



# Pulaski County Master Minutes

September 2012

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

Volume 21 Issue 8



Janet Carson will be speaking at the September Master Gardener meeting. Her topic will be "State of the Garden Address".

Below is the report of the nominating committee for the September Master Minutes. Elections will be held at the September 18th Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting.

President - Marcella Grimmett

First Vice President - Walter Jennings

Second Vice President - Marylea Gazette

Secretary - Coralie Maxwell

Treasurer - Bren Coop

Assistant Treasurer - Susan Crawford

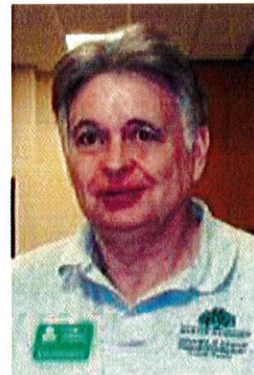
Member - At-Large - Georga Harris (2 year term)

## Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the Arkansas Native Plant Society for the use of their article "Neat Plant Alert" by Eric Sundell in the August 2012 Master Minutes.

## OFFICER PROFILE Of WALTER JENNINGS

By Betty Deere



Walter joined Master Gardeners after taking early retirement from AT&T and moving back to Little Rock. Raised a real small town southern guy, as an adult he had always wanted to grow vegetables and start a veggie garden. About that time he saw an ad in the paper on MG's starting a new class, which was an "aha" moment for him, since he was eager for new and different activities in his retirement years. "Luckily," he says, "I was accepted into the program and became a member in 2003." His special interest is, as said above, in growing vegetables. And he is doing so; he reports his Twin Rivers garden (he has a 50' by 50' plot) has been

## Arkansas Is Our Campus

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very productive this year, producing the best tomato crop in years. Cherokee Black (which I had never heard of before and he says is very tasty) is his favorite but he grows Better Boy, Travelers small 100's and others. His MG work project is Cammack.

Walter has a very interesting family and work background: he has been married over 40 years; has a son who lives in Benton with his two grandsons; has a daughter living in Spain with another grandson and a granddaughter. "We try to spend one month a year visiting her in Spain", he says. (WOW! Who wouldn't?) With a U of A engineering degree, his long career with the local telephone company involved working in many different areas: maintenance, sales, training. "Perhaps most interesting", he says, "was spending five years in China opening up my companies' initial office and being responsible for business development through Asia." ASIDE: "Interesting" sounds like an understatement to those of us who've never even visited an interesting country like China, much less had the opportunity to interact culturally and socially.

As for hobbies, it goes without saying that Walter enjoys traveling. He also likes RV'ing, spending time with his grandkids, and doing Leadership Training Sessions.

His favorite flowers? "I am currently loving the potted coleus on our shady back patio. In this hot dry weather, they are so lovely on the back patio and a real pick-me-up. As for reading, he enjoys reading about history and interesting persons that played important roles in different areas. He also looks forward to getting and reading monthly gardening magazines (yep, as most of us MG's do!). As for his favorite food, like a true southerner, he loves fresh vegetables from the garden (tomatoes, peas, corn, okra, etc.). (He didn't tell me if he liked his okra fried or not, but I'm bettin' he does). He also states he much prefers his veggies over steak, lobster, or any other food, on any day! What makes Walter laugh? "Life and Myself!"



## MG Partners in Gardening

All partners listed offer a 10% discount to Master Gardeners

Arline's Individuality in Skin Care  
Arkansas Garden Center in Sherwood  
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

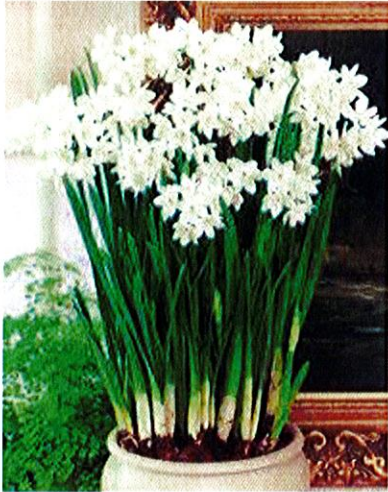
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## Potpourri

By Lorraine Hensley

As with most good "how to" books there are inevitably areas mentioned that also deserve space in these articles based upon the book, "A Garden of Fragrance" by Suzy Bales. These form, in my opinion, a potpourri of honorable mentions—and that's pretty much what they are getting. Some plants truly do behave like some people: they hide their best qualities until touched by the seeker in some fashion. The author names these plants "shaggy dogs" because their scent is in the foliage rather than in their flowers. Tiny cells hold their essential oils either on the leaves surface or "deeply embedded within them." These plants need to be "stroked, scratched, or crushed" before they can release their fragrances. For those plants with their essential oils on the leaves surface a light touch or the brush of a garment can release their aroma. Sometimes they are ready to share during a soft breeze or under strong sunshine. These "shaggy dogs" never seem to run out of fragrance

to share with the gardener or a passer-by for plant leaves usually hold their perfume longer than blossoms. When the leaves are dried the essential oils become more concentrated and a bit more pungent-- but remain pleasing. Valued for their foliage rather than their blossoms herbs are where beauty and practical use intersect.



