

Pulaski County Master Minutes

October 2012

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

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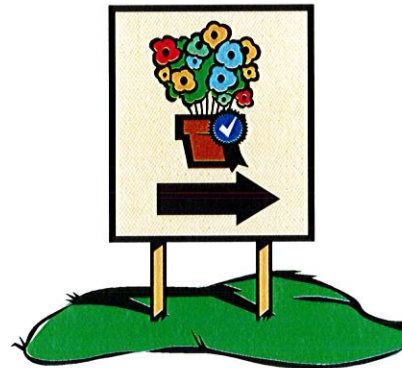
Mary Evans will be the speaker at the October meeting. Her topic is "Case Study of Garden Design."



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



The Master Gardener Greenhouse Fall Sale
Saturday, October 20, 2012
from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Plants for sale - - - Pansies, Panolas, Violas,
Snapdragons, Foxglove, Dianthus, Flowering
Cabbage, Flowering Kale,

Some odds & ends of the following perennials - - -
Columbine, Lavender, Rosemary and other assorted
perennials

The greenhouse is located on the corner of Palm
and 7th St. on the State Hospital grounds.

Friends and neighbors are welcome!
Remember - sales support our projects.

If you need any additional information contact Pat
Freeman pat.freeman3@sbcglobal.net

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.



October 2012 Calendar By Phyllis Barrier

Master Gardener Training

October 3 - Basic Plant Science, Soils, Insects

October 10 - Diseases, Fruit Crops

October 17 - Vegetables and Composting

October 24 - Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs, Trees

October 31 - Landscape Solutions, Lawns, Wildlife

November 7 - Sprinkler Smart, and Wrap up

Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the training sessions as a refresher. If you want to eat lunch, let Beth Phelps know the Monday before the training. The cost of lunch will be \$9.

Master Gardener Project Open Houses

October 4 - Hays Center, Park Hill, Argenta, Maumelle

October 11 - Pinnacle, Wildwood

October 18- Amy Sanders Library, Jacksonville City Hall, Pathfinder Greenhouse

October 25- Old State House, Witt Stephens, Mt. Holly, Historic AR Museum

November 1 - Cammack, State Hospital, War Memorial

The project open houses will be from 9 a.m. - noon.

The annual Sumptuous Herb Harvest Supper kicks off the Herb Harvest Fall Festival

October 4

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 5-6

Appreciation Work Day at St. James

October 9, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 am

This is a Thank You to St. James for allowing the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to meet at the church. Judy Chapman, PCMG, will be at the front door of the worship center to organize activities. If you have a power trimmer, bring it. For more information contact Judy at judychapman2223@gmail.com. These hours count as volunteer hours. Report them as "Other Committee" hours.

The White County Daylily Society

will have a daylily sale Oct. 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Simmons First Bank parking lot on South Main across from Spring Park in Searcy.

Contact Colleen Massengale, President, for more information at 501-268-3711.

Mount Holly Garden Series

Saturday, October 20, 9:00 A.M.

Chris Olsen

Tour of the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Gardens

October 18, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Proceeds will benefit the Greening of Arkansas grant program that provides funding for community beautification projects throughout the state. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance by sending a check payable to The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show to Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, P.O. Box 638, Conway, AR 72033. For more information: 821-4000 or krista.quinn@yahoo.com.

Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist's Journey

Drawings and photos by Hot Springs arts Linda Williams Palmer

Arkansas Arts Center Terry House Community Gallery through November 4, and the THEA Foundation in North Little Rock November 11 - December 1.

2013 International Master Gardener Conference

"Alaska Flowers, Fjords and Friends"

September 7 - 14, 2013



Checklist by Carol Randle

I am sure we are all happy to get this summer behind us. Janet says there are so many dead plants in landscapes across the state that replanting is certainly called for. Fall is a great time to plant hardy trees and shrubs, perennials, spring bulbs and winter annuals. With trees, it is quite apparent that some are dead, while others may have simply gone into early dormancy. You may want to wait until spring to assess if it is really dead or alive. You can be sure that evergreen plants that are totally brown are dead. If you know for certain that a plant is dead, remove it now and consider replacement options. Prepare the soil well, plant, water and mulch. Hold off on fertilization until spring.

