

The Magnolia Chronicle

Pulaski County Master Gardener Newsletter

President's Report

July 2021

Summer is here! The heat and humidity are proof of that, but in true Arkansas style you know that our weather is unpredictable.

Our plants are counting on us to take care of them. So too are our seniors and 4 legged friends. So please take care of all of them.

Summer is a time to relax and enjoy the slower pace of life. Sometimes, we rush through our days without stopping to reflect on what we have. As we see from the building collapse in Miami, you never know what the next day or even hour may bring. So stop and smell the roses.

Do your work in the morning when it's a little cooler and spend your afternoon enjoying the things and people you love.

Things are opening up some and most restrictions attributable to Covid have been lifted. We are optimistic that we MAY be able to meet in person in September. Stay tuned. We will let you know as soon as possible.

In the meantime, stay safe, stay cool, stay healthy and Happy Gardening!

Sharon Priest,
PCMG President

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The Kinfolk Garden: How to live with Nature

Author: John Burns

Book Review: Debra Redding

A gardener with a secret oasis on a Parisian rooftop. An artist making faux flowers to brighten Manhattan apartments. A family of Ranchers rewilding the American outback.

Anchored around the idea of nature as nourishment, *The Kinfolk Garden* explores lush gardens and plant filled homes around the world and introduces the inspiring people who coax them into bloom. Through visits to friends old and new, the Kinfolk team learns the secrets to a good garden, and what good a garden can do for our self-care, creativity and communities.

Though many of the people we meet along the way champion the idea of following natural instincts rather than a set of prescriptive garden rules, there are practical tips throughout the book that offer advice on everything from growing your own produce to foraging for artful arrangements to simply keeping your houseplants alive a little longer than usual.

The Kinfolk Garden is an invitation to engage with nature—to care for it, create with its beauty and cultivate new relationships around it—and offers inspiration and guidance to anyone looking to bring a little more greenery into their life.

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GARDENING CHECKLIST FOR JULY

By Carol Randle

Summer is really here with hot, dry weather. Temperatures are heating up, natural rainfall can be hit and miss and insects and diseases have found their foothold. Try to garden smart, working early in the day. Watering in the early daytime hours is also better - the foliage dries quicker, the moisture can work its way into the roots before the heat stresses the plants, and we lose less water to evaporation. Remember to avoid peak hours when watering. Pay close attention to raised beds and container plants. Cutting flowers for indoor bouquets and harvesting vegetables in the early part of the day can also improve their lasting power and flavor. Mulching will help to keep out the weeds and pests, will preserve moisture so that you don't have to water as often, and will improve your soil and your garden's overall appearance.

PERENNIALS

Keep flower beds well weeded. Remove faded blooms. Make sure you keep the soil moist, but not soggy around ferns. They may become dormant if they get too dry. Now is the time to pick those beautiful perennials. Salt deposits can build up in the soil of container plants. This will cause the foliage to burn. Flush out these deposits with water once during the summer. Soil in containers dries out much more quickly than soil in the ground. Because we water so frequently, we also need to fertilize more often. Water soluble fertilizers have less potential to burn our plants, but even so, we don't want to use fertilizer amended water on bone dry plants.

If your hydrangeas need pruning because they are big and overgrown, now is the time to do it as they finish blooming. They set buds in the fall. Hydrangeas need older canes to be removed down to the ground line. Lightly fertilize after pruning. Heat and humidity may take their toll on humans, but tropical plants are in their element. The more humidity, the better they like it. Since we grow most of our tropical plants in containers, water is still a vital element for success.

Perennial plants that are in their prime now include the echinaceas (coneflowers), rudbekia, hostas, and the agastache or hyssop. Coreopsis will be ending its bloom cycle at the end of summer, so allow the last set of flowers to set seed. Save the seeds to sow in October.

Hardy hibiscus plants are blooming now, as well. The dinner size blossoms are a show stopper. Be sure to give them ample moisture and sunlight for the best performance. Varieties range in mature size from 24 inches to six feet or more. Choose based on maximum size. Flower colors range from whites, pinks, and reds.

