



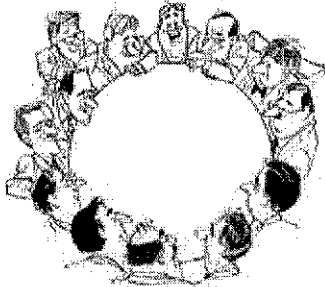
Pulaski County Master Minutes

April, 2011

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

Volume 20, Issue 4

April Meeting



Porter Briggs of Washington, D.C. and Little Rock will be the speaker at the April meeting and will be discussing the boxwoods in Washington. His talk will be entitled "Edward Scissorhands at the Lincoln Memorial".

Please join us

For the Pulaski County Master Gardeners'

Spring Picnic

At the Arkansas Governor's Mansion

Tuesday, May 3rd, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Beverages and Hors d'oeuvres

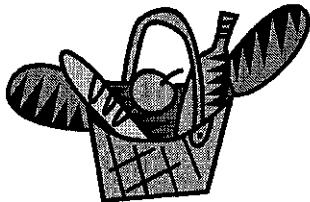
Salad Entrée Dessert

*Happy Hour courtesy of our own Clark
Trim, Colonial Wine and Spirits*

*****Smart Casual Dress Required*****

Please wear your Master Gardener nametag

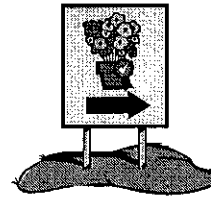
\$25 per person



2011 Dues Are Due



You can pay them at the April meeting or you can mail your check made out to PCMG to Bren Coop, 9433 Stepping Stone Court, Sherwood, AR 72120. Before May 1st dues are \$15.00 after they are \$20.00.



The Pulaski County Master Gardener will have plant sales on the following dates:

Pathfinder Greenhouse in Jacksonville - Sat., April 9th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Directions to Pathfinder Greenhouse:

2520 W. Main St, Jacksonville, AR

Going North on 67/167, take Main Street Exit, at red light turn left, go past Sutherland's, past railroad tracks, Pathfinder's building is on the right, on the corner of Redmond and Main.

Greenhouse is on the left side of the building. There is plenty of parking behind the greenhouse.

Little Rock Master Gardener Greenhouse - Sat., April 16th and Sat., April 30th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Little Rock Master Gardener Greenhouse is located on the corner of Palm and 7th St. on the State Hospital grounds. Head south on Palm off of Markham. Palm will end at 7th Street and the greenhouse will be on your left.

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.

Reporting Hours – Reminder / Refresher



Volunteer hours are the hours you volunteer on your project(s) and committees. On the report form report all the hours for each project on the appropriate line. All hours spent working on a project should be reported to that project – working hours, as well as, organizational and planning time. Since not all committees have a line on the report form use the Other Committee line to report hours spent working on those not listed. You can cross through Other Committee and write your committee in.

Continuing Education points are earned when you are learning – one point per hour of education. Continuing Education points can be earned in many ways. The report form lists several and how to count points. If you are unsure, report the event, its length and the volunteers doing the data entry will ask if they have questions.

Community Outreach hours are hours you spend using your horticultural knowledge and Master Gardener training volunteering for other organizations such as garden clubs, herb society, church, neighborhood, etc. I know this is where it can get confusing since so many Master Gardeners are also involved in other plant related groups. For example, the LR Council of Garden Clubs Tour, if you are serving as Master Gardener in the role of a Garden Expert you count that time as Master Gardener Volunteer time. Report it on the Other Committee line. If you are serving in the role of a Garden Club member as a host, greeter, ticket taker, etc., report those hours under Community Outreach.

Why is all this reporting important? The Master Gardener Program is one of the educational programs of the University of Arkansas · Division of Agriculture · Cooperative Extension Service so is accountable to its federal, state and county funders. The volunteer hours, continuing

education points, community outreach, questions answered and participants in educational programs are reported to document the impact of the Master Gardener Program.

It is your volunteerism and dedication that has made the Master Gardener Program in Pulaski County visible and valued. Thanks for all your hard work.

If you have any questions call or email Beth 340-6650, bphehelps@uaex.edu.

