

The
Magnolia Chronicle

Newsletter for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners



UofA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



Picture by Phyllis Barrier

Patti Womble
The President's Vision

Patti is a native of Kansas and moved to Arkansas when she was 13 years old. She was formerly an industrial chemical sales representative for CENCO Chemical. She met her husband through the interruption of a sales call by her husband's uncle. She believes it was one of the best interruptions ever. She is retired and focuses on charity, fundraising and family. Patti is married to Jim Womble and they have 3 children: Andrea, Ted and Carra. She has been a Master Gardener for seven years. When she first became a Master Gardener, Patti and her committee created a fundraising campaign to build and repair the greenhouses. Since the Master Gardener Program is not a fundraising organization, Patti was able to use her talents to address this untapped need. Patti admits that she does not have a master's in green thumb; however she has other skills that include leadership, fundraising and encouraging others. She joined Master Gardeners to learn more skills in the garden. Her mother and stepdad grew a large and extensive vegetable garden to help feed their blended family of nine.

See questions and answers with Patti on next page.

MG: What is your vision for the MG program?

PW: I want everyone to have a positive and enjoyable experience and learn from their experiences.

MG: What are some of the changes you would like to see with the MG Program?

PW: My goal is to streamline some of the responsibilities of our committees, and reduce time spent by some of our committee chairs. I would also like for us to start reviewing our projects on a timely fashion.

MG: How can the County Extension office staff be used more effectively?

PW: First, try to locate answers to your questions by utilizing the volunteer manual. If you need help, clear and concise questions with all the information included are helpful. We are a large organization and we need to be respectful of staff's time.

MG: Is there a mechanism for MGs to make suggestions?

PW: They can call or email me, and I will get it to the right committee chair, if I don't know the answer.

MG: What do you want your Presidential Legacy to be?

PW: When my year is over, I hope we will have a stronger, more organized group. We are all volunteers, and I want members to enjoy their time with their peers. I want our projects to be stronger and not afraid of changing leadership. I want those following in my role to be informed and ready for the upcoming years of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Program!



PCMG Spring Garden Tours and Ice Cream Social

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Gardens 2:00 to 4:00

Ice Cream Social 2:30 to 4:30

Come tour the following gardens: All gardens open from 2:00 to 4:00

- **Helen Porter's garden at 4800 Hawthorne, Little Rock, AR 72207**
Helen worked closely with P. Allen Smith to design a garden that is beautiful on many levels. Come enjoy English boxwoods, camellias and many roses nestled around a calming labyrinth. Helen now works with Josh Lindsey who assists her in maintaining the beauty.
- **Frances Buchanan's garden at 4920 Hawthorn, Little Rock, AR 72207**
You will be welcomed in the front by boxwoods, azaleas, Japanese maples and a Little Gem Magnolia adorned with caladiums. Only to find a back garden filled with peonies, hibiscus and roses and a stunning antique water feature. Frances uses her garden guru, Prissy Taylor, for advice.
- **Cathy Crass' garden at 4521 Country Club Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72207**
This garden includes many evergreen plants: magnolia trees, hollies, boxwood, camellias and azaleas adorning a pool, porch and small fairy garden.

Come compare notes of gardens at the Ice Cream Social at Hillcrest Hall, 1500 Kavanaugh Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72205 from 2:30 to 4:30.

- Tour the front garden at Hillcrest Hall for education credit.

Tour Details:

- Please Carpool
- Wear comfortable shoes all gardens are within a half of a mile of each other
- Homes will not be open
- PCMG hours: 1 hour touring gardens = one education hour; 1 hour working as a volunteer in the gardens = one hour of volunteer time

*This event is hosted by the PCMG Social committee
Katherine Friday, Karen Mauermann, and Glenda Arledge. The board
event chairs are Cathy Mayton and Carol Young.*

Happenings

Please join us at the May Meeting
St James United Methodist Church
May 17, 2016 at 11:30 am

The program will be presented by:
Nolen Buffalo,
"Hydroponic Gardening and Aquaponic
Gardening!"

Nolen is the owner of The Water Buffalo in
Little Rock.



Save the Date!!!

