



Pulaski County Master Minutes

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Volume 21 Issue 11



Mr. Bob Byers, Assoc. Executive Director at Garvan Woodland Gardens will be the speaker at the January meeting. He is going to speak on "Camellias in the Garden."



MISTLETOE & BIRDS - PARTNERS IN CRIME By Betty Deere

What do you think of when you hear the word "mistletoe"? Kisses, right? Yep, most of us think of Xmas parties and stolen kisses under the holiday decorations. BUT! Did you know mistletoe leads a double life? It actually siphons off valuable nutrients from the trees through root-like sinkers; its berries are extremely toxic; and it's so stubbornly attached to the bark that in order to get a bunch down from the treetop you must blast it out with a shotgun. And, to get rid of it entirely, you have to amputate the branch or limb completely! HOWEVER! Mistletoe does have some very redeeming qualities! The good news is

- (1) Its berries are not toxic to birds, bugs and butterflies and it provides food and shelter for a wide

variety of them. (2) The great purple hairstreak (a beautiful Southern belle of a butterfly) is entirely dependent on mistletoe. And (3), some gun-owning people (especially southern men) have great fun every winter shooting down mistletoe for Xmas decorating.

When I was a young newly-wed (long, long ago), living in a nice quiet neighborhood in Camden, I was so frightened one wintry afternoon at the sound of gunshots that I called my husband to come home quick. Only to learn it was my neighbor shooting down a batch of mistletoe for his wife's Xmas party decorations. He was surprised that I thought shooting mistletoe was a weird thing to do. . . it was his favorite thing to do for Xmas. "Live and learn," I thought.

But how are birds and mistletoe partners in crime? They join up, however innocently, to spread mistletoe from tree to tree. Since birds are not harmed by the toxic mistletoe berries, they enjoy snacking on them and they love nesting in the clusters. Therefore, they wind up with the sticky mistletoe seeds stuck to their toes and beaks, and they scrape those seeds off when they grasp a branch or limb with their feet. Or preen to clean their beaks. They scatter seeds everywhere they land, as they busily fly around throughout the day. The seeds then lodge in the bark of the tree, germinate, send "holdfasts" to the branch, and voila! Next year mistletoe foliage appears (though it takes five years before it flowers).

Mistletoe "balls" and the trees can coexist for years, the berries ripening in November. As I mentioned above, here in the southland it's considered an annual sporting event to "go shoot mistletoe". Dislodging it really requires a bullet-blast because mistletoe really holds on - sending out "holdfasts" that do just that: they hold on! So it takes a hopeless romantic, or someone who just likes to target shoot, to go to the trouble to blast a ball of mistletoe to the ground. However, a hefty sprig of mistletoe costs about six or seven bucks, so it might be worth it to get out the shotgun and blast away!

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Mistletoe Facts: >>It was once thought that mistletoe grew spontaneously from bird droppings. >> If you want to totally get rid of mistletoe in a tree, you have to chop off the limb (poor tree) >>European mistletoe became a popular motif in the Art Nouveau period, gracefully adorning household mantles/objects/entryways (in America it's hung in the center of an entry or doorway, under which kisses are stolen!) >>Medical use of mistletoe extract in

Europe: cancer treatment (alternative medicine also uses it in USA).

>>Europeans decorate with mistletoe during the New Year traditions, but

>>minus the kissing (why leave out the fun???) . >>In 1893 Oklahoma chose mistletoe as their floral emblem (go figure!). >>Number of mistletoe species: 1,300. (It's really hardy!)

So, unless you're a gun lover and enjoy target shooting, it's best to keep any mistletoe clusters chopped out of your trees. Because it is seriously parasitic and sucks nutrients from the tree. However, there are good reasons for having it around because who amongst us doesn't enjoy a good smooch? Happy Holidays!



**OFFICER PROFILE - CORALIE MAXWELL,
Secretary**

By Betty Deere

Coralie became a Master Gardener (MG) in 2007 because, she says, "it was on my bucket list." AND she was motivated by a pact she had with Anne Crow -- that upon Anne's retirement they would apply to the MG program. However, when that time came Coralie felt she wasn't quite ready. BUT she was voted down by Anne

who said "No, the time is now!" As Coralie says: "The rest is history."

