

Pulaski County Master Minutes



Congratulations to our 5, 10 and 15 year Master Gardeners

Pulaski County Master Gardener
Length of Service Awards
2010

Lifetime or 15 Years

Dick Blankenkober
Margaret Dorland
Lew Huddle
JoAnn Janssen
Anne Jarrard
Ray Sarmiento

10 Years

Judy Bradsher
George Harper
Sharl Hill
Sharon Mayes
Carol Mendel
Linda Moyer
Ila Newberry
Lynn Phelps
Helen Simpson
Merilyn Tilley

5 Years

Dixie Atkins
Karen Baris
Carol Chappell
Cathy Crass
Jane Dising
Cheryl Fallis
Dianne Formby
Robert Green

Alan Hall
Cindy Hancock
Georgia Harris
Becky Hight
Barry Holt
Doyle Hughes
Sue Jennings
Wayne Kirk
Amelia Lung
Jane Markham
Susan Marsh
Barbara Patty
Jan Paulus
Jennice Ratley
Ron Robinette
Jeanne Rollins
Frankie Ward Smith
Anne Speed
Larry Stobaugh
Tom Stamel

Congratulations to the 2010 Master Gardener Training Class

Lenore Arent
Joellen Beard
Diane Brownlee
Nancy Clark
Bonnie Clough
Pat Coker
Mimi Cross
Jeannie DeLoach
Sherree DeWitt
Cheryl Dunlop
Belinda Eley
Ann Filiatreau
Pauline Fletcher
Jane Heaston
Jean Hine
Marianne Ligon
Tricia Luzzi
Catherine Martin
Barbara Metzger

Chief Okasamafo Oware
John Pittenger
Kristianna Pittenger
Ellen Repar
Christine Veirs Ringgold
Marylee Robinson
Laura Sholes
Olga Skorapa
Syble Smith
Valerie Smith
Lenny Speyer
Ronnie Townsend
Dale Webb
Lucie Wetzel
Julie Wiedower
Terry Wright
Mary Zehr

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.

TALKIN YARD NATURALLY

By Betty Deere



I love dirt. . . no really, I do. And I love gardening, but honest-to-God, it's really hard work. A couple weeks ago I cleaned out all my many flower beds — cut back the perennials down close to the ground, and hardening my heart, pulled out the wilting annuals. That's hard, it's painful for me to pull out a flower that's even half alive, I always want to save it; I know, I know, winter is coming and it's for the overall good, but I still hate doing it. Then I weeded (ugh), and then raked out the leaves and pine straw. Then I planted pansies and snapdragons, and a few mums; then moved a couple of ornamental (fake, actually) bird bath features and colorfully designed stepping stones (HEAVY concrete stepping stones) to cover some empty spots. Finally, then, I laid down a mulch layer, to hopefully protect the perennials from a really frosty winter. All that was one long day's work. Hard, back-breakin' work!

BUT a gardener's work is only half done at this point! The next day I continued hardening my heart whilst yanking out the sad annuals in the numerous pots and containers around my house and grounds; then replenished their soil with a little homemade compost; then replanted them with the same kind of fall/winter plants I had just put in the beds. Then I watered everything in and once again popped in a few outdoor ornaments to cover blank spots (ornamental squirrels, rabbits, and bright-colored watering bulbs (that don't really work!). Hard work! Not finished yet though. I next pulled up by the roots some overflowing ajuga plants that were invading a gravel path in the center of my driveway bed, and punched them into the container blank spots. They thrive best if you just "poke" them into the dirt surface and maybe put a few rocks around . . . they like rocks. But I only put ajuga in "container" blank spots -- I've learned a tough lesson about sticking ajuga around in the midst of flower beds, beautiful though it is, because it is like a marching army, and can conquer an entire flower bed in one season. I'm very watchful of my one and only

ajuga bed, because it quickly takes over. Again, did I mention hard work?

That task done, I moved on and cleaned out my window boxes, which was easier to do because I don't have to bend over. I do have to climb up on a stepladder though, and raise my arms and shoulders high. Hard on shoulders but still, it gives my back a rest. Also it's easier because I plant my window box flowers in small containers, as versus filling the whole thing with dirt that hardens and sticks in the box, requiring vigorous scraping to clean. (Been there, done that.) Nowadays, all I have to do is jerk out the containers, dump the plant and dirt into a bucket for my compost, and fling the empty plastic containers into another bucket to take to Lakewood or Green Tree nursery for recycling.

