



## Pulaski County Master Minutes

August 2012

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

Volume 21 Issue 7

### *There will be no Master Gardener Meeting in August*

#### OFFICER PROFILE of MARCELLA GRIMMETT First Vice-President

By Betty Deere



Marcella first became interested in Master Gardeners "because all the herb people were Master Gardeners and I thought I was missing something". She started the classes in 2006 and in her words: "Once I finished, I knew I had been missing a lot." She says she has learned so much, and being a Master Gardener has such status and respect that "People actually listen to me when I tell them how to do some gardening thing!"

Marcella's first love is all herbs but next she loves peonies, iris and roses. Her favorite rose is an antique rose she found at the Rose Emporium in San Antonio.

Amazingly, it's called *Granny Grimmnett* rose, although she says she had nothing to do with its existence. It's a beautiful red color, blooms once a year, and since it's an antique, it still has fragrance. But herbs, she feels, are

what she knows the most about. She has been a member of the Herb Society for ten years.

In fact, she is often asked to speak at different places (libraries, garden clubs, churches) to different groups—on herbs. In the near future she is teaching Tweens about herbs at the Thompson Library and then again talking to an adult group at the Terry Library. She does these talks in-between volunteering as a driver for Rwandans going to UALR for English classes; working in the garden for her church at Two Rivers Park; volunteering for Hospice; ushering once a month at her Fellowship Bible Church; and dog, cat, and/or house sitting for people. She has a very active volunteering/teaching life!

Her work history is equally varied and interesting. She drove the school bus for Robinson Middle and High School for 18 years and worked at the AR 4-H Center at the same time. Then she worked as a rural mail carrier until retiring in 2003. She's also worked for Shamrock Hilton Hotel as a reservation clerk, Western Union, Western Electric and done Kelly Girl work. She says and I quote:

"I have done many interesting things in my life." Again, (as I said above) she has had a very active work experience in her lifetime!

Marcella has been a widow for many years and has a large and close family: three sons, three grandsons, three granddaughters, three brothers and (surprise!) only one sister. They get together every second Saturday night for dinner out, the family member whose birthday is that month gets to choose the restaurant.

As a MG for six years now, Marcella says: "The Master Gardeners are such a great group of people, I cannot imagine not being a part of this group."

Her favorite food is: "Everything! I can eat anything except boiled eggs."

Her favorite flower: Besides the antique *Granny Grimmnett* rose -- Peonies.

What makes her laugh: "Really funny comics, such as Andy Griffith - not these foul-mouthed comics around now; I see nothing funny in them at all."

### *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.



## 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

---

### Neat Plant Alert

#### Powdery Thalia at a Master Gardener Project

By Eric Sundell

One of the Southeast's most spectacular wildflowers is on display in a small Pulaski County Master Gardener landscape on the south side of the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock: powdery thalia, *Thalia dealbata*, a native of Arkansas wetlands in the Mississippi Delta region as well as southwest Arkansas.



*Photo courtesy of Ellen Repar*

In the Southeast, powdery thalia occurs on the Coastal Plain from South Carolina to Texas and Oklahoma and in the Mississippi Alluvial Plain north to southern Illinois. It is the northernmost representative of a tropical American genus comprising about 7 species and the only representative of the Arrowroot Family, Marantaceae, in Arkansas. The species is also called powdery alligator-flag.



*Photo courtesy of Ellen Repar*

Plants are truly spectacular. They can rise to 6-7 feet out of the water, with leaves 1-2 feet long and a showy cluster of purple flowers at the top. Plants are cultivated worldwide--they were introduced into Europe in 1791--in frost-free areas; in the Temperate Zone, they can be grown in large underwater pots.

Arkansas plant hunting in the heat of summer can be hard to do. The Master Gardeners have provided an opportunity to enjoy powdery thalia in its glory--and then dash into the air conditioned Arts Center for lunch at Best Impressions Restaurant perhaps followed by a botanical tour of the museum's florals.

## Moonlighters

By Lorraine Hensley



Some plants, as with some people, can only be truly appreciated in the moonlight. Both become much more comfortable when the harsh sunlight disappears. They literally blossom under the soft glow of the moon and become more fully what they were born to be: moonlighters. They have rested during the sunlit hours and choose to share with the rest of us in the moonlight. And what they share is indeed unique; some bloom only in the evening and we don't want to miss watching this happen and some release their fragrances under the moon's soft light. They provide visual beauty that partner with the delightful aromas released by our moonlighters.

