

The Magnolia Chronicle

The newsletter for Pulaski County Master Gardeners

Memphis Botanical Garden - courtesy of Jacque Ault



UofA

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



December 2017 -
January 2018 Edition

Presidents Corner



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**Gear up towards another wonderful
PCMG year in 2018!!**

**Be sure to record your MG hours by December
15th.**

Kathy



Cranberry Upside-down Cake

By Phyllis Barrier

This is a one-bowl recipe that I make for Christmas Eve dinner every year. I always freeze extra cranberries to repeat this recipe during the winter months when I need a quick dessert. It's always a big hit with my guests.

6 servings

Nonstick cooking spray

2 tablespoons butter, softened, plus 6 tablespoons butter, melted and cooled

1 ½ cups unblemished cranberries (fresh or frozen)

½ cup coarsely chopped walnuts or pecans

1/3 cup plus ½ cup sugar

1 egg

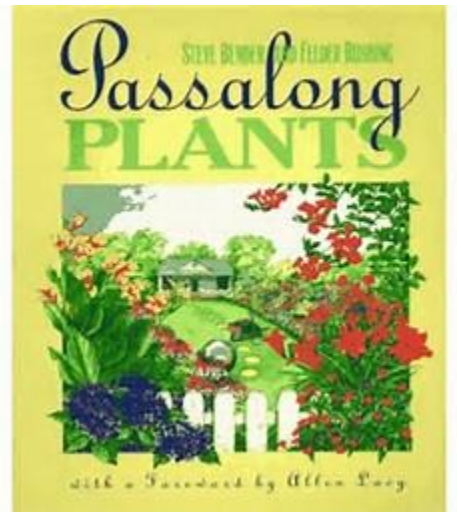
½ cup flour

½ cup heavy cream, chilled

2-3 tablespoons sugar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Spray an 8-inch pie pan with nonstick cooking spray. Spread the 2 tablespoons of softened butter over the bottom and sides of the pie pan. Wash the cranberries and pat them dry. Spread them evenly in the bottom of the buttered pan and sprinkle the berries with the chopped nuts and 1/3 cup sugar. In a small mixing bowl, beat the egg and the remaining ½ cup of sugar together with a wire whisk until the mixture thickens and clings to the whisk. Beating constantly, add the flour a few tablespoons at a time. Then beat in the melted butter and pour the batter over the cranberries and the nuts. Bake in the middle of the oven for 45 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool a few minutes. To unmold, run a thin-bladed knife around the sides of the pie pan to loosen it. Place an inverted serving plate over the cake and, grasping plate and pie pan together firmly, carefully turn them over. The cake may take a few minutes to fall onto the serving plate. A few pieces may stick to the pie pan. If that happens, just place them into the holes in the cranberry cake, smooth and no one will know the difference. Whip the cream with 2-3 tablespoons of sugar and serve with the upside-down cake.

For Thanksgiving this year, I made this cake gluten-free for my relatives who have Celiac Disease. I substituted gluten-free flour for the 1/2 cup regular flour, and it was just as delicious as always. It was an especially big hit for those with Celiac Disease but also for the rest of the family.



Passalong Plants

By Susan Rose

Do you ever get plants from friends or neighbors? Have some of them “smiled” when they gave them to you almost like a smirk? You have been honored to receive “passalong plants”. These plants have grown well with the person who gave them to you and they will definitely grow well in your garden. I was thrilled to get a bunch of crocosmias from another MG years ago. I was so happy to get them! Unfortunately, they took over an entire area they were so happy!

Felder Rushing and Steve Bender wrote the book Passalong Plants. I was lucky to find out about the book a few years ago. Felder and his friend Steve have done a great job providing pictures and information about lots of different plants. Some of the articles are downright hilarious. Several of you have already attended a talk that Felder gave to our PCMG group a few years ago. He is one heck of a speaker. Rides around in a pickup truck with plants just hanging out of the bed. He also enjoys his bottle trees too. Remnants of one of those is also in the truck bed with other gardening items.