Grow Your Own Clean Air

By Lorraine Hensley

Fresh air is one thing but clean air is another. Fresh air is what we get when we step outside and close the door on our climate controlled household environment. Clean air is a bit more difficult to come by. Fresh air is a gift and the single thing we need to do is breathe it in and enjoy the whole process. This air may be fresh but the one thing it isn't is clean. Clean air on the other hand, requires a combination of thought, planning and a bit of work to achieve. The best we can do to improve our outside air is to put into practice those activities that promote clean air.

Purifying the outside air is too complex and expensive for any one person to clean up. Legislation has enabled groups to address the issue. The agency that immediately comes to mind is the Environmental Protection Agency. These people do a pretty good job.



For those of us who live with various allergies when pollen and mold counts reach the stratosphere we listen to our bodies and either wear a face mask or cut down the time we

spend outdoors. These natural pollutants, in conjunction with other airborne contaminants, makes gardeners pretty much aware of air quality. When air quality takes a nose dive the smart gardener heads for the house where a totally different set of pollutants keep things interesting.

Our homes have been climate controlled for so long we don't even think much about it. We keep the thermostat where we are comfortable and sometimes forget to change the necessary filters on a regular basis. Lack of routine maintenance becomes truly important to the household when utility bills climb (more power is required to pull air through a dirty filter) or when family members complain about a chronic cough or is diagnosed on a regular basis with an upper respiratory infection. Dirty filters play a role in the pollution of the air we breathe behind closed doors. We've done our best to make our homes weather tight to conserve energy, pay lower utility bills and keep our family healthy.

But there are many unanticipated negative consequences to all of this house sealing activity. We also seal in all the low chemical emissions from our carpets, furniture, particle board and various synthetic materials. Think draperies, paper towels, facial tissues, and even grocery bags as contributing formaldehyde emissions that help pollute your inside air. Most people have entered, at least once, a store usually selling either carpets or fabrics, where your burning eyes, runny nose, and raspy throat have you looking for the exit door. You are experiencing first hand formaldehyde emissions. These same emissions and others are part of the air we have sealed inside our homes.

Dirty inside air is where the individual has wonderful opportunities to make a noticeable difference to the air he and his family breathes. It isn't a big hassle and the entire family can become involved. All that's necessary is to go green. Pot some plants and place them in the kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms, all through the house. Plants are hard workers and do a great job of purifying your air. Pick your plants and give them what they need and they will work to take care of you. Appropriate plants strategically placed perform several functions: they help you

grow your own clean air which benefits your family and they are also pretty to look at. And this is one project the whole family can plan and complete together.



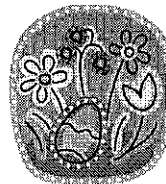
Bren Coop accepting yearly dues at MG meeting

Mount Holly Garden Series for 2011

Lectures are at 9:00 on the 3rd Saturday morning of each month. We meet in the shade of the historic bell house in the middle of the cemetery. Sponsored by the MORE Group, a downtown ladies group, a \$5.00 suggested donation benefits Mount Holly Cemetery.

Here is 2011's schedule:

- April 16, Tana Beasley - Humming Birds
- May 21, Mark Brown - Sprinkler Smart
- June 18, Mark Gibson- Water Features
- July 16, Phil Cato (About Vase) Flower Arranging
- August 20, Carnivorous Plants
- September 17, Beth Phelps, Getting Your Garden Ready For Winter
- October 15, Susan Rose, Bulbs In Your Garden For A Burst Of Color





Mt. Holly Master Gardeners plant and maintain the Victorian Garden as well as the climbing roses which cover the rock walls around the perimeter of the Cemetery. When in bloom, the roses are breathtaking and all Master Gardeners are encouraged to stop by during bloom season (late April/early May) to enjoy the spectacle. Mt. Holly Cemetery is at the corner of Broadway and 630 and is open everyday from 8:00 to 4:00.



Checklist by Carol Randle

Sow these seeds: early Asters, Basil, Canterbury Bells, Celosia, Columbine, Cosmos, Foxglove, Gomphrena, grasses, Hollyhock, Melampodium, Morning Glories, Petunias, Sunflowers, Sweet Peas, Sweet William, and Zinnias.



