

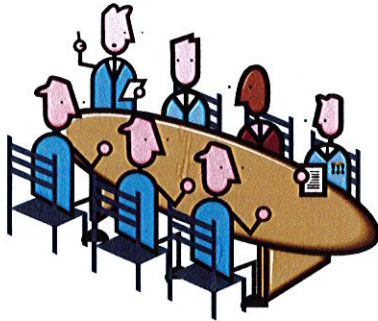


Pulaski County Master Minutes

September, 2011

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

Volume 20, Issue 9



September 20th Meeting
Theo Witsell of the Arkansas Heritage Organization will be speaking on Native Plants

Master Gardener Training 2011

Master Gardener Training begins September 21st with the Tour of Projects. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to come to any of the training session they would like. **If you would like to join the group for lunch please let me know by Noon on the Monday before.** The cost of lunch will be \$9.00. The training schedule is:

Wed., Sept. 28 – Basic Plant Science, Soils, Insects

Wed., Oct. 5 – Vegetables and Composting

Wed., Oct. 19 – Ornamentals

Wed., Oct. 26 – Plant Diseases, Fruits, Wildlife

Wed., Nov. 2 – Pruning, Landscape Solutions, Turf, Sprinkler Sense

Wed., Nov. 9 – Herbs and final day

** The week of Oct. 12th is skipped because of the International MG Meeting in Charleston, WV

The Thursday Project Tours were a hit last year. So we're doing them again.

In an effort to have new Master Gardeners become more familiar with all our projects before they choose the project they would like to work on, we are trying something new this year. With input from project

committee chairs we are having Master Gardener Project Tours on Thursdays in addition to the first day tour of a few projects. The new Master Gardeners would be given directions to the projects on tour. They could visit on their own or together in small groups. There would be no formal tour organization. Project committee members would be at the project to greet and visit with the trainees. The trainees would not be required to visit all the projects but encouraged to make it to all of them. **Experienced Master Gardeners are also invited to visit the projects.** These open house tours could be set up to be a couple of hours i.e. 9:00 till noon.

Thursday, September 29th - Old State House, Witt Stephens, Mt. Holly, Historic AR Museum

Thursday, October 6 - Hays Center, Park Hill, Argenta, Maumelle

Thursday, October 20 - Pinnacle, Wildwood

Thursday, October 27 - Amy Sanders Library, Jacksonville City Hall, Pathfinder Greenhouse

Thursday, November 3 – Cammack, State Hospital, War Memorial

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 remaining schedule:

September 17, Beth Phelps, Getting Your Garden Ready For Winter

October 15, Susan Rose, Bulbs In Your Garden For A Burst Of Color

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.

Bone Meal

By Gail Vaughan



Master Gardener It is a true axiom.....Some of us are just Slow Learners!

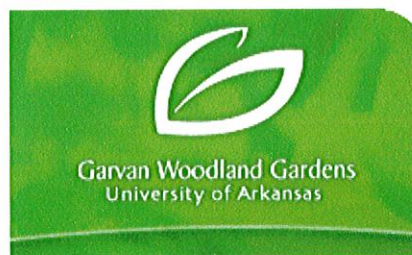
Upon leaving the September MG meeting I wandered by the free table.. There I spied a box of bone meal, opened, but 4/5 full. Good, this will be perfect for the bulbs I planned to plant with my granddaughter, Samantha.

So clutching it to my heart, grateful for the gift, I took it home... Well, actually I left it in the trunk and forgot it. Sometime during our big snow, I lifted the trunk lid and a bundle of white food of the gods fell off the lid and into my trunk. Cleaning out the trunk is an annual deal for me well maybe the last time I did it was when they called them "turtle hulls" so I went to more pressing business. This was a mistake.

For a period of time close to 3 weeks, I tolerated, endured, and then suffered through the nauseous, stifling smell that arose from my car. It smelled like Slaughter Day at the Kansas City Stock Yards in their most productive day. Gagging is the merest hint of the spasms that my upper respiratory tract went through after my first sniff. I re-read the words on the box. Like the old song, "I Can See Clearly Now" there it was ---the truth in red letters on yellow: BLOOD MEAL. The snow which melted mixed with the meal and hardened. The time period was three weeks long, because multiple attempts to scrub the mixture failed. My trunk is not lined with tile nor Berber carpet (The substance that formed could easily be on the market for adhesive to tooth implants.)

For my peace of mind, I walk around and past the free table on my way to the meeting room!

Arkansas Orchid Society
invites you to the
Annual Orchid Auction
Sunday, Sept. 18th, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
Second Presbyterian Church
600 Pleasant Valley Drive
Little Rock (near I-430 & Cantrell Road)
For more information, contact Mike Saar
arkorchid@gmail.com
or Yvonne Becker (501-922-3296) ylbecker@sbcglobal.net



Master Gardener Day at Garvan Gardens Monday, Sept. 19th 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. The Pulaski County Master Gardener Travel committee is planning a bus trip.

