pansies, Flowering Peach, Phlox, Photinia, English Primrose, Flowering Quince, Redbud, Spirea, Tulips, Burkwood Viburnum, Violets, Chinese Wisteria, and Woodbine.

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"April in Argenta, A Month of Celebration" is a month long celebration centered on 11,000 'Appledorn' Tulips blooming in Argenta in April. The month of events is a promotion of North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion and the Argenta Downtown Council. The early ideas for the festival include "Dutch Treat" specials, Arkansas Earth Day Celebration (April 25<sup>th</sup>), the opening of the Certified Arkansas Farmer's Market (April 18<sup>th</sup>), and other events that are still in the planning stage.

### In Memoriam



Lois Hester Corley, of Little Rock, passed away on Thursday, February 5th, 2009. She was born on November 24th, 1928 in Benton, Arkansas. She was preceded in death by her husband, Carl W. Corley, her parents, and sister Ann Morgan. She is survived by sons, Stephen Corley and his fiancé, Evelyn Manuel, of Little Rock, daughter, Janet Shuffield and her husband, Kenneth, of Houston, TX, grandson, Gabriel Shuffield, of Houston, TX and sister, Louise Cleghorn, of Paron, Arkansas.

Lois was a substitute teacher and owned and operated Lamps -N - Tiques for many years. She was also an advanced Master Gardner. She was member of St. James United Methodist Church.

Memorials may be made to American Heart Association, 909 W. 2nd St., Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)375-9148.

Funeral Services were held on Tuesday, February 10th, 2009 at Griffin-Leggett Healey & Roth Chapel by the Rev. Greg Schick. Interment was at Pinecrest Memorial Park.

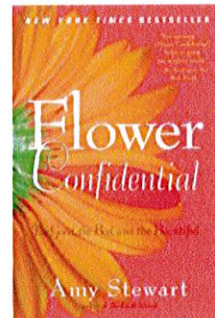
The Mount Holly Association voted unanimously to purchase two new Dawn Roses to plant on the Broadway Street fence as a memorial to Lois Corley. We deeply appreciate the support she has given to Mount Holly Cemetery for many, many years. Without her dedication we certainly would not have had the beautiful flowers in our fountain and columbarium area or the added beauty to the many Victorian cradles throughout the cemetery. Little Rock's Mount Holly Cemetery, circa 1843, reflects a beautiful park-like appearance to our many visitors. This is largely due to the efforts of Lois. A wonderful lady and a thoughtful friend, she will be sincerely missed by the Mount Holly Association and Sexton, Steve Adams.

### Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

Flower Confidential: The Good, The Bad and The Beautiful in The Business of Flowers

Author: Amy Stewart



How much thought do you give to those flowers you pass in the grocery store? Do you know where your Valentine's Day roses came from or how they got to you? In this book, Amy Stewart takes us deep inside the 40 billion dollar business of flowers. She discusses how the need for a "perfect" flower that travels well and lasts long in a vase has removed their scent. She takes us on her travels, including the Miami Airport Center where the majority of flowers enter the U.S.

Immerse yourself in the little-known of flowers and the people who grow them.

You will develop a new-found respect for what both suffer to provide that "perfect" arrangement for your dining room table.

Amy Stewart lives and gardens in Eureka, California. She won the California Horticultural Society Writers Award for 2005.



## More Garden Bling

By Lorraine Hensley



Planting and caring for your garden bling requires every bit of the gardener's previous planning and that includes reading those plant tags very carefully. Wouldn't do to plant sun-loving annuals in a shady garden spot or plant the more shade tolerant annuals in a full sun location. Pay attention to your garden drainage and don't plant annuals in an area where water pools following a heavy rain. Most gardeners already know all this but a reminder once in a while doesn't hurt. What hurts is finding a little different cultivar of a favorite annual and there is no place in your garden to put it. There may be plenty of room but that doesn't mean there is the right space for that annual. That's where all the planning pays off for you have a pretty good idea of what you can place where.

