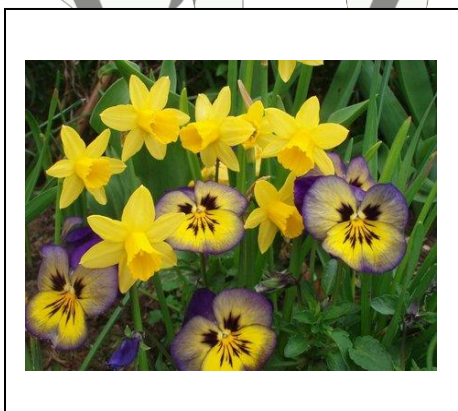


The Magnolia Chronicle

The newsletter for Pulaski County Master Gardeners



U of A

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & EXTENSION

University of Arkansas System



February 2020

PRESIDENTS CORNER

We are off to a great start! It was good to see everyone at the January meeting. Thanks to all who came out in the cold. I am looking forward to the year ahead. We were pleased to award the Old Mill as **Project of the Year** and **Marilyn Mason** of the City of Little Rock as **Friend of Master Gardeners**. Marilyn was nominated by the Master Gardener Project at Historic Arkansas Museum (HAM). HAM is not the only project that the city supports, MacArthur Park, Curran Hall and War Memorial are also projects that we partner with the city. Next month we will honor about 100 of our members with Busy Bees. Remember that you need 40 hours on your sanctioned project to qualify for a Busy Bee. For more information, contact Deanna Montgomery.

In the words of Percy Bysshe Shelley *"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind"*.

Happy Gardening!

Sharon Priest

PCMG President



PCMG PROJECT OF THE YEAR – The OLD MILL

Mike Majkowski, Valerie Hart, Ruth Landers (hidden behind Valerie), Janet Beck, Sherrie Mays, Dan Koops, Debby Herden, Wanda Paes, Deeana Montgomery, and chairman Valerie Boyce



Valerie Smith, PCMG presenting the PCMG Friend of the Year to Marilyn Mason (in center)

Special thanks to Bill Harris for providing the photos.



Book Review
By Debra Redding

Wild at Home: How to Style & Care for Beautiful Plants

Author: Hilton Carter

Take a tour through Hilton’s own apartment and other lush spaces, filled with a huge array of thriving plants, and learn all you need to know to create your own urban jungle. As the owner of over 200 plants, Hilton feels strongly about the role of plants in one’s home – not just for the beauty they add, but for health benefits as well: ‘having plants in your home not only adds life, but changes the airflow throughout. It’s also a key design element when styling your place. For me, it wasn’t about just having greenery, but having the right variety of greenery. I like to see the different textures of foliage all grouped together. You take a fiddle leaf fig and sandwich it between a birds of paradise and a monstera and.... yes!’ You will be armed with the know-how you need to care for your plants, where to place them, how to propagate, how to find the right pot, and much more, and most importantly, how to arrange them so that they look their best. Combine sizes and leaf shapes to stunning effect, grow your own succulents from leaf cuttings, create your own air plant display, and more.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**For the
2020
A Garden Odyssey**

Arkansas Flower and Garden SHOW

State Fairgrounds

DATES: Friday, February 28

Saturday, February 29

and Sunday, March 1

Our Master Gardeners in the State provide a key role in the success of the show each year.

(Mary Evans has wonderful information on the show and vendors in this newsletter)

FREE = Plants and Garden related items

Deborah, friend of Marcella Grimmett, has a garage full of medium to large cardboard boxes she needs to get rid of and thought some of our MG might could use for building raised beds. They compost over time and feed the soil. If you do call her at 501-223-3384. Marcella has used them to build quick lasagna beds.

Anita, neighbor of Susan Rose, has a medium sized wisteria tree that she would like removed from her front yard. If you need one please give her a call. It needs more space to grow. Anita's phone number is: 501-319-4481

Need any yucca??!! I have several small and medium sized plants. They grow well in pots and can be used as "barriers" for other plants that you need protected. You cannot KILL them! Please call Susan at 501-416-6390.