**County 76 P-N-G Leadership
Conference**

**September 26 & 27
To be held at the Ferndale
4-H Center**

***Look for conference details and
volunteer opportunities in the June
newsletter**

P-N-G Chairman- Walter Jennings

PCMG SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday, May 14 1 – 4pm Ice Cream Social
Event Chairs: Cathy Mayton and Carol Young
- Saturday, Sept 10 6 – 8pm Fall Harvest Event at Wildwood Park
Event Chair: Debbie Jernigan
- Tuesday, Nov 15 1 – 2:30pm New Member Reception at St. James UMC
Event Chairs: Melanie Gibson and Mary Roark
- 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.

Calling all Potential Master Gardeners!

Do you know of anyone who would like to join our Pulaski County group? The deadline for the 2017 class is June 10, 2016.

The class will be held on Wednesdays beginning August 24th with the bus tour to projects.

ACCESS SCHOOL PLANT SALE

Dates:

Friday and Saturday, May 6-7

Friday, May 13

Friday, May 20

Friday, May 27

Sale is held at the Stella Boyle Smith campus, 10618 Breckenridge Drive in Little Rock. Purchase flowers, succulent garden bowls, hanging baskets, ironworks and pots all benefiting the ACCESS program and services.



2016 MOUNT HOLLY GARDEN SERIES
Sponsored by the Downtown Dames

May 21 "Trees, Trees Glorious Trees", Pete Raush, Arborist

June 18 "All About Bees", Emily Bemis, Bemis Tree Farm

July 16 "Water Gardening", Mark Gibson, Green Thumb Nursery

August 20 Return visit from Susan Rose, Master Gardener

September 17 "Hummingbirds, All About 'Um!" Tana Beasley of Stuttgart

October 15 Return visit from Janet Carson, Extension Hort. Specialist, UA Division of Agriculture

The lectures are the third Saturday morning of each month at 9:00 am, at the Bell House in the center of the cemetery. A \$5.00 donation is suggested. All proceeds benefit Mt. Holly. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the lecture, refreshments and door prizes.

A Fun Story from Mary Evans –

The funniest thing happened at the Philadelphia Flower Show. In 2007 the International Master Gardener Conference was in Little Rock. At every conference since, I always see this same gal from LR conference. She was at one of the gardens I had on the tours. So we recently saw her (Sept) at the Council Bluffs, Iowa conference. While working the concourse at the Philadelphia Flower show a few weeks ago, I saw her. She was wearing the same t-shirt from Little Rock. I handed her a map of the show & complimented her on the nice shirt she was wearing. She thanked me, then laughed, said she didn't recognize me without my famous hat! After we chatted for a little bit, she asked me what I was doing here? Too funny! She lives in Pittsburg & came over for the show. Again, I can't go anywhere without seeing someone I know. Too funny! Later, Mary



Mount Holly Master Gardeners have been HARD at work!



Fern Seed.

We have the receipt of fern seed, we walk invisible (1 Henry IV, act iv. 4). The seed of certain species of fern is so small as to be invisible to the naked eye, and hence the plant was believed to confer invisibility on those who carried it about their person. It was at one time believed that plants have the power of imparting their own specialty to their wearer. Thus, the herb-dragon was said to cure the poison of serpents; the yellow celandine the jaundice; wood-sorrel, which has a heart-shaped leaf, to cheer the heart; liverwort to be good for the liver, and so on.

Did you know these fun facts about Bees? *By Sherree DeWitt*

- The queen bee can live up to 5 years and lay up to 2,000 eggs a day.
- It takes one pound of honey to make two ounces of beeswax.
- One honeybee spends her entire life working just to make 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey.
- 2 million flowers have to be visited to make one pound of honey.
- Honeybees adopted a diet dependent on plants for good. Their wasp cousins are carnivores. Wasps can eat honeybees and other insects, but they also will munch on some nectar too.
- The girls do all of the work! All of the worker bees in the hive are female. The sole purpose of a male honeybee is to mate and die. They do not have stingers, they do not collect nectar, and some don't even feed themselves.
- Honey and bees are mentioned in the Bible 60 times, and there is an entire book of Qur'an devoted to honey bees.
- Bees and flowers depend on each other. Bees receive food from plants; the plants depend on the bees for reproduction. The perfect win-win!
- Bees are the most important pollinators of plants. Honeybees pollinate one-third of all vegetables and fruits.
- A healthy colony contains around 60,000 bees. 30,000 bees are inside the colony helping the queen and attending to the brood. The other 30,000 bees are out foraging for nectar and pollen
- Honey bees communicate with one another by dancing
- It is estimated that 1100 honey bee stings are required to be fatal.
- Honeybees will fly up to 6 miles to visit a nectar source.
- A hive of bees will fly 90,000 miles that is the equivalent of three orbits around the earth.



