

# Pulaski County Master Minutes

February 2012

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

Volume 21 Issue 1



Chris Olsen will be our guest speaker for the February meeting. His topic is "The Five Seasons"

Chris dares to be different with his unique designs. He has been associated with KTHV Channel 11, where he is featured on the morning, noon, and evening home and garden segments in the Weather Garden. He has been a part of this team for over 12 years. Chris has his own weekly segments called "Today's Home" with Chris Olsen.

You can keep up with Chris on his website, [chrisholsen.com](http://chrisholsen.com), his monthly blog in At Home Magazine and Facebook. Chris is currently going national with his personality and talents. His new book called "Five Seasons with Chris Olsen" was released in December of 2011.



www.shutterstock.com - 38346232

**Do you know of any local businesses that offer discounts to Master Gardeners? If so, please let us know! Email Jennice at [gardenrat@comcast.net](mailto:gardenrat@comcast.net) and we will be doing a feature on them in upcoming newsletters!**

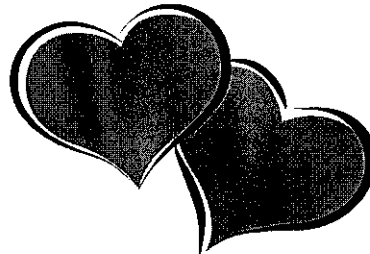


## 2012 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference MAY 17 - 19, 2012 MONTICELLO, ARKANSAS

The conference committee is working hard to finalize plans for the 2012 conference. Hotels are filling up fast so make your reservation today. Gardeners throughout the four counties are counting the days until you arrive.

Registration information will be available February 1, 2012.

Thanks to Boone County Master Gardeners for coming through as an early sponsor of the conference. If you know of potential sponsors or possible items for the goody bags, please contact us at [jcarson@uaex.edu](mailto:jcarson@uaex.edu), [ftomerlin@uaex.edu](mailto:ftomerlin@uaex.edu) or [jtreat@uaex.edu](mailto:jtreat@uaex.edu)



### 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.



## Checklist by Carol Randle

### FOR THE BIRDS

Provide fresh water near the birds' shelter. To attract a variety of birds, feed them cornmeal mixed with peanut butter, cracked corn, chopped fruits, suet, or sunflower seeds. Or plant Barberry, Beautyberry, Coralberry, Cottoneaster, Dogwood, Hawthorn, Holly, Mahonia, Possum Haw, and Viburnum, which all provide fruits and berries in a February landscape.

### WINTER ANNUALS

Winter Annuals gave us a much needed boost of color this fall. Depending on where you live, they may or may not be looking great now. Clean them up on a mild day, removing any damaged leaves and deadhead spent flowers. Give them a boost of fertilizer and water if dry. They should perk back up. If yours have died, most nurseries and garden centers still have some. Buy and plant blooming Annuals now and they should last until you pull them out in June. Early blooming Perennials are beginning to bloom, including Hellebores, Dianthus, and Columbine. Many of our summer blooming Annuals are beginning to show signs of life as well. Monitor for late cold snaps and cover as needed. The cool season Perennials thrive in cool weather, so should not need much protection. If you planted Larkspur, Poppies, and Bachelor Buttons last fall, they are up and getting ready for their show.

### BULBS

Spring bulbs are up and growing and early varieties are blooming or showing buds. Now is a great time to fertilize spring bulbs. This gets the fertilizer in the ground so the plants can use it right after bloom. The critical time for flower bud set is the six week period following flowering. A complete fertilizer like 13-13-13 is fine. Don't use Bone Meal. That helps with rooting at planting, but your bulbs need Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potash for healthy growth. If your bulbs are too crowded, or in too much shade, dig and divide and immediately replant as soon as the flowers fade. Allow the foliage to grow until it dies back on these newly moved bulbs.

### PLANNING

Place your orders now with mail-order plant nurseries. They tend to work on a first-come, first serve basis. Not to worry... they will not ship your order until it is safe to do so. (Dreaming of your perfect flower bed or yard is a winter pastime... with the help of plant catalogs.)

