



Pulaski County Master Minutes



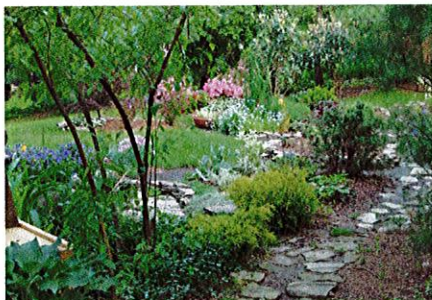
August, 2009

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

Volume 18, Issue 7

Hosta's Partner

By Lorraine Hensley



By Lorraine Hensley

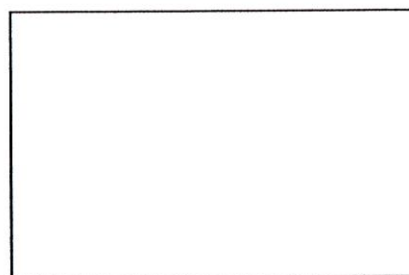
Sweet woodruff is the name of the game if you are looking for a great plant to partner hosta in your light shade garden. This plant looks good and can cover lots of ground very quickly. Sweet woodruff is generally considered a great perennial ground cover and it is. But this plant can be a marvelous double tasker for it also makes a wonderful companion for hosta. Although it grows rapidly it happily shares bed space with others and is certainly right at home with hosta. Each is more pleasing to the eye simply because the other is there. This plant is so orderly the slender stems even emerge in a concise fashion. Sweet woodruff blooms in May—June, when small clusters of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch white flowers open at the stem tips. Sounds pretty and it is.

Hardy zones 4 to 6 it grows best in moist and friable soil but it is not all that particular for it does fairly well in dry and heavy soils. If you really want it to spread rapidly and flower well simply give it what it wants, which is a loosened soil amended with compost in an area with good drainage. Water it well and stand back. If you want to control this plant's growth rate let it dry

out a bit. Garden pests and plant diseases seldom bother this tough and attractive plant.

Propagating sweet woodruff is not a problem. This plant spreads really well and is easy to divide into smaller clumps in either the spring or fall. Space the clumps a few feet apart wherever you need an attractive ground cover, or, if you want to wait and let nature take its course this plant also self seeds.

Do plant your sweet woodruff in a wooded area if at all possible for it's difficult to keep in bounds if planted in a more formal setting. Generally speaking this plant spreads about a foot a year, which makes it nearly the perfect ground cover for those shady areas and as a companion plant for a number of other plants in addition to those lovely hosta. Sweet woodruff covers the ground after spring blooming plants go dormant and serves as a wonderful compliment or other shade loving groundcovers. Think ajuga, lily of the valley, yellow archangel or the wild blue phlox. It also looks great and works well as an under planting for shrubbery.



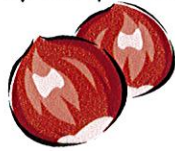
Check your local nurseries or garden seed racks for this plant and see for yourself what it brings to your landscape. Most gardeners have a bit of shade somewhere in their landscape with hosta or a few other shade loving plants already there. The sweet woodruff would be quite comfortable with any of them.

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.

COMPOST TIDBITS

By Betty Deere



Note On Nuts: Because walnuts look like the brain, they were used to treat head ailments during the Renaissance. And it might have worked! Walnuts are chock-full of anti-inflammatory omega-3 fatty acids, which improve memory, blood circulation, general alertness, stamina, etc.

Mosquito Munchies: Only female mosquitoes bite. Males feed on plant nectar. And get this: more women than men are bitten by mosquitoes. Why? Experts believe they are attracted by smell and like the estrogen aroma of women.

Hosta Life-Saver: Human urine, sprayed (ah-hum) around hostas apparently deter deer from munching them for their salad course. (My Starbucks buddy swears by this, only he says he employs his neighbor boys to do the "spraying".)

KUNCHEN BARS

1 (2-layer) package yellow cake mix
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, melted
1/2 cup flaked coconut
1 (21 ounce) can cherry or apple pie filling
1/2 cup sour cream
1 egg

Combine the cake mix, butter and coconut in a bowl and mix well. Spread over the bottom of a greased 9X13 inch cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Spread the pie filling over the baked layer. Beat the sour cream and egg together in a bowl. Drizzle over the pie- filling layer. Bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

Yield 2 to 3 dozen bars.

This turned out to be really simple and hardly any dirty pans. I lined my 9x13 pan with parchment paper and sprayed it with oil.

