

J U N E - J U L Y 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



The UAMS Family Home – A Worthy Project by Betty Deere

A “**home away from home**” is the purpose of The Family Home, providing lodging for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) cancer patients and caregivers, plus a wing for parents of babies in the neonatal unit at UAMS and Arkansas Children’s Hospital. It is a non-profit facility, and residents must qualify as financially needy. Creating and maintaining a lovely serene flower gardening space around the house is the goal of one of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners’ new projects. Opening in 2003, the home is located at 4300 West Markham, on the northwest corner of Markham and Rose Streets.

The Family Home mission is to provide not only beds, but a quiet restful space for people in some degree of distress and worry. This is where the Serenity Garden comes into the picture. And enter the Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Hats off to long-term coordinator at the Family Home, Robin Dean, whose perseverance for eight years (yes, eight years!) made this project happen. She never gave up insisting the garden was a perfect Master Gardener “fit.” She knows the healing power of nature’s beauty to troubled souls. And Robin knew Master Gardeners would create the oasis she envisioned. Becky Hight, Nancy Archer, Lynn Smith, Glenda Arledge, Phyllis Barrier and Jan Partain are the Master Gardeners who maintain the garden.

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UAMS Family Home – A Worthy Project

**I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature,
which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright.
- Henry David Thoreau**

This Garden is in memory of Terry and Garrett Brown – a father and daughter who both died from cancer. This beautiful space offers a serene space for residents to rest, read, meditate or gaze into space as they draw strength and comfort from nature.

The garden located around and in back of the home is relatively small - a long bed about 1,100 square feet that borders the western end of the property. The porch overlooking the garden holds a water fountain where residents can enjoy the soothing relaxation that splashing water provides.

**The subtle magnetism of Nature
Yes will direct us aright
But it is reticent, shy
And needs a place of stillness, of quiet
Before it will offer its voice.
- Roderick MacIver**

The garden will be viewed and enjoyed by hundreds of visitors each year, as many support groups meet at the home frequently, and special events take place there. Robin reports the Family Home Board is very supportive and welcoming to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners for helping make the Family Home “a home away from home.”



2016 Master Gardener PNG Leadership Conference (Plant-Nurture-Grow)

Master Gardeners and County Agents:

Make plans to attend the annual Master Gardener Leadership Conference for 2016. We encourage representation from every Master Gardener Program in Arkansas. Come learn ways to strengthen your county program, meet new folks from other counties, and share with others what is working well in your program.

... Agenda Draft ...

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2016

11:15 AM - 12:30 PM	Registration and Lunch	
1 PM – 1:05 PM	Opening	Walter Jennings (PNG Chair)
1:05 PM – 1:20 PM	Welcome	Dr. Windham
1:20 PM - 1:50 PM	Conference Overview	Janet Carson

Note: The Computer Lab Room will be open and representatives to assist and answer regarding Master Gardener time reporting.

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Presidents' Forum	Quida Wright
	Mentoring – Together We Grow From “A to P”	Mimi Cox
	Newsletter Forum	Joyce Fiddler
	How to Grow a Volunteer Crop	Rebecca Vercher

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

3:10 PM - 4:10 PM	Project of the Year (Large Counties)	
	Money-Money-Money	Janet Carson
	Advanced Training in Your County	Mary Wells
	Disagreeing Agreeably	Jessie Wilson

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

4:20PM – 5:20PM	Small Counties Forum	Meg Fox
	Treasurers Forum	Janice Dickerson
	How to Grow a Volunteer Crop	Rebecca Vercher
6:00 PM – 6:45 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM – 7:10 PM	COUNTY 76	
	Jane Burrow County76 President	Aud.

7:10PM – 8:00 PM	Leadership Is Not A Straight Line	Dr. Karen Ballard
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8:00PM – 8:45 EVENING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES (Silent Auctions & Refreshments)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

7:30AM – 8:15AM	BREAKFAST	
8:20AM – 9:10AM	What are they really thinking and learning and needing?	Dr. Natalie Bumgarner

CONCURRENT SESSION 4

9:20AM-10:20AM Parliamentary Procedures Dr. Stacy McCullough
Conflict Resolution Consensus
Running A Successful Plant Sale Betty Baxter & Maire Caverly
Mentoring Mimi Cox

10:20AM- 10:30AM BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSION 5

10:30AM – 11:30AM Money-Money-Money Janet Carson
Conquering On-line Reporting Jane Burrow & Glenda Bell
Consensus Building (Continuation) Amanda Perez
Project of the Year (Small Counties)

1:45AM – 12:30PM LUNCH

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM MG Update Janet Carson
1:30 PM – 1:45 PM Closing Remarks Chair

Appeal for a few volunteers to assist with this year PNG Leadership Conference.

