



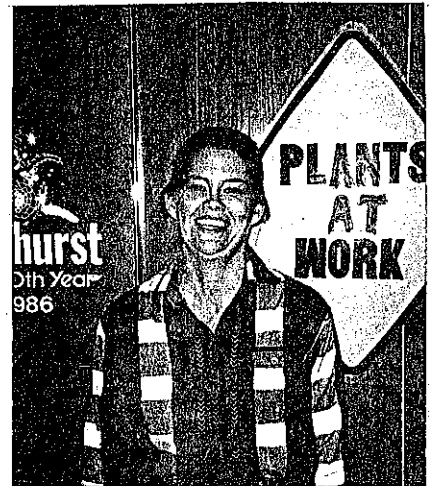
Master Minutes

VOLUME ONE NUMBER TEN

FEB 1991

Meet Our Master Gardeners. . .

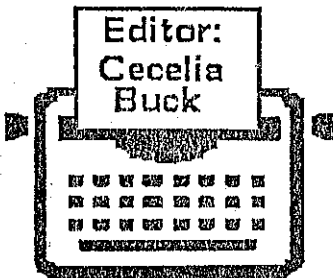
Lynn McMahon, a returning Master Gardener, grew up in Jacksonville. Her husband, Carey, works for Jim Walter Homes and she has two children, Cassidy, 8 yrs., and Carly, 6 yrs. old. After graduating from Jacksonville High School, Lynn worked for Balkman Brothers in Dallas. This company sold mail order African Violets and propagated them on site. Lynn also worked for Lambert Landscape Co. in Interior Maintenance. She had many international co-workers and learned a lot while there. One co-worker in particular, trained at Key Gardens. Lynn now works for Tipton and Hurst Florist as Vice-President in charge of their Plantscape Division. Tipton and Hurst has five retail locations and a 4000 square foot warehouse. Lynn feels that she's lucky to have a job which is also her hobby. She did venture outdoors last year and sunk pots of tropical plants in her garden to the delight of her neighbors. (Husband, Carey, dug the holes!) But, mostly, Lynn enjoys indoor gardening and likes to add unusual plants to her clients' indoor spaces. Besides running our Zoo birdhouse project, Lynn likes to sail and camp with her family.



Ruth Jones is a new Master Gardener and lives in the Hall High School area with her husband, Bill, who is a dermatologist. They have four grown children. Ruth uses one of the spare bedrooms for her hobby. She grows Moth Orchids (Phalae-



**Editor:
Cecelia
Buck**



nopsis.) These are the easiest type to grow without a greenhouse. Some of her plants have remained in bloom for 3-4 months. While not in bloom, orchids are not pretty plants and Ruth puts them in an east window. When in bloom, she places the orchids, sometimes with 9 blooms per stem, all over the house. Bill and Ruth grew up in Benton and both like to garden and work on landscape projects together. Ruth has a degree in Elementary Education from the UA at Fayetteville and has many hobbies. She likes to garden outdoors with perennials and iris and is a docent at the Arkansas Arts Center. She is very involved at her church, plays tennis and belongs to two book clubs.

Master Gardener Activities:

MASTER GARDENER CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 1990 season ended with the Christmas party. . . such a surprise! Our Master Gardeners do not have dirty hands and knees everyday.

Amid festive decorations, alumnae/alumni and guests had an opportunity to mingle and to enjoy the products of the culinary talents of the 1989-90 graduates.

Our "party master," Pat Green, could not have an occasion go by without some sort of blooming greenery. So a large Euphorbia Pulcherrima, poinsettia, sculptured the table with the most beautiful bracts of brilliant red.

The group certainly enjoyed getting acquainted with "old" and "new" graduates.

Volunteers, get your gardening wardrobes ready and sharpen your mind and tools. Spring is peeping over the horizon now, teasing us, now and then, with a few sprouts of bulbs sneaking out of Mother Nature's drab carpet. . . hastening her coming to life in a couple of months.

