

OCTOBER 2016

The
Magnolia Chronicle

Newsletter for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners

UofA

**DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION**

University of Arkansas System



The War Memorial PCMG Project.....What's New?

Ground was broken in 1947 to build War Memorial Stadium which opened Friday, September 18, 1948. It was dedicated by an Arkansas Razorback and Medal of Honor recipient, Maurice "Footsie" Britt, to the memory of native sons and daughters of Arkansas who had given so much that we might have our freedom.

Saturday, September 19th with seating capacity of 31,000, the Arkansas Razorbacks coached under John Barnhill defeated Abilene Christian Wildcats, 40-6. For those who have lived here a while, you may remember some of those exciting Razorback games in Little Rock at The War Memorial Stadium. Sounds of cheering fans, calling the Hogs and the color of red walking everywhere!

Even though some may overlook the pretty landscaping leading up to the North entrance, but gardeners will surely take notice. As you drive or walk by the Hillcrest area on Fair Park Boulevard and Markham Street, pat a few Pulaski County Master Gardeners on the back for volunteering to keep these grounds appealing. We respectfully remember Barry Holt, previous Co-Chairman of the War Memorial PCMG project established in 1994. May he rest in Peace as his leadership and dedication are appreciated?

According to Mary Dandurand, the project chair, they meet bi-monthly over lunch to discuss ideas, plan for seasonal transition and set dates to tour gardens. "We'll plant a variety of more tulips, snapdragons and violas this year as we get most plants from the Little Rock Greenhouse in exchange for preparing their grounds for bulbs." Marilyn Mason of the Little Rock Greenhouse mentioned War Memorial PCMG project gets the most "call-in" compliments because it is so visible. The Little Rock Zoo is around the corner and the War Memorial Golf Course is right across the street.

Martha Henry, another project member adds, "We like to have fun and the work is not intensive. During the new M.G. training garden tour, War Memorial was a "drive by" visitation instead of a more intimate "walk through" introduction so we got creative." Above is a picture of members marketing to the PCMG bus from the curb! Project members include: Mary Dandurand, Kay Allen, Martha Henry, Debbie West, Lynn Clifton, Dana Rogers and Porter Puckett. IF you would like to join this MG group, or just have ideas to share, call Mary Dandurand or other Members to sign up.

They've got it looking great for the next Little Rock game October 1st, Arkansas Razorbacks versus Alcorn State Braves. Woooooo Pig Soie!!!!
- by Debbie Doyle-West

High Tea from the Social Committee

Katherine Friday and Karen Mauermann, chair and co-chair of the PCMG Social Committee hosted a High Tea at Katherine's home on Saturday, July 20 for current members of the social committee. The ladies attending were encouraged to dress "high society" with white gloves and wonderful summer hats. Joellen Beard took the prize for the largest hat.

Our tea party buffet menu consisted of Katherine's famous spinach quiche and Karen's international offering of superb vichyssoise. Also served were salmon salad tea sandwiches, fresh steamed asparagus, stuffed mushrooms, garden pasta salad, dill potato salad, sliced cheese platter, English scones with clotted cream, lemon poppy seed muffins and Starlight berries and cream trifle.

Katherine offered a brief strolling garden tour as the temperatures were in the triple digits. Part of the charm of the afternoon was sitting in the living room sharing humorous personal stories and laughing until tears were flowing.

Perhaps Katherine and Karen will host another next year!



From the Shed

Show and Sale of African Violets & Other
Gesneriads

Oct. 21 & 22
North Little Rock Community City
2700 Willow Street
North Little Rock, AR
Friday Hours – 12:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday Hours – 9:00am to 4:00pm
Admission is Free

Contact: Danny Tidwell at
dantwell@yahoo.com

News From the Newsletter Gals

If you would like to submit an article,
suggestion or pictures for the newsletter
please contact Jeffrey McKinley at
jeffreymckinley@sbcglobal.net

A big shout out to Phyllis Barrier for her
contribution and editing.

“Garland County Garden Expo”
Saturday October 8, 2016
10:00am to 3:00pm
First Church of the Nazarene
3804 Central Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Come learn about gardening! There are over
30 booths, great speakers and workshops.