Moonlighters thrive in a colorblind universe. The most colorful plants and shrubs strut during the daylight hours and are difficult to see clearly after sunset as they fade into the dusk. That's another plus for the moonlighters because they are generally white and are more easily seen at dusk under the moon's gentle light. Night is the logical time for moonlighters to be out and about. These plants can then shine under a more gentle light. Some moonlighters bloom only at night and their perfume, which is just as intriguing as that of the more strident plants, is released at night. As

gardeners, you know that if plants are blooming at night the pollinators are also about and quite busy. They may be difficult to see but you know they are present; just a bit more difficult to see.

Various annuals and perennials find their place in the moonlighter garden. Check out the white datura keeping in mind there is no part of this plant that is not poisonous. Even in the plant world beauty doesn't equal "nice." Understand this and if you can't do without the daturas use caution in how and where you plant: especially if children enjoy your garden. Or, try the moonflowers as another option for a fragrant white night blooming plant.

They can signal party time for the gardener because the moonflowers open at dusk and share their beauty and aroma with the observant gardener. Each flower lasts but one night and simply retires about noon of the following day.

Petunias especially the dark mauve or dark blue varieties also find their space with the moonlighter annuals Author Suzy Bales speaks of the perennial gas plant, *Dictamnus albus*, taking its place within the moonlighter group. This plant produces white or rose-colored flowers in addition to releasing an aroma that seems a blend of anise, sweet clover, and lavender. Flowering aromatic vines are also recommended for the moonlighter crowd. The

Japanese honeysuckle and the chocolate vine, *Akebia quinata*, are in this category although their rapid rate of growth means the gardener may have a number of control issues with them. One specific houseplant is recommended for the moonlighter group: Queen of the Night. This plant blooms one night a year and generally needs only filtered light and a sunny windowsill. Treat her as you would its close kin --the Christmas cactus. The most difficult and time consuming part of any endeavor is careful planning. It can also be one of the most rewarding. We need to plant our moonlighters where (simple but easy to overlook.) we are most likely to see them at night.



## August 2012 Calendar

By Phyllis Barrier

### Mount Holly Garden Series

Saturday, August 18, 9:00 a.m.

Bees and Your Garden

### Silver Bells and Cockle Shells: An Introduction to Arkansas Garden History

By Tom Dillard, a program of the Flower, Garden and Nature Society of Northwest Arkansas.

August 18, Social time - 9:30 a.m., program begins at 10 a.m.

Student Center of NWAR Technical Institute, 709 S.

Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR

Meeting is free and open to the public.

Contact: Lynn Rogers, 479-521-9090

### Iris Rhizome and Plant Sale

Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>

8:00 a.m. 'til sold out

Grace Lutheran Family Life Center

Hillcrest St & Kavanaugh

[www.centralarkansasiris.org](http://www.centralarkansasiris.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Mount Holly Garden Series

Saturday, September 15, 9:00 a.m.

Porch Pots - Autumn thru Spring

### Fourteenth Annual Haynesville Celebration of Butterflies

September 15, 2012

Butterfly Capital of Louisiana

Claiborne Parish Fairgrounds

Haynesville, Louisiana

For Butterfly Festival Information Contact:

Loice Kendrick-Lacy at [\(318\) 624-1929](tel:(318)624-1929)

Or [\(870\) 234-4910](tel:(870)234-4910)

### Second Annual MG Day at Garvan Gardens

September 17<sup>th</sup>

### Sculpture Party at Bernice Gardens

September 20<sup>th</sup>

### Two Day Jaunt of Jubilant with Chris Olsen

September 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>

Dallas Arboretum

### Master Gardener Leadership Conference

October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Eureka Springs

### October 4th

### The annual Sumptuous Herb Harvest Supper

### Kicks off the Herb Harvest Fall Festival

Reception at 5:30 in the Heritage Herb Garden

Supper at 6:30 in the Skillet Restaurant

Ozark Folk Center State Park

Mountain View AR

\$30 per person

### Herb Harvest Fall Festival - October 5 and 6

For more information

<http://www.ozarkfolkcenter.com/herbs/events/> or [870-269-3851](tel:870-269-3851)

### PCMG Trip to Crystal Bridges

October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

### Mount Holly Garden Series

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 a.m.