There is always a lot to do in October. . . raking leaves, planting spring blooming bulbs, just cleaning up or enjoying being outside in the cooler air.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich your beds with organic soil amendment. List and divide plants that have finished blooming. Most perennials bloom better if they are divided and replanted every three years or so. Now is a great time to dig and divide spring and summer blooming perennials. There are also great perennial plants to choose from, that can be planted now. By doing the work in the fall, we allow the roots to get established while the tops are dormant, so they will be in a stronger position by next growing season. Now is a great time to seed wildflowers and many perennials including Poppies, Purple Coneflowers, Columbine, Foxglove, and the annual Larkspur, Texas Bluebonnets, Bachelor's Buttons and Cornflowers. Winterize, protect, or lift tender perennials for winter storage. Mark dormant bulbs so they won't be destroyed when ground is prepared for spring planting. Be ready when shipments of bulbs such as Crocus, Daffodils, Irises, Day Lilies, Freesias, Hyacinth and Tulips arrive at nurseries, than plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch. Layer the bulbs down deep . . . at least 2 to 3 times the size of the bulb, and then plant the winter annuals on top.

What is at bloom in your garden? If you took care of your yard, you should have colorful perennials now. Toadlily (*Tricyrtis*), Turtlehead (*Chelone*) and Japanese Anemones are all blooming. The Hellebores are starting to put on new foliage growth for a winter bloom, and Chrysanthemums and Asters are readily available at nurseries for instant color. If your garden doesn't have color in every season, you can quickly remedy the fall color now. Red Surprise Lilies, *Lycoris Radiata*, have long finished blooming, but their foliage is everywhere. The leaves of these

Lilies should stay green all winter long and die down in mid-Spring. Then their naked flower stems appear with bright red flowers in the fall. Some other great autumn bloomers are still going strong, while the Ornamental Grasses are in their prime. Fall is a great time to plant any hardy plant. . . leave those semi-hardy or marginal plants until spring.

ANNUALS

Summer annuals that survived the Summer are still going, but if yours died, there are great options now at all nurseries, from Pansies, Violas and Panolas to Snapdragons, Dianthus, Diascia, Dusty Miller, Parsley, edible and ornamental forms of Kale, Cabbage, Swiss Chard, and Beets. We can even find Petunias, Calibrachoa, and Verbena now, which have been overwintering well and blooming through several light freezes. If your garden doesn't have color in every season, you can quickly remedy the fall color now. Try to choose one to three complimentary colors and plant in strong blocks. If you plant Flowering Kale and Cabbage, do so soon to allow it a chance to root before winter. You can intersperse them and Spinach, Mustard, Beets, and Lettuce in among the flowers and harvest as needed. There are more decorative forms of these edibles, but any variety will work.



VEGETABLES AND HERBS

In spite of the growing season, we actually had a pretty good vegetable garden, and that trend can continue. By now, for the most part, things should be in the ground. You can still find Cabbage, Broccoli, and other cool season transplants, so plant them. Last year, our winter was so mild that gardeners who planted fall vegetables gardened all winter long. Greens and Kale can take it fairly cold and can serve as a cover crop and an edible. If you haven't planted a fall garden, don't leave the garden spot bare all winter or you will end up with a great crop of weeds. Either plant a green manure crop or cover crop, or put down a thick layer of mulch-shredded leaves, compost, etc. This can keep the weeds at bay and you can work this organic matter in when you till the garden next spring.

By mid October, or if frost is predicted, pick all Tomatoes whether they are ripe or not. Store ripe Tomatoes on the counter and wrap green Tomatoes in newspaper and store in a cool, dark pantry or closet. They will ripen slowly. If you have more ripe Tomatoes than you can eat, freeze them to use in sauces. Or hang the entire plants (with unpicked fruit) upside down in the garage.