SPRING IS HERE!

Hooray! After a hard winter with lots of snow and little color, we are welcoming spring with open arms! The blooming trees, shrubs, and plants are renewing our spirits. The white of the Bradford Pear with the pink of the flowering fruit trees, the yellow of the Daffodils (think Wye Mountain) and Forsythia, the red and pink of the Camellias . . . these all make us want to head to the yard and work in the flower beds. Many of our plants should begin to grow now.

Pruning AFTER our spring blooming plants have finished their bloom is the best way to go. Reports around the

state seem to show at least a little damage on some Loropetalums, Encore Azaleas, and Gardenias. Evergreen shrubs that you are growing primarily for foliage . . . Hollies, Eleagnus, and Boxwood . . . that need severe pruning (more than one third) need to be pruned this month if you want quick recovery. Hydrangeas should be growing from the old wood, not from the base, if you expect flowers this summer. If winter damage occurred, prune it out, but don't be too quick to do so. Wait until mid to late in the month to give plants a chance to start growing on their own. If you see no signs of new growth by the end of the month or early May, it won't be coming. Unless you grow the re-blooming Hydrangeas like Endless Summer, you won't have many (if any) flowers on winter damaged plants. Know what kind of Hydrangeas you are growing, so you will know when to prune. If you grow Forsythia, remove one third of the older canes at the soil line now to rejuvenate the plant for better flowering next spring. Azaleas that need pruning should have it done as soon AFTER flowering as possible. Remember though, before you prune know WHY you are pruning, when is the proper time and how should each bush be pruned. Plan for expected outcomes. If you choose the right plant for the right location, pruning should not be a huge chore. After pruning, fertilize all spring bloomers with a slow release fertilizer. On established plants, one application a year is all that is needed.

VEGETABLES

Plant warm season vegetables (tomatoes and peppers) inside until the chance of frost has passed. April is the best month for vegetable gardening. You have until mid month to plant or replant all the cool season crops. Rotate vegetable crops to help control pests. Combining flower plants with vegetables helps deter most insects. Examples are: Henbit, Geranium, Asters, Calendulas, Chrysanthemums, and Marigolds. You can still plant cool season vegetables (Lettuce, Broccoli, Cabbage, Radishes, and Spinach). Edible gardening has never been as popular as it is now, but use caution with the size of your garden . . . especially if you are a beginning gardener. Start small and build on success. A large garden may seem like a good idea this month, but be a challenge by late June or July. (You might want to try square foot gardening . . . see THE NEW SQUARE FOOT GARDENING book by Mel Bartholomew.) All vegetables and herbs can be grown in containers. If you live in an apartment or condo, or simply have a yard with all shade, find a sunny spot on the patio and plant your garden there. If you use your outdoor grill a lot, put some pots of fresh herbs nearby to throw on your food as you are cooking. Fresh and easily accessible produce will have you eating better all summer.

When starting a vegetable garden, choose a site that gets plenty of sunlight and that is well drained, but near a water source. Gardens in Arkansas won't survive without supplemental water, and if it is difficult to do, many gardeners either don't have the time or the energy to make it work. Raised beds are an excellent way to deal with rocky soils. (Perhaps our cities' names give us a clue . . . Little ROCK and North Little ROCK. Sherwood is just as rocky.) You bring in the compost and soil. Plant perennial plants such as Asparagus and Strawberries on the edge of the garden, to keep them undisturbed. Divide the garden into thirds and practice crop rotation, not planting in the same quadrant with the same vegetable for at least three years. You have until mid month to plant even the cool season crops like Broccoli, Lettuce, Kale, along with Green Beans and early Sweet Corn. Hold off on Tomatoes, Peppers and Eggplant until mid to late April . . . giving the soil time to warm up. Plant Corn in several short rows to aid in pollination, versus one long row.