Chris Olsen

### "Alaska Flowers, Fjords and Friends"

September 7 - 14, 2013

## The Small World of Hummingbirds

By Sherree DeWitt



For hummingbird aficionados, Potlatch Conservation Education Center near Casscoe was the place to be last weekend. The hummingbird program was led by Tina Beasley, Education Specialist for Cook's Lake Education and Outreach Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. The facility is located twenty miles southeast of Stuttgart surrounded by 1,850 acres of hardwood forest in the absolute middle of nowhere!

Arkansas County only has the ruby-throated hummingbird, which residents say have visited the Cook's Lake area for more than 50 years. Ms. Beasley is one of only about 150 licensed master banders in the United States.

The program proved to be a remarkable experience for those dubbed 'hummingbird enthusiasts'. The participants were each given a small plastic bag that looked empty, but inside contained a sample of a microscopic aluminum ring 5.6 millimeters long which are used to band the bird. There are 300 bands per card and 5,500 bands can be mailed with a first class postage stamp! With that perspective, imagine holding a tiny bird weighing less than a penny while affixing that miniature ring around a leg the size of a toothpick. Ms. Beasley was amazing!

Each band is uniquely laser printed with a one letter followed by five numbers that provide information on the date, location and identification of the master bander. Other information such as the sex, size and weight of each bird is also recorded on a master log used to track their migratory patterns.

The class watched the banding process projected on a video screen from a camera set up to film each intricate

step. Under the careful direction of Ms. Beasley, the newly banded hummingbirds were released outside by several children and a few lucky (or in my case, persistent) adults. The little bird had so much energy; I could feel its heartbeat like a miniature motor revving up in my hand before its sudden fleeting release.

I've read many gardening and bird books on this particular avian marvel, but soon realized there was so much more to learn. Did you know hummingbirds only live in the Americas? Well, I didn't! There are 343 species of hummers and only fifteen live in the United States; the remainder live in South America. In preparation for their migratory journey, the hummer must double its body weight for the eighteen (18!) hour trek. Did I mention this is a non-stop flight from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico?

Hummingbirds have over 950 feathers, measure only 3 inches long and weigh less than a penny. They eat every 14 minutes and their forked tongue laps up water or nectar at a rate of 15 times per second equaling one to three times their body weight. An average hummingbird consumes half its weight in sugar on a daily basis. The hummingbird's diet is 40% protein - the human equivalent of 150 pounds of hamburger per day. While they can't live on nectar alone, they can live solely on protein. Although they obtain fluids from their food, they still need water to bathe and drink. Providing a fine spray of water, as from a mister, is the perfect attraction.

The beautiful color of a hummingbird is actually the light refracting from their feathers much like a rainbow. From one angle they appear black and gray and from another angle we see brilliant hues of iridescent color. The males are quite the dandy and put on a display that would rival Rhett Butler. Their special flying abilities are showcased when attracting a mate during courtship. But they don't stay together to raise their babies. The female does ALL the work!

The females don't have normal chest feathers like other birds because they can't pluck or part their "brood patch" to incubate their eggs. Instead, their little featherless chest is almost transparent. Ms. Beasley has actually seen pea-sized eggs inside the female's body during banding! The babies weigh only 2.6 grams - which is equivalent to the weight of one *Post-It* note.

The mother feeds the babies constantly while simultaneously building the second nest for the next

batch of eggs. Once the babies leave the nest, they are called "fledglings".

The hummingbird heart beats up to 1,260 times per minute with speed of travel averaging 35 mph to upwards of 75 mph. It's no wonder that when they sleep they go into a hibernation-like state called "torpor". Their metabolism slows to 1/15 of normal and their body temperature drops to the point of becoming hypothermic. Most birds live three to five years.

Hummingbirds have the gift of excellent eyesight which allows them to differentiate color. Within that spectrum, we all know red is their favorite. But, did you know they can see  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile away? They can hear, but they cannot smell! As it turns out, hummingbird gardeners are the only ones benefiting from that special scented flower we planted on their behalf.

Between dawn and dusk, hummingbirds visit 1,000 flowers which rely on them for pollination. Flowers have evolved to challenge the physical ability of this little bird, but hummingbirds are tougher than they look and can adapt to survive. Here are a few flower varieties hummingbirds particularly enjoy:

The Coral Bean grows 5-6' tall with fragile coned shaped flowers perfectly suited for the light weight hummingbird pollinator. Bees and butterflies are too heavy for this particular flower.

