

M A R C H 2 0 1 6

The  
**Magnolia Chronicle**

Newsletter for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners



**U of A**

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

*University of Arkansas System*



## **Rose Committee at Work!!!**

### **Everything is coming up roses!**

The PCMG unanimously approved a new project - **The Courthouse Rose Gardens**. Jane Gulley presented the details on this highly visible project which is located at 401 W. Markham. The gardens are located at the north and south ends of a large park like setting that is a city block long. They were designed to enhance the Pulaski County Courthouse built in 1889 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

After receiving wonderful cooperation from the crew at the Courthouse, Jane and her Committee have "fine pruned" the 146 rose bushes. The period of neglect has ended so the roses will have a chance to recover from their sad conditions. The Committee is working on plant selection for other parts of the garden. Workday is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday. Congratulations to Jane and her Committee!!



## Edible Flowers

by Phyllis Barrier

Using flowers in cooking has been done in many cultures since ancient times. Flowers add beauty, scent, and flavor to food, and their colors can uplift our Master Gardener spirits. Many years ago my first experience of being served flowers was at a Pike Place Market restaurant in Seattle. It was a delicious salad, but what made an impression on me was the sprinkling of colorful chopped-up pansy petals.

Some flowers, like squash and pumpkin flowers, can be stuffed. Some can be mixed with eggs; used in quesadillas; or sprinkled on soups, pasta or pizza; or added to cookies and cakes. Others can be candied, such as violet and rose petals, with their scents preserved and absorbed by the sugar. Candied flowers can be used whole as candied garnishes and sprinkled over desserts. To enjoy flowers in the winter months, think about making flower-flavored jellies and vinegars. They also make nice gifts.

And now a few words of caution:

- Identify flowers and confirm they are not poisonous prior to eating.
- Consume only flowers that have been grown with no pesticides.
- Introduce new varieties of flowers into your food diet slowly to screen for allergic reactions.

To prepare flowers, shake them several times to get rid of any insects that might be inside. Rinse the flowers gently in a bowl of cool water and pat them dry. If you are preparing the flowers ahead of time, store them between slightly dampened paper towels in the refrigerator.

Flowers are not necessarily effective when placed whole on a plate, other than as a decoration. Unless they are very tiny blossoms, flowers are most effective when they are cut into small pieces. When cutting flowers, treat them gently and cut them using a pair of scissors or a sharp knife. Flower petals bruise easily; don't chop them as if they were herbs.

Using flowers in the kitchen can be fun. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Basil, garlic chive, marjoram or oregano flowers sprinkled on pizza and pasta dishes.
- Woodruff flowers sprinkled on a dish of berries or made into May wine.
- Bergamot (Bee Balm) petals are beautiful sprinkled on peach shortcake.
- Chive blossoms sprinkled on a dish of asparagus or green beans.
- Fennel flowers scattered on a bowl of potato salad.

- Lavender incorporated into cookies, cake and cream, or frozen in ice cubes to add to summer drinks.
- Marigold petals add a saffron-like color to butter spreads.
- Rose petals sprinkled on desserts or salads.
- Squash blossoms stuffed with cheese, then battered and fried.
- Pineapple sage blossoms sprinkled on pineapple sorbet.
- Arugula blossoms topping off a goat cheese and mixed green salad.
- Mint flowers on a stem added to a glass of iced tea or a cocktail.

In researching this story, I found this website very helpful.

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/choosing-and-using-edible-flowers-ag-790.pdf>

Here's a simple recipe to get you started:

### Composed Walnut and Flower Salad

#### **Salad Dressing:**

- 2 tablespoons white wine, white balsamic or tarragon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon sugar, honey or 1 packet sugar substitute
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

#### **Salad:**

- 4 cups spinach or mixed salad greens
- ½ cup edible flowers (chive, coriander, pansy, scented geranium or violet)
- 1-2 tablespoons chopped mint leaves
- 1-2 tablespoons snipped chives
- 2 tablespoons coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans, toasted

#### **Directions:**

Combine the salad dressing ingredients in a bowl and stir well with a whisk. Divide the spinach or salad leaves evenly among 4 salad plates. Top each serving with the walnuts, the herbs, and then the flowers. Drizzle with the dressing.

Note: Salad dressing can be made and refrigerated up to a week.