Rogues are plants with a pleasant but sometimes heavy aroma—especially when confined to a single room or close quarters of any kind. And sometimes all it takes is one of these plants to run a person right out of the room because of the strong scent. "The offensive elements tend to be mossy, earthy, or musty" or much too sweet. Paperwhite daffodils serve as an example of rogue aromatic plants that release a pleasant odor during the day but the night brings out the rogue in this plant. It's then that the fragrance becomes more insistent and takes on a hint of mothballs.

Then there are the "nose twisters." These plants have a breath problem that many gardeners don't care for. "Their scents are sharp, nose-tickling, and sometimes bitter." Wormwood is used as an example of a nose twister for its aroma is bitter.

Many of these plants are still used as an insect repellent and as an alternative to mothballs. Seems some plants have a dual personality just as some people do. A plant's dual personality

expresses itself in the aroma it releases with a sweet scent coming from the blossoms and another quite sharp and unpleasant from their leaves. Spring starflowers and the Datura are cited as two examples of those plants with a dual personality.

Reminds me of a folk saying in reference to a specific person's behavior—he's a street angel and a house devil.

Those noted as "the stinkers" truly are. Usually the foul smells make their home in the plant leaves and it's best to leave them alone if you plan on eating anytime soon. Several plants identified as "stinkers" are the Dutchman's pipe, the crown imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*) and the skunk cabbage although there are others out there. Have fun planning your own garden of fragrance. If you either want or need more specifics on the "how to" check out your favorite bookstore, your library, or a fellow gardener -works for me.



### This Month in History:

- September 1, 1830 - 1 "Mary Had a Little Lamb" was published.
- September 3, 1951 - TV soap opera *Search for Tomorrow* premieres on CBS.
- September 13, 1788 - New York City becomes the capitol of the United States. I bet you didn't know that!
- September 25, 1981 - Sandra Day O'Connor became the first female Supreme Court Justice.



## September 2012 Calendar

**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  
Or (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 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**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

**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



### **Checklist by Carol Randle**

If our gardening season continued at the speed with which it started, we would be entering winter right now. Instead, we still have many remnants of summer, hot weather to name one. Rainfall continued to be spotty until we got some relief from Hurricane Isaac. That's not exactly the way we would like to get our rainfall, but we are just thankful for what we received. Monitoring rainfall has been very important this summer season. We have kept very dry and way behind in moisture all Summer. Flower buds set early on many spring blooming plants, but that doesn't mean we can stop caring for them. Mulch them well, water as needed and wait for next spring. No more pruning or fertilizing of these plants. Season after season of stressed plants can lead to weak plants which are susceptible to diseases and insects. How healthy the plants go into the dormant season will determine how well they grow during the growing season. Keep in mind that one bad season can take multiple seasons to recover from; we have had several in a row. The only thing you should be doing now is water. Water is the MOST CRITICAL factor for successful gardening.

## ANNUALS

Set out Pansies and Mums for fall color. (Wait to get Pansies until the temperatures begin to cool off. Pansies that get exposed to warm weather tend to stretch and get leggy, resulting in weaker plants all winter.) Calendulas, Snapdragons, and other cool weather lovers are great also. (Remember that the Greenhouse Committee will be having a sale in October. It is a wonderful place to buy plants for the fall at a good price. Plus, you will be supporting Master Gardener projects.) Fall bedding plants are appearing in garden centers statewide. Start planting Mums, Flowering Kale and Cabbage, Dianthus, Calendula and Diascia now. Planting the edible ornamental green plants can allow them to get a firm root system established before winter. Watch for Cabbage Loopers and other insects which can attack. They don't differentiate between the edible and the ornamental. Fertilize and deadhead summer bedding plants that are thriving; continue to water, and they should last until a killing frost.



