



# Pulaski County Master Minutes

September 2013

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

Volume 23 Issue 8



## Wine & Cheese at Good Earth Nursery Tuesday, October 1st, 4 to 6 p.m.

They will present a program on planting Fall Color in Pots. Come early and shop. They will have lots to choose from!



Mary Evans is in need of an old antique TV set from the 50s or 60s, possibly with a bubbled out screen for the 2014 Garden Show. Keep an eye out for one that may be lying around on a curb. She is also looking for an old pole lamp. Please contact Mary for pickup 664-7863 [argardengoddess@att.net](mailto:argardengoddess@att.net)

How do you know you are a Master Gardener?

There is a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.

You would rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothing store.

You prefer gardening to watching television. You plan vacation trips to arboretums and public parks.

Dirt under your fingernails and calloused palms are matters of pride.

## AELC Fall/Winter Schedule



For your friends that can't take the Master Gardener course!

Landscape Design 101                      Christy Marvel  
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28 & Nov 4

Autumn Color Explosion!                  Mary Evans  
Oct 14

Spring Garden: Bulb Blast!                Mary Evans  
Nov 7

Mesh Mania! Wreath Workshop          Mary Evans  
Oct 21 & Jan 25

Holiday Decorating Workshop          Mary Evans  
Dec 5 & 12

Floral Design 1                                Donny Moore  
Sept 24, Oct 1, 8, 15  
Jan 14, 21, 28, Feb 4

Floral Design 2                                Donny Moore  
Oct 29, Nov 6, 12, 19  
Feb 11, 18, 25, Mar 4

For more information call: 666-0759  
[www.extendedlearning.org](http://www.extendedlearning.org)

## 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.



### Tomato gravy

- 8 cups chopped tomatoes with juice
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 large red onion, medium dice
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced or crushed through garlic press
- 1 cup dry red wine
- 1 tsp dried marjoram (or fresh minced if available)
- 1 Tbsp kosher salt
- 1 Tbsp pepper
- 2 bay leaves
- 1-2 Tbsp bacon grease roux or to desired thickness

1. Sauté onion in olive oil over medium-high heat until translucent and softening, about 4-5 minutes. Add garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.
2. Add chopped tomatoes with juice and bring to boil.
3. Add red wine, marjoram, salt, pepper, and bay leaves. Return to boil and simmer for 30 minutes to allow flavors to develop and meld.
4. Add roux to reach desired thickness. Serve hot over fresh biscuits with two eggs on the side!

\* A note on roux: we use a bacon grease roux made by heating bacon grease in a pan, whisking in an equal amount of flour, and cooking over low heat until flour taste is gone. You can cook a darker roux for a stronger flavor, but it loses thickening power the longer it cooks. You could also make a roux from clarified butter for a vegetarian gravy or vegetable oil for vegan gravy.

### THE PLIGHT OF THE HONEYBEE

By Betty Deere



Are you aware that we can thank the western honeybee (*Apis Mellifera*) for one in every three mouthfuls we eat every day? Mass deaths in bee colonies may mean disaster for farmers—and our favorite foods. I myself was not aware until recently, that these bee pollinate crops like apples, blueberries and cucumbers. These three food items are absolute favorites in my summer diet, I eat them 2-3 times a week. I want to keep them around.

Honeybees are the "glue that holds our agricultural system together," as journalist Hannah Nordhaus puts it in The Beekeeper's Lament in 2011. But now that glue is failing and bee hives are dying off or disappearing rapidly, thanks to a mysterious malady called "colony collapse disorder" (CCD). This strange phenomenon is so serious that commercial beekeepers are literally being pushed out of the business.

So what's killing the honeybees? The answer most likely is pesticides - including a new class called neonicotinoids - which are harming bees even at what scientists previously thought should be safe levels. Biological threats like the Varroa mite are also killing off colonies directly and spreading deadly diseases.

How did these deadly threats get the upper hand? Our commercial farms have become "mono-farms", growing the same one or two crops every year (like wheat or corn) and these plants provide little/no pollen for foraging bees. So the bees are literally starving to death. We need to act now, or there may not be enough honeybees to meet the pollination demands for many valuable plants.