Calendar

- February 8- School for the Deaf Greenhouse Mtg. - the students here will be growing bedding plants and bulbs as a money-making project. If you are interested in attending this information/planning meeting, contact Janet.
- February 13- Master Gardener Meeting - noon to 1:30 PM at the Extension office. Carl Hunter will speak at the beginning of the meeting about "Roadside and Prairie Wildflowers." Bring a sack lunch and feel free to come and go as you need to. All pertinent announcements will be given as a hand-out.
- February 20- Master Gardener Trip to Mobile - remaining balance

due. Make checks payable to the Pulaski County 4-H Foundation. Send your checks to Janet at the County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204.

- March 1-2 - Memphis Farm Show - Held at the Downtown Convention Center across from the Holiday Inn, Crown Plaza. Free to the public. Information given about equipment, seed, tools & gardening also. More info. - call Master Gardener Anne Turner.
- March 20-23- Master Gardener Trip - to Bellingrath Gardens near Mobile, Alabama.
- March 23-24- Arkansas State Daffodil Society Show - A spectacular show held at Hendrix College in Conway. More details to come.
- April 10 - Wildflower Walk - on the Kingfisher Trail at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, featuring Carl Hunter.
- June 1 - Wildflower Walk - Guided walk by Carl Hunter at Wildwood - 10:30 AM - noon.

Master Gardener Checklist

Fruit Trees - Wait as long as possible to prune fruit trees. If you prune early, they will break dormancy early and might suffer damage from a late cold snap. Spray fruit trees with a dormant oil now on a day when temperatures are above freezing and when it is not likely to rain for 24 hours.

Roses - Wait as late in February as possible to prune. Leave 5-7 canes, 8-12' in length. Use white glue to seal cuts. Climbing roses that bloom all year should also be pruned in February. Remove the oldest, thickest branch at the soil line. Also remove all branches less than the diameter of a pencil. Climbing roses that bloom once per year should be pruned after blooming. Dormant oil spray may also be used on roses. Pick a day when temperatures are above freezing, with no rain expected for 24 hours.

Euonymous - To kill scale insects, use dormant oil spray as mentioned above. Be sure to coat every surface - top & bottom of leaves and stems.

Payback Phone Time

Phone time for new Master Gardeners will be scheduled on Thursdays and Fridays during February. You may have your choice of: noon-4 PM, 12:30-4:30 PM, or 1-5 PM. Returning Master Gardeners are not required to have phone time, but may volunteer to do so. We'd especially like volunteers to assist new Master Gardeners during their first phone answering time.

Preserving Alabama's Largest Live Oak

This article was submitted by Master Gardener, Dorothy Veirs. The location of this tree is near Mobile, Alabama and could easily be visited on our Master Gardener trip to Mobile in March.

We think of Restoration and Preservation as the repairing of buildings and preserving them for future generations. China, glassware, silver and metal objects and furniture are all carefully catalogued and put in safe areas. A tremendous and time consuming task has been taken by a horde of volunteers hoping to keep alive a five hundred plus year old live oak tree, creating a new facet to the Restoration and Preservation concept.

Residents of South Alabama near the old town of Magnolia Springs in the Fish River area were awakened in the night by the sound of a chain saw at work. The sheriff was summoned and found an aged woman and her caregiver acting as lookout while a nurseryman girdled the tree with a chain saw. She was the owner and was unhappy that the land including the tree was in the process of being condemned to be used as a small park to save the tree.

Monumental efforts were started the next day to save the tree. The live oak stands approximately 65 feet high and the limbs spread over an area of 150 feet. The trunk measures 27 feet around, and surprisingly, no youngsters have carved their initials for posterity on it. It is believed to be the largest tree in Alabama and the committee planning to celebrate the arrival in 1492 of Columbus had expected to use the old tree as part of their celebration of that occasion.