MAY CHECKLIST

Let's hope our summer growing season is as good to us as our mild winter. This spectacular spring has revealed few signs of winter damage. Many of our spring blooming plants have finished blooming so now is the time to prune any plants with a spring blooming cycle. After bloom is also a great time to fertilize trees and shrubs. Before you pick up those tools to prune, consider what results you when finished. Prune accordingly.

ANNUALS

Our winter annuals quit blooming a little earlier than usual and so it is time to choose their summer replacements. Heat lovers can go in the garden including lantana, ornamental sweet potato vine, zinnia and caladium. If you want to try new annuals try the new Arkansas Diamond plants that were discussed in the April Newsletter and identified by the blue diamond logo. The new 2016 choices are: Plectranthus 'Velvet Elvis', 'Red Graffiti' Pentas, and 'Sriracha Pink' Cuphea. Last year's Arkansas Diamond plants are also great choice and include: yellow Lantana, purple Angelonia, 'Dragonwing' Begonia, purple Scaevola, 'Cora Cascade' Periwinkle, and Redhead Coleus.

BULBS

You can remove the foliage from spring bulbs approximately six weeks or so after bloom. 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 compliment to your cooking talents and make great ornamental plants. Whether interspersed among flowers/vegetable garden or in a stand alone herb planting. Perennial rosemary, sage, oregano and lemon thyme do well year-round. The annuals basil and dill thrive in our summers. Fennel, both green and bronze, is showy and adds great interest to cut flower displays.

PERENNIALS

Perennials are looking great right now. Peonies are blooming beautifully along with Baptisia, Amsonia, and Foxglove (*Digitalis* spp.). Taller flowering perennials often need support from stakes to keep blooms upright, especially in heavy rains. Know which of your plants need fertilizer and which don't. Most spring bloomers will benefit from an application of fertilizer after bloom. Hostas need fertilization two or three times a season. My Caramel and Citronella Heucheras are looking great while my Hellebores are still going strong.

VEGETABLES

Vegetable gardening becomes more popular every year. Early vegetable gardeners are in the midst of harvest. May is a great month to plant vegetables. The warm season vegetables can be planted, from snap beans and corn, to tomatoes, peppers, squash and eggplants. By May, our soil is warming up so we can begin to plant okra, southern peas, watermelons and cantaloupes. Mulch your vegetables with shredded leaves, newspaper or similar product. This mulch maintains soil moisture, prevents weeds and avoids disease from splashed soil. As one plant finishes its life cycle, remove it and replace. This efficiently utilizes your space. As temperatures warm, pest problems commence. Diseases and insects thrive in warmer temperatures so walk your scout your garden daily. Weeding frequently eliminates competition for water and nutrients.

BERRIES

Strawberries, an easy perennial fruit for the home garden, need annual maintenance. Thin the dense mats of foliage after the spring harvest to discourage fruit rot and increase fruit size/ quality. Mulch, fertilize and water for the best production.

Muscadines are easy to grow in a home garden, provided you have at least six hours of sunlight a day. Blueberries, which need at least six hours of sunlight, are another easy plant for the home gardener. They have white flowers and exceptional red fall foliage. Most blueberries require two different varieties for cross-pollination except the new small fruit container series. Thornless blackberries produce abundant fruit with minimal care.

HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants and heat-loving tropical flowering plants can go outdoors safely now. Most tropical flowering plants need bright light to bloom well. 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. Tropicals such as Mandevilla, Hibiscus and others bloom on new growth and if they are old and root-bound, you won't see much new growth and you won't see as many flowers. As temperatures heat up, watering needs increase. The more you water, the more fertilizer you need.