Greetings!!

Hope the summer has been good to you and your garden. This recent rain has been a blessing but I bet the heat will be back before fall actually gets here.



Not much is going on at the greenhouse besides cleaning and maintenance. We're getting ready for the pansies, etc.

Mark your calendars for a work day of "plug planting" on 9-4-09 and 9-5-09. All master gardeners are welcome to come and join in the fun. This is a great way to get to know other master gardeners and help in our cause of beautifying central Arkansas. Sale dates will be announced later, but are tentatively set for the middle of October.

We need all committee chairs who have wish lists for spring 2010 to get them to us by October 15, 2009. Now is a good time to evaluate this year's plantings and decide what to do the same and what might be different. We get a substantial discount by ordering early so it's imperative we get your orders by deadline. Please e-mail them to myself, (tastramel@comcast.net) or Laura Lasiter (llasiter@comcast.net). Thanks for your co-operation

Sincerely,
The Greenhouse Committee

"In August, the large masses of berries, which, when in flower, had attracted many wild bees, gradually assumed their bright velvety crimson hue, and by their weight again bent down and broke their tender limbs."

- Henry David Thoreau

Master Gardener Calendar
By Libby Thalheimer



Saturday, August 13th
9:00 A.M.

Mount Holly Garden Series sponsored by the ladies of the MORE Group. Third Saturday morning June through October 2009 -\$5.00

Tuesday, August 18th

Gardening 101 Workshop at Garvan Woodland
9:30 A.M. to Noon- Gardens in the Magnolia Room.

Topic: Tropical Foliage Plants - Garland County Master Gardeners Larry Averill and Charles Harper
1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.- Topic: Lawn Care - Garland County Cooperative Extension specialist Jim Driggers

Upcoming Events

Thursday, September 10th & Friday, September 11th

Registration Deadline: August 11, 2009

Go Native: Natural Gardening in the 'Natural State!' Advanced Master Gardener Training
Sponsored by Faulkner County Master Gardeners AND County 76. Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain.(Maps and driving instructions will be sent with your registration confirmation.)
\$65.00 per person (includes all training materials, lunch, dinner and breakfast.)

Tuesday, September 13th- 11:30 a.m.
PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church

Friday, September 18th - 5:30 p.m.
PCMG Travel Committee: Wine and Cheese at River Valley Horticulture at 21701 Lawson Rd. A discount will be given on purchases. For more information contact Marcella Grimmett - 821-3148, route003@hotmail.com or Faye Bard - 821-5394, gynonc@comcast.net

Friday, September 25 - 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 26th 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

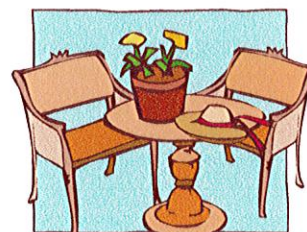
Rain Gardens for Storm-water Management Baxter County Master Gardeners Advanced Training Series, Instructor: Mark Boyer 237 Memorial Hall 575.7077 mboyer@uark.edu

October 1st-6th

Annual Master Gardener trip to Charleston, SC, with the Illinois Master Gardeners. The Charleston trip for this fall (October 1- 6) is full. You can email Robyn Gulstrom rgulstrom@comcast.net to be put on a waiting list.

Saturday, October 3rd- Sunday October 4th
The Arkansas Orchid Society is hosting the Southwest Regional Orchid Growers Association show and sale at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in North Little Rock For more information, visit the show Website:

[http://web.me.com/jerrynalice/Site/SWROGA_SHOW %26 SALE.html](http://web.me.com/jerrynalice/Site/SWROGA_SHOW_%26_SALE.html)



Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Debra Redding

**Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2009 10:00a.m. St James
United Methodist Church**

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

Minutes were approved. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business:

1. Retention Committee- getting started with updated information. Will report back to the Board regarding any members who have not completed their hours.

2. Discussion of the Lifetime and Sustainer Status for members.

3. Marilyn Tilley reported that the Park Hill Water Works garden tour was a success.

New Business:

1. Re-instatement of Anita Walters- She has chosen a project and will pay her dues. Re-instatement was approved by the Board.

2. MG Project Brochure- Ann Crow and some others are interested in updating our brochure. The current brochure is 5 years old. A Public Gardens brochure is needed and Travel/Tourism may pay for the brochure to be updated. Beth Phelps to email Ann Crow regarding the Board's interest in the brochure update.

3. A Board meeting will take place on August 4 at 9am at the Pulaski County Extension office. The

Board will review applications for the MG Training Classes and review the current MG projects.

