

September Meeting

Chris Olsen will be the featured speaker at our September meeting.

Chris attended Oxford University in England, studying landscape architecture, landscape principals, and philosophy and graduated from the University of San Diego with a degree in business.

Chris' design works have been featured in several of the Symphony Design Houses, At Home in Arkansas, The Arkansas Times, AY Magazine, Health and Living, the Arkansas Democrat Gazette, Real Living, and Better Homes and Gardens. Chris was also featured in Arkansas Business 40 under 40, representing businesspeople who are on the move in their respective fields.

Chris has been associated with KTHV Channel 11, where he is featured on the morning, noon, and evening segments in the Weather Garden, and has appeared several times in Arkansas Living: Holiday Style with Chris Olsen. Chris' presentation will be "Creating the WOW Factor".

Milkweed and Butterflies

By Lorraine Hensley

These two are perfect partners for one another. Out of all the weeds in the milkweed family butterflies seem to have chosen the butterfly weed for their very own. Its name comes from the attraction the monarch butterfly has for this plant. According to Jeff Cox, host of the HGTV show, "Grow It" both plant and the monarch appear to have a somewhat a symbiotic relationship. Monarchs feed exclusively on the genus *asctelias* and the alkaloids in the sap they eat are poisonous. The alkaloids

give their predators a really bad taste experience. Birds know this and may try it once but not twice.



The butterfly weed can not only defend itself from predators it also is way out in front for eye appeal. Long and pointed medium green leaves form the background for the beautiful attention grabbing bright orange florets. Beauty also serves another purpose here other than visual. Five nectar cups with incurved horns are in each cluster just waiting for a pollinator to land. When that happens and the pollinator's foot slips between the cups, bags of pollen attach to its legs. At the next flower as its foot slips again the horns pull off the pollen bags.

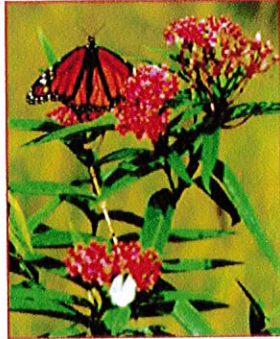
Butterfly weed is not difficult to grow for it doesn't need anything special where soil requirements are concerned—the soil can be pretty poor but it must be well drained. It is also one of the few plants that truly do need full sun. Established plants tolerate hot and dry conditions really well and are pretty much trouble free where pests and diseases are concerned.

There is one thing the butterfly weed is well known for. Its tap root is so deep it's almost impossible to divide once the plant is in the ground. I've watched earnest gardeners try to divide a mature plant and the only thing accomplished was an injured tap root, and a frustrated gardener with a tired back. That tap root is a real zinger and means to stay exactly where it is—way down in the ground. What you can do to propagate the butterfly plant is not all that difficult. This plant is easily grown from seed either indoors in a pot or from a fall sowing. Root cuttings can be taken from young plants growing indoors in pots but take care not to injure the taproot.

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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.

Transplant only after the second set of true leaves appears. Just be patient for these seedlings may require two years before they are mature enough to bloom.



swamp milkweed - relative of the common milkweed

Once this hardy plant is ready to transplant the gardener has a wide range of choice for placement. This perennial is an asset anywhere the gardener chooses to put it into the ground. Just remember it needs a well drained soil and full sun—giving this butterfly weed what it likes keeps this dependable and attractive plant blooming and bringing butterflies to your garden.

MG Calendar

By Libby Thalheimer



Thursday & Friday, September 10 & 11, 2009
Advanced Master Gardener Training sponsored by
Faulkner County Master Gardeners & County 76
GO NATIVE: Natural Gardening in the 'Natural State'
Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain

Thursday & Friday, September 10 & 11, 2009
8:00 A.M.