Her particular gardening interest is in xeriscaping, which she picked up when living in Colorado." Translating that to Arkansas' climate proved to be challenging. "But," she says, "I would love to see more use of native plants that require less irrigation than what our culture expects from our urban and suburban landscapes nowadays." (BD Note: "Yay, I completely concur!") Observant of our kids' future on the planet, she is concerned about the indiscriminate use of large amounts of water on grassy lawns and non-native plants requiring constant watering in our hot summers. She looks forward to the day "When water is recognized by everyone as the valuable resource it is, because one day there probably won't be enough to go around." (BD: "My sentiments exactly!") Coralie says their next house won't be landscaped in the traditional sense, "Which won't displease my husband, as he is the grass cutter and turf tender!"

Speaking of husbands, she is married to Jeff and they have two daughters: Hannah, a high school junior; and Sarah, a high school freshman.

Besides gardening, Coralie loves to walk, bike, ski, hike, travel, read - loves to be outside. She and Jeff enjoy National Parks over cities, and feels that one day their kids will appreciate it! Right now their daughters are involved in high school volleyball, which consumes a lot of time in their household life.

As for education and work history, Coralie attended the U of A (Fayetteville) and Physical Therapy School in Little Rock. After graduating, she lived in Baton Rouge, LA; then on to Boulder, CO; then back to Little Rock. No longer practicing as a PT, she says: "But I dispense advice regularly!" She states that her "work" nowadays is unpaid - for their daughters' school, their church and several non-profits.

Coralie chose the Scholars Garden at the Clinton Presidential Center as her MG project because "I love my people* (*our fabulous committee)!"

Coralie's favorite flower? She loves the night blooming cereus, which a friend in Boulder gave her a "start" from 25 years ago. . .even though it's not much to look at most of the time. "It reminds me of the Little Shop of Horrors because of its growth habit." She also loves gardenias, and carried them in her wedding. Even though an elderly friend told her gardenias remind her of funerals, Coralie still calls them a favorite.

Coralie's favorite food is: "Cheese - most all kinds." What makes Coralie laugh? She says "there is laughter aplenty" when their supper club friends get together.

They've been meeting for several years and always laugh a lot. And too, she also thinks Modern Family is pretty funny.

But she says "The most fun is when, sitting at the dinner table, one of our girls starts to tell a story and cracks herself up and the laughter gets infectious, then the other daughter starts imitating Jeff's or my laugh and it gets hard to catch a breath, and my stomach gets sore from laughing so much."

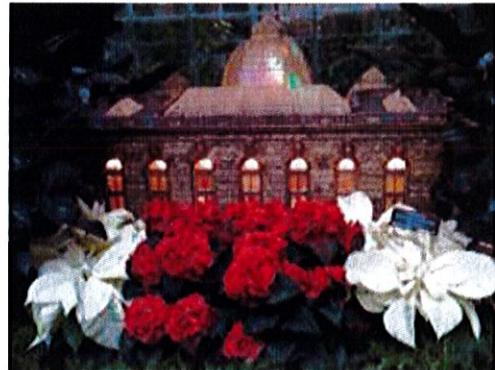
This Master Gardener clearly enjoys life (like all the MG's I know). What is there about gardening that makes people delight in living and giving and laughing? Maybe it's that growing things tends to make us "grow" as people. I dunno, but I've never met a MG that I didn't truly like and enjoy.

And I've truly enjoyed writing the Officer Profiles this year of 2012, and I'm looking forward to Master Gardening in 2013 (though I more often feel like a Master Yard worker than master gardener). Happy Holidays!

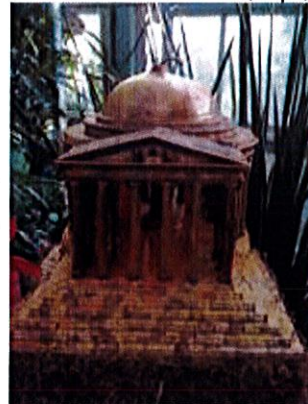
US Botanic Garden on the National Mall Washington DC By Phyllis Barrier

In the late 18th century George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison shared the dream of a national botanic garden. They were instrumental in establishing the first botanic garden on the National Mall in 1820. The US Botanic Garden we know today was built in 1933. The conservatory contains eight garden rooms and several galleries.