Master Gardener will get into the gardens free.
Guests are welcome but will have to pay the Garvan Gardens
entry fee – adults \$9, seniors \$8.

The bus will leave the commuter parking lot at the old Brandon
Furniture Store at 12th and University Ave. at 8:30 a.m. and return
by 3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$15.00 per person. Guests are welcome. Seating is
limited to the first 56 that send in their check.

Reservation deadline with check is September 12th in order to
book the bus. No refunds for cancellations after September 12th.

Send you check made out to Pulaski County Master Gardeners to
Bren Coop, 9433 Stepping Stone Ct., Sherwood, AR 72120

Lunch will be on your own at the Garden.
There will be two activities in the garden in the morning that will
be repeated in the afternoon. Both Bob Byers and Janet Carson
will present a program. As these details are finalized they will be
sent out via email.



What's New at the Library?

By Phyllis Barrier

Tomorrow's Garden – Design and Inspiration for a New Age of Sustainable Gardening

By Stephen Orr

Stephen Orr has traveled the country in search of gardens that combine environmental sensitivity to aesthetic pleasures. He argues that gardeners must start considering "sustainability in water usage, plant choices, local ecology and preservation of resources." He describes small gardens, complete with photo illustrations that show how gardeners are addressing these issues in new ways.

The author is the gardening editorial director for Martha Stewart Living magazine and formerly was a contributor to the *New York Times*. The book is divided into three sections: Garden Where You Live, Consider the Materials, and Edible Gardens and Community. There's also a resource section that lists the featured garden designers and landscape architects. Most of the gardens are located in Austin, Nantucket, numerous locations in California, Brooklyn, New York City, Portland, and Chicago. Although I enjoyed Orr's writing style, the gardens, and the photo illustrations, I didn't find as much as I'd liked in these gardens that I could apply to our climate situation here in Arkansas.

The last section, Edible Gardens and Community, was the most interesting and applicable to me. He discusses backyard economics, enriching soil, raised beds, raising chickens and bees, shared spaces, and gardening on the street.



Checklist by Carol Randle

For the second year we have had a miserably hot, dry summer in Arkansas! There were fewer blooms on our spring blooming plants or smaller flowers this year. We need to remember that plants that bloom in the spring of the year are still setting their flower buds. If the plants are overly stressed, instead of setting flower and fruit buds, they start shutting down early for the season. This will result in fewer, if any, flowers being set. Season after season of stressed plants can lead to weak plants which are susceptible to diseases and insects. How healthy the plants go into the dormant season will determine how well they grow during the growing season. Keep in mind that one bad season can take multiple seasons to recover from; we have had several in a row. The only thing you should be doing now is water . . . no pesticides or fertilizers. Water is the MOST CRITICAL factor for successful gardening.

ANNUALS

Set out pansies and mums for fall color. (Wait to plant Pansies until the temperatures begin to cool off. Pansies that get exposed to warm weather tend to stretch and get leggy, resulting in weaker plants all winter.) Calendulas, Snapdragons, and other cool weather lovers are great, also. (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.) Fall bedding plants are appearing in garden centers statewide. Start planting Mums, Flowering Kale and Cabbage, Dianthus, Calendula and Diascia now. Planting the edible ornamental greens plants can allow them to get a firm root system established before winter. Watch for Cabbage Loopers and other insects which can attack. They don't differentiate between the edible and the ornamental. Fertilize and deadhead summer bedding plants that are thriving; continue to water, and they should last until a killing frost. Tropical flowering plants can also continue to flower, so keep fertilizing and watering them. If you plan to overwinter them, pay attention to the weather and make sure they don't get exposed to temperatures much below 40 degrees before you move them into cold storage in the garage or crawl space. If you plan to move them into your house do so in early October.

PERENNIALS

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. 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. There are some outstanding fall flowering Perennials that are beginning to bloom now and add enjoyment to the fall landscape. Sweet Autumn Clematis is still blooming, along with Japanese Anemones, Goldenrod, Chelone (Turtlehead), and Toad Lilies will begin soon. Ornamental grasses are setting their fall plumage and will remain showy from now until you cut them back next February. Early Spring Perennials are shutting down for the year and if they need division, now is the time to do so. Any Perennial that has started dying back can be cleaned up now as well. You don't have to wait for a killing frost. Once they lose their attractiveness, take them out of the garden.



BULBS

Spring bulbs are showing up at local nurseries. It is time to buy them to get the best selection, but don't plant until it gets cooler. Keep them in a cool place for another few weeks before planting. If you plan to dig up and store your Caladium bulbs, make sure you are fertilizing them now. The more energy they can store in the roots, the larger the bulb will be and the bigger your plants next year. Make sure you dig them up prior to a killing frost. If you have Amaryllis bulbs left over from last season you have a few options. One is to plant them outside and mulch well after a killing frost . . . many made it through even last year's cold winter. The other option is to stop watering and bring them indoors. Cut the old foliage off and wait for new activity before you begin to water again.

