



# Pulaski County Master Minutes

April 2012

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

Volume 21 Issue 3



Sabrina Childs from Ball Seed will be the speaker at the April meeting. Her topic will be "Hot New Plants for 2012".



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

**Pathfinder Greenhouse in Jacksonville  
Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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  
Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
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.

There will be lots of interesting plants for sale. Remember, proceeds from the Plant Sales help provide plant for many of our Pulaski County Master Gardener Projects.

Friend and Neighbors are welcome! So please pass this information to anyone who is interested.



**Remember Bring a Friend Day!!!**

Master Gardener Members are encouraged to bring a friend to their project workday during the month of April. As a part of the Master Gardener Recruitment Committee, we want to increase the awareness of becoming a Master Gardener. This will be a great opportunity to share with your friends all the benefits and rewards of becoming a Master Gardener and having fun at the same time!

## *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.

## Seductresses

By Lorraine Hensley



Those plants labeled seductresses in the plant world behave and advertise their readiness for male company pretty much as we would expect. According to author Suzy Bales, they emit scents that “. . . are loud, obvious, very heady, and all-encompassing.” Subtlety is not even on the “to do” list where these plants are concerned. If the purpose of plant fragrance is pollination they don’t risk being left by the wayside. No wallflowers these!! Their scents are so complex they never reveal themselves completely --- they hold a little something back for later. As with any true seductresses they leave you unsatisfied—the seductresses understand how to motivate a pollinator.

Gardeners who enjoy scent in their landscape should try to find bed space for at least one seductress in each. Try to plan for one or more of these heavily scented plants for each season of the year. The seductress needs to be acknowledged and appreciated as she releases her scent for everyone to admire and enjoy. Different seasons, different cultivars, and, different scents through the year helps motivate a caring gardener. A subtle change of scent as the year progresses brings hints of a fragrant future that only a well tended plant can provide.

Daffodils are usually the first to welcome spring with scent. As most daffodils have no scent, read the tag carefully and discuss your choices with nursery staff. The author recommends about a dozen different varieties for a three month long display. While most are “sweetly fragrant, the ‘Carlton’ has a vanilla scent while ‘Big Gun’ is reminiscent of cotton candy.”

Lilly-of-the-valley with its sweet, spicy scent finds a welcome in woodland or shade. Then we have Hyacinths with their strong scent of cloves and cinnamon. Next, we have Gardenias, Daphnes, and Lilacs which are also strongly scented. They all share their unique aromas—they are not choosy. Just walk by these plants and enjoy the scented experience. We have Peonies, fragrant trees, and, fragrant shrubs that all contribute their individual perfumes to any garden in the spring of the year.

Peonies and lilacs are really good companions for their perfumes complement one another. It’s best to remember that where peonies are concerned that . . . “Breeders classify three distinct scents in peonies—rose, honey, and an unpleasant odor that’s reminiscent of soap and bitter medicine.” This horrible smell is associated with the pollen-bearing cultivars and it . . . “makes the red singles the worst offenders.” As with anything else, there are also exceptions in the plant world: the “America” is a red single that enjoys a sweet aroma. The gardener will as well.

Fragrant trees and shrubs in addition to flowering vines have much to contribute to a spring garden filled with fragrance. A landscape with one or more of these seductresses in each bed can be a delight. With all these plants to choose from any gardener worth his hoe can plan and plant a spring garden filled with various aromas to enjoy. Choose your seductress to address your own garden goals for that sensual pleasure

Specific information for this article came from a “garden of fragrance” by Suzy Bales. Check with your local bookseller for a copy. It’s full of good information





## MG Partners in Gardening

All partners listed offer a 10% discount to Master Gardeners

Arline's Individuality in Skin Care  
 Arkansas Garden Center  
 Botanica Gardens  
 Cantrell Gardens  
 Green Tree Nursery  
 Hocott's Garden Center  
 River Valley Horticulture  
 The Good Earth  
 White Wagon Farms

Do you know of someone we didn't mention? Please email them to Jennice at [gardenrat@comcast.net](mailto:gardenrat@comcast.net) and we will put them in the next newsletter!