The day after the destruction took place, a large number of people made a decision to try to save the tree and started the process. One hundred thirty eight (138) bridged grafts of small whips taken from other live oaks were grafted to bridge the area that had been destroyed by the chain saw. An intensive care building complete with red crosses and I C U on the stark white board encircles the tree. The top goes to the limb area and is made air tight. A large window is provided for the public to see the area inside with dials showing temperature, moisture content and the tree itself with the grafts.

A well was drilled on county property to provide sufficient moisture and electricity was installed to provide air-conditioning, as well as electricity for the equipment. Mr. Stan Revis, a forester/biologist with the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, Crestview, Florida, monitors the progress.

Relative humidity inside the building is controlled from 90 to 100 percent and the temperature stays at 80 degrees. Water from an overhead sprinkler is sprayed on the tree and the ground ten minutes every hour from morning till dusk. Just inside the building is a trough of warm water and an eight inch layer of mulch covers the roots. The nearby trees are also being fertilized in hopes that the roots of the old tree may be entwined with their roots.

Sixty five more whips have been grafted in the damaged area and five small live oak saplings have been planted close to the

trunk and have been grafted with leaves still intact. The Tree Advisory Group were jubilant to discover that the old forest denizen is hold its' own and is beginning to callous over. The tree had originally covered about an acre with a limb span of over two hundred feet. The professional workers trimmed the tree back to about one hundred fifty feet to give the tree a fighting chance.

An 11 January 1991 update: The tree is in better condition than the trees around it although the top of the tree is going semi-dormant because of the cold weather.

The Probate Court in Bay Minette, Baldwin County, Alabama has condemned the land around the old tree for a park and it is guarded twenty four hours a day to assure total protection of the tree and the I C U building and equipment. This tree survival operation is a high technology procedure and has cost more than thirty thousand dollars. Many contributions, in kind, have been made which dropped the estimated cost of at least one hundred thousand dollars to the thirty thousand dollar range.

To date more than 25,000 people have signed the visitors book. Forty four states are represented and visitors from fourteen countries have stopped to visit the old tree in its' intensive care unit.

The moral of this article is: If something is worth restoring and preserving, DO IT NOW, TOMORROW MAY BE TOO LATE.

If you are in the area and wish to visit, the tree is on Highway 98 at the corner of County Road 17, just southeast of Fairhope, Alabama. Join the little boy that sent a balloon bouquet hoping it would help "his" tree get well soon. A visit to the ailing live oak would help you understand the enormous task before the volunteers.

Visit Botanical Gardens

As the winter days drag on and you start to long for a dose of spring, take heart.

There are a number of botanical gardens and greenhouses, both indoors and outdoors, to help remind you that spring is in sight.

There is nothing like going to a conservatory, indoor garden, or a botanical garden in the middle of winter to reaffirm the knowledge that plants grow all year round.

Visit some of these bright, cheery places for a touch of spring and a burst of inspiration:

Charleston, SC. Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. This 17th century plantation house and estate offers 50 acres of gardens. They boast of a variety of flowers and 900 varieties of camellias.

Dallas, TX. The Dallas Arboretum. 66 acres of gardens. They offer lectures and workshops on everything from Japanese floral arranging to growing antique roses.

Denver, CO. Denver Botanic Garden. The 22 acres contain a tropical conservatory with 1,000 tropical and sub-tropical plants, including an orchid and bromeliad pavilion.

Miami, FL. Fairchild Tropical Garden. Features 83 acres of gardens including an indoor rare-plant house and a rain forest.

Nashville, TN. Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center. This 55 acre estate features two orchid greenhouses, a camellia greenhouse and a greenhouse with a replica of a Central American forest.

Pittsburgh, PA. Phipps Conservatory. This Victorian glass house, built in 1893, features a variety of tropical flowers and plants.

St. Louis, MO. Missouri Botanical Garden. This features the Climatron, a domed greenhouse covering a half acre, the largest of its type in the USA. In the Climatron, visitors stroll through a tropical rain forest setting where they find more than 2,000 tropical plant species as well as tropical waterfalls.