## PERENNIALS

Because our season really did move fast, Peonies, Lilies, and even many Hostas started their fall decline early. If the plants look bad, start cutting them back. They have finished their life cycle and will be heading into dormancy. Buckeyes and Flowering Quince also look a little bedraggled but they do every year in late summer, they just started early this year. Don't worry about them; they will come back strong next year. The key to gardening success now is to clean up and water. We really don't need to be fertilizing anything other than annuals or tropical flowers now. We don't want to encourage new growth late in the season. Mid-September through October is the ideal time to divide Peonies. Herbaceous crowns are set 1-2 inches below soil level; Tree Peony plants at 4-7 inches deep. Now is also the time that many perennials can be divided. Mulch is important the first winter after division to prevent the plants from heaving out of the ground. Take extra care to insure correct planting depth as it greatly affects bloom performance. Iris, after being dug can be divided

into 2-4 inch divisions, making sure each division contains a part of the rhizome, some roots, and foliage. The foliage should be cut back to about six inches. Each division should be replanted not more than two inches deep. There are some outstanding fall flowering perennials that are two inches deep. There are some outstanding fall flowering perennials that are beginning to bloom now and add enjoyment to the fall landscape. Sweet Autumn Clematis is still blooming, along with Japanese Anemones, Goldenrod, Chelone (Turtlehead), and Toad Lilies will begin soon. Ornamental Grasses are setting their fall plumage and will remain showy from now until you cut them back next February. Early spring perennials are shutting down for the year and if they need division, now is the time to do so. Any perennial that has started dying back can be cleaned up now as well. You don't have to wait for a killing frost. Once they lose their attractiveness, take them out of the garden.



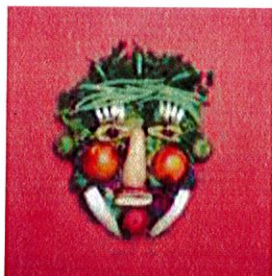
## TROPICALS

Tropical flowering plants can also continue to flower, so keep fertilizing and watering them. Many people think that potting soils fortified with fertilizer will last the whole growing season, but that isn't the case. Water soluble fertilizers (those you mix with water) work well and have a low burn potential. Slow release granules can also be used. Water regularly. If you plan to over winter them, pay attention to the weather and make sure they don't get exposed to temperatures much below 40 degrees before you move them into cold storage in the garage or crawl space. If you plan to move them into your house do so in early October.

## BULBS

Spring bulbs are showing up at local nurseries. It is time to buy them to get the best selection, but don't plant until it gets cooler. Keep them in a cool place for another few weeks before planting. If you plan to dig up and store your Caladium bulbs, make sure you are fertilizing them now. The more energy they can store in the roots, the larger the bulb will be and the bigger your plants next year. Make sure you dig them up prior to a killing frost. If you have Amaryllis bulbs left over from last season you have a few options. One is to plant them outside and mulch well after a killing frost. The other

option is to stop watering and bring them indoors. Cut the old foliage off and wait for new activity before you begin to water again. After a brief dormancy period they will sprout and bloom again . . . hopefully in time for the holidays. Some bulbs when they become overcrowded should be carefully dug and the clumps lifted out and broken apart. Replant in a well prepared bed.



### VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Our vegetable gardens were much more productive this year than last year, and if you watered and tended to your tomatoes and peppers, they should be setting and ripening fruit still. You can also still plant many vegetables. From Greens to Lettuce, Spinach and Broccoli transplants, they will continue to grow as long as we don't have really hard freezes in October or early November. Last winter, they didn't stop the entire winter, and those who planted a fall garden got an extended harvest. We will see what happens this year. Fall gardens are notorious for insect issues, since they have had all season to multiply. Monitor frequently and try to catch them early. You can also plant Swiss Chard, Beets, Brussels Sprouts. Asian Greens such as Bok Choi and Chinese Cabbage, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mustard Greens, Onions, Turnips, Parsley and Radishes. Continue harvesting, watering and weeding your summer garden. If you still have any gardening energy left, there is plenty to do outside besides just watering. There is still time to plant fall vegetables. If your vegetable garden has played out, clean it up now. Leaving debris in the garden will simply lead to more disease and insect issues next season. While it is still fresh in your mind, write down what worked and what didn't. Harvest remaining vegetables early in the day to get the freshest produce. If you aren't planning to plant fall crops, consider planting a cover crop or green manure crop. Not only does this keep weeds from growing in your barren garden over the winter, but when you till it in the spring it will help to enrich your soil. Perennial herbs such as Rosemary, Sage, and Oregano should not be harvested hard this late in the season,

since we need them strong and healthy as they head into fall and winter. Annual herbs such as Basil can be pinched and used as frequently as possible to keep them producing foliage instead of flowers.



### LAWNS

Lawns have been plagued by a lot of disease issues this year. We had both Take All Patch and Large Patch that really took their toll on a lot of Zoysia lawns. Fungicides don't do much good in the summer, but applied in late September or early October can make a real difference next season. These diseases often go after well-manicured lawns. Over-fertilization and frequent watering make for lush tender foliage which can be more susceptible. If you have a huge disease presence you may want to do two applications this fall at a 28 day interval and then again next spring as the lawn begins to green up. No more fertilization now, but do continue to mow. Look at your lawns now, many went through dormancy periods this summer if they weren't watered and many folks stopped fertilizing because it was so hot and dry. Leaves started falling back in June with the dry weather and continue to fall now. A light covering of leaves can be handled with weekly mowing, but when they begin to fall in earnest, it is best to rake them and mulch them. Leaves make a great addition to the compost pile and can make attractive mulch. Shredded leaves break down faster and are more attractive as mulch.