Pansy planting days at with the PCMG at the greenhouse.
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

Tuesday, September 15th 11:30A.M.
PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church

Friday, September 18 5:30th 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 Grimmertt - 821-3148, route003@hotmail.com or Faye Bard - 821-5394, gynonc@comcast.net

Saturday, September 19, 2009
9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.
Constructing Water Features and Boulder Placement In the Garden Part of the Landscape Construction and Design Workshop Series at Garvan Gardens. Talented members of the Gardens' crew will instruct workshop participants on how to design an enviable water feature in your garden, starting with boulder and stone selection, followed by creating the streambed and installing a pump system. Cost is \$35 for Garden members and \$50 for non-members. Reservations and pre-payment required. Call the Gardens at 501-262-9300 / 800-366-4664

Saturday, September 19, 2009 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

Friday, September 25 -
1:00 - 5:00P.M.

Saturday September 26
8:30A.M. - 12:00P.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

Upcoming Events

October 1-6
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 rjulstrom@comcast.net to be put on a waiting list.

Thursday, October 1, 2009

8:30A.M. - 4:30P.M.

Arkansas Master Gardener Advanced Training - Johnson County

Fun with Muscadines—Growing Muscadines in the Home Garden at the Fruit Research Station outside of Clarksville, Arkansas. Optional Winery Tour and Dinner at Altus.

An intimate wine tour and tasting at Post Familie Winery, followed by dinner at Wiederkehr Weinkeller Restaurant. Travel and meal will be at participant's expense. Advanced reservation for dinner is required.

Saturday, October 3- Sunday October 4

The Arkansas Orchid Society 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

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Extreme Herbal Adventures: Advanced Master Gardener Training will leave you with a deeper understanding of herbs and their use.

Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House, Fort Smith, Arkansas

Cost: \$50 (Max 70 people.)

Registration Deadline: September 25 (No refunds after this date.)

Saturday, October 17, 2009

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

November 13, 2009

Special program at Schultz Greenhouse in Hot Springs.

For more info: Marcella Grimmett - 821-3148, route003@hotmail.com or Faye Bard - 821-5394, gynonc@comcast.net

9:00 A.M.

\$5.00

Plant Profile: Angel Trumpet Ballerina Purple

By Debra Redding



It is hard for me to resist a purple flower and with purple in the name; well I just had to try it.

It is a show stopper for sure with its beautiful giant blooms, jazzy seed pods and the look and scent of the Tropics. Easy to grow, annual, sun-loving tropical that you can start from seed. Perfect for the sun-soaked garden or container. It is so marvelously fragrant that one plant perfumes the garden. Blooms from mid summer until frost. I ordered my seeds online from Park Seed and will be ordering more next year. This was my new plant to try this year and I'm crazy about it.

Plant Width 3 ft

Height 4 ft

Bloom: White with purple trim, double bloom with purple stems.

Bloom size 6-8 inches.



Photos Courtesy of Jerry Redding

Keep Little Rock Beautiful is having its first Waterway Cleanup on Saturday, September 19, from 8 am to noon on Fourche Creek. We will use canoes & kayaks and put in at Benny Craig Park and take out at the Interstate Park.

Along the way we will clean up the shoreline making Fourche Creek pristine. Fourche Creek will soon become an Arkansas Water Trails and we want it to sparkle! If anyone wants to participate, please call Claudia Stalling, Pulaski County Master Gardener.

Claudia H. Stallings
 claudiastallings@kw.com
 C: 501.258.3551
 Office: 501.907.5959
 Fax: 501.907.5958

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

By Carol Randle

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

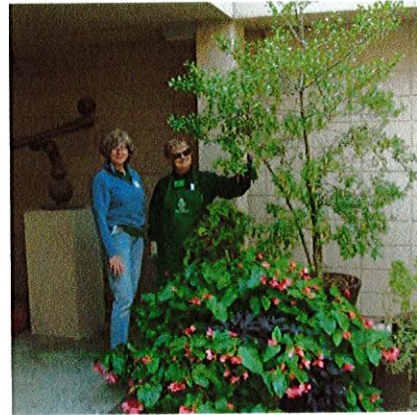
Located at 501 East Ninth Street, Little Rock, (in historic Mac Arthur

Park) is the Arkansas Arts Center Project. Co-chairmen of this project are Brenda Mize and Lorene Wright.