But even more serious, the vanishing honeybee could be the herald of a permanently diminished planet Earth, since we live in a world where up to 100,000 species go extinct each year.

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All things by immortal power,  
Near or far, Hiddenly  
To each other linked are,  
That thou canst not stir a flower  
Without troubling of a star.  
By English poet Francis Thompson

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### Beginning Beekeeping A COMPLETE 3-PART SHORT COURSE!

Tuesday Evenings, 6-9 p.m.  
October 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

Classes will be held at the UA Cooperative Extension Office  
Auditorium

2301 S. University Avenue

There is no charge for the course, but registration is  
required

No prior knowledge of beekeeping is required  
For more information, contact the Pulaski County  
Cooperative Extension office at 501-340-6650



## Master Gardener & Horticulture Events Calendar for Arkansas

**Bernice Garden Farmers Market**  
April 14 through mid-November  
Sundays, 10-2 pm  
1401 S. Main, Little Rock

14th- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Arkansas Master Gardener Program Celebration.  
17th - Fragrant Garden Advanced MG Class, Eureka Springs, AR. FULL  
19th - "Indians of the Ozarks" George Sabo, University of Arkansas Professor of Anthropology and Author of several books on Native American History including Paths of Our Children: Historic Indians of Arkansas. Meet in Student Center of Northwest Arkansas Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pinalto [479-361-2198](tel:479-361-2198) or Joyce Mendenhall [479-466-7265](tel:479-466-7265).  
**Mount Holly Garden Series 2013**  
19th-Ted Lewis of Floral Express, Holiday Table Decorations All lectures begin at 9:00 a.m. and are less than an hour. Bring your lawn chair, wear your gardening hat and have refreshments at the Bell House, in the heart of historic Mount Holly Cemetery.  
Master Gardeners earn education points for attendance. Sponsored by the Downtown Dames. A \$5.00 donation to Mount Holly Cemetery is suggested  
22nd- County 76 General Membership Meeting

### November

12th & 13th - Blooms for Sun and Shade Advanced MG Class, Searcy, AR. Application and schedule coming soon.  
16th - "The Effects of Native and Invasive Plants on Insect Life" Dr. Don Steinkraus, University of Arkansas Professor of Entomology, Meet in Student Center of NWAR Technical Institute, Ford Av. and Old Missouri Rd., Springdale, AR. Meetings are free and open to the public. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program starting around 10:00 a.m. Contact: Gail Pinalto [479-361-2198](tel:479-361-2198) or Joyce Mendenhall [479-466-7265](tel:479-466-7265).

Laurin Wheeler Program Series - Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR.



## Checklist by Carol Randle

Janet says, "Our gardening season was better than we expected this year with an abundance of flowers and fruit. How well we take care of our gardens now, will determine how well they bounce back next spring. Spring flowering shrubs and trees are setting (or have set) flower buds for next year. Do not let the plants get too stressed with dry weather now; water is really your only maintenance at this point. It is too late to fertilize and definitely NO PRUNING. September usually gives us a day or two of cooler weather to let us know fall is on the horizon, but overall it is still pretty hot in September. *Water is the most vital factor still for plant success*, but you can still fertilize annuals, vegetables and container gardens."

### FRUITS

Take care of your fruit bearing plants from Blueberries to Apples, Peaches and Pears. Small fruits are much easier to grow in the home garden than tree fruits, unless you want to be diligent in your spray and pruning program. Blueberries and Blackberries are the easiest of the small fruits to grow. Blackberries have canes which can be thorny or thorn less. (I would prefer the thorn less.) If you are growing them in your garden, after the canes bear fruit they die. If you don't prune them out immediately after fruiting, you now have a lot of dead canes mixed in with the new living canes which will bear fruit next summer. Clean them up and keep the new canes pruned to a height of 4-5 feet so they branch and keep the fruit at a good picking height next year. Blueberries are setting fruit buds for next year, so water, water, water. They need annual pruning in the winter time along with other fruit trees.