ROSES

Lightly prune bush roses to encourage Fall bloom. Continue spraying roses for black spot. Use a registered fungicide (i.e. Funginex) or an organic one (i.e. 4 t. baking soda + 1 t. liquid soap/or vegetable oil per gallon of water) on affected foliage (try not to spray the soil) for fungal problems.

ANNUALS

Mid to late summer is a great judge for heat tolerant annuals. Geraniums have gotten smaller, if they are blooming at all, and petunias and callibrachoa are slowing down if they have not been kept fertilized. Sweet potato vine, angelonia, lantana and melampodium are blooming like crazy. The 'Snow Princess' lobularia has not stopped since it was planted and the 'Diamond Frost' euphorbia looks like a mist of white.

Deadhead plants as needed and cut back leggy annuals. A shot of fertilizer and a quick haircut can help them rebound. If it isn't a lost cause, they can be back in bloom in no time and continue to bloom until a frost. For those that are still blooming well, don't cut them back, but do continue to water and fertilize.

Annuals are in the ground for one season, so we want to get our money's worth of blooms. If they are too far gone to save, go buy some new plants. In today's nurseries, annuals are available almost year-round.

TOMATOES

If you are growing tomatoes, the number one vegetable in the home garden, don't be alarmed if your plants quit setting fruit in the hottest days of summer. Many varieties won't set fruit if the daytime temperatures exceed 95 degrees and the nighttime temps stay above 75 degrees. Keep the plants watered and mulched, and they should rebound and begin to set fruit once the temperatures settle down. If the plants are strong and viable, they can continue to bear through frost. If blights have taken their toll, consider starting some new plants from the suckers of your existing plants or buying new plants. Blossom end rot is a calcium deficiency controlled by **Stop Rot**. Even moisture helps prevent cat-facing and fruit cracking.

VEGETABLES

While many people may be longing for the cooler temperatures of fall. Fall vegetable gardening is upon us. You can plant all of the summer crops again starting in mid July through early August for a fall harvest. By early August it is time to start planting broccoli, cabbage, onions, carrots and other fall crops. Fall gardens aren't as easy as early Spring gardens, because it is hotter and drier, but also diseases and insects are waiting to attack. Monitor your garden frequently and catch problems as they arise. In addition to planting more vegetables, gardens that have been watered and maintained are producing a bountiful harvest. Tomatoes are in season, and nothing is better than biting into a home grown juicy tomato. Remember that peppers are heavy feeders and to keep them producing, you need plenty of nutrition. Use caution when applying fertilizer or pesticides when it is hot and dry. Make sure there is ample moisture in the ground and in the plants before fertilizing. Avoid using many pesticides. If you have to spray, do so very early in the day after you have irrigated.

HERBS

Harvest blooms of lavender now to keep the plant tidy and encourage more blooms. Cut sprigs of rosemary and freeze whole for future use. Cut back about three-quarters of the new growth on your thyme plants regularly throughout the summer. For a nice fragrance in your kitchen, tie several branches of sage together and hang it upside down in your kitchen. Pinch the stems of basil regularly to prevent flowering. Harvest about once a week. Clip the flower stalks off garlic. Once the leaves have turned brown., Garlic can be harvested.

INSECTS

When temperatures heat up and dry weather occurs, some insects start to build up in large numbers. Aphids, white flies and spider mites are all poor swimmers and thrive in dry conditions. Using a spray from the garden hose can knock them down, but pay attention and try to catch them when they get started. There are numerous insecticides on the market that can work. As with any pest problem, the sooner you catch them, the easier they are to control. Other insects which are becoming a problem include grasshoppers. They can ravage a plant in a short amount of time, so move quickly when you see problems.

LAWNS

Deep water lawns, trees and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and to avoid heat stress. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl, or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs. Set your lawnmower at a higher level. Longer grass will shade the roots from heat. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile, but never add your cutting after a weed treatment. Feed lawn with slow release nitrogen fertilizer. If you want to control any weeds, now is the time to do it before they get too large. You will find that some weeds are easier to kill than others. Nut sedge is tough. A sledgehammer is probably your best bet! Always read and follow label directions. If you want one final application of fertilizer, mid to late August is the time to do it. Pay attention to weather conditions.