So-o, after putting the beds to bed (ha! Get it?) and emptying the window boxes, I then raked the yard of leaves and pine straw, along with picking up buckets of ½-inch acorns from my big oak tree. The paths in my backyard are so covered in two inches of huge round acorns that they're treacherous to navigate; it's like rolling along on roller skates. Since this year there are so many Olympic-size acorns, I believe it's going to be a hard winter. I know there is no scientific evidence to back me up, but I have abit of personal evidence to back up this belief. A few years back, this same scenario happened, and my dad drove from Malvern to pick up buckets of these gigantic acorns to take to deer camp and entice the poor deer. I don't approve of deer hunting, but hey, it was my dad! And anyway I needed them picked up. Sure enough, that winter was dreadfully hard and cold. Therefore, I believe the evidence is in the acorn size and numbers. So there. We'll see.



But I digress. Back to the story, all that raking and emptying and picking up took another full day and half. Er, um-- did I mention it was hard hard work?

All in all, it took 2 ½ days to do my fall gardening chores. AND two massages and one trips to the chiropractor over the next 10 days. WHY, most sane people ask, does anyone do such painful,

body-wrecking work? Or at least why not get a gardener?

For me, the answer is that digging in the dirt, planting and tending in tune with the cycles of Nature, is the glue that holds together my other life purpose(s); that "roots" me; that connects me to the flow of seasons and years. I'm also painting pictures with flowers and plants – using a huge canvas. And I stand in total wonderment at the picture that emerges from the ingredients I put in. Mother Nature is the real artist; I just provide the raw materials and nurture what She manifests.

Looking around at some other folks' yards, I see they may accomplish these pictures with the current season's colored lights, artificial wreaths and other decorative ornaments hanging on and around their homes and yards.

I just do it the hard way. (By the way, I COULD use a good gardening helper . . . anyone got a good referral?)

**Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2010
St. James Methodist Church**

Members Present: Martha Basinger, Jett Cuffman, Arline Jackson, Judy Woodard, Don Ford, Debra Redding, Beth Phelps, Brent Coop, Marcella Grimmer, Mac Huffman, and Dewayne Hancock

Minutes: Approved
Treasurer Report: Approved

Old Business:
Acknowledgement of MG Board guests - Marcella Grimmer – Nominee for Second Vice President, DeWayne Hancock – Nominee for Member At Large, Patti Womble – Chair Fund Raising Committee and Sandy Harrison – Chair Social Committee, Dick Blankenkemper – New Greenhouse Committee.

Patti Womble reported for the Fund Raising Committee. They will sell Janet Carson's book and County 76 Calendar at Master Gardener Meeting today. Others suggestions made were: a luncheon with speaker and sales, sale of books and calendars at Flower and Garden show, tour of projects by bus and luncheon, and the sale of bricks. The funds raised will be used to build the new greenhouse.

Jett Cuffman made a motion for Fund Raising committee to buy books/calendar from proceeds already made for funds as needed. Mac Huffman seconded. Motion past.

The Fund Raising Committee is Patti Womble, Jane Proffitt, Cathy Crass, Mary Lea Gazette, Mary Roark, Robbie Schuchard and Carol Randal.

Sandy Harrison reported for the Social Committee the Christmas Party will be at the Pulaski Tech campus in North Little Rock. MG members bringing desserts. Members will be e-mail invitations instead of mail outs. There was discussion about the ticket price. Don Ford made a motion for social committee to go ahead with \$20 tickets to cover the cost of food and have the organization approve up to \$500 for entertainment, decoration and other expenses. Jett Cuffman second. Motion passed.

Judy Woodard report on the continuing education program held Sep 24th. 58 have signed up for classes on water features.

Beth Phelps and Dick Blankenkemper reported for the New Greenhouse committee. The Stuppy's representative met with the committee and presented a project proposal. The proposal sheet with cost information was passed out. There was discussion. Don Ford made a motion to authorize signing of contract to recover and convert the building into a greenhouse at a cost of \$17500.00. The benches, repair to the old greenhouse and other needs will can be done later when the funds are available. Mac Huffman second and the motion passed. Stuff update: Debra Redding: No report Jet Cuffman presented the brass plate for the picture Jim Dyer, past-president, painted before his death. :

NEW BUSINESS:
Sustainers status requests: for Bob Bumgardner and Mary Freeman were approved.

