

The Magnolia Chronicle

The newsletter for Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Fall is around the corner..



October/November
2017 Edition

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DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



Presidents Corner

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden... Thomas Jefferson*

Fall is a wonderful season of the year! As Pulaski County Master Gardeners we have many opportunities to join our friends in activities that bring us joy. Plant some pansies, harvest those turnip greens, pick up a rake.*so delightful.*

Please join me in welcoming our new Master Gardeners at our meeting and reception on Tuesday, October 17, 11:30am at St. James United Methodist Church.

See you soon,
Kathy

*(Jefferson to Charles W. Peale, August 20, 1811. Lipscomb, Andrew A. and Albert Ellery Bergh, ed. *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, Volume 13.*)

New Member Reception 2017
Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 12:30

Pulaski County Master Gardeners get the opportunity to welcome the 32 new 2017 members at the New Member Reception on Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2017; 12:30 pm in Jones Hall in the United Methodist Church.

Please join us in welcoming them by seeking them out and introducing yourself while all enjoy a plentiful, delicious hors-d'oeuvre buffet with coffee and punch immediately following the general meeting on October 17.

The Social Committee members will be bringing food along with Master Gardeners whose last names begin with A-P are asked to please bring savory or sweet "Finger Food" in a disposable container and deliver it to Jones Hall by 11:30.

Any questions, please contact Cissy Skarda, (501) 664-0562 or cskarda@comcast.net and Mary Roark, (501) 868-6004 or elaster523@sbcglobal.net

PCMG 2017
Holiday Luncheon
The Capital Hotel Ballroom
Monday, December 4, 2017; 11:00 AM
•Gourmet Lunch •Free Valet Parking
•Holiday Festivities, Fellowship and More
Cost: \$32.00 per person

Registration now Open for Master Gardeners and 1 Guest

*Registration ends Tuesday, November 14. No refunds after that date.

For more information contact: [Katherine Friday, 470-9801](tel:470-9801),
katherine@fridaywellness.com and [Karen Mauermann, \(501\) 218-5212](tel:501-218-5212),
kmauermann1939@att.net

Mail your check of **\$32.00** per person payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners (PCMG) with your name, guest's name and email address to: **Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service**, 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER MG SPEAKERS

November is set aside for presenting awards. Janet Carson will speak. In December our holiday party will be in lieu of a meeting. Randy Forst will be our featured speaker for the October 17th PCMG monthly meeting. He's doing a presentation on how to deal with problem areas of your home landscape. Three of our PCMGs have submitted photographs of a problem area in their home landscape and Randy is developing a detailed landscaping solution for each of them. We hope the selected problems and proposed solutions are ones that may resonate with other gardeners and inspire the rest of us with ideas as to how we might tackle our own landscape problems.



Mentors Make a Difference

The 2017 New Master Gardener training class is underway and the mentors for the 34 students are already making a difference for new students in many ways. Kathy Ratcliffe has made the following notes about a few of our mentors: MG mentors Agnes Bass and Pat Smith stood in for their students who couldn't attend day one by picking up notebooks, taking notes, meeting with students and reviewing the course agenda. One student became ill and couldn't attend class and the first person she called was her mentor, MG Laura Robinette, who contacted the training group with the information. Mentor Melody Parsley delivered flowers to her student on the first day and followed up with a visit the next week. Other mentors have been busy keeping in touch with their student(s) and meeting with them during lunch and breaks.

These are just a few examples of the many ways mentors connect with students to improve the quality of their class experience by providing support and guidance during training. Thanks to all the MG mentors who are graciously volunteering to help the members of the 2017 class. You truly do make a difference!

Ann Griffin & Anje Nevala, Mentoring Co-chairs

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Happy Fall, Y'all by Phyllis Barrier

Pumpkins are everywhere--at the grocery store, nurseries, farmers markets, churches, and along the side of the road. So it's time to think about decorating our front porches and steps for fall. Dale Webb, Master Gardener and former owner of The City Farmer, decorates with mums, and pumpkins of all kinds, then weaves ivy through her pumpkin display. Her porch and steps are a fall delight every year. Here's a photo I took of Dale's porch last year (right hand side)



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Here's another lovely photo that might spark your decorative ideas for fall.