Tacoma, WA. W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory. The Victorian-style conservatory, built in 1908 features a goldfish pond and waterfall.

Wichita, KS. Botanica, The Wichita Gardens. This 9.5 acre garden features a greenhouse of indoor green and blooming plants, a Shakespeare garden with statues of Italian marble, a xeriscape garden, which demonstrates landscaping for low water usage, an aquatic collection, rock gardens and streams.

To receive a list of gardens for any state or province, send \$1 per state and a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Gardeners' Information Service, American Horticulture Society, 7931 East Boulevard Dr., Alexandria, VA. 22308

If you attend a gardening seminar or event, we'd love to hear about it. Articles about gardening research are also welcome, as are book reports and any reports of Master Gardener events which you attend. You can call me with your information or submit it in written form. Information is due by the 15th of each month. Please send it to:

Cecelia Buck
27 Tennyson Ct.
N. Little Rock, AR 72116
Phone: 834-2825



Master Minutes

VOLUME TWO NUMBER ONE

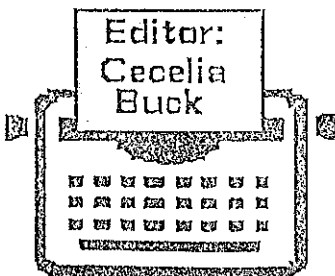
MARCH 1991

Meet Our Master Gardeners...

LYNN PARKER was born in El Dorado but grew up in Monroe, Louisiana. Her mom and grandmothers are avid gardeners and it's some times hard for Lynn to remember that plants in her childhood Louisiana won't necessarily grow here. Lynn attended Hendrix and the University of Texas at Austin and received a B.S. in Math. She worked for IBM as a Programmer and then as a System Engineer in Raleigh, NC, for nine years. She and her husband, Chris, a lawyer, enjoy gardening together at their Little Rock home. Lynn has helped out at the Zoo Garden and at the Old State House and loves answering the phone at the Extension Office. This year Lynn will be in charge of the gardens at the Old State House. Her other hobbies include tennis and bicycling. Lynn is also a volunteer for Planned Parenthood and on the board for KUAR public radio and for the Designated Driver Program.



RUTH OWINGS grew up in Colorado, but has lived in Little Rock for twenty years. Of her four children, one is a doctor, two are lawyers and the other one is about to become a lawyer. Ruth received a degree in Dietics from the University of Denver. In Little Rock, she taught for thirteen years until retiring three years ago. She has eight grandchildren who keep her extremely busy. One of these days, she'd like to add heat to her 15'x 12' free-standing greenhouse and grow a variety of plants there. Ruth raises vegetables, but loves to grow flowers. Her 2 1/2 acres were rather shady until 1982, when a



tornado took 15 trees down. Now Ruth grows more wildflowers, many of which grow naturally on her property. Ruth was a committed worker at Trapnell Hall last year, and in her spare time, loves to read. For some interesting stories, if you have a chance, ask Ruth about the service in the Coast Guard during World War II.

Master Gardener Activities

Arkansas Nurseryman Association

Several Master Gardeners attended this annual meeting last month, which was held in Little Rock. Many nurserymen from around the state presented programs. Bob Holland of Holland's Wildflower Farm in Elkins presented "Wildflowers in the Home Landscape." Rebecca Palek of Brambleberry Farms presented "Perennials - Coming of Age." A feature you won't want to miss next year is the plant auction. Master Gardeners were very surprised at the bargains to be had.

School of the Deaf Greenhouse Meeting

Pat Green and Joyce Ford attended this planning meeting. A planting day for the greenhouse is scheduled for March 7. Master Gardeners will be needed to help with set up and to help conduct the 3 classes planned for that day. Five different students will attend each class; 11 AM, 1:30 PM, and 2:30 PM. On a weekly basis, thereafter, a Master Gardener will be needed to check on the plants and help the students thin, transplant, etc. If Thursdays are bad for you, we could still work you in on weekly basis. If you would like to work this project or have seeds, plants, or divisions to donate, please contact Janet immediately.