While most planning has been completed, we still need help with registration and during conference.

The state PNG Leadership Conference will be hosted by Little Rock and County 76 at Ferndale 4H Center on September 26th and 27th. The PNG Conference purpose is to allow for the sharing of ideas and information that will strengthen county Master Gardener organizations. This year's conference will have 22 speakers or programs that range from discussion forums for different county officers to how-to on Plant Sales, Mentoring, Newsletters, etc; Outside speakers provide insight on effective volunteering and leadership skills. Our speakers include Dr. Natalie Bumgarner, the head of Tennessee Master Gardener program and Dr. Karen Ballard whose keynote will be "Leadership is Not a Straight Line".

Detailed information and registration will be sent out using Constant Contact and available on the MG only section of the State Extension web site. While any Master Gardener is invited to attend, the PNG Conference is targeted for those who are or plan to be in local MG leadership roles – officer, project chair, committee chair, etc. Due to limited lodging at Ferndale, we are requesting that those in Pulaski County commute from home rather than stay at facility.

We are very excited about this year event and believe programs will be very beneficial to those attending. We hope you might attend or volunteer to help out. If you can help as a volunteer, please e-mail Walter Jennings, this year conference Chair, at walterjennings@prodigy.net.

Happenings

Please join us at the June Meeting
St James United Methodist Church
June 21, 2016 at 11:30 am

The program will be presented by:
Dr. Joyce Hardin, Hendrix College

English Gardens
Formal Gardens & Landscape Gardens
16th, 17th & 18th Centuries



**NO PCMG Monthly meetings in
July or August
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**

\$5,000.00 REWARD

For Information Leading to the Arrest &
Conviction of the Person or Persons Responsible
for Vandalism & Damage to the

Mount Holly Cemetery

1200 Broadway Street
Little Rock, Arkansas
on

Wednesday, 20 April 2016

Contact: Detective Mumert

Little Rock Police Department
Property Crimes Division Case #2016-042778
Telephone: (501) 404-3101

Mount Holly Cemetery Association
P.O. Box 250118, Little Rock, AR 72225
501-376-1843 www.mounthollycemetery.com

PCMG SOCIAL COMMITTEE 2016 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Saturday, Sept 10 11:00am-2pm Fall Harvest Event at Wildwood Park
Event Chair: Debbie Jernigan
- Tuesday, Nov 15 1:00pm – 2:30pm New Member Reception at St. James UMC
Event Chairs: Melanie Gibson and Mary Roark
- Tuesday, Dec 6 11:30 – 1:00pm 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.

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.

Fall Harvest Picnic & Scavenger Hunt

September 10, 2016

11:00am - 2:00pm

Wildwood Park

Fee: \$15.00 per person

For

Pulaski County Master Gardeners and Spouses

Registration Begins: July 1st

Contact: Liz Edwards at 835.9385 or cw5ret@aol.com

Dena Peckham at 786.2075 or jpeckham@gmail.com

*Early Registration at June Meeting!

*Registration must be paid by August 31st

*Please bring a plant for exchange



2016 MOUNT HOLLY GARDEN SERIES
Sponsored by the Downtown Dames

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.

Mentors Needed for Fall 2016 Master Gardener Training Class

The upcoming fall class is expected to be a large one and there is still a high demand for volunteer mentors for the new trainees. We have only one third as many as we require for this important role. So, please step up to fill the vacancies.

The mentoring program links enthusiastic and experienced PCMGs with new trainees to facilitate the integration of new MGs into the organization and promote long term retention of volunteers. A mentor's role is a time limited one, providing crucial support and guidance for the trainee from the time he/she is enrolled in the course until the new MG is successfully integrated into a project. Once the new MG has started work in a project the responsibility of ongoing support and education falls on the project leadership.