PCMG SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, Nov 15 1:00pm – 2:30pm New Member Reception at St. James UMC
Event Chairs: Melanie Gibson and Mary Roark
- Tuesday, Dec 6 11:00 – 1:00pm Christmas Luncheon
Event Chairs: Laura Sholes and Richelle Daniel
Pleasant Valley Country Club

Master Gardener October Program
October 18, 2016
St Jame United Methodist Church
11:00 am
Program

Katie Ewing – a botanist with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation
Department, Enviromnetal Division. Her topics include wildflower programs, seeding
and plant relocation efforts and the milkweed enhancement plan.

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.

More From the Shed

Come listen to the last lecture for the year to our own
Janet Carson!!!!

2016 MOUNT HOLLY GARDEN SERIES *Sponsored by the Downtown Dames*

October 15, 2016 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.



Master Gardener Appreciation Day 2016

Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
4703 N Crossover Rd
Fayetteville, AR 72764

October 10, 2016

Garden Open: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Events on MG Day: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free to all Master Gardeners and County with Name Tag

Pulaski County travel Committee sponsoring a bus to event. Little Rock Tours.
Price: \$70.00 Deadline: October 3. See Katie's email for details.

If wanting lunch and/or t-shirt can order on MG website.

PCMG Social – Fall Harvest Picnic and Scavenger Hunt at Wildwood Park, Saturday, 9/10/2016

What a great event the Social Committee members coordinated this past Saturday. The Fall Harvest Picnic and Scavenger Hunt at Wildwood was a huge success with 77 master gardeners, family and friends being attending. Mother Nature granted our request for milder temperatures and lower humidity. Under cover of the pavilion, it was cool and comfortable.

Special thanks to the social committee members who helped with this event: Karen Mauermann, Katherine Friday, Susie Green, Tricia Luzzi, Jan Paulus, Cissy Skarda, Liz Edwards, Jane Blackall and Dena Peckham. A new master gardener and now friend of the social committee, Staci Grimes, whose project is Wildwood, helped tremendously coordinating the photography for the day, assisting Susie with the scavenger hunt and more.

The food was catered by Starlight Catering , (our own Katherine Friday) and was delicious and very pleasantly presented. The food tables were decorated with a fall theme which added much to the festivities and visions of fall that is just around the corner.

The centerpieces were homemade by our own fellow master gardener, Dena Peckham. She is obviously very creative and talented. The guest tables were decorated with colorful and creatively arranged muted orange and gray tablecloths which presented a perfect backdrop for the centerpieces of barnwood, seashells and succulents. Together this combination made a very attractive ambiance for pleasurable dining and easy conversation.

The centerpieces, plants and a garden tool gift bag were given away as door prizes with Randy Forst and Karen Mauermann handling that part of the festivities.

The plant exchange went well with Tricia Luzzi coordinating. Thank all of you who brought plants from your personal gardens to share with others.

The scavenger hunt resulted in Team 2 winning the mum prizes for first place. Susie Green and Staci had their ducks in a row with four teams "scavenging" and enjoying the natural landscape – flora and fauna that Wildwood has to offer.

Thanks again to the administrative staff at Wildwood for allowing us to use the facility at no charge, use and set up of tables and chairs at no charge and being available to assist in any way they could. Leslie and Ira enjoyed the meal with us.



CHECKLIST FOR OCTOBER 2016

By Carol Randle

I love crisp autumn weather and always anticipate its arrival! Fall is a great time to garden in Arkansas. There are plenty of things to do including a focus on the health of your garden. Cleaning up our beds is very important. Pay attention to moisture levels, especially prior to a hard freeze. Healthy plants should bounce back more easily than those that are stressed. Now is a great time to decorate the landscape with the colors of fall. When choosing plants for fall color, consider how long the plants will last. Unless you need instant color, don't choose plants that are in full bloom, or the flower show won't last as long. Instead, choose plants with plenty of flower buds and some color so the blooms last longer. October is harvest season that goes hand in hand with pumpkins. Look for pumpkins with a smooth outer rind, free of blemishes and with a stem attached. A wide array of colors shades of orange, red, white, green striped, and speckled offer fun pumpkin choices. Throw in a few gourds and mums for instant landscape pizzazz.

