

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

the  
**Magnolia Chronicle**

Newsletter for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners

**U of A**

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE**  
**RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*



## Ice Cream Social- A Sweet Success

Thank you all for making our ice cream social this past Tuesday a huge success. The Choctaw building was a charming venue for the "social" and attendees enjoyed the cool of the room and the cool of the refreshments while they visited with each other. The staff of the Clinton School were invited to enjoy our bounty and several enjoyed the ice cream sundaes, cookie treats and fresh squeezed strawberry lemonade (yum).

"I took the remaining ice cream, toppings, cookies and lemonade to the day center for the homeless on Confererate Blvd. Everyone so enjoyed the unexpected treat! Thanks for your generosity!" Mary Wildgen

We had a really good turnout as about 120 master gardeners braved the humidity and high temperatures to tour the gardens, enjoy the ambiance of the historic Choctaw Building, enjoy refreshments and socialize. Some of the students in the new member summer class came, toured the projects and had their initiation into the Pulaski County MG social world.

Many pictures were taken and will be shared so look for your delightful faces having fun, fellowship and keeping cool.

Again, thanks to all the social committee members, particularly Katherine Friday and Cherry Smith for co-chairing this event and to Mary Wildgen for providing the already scooped ice cream. We appreciate all of you who provided delicious cookies, toppings, ice cream, drinks, ice, etc. and helped serve. A special thank you to those who come and enjoyed.

Katherine Friday



# September Checklist by Carol Randle

Janet says it was another summer of extremes-wet, then dry, and cool then hot, and all parts in between. We are in the home stretch for hot weather gardening, but don't throw in the towel yet. September is notorious to tease us with a day or two of mild weather, and then bounce back with extreme heat. **Water is still a primary concern, so monitor local rainfall amounts.**

## 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 their 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.**

## VEGETABLES

People are discovering the joys of vegetable gardening. We can now grow edible plants year round with just a little extra protection in the winter months. Cool season gardening has great advantages because there are much fewer insects and diseases, and weeds are not as challenging, especially if you mulch. Start planting Lettuce, Radishes, Broccoli, Cabbage, Spinach and Greens. Mulch is always a plus and water is a vital component for survival.

## HERBS

Herbs are a great addition to the garden. They are showing up in flower gardens, containers and stand-alone vegetable gardens. They are easy to grow and use in cooking. Find out if they are annuals or perennials. Annual herbs, such as Basil, need to be used frequently to keep them bushy and bloom-free. If you harvest more than you can use at one sitting, dry them and use later, or mix some in with water and freeze in ice cube trays. You can add these to soups and stews all winter. 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 don't put on a lot of new growth this late.

## FLOWERS

If your garden needs late summer color, consider planting some late Summer bloomers. Perennials include Japanese Anemones (*Anemone hupehensis*), Turtle Head (*Chelone* spp.), Toad Lilies (*Tricyrtis*) and Joe-Pye Weed (*Eutrochium purpureum*). Ornamental Grasses are beginning to set their plumage and will continue to grace our fall and Winter landscapes. Summer annuals that got regular applications of fertilizer and water are still performing nicely. 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, Callibrachos, Flowering Kale and Cabbage, Dianthus, Asters and Chrysanthemums are all blooming now. Ornamental Peppers are a great way to add color in the fall garden.

## 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. 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, also.

## INDOORS

Dig up your Begonias by the end of the month 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.

## LAWNS

You can apply one last application of fertilizer until mid-month, then no more until next spring. If you want to use a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent winter weeds, now would be a good time to apply. Continue to mow and water as needed.

## SHRUBS

Shrubs that are blooming now include Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia* spp.), Crape Myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*), if deadheaded (not "crape-murdered"), Althea (*Hibiscus syriacus*), and Caryopteris with lovely purple flowers. Summer Spirea (*Spiraea* Spp.) may set more flowers if they continue to put on new growth, as May the reblooming Hydrangeas (*H. macrophylla*) such as Endless Summer, "Bailmer" and "Blushing Bride". Knock Out Roses (*Rosa 'Radrazz'*) are still blooming, and Beautyberry (*Callicarpa* spp.) will soon be showing off purple or white berries.

## PESTS

Continue to monitor for insects and diseases. Aphids and Spider Mites are beginning to build up and if you park under shade trees, you have probably noticed the sticky droppings on your windshield. If it gets really bad, just take your hose and spray the lower branches of your trees with a strong spray of water. Weeds have not slowed down with the dry weather and many summer weeds are setting seeds now for next season. Get out the hoe or mow to prevent seed set.