If you have garden related items you would like to see have a new home – please email me the information and I will put in our next newsletter. THANKS, Susan

Daffodilsrose555@gmail.com

FEBRUARY GARDEN CALENDAR

By Carol Randle

PLANNING

Dreaming of your perfect flower bed, vegetable garden or yard is a winter pastime! Place your orders now with mail order plant nurseries. They tend to work on a first-come, first-serve basis. Not to worry - they will not ship your order until it is safe to do so.

SEEDLINGS

When starting seeds indoors, use clean containers and a sterile soilless potting mix and grow them in a ventilated area to prevent “damping-off” disease, a fungus that attacks seedlings, causing them to shrivel and die right at soil level.

ROSES

Place orders for bare-root roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant roses. Water in roses with root stimulator. Top dress roses with cottonseed and bone meal and cover with a layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure will limit nut grass and weed seeds. Mid-February, prune roses (hybrid teas and knock-outs to 8” to 18”) to maintain their size and vigor. Only prune ever-blooming climbers to invigorate older plants or to remove weak or dead canes.

BIRD HELP

Provide fresh water near the birds’ shelter. To attract a variety of birds, feed them cornmeal mixed with peanut butter, cracked corn, chopped fruits, suet, or sunflower seeds. Or plant barberry, beautyberry, coralberry, cotoneaster, dogwood, hawthorn, holly, mahonia, possumhaw and viburnum that all provide fruits and berries in a February landscape

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM COMMITTING CRAPE MYRTLE MURDER!

Cut back dwarf crape myrtles to within six inches of the ground. Only prune back larger crape myrtle shrubs if needed to maintain size or to remove suckers. Thin tree forms of crape myrtles every 3-5 years. ANNUAL PRUNING OF THIS TREE DESTROYS ITS NATURAL APPEARANCE AND IS NOT NEEDED.

Remove largest third of buddleia, hydrangea, nandina and spirea canes. Remove wood and branches that turn in or overlap in the center of broadleaf evergreens. Wherever the plant is cut, it will thicken, so prune above a twig growing outward, not above a leaf bud. DO NOT PRUNE FORSYTHIA OR FLOWERING QUINCE UNTIL AFTER BLOOM. Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (8” with at least two buds underground) in a cold frame.

TILLER TIME

Put out asparagus crowns and strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable. Outdoors, sow broccoli, cabbage, onion sets, English peas, and seed potatoes.

SHOOTS

Prune back by one-third to one-half tropical bloomers that are overwintering indoors. Apply a slow release fertilizer to annuals and overwintering tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label. Prune undesirable limbs and tip terminals on fruit trees and grapevines and thin out crowded shoots. Leave some branches of fruit and berry trees for small animals to eat this winter. Remove older canes of blueberry plants. Cut back lateral branches of blackberries to one foot.

GET RID OF BUGS

Use insecticidal soap to control aphids on cool season annuals and vegetable plants. For borers, mites, aphids, or scale, apply dormant oil spray to trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, roses and the perennial border. The most effective spray of the year is before leaf buds start emerging. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions (usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to be above 40 degrees for three days and no rain is expected for 24 hours.) Spraying plants before leaf buds open avoids burning them. NOTE: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese maples, walnut, beech or magnolia trees.

FOR INDOOR BLOOM

Cyclamen; kalanchoe (mine bloomed in January); orchids, and pre-chilled bulbs (hyacinths, paper-whites and daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring-flowering shrub (such as forsythia, oriental magnolia, or quince and fruit trees) into one gallon of warm water with two tablespoons of ammonia. Enclose the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open.