**Bon Appetit!**



## Happenings

Please join us at the March Meeting  
St James United Methodist Church  
March 15, 2016 at 11:30 am

The program will be presented by:  
Paul Creel,  
"The Healthy Gardener"

Paul is an Occupational Therapist at  
UAMS. He will show us how to work in  
our gardens without hurting our  
bodies.



## Twilight at the Mansion

Thursday, April 14, 2016 5:00-6:30 pm  
Arkansas Governor's Mansion/Grand Hall  
1800 Center St., Little Rock, AR 72206

Featuring Tom Wilhite, Senior Editor

The New Southern Living Garden Book  
Book signing & purchase of books available

For More Information Tickets \$25.00  
Call or Text Wine & Cheese  
501.831.2521 Tour of Mansion & Garden  
501.765.9727

A program of the Arkansas Literary Festival  
[www.LRGardenClub.wordpress.com](http://www.LRGardenClub.wordpress.com)



### PCMG SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Friday, April 22 4 – 8pm Spring Fling at Heifer International Pavillion  
Event Chairs: Susie Green and Jane Blackall
- Saturday, May 14 TBA Ice Cream Social  
Event Chairs: Cathy Mayfair and Glenda Arledge
- Saturday, Sept 10 6 – 8pm Fall Harvest Event  
Event Chair: Debbie Jernigan
- Tuesday, Nov 15 1 – 2:30pm New Member Reception at St. James UMC  
Event Chairs: Melanie Gibson and Mary Roake
- Tuesday, Dec 6 11:30 – 1pm Christmas Party  
Event Chairs: Laura Sholes and Richelle Daniel

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

# Happenings

## 2017 State MG Convention Update

Even as we are making our personal plans for and thinking about this year's State Convention in Eureka Springs, the Pulaski Master Gardener Convention Committees are working on the 2017 State Convention. Currently, ideas are being discussed and researched.

To start with, the convention is in need of donations both cash (sponsorship) and items (for the "goody bags"). We are asking our Pulaski County Master Gardener members who have connections to businesses that would donate either money for our events or items for the "goody bags" to please contact Joellen Beard or Valerie Smith with these suggestions. All businesses qualify - large and small. There will be approximately 700 participants from the 75 counties throughout Arkansas at the conference which would be great exposure for businesses. If you have ideas, you will not be left alone to solicit the donations. The Sponsorship and/or Goody Bag committees will help. These committees can develop a packet of information for their prospective donor to review. The committee chair(s) can call on the prospective donor with or without the referring MG member.

As many of you know, garden tours are always a big part of state conventions. We need suggestions for gardens to tour - preferably, private gardens. If you know of a private garden that is over the top, knock your socks off gorgeous or interesting, please contact Joellen Beard. The garden can be some private individual's home garden; a church's garden with unique plants, landscaping, history; an organization's garden that is not public but has interesting qualities; etc. And, of course, the gardens should be within the Pulaski County boundaries - Jacksonville, Little Rock, Maumelle, North Little Rock, Sherwood and the Unincorporated Area of the County. The committee will contact the garden owner/proprietor to discuss the possibility of using it for a tour and determine if it fits the criteria.

Another request is for items for the County 76 auction that benefits The Janet Carson Scholarships given to high school seniors entering college and majoring in horticulture related subjects. Please start thinking about garden related items you might want to donate for the 2017 Conference Auction.

Joellen Beard's contact info is: [joellen.beard@comcast.net](mailto:joellen.beard@comcast.net)  
Valery Smith's contact info is: [vismith0531@gmail.com](mailto:vismith0531@gmail.com)

In response to a request to republish the various Committee Chairs they are as follows:

### 2017 MG Conference Committee Chairs

Chairman	Joellen Beard - <a href="mailto:joellen.beard@comcast.net">joellen.beard@comcast.net</a>
Co-Chair	Valerie Smith - <a href="mailto:vismith0531@gmail.com">vismith0531@gmail.com</a>
Communications	Theresa Funkhouser - <a href="mailto:tmsf@sbcglobal.net">tmsf@sbcglobal.net</a>
Decorations	Carol Mendel - <a href="mailto:cfmendel@aol.com">cfmendel@aol.com</a>
Food	Jody Jackson - <a href="mailto:vjackson00@comcast.net">vjackson00@comcast.net</a>
Goody Bags	Richelle Daniel - <a href="mailto:rdaniel28@comcast.net">rdaniel28@comcast.net</a>
Hospitality	Al White - <a href="mailto:alvin72205@yahoo.com">alvin72205@yahoo.com</a>
Merchandise	Patti Womble - <a href="mailto:pwombl1@aol.com">pwombl1@aol.com</a>