He is a good ole southern gardener.. If you haven't already gotten his book then you definitely must add to your “wish list”. You will be educated and amused reading the articles. I was enthralled by the Byzantine glad. This one grows great in our climate and is a beautiful magenta. It multiplies and is very happy in our garden soil. I tried gladiolas years ago in my garden and they flopped over with the first big rainstorm. I was disappointed in them. The Byzantine glad will return every year and multiple and will not fall over. You will enjoy this book.

The Park Hill Waterworkers

By Jacque Ault

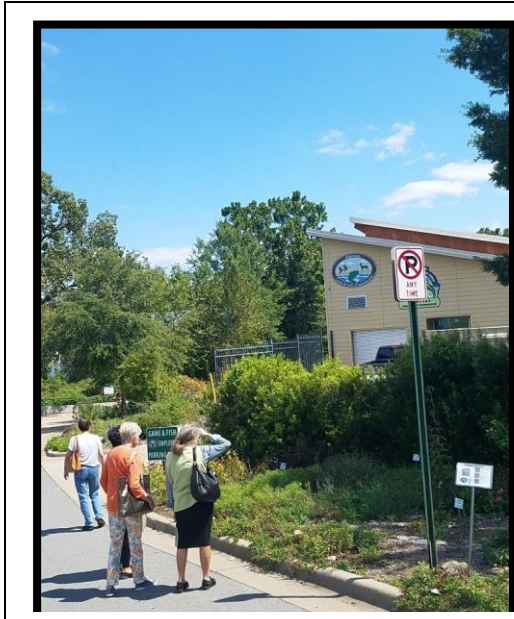
In 2017, the Park Hill Waterworks Garden underwent a serious revitalization. With help from ten or more members, we “planned our work and worked our plan” and got it all done. Our garden received rave reviews not only from the waterworks employees and local neighbors but also from the Arkansas Historical Society Walking Tour held on September 1. Many oohs and aahs were expressed and questions were asked and answered by Jane Lingo and Janis Calaway, our expert Park Hill Waterworkers!

Even though we remained busy working our garden, we were also able to enjoy three field trips.



On June 6, four members, Janis Calaway, Jane Lingo, Suzanne Brabston and Jacque Ault, drove to Mt. Magazine State Park, where Susan Reasoner had a wonderful trip planned that included a power point presentation on butterflies and moths by Lori Spencer, author of *Arkansas Butterflies and Moths* and a tour of the visitor center and grounds. Lunch at the lodge and a tour of the lodge’s beautiful gardens ended a great day.

On September 11, seven members, Janis Calaway, Jane Lingo, Belva Cook, John Carter, Toni Young, Franke Johns and Jacque Ault, decided to do the “Summer Challenge.” We gathered at Park Hill to tour as many of our very own PCMG gardens in NLR and downtown LR. It just so happened to be *THE* most beautiful day of the year? We started at the beautiful Old Mill Garden, then parked our minivan (thank you Franke Johns for always driving!) at the Argenta Garden area of NLR. We rode the Trolley into downtown and we were able to see the Scholars Garden, Heifer International, Witt Stephens, Jr. Nature Center Gardens, AR Arts Center, Contemplation Gardens, Curran Hall, Old Statehouse, HAM and the Courthouse Rose Gardens. We had a great tour director on the Trolley which added to our already fun day.



GAME AND FISH TRIP

OLD MILL in NLR



On October 11, five members, Jane Lingo, Franke Johns, Suzanne Brabston, Toni Young and Jacque Ault gathered at Park Hill and off we went to the Memphis Botanic Gardens to see the “Big Bugs at the Garden” event. We had a fun day even though it was hot, hot, hot! Needless to say we had a “glow” the whole day.

The sculptures are created using various combinations of whole trees-found standing or fallen dead-cut green saplings selectively harvested from the willow family, dry branches and other forest materials. After touring, we had a tasty lunch at their “in house” restaurant and before leaving we shopped at their nursery. We found their local gardeners to be so friendly and knowledgeable and they too were Master Gardeners.

It was an altogether good day with good friends, and it was a wonderful high point on which to finish the season!



NEWS AND NOTES

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Cammack Garden Project made a donation in the memory of Laura Sholes brother, Hugh M. McCastlain. Laura is very much involved in this PCMG project.