When decorating my small pumpkins, large acorn squash splash of orange, butternut with mums or a colorful (Alternanthera).

I feel guilty if I throw away my might bake the acorn squash rotisserie chicken. I turn the butternut squash risotto. I use it in place of pasta with a pumpkin pie pumpkins into a serve over quinoa or rice.



porch I like to use a variety of with their green color touched with a squash, and spaghetti squash, along container of Joseph's Coat

fall decorations. After Thanksgiving I to go with roast pork loin or a butternut squash into soup or a microwave the spaghetti squash, and favorite sauce. I turn the small southwest pumpkin super stew that I There are many recipe variations for

pumpkin stew on the internet. The stew freezes nicely. I also like to make Julia Child's pumpkin soup in a pumpkin: cut a top off a pie pumpkin, scrape out the seeds, then fill it with broth, bread crumbs, cheese, and other ingredients to make pumpkin soup by replacing the lid and baking the pumpkin in the oven. You'll find Julia's recipe on the internet. A large pumpkin can be turned into pumpkin butter. Cut the pumpkin in half, remove the seeds, and bake it cut side down in the oven until soft. When cool, scrape the pumpkin from the skin, and then cook it with sugar and spices. Check recipes on the internet. Pumpkin Butter with a small loaf of pumpkin bread makes a great holiday gift for neighbors, family and friends.

Got Rosemary??

Let's make bread!

By Debra Redding

No Knead Rosemary Garlic Bread

Ingredients

1. 3 cups all purpose flour
2. 1.5 cups warm water
3. 1/4 teaspoon instant yeast
4. 1 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
5. 2 teaspoons fresh rosemary, minced
6. 5-6 garlic cloves

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, add all dry ingredients then add water and mix until everything is incorporated. Cover with a towel and let rest overnight.
2. In the morning, lightly flour the edges of the bowl and the bottom of a loaf pan. Turn dough onto a floured surface and shape into a loaf shape and add to the loaf pan. Cover with towel and let rise for at least another 2 hrs.
3. Pre-heat oven to 450 degrees and then bake 30-45 minutes or until beautifully browned (will depend on oven).
4. Let cool and enjoy!



PCMG Continuing Education Programs

Arts and Crafts Building at 11:30

Fri, Oct 13: Have you ever seen a keyhole Garden ?–
Chris Lalande and Valerie Smith
Mon, Oct 16: A pallet can be a “Garden Bed” – Coach A
Wed, Oct 18: AR Native Plants for your Garden –
Pinnacle Project Master Gardeners
Thur, Oct 19: Holy Cow panel, it’s a vertical Garden- Cori Fetters
Fri, Oct 20: Raised bed gardening 101
Laura Anne Warren and Blanca Hernandez

Double Your Pleasure At the Arkansas State Fair!