DOGWOODS

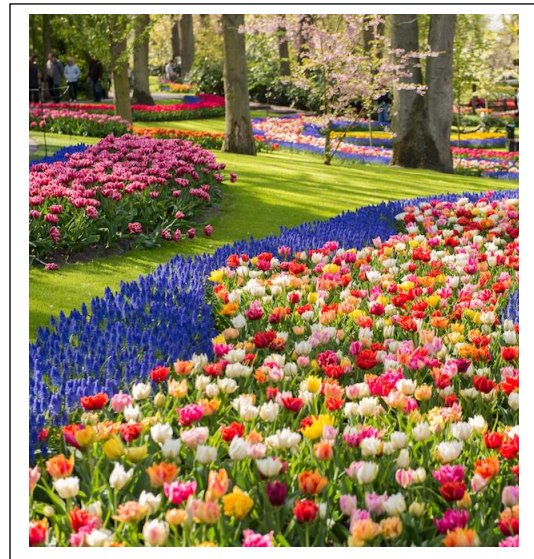
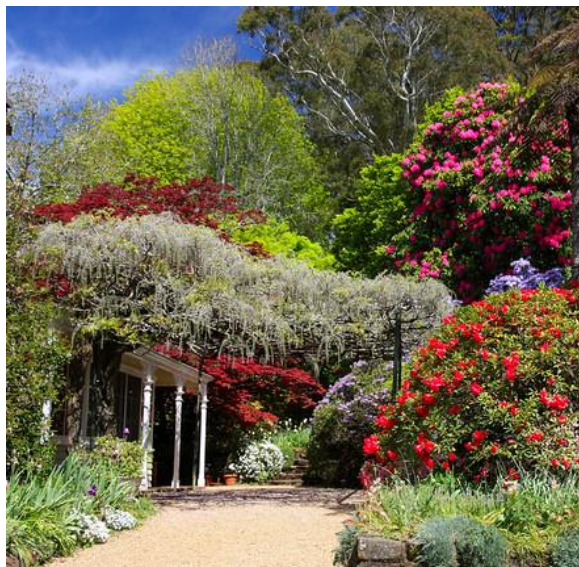
February is the best time to plant dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side. Plant ball and burlap trees and shrubs and bare-root plant materials that are still dormant. Soak the roots in water overnight before planting. If you cannot plant right away, cover the roots with moist soil or compost and store in a shady location. For new planting sites, test soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend the entire area with mulch, compost, etc.

YARD

Inspect your yard for winter damage. Take off damaged, dried or blackened branches. If you are unsure, WAIT. A dormant limb can look dead, but still have life in it. If not done in December or January, apply lime to lawns and fertilize trees with a high nitrogen fertilizer. Apply pre-emergence herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill spurweed and other winter weeds now, before they have time to set seeds. Mow or shear to 4-6 inches wintercreeper euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, mondo grass, monkey grass, pachysandra, pampas grass, crown vetch and vinca minor. Shear to 6-8 inches santolina lavender cotton and junipers. Apply pre-emergence herbicides in ground covers.

FEBRUARY BLOOMS

Flowering almond, *anise Florida*, arum, bridal veil, camellia, chionodoxa, crocus, daffodil, dogwood, forsythia, hellebores, hyacinth, iris (Stylosas and Reticulatas), Carolina jasmine, kerria, loropetalum, oriental magnolia, muscari, pansies, phlox, primrose, pussy willow, quince, redbud, *Scilla siberica*, snowdrops, *Spirea thunbergi*, viola and violet are in bloom this month.



2020: A Garden Odyssey (Garden Show 2020)

Mary Russell- Evans

What does that theme bring to mind? For me it was 2020: A Space Odyssey, visions of the future of gardening. It will sure be interesting to see what the vendors & exhibitors come up with for this very awesome theme. I think the most popular I'm hearing about is the odyssey/history of gardening or just "how we got here." But wait! There is yet another angle.... 20/20 as in Vision. I just can't wait to see what everyone does!

This will be our third year at the Fairgrounds! Everyone loves our new "forever home!" Last year once again, we got so many comments like "What took y'all so long to move out here?" The FIVE acres of onsite parking has been a HUGE hit! That has definitely cut the amount of walking compared to downtown. Besides having the package holding area, you can realistically make a run out to the car. Package holding will be located at big south door. Golf carts will be available to hitch a ride. Look for the pink canopy tents on the parking lot.