Bi-Monthly Meeting February 13, 1991 by Shirley Garnett

Aside from usual bi-monthly meeting procedures, we were enlightened with our guest speaker, Mr. Carl Hunter. His slide presentation on "Roadside and Prairie Wildflowers" left no doubt in our minds that Mr. Hunter was in his "element of nature," like his audience.

Our speaker pointed out native wildflowers supersede the nature plants by threefold. The superb photography quickened our craving to "hit the road" as Spring's crescent increases to full bloom. Mr. Hunter advised the locations of backroads and fields to travel in Arkansas to find these original beauties of Mother Nature.

The time is almost here to ascend on the state to scout out these native families of monocotyledons (monocots) and dicotyledons (dicots.) He pointed out specimens for all seasons await us in the natural habitat. Whether your interest leans toward the pale-purple coneflower (Echinacea palladia,) the Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora,) the Ivy leaf morning glory (Ipomoea hederacea,) or the Jack-in-the-Pulpit (Utricularia atrorubens.) Spring is only the beginning of the seasons for these blankets of a full spectrum of color.

So gardeners, take time to look for these environmental blessings and say "Morning Glory" to the next Ipomoea hederacea you see. If you can find one, smell the Indian Pipe which has the scent of baby powder!

Thank you, Carl Hunter, please come again. Until you do, we will read your books!

Master Gardener Meeting

Over 50 Master Gardeners attended this noon meeting to hear noted author Carl Hunter's talk on "Roadside and Prairie Wildflowers." Mr. Hunter made his books available to us at cost, and explained that they were many years in the making. Mr. Hunter mentioned that every county in the state has prairie, often roadside, and that mowing and burning constitute no harm to wildflowers. Bulldozing is hard to recover from however. We are lucky to be in an area where the junction of several geographic regions occur. Within 30-40 miles of Little Rock, a good representation of Arkansas' wildflowers can be observed.

Zoo Workday

The zoo vegetable garden was tilled on February 16. We will wait for dry weather to plant. At the zoo birdhouse, a crew of six performed general clean-up and planted more greenery and bromeliads. The birds enjoyed the impatiens planted last month so much that they ate them all! The next zoo birdhouse workday will be March 9 at 9 AM. If anyone has a "come along," bring it. Lynn will try to hoist the large tree into position.

Arbor Day

The Plant the Future committee established last year by Governor Clinton will again sponsor a poster contest for all children attending schools in the Pulaski County area. Our State Plant the Future's goal is to see that 2 million trees are planted each year for 10 years in Arkansas. Winning posters will be displayed at the Pulaski County Courthouse and awards will be presented April 15. Elementary school winners will have a choice of nature programs to be presented to their classes. Junior and Senior high winners will receive a tree for their school. Discount trees will be sold to schools. Pulaski County Master Gardeners will help with tree distribution again this year. March 14, we will need Master Gardeners at 2:00 p.m., at our distribution point to divide school orders. March 18, we will need Master Gardeners to deliver tree orders to schools and pick up poster entries.

On March 16, a program entitled, "A Tree Thing For Kids," will be held from 1-3 PM at the Safeway Store on Battery. We will need Master Gardeners to help with several activities for kids: planting grass seed, tree stories, tree cookies (counting of rings on pieces of trunk,) learning about tree seeds and the care of trees. Smokey the bear will make an appearance.

ZOO GARDEN

MEMO FROM ANN WARD - Will plant Zoo garden on March 6th, if ground is dried out enough, otherwise will plant on Monday, the 11th, at 9:00 a.m.

30th Annual Arkansas State Daffodil Society Show

This will be held March 23-24, 2-5 PM each day, at Hulen Hall, Hendrix College, Conway. Free admission. Last year the show consisted of 896 blooms, 485 exhibits and over 175 cultivars.