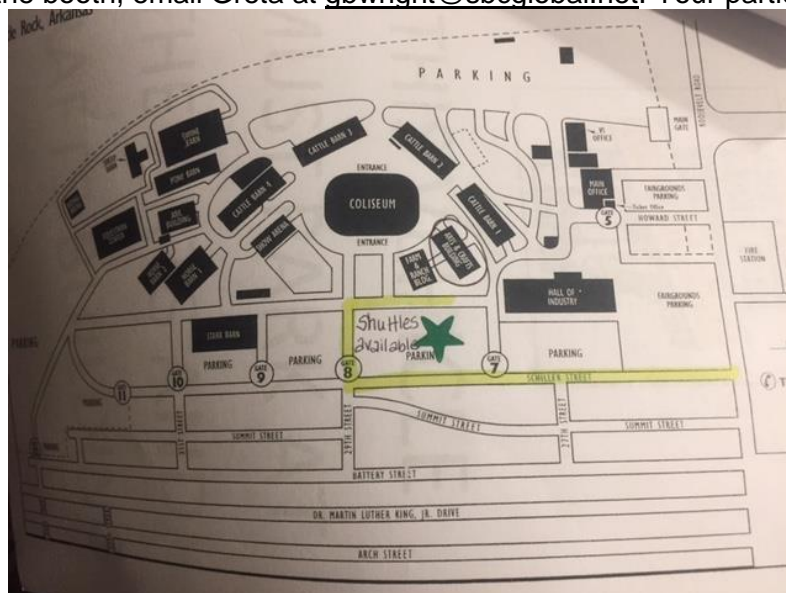
A woman went to see her doctor with a zucchini stuck in her ear and a carrot in her nose. The doctor looked at her and said, "I know exactly what your problem is, you are not eating right!" There may only be one way to normally eat but there are many ways to educate. This year the PCMG Continuing Education Committee will offer five **FREE** educational programs at the Arkansas State Fair! The programs will be demonstration in nature and feature several of our PCMGs. All presentations will take place at the Arts and Crafts building. To double your pleasure, sign up to work at the PCMG recruitment booth at the same location!

Entrance to the fair is FREE from 11:00-1:00 each day. The programs, which begin at 11:30 are listed below. Contact Michele Wasson for more info on the programs at michele4950@att.net.

To volunteer for a shift at the PCMG booth, sign up online using the link, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050d4caca72da57-Arkansas>. You can also view your shift time by going to the link.

Project Presentation Boards/Displays

If you would like to have your project presentation board included with our booth at the fair, take it to the county extension office by October 11th or if some of your project members would like to bring your display for a day at the booth, email Greta at gbwright@sbcglobal.net. Your participation is welcome!!





If you have “plants to trade” or even “plants to give away” please email me at: daffodilsrose555@gmail.com and they will be posted in our **Trading Post**.

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OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER CHECKLISTS by Carol Randle

OCTOBER CHECKLIST

Fall is a great time to garden in Arkansas, with plenty of things to do. This is the time to make sure your garden is healthy. 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.

October is harvest season. October and pumpkins go hand in hand. Look for pumpkins with a smooth outer rind, free of blemishes and with a stem attached. From miniatures to giants, they now come in a wide array of colors, shades of orange, red, white, green, striped, and speckled. Throw in some gourds, a few mums and you have instant landscape pizzazz. Leaves are beginning to fall, so it is also the perfect time to replenish your compost pile. Many perennials benefit from Fall division. You can also plant your Winter seasonal color. Grab your shovel and your work gloves and start gardening.

How well your garden goes to bed for the season can predict in many ways how healthy it will be by next growing season. When cleaning up the vegetable or annual flower beds, don't add diseased or insect infested plants to the compost pile, but simply worn out plant materials are great additions.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

Starting in October, you can plant and transplant perennials. Enrich your beds with organic soil amendment. List and 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 list tender perennials for Winter 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

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Tulips arrive at nurseries, then plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch.

VEGETABLES

Fall and Winter gardening has become quite popular. With season extenders or coverings for the garden, people are gardening year round. Fall harvest is underway and you can still plant if you can cover and protect. Lettuce, Radishes, and Greens are coming into production, along with a second crop of Squash, Peppers and Tomatoes. Carrots, Kale, Spinach and Cabbage are quite cold tolerant. Carrots and Turnips may die back on top with a heavy frost, but you can leave the roots underground with a light layer of mulch to harvest as needed throughout the Winter.