Beth Phelps announced that Glenda Brazzell, Wincie Hughes and Lisa Bomar were approved.

Beth Phelps announced that the Central Arkansas Horticulture had \$1500 grant available if anyone was willing to put together an application. She reminded the board that any grant application must also be approved by the Extension Service administration before being submitted. This process will take at least a week.

**Pulaski County Master Gardener General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2010
St. James Methodist Church**

Martha Basinger called meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. with the double dipping drawing.

Martha Basinger thanked everyone for letting her have a year as president. Martha Basinger asked the following committees to stand - Continue Ed committee, Master Minutes, Nominating committee, Photograph committee, Social committee, Retention committee, M. G. Stuff committee, Mentor committee, Speakers committee and Travel committee

Martha Basinger announced at the Board had approved the proposal to recover a second greenhouse at next to the existing greenhouse at the State Hospital so that it can be used as a greenhouse. The cost will be \$17, 500.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pattie Womble reported for the Fund Raising Committee – Janet Carson’s book and County 76 calendars to be sold to raise money for greenhouse after today’s meeting at others times throughout the fall and winter. She also asked that anyone with ideas for fund raising give her a call. The committee is looking at having a luncheon/book sale and signing in January.

Beth Phelps announced that do all that was needed to get the new greenhouse fully functioning and repair the existing greenhouse Pulaski County Master Gardeners would need to raise \$24,175.00.

Marcella Grimmitt reported for the Travel Committee- Friday Oct 1, 2010 a Wine/Cheese to be held at Good Earth with 20% discount for MG members. Time 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Also hypertufa classes will be held at Jane Diesing home October 7, 2010, 9:00 till 11:00. Basic class cost of \$35 and \$65 for advance class. Lunch is included in price. Members may call Jane Diesing at 529-5023. Next classes to be held October 11th and 14th. Marcella asked that travel committee meet out front of auditorium after meeting.

Kay Althoff announced that Pulaski County was holding public hearing concerning the land use plan for the area around Lake Maumelle. For more info: web site: co.pulaski.ar.us input would be taken until September 30, 2010.

Beth Phelps announced that 39 had sign up for MG training which starts Sept. 29th. She asked that if anyone planned to attend and want lunch let Beth know by noon the Monday before for the Wednesday training. Beth also announced that as part of the training this year there will be project tours on Thursdays from 9 a.m. till noon. Each Thursday different project will be on tour. Emails will be sent each week with a map. All Master Gardeners are encouraged to attend.

Beth Phelps announced the Greenhouse plant sale October 9, 2010 8:00 a.m. until Noon. If a second sale is need an email will be sent. Beth Phelps reminded everyone that end of the year is approaching and hours need to be turned in. The Retention committee will be calling those who have not turned in hours.

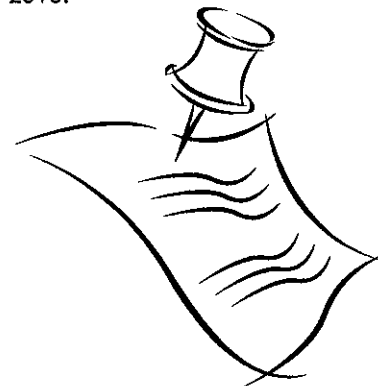
Martha Basinger announced that the board had met to review existing projects and volunteer needs. The board vote not to take on any new projects in 2011 so that existing project committees could be strengthened.

Don Davis, Chair of the nominating committee was not present so Martha Basing presented the nominating committees slate officers for 2010 – 2011.

- President: Jett Cuffman
- 1st Vice President: Debra Redding
- 2nd Vice President: Marcella Grimmitt
- Secretary: Arline Jackson
- Treasurer: Bren Coop
- Members at Large: Dewayne Hancock

Martha called for nominations from the floor. Kay Lavey made a motion the slate be accepted by acclamation. Mary Ann Brown seconded and the slate was accepted.