INSECTS

Insects and diseases are showing their ugly heads-in fact; insects have been pretty active for a while. Aphids multiply faster during drier days, but lace bugs are hitting the Azaleas. It is time to begin spraying/monitoring for bagworms. Bagworms construct a sack from the plant they upon which they feed. The sack protects the crawling larvae from predators and insecticides, so the key is to catch them as they begin. If you had a bad case of them last season, you might consider a preventative spray starting mid-May and once a week until mid-June. An organic approach is to spray with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Don't forget about weeds, either. Chambers bitters is up and running. This weed resembles a small mimosa tree and sets seeds almost immediately on the underside of the plant. Mulberry weed, pigweed and nutsedge are also getting started. Don't ignore them or they will take over the garden. A sharp hoe is a gardener's best friend.

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 fall's cooler temperatures. We currently have weeds such as nutgrass and crabgrass to manage. Lawn lovers also contend with moss that grows in areas with too much shade, compacted soil or wet conditions.

If you are not an 'Arkansas Gardener' subscriber, you are missing a great treat.

Master Gardeners and County Agents are calling all SHUTTERBUGS

It is time to begin submitting your photos to gkbell08@att.net
Below is the information you will need for the 2017 MG Calendar Contest.
Please read the submission requirements:

1. Only four entries per person (One per season) Meaning only one Winter, one Spring, one Summer and one Fall photo may be entered in the Calendar contest. If more than one for a season is sent in, those photos will be disqualified for judging. Also, **if a photo is not in .jpg format it will not be accepted.**

2. The name of the .jpeg file must be as follows:

a) Your name

b) the two letter representation of your county (FA = Faulkner, PU = Pulaski, etc). **If for any reason you do not know your county's two letter ID. It is on our MG only website under County Contacts, or feel free to call, text, or email me.**

c) a brief description of the photo

d) the season the pic was taken WI for winter, SP for spring, SU for summer, FA for fall

For example: GlendaBellFAPetuniasSu.jpeg (indicating **FA**ulkner Co, with a brief description and **SU** indicating summer photo.

3. All photos MUST be between 1 mb and 5 mb for the resolution to be high enough for reproducing.

4. All photos must have been taken in Arkansas.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time.

Thank you,

Glenda Bell

County 76 Communications Chairperson

501-258-4951

gkbell08@att.net



2017 STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE

On March 28th, the committee chairs for the 2017 State Convention had their first meeting in 2016. We met in the Double Tree Hotel followed by a tour of the Robinson Center where we will be utilizing the ballroom for the banquet and Monday's lunch. The meeting was lengthy and informative. We were given a tour of Robinson Center (yes, even under construction). The ballroom is really impressive with wrap around windows and a balcony overlooking the Arkansas River - just beautiful!