HOUSEPLANTS

Houseplants that need to come inside for the Winter need to be there now. The transition from outside to inside can be tough on plants. They go from high humidity to no humidity and light levels also drop dramatically. Moving them inside when inside and outside conditions are more similar can make transition easier. Check them for insects before making the move and spray with insecticidal soap before bringing inside. Often a nice spray of water can remove some insect issues and clean them up. Be sure you have some means of trapping the overflow of water; also be sure you let your plants dry out between watering. Overwatering is the leading cause of death in houseplants. Don't be alarmed if you see some yellowing of leaves or leaf dropping while they make the transition. For tropical plants that you store in the garage or in the crawl space of your house, you are simply keeping them alive, not thriving and growing.

LAWNS

The lawn is transitioning into dormancy now, so the only thing you need to do is mow. Lawns still need frequent mowing and leaves are falling in earnest. Weekly mowing not only takes care of the lawn's needs, but also the leaves. The mulched leaves can be bagged for use in the garden or landscape, or allowed to stay on the lawn. They will gradually break down into organic matter in the soil. Heavy layers of leaves should be raked and either composted or shredded and used as mulch. Catch Winter weeds before they get well established.

COLOR IN THE GARDEN

If you need color in the garden, besides the seasonal pumpkins, there are shrubs and perennials that provide color every Fall. Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) provides gorgeous purple or white berries. Japanese Anemones have pink or white flowers; Toad Lilies (*Tricyrtis*) in the shade; the fragrant white flowers of Sweet Autumn Clematis; and the blue flowers of the Blue Mist Plant (*Caryopteris* app.). *Itea* has outstanding Fall foliage and great Summer blooms as does Oakleaf Hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*). *Ginkgo* gives us golden yellow; *Crapemyrtles* have gorgeous Fall color, as well as beautiful blooms in the Summer and pretty bark in the Winter.

OCTOBER BLOOMS

Abelia, Ageratum, Sweet Alyssum, Asters, Barberry, Beautyberry, Bittersweet Vine, Buddleia, Ornamental Cabbage, Calendula, Camellias, Cannas, Celosia, Chelone, Chinese Pistache, Chrysanthemums, Clerodendron, Crape Myrtle, Dahlias, Dianthus, Dogwood, Euonymus, Four O'Clock, Gaura, Ornamental Grasses, Gums, Hibiscus, Kale, Lantana, Larkspur, Lobelia, Maples, Marigolds, Mexican Sage, Nierembergia, Sweet Peas, Petunias, Poppies, Roses, Rosehips, Salvia, Scabiosa, Snapdragons, Solidage, Stock Torenia, Tricyrtis, Verbena, Viburnum, Viola, Virginia Creeper, Wisteria, and Zinnias.

CHECKLIST FOR NOVEMBER

BULBS

One of the easiest ways to add color in the home landscape is by planting Spring flowering bulbs. It is bulb planting time. What could be easier than to dig a hole, drop in a bulb and wait for floral excitement next Spring? Even better, dig up a large circle or square, then layer in different bulbs. Mass planting gives a stronger statement next Spring. Remember, we plant bulbs based on their size. The larger the bulb, the deeper in the ground it goes. A good rule of thumb is to plant two and one half times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground. Once you are done planting, place Winter annuals on top for twice the color. Choose large, blemish-free bulbs. You can immediately plant, or store them in a cool place until you get around to planting them. Spring bulbs need to go through a minimum of 12-14 weeks of cool weather before the stems can stretch and grow properly. If you can't plant quickly, then store the bulbs in a cool spot in the garage or in your refrigerator-away from other produce (NOT THE FREEZER). Plant all remaining bulbs by early January if you can. Tulips, Daffodils, Jonquils, Crocus and Hyacinths are the most common, but there are some unusual bulbs available as well. They do well in the ground or in containers.