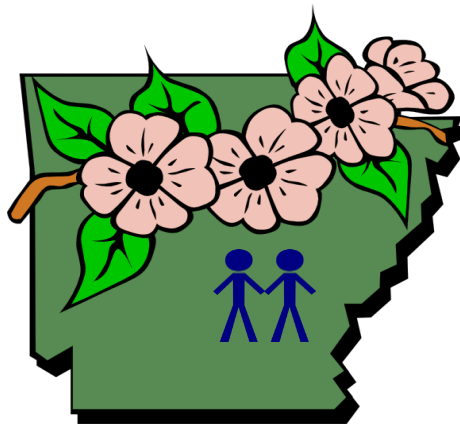
The upcoming class begins on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 and concludes on September 28. Mentors should welcome their new trainee with an initial phone call or email before the class begins to establish a communication link and answer early questions. Further guidance for mentors will be provided on the mentor factsheet you will receive with your trainee's contact information.

Once again, we face a critical need to current MG's to serve as mentors for the fall class. If you are willing to be a mentor you may sign up at the monthly meeting or online, whichever is easier for you. Also, if you are willing to mentor more than one trainee please indicate that when you sign up. Remember, our organization depends on new members to sustain our projects and the support of mentors in the initial phases of training and transition is crucial to our long term success.

Mentoring Sub-Committee co-chairs:

Ann Griffin agriffinvt@aol.com 802.249.7530

Anje Nevala Anjemn@gmail.com 501.257.3357



Mentor

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER *by Susie Green*

Spring Fling was the 2016 Social Committee's first event organized for the pleasure of Pulaski county Master Gardeners. The Spring Fling Committee appreciates the participation of 22 Pulaski County Master Gardener Projects and 136 Master Gardeners and guests for making the event an evening to remember. On April 22 at 5:00 PM, twenty-two PCMG projects arrived at HI Pavilion and transformed it into an international garden show.



As you entered, Cissy Skarda and Jane Blackall greeted you. They worked tirelessly from early January through April 22 to ensuring your attendance was recorded. Katherine Friday and Karen Mauermann greeted you and provide a written program for the evening. Venturing farther into the beautifully decorated Heifer International Pavilion, Arkansas Symphony Orchestra Youth Ensemble serenaded with Handel's "Water Music." The HI Pavilion buzzed with laughter, applause and cheerful chatter as the 22 MG Projects 136 attendees viewed the amazingly beautiful and educational centerpieces. The judges, Holly Wyman, Chris Underwood and Dr. George Selden had the unenviable task of selecting 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners from the centerpieces displayed. Patti Womble, Anje Nevala, and Laura Sholes interviewed the 22 MG Projects, which greatly enriched the educational value for the audience.

Randy Forst, Master of Ceremony gracefully introduced the ASOY Ensemble members at the conclusion of their presentation of Handel's Water Music. Randy, guided the remainder of the evening which included an educational presentation on water usage (with Table Topics) and introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. George Selden.



The guest speaker's in-depth presentation on Water Gardening stimulated many questions from the audience. The evening closed with final remarks from President, Patti Womble.

The photographs following provide a glimpse of the evening, but you should have been there because was far more than any photographs could capture.



European Food Station



ASOY Ensemble performed Handel's Water Music as Susie Green presented the Top 10 International Gardens on screen



Laura Sholes welcomes Judges Holly & Chris Wyman as they admired the France Centerpiece designed by the County Extension Project



Japan Centerpiece by Wildwood Project

All Spring Fling Photographs by David Werling

More Fun Photos from “An Evening to Remember”



CHECKLIST FOR JUNE

By: Carol Randle

We have had a very mild winter and a spectacular spring. Wouldn't it be wonderful to have a mild summer? If you have plants that are not growing to their potential, assess their location and consider replacing them. A gradual decline of large shrubs and trees is often an indication of serious problems that may not be correctable. With trees, it is usually a slow death. Trees do not die overnight. This means that we need to take inventory of our plants. If you have to replace a plant, try a different plant instead of replacing it with the same plant. Think about what time of year you'd like to have more color and choose something that blooms in that season.

Continued -

TREES AND SHRUBS

Be sure to carefully maintain plants. Prune before mid-month. Even though flower buds don't set until late summer or early fall, plants need time to recover after pruning. July and August can be challenging months for plant growth, so prune by mid-June to have nice flowering plants next spring.