Program for the day: Janet Carson/ Goodbye Summer 2010.



ary Master Gardener Board

Tuesday, October 19, 2010
St. James Methodist Church

Members present: Arline Jackson, Bren Coop, Judy Woodard, Jett Cuffman, Dewayne Hancock, Debra Redding, Marcella Grimmert, Don Fore, Martha Basinger, and Beth Phelps
Minutes: Approved Martha Basinger made motion, Debra Redding seconded.
Treasurer Report: Approved Don Ford made motion and Dewayne Hancock seconded.
Stuff Report: Claudia Barone was unable to make meeting. She will report at the November board meeting

Greenhouse update: Beth Phelps reported that the plans have been approved for the greenhouse.

Fund Raising Committee: Don Ford made a motion that to approve the January luncheon/book signing event being planned by the Fund Raising committee. Marcella Grimmert seconded and the motion passed.

2011 International MG Conference "Search for Excellence" program: Beth Phelps reported that nominations were being taken for the "search for Excellence" program at the 2011 International Master Gardener conference. There is no limit on the number of nominations. Beth will email the information out to the committee chairs and general membership. Project interested can complete and submit a nomination if they are interested.

National Weather Reporting Service: Beth Phelps reported that Arkansas Master Gardeners will participate in the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. Janet Carson agreed to purchase two rain gauges (\$25 each) per county. Two volunteer will be needed to set up the rain gauges and report. Don Ford ask that it be printed in the Master Minutes that two volunteers are needed with one south of the river and one north.

New Business:
Judy Woodard reported that the Mt. Holly project had over spent their regular funding of \$100. Jet Cuffman will call Mt. Holly chair. There was discussion about the need to make sure the committee chairs understood that they must make a special funding request and get it approved before spending more than the allotted \$100 per year. There was also discussion about making sure the project hosts/partners

where helping fund the projects. The consensus was to stress this at the Chair Orientation and for the First Vice President to reinforce throughout the year.

Debra Redding announced that she would be moving to Flower Mount, Texas and would be resigning from the board and the Pulaski County Master Gardener program.

Debra Redding reported that the date for the Chairman Orientation January 25, 2011. The location to be announced.

Beth Phelps reported that she had not heard anything concerning the 2 grant application submitted to the Central Arkansas Horticulture Society. Two applications were submitted. One for the glass repair at the old greenhouse and one by the Baptist Rehab. Project committee to do a Horticulture Therapy Workshop.

Karen Baker submitted a request of a leave of absence for 2009. Martha Basinger made motion to accept and Debra Redding seconded and then leave of absence was approved.

Jett Cuffman reminded everyone that the board would meet at 9:30 on November 16th and Claudia Barone would present the Stuff committee report.



Pulaski County Master Gardener General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
St. James Methodist Church

President Jet Cuffman called meeting to order at 11:35 with the double dipping drawing.

Jet Cuffman recognized the training class by asking them to stand.

Jet Cuffman presented outgoing president Martha Basinger with a gift and thanked her for her service to the Pulaski County Master Gardener Program.

Jet Cuffman recognized Don Davis and Mac Huffman and thanked them for their service.

Jet Cuffman announced that Don Ford was awarded MG of the Year by the Witt Stephens Nature Center for his efforts on the native plant and butterfly garden project.

Jet Cuffman announced that the Chairman's Orientation will be January 25, 2012 and ask committee chairs to make their calendars.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fran Ables President of Little Rock Garden Council announced a Luncheon and Book Signing at Hillcrest Hall on November 13th from 10:30 am - 2:30 pm. Janet Carson's book will be sold and Janet will be there to sign books. The proceeds from the book sales will be donated to the Pulaski County Master Gardener for the new greenhouse.

Phoebe Crocker reported for the Social Committee and announced new member reception would be held in Jones Hall after the November 16th meeting. She asked members to sign up to bring finger foods. Signup sheets were past around.

Phoebe also announced that the Christmas Party will be held at Pulaski Tech, North Little Rock campus on December 7th at 6 PM. Tickets will be \$20 and reservations are being taken. Culinary students and their instructors will be preparing the food.

Marcella Grimmitt asked that the Travel Committee meet after meeting at the front of the room.

