



Pulaski County Master Minutes

July 2012

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

Volume 21 Issue 6

Pulaski County Master Gardener Ice Cream Social!

Tuesday, July 17, 2012

9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Tour four gardens from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. then enjoy

Refreshing ice cream, cookies, and lemonade

From 10:30 – 11:30 p.m.

Inside the Senior Citizens Center

At the Amy Sanders Library

31 Shelby Drive

Sherwood.

Garden Tours 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Pat Davidson – 2320 Bearskin Drive, Sherwood

Steve Drake – 6813 Cap Point Circle, Sherwood

Carol Carlow – 2 Voltec Circle, North Little Rock

Debbie Stalts – 102 North Fork Drive, Sherwood

See attached map for directions

Tours Count as 6 Continuing Education Points!

See Attached Map!!



MG Partners in Gardening

All partners listed offer a 10% discount to
Master Gardeners

Arline's Individuality in Skin Care
BJs in NLR

Botanica Gardens
Cantrell Gardens

Four Seasons Nursery in Sherwood
Green Tree Nursery
(Trees & Shrubs Only)

Hocott's Garden Center
River Valley Horticulture

The Good Earth
White Wagon Farms

The Come-Closers

By Lorraine Hensley

We've spent a lot of time getting to know, and perhaps understand, the garden seductresses—those plants with strong aromas that literally shout with their fragrances to be noticed. They like attention and plenty of it and their various aromas are a wonderful sensory experience to be shared with anyone. They are extremely difficult to miss primarily because they so blatantly exhibit and share their wares. They tend to overshadow those plants that are shy and retiring and don't attract a lot of instant recognition and attention. The author uses a wonderful George Sand quote that says it all: "Some flowers spoke with strong and powerful voices, which proclaimed in accents trumpet-tongued 'I am beautiful and I rule.' Others murmured in tones scarcely audible, but exquisitely soft and sweet, 'I am little, and I am beloved.'"

These are the come-closers. Extremely shy and certainly modest these understated beauties really need groups of others like themselves in order to have their scent appreciated. They require a much closer and personal contact prior to gaining notice from a pollinator or anyone else anticipating their scent. However, if invited into our homes the come-closers reveal themselves by releasing enough fragrance to perfume an entire room.



Come closer bulbs can bridge winter into spring for those willing to watch as those fragrant blooms venture from their winter beds at their appointed time. They are small and, of necessity, close to the ground in order to survive during a harsh winter. Those bulbs that wintered in a more sheltered bed are the first to boldly appear as the year cycles into spring. The come-closer bulbs play, party, and, impress anyone willing to come closer with their delicate aroma.

Think of tulips, particularly those of the early blooming cultivars, for their fragrance. Once we start looking for those cultivars that are fragrant we can find more than enough to see us through winter into spring. Think of violets—these harbingers of spring for centuries. We don't have to look far to discover pretty much those aromas that allow us to truly appreciate the come closers. The primrose finds herself in good company with this group of modest and retiring plants. Just need to come a bit closer to enjoy that sensory pleasure.

Arkansas Is Our Campus

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Summer into fall still remains well within the province of these reticent plants. Sweet alyssum leads the parade and can also be used as a ground cover for those areas most need of a pleasing scent. The “older ladies” of the scented summer into fall group are among those plants cultivated for generations; dianthus; pinks, sweet william, and carnations. Other plants include daylilies and some astible present a wide range of color, foliage, and scent that leads the way from one season to another. All bring their special gifts of scent for our enjoyment.

It’s so easy to overlook the wildflowers and woodland plants that patiently wait for someone to notice them. These are truly low maintenance and aromatic if we initiate a closer relationship with them. We then discover that sweet aroma for ourselves. Shy and modest as they are—come closers have much to offer. 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 July Calendar
By Phyllis Barrier

2013 MG Calendar Contest
Deadline is July 10

Instead of selling the calendars at MG venues, the calendar will be used as a promotional gift for state, county and local officials. All contributors will receive a complimentary calendar.