ANNUALS

When it comes to Winter annuals, the later you plant, the larger the plants should be. Hopefully, if they are flowering Winter annuals (Pansies, Violas, and Panolas) they are blooming. Flowering Kale, Cabbage and Swiss Chard are also available, but get them planted and mulched soon. If you planted earlier this Fall, don't forget to fertilize periodically. Also, pay attention to moisture levels, especially if you have these plants in containers. Water as needed, especially prior to a hard freeze. If you didn't get all of your Winter annuals planted, NOW is the time. They must have their root systems established before it gets too cold. Be sure to fertilize when you plant and side dress during the Winter on Warm days. In addition to Pansies, Violas and Panolas, consider Dianthus, Dusty Miller and Snapdragons. For vertical interest try Mustard, Kale, Collards, or Swiss Chard. Look for healthy, large flowering annuals now. Not only will you have instant gratification with flowers, but they should bloom well for

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you all Winter. Fertilize at planting and every three to four weeks during the Winter to keep them growing. If we do have dry spells, don't forget to water, especially newly planted plants.

VEGETABLES AND HERBS

Fall and winter are quieter times in our vegetable gardens, but there are still things to do. After you have planted the Winter vegetables, cleaned up and composted, try to prepare some of the beds for Spring planting. Then, in February, instead of waiting for the soil to dry out, you can plant Sugar and snow Peas. Plant a cover crop in the other beds. More gardeners are planting a Fall and Winter vegetable garden. Season extenders in the form of covers or high tunnels can make Winter production even easier. Janet has grown, in the past, Cabbage, Kale and Bok Choy all winter outdoors with no added protection and still had a good harvest. Insects and diseases are not a challenge in the cool months, either.

TREES AND SHRUBS

November is the ideal time to plant a tree. If you need to plant some new trees, consider planting now. The soil temperature still has some heat left, so the root system can spend its time growing roots while the tree is dormant. You will end up with a stronger plant for next growing season. Some large shade tree choices are: Willow Oak (*Quercus Phellos*); Tulip Poplar (*Linodendron Tulipifera*) and Lacebark Elm (*ulmus Parvifloria*). Some good mid-sized tree choices are: Little Leaf Linden (*Tilla Cordata*); Red Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) and Chinese Pistasche (*Pistacia Chinensis*). Prepare the site well and amend in an area three times the size of the planting hole to encourage root spread. Dig a hole three times the width of the root ball, but only as deep as the depth of the root ball. You want the crown of the plant to be planted at the soil line or slightly more shallow. Don't dig out the planting soil, throw it away and plant in a bag of potting soil . . . that won't encourage root movement. Instead, mix the existing soil with compost and spread it out over a wide area. Once planted, mulch and water. **AVOID THE VOLCANO MULCHES**, use no more than two to three inches of mulch and be sure to leave an air pocket next to the trunk. Even the oldest and most drought tolerant plants benefit from regular water for at least the first year of establishment, but would prefer the first three years of growth.

GENERAL

Fall and early winter is also an important season for clean-up. As your plants drop their leaves or as you are pulling up spent annuals and cutting back perennials; get any damaged plants out of the yard. Letting the spent debris remain in the garden can give disease spores and overwintering insects a place to live. This can lead to more problems next growing season.

HOUSEPLANTS

In central Arkansas, the average frost is early to mid-November, so pay attention to the weather forecasts and take whatever precautions are needed. If you have not moved your houseplants indoors, **PLEASE MOVE THEM IN NOW**. Don't be alarmed if they start dropping leaves because there will be a huge shift in their growing conditions. If you are storing houseplants or tropicals in the garage or under the house, make sure the move is made prior to a frost so you don't lose your plants. The consensus is that, by now, all houseplants and

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overwintering flowering tropical plants should have been indoors for at least a month. They may still be showing the signs of transplant shock. Houses are particularly dry indoors with heat and lower lights, coupled with a more static temperature, taking its toll. Cut off any yellow or damaged leaves and greatly reduce the amount of water you are giving them. Try to give them as much light as possible, but avoid fertilization. Our goal is to keep them alive and as healthy as possible. Overwatering is typically the number one killer of houseplants.



Watch out for the chrysalis of Monarchs – Lynn Senn sent this picture from her garden. To learn more about their journey visit www.monarch-butterfly.com

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