Holiday Decorating Workshop (#1-120)

Thurs, Nov 30 & Dec 7 6:30-8:30p

Mary Evans, Garden Makeovers, Faith Lutheran Church \$109 or \$189/pair

It's an annual holiday tradition - get in the spirit this year and bring in the magic of the season as you deck the halls, the walls, the doors, and more! Learn decorating and lighting tricks the professionals use, and make a gorgeous wreath AND a fresh cedar centerpiece that will last until Christmas with proper care. Makes a gorgeous hostess or holiday gift - but you'll want to keep it for yourself! Includes materials fees. Two sessions.

Designing your Dream Garden (#1-126)

Thurs, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26 6:30-8:30p

Mary Evans, Garden Makeovers, Faith Lutheran Church \$99

Make your "wish list" and create your own personal Garden of Eden! A little help from the experts will go a long ways and help you avoid costly mistakes when you are planning your garden. Learn basic design principles and considerations before you dig in: sunny vs. shady areas, types and size of plants, annuals vs. perennials, correcting poor/rocky soil, use of rocks and mulch, and how to attract pollinators to your garden. Four sessions.

To sign up - Arkansas Extended Learning Center www.extendedlearning.org 666-0759

PLEASE CONGRATULATE our SERVICE AWARD PCMG GROUP

PCMG Years of Service Awards

25

Hilda Boger

20

**Elisabeth Dillon
Rochelle Greenwood**

15

PCMG Lifetime Awards

**Fran Ables
Warren Boop
Shannon Chamberlin
Phyllis Colclasure
Elizabeth Edwards
Don Ford
Janet Jordan**

**Alf Koros
Barbara Koros
Debbie Mickel
Dena Peckham
Jenny Smith
Mary Vancura
Bruce Wesson**

10

PCMG Years of Service Awards

Johnny Brown	Eva Lathrop	Charlotte Perdue
MaryAnn Brown	Kay Lavey	Marita Perkins
Belva Cook	Coralie Maxwell	Debra Redding
Richelle Daniel	Nancy Mitchell	Margaret Schulz
Sandy Furrer	Brenda Mize	Martha Stobaugh
Murray Harding	MargaretRose Nalley	Lorene Wright
Laura Hathaway	Diana Nolte	
Ruthie Hiatt	Ann Owen	
Millie Hillard		

5

PCMG Years of Service Awards

Kay Allen	Sandy Haden	Becky Rainwater
Bette Anders	Junie Harris	Kathleen Reynolds
Jackie Conklin	Martha Henry	Rachael Richey
Dana Downes	Sharon Hollaway	B. J. Saunders
Pat Ferguson	Debbie Jernigan	Cherry Smith
Lynda Ford	Kate Lincourt	Pat Smith
Katherine Friday	Linda Mellberg	Harriette Upshaw
Melanie Greenwald	Melody Parsley	Al H. White
		Jackie Wiggs

CHECKLIST FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

By Carol Randle

I was just looking at my November/December issue of the *Arkansas Gardener* magazine. It is almost as addicting to look at this magazine as it is to look at Seed Catalogs. I especially liked the article, "Do It Yourself Cold Frames". I also liked the article on "Perennial Planning" and I am always interested in the "Hot Plants" of the month. If you have not subscribed to this magazine, I highly recommend that you do. You will not be sorry.

TOOLS

One thing we do not think about much is taking care of our garden tools. Use steel wool on any rust spots. Give metal surfaces a light rubbing of oil or WD40 to inhibit future rusting. For cleaner cuts when dividing plants or to make turning the soil easier, sharpen cutting edges with a hand file or a grinder. Finally, use fine-grit sandpaper on wooden handles and rub in some linseed oil to preserve them.

BULBS

If you have not started with your bulbs, remember that your Spring bulbs have to have 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 (NOT THE FREEZER). Plant all remaining bulbs by early January, if possible. General guidelines for depth of planting are two to three times the size of the bulb.

ANNUALS

Winter annuals can also be planted if you have gotten behind. The later you wait to plant, the larger the transplants should be. Janet looks for plants that are blooming, especially if she is planting pansies, violas and dianthus. Swiss chard, kale and cabbage need time to get roots established before a hard frost. Fertilize at planting and every three to four weeks during the Winter to keep them growing. If we have dry spells, remember to water, especially newly planted plants.