Firecracker Vines are a great nectar producer and the hummingbird will stake off the area to defend it.  
Lantana is a good insect (protein) producer.

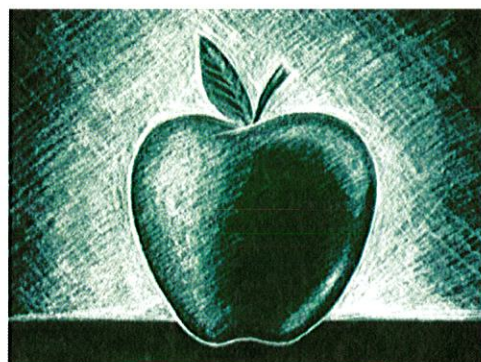
Bee Balm and the Mimosa Tree provide feathery flowers that hummingbirds use to line their nest. Bee Balm, Sage Pineapple and Salvia Conninea have square stems and are members of the mint family. These may be best suited for containers due to their invasive nature. Mimosa Trees produces flowers summer through frost, but are messy and best suited for the neighbor's yard.

Hummingbirds are also sweet on less invasive plants such as Turks Cap, Coral Bells, Foxglove, Fuchsia and Verbena, to name a few. In particular, hummingbirds like tubular shaped flowers such as Coral Honeysuckle and Carolina Jasmine.

Ms. Beasley recommended leaving hummingbird feeders outside year-round for the birds that are still in the area. While the Rufus hummingbird is not indigenous to Arkansas, they have begun to overwinter here and several have been banded in the Little Rock area. Placing a candle warmer or spotlight two and a half to three feet away from the feeder keeps the liquid warm.

The next program open to the public is scheduled for Saturday, August 11, 2012 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, contact Tana Beasley at (870) 241-3373 or [tkbeasley@aqfc.state.ar.us](mailto:tkbeasley@aqfc.state.ar.us). Group programs can also be scheduled during the week.

Make plans to attend if you can. I promise you won't be disappointed. Oh, and don't forget to pack a lunch for the pilgrimage!



"What wondrous life is this I lead!  
Ripe apples drop about my head;  
The luscious clusters of the vine  
Upon my mouth do crush their  
wine;  
The nectarine and curious peach  
Into my hands themselves do  
reach;  
Stumbling on melons, as I pass,  
Ensnared with flowers, I fall on  
grass."

- Andrew Marvell, *Thoughts in a Garden*



## Checklist by Carol Randle

Those of us at the Amy Sanders Library would like to thank all of you who took the time out of your busy day and came to see us at the Ice Cream Social in July. We loved sharing our gardens with you, those actually located at the library and those of four of our members. We are glad this happened before the triple digit numbers came back to our weather. Some of the four gardens are suffering problems, in spite of automatic sprinklers and tender, loving care given to our plants. I'm sure we are not the only ones suffering these problems in this heat. We find it hard to choose between getting up earlier than we would like, hoping to be done before it gets so hot we can't stand it . . . or sleeping later and being drenched with perspiration later.

This time of the year, even in a year that doesn't include drought conditions, water is 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 while you are gone. Shade is a much desired commodity, but if you are growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers in full sun, making sure they are watered well before the heat of the day blasts you in the face is important. Many plants were hard hit by the heat last summer and do not need two years in a row of drought. Water well and deeply 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.

We had such a fast growing season early that many folks had an early harvest, but you should still be harvesting.

### VEGETABLES AND FRUIT

Tomatoes have started to slow down in production. When temperatures exceed 95 during the day or stay above 75 at night, they quit ripening and setting fruit. If your cucumbers are bitter, they are getting stressed by water and heat. 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.

Knowing what to look for in your vegetable garden can ensure that you get the most from your garden. Sweet corn is ripe when the silks begin to turn brown and dry. Look at one or two of the ears by pulling back the shuck and pressing into a kernel or two. If it gives off a milky liquid, and the ear is fully formed, it is time to harvest. The quicker you can go from garden to table, the sweeter the corn will be. Keep picking your cucumbers as they mature because letting old fruit stay on the vines will slow down future production. Fresh okra is best if picked when they are small, no longer than two to three inches. The bigger they get, the tougher the pods are. Even though it isn't ideal gardening weather, this is the time to start replanting for a fall garden. Mulch well and water and you will be harvesting well into fall. Cantaloupes and watermelons tend to be at their sweetest if it is a bit on the dry side during harvest. Too much rain could dilute the sugars. (We don't have to worry about that!) When cantaloupes are ripe, the stems should easily separate from the vine. The fruits should develop a light tan webbing pattern and the blossom end should be slightly soft and smell like cantaloupe. Ripe watermelons will have a dry, curly, brown tendril at stem end, a dull sheen on the fruit and a white to yellow under belly.