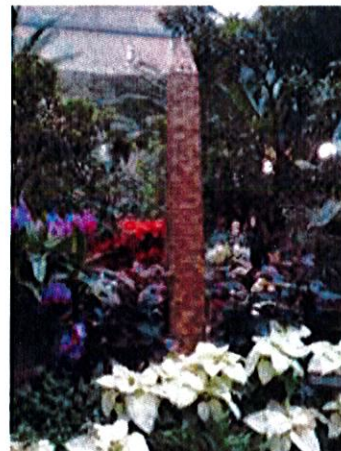
During the holidays - since 2004 - the Botanic Garden displays its permanent collection of models of historic buildings of the National Mall and Capitol Hill. The designer architect constructs the frame to scale and then creates the distinctive architectural details with dried plant materials. The structures are placed among beautiful poinsettias, seasonal plants, and Christmas trees. I took these pictures in 2010.



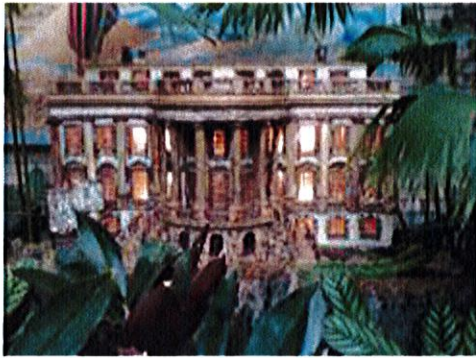
It seems only appropriate to start this short tour with the US Botanic Garden Conservatory. The façade is covered with horse-chestnut bark and willow. The faces contain cinnamon sticks, pine cone scales, grapevine tendrils, moss, bear paws, nigella, and okra. The windows are willow, rope, and thatch reed.



The Jefferson Memorial is one of my favorites. The dome is a gourd, and the exterior is covered by willow, pine cone scales, reed, white birch bark, honeysuckle, cinnamon sticks, sisal rope, and nigella.



Here we see the Washington Monument decorated with sycamore leaves, sea grape leaves, and moss.



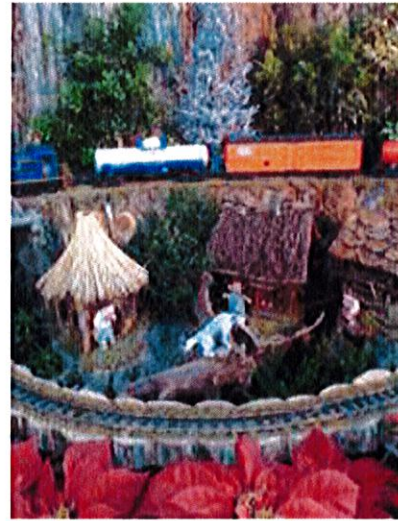
The White House is decorated with screw pod rails, cinnamon stick top, palm frond stems, hemlock cones, and shelf fungus, among others.



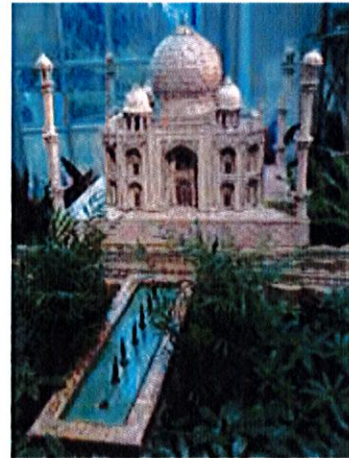
The Smithsonian Institution Castle is delightfully covered with natural materials mentioned above plus lotus pods, acorn scales, pear pods, bamboo, and Australian tree fern.



The galleries are full of poinsettias - classic reds to pink, speckled to white - in pots and hanging baskets.



The Botanic Garden holiday exhibits also contain hundreds of feet of railroad track. If you follow the tracks you find villages, gardens, and fairy tales. Here we see the Three Little Pigs.



By following the train tracks in another gallery you can also visit exotic lands and ancient monuments from around the world. Here is the Taj Mahal, also known as the "crown of buildings," located in Agra, India.