Same song but second verse speaks to good bed preparation. Test the pH of your soil and amend as necessary. Clay soils require amendments to improve drainage and friability while sandy soils need leaf mold compost or peat moss to aid in water retention. I've found that raised beds pretty well take care of most drainage problems

Plant tender annuals after all danger of frost have passed. Even then they won't grow well until the soil warms up—seems they like warm feet. Plant your winter annuals about 6 weeks prior to the expected first frost date so good root development takes place. If your plant is in a peat pot, remove the upper edges. This is so the pot won't serve as a wick and pull water away from the plant roots. Water as you plant and use a balanced water-soluble complete fertilizer like 10-10-10 to feed to feed them or you might want to try a complete slow-release fertilizer.

Dead-head as blooms fade in order to maintain a vigorous and continuing flowering. Most annuals are pretty trouble free and it's up to the gardener to choose those plants tagged as insect and disease resistant. Aphids, spider mites, and white flies like to dine on your annuals but the alert gardener can generally spot those problems early on when they are more easily controlled. Again—read the label of any pesticide you decide to use.

Beautiful splashes of color throughout the various seasons are there for the careful and through gardener. He provides a healthy bed for his plants, good drainage, and makes sure he supplies the proper nutrition they need in a timely manner. The first important thing this gardener does is pretty simple but quite important—he reads his plant tags. The sense of accomplishment he has as he strolls his beautiful landscape makes all of it so worthwhile.

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## Trading Post

Arline Jackson - Has monkey grass, wants anything

Gina Jenkins want witch hazel

Sandy Furrer has Money Plant seed, wants - any flowering plants

Danny Murdaugh wants dwarf mondo grass

Men's short sleeve T-shirt, green, size XXL-\$1

Men's short sleeve light denim shirt, size XXL-\$3

Men's long sleeve green checked shirt, size XXL 3.50 (this shirt is no longer available to order)

Contact Jan [Bowen-jabowen38@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Bowen-jabowen38@sbcglobal.net)

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# MG Calendar

By Libby Thalheimer

Sunday, March 1	Arkansas Flower & Garden Show
Friday-Sunday, March 6 - 8	River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Fort Smith, AR.
Tuesday, March 10 7:30A.M.	PC Master Gardener Greenhouse Workday
Thursday, March 12 6:00-8:00 P.M.	Clark County Master Gardeners hosting "Landscape Design Seminar" at the Clark Co. Fair Grounds in the Arts & Crafts Building. For more information, contact: Clark County Cooperative Extension Service 640 S. 6th Street, Suite B, Arkadelphia, AR 71923 Phone: 870-246-2281; Fax: 870-246-7583
Tuesday, March 17 11:30A.M.	PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church
Thursday, March 19 9am to 4:30 P.M.	Advanced Master Gardener Training: Edible Landscaping, at the State Extension Office in Little Rock. Advanced Master Gardener Training is open to Master Gardeners who have been in good standing in their county for at least Three Years (since 2006). For more information, contact: Carol Chappell, 758-0169 or <a href="mailto:carol88c@swbell.net">carol88c@swbell.net</a> or Judy Woodard, <a href="mailto:jw@shotgundans.com">jw@shotgundans.com</a> Registration deadline is March 5th.
Saturday, March 28 2-4 P.M.	The Arkansas Daffodil Society's 47th Annual State Daffodil Show will be held at the Faulkner County Library, 1900 Tyler St, Conway, AR The show is FREE and open to the public. Contact is Linda Bell 501-664-2903 or Susan Rose, PCMG at <a href="mailto:RoseSusanN@uams.edu">RoseSusanN@uams.edu</a>

## April Events

Saturday, April 4 8:30 A.M. to 1:00P.M	Arkansas County Home & Garden Show, 2009 Arkansas County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, 16th Street, DeWitt, Arkansas. For more information contact Beth Carter at 870-946-3272 or 870-946-1410, or AR Co. Extension Office
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	at 870-946-3231
Thursday, April 9 10:00 A.M.	Little Rock Garden Club presents Bart Brecter, curator of Gardens at Bayou Bend in Houston, at the governor's mansion.
Saturday, April 18, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Advanced Master Gardener Training: Vines of All Kinds, Jonesboro Extension Office. Registration form available soon
Tuesday, April 21 11:30A.M.	PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church

### **Pulaski County Master Gardeners Board Meeting Tuesday February 17, 2009 10:00 a.m. Saint James Methodist Church**

Members Present: Debra Redding, Jet Cuffman, Mac Huffman, Don Davis, Mary Roark, Judy Woodard, Beth Phelps and Merilyn Tilley.