### 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 Home Run", "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 nap right now, to regroup, fill out and be able to give you a great fall display. Of course, water is always important.

### ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

There are so many outstanding summer annuals we often have trouble picking the ones we want to plant. When we see new annuals in the stores, we want to try some of them in our own flower beds. Look at your flower beds and make notes on which ones are taking the heat. The many wave and supertunias are wonderful and should be

in full bloom . . . if you have kept up the fertilizing. If you haven't given them enough fertilizer, you may not see as many blooms. If they have stopped blooming, give them a haircut, fertilize and water and they should rebound with flowers through frost. Angelonia, Sweet Potato Vine and some of the new Cupheas are outstanding. Remember that annuals are only around for one season so keep up with watering and fertilizing and if they look bad, pinch them back or start over. Nurseries today keep annuals in stock almost year around, so replanting is a possibility. 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. If you have annuals that are not doing anything and seem to not recover from the heat, pull them and replace them with plants that will 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.

### TROPICALS

Hand in hand with summer annuals are the summer tropicals. Hibiscus, Bananas, Mandevillas, and Plumerias all make our yards look terrific whether they are in containers on the patio or porch or set out in the garden. A great trait they share is their like for the heat and humidity. They do, however, like to be watered and fertilized. If you are growing them in containers, you are constantly watering to keep them alive. Water leaches out the nutrition so once every week or two we need to fertilize with a water soluble fertilizer. Keep a careful watch out for pests. Make sure there is ample water in the containers when using any pesticide or fertilizer when it is hot and dry. If the plants are stressed, they may get burned with any extra additions.



### TREES AND SHRUBS

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 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. We have now entered into the period of watering as maintenance for our shrubs. The exception is Gardenias and Bigleaf and Oakleaf Hydrangeas (*Hydrangea Macrophylla* and *Hydrangea Quercifolia*, respectfully). These three summer bloomers set flower buds in late August and September. If they have overgrown their location or need some general shaping early July is the LAST time to do it . . . as soon after flowering is best. Avoid any pruning on spring blooming shrubs as they too, will soon be setting flower buds. Summer blooming shrubs should be in their prime. Deadhead spent flowers to ensure more blooms. Crape Myrtles, Althea, Butterfly Bush and Summer Spirea are all blooming along with Clethra, Hydrangeas and still some Gardenias.

### LAWNS

At this time of year mowing the lawn is a chore that we don't enjoy. Keeping the lawn healthy with regular watering is important. You can often tell who is and isn't watering by the look of the lawn. Daily watering is never good, but do make sure that an inch to an inch and a half are put down weekly. In late August to early September one last application of fertilizer can be applied to Bermuda, St. Augustine, and Zoysia lawns. Don't fertilize tall Fescue or Centipede at this time. The main thing we are concerned with in our lawns 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 late August to early September. Pay attention to the weather. Applying fertilizer when it is extremely hot and dry can burn the grass.

### 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 large 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 that 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 problem, the sooner you catch them, the easier they are to control.

---

### **Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2012**

**St. James United Methodist Church**

By Coralie Maxwell

Members Present: Don Ford, Beth Phelps, Walter Jennings, Earline Zahn, Jet Cuffman, Susan Crawford, Dewayne Hancock, Marcella Grimmett and Coralie Maxwell.

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

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

Bren emailed the Treasurer's report to the board in her expected absence and the statement of financial condition was reviewed. Dewayne moved and Earline seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Beth reported that she is in discussion with the audiovisual volunteer at St. James regarding the possibility of handheld wireless microphones for use during our general meetings.

Earline reported that Patti Womble was consulted regarding the feasibility of selling Master Gardener license plates and the Stuff Committee is willing to sell them along with the other items they sell. Earline moved and Dewayne seconded that the license plates be sold to

the membership, coordinated with the Stuff Committee and according to their sales procedures, at the cost of \$10 per license. The motion passed.