After a brief dormancy period they will sprout and bloom again . . . hopefully in time for the holidays. Some bulbs when they become overcrowded should be carefully dug and the clumps lifted out and broken apart. Replant in a well prepared bed.

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. If you still have any gardening energy left, there is plenty to do outside, besides just watering. There is still time to plant fall vegetables. If your vegetable garden has played out, clean up now. Leaving debris in the garden will simply lead to more disease and insect issues next season. While it is still fresh in your mind, write down what worked and what didn't. Harvest remaining vegetables early in the day to get the freshest produce. If you aren't planning to plant fall crops, consider planting a cover crop or green manure crop. Not only does this keep weeds from growing in your barren garden over the winter, but when you till it in the spring it will help to enrich your soil.



LAWNS

Look at your lawns now. Many went through dormancy periods this summer if they weren't watered, and many folks stopped fertilizing because it was so hot and dry. If you fertilized already this summer, don't do any more this season. If you didn't fertilize, one light application can be made by mid-month. Make sure you water the fertilizer in. Continue to mow as needed. Many leaves are beginning to fall as trees shut down early. Rake and compost or mulch these leaves. A light layer of leaves is not an issue but when they begin to fall in earnest you need to do something. Start mowing your tall Fescue regularly. Keep it tall (3 1/2 inches) so it can out compete weeds. Warm season grasses such as Bermuda do not need a feeding this month, because they are winding down for winter dormancy. Over-sow 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.

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. Houseplants that have had a Summer Siesta outside need to be prepared for the move back indoors. Late September to early October is the ideal time to do so. Clean up the pots, check for ants and other insects and spray as needed with insecticidal soap before you bring them in, and once again after they are in, to control hitchhiking bugs. Moving them in before really cool weather starts will be an easier transition for them. Cut back on the amount of water you give them and don't be alarmed with a little leaf dropping.

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, Periwinkle, Petunias, Phlox, Roses, Rosemary, Salvias, Sage, Sedum, Spirea, Torenia, Viola, Vitex (Chaste Tree), Yucca, Zinnias.

**PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 10, 2011
9:00 A.M.
Pulaski County State Cooperative Extension Office,
2901 W. Roosevelt Rd**

Minutes of the July meeting were approved.
The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Fund Raising Update - Thank you notes have been sent to all contributors and acknowledges sent for all memorials and honorariums.

Beth Phelps reported that she had been in communication with Chad Goolsby, Stuppy's Greenhouses about the benches. Since the estimate is over \$5,000 the project will have to go out for bid this will delay completion of the project. This will also delay a formal ribbon cutting. Beth Phelps passed around a thank you note received from Michael McCourt family.

David Werling and Carol Chappell are working on a new pictorial directory which will be available electronically. The Board decided dues will cover the cost of printing for those who prefer a hard copy. Hard copies will be distributed in early 2011 as members pay their dues.

A leave of absence request was approved for Linda C. Holbert.

There was discussion about requiring a certain number of volunteer hours from each member on their assigned garden project. Limiting the number of volunteer hours that could be counted for committee or non-garden projects. The consensus was not to make any additional restrictions on how members obtain their volunteer hours at this time.

An additional funding request for \$37.19 for the Contemplation Garden for mulch was approved.

County 76 2012 Garden Calendars will be sold at the September Master Gardener Meeting. Large calendars will be sold for \$10.00 and small calendars will be \$8.00. Proceeds will benefit the Pulaski County Master Gardener program.

Marcella Grimmitt is helping organize a tour of Pulaski County Master Gardener Projects for the Jefferson County Master Gardeners.

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteer manual is being revised and updated. It will be distributed electronically this fall. It will be much more helpful than the older version in the front of the Master Gardener Notebook.

Purchase of Jr. Master Gardener curriculum for Western Hill Elementary and Martin Luther King Elementary at a cost of about \$200.00 was approved. These schools are participating in a garden and nutrition project with the Pulaski County Extension Service.

Jett Cuffman presented the Nominating Committee report and slate of Officers for 2011-2012.

President: Don Ford
1st Vice President: Marcella Grimmitt
2nd Vice President: Walter Jennings
Treasurer: Bren Coop
Assistant Treasurer: Glenda Aldridge
Secretary: Coralie Maxwell
Member at Large: Earline Zahn

September 19th is the first Master Gardener Appreciation Day at Garvan Gardens. The travel committee is planning a bus trip.

Since the Pulaski County Extension Office no longer has a Program Assistant to help answer horticulture questions and provide assistance to new Master Gardener when they do their telephone time the Board decided to form a Telephone committee. They will help new Master Gardeners when they do their first phone service. The committee will also help with scheduling for phone time.

There was not general membership meeting.

**The Little Rock Garden Club hosts
Tapestry**

**An extravaganza of flower design, horticulture,
photography, conservation and education.
Junior League of Little Rock Building - 401 South
Scott Street**

**Thursday, October 13, 2011
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Our contribution of public service and education.

Free admission

For information contact: beckybscott@aol.com



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 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:

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