### ROSES

Place orders for bare root Roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant Roses. Water in roses with Superthrive" or other root stimulator. Top dress Roses with Cottonseed and Bone Meal and cover with a layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure will limit nutgrass and weed

seeds. All Roses benefit from some type of pruning annually. Hybrid Teas need the most. They are normally pruned back to a height of 8-18 inches in late February. A good way to remember to prune is to do it on George Washington's Birthday (at least, that is what old-timers will tell you). Prune to a bud that is on the outside of the stem, as that is the point from where the new branch will grow. You want to keep the centers of the plants as open as possible. If you are growing the Knock-outs or other "shrub" type Roses, they don't need the severe pruning of Hybrid Teas, but they do need to be pruned. Prune them more like a shrub, removing up to one third of the old growth, but doing it selectively. They do bloom on the new growth, so we want to shape and encourage new foliage. Climbing Roses should be pruned after they flower for the first time in the year. Prune out up to one third of the older canes, close to the main trunk of the plant (avoid going beneath a graft union). This should encourage new canes which should be fuller and flower more.

### HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants are beginning to show signs of new growth, now that the days are getting longer and they seem to be getting used to the lack of humidity. Continue to water, but don't encourage new growth until you move them outside. DO NOT sun your houseplants on a mild day. Leave them inside until April. The same holds true for the tropical plants you may have stored under your house or in the garage. Leave them alone until all chance of frost is past.

For indoor bloom: Cyclamen; Kalanchoe; Orchids; and pre-chilled bulbs (Hyacinths, Paperwhites, and Daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring flowering shrub (such as Forsythia, Fruit Trees, Oriental Magnolia, or Quince) into one gallon of warm water with two tablespoons of Ammonia. Enclose the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open.



### SHRUBS

**PLEASE REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER!!!**

Cut back dwarf Crape Myrtles to within six inches of the ground. Only prune back larger Crape Myrtle Shrubs if needed to maintain size, or to remove suckers. Thin tree forms of Crape Myrtles every 3-5 years. ANNUAL PRUNING OF THIS TREE DESTROYS ITS NATURAL APPEARANCE AND IS NOT NEEDED. Remove the largest third of Buddleia, Hydrangea, Nandina, and Spirea canes. Remove dead wood and branches that turn in or overlap in the center of broadleaf evergreens. Wherever the plant is cut, it will thicken, so prune above a twig growing outward, not above a leaf bud. DO NOT PRUNE FORSYTHIA OR FLOWERING QUINCE UNTIL AFTER BLOOM! Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (8" with at least two buds underground) in a cold frame. Cut back and divide Ornamental Grasses.

### PRUNING

Prune back by one-third to one-half tropical bloomers that are overwintering indoors. Apply a slow release fertilizer to Annuals and overwintering Tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label. Prune undesirable limbs and tip terminals on fruit trees and Grapevines and thin out crowded shoots. Leave some branches of fruit and berry trees for small animals to eat this winter. Remove older canes of Blueberry plants. Cut back lateral branches of Blackberries to one foot. Use dormant oil on fruit trees and Ornamentals with insect problems.

### TILLER TIME

Put out Asparagus crowns and Strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable. Outdoors, sow Broccoli, Cabbage, Onion sets, English Peas, Snow Peas, and Spinach. Early season gardens are usually easier to manage because the insects and diseases don't grow well in cool weather. If you planted a cover crop and you are ready to plant, manage it now. Some cover crops like Greens can be harvested while others can be tilled into the soil.



### GET RID OF BUGS

Use insecticidal soap to control Aphids on cool season Annuals and Vegetable plants. For Borers, Mites, Aphids, or Scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs, Evergreen and Deciduous, Roses, and the Perennial border. The most effective time to spray is before leaf buds start emerging. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions.

(Usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to be above 40 degrees for three days and not rain is expected for 24 hours.) Spraying plants before leaf buds open avoids burning them. NOTE:

Do not use oil spray on Sugar or Japanese Maples, Walnut, Beech, or Magnolia Trees.