Rules: Arkansas photos only, high-resolution (large image files), horizontal images, each MG can submit up to five photos. Submit by July 10 to ArkansasGardenVoice@gmail.com

Canning and Freezing Class
Monday, July 9, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thompson Library on Rahling Rd
Wednesday, July 11, Noon - 1:00 p.m.
Williams Library on Chester St.
Wednesday, July 18, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Main Library, Cox Creative Center
Taught by Lameria Colclough-Triplett
U of A Extension Educator, Family & Consumer Sciences
340-6650 or lcolclough@uaex.edu

Mount Holly Garden Series
Saturday, July 21, 9:00 a.m.
Water Gardens by Green Thumb Garden Center

Canning Workshop
Preserve your Summer Harvest Safely
Saturday, July 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
17th and Spring Streets, Little Rock
Taught by Lameria Colclough-Triplett
U of A Extension Educator, Family & Consumer Sciences
340-6650 or lcolclough@uaex.edu

Mount Holly Garden Series
Saturday, August 18, 9:00 a.m.
Bees and Your Garden

Mount Holly Garden Series
Saturday, September 15, 9:00 a.m.
Porch Pots – Autumn thru Spring

Central Arkansas Iris Society
Iris Rhizome and Plant Sale
Saturday, August 25th
8:00 a.m. ‘til sold out
Grace Lutheran Family Life Center
Hillcrest St & Kavanaugh
www.centralarkansasiris.org

September 20th
Sculpture Party at
Bernice Gardens

PCMG Trip to Crystal Bridges
October 5th and 6th

Mount Holly Garden Series
Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.
Chris Olsen

“Alaska Flowers, Fjords and Friends”
September 7 – 14, 2013
You can now book your room for the cruise portion of the conference:
<http://cm.wsu.edu/imgc2013>
7:30 – 3:30 Pacific Time:
Emily Houg – 253-445-4652
Michelle Breining – 253 445-4631
IMG Conference Registration opens September 2012



Checklist by Carol Randle

Summer is really here with hot, dry weather. Temperatures are heating up, natural rainfall can be hit and miss and insects and diseases have found their foothold. Try to garden smart, working early in the day. Watering in the early daytime hours is also better - the foliage dries quicker, the moisture can work its way into the root profile before the heat stresses the plants, and we lose less water to evaporation. Remember to avoid peak hours when watering. Pay close attention to raised beds and container plants. Cutting flowers for indoor bouquets and harvesting vegetables in the early part of the day can also improve their lasting power and flavor. Mulching will help to keep out the weeds and pests will preserve moisture so that you don't have to water as often, and will improve your soil and your garden's overall appearance.

We are hitting that time of year when gardeners wonder "what was I thinking when I planted all those plants this spring?" Water becomes a requirement, and when you go on vacation, you have to have a game plan for who is going to monitor the needs of your garden. Shade is a hot commodity, but if you are growing vegetables, fruits and flowers in full sun making sure they are well watered before the heat of the day hits, is important. Many plants were hard hit by last summer and don't need two years in a row, of drought. Water well when you do water. Don't lightly wet the surface, but use a slow steady supply of moisture. Avoid wet foliage when the sun sets, so that you can cut down on disease issues.

VEGETABLES

We had such a fast growing season early that many folks had an early harvest, but you should still be harvesting. Tomatoes have begun to slow down in production. When temperatures exceed 95 during the day or stay above 75 at night, they quit ripening and setting fruit. Keep the plants watered and mulched, and they should rebound and begin to set fruit once the temperatures settle down. If the plants are strong and viable they can continue to bear through frost. If blights have taken their toll, consider starting some new plants from the suckers of your existing plants, or buying new plants. Blossom End Rot is a calcium deficiency controlled by Stop Rot. Even moisture helps prevent cat-facing and fruit cracking. If your Cucumbers are bitter, they are getting stressed by heat and water. Mothballs around the base of cucurbits control vine borers. Try mulching your plants to conserve moisture and water early in the day before the

temperatures heat up. Harvesting in the cooler times of the day improves flavor on many herbs and vegetables. Even though it isn't ideal gardening weather, this is the time to start replanting for a fall garden. While many people may be longing for the cooler weather of fall, fall vegetable gardening is upon us. You can plant all of the summer crops again starting in mid-July through early August for a fall harvest. By early August it is time to start planting Broccoli, Cabbage, Onions, Carrots and other fall crops. Fall gardens aren't as easy as early spring gardens, because it is hotter and drier, but also because diseases and insects are waiting to attack. Monitor your garden frequently and catch problems as they arise. In addition to planting more vegetables, gardens that have been watered and maintained are producing a bountiful harvest. Tomatoes are in season and NOTHING is better than biting into a home grown juicy Tomato. Remember that Peppers are heavy feeders and to keep them producing you need plenty of nutrition. Use caution when applying fertilizer or pesticides when it is hot and dry. Make sure there is ample moisture in the ground and in the plants before fertilizing. Avoid using many pesticides. If you have to spray, do so very early in the day after you have irrigated.