They are assisted by project members: Shirley Acchione; Phyllis Barrier; Phoebe Crocker; Ann Croft; Irene Davis; Betty Henderson; Donald Henderson; Trudy Kumpe; Barbara Patty; Lou Sanders; Jenny Smith; and Nao Ueda. They have about six workdays during the year. These work days cover the spring clean-up, pruning, and spring and fall planting of annuals.

Team work days are on Monday mornings if weather allows. In addition to the team work days, each team member is asked to cover a couple of "Weeks of Care" where watering, fertilizing, weeding, etc. are done.

One of the team members performs project work on weekends. That option is also available. There are extra opportunities to support the project through plugging of new plants at the Master Gardener Greenhouse.



The Arkansas Arts Center project provides the opportunity to enjoy gardening among fine art. All courtyards include sculpture not to mention the opportunity to stop and browse the internal galleries. The Master Gardener work at the Arkansas Arts Center is highly visible. There were approximately 268,000 visitors to the Arts Center in the last fiscal year and the number of visitors is expected to double with the upcoming Egyptian exhibit. It is rare to work at the Arts Center and not receive at least one compliment on the work of the Master Gardeners. The Arkansas Arts Center Project provides the opportunity to work as a team and supports those who need flexibility on their work days but who are able to work independently. The committee has a team mixed with highly experienced gardeners and those who are new to gardening.

This committee has responsibility for the courtyards at the Arts Center and for the topiaries in the containers at the main entrance.

Work includes design, planting and maintenance in the beds and containers. This work gives team members input into planning, design and planting. Maintenance responsibilities include pruning, watering, weeding, mulching, and fertilizing.

Some of the plants used in this project include: Azaleas; Camellia; Crape Myrtle; Juniper Topiaries; Harry Lauder's Walking Stick; Roses; Iris; Rosemary; Sage; Begonias; Petunias; Lantana; Impatiens; Sweet Potato Vine; Carolina Jasmine; Trumpet Vine; Pansies; Snapdragons; Violas; Ferns; Coleus; Hostas; and Silver Fir.



The Project's goal is to provide plants and gardening support to allow enjoyment of the Arts Center Courtyards through all four seasons of the year. They continue to add perennials and ornamental plants that can be enjoyed for multiple years. They plan to upgrade and add containers as budgets allow. They also enjoy the work and getting to know other team members.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting
 Cooperative Extension Office, Tuesday, August 4, 2009
 9:00 am

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

Minutes were approved. Treasurer's Report was approved.

New Business:

1. Requests for Leave of Absence-- Suzanne Lankford for medical reasons and Debby Sanderson serving one year as a teacher in China. Both requests were approved.

2. MG Project Evaluation Reviews were presented by Martha Basinger and Jet Cuffman. All comments were reviewed and discussed.

3. New MG Project Proposals are as follows:

1. Jack Stephens Nature Center Hummingbird Garden, Little Rock
2. Zoo Children's Farm
3. Horticulture Therapy at Baptist Hospital in NLR.

All were discussed and the Jack Stephens Nature Center Hummingbird Garden will be presented to the membership for a vote at the September meeting. Jet Cuffman will contact Don Ford and Jane Gulley regarding their interest in leadership for this project proposal.

4. Establish a new Committee to gather information regarding a new greenhouse and explore locations and fund raising opportunities. Merilyn Tilley suggested Mary Busby for the committee and Jet Cuffman suggested Dick Blankenbeker. Our current Chairs of the Greenhouses will be asked to serve on this committee. The new greenhouse committee will need to locate a building site and provide leadership in fund-raising.