**State Convention Committees continued:**

Sunday Events MaryAnn Gammill - [mgammill@swbell.net](mailto:mgammill@swbell.net)  
Anne Speed - [annewspeed@gmail.com](mailto:annewspeed@gmail.com)  
Sponsorships Cathy Mayton - [cathy.mayton@icloud.com](mailto:cathy.mayton@icloud.com)  
Thank You's Shirley Acchione - [jcasea@comcast.net](mailto:jcasea@comcast.net)  
Tours Chris Lalande - [calakiki@sbcglobal.net](mailto:calakiki@sbcglobal.net)  
Marianne Ligon - [latinligon@yahoo.com](mailto:latinligon@yahoo.com)  
Becky Rainwater - [beckyrainwater@att.net](mailto:beckyrainwater@att.net)  
Trade Show Vicky Kessel - [vkkessel@aol.com](mailto:vkkessel@aol.com)  
Transportation Tim Kelly - [tbkelly111@gmail.com](mailto:tbkelly111@gmail.com)  
Treasurer Judy Woodard - [jwshotgundans.com](http://jwshotgundans.com)  
Volunteers Melody Parsley - [melody.parsley@gmail.com](mailto:melody.parsley@gmail.com)  
Monday Events Brenda Mize - [mizebk@gmail.com](mailto:mizebk@gmail.com) Tish Depriest - [tishd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tishd@sbcglobal.net)  
Old State House Tracie Kelley - [tkelleylaw1@aol.com](mailto:tkelleylaw1@aol.com)  
Reception  
Plant Storage Mary Helen Henry - [maryhelenh@gmail.com](mailto:maryhelenh@gmail.com)  
Photography Bill Harris - [billsmar@att.net](mailto:billsmar@att.net)  
Pre/Post Tour Juanita Nesbitt - [jnesbitt55@12@att.net](mailto:jnesbitt55@12@att.net)  
Pulaski Co Ext Agent Randy Forst - [rforst@uaex.edu](mailto:rforst@uaex.edu)  
Registration Marylea Gazette - [mgazette@swbell.net](mailto:mgazette@swbell.net)  
Secretary Kathy Ratcliffe - [kathy.ratcliffe@att.net](mailto:kathy.ratcliffe@att.net)  
Silent Auction County 76  
Speakers Merilyn Tilley - [merilyntilley@gmail.com](mailto:merilyntilley@gmail.com)



**Arkansas Daffodil Society Show**

March 19-20, 2016  
Sat. 1:00 – 5:00pm Sun. 1:00 – 4:00pm  
White Hall Water Park  
Crenshaw Springs Building  
9801 Dollarway Road  
White Hall, AR

Contact: Gary McClure 870-575-2446 or  
Char 870-942-7957  
(Please no calls after 5:00pm)

Enter daffodils on Friday from 5:00-10:00pm or  
Saturday from 7:00-10:00am

## From the Garden Shed



Master Gardeners having fun volunteering at the Flower & Garden Show setup!!!



Time to Pay Your Dues!!!!

Amount: \$20.00 until  
May 1<sup>st</sup> after \$30.00

You can pay at meetings or mail:  
Sharon Gragg, Asst. Treasurer  
107 Bouriese Circle  
Maumelle, AR 72113  
501.803.0898

Remember Members to turn in your *Volunteer Agreement* to the Extension Office or sign at next meeting.

Little Rock Greenhouse needs our help!

Looking for ¼" plexiglass to replace 20"x20" panels in the greenhouse. They can cut if needed. They are also looking for narrow Venetian blinds as well.

Please contact Pat Freeman – [Pat.freeman3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Pat.freeman3@sbcglobal.net)

They will be happy to pick up any donations.