4. Garden Voices Project- Beth Phelps asked the board how they would like to handle selection of Master Gardener to fill Pulaski County's slot for the upcoming Garden Voices training. Each county is limited to 2 slot in the Power Point training and 2 slots in the Newsletter training. The board decided that the slots should be filled by random drawing from those that expressed interest.

5. Master Gardener Directory Update- Marilyn Tilley has expressed an interest in being the Chair for this committee and we will discuss this further in September.

6. Nominating Committee- Marilyn Tilley reported the committee has not met yet. Will report back to the Board after they meet.

7. September 16th is the day the new Master Gardener Class meets for the tour of the MG Projects.

General Meeting Announcements:

1. July 21 is the date for the Ice Cream Social and Garden Tour at Hillcrest Hall. Meet from 10am until noon and tour the gardens of Beth Phelps, Jet Cuffman and Christina Pittenger and Hillcrest Hall.

2. Applications for the MG Class will be sent out in July. If you know anyone who is interested make sure Beth Phelps has their names and addresses.

3. Mentors are needed for the new MG Class. If you are willing to serve as a Mentor please let Rochelle Greenwood or Beth Phelps know.

4. Congratulations to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners and the Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden MG Project for being selected as an Arkansas Master Gardener Project of the year.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Membership Meeting Tuesday, June 16, 2009 11:30 am
St James United Methodist Church

President Don Davis called the meeting to order and reminded everyone to pick our membership cards today.

Don Davis Announced Phyliss Barrier had plants to share after today's meeting.

Social Committee - Glenda Arledge- announced that the Ice Cream Social and Garden Tour would be July 21st from 10:00 am till noon at Hillcrest Hall. She invited everyone to tour the gardens of Beth Phelps, Jet Cuffman, Christiana Pittenger and Hillcrest Hall.

Travel Committee- Marcella Grimmett announced the Travel Committee is planning a tour to Petit Jean for the Bountiful Arkansas Event with lunch at a local restaurant and more information later. They are also planning a June 26 tour to Greer Day Lilly Farm those interested in carpooling will meet at 9 am on the JC Penney's parking lot on Shackleford Road.

President Don Davis announced that the Park Hill Water Works garden project May 31 was a success.

Don Davis congratulated the Pulaski County Master Gardeners for being recognized by the Little Rock Parks Commission for their hard work and beautifying the LR Parks and the City of Little Rock. A certificate from the City was shown.

President Don Davis presented a plaque to the Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden MG Project for being selected Runner-Up as the Arkansas MG Project of the Year.

Rochelle Greenwood announced that mentors were needed for the new MG Class. Please let her or Beth Phelps know if you are interested in serving as a Mentor this year.

Beth Phelps announced that the training schedule for the new MG Class will be in the next issue of Master Minutes. September 16th is the date the new MG Class tours MG Projects.

Martha Basinger introduced our speaker, Shane Reynolds, from Reynolds Greenhouse in Hot Springs and his topic was Summer Survivors.

Gardening Tips to Share with the Uninitiated

By Ann Cooper

Lay a 3-cubic-foot bag of hardwood mulch flat on a hard surface. Bend the bag in half by raising the middle as much as you can. Cut across the top middle. Raise the bend more until you have two halves, then cut the bottom middle. Now you have two half-bags that are easier to handle!

Use a garden fork to spread mulch from a cart of wheelbarrow. It is much easier to use than a scoop or shovel.

Try a pair of Atlas gloves, available at many nurseries. They are light-weight, fit almost like surgical gloves, and my fingers have yet to poke holes in the fingertips. They clean easily and dry quickly. Just leave them on when you go inside and then wash your hands well with soap and water with the gloves in place. Rinse, remove, and hang to dry. SO EASY!



TALKIN' YARD, NATURALLY

By Betty Deere

Well, here we are at the end of July and we LR gardeners have been fairly lucky this summer: the rain has kept the heat from unrelentingly frying us and our gardens to a total crisp. (Not yet anyway.) The weather news last night reported we are just a 2-3 inches away from breaking the record for July rain...and just 10 inches shy of our average yearly TOTAL rain. And we still have another five months before the year ends. It's been like what I imagine living in Seattle would be like but downright weird for Arkansas. But I like it...I think.

There WAS a downside (for me anyway). For once in my gardening life I had been oh so wise (I thought) and laid down a couple of inches of compost; and then (wiser still) I carefully covered my barely emerging perennials with mulch. First time to ever do this. Both compost and mulch bought cheaply (\$14 a truckload; \$25 a load if they deliver, I think) from the LR city compost and mulch pile. It was gr-reat compost!