### TREES AND SHRUBS

The next couple of months are the best time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials. Prepare holes now and start planting when you have an opportunity. Take advantage of any end of summer sales you happen upon. If you are planning to move any woody plants this fall or winter, now is the time to root prune. Determine how big a root ball you want to move (bigger is better). Then, using a spade, cut straight down in a circle around the plant.

## INDOORS

Dig up your Begonias now and bring them indoors as a houseplant. They will bloom all winter so you can use the cuttings outdoors next spring. Feed your houseplants less frequently as the days get shorter. Houseplants that have had a Summer Siesta outside need to be prepared for the move back indoors. Late September to early October is the ideal time to do so. Clean up the pots, check for ants and other insects and spray as needed with insecticidal soap before you bring them in, and once again after they are in, to control hitchhiking bugs. Moving them in before really cool weather starts will be an easier transition for them. Cut back on the amount of water you give them and don't be alarmed with a little leaf dropping.



## INSECTS

If you have parked your car under a tree lately, you probably came back to a window sticky with honeydew droppings. Aphids multiply rapidly in dry seasons, but by late in the year, they really have large numbers. While they don't hurt the trees that much, the nuisance factor can be annoying. While you don't need to spray an entire tree, you can knock down the insects closest to the car with a strong spray of water or some insecticidal soap sprayed with a hose end sprayer.



## FALL COLOR

September is often a scraggly month in the garden, since many gardeners have lost their enthusiasm after a hot, dry summer. Color needn't be scarce. Fall Sedums, perennial Begonias, Toad Lilies, and Goldenrod are all blooming and some have been almost all summer. The Beautyberry has its beautiful purple or white berries, and Hollies already have many red fruits. If you deadhead your Roses and Crape Myrtles, they will bloom

again. Butterfly Weed (Buddleia) has been blooming since early spring and is still going strong. Asters, early Chrysanthemums, and Saw Tooth Sunflowers are all blooming. It is still a bit early to plant Violas, but ornamental Peppers can also give you extra fall color and they can take the heat. The signs of fall are here with spring bulbs, Pumpkins, and Mums. Pumpkins can last for months as fall and winter color, but choose them with strong stems and a smooth, blemish free rind. Spring bulbs can be purchased now, but wait for a little cool weather before planting. If you have an extra refrigerator, consider giving them some extra chilling. You don't want to store them with other fruits and vegetables, but an empty hydrator drawer works well. Then plant when you have time in mid-October through December. Spring bulbs benefit from a cool, moist storage.

## MONTHLY BLOOMS

Ageratum, Alcea Rosea, Althea, Coral Vine, Asters, Hardy Begonia, Buddleia Davidii, Beauty-berry, Campsis, Trumpet Creeper, Cannas, Bluebeard, Celosia, Cockscomb, Chrysanthemum, Clerodendron, Dahlias, Dianthus, Echeveria, Gaura, Gladioli, Ginger Lily, Hibiscus, Morning Glory, Japanese Rose, Crape Myrtle, Lantana, Liriope, Lycoris Radiata, Marigolds, Four-o'clocks, Miscanthus, Nierembergia, Mondo Grass, Oregano, Oxalis, Wood Sorrel, Fountain Grasses, Polygonum, Periwinkle, Petunias, Phlox, Roses, Rosemary, Salvias, Sage, Sedum, Spirea, Torenia, Viola, Vitex (Chaste Tree), Yucca, Zinnias.



**Try to remember the kind of September  
When life was slow and oh so mellow  
Try to remember the kind of September  
When grass was green and grain so yellow  
Try to remember the kind of September  
When you were a young and a callow  
fellow  
Try to remember and if you remember  
Then follow--follow, oh-oh."**  
- *Try to Remember*, Lyrics by Tom Jones and  
Harvey Schmidt



## 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>

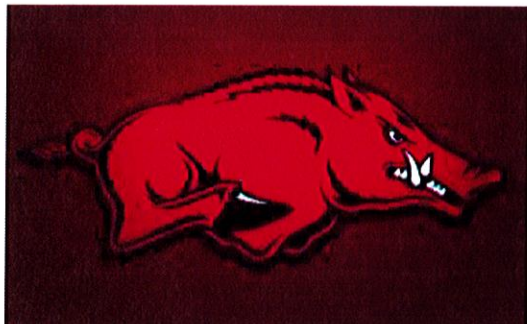
- U of A Cooperative Extension Website:

<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  
[bp Phelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bp Phelps@uaex.edu)  
340-6650

### Master Minutes Staff



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**Carol Randle**  
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**Sherree DeWitt**

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