MOISTURE AND NITROGEN

The main ingredient for success in a summer garden in Arkansas is AMPLE MOISTURE. Flowers will continue to bloom if they have enough to drink. If summer annuals are beginning to get leggy, pinch them back and lightly fertilize. Remember, when using fertilizers or pesticides, that it is important to have ample moisture in the plants before applying products. If the plants are too stressed, they may take up all the chemicals and suffer burn. Wave petunias should also be constantly blooming, provided you have been fertilizing. These plants are heavy feeders and will stop blooming without ample nutrition and water. Impatiens need water to thrive, but will take the heat well.

JULY BLOOMS

althea, anise mint, artemisia, balsam, beautyberry, belamcanda, buddleia, butterflyweed, cannas, chive, cleome, clerodendrum, coneflower, coreopsis, crape myrtle, dahlias, daisies, echeveria, euphorbia, feverfew, gaura, gladioli, hibiscus, hostas, hydrangea, kerria, lantana, liatris, lilies, lythrum, lycoris, marigolds, marjoram, miscanthus, nicotiana, oxalis, petunias, phlox, portulaca, roses, rudbeckia, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, tuberosa, verbena, zinnia.

Joe Pye Weed, coneflowers, and phlox



Scabiosa – pincushion flower

Blast from the Past

By Jane Gulley

First, remember the PCMG started is 1989. I am going to talk about our Stella Boyle Greenhouses.

This is a wonderful story. It is a story of serendipity.

If you remember, Janet Carson negotiated a deal in Sept.1991 with the State Hospital for PCMGs to use the State Hospital greenhouse in exchange for us keeping their garden beds on West Markham. Janet said we could use the greenhouse to raise plants for our projects and maybe sell the extras to make money. You might not realize that when we got the greenhouse it was in disrepair. This was in the 1993 June Master Minutes, our PCMG newsletter, but it has to do with the early greenhouse and is an update by Breck Campbell. "During 1992 there were several major activities at the Master Gardener greenhouse. First was the cleanup day soon after we were given permission to use the facility. The yard was almost waist high in weeds and the greenhouse only had one bench. About 20 master gardeners armed with weed eaters, rakes, mowers, and loppers attacked the yard and completely cleared it. In among the weeds we found many potted shrubs which were set aside to salvage later- photinias, ligustrums, Helleri hollies, acuba, etc The greenhouse was empty except for one bench along the north side, a propagation table with a mister, and a huge ficus tree. We still have the ficus tree. Many of us have wondered if it would even be possible to get it out since it is so large. Several master gardeners built benches for the southside and the middle area of the greenhouse. We made a bench for mixing potting soil and put a sink adjacent to it. We also built a small desk for record keeping."

The PCMGs couldn't use the greenhouse in 1991 but we needed money. We did not have officers until 1992 and we did not have dues until 1994! We did have a newsletter that we needed to pay for and we had our projects we needed to support. Back in the old days we did not require our project sponsors to supply water or financing.

In the 1991 newsletter I noticed we had a fundraising committee, an Historian, Elizabeth Corneliuson, and we included recipes. In 1992 the Historian had been dropped but we still had the fundraising committee and recipes. Karen Vesole was chair of the fundraising committee and Maxine/Mackie Hamilton was co-chair. Maxine was interviewed in the November 1992 newsletter where she said she was in the 1990 MG class and her MG activities were fundraising and landscaping. The fundraising included getting local business to sponsor us-they were listed with a thank you in the newsletter plus MGs making crafts. We signed up for booths at two craft fairs and we met at the Brady Extension Homemakers Building on Markham just west of Brady Elementary School where we made plant labels and decorated bird houses and garden gloves to sell. We made aprons that we sold for \$15 each. We also sold baked goods and seed ornaments. We considered putting out a cookbook, and selling veggies-don't know if that was a booth or setting up a shade umbrella in a parking lot! Mackie Hamilton was mentioned in all the projects.