INSECTS

Just as we had flowers and vegetables early this season, the insects and diseases were around early and by now have really had a chance to build up in larger numbers. Aphids, white flies and spider mites are all poor swimmers and thrive in dry conditions. Using a spray from the garden hose can knock them down, but pay attention and try to catch them when they get started. There are numerous insecticides on the market that can work. Many folks are complaining about the sticky stuff all over their windshields. We want to park in the shade, to keep our cars cooler, but aphids that are feeding on the foliage of the trees, drop the sticky honeydew down. If this is occurring at your home, consider taking a hose and really blasting the lower limbs where the aphids are directly depositing their honeydew. Insecticides would work, but the insects aren't really hurting the trees that much, it is more a nuisance. Another late season insect which is becoming a problem is grasshoppers. They can ravage a plant in a short amount of time, so move quickly when you see problems. The larger they get, the harder they are to kill. As with any pest problems, the sooner you catch them, the easier they are to control.

ROSES

Roses started blooming earlier than ever this spring, and blackspot reared its ugly head early. If you have blackspot susceptible plants, continue to spray with fungicides. You do not have to use fungicides on the earth kind roses like "Homerun", "Easy Care", "Knock-outs", and Flower Carpet. If your roses are looking a little leggy, try giving them a light pruning now and fertilize. Pruning may reduce some flowers in the short

term, but most roses could use a bit of a siesta right now, to regroup, fill out and be able to give you a great fall display. Of course, water is always important. For blackspot, use a registered fungicide (i.e. Funginex) or an organic one (i.e. 4 t. baking soda + 1 t. liquid soap/or vegetable oil per gallon of water) on affected foliage (try not to spray the soil) for fungal problems.

FLOWERS

Perennials and annuals give us an abundance of color and since we had a mild winter, many of our annuals acted like perennials this year and we have great plants. Deadheading - removing the spent flowers after they bloom, pruning back leggy plants, fertilizing and watering can keep these plants lush and full of flowers. Keep flower beds well weeded. Remove faded blooms. Make sure you keep the soil moist but not soggy around Ferns. They may become dormant if they get too dry. Now is the time to pick those beautiful perennials for a fresh bouquet indoors. They will also encourage more blooms on most perennials. Salt deposits can build up in the soil of container plants. This will cause the foliage to burn. Flush out these deposits with water once during the summer. If you have annuals that have stopped blooming, a little extra care now can give them renewed life and keep them going through fall. If you have ignored them too much, and there isn't much hope of recovery, pull them and replace them. Look for plants that add to your fall color - ornamental peppers can take the heat and give you colorful fruit up until frost. Zinnias come in a range of colors, but many have shades of orange and white, which blend well with fall. You can also find some great bargains at nurseries and garden centers with tropical foliage and flowers. They have months of color to give and can perk up a heat stressed landscape.

SHRUBS

Spring blooming trees and shrubs are setting their flower buds now for next year's blooms. Don't let them get too dry now, or it could impact your flowers next spring. To have great blooms next year, do not prune on these plants any more this season. For most trees and shrubs, all you should be doing now is making sure they have water when dry. Fertilization should have occurred in the spring, and we are good to go until next spring.

If your Gardenias and Hydrangeas need pruning because they are big and overgrown, now is the time to do it as they finish blooming. They set buds in the fall. Shear back Gardenias by selectively thinning branches and growth. Hydrangeas need older canes to be removed down to the ground line. Lightly fertilize after pruning. Heat and humidity may take their toll on humans, but tropical plants are in their element. The more humidity, the better they like it. Since we grow most of our tropical plants in containers, water is still a vital element for success. Soil in containers dries out much more quickly than soil in the ground. Because we water so frequently,

we also need to fertilize more often. Water soluble fertilizers have less potential to burn our plants, but even so, we don't want to use fertilizer amended water on bone dry plants. Many gardens are a sea of color in the spring, but by midsummer we have green gardens. If your garden needs some color consider shrubs and perennials that bloom now. Crape Myrtles are a standard bearer for summer color and they come in all sizes. Clethra is blooming now, along with Althea and Summer Spirea and many Hydrangeas are still blooming their hearts out. Repeat bloomers like Endless Summer and Blushing Bride will continue to bloom through fall.