INDOORS

Keep your houseplants indoors until the middle or end of the month. Then slowly acclimate them to the sun. Otherwise, they can sunburn. As you move the tropical flowers like Hibiscus, Mandevilla and Bougainvillea outside, repot them and prune them back by at least one third if not more. These summer tropical plants bloom on new growth and you need to encourage that by alleviating root-bound conditions and encouraging rapid new growth. If you don't repot or prune, you will see limited new growth. Limited new growth means less flowers as well. Start fertilizing every three to four weeks and your plants should be blooming again in no time. Or if you buy new plants every year, start shopping. New colors, new plants and old favorites are all available now and will continue to arrive in nurseries and garden centers on a regular basis. After the hard winter we have had, we are all ready for lots of color!



ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

It seems that many Pansies and Violas are just now hitting their prime, and it is almost time to replace them with summer color. Our seasonal winter color did not fare too well this past year, and many are looking for new options. If your winter annuals are doing well, enjoy them for another month and plant then. There are plenty of options to choose from. Perennials that

are blooming now include: Bleeding Heart; Foxgloves; Verbena; Peonies, and Dianthus. Annuals that can take a little cool weather, plus summer heat include: Petunias; Calibrachoa; Geraniums; and Begonias. Hold off on the heat loving Impatiens, Lantana, and Zinnias until mid to late April or even into May. Planting in cool soil won't spur them on to growth, so don't get too anxious. For annuals, we want to push the plants as much as we can to encourage rapid growth and plenty of flowers. Good soil, plus regular watering and fertilization should give you large, free-flowering plants. Harden off summer bedding plants. Slowly acclimate to outside conditions. Plant water plants now. Plant Snapdragons and Dianthus now. There is a new Heuchera you might try this spring. It is called Georgia Peach and is a gorgeous pink color. For shadier gardens look at Oak Leaf Hydrangeas . . . which bloom in the summer and then have outstanding fall foliage. Itea is another showstopper in the late spring and again with fall foliage. Loropetalums now come in dwarf to standard size, so pick the right plant for your location. If purple foliage and pink flowers is not to your liking, try the green leafed, white flowered forms. As a gardener, you can always find a plant for every situation; sometimes we simply end up with too many plants and not enough garden space!

Leave foliage on spring bulbs at least 6 weeks or until they die back. They need to replenish their strength for next year. Check for Thrips on your Daffodils. If you find infestation, remove and destroy the infested part. If you are shopping the garden centers for young perennial plants this time of the year, look for the ones that have the fullest, sturdiest growth and the best foliage color. You will find either divisions or Spring-sown seedlings. The divisions may be more expensive, but they do produce larger plants the first year. Apply Bone Meal to Crocus as the flowers fade. Don't tie the greenery back as the flowers fade for it will weaken the bulbs. Allow the leaves to remain for six weeks. Plant new Lily of the Valley pips. Mulch well with compost to protect against cold spells.

ROSES

Do not plant dormant Roses until after April 15th or potted Roses after May 15th. Lightly feed Roses with Cottonseed Meal or commercial Rose food. Use a complete Rose food. Begin chemical control of black spot as foliage starts to expand, and continue every 7 to 10 days through the growing season. The best fungicides for black spot control are Funginex or Daconil or Bayer Advanced. If you are looking for a plant that will give you several seasons of color, look at some of the earth kind Roses. From the series of Knock-outs, to Home Run and the Flower Carpet series, there are some fabulous plants that will bloom from late April until frost, with little care.

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

Inspect the buds and undersides of leaves for signs of Aphids. Control White Fly, Aphids, and Lace bugs with insecticidal soap. Mulch all new plants, trees, and shrubs at the time of planting to reduce weeds and help retain moisture. If a late freeze is forecast, cover Tomato plants with paper bags, baskets, straw, or something to hold warmth. Remove all covering as soon as the weather warms up again.

GENERAL YARD CARE

Check trellis and support wires on climbers before the plants are fully developed. During the winter these supports often become dislodged. Check the brackets used for hanging baskets to ensure they will support the baskets full of moist soil. Dig in compost, manure, and other amendments in planting areas when the soil is dry enough. If you have planted cover crops for the winter, turn them under now. Water new plants and early blooming plants regularly.