VEGETABLES

Vegetable gardening continues to grow in popularity. More gardeners are planting a Fall and Winter garden. You may want to use covers or high tunnels as season extenders; this can make Winter production even easier. Janet has grown cabbage, kale and bok choy all Winter outdoors with no added protection in the past and had a good harvest. Insects and diseases are not a challenge in the cool months, either.

CLEAN UP

Early Winter is an important season for cleanup. When we have milder growing seasons added to rainfall, it can cause some leaf spotting diseases and mildew. As your plants drop their leaves or when you pull up spent annuals and cut back perennials, get any damaged plants out of the yard. Letting the spent debris remain in the garden invites disease spores and gives overwintering insects a place to live. This leads to more problems next growing season. Some cleanup may be needed if you have heavily diseased or insect infested plants.

(See end of newsletter for more Garden Checklist information)



Imagine the Possibilities!

Mary Russell- Evans

2018 will be a year of big changes for the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show! We are moving to the Arkansas State Fairgrounds! The 2018 theme is *Imagine the Possibilities* & that is exactly what we are doing! We have increased space for more of everything, new & different opportunities for volunteering & lots more! Five acres of FREE PARKING! I think that's HUGE! So save the dates- March 2-4 & be sure to watch for updates, many changes volunteer sign-up sheets, etc. It's not business as usual- so pay close attention! Help spread the word about the move. Tell your friends! See you there!

Friday, March 2, 2018

10:00 Don't Be a Garden Snob – Carol Mendel

With all the new plant introductions on the market today don't snub the plants that your grandparents planted. And just because a shrub can grow in the middle of a busy intersection doesn't mean it shouldn't be in our garden. We need to look at these old plants in a new and innovative way. And the same goes for garden decor... a little "kitsch" can add a lot of garden interest.

11:15 Blackberries for the Home Garden: An Excellent Choice! – Dr. John Clark

Did you know that one of the largest blackberry breeding programs in the world is conducted by the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture? Come hear about blackberry varieties developed in Arkansas with this presentation that highlights some of the major attributes of the best variety choices for the garden. Plus, get tips on how to grow these blackberries.

12:30 Home Landscape Problems and Solutions – Dr. Allen Owings

Most issues with ornamental plants in the landscape can be traced to cultural practices. Are we planting the right plant in the right place? Are we aware of our soil conditions? When do we plant compared to when we should plant? Is dead-heading needed? Have we evaluated our sun and shade situation? Do we build landscape beds correctly? Do we mulch correctly? What about diseases and insects? How can we make container plants last longer? All this and more will be addressed to help you to enjoy success and have no problems, or at least have fewer problems in 2018.

1:45 Drought Tolerant Plants for Your Garden – Patrick Byers

Everyone is talking about waterwise gardening! Using good landscape design, choosing the proper plants, and managing the landscape well are important steps in developing a garden that is beautiful while also water conscious. The Master Gardeners of Greene County, MO, developed the Waterwise Garden (<http://mggreene.org/demonstration-gardens/waterwise-garden/>) in 1992 as a premier site to demonstrate gardening with minimal water input. Gardeners in this session will learn from 25 years' experience in the Waterwise Garden how to develop and maintain beautiful gardens while making wise use of water resources.

Saturday, March 3, 2018

10:00 Integrated Pest Management in the Vegetable Garden – Patrick Byers

Pest management in the home vegetable garden is much more than hitting the problem with a spray! Learn the steps of IPM – identifying problems, determining if the level of damage is worth the worry, selecting which vegetable cultivars have the best level of pest resistance, using the amazing arsenal of biological controls, growing vegetables in a way that wards off pests, and using the correct pesticides properly. Gardeners will learn that using multiple strategies will help manage problems in the vegetable garden while minimizing any adverse impact on humans, beneficials and the general environment.

11:15 New Flowers for Your Spring Landscape – Dr. Allen Owings

The world of flowers and bedding plants sees many new and exciting varieties each year. Dr. Allen Owings provides you with a thorough overview of exciting annual bedding plants and herbaceous perennials for gardening success. Petunias, coleus, ornamental sweet potatoes, begonias, vinca, torenia (wishbone flower), marigolds, salvia and many more species are highlighted. Emphasis is placed on plants for reliable spring through fall performance.