FRUIT

Rabbiteye Blueberries, Blackberries and Peaches are in season. Keep canes that are bearing fruit moist throughout the summer. Remove old canes after they have finished producing fruit. If your fruit trees appear to be producing too much fruit make sure you thin it out some. Keep grass around your fruit short. Grass deprives the trees of Nitrogen. Throw away any fruit you find that has been affected by scab (a fungus).

HERBS

Harvest blooms of Lavender now to keep the plant tidy and encourage more blooms. Cut sprigs of Rosemary and freeze whole for future use. Cut back about three-quarters of the new growth on your Thyme plants regularly throughout the summer. For a nice fragrance in your kitchen, tie several branches of Sage together and hang it upside down in your kitchen. Pinch the stems of Basil regularly to prevent flowering. Harvest about once a week. Clip the flower stalks off Garlic. Once the leaves have turned brown Garlic can be harvested.

PERENNIALS

Perennial plants that are in their prime now include the Echinaceas (Coneflowers), Rudbeckia, Hostas, and the Agastache or Hyssop. Coreopsis will be ending its bloom cycle at the end of summer, so allow the last set of flowers to set seed. Save the seeds to sow in October. Hardy Hibiscus plants are blooming now as well. The dinner size blossoms are a show stopper. Be sure to give them ample moisture and sunlight for the best performance. Varieties range in mature size from 24 inches to six feet or more. Choose based on maximum size. Flower colors range from whites, pinks, and reds.

ANNUALS

Mid to late summer is a great judge for heat tolerant annual. Geraniums have gotten smaller, if they are blooming at all, and Petunias and Calibrachoa are slowing down if they have not been kept fertilized. Sweet Potato Vine, Angelonia, Lantana and Melampodium are blooming like crazy. The new Snow Princess Lobularia has not stopped since it was planted, and the Diamond Frost Euphorbia looks like a mist of white. Deadhead plants as needed and cut back leggy annuals. A shot of

fertilizer and a quick haircut can help them rebound. If it isn't a lost cause, they can be back in bloom in no time and continue to bloom until a frost. For those that are still blooming well, don't cut them back, but do continue to water and fertilize. Annuals are in the ground for one season, so we want to get our money's worth of blooms. If they are too far gone to save, buy some new plants. In today's nurseries, annuals are available almost year-round.

LAWNS

The main thing we are concerned with in our lawns now is mowing and watering. If you have an automatic sprinkler system, you are probably watering the lawn more than it actually needs to keep up with flower and shrub irrigation. While we may all want a lush, bright green lawn, lawn grasses can get a bit dry in between watering and still survive. Many gardeners like to apply one last application of fertilizer in August to early September. Pay attention to the weather. Applying fertilizer when it is extremely hot and dry can burn the grass. Deep water lawns, trees, and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and to avoid heat stress. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl, or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs. Set your lawnmower at a higher level. Longer grass will shade the roots from heat. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile but never add your clippings after a weed treatment. Feed lawn with slow release nitrogen fertilizer. If you want to control any weeds, now is the time to do it before they get too large. You will find that some weeds are easier to kill than others. Nut Sedge is tough. Sledgehammer is probably your best bet. Always read and follow label directions. If you want one final application of fertilizer, mid to late August is the time to do it. Pay attention to weather conditions.

JULY BLOOMS

Althea, Anise Mint, Artemisia, Balsam, Beautyberry, Belamcanda, Buddleia, Butterfly weed, Cannas, Chive, Cleome, Clerodendrum, Coneflower, Coreopsis, Crape Myrtle, Crinum, Dahlias, Daisies, Echeveria, Euphorbia, Feverfew, Gaura, Gladioli, Hibiscus, Hostas, Hydrangea, Kerria, Lantana, Liatris, Lilies, Lythrum, Lycoris, Marigolds, Marjoram, Miscanthus, Nicotiana, Oxalis, Petunias, Phlox, Portulaca, Roses, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragon, Tuberosa, Verbena, Zinnia.



Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

St. James United Methodist Church

By Coralie Maxwell

Members Present: Don Ford, Beth Phelps, Marcella Grimmitt, Bren Coop, Earline Zahn, Dewayne Hancock, Jet Cuffman and Coralie Maxwell.