Creating Beauty  
in the Ozarks  
Master Gardener  
State Conference  
Eureka Springs, Ark.  
Carroll County

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The 2016 Arkansas State Conference in Eureka Springs is officially FULL with a waiting list--and that is a new record. Totally full in less than three weeks! If you want to be added to the wait list, you can call in.

Janet Carson [icarson@uaex.edu](mailto:icarson@uaex.edu)

March Checklist  
By Carol Randle

Signs of life are appearing in our landscape. As this issue goes to press, crocus, daffodils, hellebores, tulips and dianthus are just a few of the plants that are beginning their spring bling!

#### Shrubs

Now is the time to look for any winter damage on any spring bloomers, such as azaleas. They need to be fertilized, but only after flowering is finished. Plants grown mostly in summer or fall for their foliage or flowers can be fertilized as they begin to grow. Most established shrubs need only one application of fertilizer a year. If shrubs are damaged, two light applications may be recommended, one at new growth and again six to eight weeks later.

#### Vegetables

As soon as your soil is workable, start planting cool-season veggies. Cool season gardens are the easiest to maintain and require very little care after planting. Lettuce and radishes offer a quick return. Cabbage, potatoes, onions, spinach and greens are great choices. Insects and diseases are less of a problem in the cool weather. Ample rainfall makes for low maintenance. No space for a large garden? Consider planting vegetables in pots or among your flowers. A minimum of six hours of sunlight is all you need.

Seeds for warm weather crops, such as peppers or tomatoes can be started in the greenhouse or on your windowsills. Allow six to eight weeks to get good size transplants. Our last frost date is about March 20 to April 1, depending on what part of the county you live in. Get the "Year Round Home Garden Planting Chart" from the County Extension Office. This a guide for planting times, when to plant, and the estimated first and last frost dates.

#### Herbs

Consider planting herbs in your vegetable garden or even as ornamentals, interspersed with other flowers and shrubs. These nice additions can be used in your kitchen or arrangements. Be careful to avoid pesticides around any edibles.

#### Annuals and Perennials

Unless a devastating cold snap kills them, winter annuals such as pansies and violas will be getting into high gear with blooms until hot weather. Deadhead, fertilize and be patient. Don't be tempted to plant heat lovers too quickly - wait until at least mid-April. If you need to divide any summer or fall blooming plants, now is a great time to do so. Crowded plants don't bloom as well. Dig up the plant and divide, leaving two or three crowns per division. Soil preparation will go a long way in building a stronger root system that will give you a stronger plant. Spring ephemerals, like bloodroot, trilliums, and trout lilies are a great addition to the early spring garden. They are called ephemerals because they are here today and gone tomorrow.

#### Houseplants

Houseplants don't look all that perky indoors, and many gardeners think they would benefit from some sunshine on a mild March day. While it is a nice thought, it isn't a good idea. Wait until late April to make their move outside. If you have tropical flowering plants inside, you can give them a haircut now, but hold off on repotting until you move them outside. Avoid "sunning" your plants outside on nice days, you may sunburn them.



### International Gardens Matching

Match the image in Column "A" with the name and location in Column "B"

<p><b>Column A</b> International Garden Picture</p>	<p><b>Column B</b> International Garden Location</p>
<p>1. </p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>The Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, England</b> Set amid 132 hectares (326 acres) of landscaped grounds, greenhouses are in an elegant setting 16 kilometers (10 miles) from London.</p>
<p>2. </p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Butchart Gardens Vancouver Island, British Columbia</b> The Butchart Gardens are a dazzling example of a successful reclamation project.</p>
<p>3. </p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Master-of-Nets Garden Suzhou, China</b> This residential garden in southeast China, called Wangshiyuan in Chinese, was designed during the Song dynasty (A.D. 960-1270).</p>
<p>4. </p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Dumbarton Oaks Washington, DC</b> You might feel as though you've stepped into a Merchant-Ivory set in any of the gardens that make up this estate at the north end of Georgetown, one of Washington's poshest neighborhoods.</p>

☺ How did you do? ☺ For answers:  
 Come to **Spring Fling** April 22, 2016; 6:00 PM in  
 Heifer International Village Pavilion  
 Cost: \$20.00  
 Heavy International Hors d' oeuvres & Cash Bar  
 Entertainment!  
 Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Youth Quartet  
**Tickets must be purchased by April 19, 2016 by 1:00pm**