Landscape Design Short Course III

It's not too early to plan to attend this series in September. It will be held at the Camelot Inn, Little Rock. Registration fee is \$60.00 (U of A students \$8.00.) This fee includes breaks and a study manual. Meals and accommodations are the responsibility of the participant. Topics will range from the ideal playground to senior citizen parks, from scenic expressways to your own backyard. These courses are not a set of "how to" instructions, but will offer a set of values for judging the merit of our individual community projects. For more information, contact Janet.

Tips For Phone Payback Time

by Anne Borg

If your schedule changes and you are unable to work your phone time, find a replacement. Swapping with another Master Gardener works well. This is a very important responsibility that each Master Gardener has.

When you first arrive, take time to see what is in the files and on the desk top. KNOW YOUR RESOURCES!

Each publication is clearly labelled as to where it needs to be filed. REFILE CAREFULLY!

If you want to bring your Master Gardener notebook, this is fine, but it is best to leave all of the other materials at home. We have all of this information in the Master Gardener desk.

Please record the callers name and phone number. We check all calls and may need to get back with them to correct a recommendation, on a rare occasion.

About ten minutes before you are to leave, ask the secretary at the front desk to stop the calls. CLEAN UP, and REFILE CAREFULLY!

Make certain you aren't accidentally carrying off "office copies" in your personal belongings.

If you see something you would like a copy of, ask for it. Please DON'T TAKE THE OFFICE COPY.

Recertification and Payback

New Master Gardeners need 20 hours of recertification activities (educations meetings, tours, MG meetings, etc.) and 40 hours of payback activities. Payback for new Master Gardeners should include 20 hours of telephone duty and attendance at least once at one project workday (zoo,

Old Mill, etc.) Returning Master Gardeners need 20 hours recertification and 20 hours payback (only limited phone time, if any.)

Gardening Checklist

Roses - As plants leaf out, begin spraying every week to 10 days with Benlate, Benomyl, or Funginex to control disease. For climbing roses that bloom once per year, prune after blooming and seal cuts with pruning paint or white glue.

Trees - Trees may be fertilized now before green up of lawn. This will help those trees that were damaged or stressed during the previous year.

Lawn - Apply pre-emergent for crabgrass control, if needed, by March 15. De-thatch, if necessary, before grass turns green. In late March to early April, mow lawn to remove weed seeds and dead tops of grass (check mowing height in literature.)

Red Tip Photinia - If fungus has been a problem, remove mulch, apply fresh mulch, spray with Daconil, Funginex, or Bordeaux now and again 2 weeks later. Consider eleagnus as an alternate evergreen planting.

Houseplants - Don't be tempted to move houseplants outside too soon. A good recommendation is to move them outside in May and then back inside in September. When buying houseplants during cold weather, cover them before taking them out to your car and if extremely cold, warm the car beforehand. A recent Arkansas Gazette article quoted a professional nurseryman on the care of hibiscus: "...thin out the branches in winter, prune it back hard in March and, when it is ready to go outside in May, give it a good jolt of fertilizer.

Calendar

- March 7- School For The Deaf Greenhouse Planting Day- MG's needed for set-up and classes at 11 AM, 1:30 PM and 2:30 PM. Call Janet immediately, if interested.
- March 9- Zoo Birdhouse Workday- 9 AM. Bring a "come along" if you have one.
- March 13- Gardening Program- 6:15 PM at Amboy Methodist Church by Janet Carson.
- March 14- Preparation for Arbor Day- 2:00 p.m. at Healthy Lawns & Shrubs Warehouse, 1205 Vogler, L.R. Meet to group school orders.
- March 16- "A Tree Thing For Kids"- 1-3 PM at Safeway store on Battery. MG's needed o help with activities.
- March 18- Arbor Day- MG's needed to deliver trees to schools and pick up posters. Contact Janet.
- March 20-23 Bellingrath Gardens Trip-
- March 23-24 30th Annual Arkansas State Daffodil Society Show- 2-5 PM each day at Hulen Hall, Hendrix College, Conway. Free Admission.