**GARDENING – A CAPITOL IDEA**  
**The 2017 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference**

It's about a year and a half before the Pulaski County Master Gardeners host the 2017 Arkansas Master Gardener Conference. Organizing and planning have already begun. Everyone involved is very excited! The name decided on is: GARDENING – A Capitol Idea. The dates are May 21-23, 2017 with preconference tours on May 20. The location will be the DoubleTree Hotel in conjunction with the Robinson Center on Markham Street in Little Rock.

The Pulaski County Master Gardener organization is the official host of the conference. Everyone is needed to help make the 2017 conference a great success. Currently, we are in need of volunteers and ideas. A list of all committees and committee chairs is at the end of this article. If you see a committee you would like to serve on, please contact the Chairman, Joellen Beard or Co-chair, Valerie Smith. If you have never attended a state conference, do not fear - several of the committee chairs have not attended one either. If they can chair a committee, you can volunteer. There is one catch - there are only so many volunteers needed, so, speak up as soon as possible! If you have an idea for the conference (thinking outside the box is encouraged), contact Joellen Beard or Valerie Smith. **Everything goes through Joellen or Valerie - they are our go to people.**

Having the State Capitol located in our city, we have a tremendous amount of state history and lovely public gardens to share. Please share your ideas on activities and sites that we may highlight.

The plan is to keep the Pulaski County Membership regularly informed on what is being planned for the 2017 conference. In addition to the updates in our *Magnolia Chronicle* newsletter, statewide conference newsletters will go out beginning after the 2016 state conference.



**GARDENING – A Capitol Idea Chairs and Committee Chairs:**

**Chairman:** Joellen Beard - joellen.beard@comcast.net

**Co-chair:** Valerie Smith - vismith0531@aolcom

**Communications:** Theresa Funkhouser

**Decorations:** Carol Mendel

**Food:** Jody Jackson

**Goody Bags:** Richelle Daniel

**Hospitality:** Al White

**Merchandise:** Patti Womble

**Monday May 22nd Special Events:** Brenda Mize & Tish DePriest

**Plant Storage:** Mary Helen Henry

**Photography:** Bill Harris

**Pre/Post Tour:** Juanita Nesbit

**Registration:** Marylea Gazette

**Secretary:** Kathy Ratcliffe

**Silent Auction:** County 76

**Speakers:** Marilyn Tilley

**Sunday, May 21th Afternoon Events:** Anne Speed & MaryAnn Gammill

**Sponsorships:** Cathy Mayton

**Thank You Correspondence:** Shirley Actioner

**Tours:** Chris Lalande, Marianne Ligon and Becky Rainwater

**Trade Show:** Vicky Kessel

**Transportation:** Bob Anderson

**Treasurer:** Judy Woodard

**Volunteers:** Melody Parsley



## Message from President Marylea Gazette

Hope you were all able to attend the Ice Cream Social in July. All the gardens looked great and the ice cream and treats were wonderful. Thanks to Ann Filiatreau for setting this up, the projects who participated and our wonderful social committee for the food. It was a fun day. We will begin with our monthly meetings again Sept 15<sup>th</sup> with a lot to cover and a great speaker. We had 19 new members graduate from the Saturday class and the fall class started this past Wednesday with 27 more folks to join us. They will meet every Wednesday and complete the program Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. We welcome the 46 new gardeners this year and we will need them as we have a surprise announcement for everyone at the September meeting. Looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Marylea

**Please join us at the  
September  
meeting**

St James United Methodist  
Church  
September 15, 2015 at 11:30 am

Jane Gulley  
presents

**"Natives in the Landscape"**



*Remember to record your hours!*

### **You Know You're A Master Gardener When**

10. You rejoice in rain...even after 10 straight days of it.
9. You have pride in how bad your hands look.
8. You have a decorative compost container on your kitchen counter.
7. You can give away plants easily, but compost is another thing.
6. Soil test results actually mean something.
5. IPM rules!
4. You'd rather go to a nursery to shop than a clothes store.
3. You look for gardens open to the public whenever you go on vacation.
2. Your non-gardening spouse is actually getting involved with your garden endeavors...digging ponds, building bird houses, watering, pruning, turning compost piles, planting...

And you definitely know you're a Master Gardener when...