### ANNUALS

Summer annuals that got regular applications of fertilizer and water are still performing nicely. Some have played out from neglect, but replacements are here. 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, Callibrachoas, Flowering Kale and Cabbage, Dianthus, Asters and Chrysanthemums. Ornamental Peppers are also a great way to add color in the fall garden.

### PERENNIALS

If Peonies, Lilies, and even Hostas look bad, start cutting them back. They have finished their life cycle and will be heading

into dormancy. Buckeyes and Flowering Quince may also look a little bedraggled, but they do this every year in late summer. 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 this late in the season. Mid September through October is the ideal time to divide Peonies. Herbaceous crowns are set one to two inches below soil level; Tree Peony plants at four to seven 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 two to four 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 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 plant 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

The vegetable garden is still producing; tomatoes are rebounding and beginning to set fruit again with the cooler weather. They can continue to produce until a killing frost. We are still growing Peppers, Eggplants and harvesting Melons. Now is a great time to replant. Last year, Janet had Broccoli, Bok Choy, Swiss Chard, Kale and greens in the garden all winter long. They even survived the cold temperatures and the ice and snow with no added protection. Get them established now and you can have fresh vegetables all winter. If you want to grow less winter hardy vegetables such as Lettuce, Radishes, and Onions, plant them now, as well, and use a row covering over them on colder days. 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, and Brussels Sprouts. Asian Greens, such as Bok Choy 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.

#### HERBS

Fresh herbs are showing up in flower gardens, containers and stand-alone vegetable gardens. If you have annual herbs such as Basil and Dill, harvest them regularly to keep them producing foliage. As we near fall, be a bit more sparing in your pruning of the perennial herbs-Rosemary, Thyme and Sage. They can continue to be harvested and used in cooking, but don't butcher them, since they are permanent plants in the garden and won't put on a lot of new growth this late. The Pineapple Sage is beautiful right now with its spikes of red flowers and the Garlic Chives blooms are now clusters of seed heads. Unless you want to have an abundance of Garlic Chives in your garden you may want to deadhead these plants now, as they can be quite aggressive. If you don't have herbs growing in your garden, they can be planted now as well. Don't forget to water to get them established.

#### LAWNS

Most of us grow southern grass, primarily Zoysia and Bermuda, with a little Centipede and St. Augustine in the mix. If you have already fertilized this summer, then your work is done, except for watering and mowing. Leaves will begin to start falling later this month, but raking is usually done a bit later in the season. A light covering of leaves can be handled with weekly mowing, but

when they begin to fall in earnest, it is best to rake 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. If you have not fertilized all season, a light application of a complete fertilizer can be applied now. Try to have it done by mid-month. We don't want to encourage too much tender growth as we head into dormancy. It is also getting a bit late in the season to worry about summer weeds. We don't want to stress the lawn too much as it prepares for fall. You can use a pre-emergent application for winter weeds, but for now, either hand pick or keep the summer weeds mowed.

#### 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.

#### CONTAINERS

Container gardens should have color in them year round. Some may need refreshing now with the addition of new plants, while others may simply need some pruning and/or fertilizing to spruce them up. Tropical foliage and flower plants can stay outside until mid October, but if you want them to survive inside for the winter; they need to be moved inside well before the first frost. Some plants will bloom non-stop until frost if fertilized and watered. You can also add some fall plants into the mix to keep the color going. Remember, water is even more critical with a finite amount of soil and roots. Frequent watering also leaches out nutrition, so don't forget to fertilize as well.

#### 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 gorgeous 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.

#### MONTHLY BLOOMS

Ageratum, Alcea Rosea, Althea, Coral Vines, 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, Polygonium, Periwinkle, Petunias, Phlox, Roses, Rosemary, Salvias, Sage, Sedum, Spirea, Torenia, Viola, Vitex (Chaste Tree), Yucca and Zinnias.



In the garden, Autumn is, indeed the crowning glory of the year, bringing us the fruition of months of thought and care and toil. And at no season, save perhaps in Daffodil time, do we get such superb colour effects as from August to November.

**Rose G. Kingsley**



## 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 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 2012, these volunteers gave **12,478** 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  
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