However, then it rained. And rained. And rained some more. I sadly watched much of my mulch/compost wash away down the street (my yard slants downward). Which meant I had to do it all over again the first of June. Sigh!

BUT the upside is the weather has stayed relatively cool, cool enough for me to weed in a fair degree of comfort and the wet ground made the weeds easier to jerk out. I don't use pesticides/herbicides, etc. in my garden, I do it the old-fashioned way...just pull 'em out by their roots. This nice cool spell right here in the middle of July (huh, imagine that!) has been good for sitting on my little 12-inch tall padded stool, and yankin' weeds. I bought a little extendable handle hoe/fork combo (Corona brand) (Corona doesn't pay me) that works great for weeding. Saves the fingers and hands a lot of work, if you know what I mean.

Also upside, with this strange rainy summer, my grass has recovered from last summer's abuse. I was remodeling my house, and the carpenters and painters sorely abused my lawn, leaving a few completely barren spots (paint cleaner, I'm afraid). Though I don't fertilize my lawn, the spots have mostly filled in and looking good. I hadn't even turned my sprinkler system on until this week, just been hand watering.

MORE IS NOT BETTER: Speaking of lawn fertilizing, soil scientists from the University of Illinois have evidence that excessive nitrogen fertilization—whether organic or conventional—is not just a waste of money/energy/resources; it can be detrimental to your health, the environment, and even your lawn. When nitrogen is applied to your lawn year after year, carbon in the soil decreases, and thus adversely affects your air and water.

Further still, turf grass specialists in Texas and Florida report that excessive fall fertilization not only does not benefit your lawn, but instead leaves it more vulnerable to damage from fall armyworms and cinch bugs. Generally speaking, so they say, if a soil test result shows 3 percent or more organic matter, your garden should not need additional nitrogen fertilizer.

If you do decide to fertilize, fall is the time. How much and exactly when-to is different for different grasses but a good rule of thumb is to do so while grass is still growing. That way it can better store carbs and deliver the nitrogen to the roots.

NATURAL SPECIALISTS' ADVICE: This fall, instead of using a granular nitrogen-containing fertilizer on your lawn, spread a $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch layer of compost, which naturally contains slow-release nitrogen.



Meet Earline Zahn

By Andrea Bevernitz



Listen and you might hear the song "Danny Boy" being hummed or comments about something said by Felder Rushing, the gardening expert, or written in the on-line magazine *Arkansas Gardener*. These are a few of the favorite things of the smiling, blonde Master Gardener, Earline Zahn.

Earline graduated as a Pulaski County Master Gardener with the class of 2006 after her husband encouraged her to find an outlet for her gardening skills. She's always been a gardener, she says, as was her mother before her. While she still was living in her parent's home, she made her first garden, a cactus and succulent rock garden in the front yard. After she married, she began growing both vegetables and flowers. The support of her husband and the legacy provided by her mother, as well as her own willingness to experiment with various plants, nourished her gardening interests and skills

To put those skills to work, Earline chose, as her first Master Gardening project, the small garden beds at the State Extension office. Because there are many visitors to that facility, Earline and her team frequently heard compliments about the beauty of their beds. Her confidence grew. So, within a couple of years, she was ready for a new challenge and began work at Wildwood Gardens

which, she said, "... had fallen into disrepair and like a phoenix is now coming out lovely." There she spends time pruning, weeding, mulching and planting Asian style in the heavily-treed garden areas, watching Habitat for Humanity erect a tea house and planning with her team to develop a water feature. Recently Earline and some of her Master Gardener friends received permission to carry out a community project, to add plants and mulch to a hilly area at Wildwood. She calls this her "act of love".

Gardening at home is also an act of love. Last month she held a garden tour at her home; she wrote an article for last month's newsletter about that tour. Those who attended saw a natural setting with native plants incorporated into the gardens. She has a woodland garden that is presently her favorite garden area because it is so contemplative. She loves shade plants when they bloom and light up the garden early in the spring.

In summer, she loves to be in her colorful sun garden, watching buzzing bees, butterflies, birds and moths enjoy the garden too. She's thinking of developing a bog garden next and wonders if she'll be able to keep up with all the projects she has and wants to have. Luckily, as a Master Gardener, she'll have access to lots of information and resources. Likely she'll be as successful at her next project as she has been with the previous and current ones.





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 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:

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340-6650

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