I never get tired of visiting the US Botanic Garden whether it's the holidays, the spring, summer, fall, or winter. Be sure to visit it whenever you're in the DC area. It will be well worth your time.

**Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, October 16, 2012

St. James United Methodist Church

Members Present: Don Ford, Beth Phelps, Bren Coop, Earline Zahn, Susan Crawford, Marylea Gazette, Georgia Harris, Marcella Grimmett, and Coralie Maxwell.

President Marcella Grimmett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Don moved and Earline seconded that the minutes of the September, 2012, meeting be approved. The motion passed.

Bren gave the Treasurer's report and distributed the statement of financial condition. Earline moved and Marylea seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Don reports that he continues to work with the Greenhouse Committee on a storage building for their use as well as that of the Social and Education Committees.

Coralie and Don reported on the Project Incentive plan and will present a final plan for the Board next month.

The Stuff Committee will announce at the general meeting their plan to place an order for next month. They will give a style show to the new class on Wednesday.

Carol Chappell has agreed to assist Layman Library with securing speakers for their gardening series.

The Dorothy Hobbs Memorial Bench has been installed at the Old Mill.

Carol Randle and Carol Carlan and others from Amy Sanders Library Committee successfully manned the Master Gardener Booth at BJ's Pumpkin Festival. The Board thanks all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion took place regarding the new state-wide reporting system for MG work and education hours. The new system is expected to be ready to use in January, 2013, though more information is needed from the state before Pulaski County can implement the program.

There will be a reception for the new Master Gardeners at the November meeting.

Beth reported receiving two Leave of Absence requests for 2012. Chris Oxner is unable to fulfill requirements due to illness. Coralie moved and Marylea seconded that this request be granted. The motion passed. Because of family and personal illness, Susan Crisp is unable to fulfill her hours. Don moved and Coralie seconded that this request be granted. The motion passed.

Bren reported that the Budget Committee is working to propose a budget next month to the Board.

Beth reported that, at Marcella's request, she sent information to the Wildwood Park Committee about an Award for Excellence in projects to be presented at the International Meeting next year. It is hoped the committee will apply before the November deadline. Beth reported that she has fact sheets from the Extension Service's Public Policy Center addressing ballot issues to be voted on in the upcoming general election for any interested.

There being no further business, at 10:58 a.m., Bren moved and Don seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Coralie Maxwell

**Pulaski County Master Gardeners General Meeting
Tuesday, November 20, 2012
St. James United Methodist Church**

Marcella Grimmett called the meeting to order at 11:40 and introduced the new Master Gardeners, Class of 2012: Darla Adams, Kay Allen, Bette Anders, Mary Campbell, Jackie Conklin, Deborah Doyle-West, Jane Evans, Pat Ferguson, Lynda Ford, Katherine Friday, Mike Fuller, Melanie Greenwald, Junie Harris, Mary Harrison, Martha Henry, Phyllis Holiman, Sharon Hollaway, Tom

Horton, Chris Hulett, Debbie Jernigan, Arnold Jochums, Brad Klein, Kate Lincourt, Minerva Lohani, Sherry Means, Linda Melberg, Melody Parsley, Kevin Pride, Becky Rainwater, Kathleen Reynolds, Rachael Richey, Terri Root, B.J. Sanders, Bridget Shuffield, Cherry Smith, Pat Smith, Virginia Summers, Al White, and Jackie Wiggs.

Marcella announced the deaths of Sarah Henson, Sunshine Committee Chair, and Dorothy Veirs. These Lifetime PCMGs will be missed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Beth Phelps asked that all work and education hours be turned in so they are credited properly for this year. Patti Womble, Stuff Committee, asked that all "stuff" recently ordered be picked up today.

Louise Starling, Retention Committee, gave a gentle reminder to those who have not already done so, to pay dues and complete work and education hours for this year. The deadline for doing so is December 15.

Arline Jackson, Travel Committee, reported that garden tours in the Wynne area are scheduled for May 4, 2013. Save the date.

Jo Ellen Beard, Social Committee, reminded all to make reservations for the December 4th PCMG Christmas Party at Pleasant Valley Country Club. The party starts at 6 o'clock and \$27.50 includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine or beer.