- 1. You are surrounded by terrific people who share your passion!**



### Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center Welcomes Monarchs

Monarch butterflies migrating through central Arkansas have a welcome awaiting them at the Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center. The butterfly gardens here, which virtually exclusively contain plants native to Arkansas, were established and are maintained by members of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. These gardens have received the distinction of being a certified Monarch Waystation. They thus join over 10,500 registered Monarch Waystations which extend from several Canadian provinces through the United States to Mexico, Puerto Rico and Grand Bahama. Of these, sixty-five (65) are in Arkansas.

Monarch Waystations are certified and registered by Monarch Watch, a non-profit program at the University of Kansas. The program promotes education, conservation and research related to the monarch butterfly, its habitats and migration. Habitats are being destroyed by loss of acreage due to development, loss of host milkweed plants and nectar sources due to changes in farming techniques, pesticide use and aggressive roadside mowing. Monarch Waystations are certified to provide host milkweed plants upon which Monarch eggs are laid and the larvae subsequently feed, and to provide nectar plants for sustenance for the adult butterflies.

The Monarch Waystation program represents a way by which individuals and groups of various types can do something substantial and specific to help these beautiful creatures, the Monarchs. The Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center is proud to be a part of this noble effort.

Article submitted on July 29, 2015 by

Lynda Ford

Pulaski County Master Gardener

Witt Stephens Jr. Central Arkansas Nature Center Project Work Group Member

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## Tools for the Garden Shed

2015

### Mount Holly Garden Series

Sponsored by Margaret Wyatt and the Downtown Dames.

Meets' the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday morning on the month through

September 19 – Arkansas Rose Society by President John Baker

October 17 – Halloween, Thanksgiving & Christmas Decorations by Ted Lewis



**2015**  
**ARKANSAS HONEY FESTIVAL**

<b>SEPTEMBER</b> <b>19, 2015</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b> <b>9-4 PM</b>
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*Presented by Bemis Tree Farm*  
**WWW.BEMISTREEFARM.COM**

<i>Honey Contest &amp; Tasting</i>	<i>Educational Workshops &amp; Childrens' Activities</i>	<i>Food &amp; Live Music</i>
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**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL HONEY ENTHUSIASTS**

*13206 Asher Road Little Rock, AR 72206*

### Upcoming Event:

#### Master Gardener Appreciation Day at Garvan Gardens

September 10, 2015 from 9am to 6 pm.

Free 2016 MG Calendar given at gate to Master Gardeners and specialist lecturing in the garden. Don't forget your nametag.

#### Need Hours? Other Educational Opportunities

Arkansas Extended Learning Center is hosting:

Oct 8 - **Dazzling Autumn Color in the Garden**

Oct 29 - **Fall Bulb Blast!**

Nov 17 - **Mesh Mania** (mesh wreath making)

Dec 3 & 10 - **Holiday Decorating Workshop**

More Information at: [www.extendedlearning.org](http://www.extendedlearning.org) or Call 501-666-0759

**Arkansas Unit Herb Society of America**  
**Autumn Tea in the Garden**

**Where: Herb Garden at the Governor's Mansion**  
**(Spring Street/West Gate entrance)**  
**When: October 1, 2015**  
**Time: 2:30 - 4:00pm**  
**Cost: \$35.00 per attendee**

**Reservations required. Limited seating.**  
**Send check/cash with name to**  
**Fran Ables**  
**124 Pine Valley Road**  
**Little Rock, AR 72207**  
**by September 24, 2015**

## More From the Shed

### **Veggie Bar Recipe Revealed!!!!**

At the new MG Reception, we had several questions about the **Veggie Bars** that were served...so I submit the following recipe:

#### **Veggie Bars**

2 pkgs. crescent roll **sheets**  
12 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1/4 c. mayonnaise  
2 T. dried dill weed  
2 T. lemon juice  
1 1/2 tsps. Lawry's Seasoned Salt  
1/8 tsp. garlic powder  
1-1/2 c. Broccoli  
1-1/2 c. Cauliflower  
1-1/2 c. red bell pepper **or**  
4-1/2 cups veggies of your choice

Press crescent roll sheets to cover a jellyroll pan that has been sprayed with oil. Pinch center seams together and prick dough with a fork. Preheat oven to 400 degrees then bake for 10 minutes. Mix mayonnaise, cream cheese, dill weed, lemon juice, Season Salt and garlic powder. Spread on warm crust. Finely chop vegetables and spread over cheese mixture. Use wax paper to press veggies into cheese mixture then refrigerate overnight. Cut into small squares...makes 30 to 40 servings.

Mary Roark  
MG Social Committee

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