12:30 Basic Back Yard Garden – Jill Forrester

Successful Arkansas farmer and restaurateur, Jill Forrester, discusses seed starting, how to add nutrients to your soil, the use of plasticulture, or landscape fabric in the garden, and drip irrigation. She reviews the top 10 crops and varieties that do well in Arkansas, provides companion planting tips, and explains how to get rid of pests organically.

1:45 Easy Care Annuals and Perennials – Janet Carson

Do you love to tend your garden and enjoy its beauty? Janet Carson shows you how to make gardening easier and more fun by planting annuals and perennials that are both easy to care for and will add interest and beauty to the garden. Janet advises us to garden smarter with these less pampered plants.

SAVE THE DATE in your calendars. Mary will be supplying more information as we get closer to our AFGS..

NOTE: Don't forget to check out Mary's article on the last page of the [Arkansas Gardener](#).

CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Christmas plants are arriving in all outlets now. Poinsettias still are the top sellers, but you have many more options on sizes and colors. From desktop miniatures to topiaries or hanging basket Poinsettias, they all need the same type of care—bright sunlight and even moisture. With proper conditions the colorful bracts can stay showy for months. Color choices range from the traditional reds to pink, white, plum and even an orange variety. Speckled and bi-colored choices also abound. If you want to try something different, bromeliads can come in great shades of red and green and last inside with minimal care for months. There are also Gerber daisies, azaleas, ornamental peppers, paper white narcissus and amaryllis from which to choose. Amaryllis comes in many different colors also. Christmas decorations often add an amazing amount of color inside without plants, but having something that can last after the season is over is also nice and they make great hostess gifts.

If you use fresh greenery or Christmas trees indoors, remember how quickly they dry out. Try to keep the plants fresh with ample moisture. If possible, redirect or close the heating vent closest to the tree to keep it from drying out. Once you have done with your tree, consider recycling it in a lake for the fish or as a haven for wildlife in a state park. Many parks collect them after the season. You can also decorate one for the birds outdoors.

JANUARY

ANNUALS

Fertilize Winter annuals regularly when we have any warm spell. Water regularly, especially before a Winter freeze.

PERENNIALS AND BULBS

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp, but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early Spring. Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early Spring. This is your last chance to plant those Spring blooming bulbs. When planting, be sure to pick a site with well drained soil. Plant two to three times the size of the bulb, deep in the ground. Make sure no skins from bulbs are left on the ground to encourage the Squirrels to dig up the bulbs.

ROSES

Wait until late February or early Spring to prune your Roses.

VEGETABLES

Start cool weather vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in six to eight weeks. In late January, poppies and sweet Peas can be planted directly in the ground. Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to give the green material time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather, if plants are mulched it will resume in Spring and produce greens into May. Add a six to eight inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Plant Camellias for Winter colors. They come in colors ranging from whites to pinks to reds and mixtures. Plant in a well drained area out of the afternoon sun. Evergreen trees and shrubs will drop some of their older leaves. If the flower buds and newest foliage at the end of the branch are okay, don't worry. It is normal. Be sure to water regularly if it doesn't rain.

GENERAL YARD

Winter has always been considered the slowest time in the garden, but it can be very busy if you start planning for next year's garden. Now is the time to order Seed Catalogs. Remove plants that aren't thriving in the current locations. Try to ascertain the reason for the lack of success. Often, it's a matter of planting depth or an over-accumulation of mulch or a diseased root system.

INDOORS

Enjoy the blooms of forced bulbs such as Hyacinth and Paper Whites. Amaryllis bulbs will add more color. Pot them and give them a little water after you get them home. After growth starts, water well and keep in the sunlight. They will bloom in six to eight weeks. Stake because they will get tall and top heavy (especially the Amaryllis). If you are going to overwinter Poinsettias, place them in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



I have a paper shell pecan tree and a rose of Sharon that are dug up and ready for pick up for anyone wanting them. They are 6 feet tall. Great pecans!!

For questions, Contact Arline Jackson 501-219-2080 or 501-753-4169

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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