Charlotte Perdue has Angel Trumpet cuttings for those interested.

Susan Rose, Central Arkansas Iris Society, has iris rhizomes available in several colors.

David Werling, Photography Committee, reported that photos for the annual directory are now being taken outside the meeting room. Stop by if you'd like a new picture.

Steve Lopata reminded the membership that Master Gardener volunteers are needed for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show scheduled for the last weekend in February. Watch for volunteer forms to be distributed soon.

Marcella thanked the Social Committee for their work on the reception welcoming our new Master Gardeners, immediately following this meeting.

Beth recognized Holly Morgan, Horticulturist for the Governor's Mansion and 2012 Friend of PCMG as the 2012 Friend of Arkansas Master Gardeners and presented her with a paperweight memento.

Beth recognized our 5, 10 and 15 year (Lifetime) PCMGs:

5 years of service (2007 class)

GAYE ANDERSON
BONNIE BADAMI
FAYE BARD
BUDDY BROCK
MARTHA BOWDEN
JOHNNY BROWN
MARY ANN BROWN
BELVA COOK
PHOEBE CROCKER
ANNE CROW
KAREN CRUTCHFIELD
RICHELLE DANIEL
LU ELLIOTT
NANCY FITTS
SANDY FURRER
DON GEPHARDT
MARY BEA GROSS
MURRAY HARDING
LAURA HATHAWAY
RUTHIE HIETT
MILLIE HILLARD
SUZANNE LANKFORD
EVA LATHROP
KAY LAVEY
CORALIE MAXWELL
NANCY MITCHELL
BRENDA MIZE
ELENA MOERMAN
MARGARET ROSE NALLEY
DIANA NOLTE
ANN OWEN
WANDA PAES
CHARLOTTE PERDUE
MARITA PERKINS
SUSAN PORTO
MARGARET SCHULZ
CATHERINE STANGER
MARTHA STOBAUGH
GAIL VAUGHN

10 years of service (2002 class)

FRAN ABLES
CARLEE ADAMS
WARREN BOOP
SHANNON CHAMBERLIN
PHYLLIS COLCLASURE
JET CUFFMAN
DON DAVIS
DENA DIXON
ELIZABETH A EDWARDS
DONALD FORD
SHIRLEY C GUNNELS

EARL HILLARD
JANET JORDAN
ALF KOROS
BARBARA KOROS
GAY MCDANIEL
DEBBIE MICKEL
JENNY SMITH
ANNE SPEED
BETH STEWART
MARY VANCURA
BONNIE WELLS
BRUCE WESSON
LYNN WINNINGHAM

15 years of service (lifetime membership, 1997 class)

JIM CAMPBELL
SUSAN CRISP
ELISABETH DILLON
PEGGY GAY
BETTY GLASSCOCK
ROCHELLE GREENWOOD
JEANNE SPENCER
HELEN HRONAS

Lifetime Plus

Azalea - HILDA BOGER

Beth reminded the membership that we will celebrate 25 years of the Master Gardener Program in Arkansas next year.

Beth recognized new Advanced Master Gardeners: Sandy Furrer, Frank James and Alf Koros.

2013 Arkansas Master Gardener Calendars are available for \$1.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to the reception at 12:15.



Checklist by Carol Randle

Winter weather is anything but predictable in Arkansas, some days will be cold, and maybe even snowy, while other days can seem Spring-like, but our plants have to suffer through as best they can. Many of our plants are in less than peak condition after the hot summer and drought. While there isn't a lot you

can do to protect plants from winter damage, you still need to pay attention to the weather and do the best you can. Make sure all of your plants have a layer of mulch. If it gets dry, water particularly your container grown plants, prior to a cold snap. Ample moisture in the ground can ensure ample moisture throughout the plant which can buffer them from winter damage. If you see new growth buds on Hydrangeas or other sensitive plants, covering with a porous material, or even an inverted cardboard box, on days when the temperatures are expected below freezing, can help. Do avoid much contact with plants when it is cold out. Frozen branches are brittle and can be easily damaged. If heavy snows come this winter, lighten the load using a broom from the underside. This can prevent limbs breaking. If you do have storm damage, prune only broken branches quickly. Nice clean cuts are important to prevent decay. If you have burned foliage, or possible winter die-back, let that remain until spring arrives. The damaged plant parts can buffer the rest of the plant if we have additional winter weather.