After we got the greenhouse up and running we used it primarily to raise the seedlings for each project and left overs were sold to help the PCMGs. We had added dues of \$10 (1994) and that helped. Lois Corley was greenhouse chair for many years and at the meetings she would give us a deadline to get our plant orders turned in. If your desired plant was too difficult for the greenhouse to grow she would give you options you could use-you did not argue with her. Lois drove back and forth to the greenhouse daily to open and close the vent. Fortunately she lived close, but that was a labor of love. We took up a memorial collection for her in February of 2009. When Randy Forst came in 2014 he changed the emphasis of the greenhouse to money making and required project chairs talk to their sponsors about financial responsibilities. Each project also had \$200 of MG money to use each year.

The present MGs asking for donations, plus a book sale was planned. The goal was to raise \$23,000 to cover the full cost of a new greenhouse and repair the old greenhouse. In March 2010 phase one was completed with new roof, sides, and fans and the Board voted to proceed with phase 2. Phase 2 was benches and glass repair in the old greenhouse.

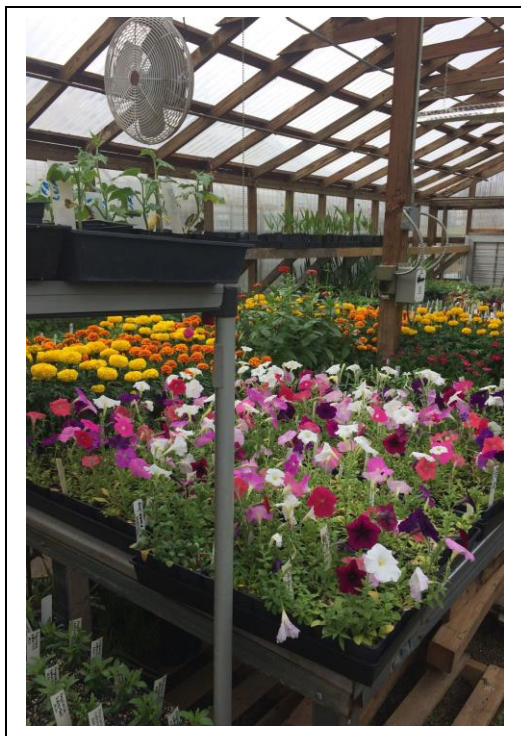
In June, 2011 Patti announced \$19,645 dollars and been raised and she also announced the Stella Boyle Smith Trust gave a \$10,000 gift for the new greenhouse project and that the new greenhouse would be named the Stella Boyle Smith greenhouse. Mike Mayton of the Stella Boyle Smith Trust thanked the Pulaski County Master Gardeners for giving the trust the honor of contributing to the new greenhouse and supporting the master gardener projects. He announced that Stella Boyle Smith trust would like to make another \$10,000 gift in honor of Maxine/Mackie Hamilton on her 88th birthday. A little over a year later, November 24th 2012, Maxine/Mackie died at her home in Little Rock.

Remember Maxine/Mackie was on the very first fundraising committee of the PCMG!

Merilyn Tilley was in charge of the ribbon cutting ceremony on April 24 2012 at 2 pm. The May minutes 2012 said the dedication was a lovely affair and the Board thanked the social committee for organizing it.

From Patti:

Had a committee meeting and discussed fundraising ideas. Someone suggested we just ask for money. If we received a small amount from everyone, we'd have what was needed. So we wrote a letter and then the committee hand addressed them. Response was so great we were able to build another. We sent letters to past or Lifetimer MGs. Cathy Mayton's mother was a MG and head of Stella Boyle-Smith Foundation and she gave a large gift. We repaired one greenhouse, built another, bought new tables and should have some money still for repairs. This was one of the first things I did for MGs and I made some wonderful new friends. I had to miss the opening of the greenhouse as my best friend's mom died and I was in El Dorado at her funeral. I was so new at MGs that it was sometimes frustrating with all the rules. Meeting my new friends was a highlight and the day Cathy Mayton called about the trust money was another. Cathy wasn't a MG at the time.



Pulaski County Master Gardener Greenhouse
Taken a few years ago by Paul Pilkington.