## Your skin is like the Four Seasons Always Changing!

Spring clean by booking a facial, pedicure, manicure.  
 Discount to Master Gardeners – must show badge upon purchase or service:  
 10% off products; \$5.00 off services.

Arline's Individuality in Skin Care  
 5817 ½ Kavanaugh Blvd  
 Little Rock, AR 72207  
 501.219-2080

## White Wagon Farm, 24627 Hwy 365 North, Maumelle, AR

White Wagon Farm is owned and operated by Kathy Wagenknech and Pat White. They have been in business at their current location for 25+ years and specialize in heritage roses, unique perennials, specialty herbs, hard-to-find succulents, and a variety of other interesting plants. There also is a fantastic artist studio and gift shop with paintings, photographs, pottery, and specialty crafted soaps and lotions, featuring local Arkansas artists.

The farm also has a naturally-grown display and operating market garden from which vegetables are sold at the farm and the Argenta Farmers Market. The garden was put in and is operated by a Pulaski County Master Gardener.

White Wagon Farm has an excellent website that goes into more detail about their offerings and services at: [www.whitewagonfarm.com](http://www.whitewagonfarm.com)



### *You Are A Flower in the Garden of Life*

*If you would grow to be your best self  
 Be patient, not demanding  
 Accepting, not condemning  
 Nurturing, not withholding  
 Self-marveling, not belittling  
 Gently guiding, not pushing & punishing*

*For you are more sensitive than you know  
 Mankind is tough as war  
 Yet delicate as flowers  
 We can endure agonies  
 But we open fully only to warmth & light  
 And our need to grow is fragile as a fragrance  
 Dispersed by storms of will  
 To return only when those storms are still*

*So accept, respect,  
 Attend your sensitivity*

*A flower  
 Cannot be opened  
 With a hammer  
 Anonymous(shared by Laetitia East)*



## Checklist by Carol Randle

### INFORMATION FROM JANET

The new USDA hardiness zone map has moved Little Rock into zone 8. I will try to update you on what should be done in central Arkansas, which is now a combination of zone 7 and zone 8. Keep in mind, the USDA hardiness zone map only gives you one piece of the puzzle—the average low winter temperature. It does not tell you how hot we are in the summer or how much rainfall or humidity, so don't use it as your Bible; simply a guideline. We all know our winters have been getting milder, and more plants are overwintering and becoming Perennials for us, thus the change.

### A TIME TO SOW

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

### SPRING IS HERE

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.

### ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

We didn't have much of a winter at all this year, with simply a few days of freezing temperatures. Some gardens did get zapped by a late freeze, but for the most part, we moved through the winter pretty easily. It was one of the best years for winter annuals, including Pansies, Violas, Kale, and Cabbage. They didn't stop blooming all winter. Fertilize them one last time and enjoy them until you have to pull them for summer annuals. Violas will last well into summer, but start interspersing summer color with them. Some annuals you can plant now include: Petunias, Calibrachoa; Geraniums, and Begonias. Hold off on the heat loving Impatiens, Lantana, and Zinnias until mid to late April. 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. Perennials that are blooming now include: Bleeding Heart, Foxgloves, Verbena, Peonies, and Dianthus. 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. 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.