Most of our gardens have either had a killing frost or should have one soon. When a hard freeze occurs in your yard that is the time for major clean up. Cut back spent perennials, pull out frost damaged annuals, and do general clean up. There are still leaves to be raked, mulch to be spread, composting to be done and new planting chores. Fall is a great time to garden, and we are more inclined to want to be outdoors now, than we were last July and August. Take inventory of your garden now. For deciduous plants, you won't know the full extent of summer damage until next spring, but if you know you have dead plants, start to remove and replant. Fall is an ideal time to plant hardy trees and shrubs, but hold off on the more tender plants like Hydrangeas, Gardenias, and Azaleas. We can't predict what winter has in store for us, and these plants can suffer in a colder than normal winter.

While artificial Christmas trees are definitely popular- especially the pre-lit ones, fresh trees add fragrance and choosing one together can make a good family memory. If you are using a fresh tree, make sure you give it a fresh cut on the base before adding it to the stand. This opens the cut end up and allows for better water uptake. Better yet, soak the tree in a bucket of water, and even hose it down the day before you bring it in. The fresher the tree, the longer it stays fresh indoors, but they all dry out over time. Tree preservatives that you get at a commercial stand or nursery can help, but avoid home remedies like lemon-lime soda or sugar, as it can gum up the works and may attract ants.

HOUSEPLANTS

By now all houseplants and overwintered flowering tropical plants should have been indoors at least a month. They may still be showing the signs of transplant shock. Houses are particularly dry indoors with heat, and lower lights coupled with a more static temperature can take its toll. Cut off any yellow or damaged leaves, and greatly reduce the amount of water you are giving them. Try to give them as much light as possible, but avoid fertilization. Our goal is to keep them alive and as healthy

as possible. Overwatering is typically the number one killer of houseplants.

Houseplants that are indoors are not doing much growing during our shorter days of winter, with low light and low humidity. Fungus gnats can sometimes plague our plants, especially if you are keeping them too wet. Catching the offending adults on a sticky trap—a yellow piece of paper covered in petroleum jelly works well. Then start letting the plants dry out between watering. If you still have the gnats after you do this for a week or two, try watering with a solution of insecticidal soap. No fertilizer is needed now, nor is it a good time to repot.

INDOORS: Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Orchids, and pre-chilled bulbs (Hyacinths, Paper-whites, and Daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring flowering shrub (such as Forsythia, Fruit trees, Oriental Magnolia, or Quince) into one gallon of warm water with two tablespoons of ammonia. Enclose the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open. Amaryllis bulbs will add more color. Pot them and give them a little water after you get them home. After growth starts, water well and keep in the sunlight. They will bloom in six to eight weeks. Stake, because they will get tall and top heavy. If you are going to overwinter Poinsettias, place them in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now. Reduce watering and begin feeding again in spring. Don't allow potted Azaleas to dry out, their soil must remain moist.



ANNUALS

Winter annuals have been blooming nicely for a while. Fertilize Pansies and Violas on a mild winter day. Deadhead spent flowers. Many spring flowering bulbs are up and growing. Some early blooming varieties of Crocus and Daffodils will actually start to bloom in February. When you see the flower buds showing, that is a great time to put a complete fertilizer around them. This way the fertilizer can work itself into the soil, the plants can take it up and be ready to work when the flowers are finished. Remember, all spring bulbs need at least six weeks of growth following bloom. For those of you who just discovered a bag of bulbs you didn't get planted, plant them ASAP. Hopefully, you have been storing them in a cool location where they have been meeting their chilling requirement needs—temperatures below 50 degrees. They will not hold until next spring, so you need to plant and enjoy them. The shorter the chilling period, the shorter the stems will be, but they should still have time to come up and bloom.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp; but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early spring. Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying

infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early spring. There is still time to plant spring blooming bulbs. Try to get them in the ground by the end of December to ensure they have ample chilling hours. If you can't plant immediately, store them in a cool location to start the chilling process. Spring bulbs need a minimum of 12-16 weeks of cool temperatures for them to be able to stretch and bloom. When planting, be sure to pick a site with well-drained soil. Plant two to three times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground.