Arkansas Flower & Garden Show History

1989

By: Mary Evans, Historian

January 13, 2005

Ken Scott was the original founder of the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, primarily through his work at the extension service. In 2004 he wrote a brief history of his life for his grandchildren. He shared with me this excerpt that covers the garden show. I copied it exactly as was given to me, handwritten by Ken.

Ken Scott

I made a lot of troubleshooting calls in each of my counties. The county agent and I would go to individual's houses when shrubs were sick and/or dying. Our agents were trained for most crop situations, but knew little to nothing about ornamentals, so I usually made the rounds of my counties trouble shooting as often as I could. I worked four counties for a couple of years. Then Faulkner County was added to my area. And shortly after that, Garland County was also added, giving me six counties. I worked a different county every day, but they were close enough that I came home every night.

In 1973 Joe Ball retired and I was changed from an area to a statewide horticultural specialist. I was required to be in the state office every Monday, but the other days of the week I worked in a different county. After this routine for a couple of years, Gerald Klingaman was hired on a half-time basis, to serve northwest Arkansas. I still had to spend as much time on the road, but I spent more nights at home, even though I had to do more driving. I had enjoyed area work, but statewide, I just had to do too much traveling to suit me. (Just putting out fires.) Each Monday in the office I did my reports, answered telephone calls and wrote a weekly newspaper column called "The Plant Doctor." I also worked in an occasional TV appearance and lots of recorded radio programs. (usually 3-5 a week.) During the summer the ornamentals work slowed to a trickle, so I did woodcarving workshops at 4-H camps. Each summer I worked with about 500 kids. Gerald Klingaman and I worked closely with the Arkansas Nurseryman's Association, The Arkansas Horticultural Society and started the Arkansas Greenhouse Grower's Association. I served on the board of directors of the Horticulture Society and the Greenhouse Growers' Association. I served as an advisor to the Petit Jean Vocational School horticultural section at Morrilton. As I look back, I wonder how I worked all this in. Suddenly, I got even more busy! Sometime in 1989 or 1990, Beverly Hines came back from a ski vacation in Colorado and was telling Joe Waldrum, my section leader, about going to the Denver Flower and Garden Show. Joe thought it was a good idea and we needed something like that in Arkansas. I was the logical one to head such an effort since I worked in the state office. So, I assumed leadership of the group that would form the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. I sent out memos to everyone at the Extension Service which I thought should be involved and we were off and running on another venture. I wrote letters to all the garden shows in the United States I could find a lead on. The Philadelphia show, the oldest and the most prestigious show in the country, had no time for me. They seemed insulted I would even contact them and were reluctant to talk to me about anything. I wrote them off! The people at the Denver and Atlanta shows were extremely receptive and willing to help us any way they could. I talked to representatives of both on the phone numerous times. I visited the Atlanta show as my wife and I passed through on a vacation trip in 1990 or 1991. One day about the first of August 1991, Dr. Foster, the director of the Extension Service, asked me to come to his office. I knew USDA was offering early-out retirements to some of us old timers, so I figured this was what he wanted to talk to me about. I was right on target! "Ken," he said, "I've heard you might be interested in retiring." "Yes, sir," I said, "I've been thinking about it every day since my second day on the job. I'll go tomorrow if you want me to." He stuttered and stammered for several seconds and then as if he had oversold himself, said, "Wait now, you can't go until after

the flower and garden show. You've got to finish that before you can go, but USDA has given us just 10 days to have your answer." "I'll stay until 2 weeks after the show and then I'll be happy to retire," I said. I figured I could wrap up the show in that time. Dr. Foster had a very relieved look cross his face! What he didn't know was that I had counted down the seniority ladder and I had to be one of the 8 people eligible to retire. I had already had my retirement roughly figured and knew my answer if I was offered the opportunity.

Kay Dickens figured all the retirements at that time and she had already given me the rough figures and my wife and I had even discussed the situation. He told me to have Kay figure my retirement and give him my decision within 10 days. I stopped by Kay's office and told her for sure I was one of the lucky 8 and I wanted a more accurate statement than we had discussed earlier. Everything was decided in less than 30 minutes and I was back in my office. I called my wife and told her I was retiring the last day of February. I gave my answer to Dr. Foster the next morning. I got a buy-out that was roughly equal to a year's salary.