### SHRUBS

Most of our landscape plants should be growing. We can begin to assess how much damage last summer really took. If you have plants that are half-dead or totally dead, start removing and replanting. When you choose new plants, be creative. You don't have to replace ten dead Hollies with ten more Hollies. (Those are Janet's words . . . I hate Hollies . . . that's what the landscaper put in our flower beds when they built this house. I would never replace ANYTHING with Holly bushes. Yuck!) Try some new plants. Think about the season; your garden needs some color. If your winter landscape was barren, look at Camellias (Janet's pink Camellia sasanqua bloomed for over three months this winter.) Winter Honeysuckle does great along with Mahonias and Winter Jasmine to spice up the winter color. Spring blooms are usually covered pretty well in most gardens, but to carry that color into summer, look at Weigela, Mock Orange, early Summer Spireas, Itea and then Clethra for later blooms. Gardenias are always welcome with their fragrant flowers, and Viburnums can add color and fragrance. Summer plants include Hydrangeas, Altheas, Buddleia (Butterfly Bush) and Roses. Plants for fall interest include the Itea with bright red foliage, and Burning Bush gives us great fall color. Crape Myrtles are great for summer through fall and winter interest, and the purple berries of Callicarpa (French Mulberry or Beautybush) are always show stoppers. Expand your plant palette. New varieties of old favorites can add color and interest. Make sure you prepare the soil well if you can, and mulch after planting. Water, of course, is critical for the first few years of a plant's life. Don't be overly concerned about fertilizer for trees and shrubs. The key is to give them a strong foundation of soil and keep them watered so they can build a strong root system.

## **VEGETABLES**

Along with the winter color, our fall vegetable gardens grew all winter long, and folks were harvesting Lettuce, Spinach, Cabbage, and Greens all winter and still are. We might have been able to garden 12 months this year, perhaps it was making up for the horrible summer we had. Continue to harvest your cool season plants, there is still time to replant a little, but by mid-month we can start planting Squash, Tomatoes, Green Beans, Corn, Peppers, Eggplants, and Cucumbers. Vegetable gardening is in vogue again, and more and more folks are planting edibles. You don't have to have a stand-alone vegetable garden. Intersperse vegetables and herbs with your ornamentals, which is another way to get double duty. Vegetables and Herbs can also be grown in containers. Blueberry plants make great ornamental edibles. They have showy white flowers, beautiful, healthy fruits and outstanding fall color. Remember, you need two different varieties for cross-pollination. April is the best month for vegetable gardening. Rotate vegetable crops to help control pests. If you are a beginning vegetable 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.) 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 area with the same vegetable for at least three years.

## **HOUSEPLANTS**

I know we are all tempted to take our houseplants outside right now, but in today's paper, Janet Carson recommended waiting until the middle of the month. When you take them outside, 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.

## **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 Lacebugs 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.

## **LAWNS AND GENERAL YARD CARE**

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. 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.

## **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 Tea, Heather, Bearded Iris, Lilacs, Lily of the Valley, Maple, and Lungwort.

## Bouquets to Art

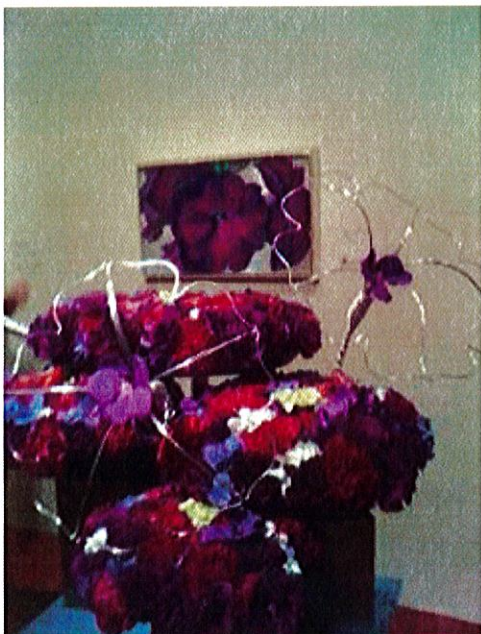
By Phyllis Barrier

A birthday trip to San Francisco serendipitously coincided with the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual *Bouquets to Art* exhibit at the de Young Museum. This exhibit featured 150 floral arrangements by prominent floral designers and garden clubs. The arrangements complemented the de Young Museum's permanent collection. Because of the short life of the arrangements, the exhibit lasted only four days and was crowded with attendees looking at each arrangement discussing each flower.

The designers each picked a work of art and created their impression of it, mostly via flowers, foliage and stems. Some designers added decorative man-made materials that enhanced the living arrangements.

Each floral impression was displayed next to its corresponding artwork so viewers could compare them.

