

Pulaski County Master Minutes

May 2014

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

Volume 24 Issue 4



Ann Wood with the White County Master Gardeners will be the speaker at the May meeting. Her topic will be on Hydrangeas.



If you have not paid your 2014 Pulaski County Master Gardner dues, they are now \$20 as of May 1st.

Please make you check out to PCMG and send to Susan Crawford, 50 Saratoga Dr, Little Rock, AR 72223. If you are not sure if you have paid you dues, check with Susan crawford.susan73@yahoo.com or 868-7862.



Tomato Chips By Debra Redding

Roma Tomatoes (Can use others)
Kosher or Sea Salt
Dried Basil

Instructions

Cut tomatoes into 1/4 inch slices. Arrange on dehydrator trays.

Sprinkle very lightly with salt and basil.

Dry on vegetable setting for 8-12 hours or until crispy.

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.



Access School Spring Plant Sale

10618 Breckenridge Drive LR
Friday, May 23 8am-3pm
Friday, May 30 8am-3pm

**Pulaski County Master Gardener Greenhouse
Plant Sale**

Saturday May 3
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Little Rock Master Gardener Greenhouse
7th and Palm Streets, behind the Arkansas State
Hospital

Mount Holly Garden Series

May 17....Mark Gibson from Green Thumb Nursery
9AM at Mount Holly Cemetery, refreshments and
door prizes

A \$5.00 donation benefits the Mount Holly
Cemetery

Education Hours for Master Gardeners
your seat, please make check to AUHSA and mail
to Fran Ables, 124 Pine Valley Rd, Little Rock, AR
72207

**Saturday, May 31 Polk County Master
Gardeners Presents a Hands-on Workshop**

Lee Coates will teach how to make Papercrete Pots.

Check out his website

www.thepapercretepotter.blogspot.com for details.

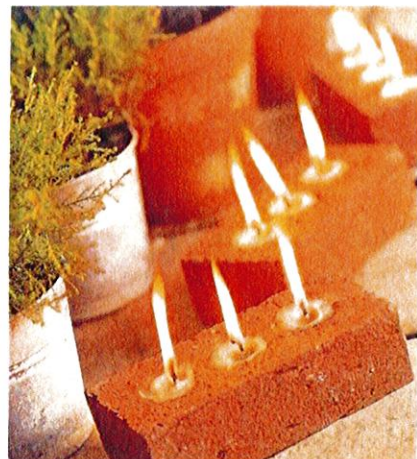
There will be two classes on Sat. May 31st: Basic,
at 1:30 p.m. (\$20) and Advanced at 4:00 p.m. (\$30).
Class size will be limited to 30 each class, with pre-
registration and pre-payment required. Checks
should be made out to PCMG, and sent to the
Extension Office, 211 DeQueen Street, Mena, AR
71953, ATTN: Linda Elliott.

You may contact Linda Elliott 479.234.5590 for
more details.

Creative Garden Ideas

By Debra Redding

Six great ideas for old or new bricks.
Great weekend projects that will add charm to any
garden!







Checklist by Carol Randle

In spite of the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers", wise gardeners must still think about unpredictable heat and drought conditions when planting spring gardens. With winter annuals nearly finished, this is an excellent time to plant blocks of summer annuals for a splashy impact.

CLEANUP

By now, all plants should be up and growing in your landscape. Anything that hasn't shown any signs of life needs to be replaced. There are quite a few dead or severely damaged plants in our landscapes due to the toll our past growing season has taken on them. However, you may find that they may look dead, but when you scrape the branch you may find that the branch is green inside. This happened in one of our beds at the Amy Sanders library. Take out the old, dead plants and then assess the landscape. Consider the maximum size you want the plant to be, how much sunlight or shade and what is growing around it. What type of maintenance are you willing to provide? What season in your garden needs some extra color? You don't have to replant the exact same thing that was there, branch out and try something new. Consider plants that have more than one season of interest, or that bloom for an extended period of time. If you don't like to water much, consider using drought tolerant plants.

BULBS

You can remove the foliage from spring bulbs approximately six weeks or so after they've bloomed. Now is a good time to start planting summer bulbs such as Caladiums, Elephant Ears, Dahlias and Pineapple Lilies (Eucomis). Lift and

store bulbs that are not cold hardy in Central Arkansas; otherwise, you will need to replace them the following year.

HERBS

Fresh herbs are a wonderful addition to your cooking talents, but they also make great ornamental plants. Herbs are easy to grow whether you are interspersing them with flowers in the vegetable garden or in a stand-alone herb planting. Perennial Rosemary, Sage and Oregano do well year-round, while the annual Basil and Dill thrive in our summers. Fennel, both green and bronze is showy and adds great interest to cut flower displays.

ANNUALS

Summer annuals arrive weekly at nurseries and garden centers. See Janet's article in last Saturday's newspaper where she lists 10 good, new plants for the flower bed. Start pulling out the Pansies and Violas and replacing them with plants for the summer. Whether you have sun or shade, there are so many options to choose from. Impatiens, Torenia, Caladiums, Elephant Ears, Begonias and Coleus are good options. For the Sun garden there are Angelonia, Cupheas, Zahara series Zinnias and Supertunias. When choosing annuals, mix in one to three colors and group plants in blocks to make the "WOW" factor. Annuals need regular fertilization to get the most out of them. Start with a complete slow release fertilizer at planting, and then use a water soluble form every two to three weeks throughout the season.

VEGETABLES

If you planted an early garden, you are in the midst of harvest. As you harvest, replant with heat loving vegetables and herbs. If you did not plant Corn, there is still time. Late season planted Corn will need to be monitored more closely for Corn Earworms. Using a few drops of

mineral oil directly on the silks when it begins to form is one way of keeping the insects at bay. Mulch your vegetables with shredded leaves, newspapers, or a similar product. Utilize your space to get the most from your garden. While there is still time to plant Tomatoes, Peppers, Eggplant and Squash, it's also time to plant Sweet Potatoes, Okra, Southern Peas, and Pumpkins.