Judy Woodard, treasurer asked project committees turn in their 2010 reimbursement requests. She also reminded committee chair that expenses over the regularly allocated \$100 need to be pre-approved by the board.

Patti Womble reporting for the Fund Raising committee announced that over \$1,000 was made at last month's book sale and signing. Books and calendars will be for sale after meeting and again at the November 16th meeting. She also announced that books and calendars are available for sale at the Pulaski County Extension Office and that anyone can stop by to purchase them and support the effort to raise money for the greenhouse. So tell your friends and neighbors. The committee will be announcing other events as they are planned.

Beth Phelps announced that construction of a new greenhouse at the State Hospital has been approved by the State Hospital.

Beth Phelps reminded everyone that the end of the year is approaching and asked that everyone to get their 2010 hours reported.

Beth Phelps announced that she will soon send out information about nominations for the MG project of the Year and Friend of Master Gardeners. Nominations will be presented and voted on at the February Master Gardener Meeting.

Beth Phelps reminded the membership that the new class is touring projects on Thursdays from 9 am - Noon and invited experienced Master Gardeners to participate. Maps are emailed out every week.

Jet Cuffman announced Allen Hall had jelly for sale.

Jet asked all members to turn off all cell phone.

She announced that Debra Redding would be moving to Flower Mound, Texas. She thanked Debra for her service on the board.

Debra Redding announced cookbooks from Mt. Holly Cemetery would be for sale after meeting for \$29.95. See Kay Tatum.

Debra Redding introduced the program - Lance Norwood with National Tree Preservation of Arkansas.





Checklist by Carol Randle

ANNUALS

Fertilize winter annuals regularly when we have any warm spell.

Water regularly when we have any warm spell, especially before a heavy freeze.

GENERAL YARD

Winter has always been considered the slowest time in the garden, but it can be very busy if you start planning for next year's garden. Now is the time to order seed catalogs. (Isn't it fun to receive them in the cold winter time and spend time looking and wishing and planning?) Remove plants that aren't thriving in their current locations. Try to ascertain the reason for the lack of success. Often it's a matter of planting depth, or an over accumulation of mulch, or a diseased root system.

INDOORS

Enjoy the blooms of forced bulbs such as Hyacinth and Paper Whites. Amaryllis bulbs will add more color. Pot them and give them a little water after you get them home. After growth starts, water well and keep in the sunlight. They will bloom in six to eight weeks. Stake because they will get tall and top heavy. If you are going to over winter Poinsettias, place them in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now. Reduce watering and begin feeding again in spring. Don't allow potted Azaleas to dry out. The soil must remain moist.

LAWNS

Remove fallen leaves that may smother grass and plants. Apply lime to lawn in December or January.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp; but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early spring.

Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early spring. There is still time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Try to get them in the ground by the end of December

to ensure they have ample chilling hours. If you can't plant immediately, store them in a cool location to start the chilling process. Spring bulbs need a minimum of 12-16 weeks of cool temperatures for them to be able to stretch and bloom. When planting, be sure to pick a site with well drained soil. Plant two to three times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground.

ROSES

Wait until late February or early spring to prune your Roses.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant Camellias for winter color. They come in color ranging from whites to pinks to reds and mixtures. Anyone, who can grow Azaleas can grow Camellias. Plant in a well drained area out of the afternoon sun. Evergreen trees and shrubs will drop some of their older leaves. If the flower buds and newer foliage at the end of the branch are okay, don't worry. It is normal. Be sure to water regularly if it doesn't rain.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Start cool weather vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in six to eight weeks. In late January, Poppies and Sweet Peas can be planted directly in the ground. Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to give the green materials time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather if plants are mulched, it will resume in spring and produce greens into May. Add a six to eight inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

DECEMBER COLOR

Camellias, Hollies, Nandina, Osmanthus, Aquifolium, Possum Haw, Rosehips, Tea Plant, Viburnums and Violas.





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>

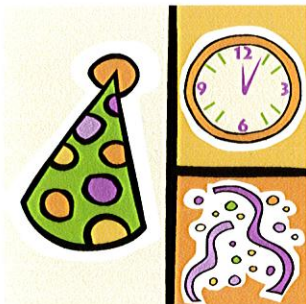
Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service

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 2009, these volunteers gave **22,707** 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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