One application of fertilizer each year is all that is needed on trees and shrubs so fertilize and water as needed.

VEGETABLES

Harvest your lettuce, peas, carrots, radishes and onions now. The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day. That's when they contain the most sugar. Other vegetables, such as lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them. Tomatoes are the number one vegetable grown by home gardeners, typically we start harvesting this month. This is also the month for Blossom End Rot to rear its ugly head. This black, rotted area on the base of the tomato is not a disease, but a calcium deficiency, often caused by major fluctuations in moisture-we often see it when we have a dry period followed by heavy rain. Keep the garden mulched and evenly watered to avoid the problem.

Tomato fruit worms and hornworms are also out and can quickly devour tomatoes. Larger worms should be picked and destroyed, smaller ones can be controlled organically with BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis*). Also, remember tomatoes do not set fruit well when the daytime temperatures rise above 95 degrees F, or if nighttime temperatures stay above 75 degrees .

If you have not planted any vegetables or herbs yet, there is still time. The time is ideal to plant winter squash and pumpkins. These long season plants take up room in the garden, but give great results in the fall. Southern peas and Okra love the heat as well and do nicely all summer.

LAWNS

Water lawns regularly. Deep water lawns, trees and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and avoid heat stress. Watch for yellow patches, leaf curl, or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

Set your lawnmower at a higher level. Taller grass will shade the roots from heat. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile. Never add your cuttings after a weed treatment. Install new edging around borders and beds and check existing edging after storms. Don't install edging after long periods of rain because the ground will swell and once it dries the edging will move.

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BULBS

In early June, divide Narcissus bulb clumps. If you decide to store bulbs rather than leaving them in the ground, remember to replant in late summer or early fall. Wait until the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs turns yellow before removing. Lift and replant Lycoris as foliage yellows. This prevents it from getting too deep as it multiplies. Iris should be left alone for 6 weeks after blooming. Then lift and divide and cut back foliage to 3 inches.

ROSES

Feed Roses with a complete fertilizer in June. Weed well. Remove faded blooms and clean up around plant. Spray when necessary for aphids, mildew and blackspot. Cut roses above a five-leaf cluster to encourage growth. Plant chives or garlic in between roses to discourage aphids.

ANNUALS

Keep your annuals deadheaded. Especially in the heat of summer your annuals (and all plants) need to be watched for signs of wilting. Be sure your plants get enough water. Plants in containers will need watering daily to maintain their good looks. Mulching flower beds will help to conserve moisture and keep your plants looking pretty. Water early in the morning so your plants will be fresh in the hot afternoon sun. Try the new Arkansas Diamond plants. This year's selections are: Plectranthus 'Velvet Elvis'; Pentas 'Graffiti Bright Red'; and Cuphea 'Sriracha Pink'. These plants can take as much heat as you can give them and bloom until frost. Annual plants are the ones we fertilize the most. Fertilize lightly but often and don't forget to water.

PERENNIALS

Perennial plants are those that come back for at least two seasons. Many are in full bloom now, including purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), daylilies (*Hemerocallis*), gaillardia, hardy Hibiscus (*H. moscheutos*) and lilies (*Lilium* spp.).

Deadheading long-season bloomers encourages more flowers and less seed production. Dead heading is simply pinching or cutting off flowers as they fade so that they don't set seeds. When a plant sets seeds, it puts energy into seed production rather than producing more blooms.

Fertilize hostas at least two or three times during the growing season and keep them watered. They are not drought tolerant. Watch for slugs. If slugs are a problem, consider mulching your plants with sweetgum balls. This spiny mulch works well at deterring slugs and cats from the garden. Last year was our worst slug year ever; we hope we don't see as many this season.

JUNE BLOOMS

Alstroemeria, Artemisia, Asters, Astilbe, Balloon Flowers, Beautyberry, Blackberries, Buddleia, Cannas, Columbine, Coreopsis, Daisies, Daylilies, Delphinium, Dianthus, Hydrangeas, Japanese Iris, Lantana, Magnolia, Mint, Monardella, Nandina, Oxalis, Petunia, Phlox, English Primrose, Roses, Rudbeckia, Salvia, Spirea, Strawberries, Sweet Peas, Sweet William, Thyme, Verbena, Yarrow and Yucca.

Have a Great Summer!!!!

