



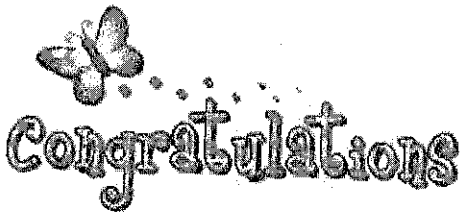
Pulaski County Master Minutes

December 2011/January, 2012 <http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 20, Issue 12



Master Gardener January Program is "Sex Life of a Fern" presented by Dr. Eric Sundell. Dr. Sundell is a retired professor from the University of Arkansas at Monticello where he taught courses in botany, plant taxonomy, dendrology and local flora for 26 years. He is an engaging speaker with vast knowledge on Arkansas Plants. He is founding member of Arkansas Native Plant Society and has been featured at numerous gardening groups and has conducted workshops for the Arkansas Audubon Society and the Master Naturalists of Central Arkansas.



Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteer Years of Service Awards 2011

Lifetime – 15 years – Class of 1996

Sue Anderson
Jim Gray
Catherine Johnson
John Prather
Mary Roark
Suellen Roberts
Billie Sanders
Joanna Willson

10 Years – Class of 2001

Martha Basinger
Kim Cartwright
Mary Freeman
John Gill
Marjem Gill
Nora Ann Goss
Becky Kennedy
Frances Lopata
Steve Lopata
Linda Norton
Michael Strobel
Debbie Stults
Claudia Utley
Colleen Vollman
Jackie Walker
Howard Stephens

5 Years of Service – Class of 2006

John Anthony
Jane Blackall
Buddy Brock
Bren Coop
Martha Coop
Dottie Funk
Marylea Gazette
Marcella Grimmitt
Mary Helen Henry
Arline Jackson
Kevin Keefe
Bill Kelly
Christina Phelps
Donna Roetzel
Joyce Willis
Earlene Zahn

20 Years - Azalea

Jane Gulley
Ann Cooper
Mary Evans
Sarah Henson
Jerry Quick
Dottie Heckenbach
Breck Campbell

Arkansas Is Our Campus

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Cheekwood Gardens, Nashville, TN

By Deborah Streiffert Moore



This year on our vacation Scott and I went to Nashville, TN to visit extended family. While there I wanted to visit Cheekwood Gardens. The gardens were originally owned by Leslie Cheek and his wife, Mable Wood. The Cheeks made their fortune by investing in a new brand of coffee, Maxwell House that was being developed by their cousin, Joel Cheek. The mansion and gardens were designed by Bryant Fleming, a residential and landscape architect.

Cheekwood Botanical Gardens was selected by Southern Living 2009 Readers' Choice as one of the Top Ten Public gardens. The garden is 55 acres consisting of 10 specialty gardens and the Carell Woodland Sculpture Trail.

One of my favorites of the specialty gardens was the Japanese garden. You enter the garden on the roji, or crooked path then pass through a Bamboo forest to the courtyard, planted with ginkgos and maples. Finally you enter the pavilion. Here the view is of the raked gravel and granite which symbolize a body of water. I enjoy Japanese gardens as they are so different from the gardens I plant at my home.

I also enjoyed the Herb Study Garden. I enjoy visiting herb gardens to get ideas for my own garden.

The other of the specialty gardens are the Robertson Ellis Color Garden, Martin Boxwood Gardens, Carell Dogwood Garden, Wills Perennial Garden, Turner Seasons Garden, Burr Terrace Garden, Robinson Family Water Garden, and the Howe Wildflower Garden.

Thank You 

From the President:

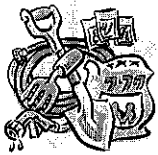
I would like to thank the membership for electing me as your president. I shall certainly do my best to keep our organization strong and on track. In that regard, if anyone has any positive suggestions on maintaining and improving our group, I would welcome your input. Please feel free to forward suggestions to the board through your project leader, committee leader or one of the board officers. If you feel it is more appropriate, send your suggestions to me at ford-don@sbcglobal.net. With everyone's help and support we can continue to make the Pulaski County Master Gardeners grow and continue serving the community.