Don asked that discussion of incentives to boost project hours be tabled until Bren is present.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Don reported that Glenda Arledge resigned from the board and that appointed in this position for Assistant Treasurer is Susan Crawford. Coralie moved and Walter seconded approval of this appointment. The motion passed. The board happily welcomed Susan.

Beth reported for the Continuing Education Committee that the Hydrangea workshop at the end of May was a sell-out and was well received. The Committee is interested in offering something that is open to the public. Also, there may be an Advanced MG training next year.

Coralie moved for a correction in the March minutes to reflect a change in the amount of the Dorothy Hobbs memorial account. It was determined that the correct amount in the account is \$390, which includes the \$50 contributed by the PCMG Board. Dewayne seconded the motion and it passed. Marcella reported the cost of a bench to be a memorial to Dorothy and at the General Meeting will ask for further contributions toward it.

Walter shared plans for the July 17<sup>th</sup> Garden Tours and Social. It will start at the Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood and include tours of PCMGs' gardens, ending at the library. The Social Committee is involved with regard to refreshments and information will be sent out to the membership including times and directions.

Beth reported on a request for a leave of absence for Betty Chaddock. Walter moved and Marcella seconded that the board approve this request contingent on payment of dues. The motion passed.

Don reported a request from the Greenhouse Committee for a storage building. He reported the Social Committee would also like to have storage space. In response, Don will appoint someone to oversee obtaining such a space.

Dewayne announced that this is his last year to serve on the board. His term ends at the end of September.

Beth reported that a new date is set for next board meeting and it is July 30<sup>th</sup> at the County Extension Office, scheduled from 9- 3.

Don reports that the policy, passed in March, for selling items at meetings may need amending, as St. James indicates there is no problem with people outside the meeting room before and after meetings. It was discussed and the conclusion was to address such issues on a case by case basis with people requiring tables and selling items around meeting times.

Beth reported that the training class for new PCMGs will begin September 26 and include a tour of projects. She will be out of town that day and asked for help with the tour. Marcella and Jet graciously offered their tour expertise.

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

At 10:52 a.m., Jet moved and Dewayne seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

### **Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 19, 2012**

**St. James United Methodist Church**

By Coralie Maxwell

Don Ford called the meeting to order at 11:30. He asked that those who have not yet paid dues this year to do so. They are overdue and now \$20.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Marcella Grimmett reported that the Old Mill Committee has received funds for a bench to be given in memory of Dorothy Hobbs. More funds are needed to complete the memorial and Marcella asked the membership for donations.

Marcella, Travel Committee, gave corrected directions for the upcoming Friday garden trip.

Jackie Walker, Travel Committee, reported on the planned trip to Bentonville, including a visit to Crystal Bridges Museum. The trip is limited to 60 people and will be October 5 and 6.

Little Rock City Beautiful Commission gives "Eye of the Beholder" awards to home owners. If anyone would like to nominate someone, contact the LR City Beautiful Commission.

Rochelle Greenwood, Mentoring Committee, passed around a sign-up sheet to solicit mentors for the next PCMG class.

Walter Jennings reported that next month, in lieu of a general meeting, is the summer social and gardens tour. This will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> and begin at the Amy Sanders Library in Sherwood. He introduced Carol Carlan, Co-Chair of the Amy Sanders Library Committee, who reported the tour includes, in addition to the library, tours of four gardens of PCMGs. The tour starts at 9 a.m. and refreshments will be served by the Social Committee at the library.

Marcella reported on the latest Tour of Projects including Park Hill Waterworks, Old Mill and Argenta. Next month's tour is July 12<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood at 6 p.m.

Don gave congratulations to Holly Morgan, Pulaski County Friend of Master Gardeners, for being selected the 2012 Arkansas Friend of Master Gardeners.

He shared a "Thank You" from St. James to the PCMGs for weeding of the mondo grass and pruning of the azaleas.

Don also reported a "Thank You" to PCMGs from Keep Little Rock Beautiful for helping to plant the planters and hanging baskets for Markham and Main Streets downtown.

Beth Phelps reported that applications for PCMG Training this fall have been sent out and are due back toward the end of July. If anyone knows someone interested, contact Beth.

Walter introduced Rand Retzloff, Grand Designs, who gave a presentation on "Gardening in the Dry Shade".



## 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