In late October, cut back Asparagus stalks to the ground. Mark the location. Mulch three or four inches. Prepare vegetable beds for spring and remove all debris. Cool weather annual

herbs such as Cilantro and Parsleys can be planted now. Warm weather herbs such as Basil and Dill should be gathered now and dried. Tarragon should be divided annually. Chives and Sweet Woodruff should be divided every three or four years. There are a wide variety of pumpkins readily available at local markets now from the traditional orange to white and even some green ones. Shapes and sizes vary tremendously as well. Groupings of pumpkins, gourds, and Indian Corn can add interest and color to the fall garden and last longer than Halloween. Look for blemish free fruits that still have a stem attached. If they don't have a stem, or if they have any soft spots, they can rot fairly easily. As long as you don't start carving the pumpkins, they will last until you are tired of them. Some people even paint them green or red and use them as Christmas decorations!



TREES AND SHRUBS

Spray your trees for Peach Leaf Curl if they were victims this year. Apply a dormant spray to reduce over-wintering pests and fungus diseases when the leaves fall from the trees. Mulch fruit and berries well to preserve moisture in the soil. They need a lot of water. They are the only food that contains approximately 80% water. Set out Strawberries during fall rains for fruit next May. If planted in spring, plants won't bear well until the following year. The summer weather did take its toll on some shrubs and trees and many gardeners are anxious to prune away damage or remove them. It may be too early to tell how much damage has occurred, especially on deciduous shrubs and trees. Wait for spring and new growth to assess their damage and prune then. Even evergreen plants may have shed some leaves and possibly experienced some dieback, but spring blooming shrubs have set flower buds, as have fruit trees and Blueberries. Pruning now may take off some flower buds. Wait for spring and assess the damage.



HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants and any other outside plants that won't survive the winter need to be moved back inside this month, if you plan to

keep them for next season. It is best to move them inside by the middle of the month. Don't put it off too late or the plants will have more of a shock once they move back inside. Many may still be shell-shocked from our summer months. Clean up any damaged leaves and check for insect problems. Clean them up before the move indoors. Remember, water needs will be much less inside than out. Some gardeners may choose to buy new flowering Tropicals next season instead of moving them in and out each season.



GENERAL YARD

Clean up the planting areas as you harvest fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Rake up fallen leaves (and there are a lot of them already this fall . . . they fell quite early from some trees) and fruit. Compost all disease free organic refuse. Don't put diseased plants on the street for pick-up. You don't want to give someone else your problem. Bag up with your regular garbage. Or you can burn the diseased plants. Protect container plants for the winter. Mulch tender plants that can't be moved. Continue watering lawns, trees, and shrubs, vines, and all new plantings until the rains come. Don't forget to water plants in sheltered areas. Well-watered plants survive freezing temperatures better than dry ones. Cut back ground covers that have spread out of bounds. Prune vines. Plant flat and slightly sloped areas with ground cover so roots will get a head start before winter. Do not plant steep slopes or the rains will wash plants away.

LAWNS

Sow seeds for new lawns. If there is an early frost, be sure to keep the ground moist so the seedlings will continue to develop roots until the ground freezes. Grass grows best this time of year in the cooler, wetter conditions. Aerate lawns now.



OCTOBER BLOOMS

Abelia, Ageratum, Sweet Alyssum, Asters, Barberry, Beautyberry, Bittersweet Vine, Buddleia, Ornamental Grasses, Gums, Hibiscus, Kale, Kerria, Lantana, Larkspur, Lobelia, Maples, Marigolds, Mexican Sage, Nierembergia, Sweet Peas, Petunias, Poppies, Roses, Rosehips, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragon, Solidago, Stock, Torenia, Tricyrtis, Verbena, Viburnum, Viola, Virginia Creeper, Wisteria, and Zinnias.



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

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



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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