Don Ford



"The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown:
O, the rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir."

- Christmas Carol



Checklist by Carol Randle

Many of us are happy to put this gardening season behind us. We hope for a better year in 2012. Even though gardening is winding down, there is still work to do in the garden. Rake some leaves, plant some bulbs, start a compost pile, harvest your fall vegetables and enjoy the last days of 2011 in the garden. We have been pushing the hardiness zones of plants, planting things that normally don't overwinter for us, but have been in recent years - Lantana, Brugmansia, Banana, etc. Plants that are moderately hardy outdoors often overwinter fine with a little extra much, but don't apply this extra protection until after the plants have gone dormant. If you add extra protection while they are actively growing it will actually prevent these plants from going dormant, which can result in a dead plant the following spring. Allow the plant to go dormant following a frost, then cut off the plant debris and add the extra much. Pay attention to the drainage of your soil. Winter soils often retain more moisture with less evaporation and less water usage of plants while they are dormant. Wet feet can lead to rotting of many perennials.

ANNUALS

Fertilize winter annuals regularly when we have any warm spell. Water regularly, especially before a heavy freeze. There is still time to plant winter color in the form of Pansies, Violas, and even Ornamental Kale and Cabbage. The key with late planting is to plant established plants-or those with flowers. If you start this late in the season with tiny, non-blooming plants, chances are you won't see any flowers until spring, which sort of defeats the purpose. If you planted earlier this fall, deadhead spent flowers and fertilize periodically to keep them blooming their best. Pansies in particular are heavy feeders, and if you can feed them, they will pay you back with more flowers.

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 them because they will get tall and top heavy.

Poinsettias are in every available outlet now. Remember, to keep them colorful, they need bright light and even moisture. Too much water or not enough is not good. With proper care, they can stay pretty inside for months. Other holiday plant choices include Cyclamens, Mums, Azaleas, and Bromeliads.

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 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. Choose large, blemish-free bulbs. 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. Tulips, Daffodils, Crocus and Hyacinths are the most common, but there are some more unusual bulbs available, too. The nice thing is that all you have to do is dig a hole and drop the bulb in, and then sit back and wait for spring color. You can also plant them in containers.

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.

ROSES

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

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. 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.

LAWNS

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

TREES AND SHRUBS

If you need some new trees, consider planting one now. The soil temperature still has some residual heat, and the root system can spend its time growing roots while the tree is dormant. You will end up with a stronger plant for next growing season. Some large shade tree choices include Willow Oak - *Quercus phellos*; Tulip Poplar - *Liquidambar styraciflua*; and Lacebark Elm - *Ulmus parvifolia*. Some good mid-sized trees include Little Leaf Linden - *Tilia cordata*; Red Maple - *Acer rubrum*; and Chinese Pistache - *Pistacia chinensis*. Prepare the site well, and amend in an area three times the size of the planting hole. Plant it slightly shallower than it is growing in its container. Water and mulch, and you are off to a good start.

This can also be an ideal time to plant hardy shrubs. Avoid those that are marginally hardy or that can commonly suffer winter injury such as Gardenias, Azaleas, Crape Myrtles and Hydrangeas. They are better planted in late winter to early spring so they have a season to get their root system established before cold weather arrives.

Plant Camellias for winter color. They come in colors 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.

DECEMBER COLOR

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

JANUARY

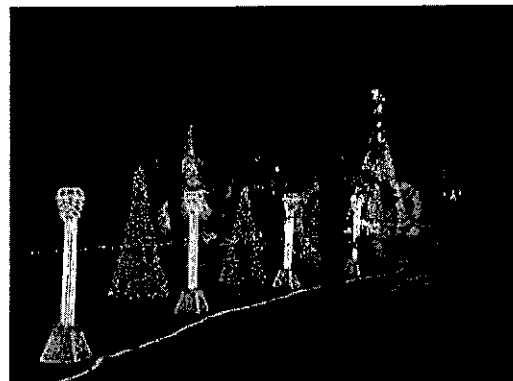
January is not a big gardening month.