### PROTECTING YOUR PLANTS

We always have some warm days interspersed with the cold ones, and some plants get tricked into thinking spring is officially here. The main culprit is the Big Leaf Hydrangea. A few days of warm weather and their top buds start to swell and begin to break dormancy. It is at this stage that they can be quite susceptible to a late hard freeze. If your plants haven't bloomed in years, this could be the problem. Have some large cardboard boxes handy to invert over them, or consider covering them on cold days if they are growing. Cover with only porous materials, avoiding plastic. Plastic actually would cause them to heat up even more during the day which would add to your problems. Sheets and blankets only give you a few degrees of protection. Also, make sure there is ample moisture in the ground prior to a hard freeze. If winter damage does occur on your shrubs, don't prune it off until all chances of frost have passed. Winter damaged plants may not be attractive, but the damaged materials will actually protect the plants more.

### DOGWOODS

February is the best time to plant Dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side. Plant ball and burlap trees and shrubs and bare-root plant materials that are still dormant. Soak the roots in water overnight before planting. If you cannot plant right away, cover the roots with moist soil or compost and store in a shady location. For new planting sites, test soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend the entire area with mulch, compost, etc.

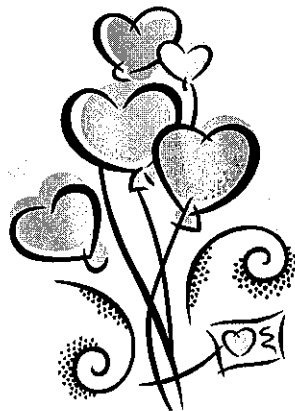


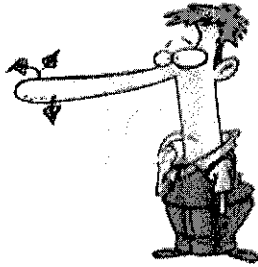
### YARD

Inspect your yard for winter damage. Take off damaged, dried or blackened branches. If you are unsure, wait. A dormant limb can look dead, but still have life in it. Use caution with outside plants if they are frozen, as they will break easily. Apply lime to lawns if not done in December or January. Fertilize trees with a high Nitrogen fertilizer if not done in January. Apply pre-emergence Herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill Spurweeds and other winter weeds now, before they have time to set seeds. Mow or shear to 4-6 inches Winter Creeper Euonymus, Japanese Honeysuckle, English Ivy, Mondo Grass, Monkey Grass, Pachysandra, Pampas Grass, Crown Vetch, and Vinca Minor. Shear to 6-8 inches Santolina, Lavender Cotton, and Junipers. Apply pre-emergence Herbicides in ground covers.

### FEBRUARY BLOOMS

Flowering Almond, Anise Florida, Bridal Veil, Camellia, Chionodoxa, Crocus, Daffodil, Dogwood, Forsythia, Helleborus, Hyacinth, Iris (Stylosas and Reticulatas), Caroline Jasmine, Kerria, Loropetalum, Oriental Magnolia, Muscari, Pansies, Phlox, Primrose, Pussy Willow, Quince, Redbud, Scilla Sibirica, Snowdrops, Spirea Thunbergi, Viola, and Violets are in bloom this month.





## Sensory Pleasure

By Lorraine Hensley

This specific sensory pleasure is found through the nose while in the process of breathing and it's wonderful. Most of us have taken a stroll or two in our gardens with first light just over the horizon. Those coffee drinkers among us carry our morning cup as we "sip and stroll." And that's when we take our first deep breath of the day. That particular inhalation brings a pleasure all its own. If the aroma of scented plants is part of that deep breath the combination simply enhances the pleasure. And that peaceful euphoria is the signal to sit and breathe it all in. Fresh early morning air combined with the scent of coffee and fragrant plants is a wonderful way to start the day. For those non-coffee lovers, early morning air in conjunction with aromatic plants does just fine.

A place to sit or sip on a drink to enjoy those early mornings in our gardens is not exactly necessary. We do, however, need those aromatic plants to enhance the experience. Navigating our own landscapes generally comes easily to us and most of us have a favorite place to sit and enjoy our yards. We also know how to make a decent pot of coffee. Most gardeners I've met enjoy looking at their plants. We enjoy bloom colors, plant texture and the use of various landscape techniques. Stroking a leaf or lightly touching a lovely bloom also delights us. And that's all well and good. For that's also sensory pleasure. But we tend to forget the importance of smell in our appreciation of plant life; although many aromas also bring us joy. Fragrant flowers can brighten our day, lighten our mood, jumpstart a sense of well-being and enhance our imagination. Some plant aromas can also help us simply relax in the moment. At one point in European history fragrance from plants was considered "God's breathe on earth." A truly beautiful way to define our appreciation of plant fragrance.