The show will be held in Barton Coliseum and the Arts & Crafts Building this year. The "How To stage" & flower show remain in the Arts & Crafts. Everything else will be in Barton Coliseum: All vendor booths, garden exhibits, train garden, food court, volunteer check-in; lounge, ticket sales, silent auction, U of A exhibits + more. Both buildings are handicapped accessible & have nearby handicapped parking.

The dates are **February 28 thru March 1. Friday & Saturday 9:00-5:00; Sunday 10:00-3:00.** Ticket prices are: \$10 for adults. Children under 12 are free. 3-day passes are \$15. Tickets will be sold at the door at Barton Coliseum or online sales at **<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arkansas-flower-garden-show-tickets-88278410101>** Find more info at **www.argardenshow.org**

Remember ALL proceeds from ticket sales the silent auction go to scholarships and the Greening of Arkansas Grants.

The Arkansas Flower & Garden Show depends on ticket sales! How many boxes of Girl Scout cookies, Boy Scout popcorn or band candy have you bought over the years? All for a good cause! Right? Buy a ticket! And bring your friends! All things worth keeping need support. So far, over \$95,000 has gone to The Greening of Arkansas Grants, for beautification projects all over the state. It's a good cause! See website for more info.

Volunteer signup forms have already been emailed out weeks ago. Be sure to sign up quick to get on the volunteer schedule- spots will fill up fast. The volunteer committee will provide info for volunteers. Not only are MGs promoting the show, but the show is promoting MGs! This may be the only time that some people see or come in contact with MGs. We are proud! The show couldn't go on without all the help of the Master Gardeners & other volunteers. Thank you! Volunteer check-in will be in the east lobby of Barton Coliseum.

The Central Arkansas Garden Railway Society will be back! Their display only gets better every year! The trains are a hit with gardeners of all ages. A lot of work & co-ordination goes into the planning & execution of this project. River Valley Horticultural Products sponsors the plant materials & the work is done by Master Gardeners & other volunteers. There are also 4 H activities for kids.

You can catch Arkansas' own P. Allen Smith "A Plant Geek's Manifesto: Getting Your Hands in the Dirt & why it's Important!" on Friday at 11:00 in Barton Coliseum. We have artists! Art of the Garden will be in the southwest concourse.

Frances Flower Shop in downtown Little Rock is the official sponsor for the Arts & Crafts Building this year. Kudos to Betty Anderson for stepping up. Be sure to visit their sponsor table in the Arts & Crafts Building. Their exhibit will be about the "Odyssey" of cut flowers from their origins around the world! The official exhibit for The Arkansas Diamonds™ plants will also be in Arts & Crafts. These are tried & true plants, selected for growing in ALL parts of Arkansas. These can be found in fine nurseries statewide.

The Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs sponsors and puts on the award winning juried "flower show" part of our show. They are enjoying their beautiful new home in the Arts & Crafts Building. Set aside time to explore the many categories & criteria of their exhibits & see who won the blue ribbons. Flower shows are an important undertaking & they take it very seriously! Another aspect of the flower show is the society tables & horticulture entries. Everything is labeled, so this serves as a great educational exhibit as well. Anyone can enter this competition. If you are interested in going out for your own blue ribbon, contact: Jean Moser at 658-6024 or olyardner@aol.com

There will be a new speaker on the Gardening "How to Stage" every half hour. The "How to Stage" runs all three days. Birds, bees, butterflies, wildflowers, pollinators, How to's, herbs, practical solutions, succulents, azaleas, camellias, trees, floral designs, ground covers, terrariums, chickens, door prizes & a great time! Don't miss a minute of the wild & crazy excitement! You can also listen to the speakers while strolling through the flower show.

Note: Speaker schedule subject to change- Check current listings.