This flower arrangement with added man-made materials was one of my favorites. The painting is entitled *Petunias* (1925) by Georgia O'Keeffe.



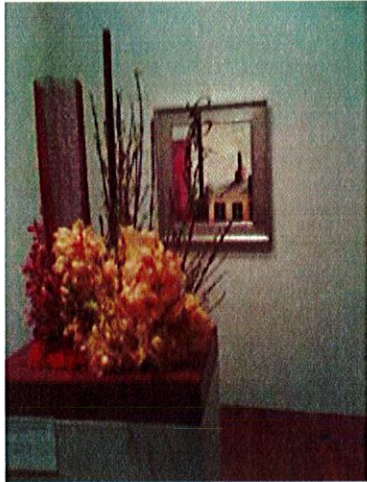
This floral arrangement was one of the most popular. It was hard to get a photo without other admirers blocking the view! The arrangement targeted the museum's chair collection and was so lovely.



Some were studies in realism. The floral design for Martin Johnson Heade's *Orchid and Hummingbird* (ca. 1885 – painting on the bottom) was extraordinary. It took a while to take it all in when looking at the floral arrangement, complete with the hummingbird, and then the painting. You'll probably remember the series of postage stamps of Heade's magnolia leaves.



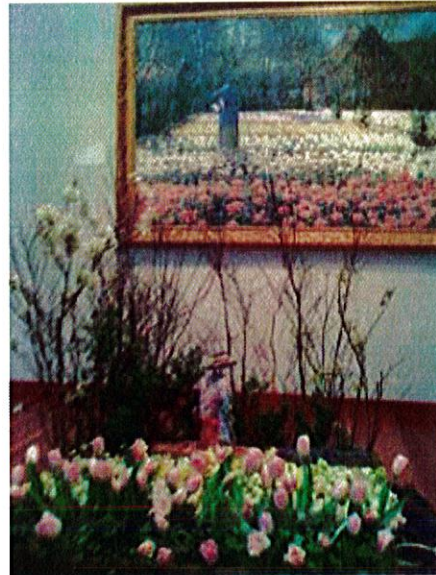
Others were more abstract, as we see here. A man-made object was added to reflect the floral designer's take on the painting, *From the Garden of the Chateau* (1921-25) by Charles Demuth.



Here is a Dale Chihuly blown-glass piece, *Ultramarine Stemmed Form with Orange* (1988) with a striking floral interpretation.



My very favorite floral arrangement was actually a raised bed on the floor in front of the painting chosen by the floral designer.



Due to space limitations, I cannot include the abstract paintings and abstract floral arrangements; the Pueblo pottery; the lamps made of flowers; or the silver tea service that gave inspiration for a beautiful-enough-to-eat cake, cupcake, and slice of cake all made of flowers.

Let's all hope that one day our Arkansas Arts Center will have a "bouquets to art" exhibit that will take advantage of our local floral designers, master gardeners, and garden clubs.





## 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:

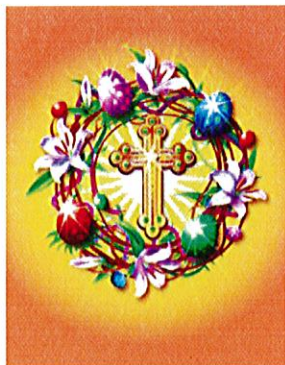
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

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 2011, these volunteers gave **23,145** 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  
Pulaski County CES  
2901 W. Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Ark. 72204  
[bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)  
340-6650

## Master Minutes Staff



Bren Coop  
Betty Deere  
Lorraine Hensley  
Jeffrey McKinley

Jennice Ratley  
Carol Randle  
Phyllis Barrier  
Sherree DeWitt

## Photographers



Cheryl Kennedy  
David Werling  
Bonnie Wells  
Kathy Ratcliffe  
Nina Collins

Herb Dicker  
Don Gephardt  
Bill Harris  
Jane Heaton  
Katherine Ramm  
Glenda Woods