But not all plants are equal. Some plants we appreciate for their foliage, some for their blooms, and others primarily for their low maintenance. Add fragrance to the mix and it compounds our difficulty in making plant choices. Primarily because we want it all; with all the other attributes we want our plants to possess we also want them to "smell nice." All of this choice complexity drove me to one of my favorite places to spend money and become more fully informed on a specific subject—a really good book store. I roamed the isles, checked titles, and flipped through a number of books. I then took

several "picks" to the section with comfortable chairs and read for a while. And found exactly what I was looking for.

Suzy Bales book, [A Garden Of Fragrance](#), says it all ---she speaks of the problems involved in perceiving and describing scent. She also tells us which plants exude specific fragrances, plant characteristics and the "how to" achieve a more complete sensual experience. I'm perfectly willing to share some factual information from her book with you. I'll be doing the sharing during the next 8/9 articles.



## ARKANSAS FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

### "Floral Notes" Garden Show 2012

By: Mary Evans

"Floral Notes" is the theme of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show. Dates for the show are **Feb. 24-26**. The location for this year's show is **Statehouse Convention Center**. Hours this year are Friday & Saturday, 10:00-6:00 and Sunday 10:00-4:00. Check out the website for changes or updates, [www.arkansasflowerandgardenshow.org](http://www.arkansasflowerandgardenshow.org) The Home Show is the same weekend at Verizon Arena in NLR. Take your ticket stub to the Home Show for a \$1 off discount & vice versa.

There is a change in shuttles this year. Shuttles will run only from Dickey Stephens Park. There will be no shuttles from War Memorial this year. Shuttles will run Friday & Saturday 9:00-6:30 And Sunday 9:00-4:30.

Shuttle rides will only be \$1- well worth it!

Volunteers are still needed. Contact Beth Phelps, [bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu) or Steve Lopata at [sllopata@yahoo.com](mailto:sllopata@yahoo.com). You can also send in a volunteer form already sent out. Remember your name badge serves as a 3-day pass. The horticultural exhibits are open to all. To enter your specimen to win a ribbon, contact Phyllis or Don Byrum at [d-byrum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:d-byrum@sbcglobal.net) Entries can include daffodils, cuttings from the garden, potted plants, etc. Proceeds from the show go to fund scholarships & beautification/educational grants.

Contact Karin Briscoe for more information on how to apply for the "Greening of Arkansas" grants at [karinbriscoe@comcast.net](mailto:karinbriscoe@comcast.net) or 225-8098. The garden show website has a list of criteria as well as a listing of past recipients.

Some highlights this year include a railroad garden and the first time ever a nightscape. There will also be an expanded Co-operative Extension Service area. In the center of the show floor will be a special area where Chris Olsen will be signing his new book, for the duration of the show.

**Speakers:** The speaker schedules have been carefully scheduled for maximum impact by topic. The main speakers will be located in the Fulton Room. The How To stage will once again be located on the open show floor.

### 2012 Speaker Sessions- Fulton Room

#### Friday, February 24

- 10:30-11:30 **"Pump Up The Volume!" Hot & Bold Container Combinations to Really Get Your containers "Rocking"** Bruce Bailey
- 11:45-12:45 **Berries For Arkansas**, Sherri Sanders
- 1:00-2:00 **Year Round vegetable Gardening- Almost Don Greenland**
- 2:15-3:15 **It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing** Bruce Bailey

#### Saturday, February 25

- 10:30-11:30 **Native Plants in The American Garden** Kelly D. Norris
- 11:45-12:45 **Five Seasons of Gardening** Chris Olsen
- 1:00-2:00 **Floral Notes: The Best Zoneworthy Accent Plants for Your Garden** Kelly D. Norris
- 2:15-3:15 **Bulbs For The South** Denyse Cummings
- 3:30-4:30 **Nightscaping** Jeff Lowery, Artisan Agency