President Don Ford called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Marcella moved and Jet seconded that the minutes of the April, 2012, meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Bren gave the Treasurer's report and the statement of financial condition was reviewed. Dewayne moved and Marcella seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Greenhouse update: Don reported that electrical work is completed and the electrician paid. The dedication was a lovely affair and the Board thanked the Social Committee for organizing it.

Beth checked into the cost of Master Gardener license plates per discussion at the last meeting to consider offering these for purchase by the membership. The cost for us to buy them to sell is 25 @ \$6.50 each or 50 @ \$6.00 each. Earline will check with Walter so he may ask the Staff Committee to add this item for sale before going forward.

Don asked that silent auction items for the state convention be given to him for transport to the convention.

Bren opened discussion regarding ideas for incentives to boost project hours.

NEW BUSINESS:

Don reported that Walter will work on an activity for the July meeting. It is traditionally not held at St. James.

The Board agreed upon the date of July 31st, a Tuesday, to be spent at the County Extension Office to work on next fall's Master Gardener class. We will begin at 9 am.

Don, reporting for Walter, gave feedback on General Meeting announcements. Announcement makers are encouraged to be concise. Also, because of sound/hearing concerns, Beth will check on a handheld wireless microphone for use at the meetings.

Don, for Walter, asked for approval to reimburse the cost of seed packets that are distributed in the "Bring a Friend" gift/information packets to those guests attending our meetings. The cost is minimal. Dewayne moved and Bren seconded that the seed packet cost be reimbursed. The motion passed.

Discussion took place regarding miscellaneous funding authorization requests and the feasibility of the Board allowing such for all committees, recommending a Budgeting Committee to do so.

Earline mentioned a concern that a member brought to her regarding plant sale prices. The member had been to a plant sale last year and found the prices to be higher than expected. This last sale in April, the prices were in line with what is expected.

Don reported on several announcements that will be made in the general meeting.

At 11 a.m., Dewayne moved and Jet seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

**Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2012
St. James United Methodist Church**

Don Ford called the meeting to order at 11:30. He asked the membership to visit before and after the meeting in the meeting room rather than the common area, as the church conducts business in that area. He then called for announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Marcella Grimmett, Travel Committee, reported a change in the travel plans for June 7th. This date has been changed to June 1st. Also, the second Tuesday tour of projects will be June 14th in North Little Rock.

Jane Diesing reminded us that the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs spring tour is June 2nd and 3rd and the tax-deductible ticket cost is \$20 now and \$25 at the door. She still needs some PCMGs to work the gardens and answer questions from visitors.

Walter Walker, Travel Committee, reported that another trip to Crystal Bridges will be October 5th and 6th. The cost is not yet firm. He asked if there is interest in an optional train ride to Van Buren and a winery tour in Tontitown.

Richelle Daniel and Laura Sholes, Recruitment Committee, thanked members for bringing friends to their projects and today's general meeting. They have a gift/information packet for each guest. Members are encouraged to bring guests to the June meeting as well as our projects.

Patti Womble, Stuff Committee, asked members to pick up their "stuff" today.

Don thanked the Travel Committee for the Pinnacle Project Tour last Thursday, including the picnic.

Don thanked the Social Committee for the greenhouse dedication and spring picnic on the Arkansas Queen Riverboat Cruise.

Registration is now open for the 2013 International Master Gardener Conference cruise. The meeting registration will be in September. Watch for emails from Beth for links to the conference.

Dues are overdue and are now \$20. Treasurer Bren Coop will accept dues payments after the meeting today.

Beth Phelps reported that applications for PCMG Training this fall will go out soon and turned in in July. If you know of anyone interested, let Beth know.

Lori Spencer, aka the Arkansas Butterfly Lady, author of "Arkansas Butterflies and Moths" and coordinator of the Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival, was introduced and gave an interesting presentation on Arkansas butterflies and moths.



Garden Magic

This is the garden's magic,
That through the sunny hours
The gardener who tends it, Himself outgrows his flowers.

He grows by gift of patience,
Since he who sows must know
That only in the Lord's good time
Does any seedling grow.

He learns from buds unfolding,
From each tight leaf unfurled,
That his own heart, expanding,
Is one with all the world.

He bares his head to sunshine,
His bending back a sign
Of grace, and ev'ry shower becomes
His sacramental wine.

And when at last his labors
Bring forth the very stuff
And substance of all beauty
This is reward enough.

-MARIE NETTLETON CARROLL



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>

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:

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