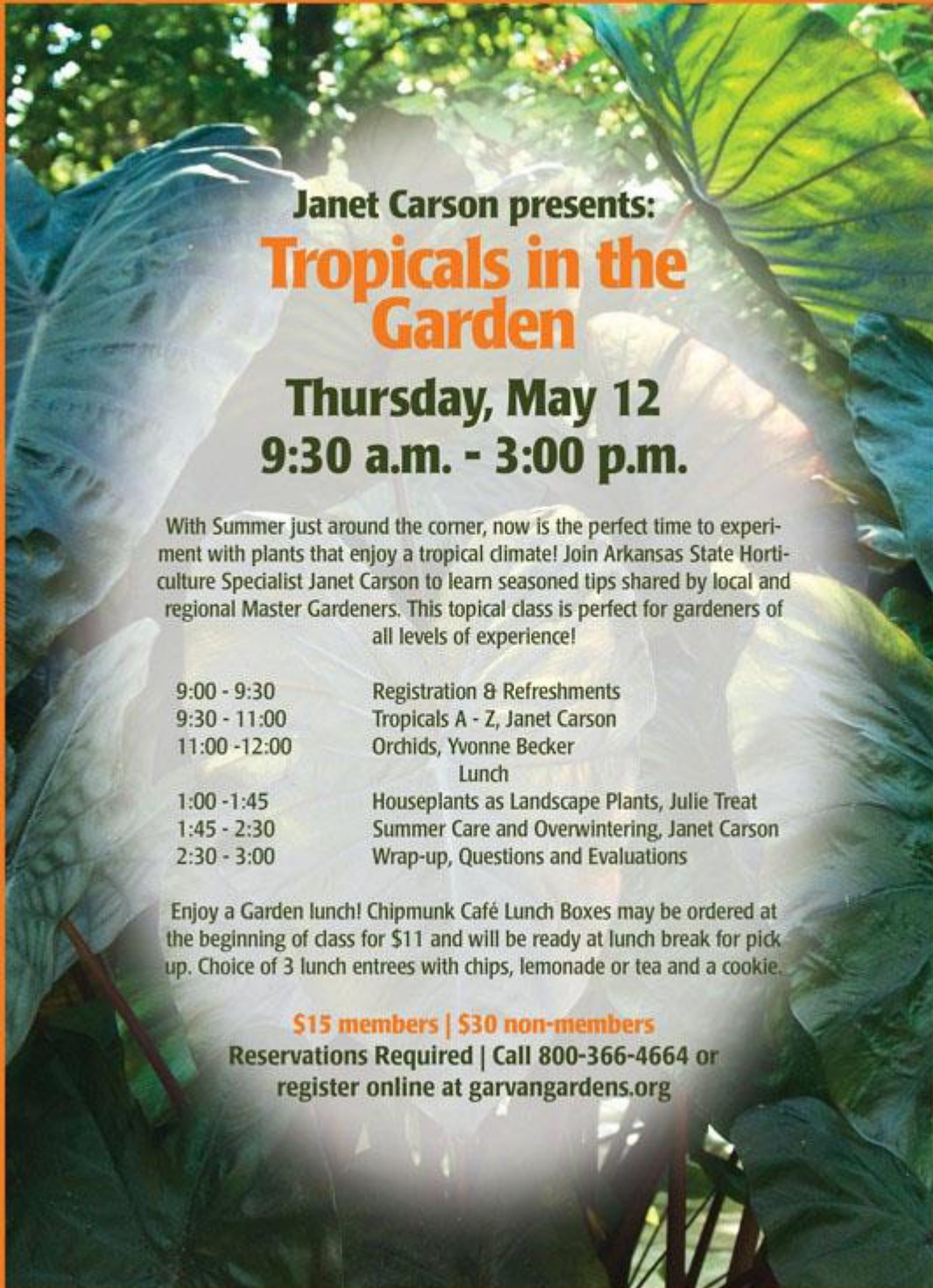
Two keynote speakers, about whom we are very excited, have committed - one for Sunday evening and one for Tuesday morning. Speakers for the various breakout sessions are still under negotiations.

There are four pre-tours being considered. Attendees at the April 19th Master Meeting were able to weigh in on their preferences of two of the four possible pre-tour possibilities. During the convention, tours of private, historic and public gardens being are being organized. That being said, we are still in the market for ideas and/or suggestions for possible garden tours. Please direct all ideas to Joellen Beard. Exact details for speakers and tours will be revealed after our 2016 State Convention.

Various memorabilia "stuff" is being considered to be available for purchase with no final decision having been made. Ideas discussed were T-shirts, aprons, mugs and other gift items.

The special event at the Heifer International Headquarters in Little Rock is sounding very exciting indeed. All attendees will be treated to a tour and a sustainable feast

Planning the 2017 State Convention is very rewarding. Pulaski County MGs are being given a bit of insider info at this point. After the June 2016 State Convention we begin to go state wide with all info.



Janet Carson presents:
Tropicals in the Garden

Thursday, May 12
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

With Summer just around the corner, now is the perfect time to experiment with plants that enjoy a tropical climate! Join Arkansas State Horticulture Specialist Janet Carson to learn seasoned tips shared by local and regional Master Gardeners. This topical class is perfect for gardeners of all levels of experience!

9:00 - 9:30	Registration & Refreshments
9:30 - 11:00	Tropicals A - Z, Janet Carson
11:00 - 12:00	Orchids, Yvonne Becker Lunch
1:00 - 1:45	Houseplants as Landscape Plants, Julie Treat
1:45 - 2:30	Summer Care and Overwintering, Janet Carson
2:30 - 3:00	Wrap-up, Questions and Evaluations

Enjoy a Garden lunch! Chipmunk Café Lunch Boxes may be ordered at the beginning of class for \$11 and will be ready at lunch break for pick up. Choice of 3 lunch entrees with chips, lemonade or tea and a cookie.

\$15 members | \$30 non-members
Reservations Required | Call 800-366-4664 or register online at garvangardens.org