About the first of September I went to work in earnest on the Flower and Garden Show. I had to really buckle down and sell the nursery people on putting in gardens and renting retail booths. At one of the committee meetings I asked if they really wanted to have a show or not. If they wanted to have a show, they were going to have to help me or we'd just forget the whole thing. Two or three people got bug-eyed, but they must have believed me, because things began to pick up. For the next 5 months I was busy as a one-armed paper hanger. I visited every retail nursery within 50 miles. I begged, pleaded, twisted arms, bribed and tried everything I knew to get people signed up. The question everyone asked and I had no answer for was, "How many people are you expecting?" At show time we had 12 nurseries signed up for gardens and booths and a total of about 40 booths. Not bad considering no one on the committee knew what we were doing! While I was at Ohio State in 1961, there was a garden show at the state fairgrounds in Columbus and all the graduate students were "requested" to work. I handed out small sample bags of peat moss, but I didn't know the first thing about organizing or administering a show. I just showed up when it was my time to work the booth and answered questions about using organic matter in potting soil. When I went to work as an area horticulturist, I tried to talk the people in the Arkansas Nurseryman's Association into sponsoring such a show, but the reaction was such, I dropped the idea and never mentioned it again until this opportunity came along. When the idea of a flower and garden show came along, I was of the opinion it was going to be like the time I had broached the subject to the nurserymen, but I was in for a surprise. Everyone was ready for a show.....as long as I'd set it up and run it and all they had to do was sit on the sideline and cheer the show on. And that's the attitude of the committee until I gave them my little speech and asked if they really wanted a show or not. As I began to get a little help and encouragement from the committee, I got more fired up myself. It was then we began to find out how much we didn't know.... big time!

We had Bob Bray, the farm director from KATV television on our committee, so we just adopted him as our TV representative. I had been writing a weekly newspaper column for the Arkansas Democrat for 15 years, so when we approached them, they were all for backing us. I was beginning to think this thing was a snap! My boss wanted me to get a competitive bid from the Arkansas Gazette, so I contacted them, even though I didn't think it was a good idea. It wasn't!

The Gazette offered all kinds of coverage, plus several trips to give away and all kinds of freebies for prizes. The Democrat and Gazette were engaged in a newspaper war and we expected the Democrat to come back with a better offer. They didn't. About 2 weeks after the Gazette made their bid, they quickly folded and surrendered to the Democrat. We had more or less told the Democrat we were going to accept the Gazette offer. They dropped us like a hot potato and we had no news coverage except Janet Carson's weekly column.

Just when we thought we were back on track, the Robinson Center notified me that because we had no track record, we would have to pay rent on Robinson Center in advance. Not only did we not have any money, but the Extension Service had been paying our postage bill, expecting to be paid back. By this time I was beginning to get confident this thing was going to work, so I told the committee to stick with me and I'd dig up the \$4,500.00 we needed for the rent and liability insurance. I withdrew the money out of my account with the credit union, but didn't tell anyone, especially my wife, where the money came from. We were back in business. No one cared where the money came from, or at least not one person asked. And I didn't tell.....until almost 10 years later. I especially didn't tell my wife.....she would have shot me! I got my money back from ticket sales and re-deposited it in the credit union. After many nightmarish nights, I could breathe again! The whole deal cost me about \$35.00 in lost interest. I donated that to the show.

On the first day of the first show Bob Bray interviewed me on TV and as I watched the people swarm into the show I was almost jumping up and down. I knew I was going to get my money back! I have to laugh even now, when I watch that interview. Bob was sure I was happy to see the show was becoming a success. I was, but he didn't know the rest of the story!