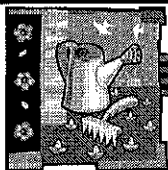


LAWNS

Lawns are greening up all over, and some of it is still winter weeds, but the lawn grasses are also almost all actively growing as well. It is during this transition period between dormancy and growth that you need to use caution when applying herbicides. Wait for your lawn grass to be totally green before you apply your first application of fertilizer. Mow any remaining winter weeds to prevent seed set, and start monitoring for summer weeds. Clip back established ground cover. Repair dead patches in ground cover by tearing them out. Add compost and peat moss into the soil, and then replant bare areas with divisions taken from outer areas.

MONTHLY BLOOMS

Ajuga, Golden Alyssum, Anemone, Anise Florida, Azaleas, Red-leafed Barberry, Beauty Bush, Bleeding Heart, Red Buckeye, Calycanthus, Candytuft, Clematis, Columbine, Coral Bells, English Daisies, Daylilies, Dianthus, Dogwood, Foam Flower, Forget-me-nots, Fringe Tree, Heather, Bearded Iris, Lilacs, Lily of the Valley, Maple, and Lungwort.



Spring

By Phyllis Barrier

On our last trip to the National Gallery of Art in Washington DC, there was an interesting exhibit about Giuseppe Arcimboldo, who was born in Milan in 1526. Arcimboldo was court painter to Maximilian II of the Austrian House of Habsburg.

Maximilian II became Holy Roman Emperor in 1564.

From Vienna, he ruled over Austria, Germany, Bohemia, Hungary, and other parts of Eastern Europe.

He was interested in the natural sciences and attracted eminent botanists and other scientists to his court. The botanical gardens and zoos that he

created would have given Arcimboldo the opportunity to study the species and plants that appear in his paintings. Arcimboldo created a series of allegorical paintings of the Four Seasons, all depicted as profile busts.



On this first day of spring, March 20, I thought about Arcimboldo's painting of spring. Blossoms make up the head, and leaves form the shoulder and chest. A lily acts as a hat feather and the iris is a chest medallion. In all, eighty different varieties of flowering plants have been identified in the work. Since the flowers don't all bloom at the same time, it is believed that Arcimboldo prepared studies of the individual flowers when each was in bloom, then put them together in the painting.

Arcimboldo's composite heads of the four seasons were thought of as *scherzi* (jokes) by his contemporaries, but they reflect the serious scientific study of nature that was characteristic of the sixteenth century. At the gallery exhibit, I stood before the painting and had great fun identifying some of the eighty flowering plants. I hope you enjoy this 16th century painting as much as I did. If you did enjoy exploring this painting, watch for the other four seasons paintings in future issues of *Master Minutes*.

Relationships

By Lorraine Hensley



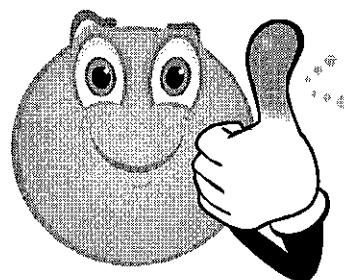
Master gardeners, like most people, tend to take those things most familiar for granted. With us, that would pretty well cover plant life and how necessary plants are to our own existence. The relationship between plants and all forms of oxygen using life forms is the first literal life relationship we will ever have. A timely review of that relationship is helpful. With so much information relating to "going green" available, the opportunity to revisit concepts relevant to that relationship can't be resisted. At times a reminder is necessary to help us remain aware of our responsibilities in maintaining those dynamics. Simply put—if we take care of plant life then plants will take care of us.

Gardeners generally have a deep appreciation of plant life and just how important that life is to our ability to live upon the planet earth. Over unimaginable time evolutionary processes enabled each living component (microbes, plants, and animals) to live in balance with other life forms. Each developed a dependency upon other life forms which are beneficial to each. The process itself is, by definition, a symbiotic relationship which is complex and always dynamic. Something is always going on. It's like a Saturday night dance every night of the week and twice on Sundays. Generally we become more and more aware of these interrelationships—noting the various steps of

plant life dances—as we focus on maintaining that relationship.

Gardening offers so many benefits for those of us who really like to play in the dirt. Several of the most important that come to mind are a better understanding of how necessary to our survival plants are. As we dig and plant and learn we become increasingly aware of both the complexity and fragility of this special relationship between plant life and any oxygen breathing life form. We learn patience just by waiting and anticipating seasonal changes in our landscaping. We also learn to forgive ourselves for unwittingly taking for granted the complexity of this relationship. We have become so accustomed to the observable fact that the whole relationship actually works and works well. This relationship is an absolutely "living" miracle.