BERRIES

Strawberries start in May and the berry season ends in October with Muscadines. These small fruits are easy to grow in a home garden, provided you have at least six hours of sunlight a day. Strawberries are perennials, but they do need thinning annually after harvest. If you let them get too crowded, you will end up with a mass of foliage leading to smaller fruits and more fruit rots. Fertilize after thinning, water and mulch and they can give you great fruit for weeks each May.

HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants and heat-loving tropical flowering plants can all go outdoors safely now. If you are growing plants that you have kept for several years, repot them now and fertilize regularly or you won't see as many flowers this growing season.

LAWNS

Most of the weeds that were in our Winter and early Spring lawns now appear to be dead; however, they are simply dormant and will return with the Fall's cooler temperatures. Currently, we have summer weeds, such as Nutgrass and Crabgrass to manage.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

St. James United Methodist Church

By Judy Chapman, Acting Secretary

Members present: Bren Coop, Patti Womble, Marylea Gazette, Walter Jennings, Judy Chapman, Susan Crawford, Darla Adams, and Georgia Harris. President Walter Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:05.

There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, they were approved as written.

The Treasurer's report was given by Susan Crawford and Darla Adams. The report was approved as presented.

Bren Coop was recognized for her years as the club's treasurer and regrets that she will be relocating to Oregon soon.

OLD BUSINESS

The State Conference silent auction items were discussed. It will be held at St. James in early October.

The expenses of the Continuing Education Committees were discussed. Darla suggested that there be a budget line in the yearly budget this fall. Pattie will communicate this to the chair, Kathy Ratcliff.

NEW BUSINESS

Beth Phelps replacement will be Randy Forst from Carroll County. He will officially take the position on June 1st, 2014.

The County 76 Advanced Training will take place on July 10th, 2014.

Bill Harris presented Picture Power point that he will prepare.

Nominating committee for the next year's officers will be led by past president, Marcella Grimmatt. Patti and Georgia will work with her and present nominations for the two new at large members at the May meeting.

Board members were encouraged to keep in mind potential board members.

Leave of absence was requested by John S. Smith. It was approved.

Walter Jennings explained the Saturday morning Master Gardener Training that has been proposed by Janet Carson. The training wants to attract those who wish to be in the Master Gardener Program but are unable to attend weekday training sessions. Janet will promote this through her Saturday morning columns. Applicants in Pulaski County would be interviewed by our organization. The classes would meet on five (5) Saturdays for the training. The board suggested that there will need to be a strong mentor program for these trainees as well as examination of projects on which they could work. Other issues will be discussed at the May meeting.

The Quapaw Quarter Tour needs volunteers for their upcoming event. Motion was made by Marylea and seconded by Darla that Education hours will be given for Master Gardeners who volunteer. The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Pulaski County General Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 15, 2014 St James United Methodist Church

President Walter Jennings called the meeting to order at 11am on 4-15-14.

Members of the Maumelle Community Center Project were recognized and their project highlighted in Walter's "Project of the Month."

Announcements:

Walter reported that Beth Phelps, who is now the Ozark District Director of CES, has announced that Randy Forst, currently serving as Cooperative Extension Agent Staff Chair for Carroll County, will become the CES Staff Chair for Pulaski County on June 1st. Tom Bruce invited everyone to Wildwood Park to enjoy the blooming native azaleas and said there are a dozen or so different types making a brilliant display at this time.

Suzanne Potts asked that members sign up for the Spring Reception and dinner to be held at the Governors' Mansion on May 15 at 6 p.m. Payment reservations should be in the hands of Glenda Arledge before noon on May 5th.

Pat Freeman announced the Pulaski County Greenhouse Plant Sale will be held Saturday, April 19 from 8-11 am and again on May 3rd. The Pathfinder Greenhouse committee would appreciate help moving plants from Jacksonville to Little Rock on Wednesday, April 16.

Jackie Walker said the Travel Committee is planning a "Backyard Bees" trip to the home of Fred Walker at 2917 Ozark, LR, on Friday, May 16 at 1 p.m.

Fran Ables invited members to a continuing education event entitled "The Cracked Pot Gardener" by guest speaker, Cindy Sharpton, hosted by the Herb Society at the Little Rock Garden Club House on May 10. Cost is \$10, and reservations should be made with Fran.

Walter reminded everyone about the Silent Auction at the State Convention and asked that donations for the auction be brought to the next meeting or given to Marcella Grimmett or delivered to the convention by Wednesday evening, May 28. The auction will be held on Thursday, May 29.

David Werling asked that photos and/or comments be submitted for the Facebook website-either directly or to a member of the photo committee.

Additional announcements made by Walter included: A New Member Training Class - to be held on 5 Saturdays this summer, beginning July 12, is open to all Central Arkansas counties. Janet Carson will be leading this trial class, and county support is asked to acclimate new members into their respective counties.

Don't forget "Bring a Friend to Project," to continue our recruiting efforts for Pulaski County.

We welcome a new member - Carlie Wellons, who has moved to Pulaski County from Arkansas Co.

Patti Womble introduced the day's speaker: Jennifer Gibson, from The Good Earth Garden Center. Jennifer demonstrated construction of attractive container gardens using the principles of "Thriller, Filler, Spiller." She shared slides of additional plant varieties for containers designed for sun or shade

Following the drawing of door prizes, including the container Jennifer had just built, the meeting was adjourned.



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>

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 **13,182** 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

The deadline is the **second Friday** of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650

Master Minutes Staff



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