How to Speakers 2020

Friday, February 28

9:30 Soil in the Garden Vic Ford, U of A Cooperative Extension Service

10:00 Demystifying Drip Irrigation Cindy Franklin, Pulaski County Master Gardener

10:30 Farm Life: City Living Sandy DeCoursey, Executive Director, St. Joseph Center of Arkansas

11:00 Landscape Drainage Solutions Chris Keeling, Keeling Company

11:30 The Cutting Edge; Five Easy Steps to Home Propagation Jim Robbins, U of A Cooperative Extension Service

12:00 Fun With Succulents Richard Cleaver, Culberson's Greenhouses

12:30 Establishing a Backyard Apiary Mark Guenther, Central Arkansas Beekeepers Assoc.

1:00 Native Plants as Food Sources & Nutritional Alternatives Rose Marie Nuffer, Central Arkansas Herbalism

1:30 How to Germinate Seeds of Native Plants Theo Whitsell, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

2:00 Wildflowers of the Arkansas Highways Joseph Ledvina, AR Dept of Transportation-Natural Resources

2:30 Poultry Breeds for Hobby Flocks Dr. Sara Orłowski, U of A Cooperative Extension Poultry Specialist

3:00 Basic Poultry Flock Husbandry Dr. F Dustin Clark, U of A Cooperative Extension, Poultry Health Veterinarian

3:30 Tablescapes With 2020 Vision Justin Hoadley & Alex Hudson, Tanarah Luxe Floral & Event Styling

4:00 Living Soil Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center State Park

Saturday, February 29

9:30 Success with Azaleas Ronnie Palmer, Arkansas Chapter, Azalea Society of America

10:00 Beautify & Retain Your Landscape with Curbing Solutions Fred Stewart, Classical Curbs

10:30 Catching Swarms for the Backyard Hive Mark Guenther, Central Arkansas Beekeepers Assoc.

11:00 Creating a Wildlife Refuge in Your Backyard Cindy Franklin, Pulaski County Master Gardener

11:30 Gardening for the Future (Native Plants) Rand Retzloff, Grand Designs

12:00 Habitat Chat Jim Allen, Wild Birds Unlimited (LR) & Mary Evans, Pulaski County Master Gardener

12:30 Native Bees Why we Need Them and They Need us Cathie Connaughton, Faulkner County Master Gardener

1:00 Building a Monarch Butterfly Garden Holly Anderson & Leslie Fowler, Arkansas Monarch Conservation Partnership

1:30 Medicinal Herb Gardening: 3 Simple Herbal Remedies from Plants You Already Grow Jill McSheehy, Journey with Jill- Garden writer & podcaster at Journeywithjill.net

2:00 Rubus: Herb of the Year 2020™ Tina Marie Wilcox, Ozark Folk Center State Park

2:30 How to Make Compound Herb Butter Debbie Tripp, Rosemary Hill Herb Farm

3:00 The Chain of Life: The Long and Eventual Journey of Fresh Cut Flowers
Jim Watkins, Frances Flower Shop

3:30 We Need Trees & Trees Need Us Krista Quinn, Faulkner County Extension Agent

4:00 Care & Selection of Japanese Maples Scott Smith, River Valley Horticultural Products

Sunday, March 1

11:00 Odyssey of Change Through the Years in Floral Design Jim Watkins, Frances Flower Shop

11:30 How to Grow, Propagate & Enjoy Scented Geraniums Kathleen Connole, Ozark Folk Center State Park

12:00 Bonsai Basics for Beginners Dustin Lane, Central Arkansas Bonsai Society

12:30 Totally Terrific Terrariums Sharon Mayes, Pulaski County Master Gardener

1:00 Easy & Carefree Groundcovers Susan Rose, Pulaski County Master Gardener

1:30 Camellia Care & General Info Paige Mizell, Mizell's Camellia Hill Nursery (Louisiana)

2:00 Questions Answered: African Violets Betty Ferguson, Central Arkansas African Violet Society

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