As such we can examine them closely for a virtual lifetime and not fully identify or understand the diverse activities plants perform. Plants, as with all life forms look to their own survival first. And that's just fine. They use light (photosynthesis) to convert carbon dioxide and water for their own well-being. Oxygen is a by-product of the plant world that is vital for the continued existence of higher life forms. Plants give us the very air we breathe. They also offer other benefits which range from plant-based medicines to better nutrition. Our relationship with plants is essential for all oxygen using life species. It just makes good survival sense to become more aware and truly focus as care-takers of this bounty.



March 15, 2011 **PCMG Board & Meeting Summary**

PCMG business and announcements were led by President Jet Cuffman:

Greenhouse activity includes work on a new roof, sides, and fan—with the help of Don Webb, Warden for Community Punishment, and Glenn Sago, with the State Hospital. **Fundraising efforts** continue, and Patti Womble announced that letters had been mailed requesting tax-deductible donations. She also recognized the efforts of the Fundraising Committee.

The **2010 budget** was adopted. This committee was led by Mac Huffman, Dwayne Hancock and Bren Coop.

The year's first **continuing education** class "Getting in High Gear for Spring," was scheduled for March 23rd. (With a committee co-chaired by Carol Chappell and Judy Woodard, the class was a success with 78 attendees.)

Following our April 19th meeting, PCMG will thank St. James by having a **Workday** to help "spruce up" the grounds around the church. All members are asked to bring their tools to help with this project, chaired by Judy Chapman.

Merilyn Tilley told us that the annual **Spring Garden Tour** sponsored by the Greater Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs will be April 30 and May 1. Tickets for the ten North Little Rock gardens on this year's tour are now available with a discount for advance purchase.

Sandy Harrison announced the **spring picnic** will be at the Governor's Mansion on May 3rd with the menu to be prepared by the mansion chef. Reservations must be made by April 22nd. Tours of the vegetable and herb gardens will be available.



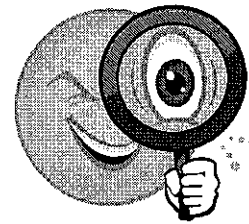
Congratulations to these PCMG Members recognized for their outstanding community service as *Volunteers of the Year* for the Cancer Society - Arline Jackson; Hospice - Rochelle Greenwood; and the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show - Glenda Arledge.

Pat Larsen, of "Shovel Garden Daylilies," in Wooster, led colorful and informative program about hybridizing these beautiful flowers. He also provided information

about other area daylily gardens available for visiting and/or purchasing plants.

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill.
 You know how it is with an April day.
 When the sun is out and the wind is still,
 You're one month on in the middle of May.
 But if you so much as dare to speak,
 a cloud come over the sunlit arch,
 And wind comes off a frozen peak,
 And you're two months back in the middle of
 March."

- Robert Frost, *Two Tramps in Mud Time*, 1926



Spring Flowers Search

IRIS
 LILY
 DAFFODILS
 TULIPS
 CROCUS
 VIOLETS
 POPPY
 SNOWDROPS
 BLUEBELLS
 BUTTERCUPS

Q J K L P E B T M F
 B U T T E R C U P S
 L I L Y Q B W L O N
 G R G A H U W I P O
 V I O L E T S P P W
 H S C R O C U S Y D
 D A F F O D I L S R
 E T W X F N O Q Q O
 Q B A R Q Q F O M P
 P B L U E B E L L S





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

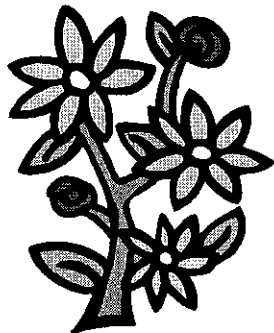
> PC Cooperative Extensions Website:
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>

> U of A Cooperative Extension Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
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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 2010, these volunteers gave **22,987** 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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bphelps@uaex.edu
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