LAWNS

Falling leaves are beginning to fall so replenish your compost pile. While a light covering of leaves won't hurt the lawn, don't let them build up so much that they began to pack down. Regular mowing can mulch them enough that you don't have to rake every leaf. A heavy accumulation of leaves can smother out the lawn grasses. Shredded leaves make excellent mulch for flowerbeds and vegetable gardens. Our mowing season has slowed down which also means no more fertilizer.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich your beds with organic and soil amendment. Divide plants that have finished blooming. Most perennials bloom better if they are divided and replanted every three years or so. Remove suckers from Roses and Lilacs. Winterize, protect or lift tender perennials for storage. Mark dormant bulbs so they won't be destroyed when the ground is prepared for spring planting. Be ready when shipments of bulbs such as Crocus, Daffodils, Irises, Day Lilies, Freesias, Hyacinth and Tulips arrive at nurseries, then plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch.

Red Surprise Lilies, *Lycoris Radiata*, have long finished blooming, but their foliage is everywhere. The leaves of these Lilies should stay green all winter long and die down in mid spring. Then their naked flower stems appear with bright red flowers in the fall. Ornamental Grasses are in their prime. Fall is a great time to plant any hardy plant, leave those semi-hardy or marginal plants until spring. October is a great month to plant winter annual color and spring flowering bulbs. Layer the bulbs down deep, at least 2 to 3 times the size of the bulb, and then plant the winter annuals on top. This will give you two layers of color in the spring. When you think of winter color, Violas and Pansies come quickly to mind. New varieties and colors arrive annually. Plant strong blocks of one to three complimentary colors There is still time to plant flowering Kale and Cabbage, but do so soon to allow it a chance to root before winter (If you have squirrels, forget the flowering Cabbage. I lost 29 flowering Cabbage plants the first and only year I tried them). Consider planting edible ornamentals such as Swiss Chard (our Swiss Chard at Amy Sanders lasted two years before we had to yank it, and it looked great). We had several people who asked what it was because they liked it.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Pay attention to weather forecasts. The first frost varies with each season, but on average occurs around the second week of November. Warm season crops typically won't tolerate even a light frost, while the cool season crops can continue to grow all winter with minimal protection. Carrots, Turnips and Beets can actually be left in the ground over the winter and harvested as needed. Broccoli, Kale, Turnip Greens and more can grow throughout the Winter and will usually tolerate temperatures around 28 F without needing extra protection. If you grow Horse-radish, be careful how much you leave in the ground over the winter, as it can multiply. If your garden season is finished, good sanitation is important. Don't till in garden refuse, instead compost the old material, unless it is diseased. In that case, dispose of it. Rarely will home compost piles get uniformly hot enough to kill disease spores. Applying a layer of shredded leaves or grass clippings over the garden will keep it free of weeds in the off-season.

HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants and any other outside plants that won't survive the winter need to be moved inside by the middle of this month, if you plan to keep them for next season. Don't put it off too late or the plants will have more of a shock once they move back inside. Clean up any damaged leaves and check for insect problems. Do check them for insects and thoroughly clean before moving inside. If needed, you can use insecticidal soap, especially on the undersides of the leaves, to assure they are free from pests. Don't prune them too much before moving, because often the combination of lower light, no humidity and a constant temperature leads to some dieback. Save the severe pruning on summer tropical bloomers until spring when they make the move back outdoors. Remember, water needs will be much less inside than they were outside.

CONTAINERS

Janet says that outside plants that are permanently planted in containers need a little extra care as we head into the cooler months. No more fertilizer, but do water. Just because it is getting cooler outside, doesn't mean you need to go without color in your outdoor containers. Garden plants can also be used in containers and you can add some seasonal color around trees and shrubs in pots. If you just use seasonal color in pots, consider under planting with spring bulbs. This can add even more color later in the season.



*You are invited to attend the
Pulaski County Master Gardener
Christmas Luncheon*

Tuesday, December 6th, 2017 at 11:00 a. m.

Pleasant Valley Country Club

1 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Little Rock, AR

\$27.00 per person

Program: Jana Hunter Interiors

******Wear your Master Gardener name tag******

Guest nametags will be available at the door

RSVP by November 21st

Make checks payable to:

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Mail check and names to:

Glenda Arledge

5612 C Street

Little Rock, AR 72205



Member

Guest

Name _____ *Name* _____

Name _____ *Name* _____