### How To's Schedule 2012

#### Friday:

- 11:00 **Smartscaping** Jennifer Gibson, The Good Earth Garden Center
- 11:30 **Being An Arkansas Master Naturalist** Nancy Deckard, Arkansas Master Naturalist
- 12:00 **Bonsai!** Ellie Reid, Memphis Bonsai Club
- 12:30 **Spring Garden Tour** Nancy Howell, Greater Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs
- 1:00 **Awards Ceremony**
- 1:30 **Indoor Plant Care** Robin Connell, Plantation Services
- 2:00 **Self-Contained Water Features** Tom Neal, River Valley Horticultural Products
- 2:30 **The Top 10 Tree Killers** Peter Rausch, Certified Arborist, Tree Health Care
- 3:00 **Support Your Local Certified Farmer's Market** Christian Shuffield, Market Manager, Argenta Farmer's Market (CAFM)
- 3:30 **Trees, Proper Planting & Care** Buddy Olsen, Horticare
- 4:00 **"Hort Couture," The Latest Craze In Plants** Polly Henderson, Culberson's Greenhouses
- 4:30 **Raising Muscadines** Alan Hall, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 5:00 **New Introductions in Woody Ornamentals** Jeb Leggett, Custom Landscape & Nursery

#### Saturday:

- 10:00-11:00 **"The Garden Show" Live on Arkansas Radio Network** Janet Carson, U of A Extension Service
- 11:30 **Landscaping Lighting Explained** Josh Massman, River Valley Horticultural Products
- 12:00 **Floral Demonstration** Scott Brents, Fairy Tale Florals
- 12:30 **Rainwater Harvesting & Recycling** Mark Brown, Pulaski County Extension Agent Water Conservation/Horticulture
- 1:00 **"Dirt Don't Hurt" Green Team** Carol Carlan, Master Gardener & the Clinton Elementary Magnet School Green Team, Sherwood
- 1:30 **Terrariums** Sharon Mayes, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 2:00 **Rose, 2012 Herb of the Year; Folk Roses in The Heritage Herb Garden** Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center
- 2:30 **Hyper-tufa Stepping Stones** Kandy Jones, Garage Sale Queen

- 3:00 **Retro-fit Existing Landscape Lighting With LED** John Massman, River Valley Horticultural Products
- 3:30 **The Bromeliad Guy** Michael Seal, The Funny Farm, Poplarville, MS
- 4:00 **Herbal Tones** Kathy Wagenknecht, White Wagon Farm
- 4:30 **A Rose Is A Rose? The Floral Notes of Roses** Mary Busby, Pulaski County Master Gardener
- 5:00 **Choosing Plants: Quality, Quantity & Regret-Free** Mary Evans, Pulaski County Master Gardener

**Sunday:**

- 11:30 **Iris, March Through June** Susan Rose, Central Arkansas Iris Society
- 12:00 **Growing African Violets By The KISS Method** Betty Ferguson, Central Arkansas African Violet Society
- 12:30 **Honeybees And You** Larry Kichler, Central Arkansas Beekeepers Association
- 1:00 **Capturing The Floral Notes of Herbs** Dale Webb, Arkansas Unit- Herb Society of America
- 1:30 **Everyday Cut Flowers- Incorporating Herbs** Tanarah Haynie, Tanarah-Luxe Floral & Event Styling
- 2:00 **Butterflies, Caterpillars...Help!** Mrs. Cathy Dawson's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, Howard Perrin Elementary School, Benton & Pat Gipson, Saline County Master Gardener
- 2:30 **Urban Chickens** Ron Robinette, Pulaski County Master Gardener

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**Prague, Czech Republic  
Flowers and Gardens  
September 2011**

By Phyllis Barrier



We visited the historic part of Prague in late September. It's a beautiful walking city that is a UNESCO site. Since the Middle Ages, Prague has been known as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It survived World War II intact, because Hitler had other plans for it. It's a maze of small streets and alleyways going back to the 11th century. It's very easy to get lost there - even with a map in hand.

There were still lots of flowers and gardens in bloom along the major streets and squares.



We visited the historic Wallenstein Palace complex built between 1623 and 1630. Today the palace houses the Senate of the Czech Republic. An early Baroque garden in geometric design surrounds the buildings.