5. Advanced MG Training Program. There was discussion of offering an Advanced Master Gardening Training a program every 3 years and annual continued education programs open to all Pulaski County Master Gardeners was discussed. The continuing education committee will be serving as the planning group for these trainings.

6. Don Davis brought up the idea of providing educational programs for the community. There was also discussion of possibly doing TV segments to promote the Master Gardener program similar to the ones that were done on Channel 11 a few years ago.

7. Don Davis brought up Tom Mertens retirement. Beth announced that Tom's last day will be August 18th. The Board voted to present Tom with a retirement gift of \$200 and a book. Jet Cuffman to prepare the gifts and members of the Board will meet with Tom on the 18th. The gift will be from the Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

8. Applications for the New MG Class were reviewed. The applications were divided among the Board members to conduct interviews. There were 59 applications. Interview results are due back to Beth by August 21, 2009.

SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST



By Carol Randle

ANNUALS

Set out pansies and mums for fall color. Calendulas, Snapdragons, and other cool weather lovers are great, too. (Remember that the Greenhouse Committee will be having a sale in October. It is a wonderful place to buy plants for the fall at a good price! Plus you will be supporting Master Gardener Projects.)

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

It is time to buy spring bulbs for the best selection but don't plant until it gets cooler. Keep in a cool place for another few weeks before planting. Mid September through October is the ideal time to divide Peonies. Herbaceous crowns are set 1-2 inches below soil level; tree peonies planted at 4-7 inches deep. Now is also the time that many perennials can be divided. Some bulbs when they become overcrowded should be carefully dug and the clumps lifted out and broken apart. Replant in a well prepared bed. Mulch is important the first winter after division to prevent the plants from heaving out of the ground. Take extra care to insure correct planting depth as it greatly affects bloom performance. Iris, after being dug can be divided into 2-4 inch divisions making sure each division contains a part of the rhizome, some roots, and foliage. The foliage should be cut back to about six inches. Each division should be replanted not more than two inches deep.

INDOORS

Dig up your begonias now and bring them indoors as a house plant. They will bloom all winter so you can use the cuttings outdoors next spring. Feed your houseplants less frequently as the days get shorter. Bring houseplants back inside before it gets chilly. Spray them with insecticidal soap before you bring them in, and once again after they are in, to control hitchhiking bugs.

LAWNS

Start mowing your tall fescue regularly. Keep it tall (three and a half inches) so it can out compete with weeds. Warm season grasses such as Bermuda do not need a feeding this month, because they are winding down for winter dormancy. Oversew a crop of winter rye toward the end of the month for winter green. But remember that means you will be mowing during the winter.

TREES AND SHRUBS

The next couple of months are the best time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Prepare holes now and start planting when you have an opportunity. Take advantage of any end of summer sales you happen upon.

If you are planning to move any woody plants this fall or winter, now is the time to root prune. Determine how big a root ball you want to move (bigger is better). Then, using a spade, cut straight down in a circle around the plant.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

For your fall garden you can plant leaf lettuce, Swiss Chard, Beets, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Asian greens such as Bok Choi and Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mustard Greens, Onions, Turnips, Spinach, Parsley, and Radishes. Continue harvesting, watering, and weeding your summer garden.

MONTHLY BLOOMS

Ageratum; Alcea Rosea; Althea; Coral Vine; Asters; Hardy Begonia; Buddleia Davidii; Beauty-berry; Campsis, Trumpet Creeper; Cannas; Bluebeard; Celosia; Cockscomb; Chrysanthemum; Clerodendron; Dahlias; Dianthus; Echeveria; Gaura; Gladioli; Ginger Lily; Hibiscus; Morning Glory; Japanese Rose; Crape Myrtle; Lantana; Liriope; Lycoris radiata; Marigolds; Four-o'clocks; Miscanthus; Nierembergia; Mondo Grass; Oregano; Oxalis; Wood Sorrel; Fountain Grasses; Polygonum; Petunias; Phlox; Roses; Rosemary; Salvias; Sage; Sedum; Goldenrod; Spirea; Torenia; Periwinkle; Viola; Chaste Tree (Vitex); Yucca; and Zinnias.