VEGETABLES

Start cool weather vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in six to eight weeks. In late January, Poppies and Sweet Peas can be planted directly in the ground. Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to give the green materials time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather if plants are mulched, it will resume in spring and produce greens in May. Add a six to eight inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

GENERAL YARD

Winter has always been considered the slowest time in the garden, but it can be very busy if you start planning for next year's garden. Now is the time to order seed catalogs. Remove plants that aren't thriving in their current locations. Try to figure out the reason for the lack of success. Often it's a matter of planting depth, or an over accumulation of mulch, or a diseased root system.

LAWNS

Remove fallen leaves that may smother grass and plants from the lawn. Apply lime to lawn in December or January. Winter weeds started growing extremely early this fall. By now, many lawns have large clumps of green from Henbit, Chickweed, Wild Onions, Garlic and Dandelions. The earlier you can spray and kill them, the more likely you will be to reduce the chance of seed set for potential problems next fall and winter. Products containing 2,4D will give you the best results. Many gardeners want to use a Glyphosate (Roundup) product on their dormant lawn, but this can cause damage to all lawn grasses, except for dormant Bermuda grass. Even Zoysia, which looks the most straw-colored, has green grass at the soil line. If you have only a few clumps of Wild Onions or Dandelions, use a weed tool to get the plant out, roots and all.



TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant Camellias for winter color. They come in color ranging from white to pinks to reds and mixtures. Anyone who can grow Azaleas can grow Camellias. Plant in a well- drained area out of the afternoon sun. Evergreen trees and shrubs will drop some of their older leaves. If the flower buds and newer foliage at the end of the branch are okay, don't worry. It is normal. Be sure to water regularly if it doesn't rain.



ROSES

Wait until late February or early spring to prune your Roses.

What's in bloom in your garden in January? Color can often be at a minimum in the winter landscape, but it needn't be so. Camellia sasanqua is still blooming usually through January, while the Camellia japonica won't kick in until late February or early March. Hellebores are blooming now, as early as November through May, depending on the variety. Winter Honeysuckle (Lonicera fragrantissima) and wintersweet (Chimonanthus praecox) both have highly fragrant blooms in the winter landscape. To get an early whiff of fragrance, cut a few stems judiciously from the plants and force them into bloom indoors. Mahonia or Oregon Grape Holly is another evergreen with yellow flowers in the winter, followed by Robin's egg blue fruit. Flowering Quince (Chaenomeles speciosa) and Winter Jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum) are two other early bloomers. Berries are a great way to add color to the garden. The deciduous hollies are loaded with fruit, and with the absence of the leaves, their bright red or orange berries really shine. Other female hollies also have berries, along with Nandinas and Skimmia. If you can get it to survive, Winter Daphne (Daphne odorata) is one of the most fragrant plants in late winter.

DECEMBER COLOR

Camellias, Dogwood, Hollies, Nandina, Osmanthus, Aquifolium, Possum Haw, Rosehips, Tea Plant, Viburnums, and Violas.

JANUARY COLOR

Camellias, Heather, Hellebores, Hollies, Winter Honeysuckle, Jasmine, Mahonia, Possum Haw, Flowering Quince and Witch Hazel.



Private Well Owners

A free, online class for private well owners is being developed with funding from USEPA through a grant to the Rural Community Assistance Partnership. The attached press release and flyer have more details. We are contacting you today to inform you of the program and ask that you help promote these activities with well owners and those that serve them in your state. The class is set up to be self-help over 10 weeks, with materials emailed once a week to participants. Well owners can sign up anytime, and though the first week will be sent on **Jan 1, 2013**, anyone signing up after that will start as soon as they sign up. So, someone just finding out about this in April can sign up and start the class then. There are three webinars that will provide well owners a chance to reinforce what they are seeing in the class material and ask questions of the presenters.

Each webinar will be repeated every three months through **August 2013**, so no matter when someone starts the class, they will be able to see all three at least once.

For more information, contact Cassia Smith at cassiears@illinois.edu or 217-333-8700.

smallwatersupply.org
privatewellclass.org



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
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