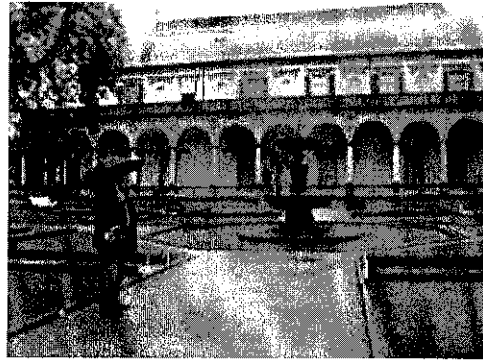
In one part of the gardens there is a large artificial grotto wall. If you looked closely you could see animals, such as alligators, birds, snakes, and so forth.



We took a tram up the hill to the castle, one of the largest castle complexes in the world. Originally it was the residence of princes and kings of Bohemia. Since 1918 the Castle has been the seat of the President. We walked through the grounds that included open spaces, formal gardens, and wonderful old trees.



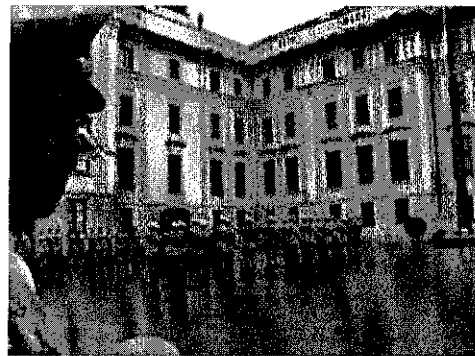
The Singing Fountain stands in front of the exquisite Renaissance summer palace. The fountain echoed or "sang" anything we said under the lower bowl of the fountain.



The President's house is painted yellow and is surrounded by a lush lawn and lovely manicured flower beds.



We watched the changing of the guard wearing their summer uniforms. Do their uniforms look familiar to you? Our tour guide told us the movie *Amadeus* was shot in Prague, and that the uniforms designed for the movie were then adopted by the Czech Republic for their military.



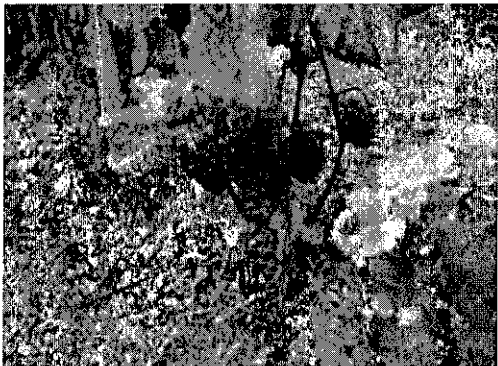
There were lovely flower containers throughout the castle complex and in the art galleries.



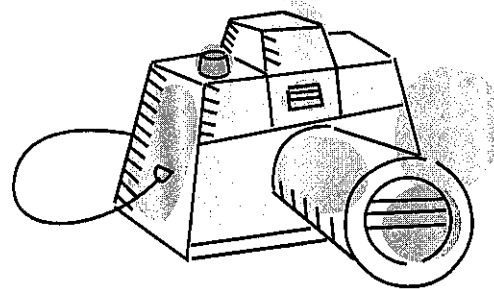
Starting as the Castle's defensive bastions, the South Gardens - laid out in 1891 - provide wonderful views of Prague.



And the grapes looked ready to harvest.



On the edge of the historic part of Prague, the famous American architect, Frank Gehry, has built a modern building that the Prague residents have affectionately named the "Fred and Ginger" building. Can you see them dancing?



Interested in seeing pictures of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Projects? If so visit the Photo Gallery.

The click through link to our current Pulaski County photo gallery is <http://gallery.me.com/pulaskimg>.

Click on any garden album to open and on any photo to enlarge or even download. There are also alternate ways of viewing the album pictures by clicking at the lower left corner including a slide show.

These pictures have been taken by Pulaski County Master Gardener Photographers. This Photo Gallery is not open to the public but is for Pulaski County Master Gardener use.





## 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>

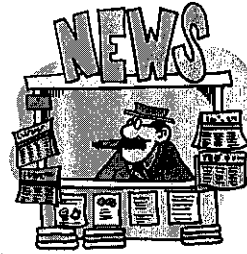
Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service  
2901 W. Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
501-340-6650



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



Happy  
Valentines  
♥ Day!



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  
Pulaski County CES  
2901 W. Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Ark. 72204  
bphelps@uaex.edu  
340-6650

### Master Minutes Staff



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