GET TO KNOW A MASTER GARDENER

Photos and text by Bren Coop



The lucky among us know this Lifetime Master Gardener by her middle name: **Wincie**.

Many of us know her because of the many times she's led or worked with the Social Committee or Old Mill Committee during the past 17 years.

Others of us know her because she's lived in North Little Rock since 1982; raised three children (now has five grandchildren); and will soon celebrate her 55th wedding anniversary. The 10th of 11 children at her Heber Springs home, this young lady became a graduate of Henderson State University (Home Economics major) and married Joe. His army career had her sewing and baking around the world, living in Texas, Germany, Maryland, Washington, and the Panama Canal, before settling back in Arkansas.

This talented lady has won many blue ribbons at the Arkansas State Fair; and two years in a row (1989 and 1990) she won the State Crisco Baking Competition, landing trips to Los Angeles and Atlanta for national competitions! Her pecan pie and pumpkin pie earned awards for best filling and best original recipe! It was in Atlanta that she "rubbed shoulders" with Julia Child, who came to ooh and aah the beautiful display of pies from all fifty states!

Winning a sausage contest one year netted her family a new refrigerator! In 2001, her Toasted Pecan Pie not only gained a Blue Ribbon at the First Lady's Pie Contest at the Fair, but also put her in a *Better Homes & Garden* special feature magazine, complete with picture of her and the First Lady of the State, Janet Huckabee. She isn't shy about sharing her recipes or her love of baking—she has taught many cooking and baking classes to folks of all ages. (Sounds like a cookbook is definitely in order!)



She and Joe have enjoyed some exotic travels to attend Rotary conventions, including trips to Canada, Bangkok, Australia and New Zealand. For their 50th anniversary, they took a Mediterranean cruise and even attended a wedding in Spain (that of their grand-nephew).

One of her favorite holidays is *National Pie Day* - January 23rd - she and friends gather to enjoy their creations in honor of this fun day!



Wincie's Prize Winning Pecan Pie

1 9-inch unbaked pie crust
Preheat oven to 350 degrees,

Filling:

4 whole eggs

1 cup sugar

1 cup syrup (2/3 cup white Karo and 1/3 cup maple, such as Log Cabin)

5 tablespoons melted butter (or margarine)

1/8 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1 1/4 cups pecan halves

Place all ingredients (except pecans) in a mixing bowl and mix well. Pour mixture into the pie shell. Place pecan halves on top. Bake at 350 degrees until center is firm.

About 45 -50 minutes.

If the outside edge of the crust starts to brown too fast, put strips of foil around the edge.

Optional: Serve with whipped cream.

Makes 8 servings.

Pie Crust

(Yields 1 9-inch crust)

1/1/2 cups all-purpose flour

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup butter-flavor Crisco

3-4 Tablespoons ice water

Combine flour and salt. Mix in Crisco with a fork or pastry blender. Mix until mixture resembles coarse cornmeal. Sprinkle water, one tablespoon at a time. Toss lightly to form a ball. Place ball on lightly floured wax paper (2 pieces, placed side-by-side. Cover with 2 more pieces of wax paper. With a rolling pin, roll from the center to form a circle 1-inch larger than pie plate.

Remove top pieces of wax paper. Place hand under bottom and flip crust over into pie plate. Gently remove top pieces of wax paper. Fold edge of crust under and flute edge of crust as desired.

Easy as Pie!!!!



"But now in September the garden has cooled, and with it my possessiveness.

The sun warms my back instead of beating on my head ... The harvest has dwindled, and I have grown apart from the intense midsummer relationship that brought it on."

- Robert Finch





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
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340-6650

Master Minutes Staff



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