First Committee members were: Janet Carson; Gerald Klingaman; Bob Bray; Imogene; Beverly Hines and Ed Rhodes. I started winding down my landscaping at the same time. I started cranking up my flower show obligations. One county agent failed to understand I meant it when I told him I was going to retire and he continued booking landscaping jobs for me. "What am I going to do?" he asked, when it finally soaked in that I was really retiring and he had 32 plans to be drawn. (I could only do two – four plans a day.) I said, "Get a drawing board and go to work drawing or start calling people and make up a good excuse!" I've never heard how he handled the situation. The cash money from the show was put in a safe at Robinson Center while the show was in progress and then moved to a safe at the state Extension Office. Bright and early Monday morning, Albert Squires notified me he wanted the money moved, so he wouldn't be responsible for it. I put the money in a brown paper grocery bag and took it to the bank I was using as my personal bank. When I told the manager what I had, she nearly fainted, but she assigned two tellers to count it. We took the money to a small back room, dumped the sack and counted it. We deposited the money in my personal account and I wrote a check to the University of Arkansas Foundation for around \$18,000.00. This was the total receipts, minus my money for the Robinson Hall rent and liability insurance. About two weeks later a man from the FBI called on the phone, asking about where I had gotten the cash money and if he could come over and visit. After discussing the situation for about five minutes, he said he was satisfied and felt sure a personal visit wasn't necessary. Banking laws say any deposit of \$10,000.00 or more, in cash money, must be reported to them and I showed up with over \$20,000.00! And in a brown paper bag! And in small bills!

The first Flower and Garden Show was considered a success by everyone associated with it! We had about 7,000 people come through and after all the bills were paid, we ended up banking around \$18,000.00. We spent very little money on the show and the Master Gardeners provided most of the labor. Oh, we had a number of problems, but everything went fairly smoothly and we learned a lot. Two weeks after the show, the last day of February in 1992, I retired with accumulated time of 28 years. I was 59 years old. Quite a few agents from over the state came to my party. I was very honored by their presence.



In Memory of Ken Scott

By: Mary Evans

Our friend Ken Scott passed away December 26, 2006. He was 74. He was a veteran of the Navy. He received his BA in agriculture & MS in horticulture from U of A. He studied floraculture at Ohio State. Ken worked in landscaping & landscape design. He went to work for the extension service where he took horticulture trouble-shooting calls in as many as 6 counties. He later became the statewide horticulture specialist. He wrote a newspaper column called, "The Plant Doctor," made many TV appearances & taped radio programs. He & Gerald Klingaman helped form The Arkansas Nurseryman's Association, The Arkansas Horticulture Society & The Arkansas Greenhouse Grower's Association. In 2006 Ken received the "Distinguished Alumni" award from U of A Dept. of Horticulture.

In 1989 Ken found himself planning the first Arkansas Flower & Garden Show. He nervously (his wife didn't know) put up his own money to cover the expenses to rent Robinson Center in 1992. They had 12 gardens, 40 booths. After 28 years he retired from extension, 2 weeks after the first garden show. But he continued to be involved until just a few years ago. Ken started each show by marking the layout on the floor of the convention center. Nothing could happen till after this annual ritual. He was once awarded "The volunteer of The Decade."

Ken had a woodcarving booth at the show every year. He continued till 2 years ago. Ken specially carved the pink wooden azalea pins (the logo) that were worn by so many ladies (long timers) at the shows every year. (I still wear mine.) He loved showing off his wooden chain that (I believe) was 320' long. Ken had taught woodcarving at 4H camps for years. He also taught woodcarving at War Eagle & Silver Dollar City.

Note: The first time I met Ken was making flower arrangements for a national extension agent convention at the convention center. Janet had roped me into that. Ken had a trailer on the dock full of cut flowers and all the stuff we needed. I just had to show up. He and I were the only ones doing it. Pretty quick he figured out I was making six or seven to his one.... and he commented on it.... said it was pointless for him to continue "at that rate." So, he learned a lot, kept me supplied and we talked the entire time. It was a most delightful day, that I still cherish all these years later... I have an extensive collection of Ken's carvings.

I enjoyed hanging out in his workshop with him. After his retirement he insisted that I come haul off his collection of horticulture books. Ken Scott was one of the nicest people I ever met. I really loved Ken. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



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