JANUARY COLOR

Camellias, Heather, Hellebores, Hollies, Winter Honeysuckle, Jasmine, Mahonia, Possum Haw, Flowering Quince and Witch Hazel.

Fifty three PCMGs went to Garvan on November 29th to view the Holiday Lights

Photos by Bren Coop



**Pulaski County Master Gardeners
Meeting Summary
Tuesday, November 15, 2011
St. James United Methodist Church
Board Meeting**

Bren Coop read a letter from Milo Shult VP of Agriculture for the University of Arkansas, thanking the PCMG for a donation of Junior Master Gardener Curriculum to support the nutrition and garden programs at Martin Luther King Elementary and Western Hills Elementary. A 2012 Pulaski County master Gardener Pictorial Directory will be printed. Master Gardeners will pick up their copy when they pay their 2012 dues. The directory will also be available electronically. The budget committee presented a proposed 2012 budget. It was approved. A copy will be placed on the announcement board at each meeting. Pulaski County Judge Buddy Villines has asked the Master Gardeners take over the care of the flower beds on the south side of the "Big Dam Bridge". The county is to provide plant material. Because Pulaski County provides financial support for the Pulaski County Extension Office the board will look into setting up a committee for this project. Beth Phelps reported that the Stuff committee will soon have new options and be taking orders early in the New Year. Sustainer Status Approved for Nan Matthews. Leave of Absence approved for Tom Bruce, Christine Ringgold, and Cheryl Fallis. The new PCMG Volunteer Manual was presented. Board members were asked to review before it is made available to the general membership.

General Meeting

Social Committee: Christmas Party at the Wyndham in North Little Rock on Wednesday December 7th at 6 pm in the Silver room #1 and #2. Chris Norwood will be the guest speaker. Travel Committee: Trip to Garvan Gardens for a Christmas Lights tour November 21st. Parking will be at St. James Methodist Church where the bus will pick up the group. If you have ideas for the travel committee please share with Marcella Grimmett. 2012 Pictorial MG directory: David Werling is taken photos for the 2012 pictorial directory. Also let Beth Phelps know of email, telephone and address changes A.S.A.P.

Hours/End of the year Reporting: Mary Helen Henry was present with all the records if anyone had questions about their hours.

Greenhouse: New benches are going in and other repairs are being made. The project will be completed soon. There will be a ribbon cutting in the spring.

The 2011 Master Gardner Trainees were recognized and welcomed.

Awards:

Wildwood Asian Garden received at the State MG Conference in Harrison in June for the State MG Project of the Year 2011 for the group larger than 50 members.

*Happy
New Year*

"Now the seasons are closing their files
on each of us, the heavy drawers
full of certificates rolling back
into the tree trunks, a few old papers
flocking away. Someone we loved
has fallen from our thoughts,
making a little, glittering splash
like a bicycle pushed by a breeze.
Otherwise, not much has happened;
we fell in love again, finding
that one red reather on the wind."

- Ted Kooser, *Year's End*



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:

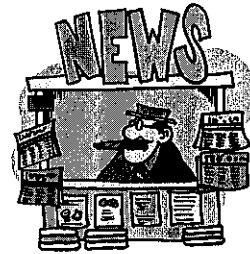
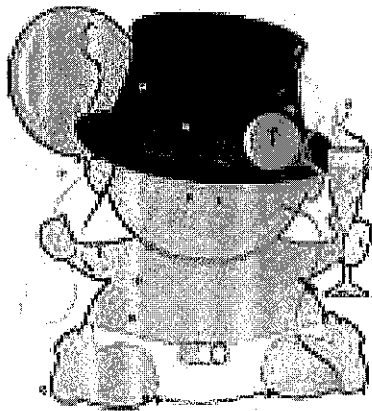
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

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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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