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.  
Treasurer's report approved.

Old Business: Memorial for Pat McDonald was discussed. Martha Coop will speak to the Old Mill Committee regarding plans for a Butterfly Garden. Memorial for Jim Dyer was discussed. Martha Basinger will visit with the Cammack committee on plans for this memorial.

Chair and Co-chair meeting on January 20th - Martha and Jet did a great job.

Memorial for Richard "Dick" Phelps in honor of Beth Phelps. As of this date, \$509 has been collected. Discussion for this memorial next month.

#### New Business:

Leave of absence for Howard Stephens- Due to health problems. Leave was approved for 2009.

Outstanding MG Project of the Year Award - No projects were nominated from the project committees. The Board will recommend the Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden.

Friend of MG had one nomination and that is Ed Garretson from the Old State House.

The Advanced Master Gardener Training Class in Little Rock is scheduled for March 19th. Carol Chappell and Judy Woodard stated that 40 to 50 people have registered so far.

Audit Committee and Budget Committee- Judy Woodard stated that the information is ready for Bob Bumgardner to pick up today and take to the audit committee.

Summer MG meeting is scheduled for July at Hillcrest Hall. Jet Cuffman is working with the Social Committee on the details. She will have a report at the March meeting.

MG annual dues are currently being collected. Judy Woodard stated that 194 members have paid.

Memorials for Bill Bowen and Lois Corley are being collected. Bill's project was Maumelle and Lois's project was Greenhouse.

Budget Committee was formed by President Don Davis. Mac Huffman will Chair and Jet Cuffman, Judy Woodard, Carol Mendel, and Don Davis will serve on this Committee.

Merilyn Tilley stated that our Greenhouse at the State Hospital is OK for now.

Jet Cuffman reported that the 3P's Committee has no leadership this year. She stated that she had talked to Beth and they thought that this committee may need to be dissolved as it really not longer has a purpose. The Board voted to disband this Committee.

#### General Meeting Announcements:

1. Award nominations- Friends of MG and MG project of the year.
2. MG advanced training class- Carol Chappell
3. Today's speaker- Bob Byers from Garvin Woodland Gardens
4. Memorials for Bill Bowen and Lois Corley
5. Annual MG dues-see Judy Woodard

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Membership Meeting  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009 11:30 am  
St. James Methodist Church

President Don Davis called the meeting to order and made the following announcements:

1. Memorials are being taken for Bill Bowen and Lois Corley.... See Judy Woodard
2. Friend of MG has one nomination-Ed Garretson from the Old State House.
3. MG Project of the Year did not have any nominations but the Board recommends the

Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden.

A vote was taken and Ed Garretson was selected Pulaski County Friend of Master Gardeners.

The Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden was nominated for the 2009 Pulaski County Master Gardener Project of the Year. The motion passed.

Marcella Grimmatt-Travel Committee- announced that the Committee will meet after the meeting. She also reminded the group that the Herb Society cookbook is still for sale.

Carol Chappell stated that the Advanced MG Training Class on edible Landscaping will be held in Little Rock will be on Thursday, March 19th from 8:00am - 4:30pm. The registration deadline is March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Beth Phelps reminded the Membership that to attend any Advanced MG Training Classes you must be in good standing and have been a Master Gardener for at least 3 years.

Ray Sarmiento announced that all volunteer slots have been filled for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. Thanks to all the Volunteers for signing up!

Jan Bowen announced that she has three MG shirts for sale, size XXL. She also has one ticket for the Wine, Dine and Garden Benefit for sale. See her after the meeting if interested.

David Werling announced a lunch meeting today with the photographers.

President Don Davis announced that seedlings will be given away out side the main entrance after the meeting today.

Beth Phelps announced that the Board is looking for someone to chair MG Pictorial Directory update. Please let Beth know if you are interested.

Jet Cuffman introduced our Speaker, Bob Byers from Garvan Woodland Gardens.





**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 2008, these volunteers gave **23,000** 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  
[bp Phelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bp Phelps@uaex.edu)  
 340-6650

**Master Minutes Staff**



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**Photographers**



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