April 10- Pinnacle Mtn. Kingfisher Trail Wildflower Walk- Tour by Park Naturalists.

Other Upcoming Events

April -Azalea Hill Nursery Tour- Pine Bluff (no date yet)
-Black Forest Nursery Tour- Trees and Shrubs (no date yet)

May -Brambleberry Farms- Perennials (no date yet)

June 1 -Wildflower Walk at Wildwood- guided by Carl Hunter 10:30 AM-noon.

September 23-27 International Master Gardener Conference- Detroit
24-25 Landscape Design Short Course III

A late "Thank You!" to the staff at the Extension Office for the Christmas cinnamon rolls and books!

Cappers' Weekly

submitted by Linda Hubbell

GOVERNMENT SAVES ENDANGERED PLANTS

Hundreds of the world's endangered plants, from tiny Indonesian orchids to the giant saguaro cactus of Arizona, have found a home in a cluster of government-run greenhouses where they are nursed back from the brink of extinction.

"We keep the Noah's Ark of the plant world," said Rob Pennington, superintendent of collections at the U.S. Botanical Garden's 20-acre Poplar Point Nursery in southeast Washington.

Among the 25,000 plants that flourish in the nursery's two dozen greenhouses on the Anacostia River banks are about 3,000 rare and exotic specimens seized by custom officials at U.S. ports of entry.

The plants were removed from import shipments that violated the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, a multinational accord that forbids trafficking in a long list of endangered plants and animals with strict certification.

Diseased plants are destroyed immediately. The others are sent to 15 government "plant rescue stations" around the country, including Poplar Point, where they are nurtured and bred for scientific study and display at botanical gardens.

The Botanic Garden, established by Congress in 1821, also grows plants at Poplar Point to landscape the Capital and adjacent federal buildings and for seasonal floral displays at its conservatory, a formal greenhouse on the Mall at the foot of Capitol Hill.

Pennington, 36, a horticulturist trained in plant pathology, said the biggest threat to the world's tropical plants comes from runaway population growth. More and more people means the destruction of forests and vast amounts of foliage for food, housing and commercial development.

"These plants are endangered because they no longer have a home when their environment is removed," he said.

Newsletter Volunteers

Meet our newsletter crew:

- Coordinator -Gayle Elder- She will contact each project leader (Zoo Garden, Old Mill, etc.) each month for their reports and see that the newsletter is finished in time.
- Computer -Stacy Coggins- He receives the rough copies and produces the finished newsletter.
- Biographies -Pam Webb- She will interview one returning Master Gardener and one new Master Gardener each month.
- Gardening Checklist -Monica Davis- She will report on current gardening questions/problems.
- Activities/Calendar -Paul Bruhn- He will obtain a list of upcoming activities from Janet and will report on Master Gardener activities.

If you have articles to submit, do so no later than the 15th of the month. Send them to: Paul Bruhn, 3121 Breckenridge DR., Little Rock, AR 72207. Phone- (H) 221-1269, (O) 227-2264



Master Minutes

VOLUME TWO NUMBER TWO

APRIL 1991

Meet Our Master Gardeners

Every Friday morning, you will find Master Gardener Julie Newsum at Forest Park Elementary School working with fourth grade students. She helps introduce these children to some of the joys and wonders of horticulture. This energetic volunteer helped initiate the gardening project several years ago. The school and the children benefit greatly from her knowledge, enthusiasm, and dedicated service.

Also actively involved in the Forest Park program is Janet Carson. From this association, Julie became interested in Master Gardeners and graduated in the 1989-90 class. Most of her time is spent in the school project however she also helps with the gardening at Trapnall Hall.

This busy wife and mother is originally from Ft. Smith, AR. She earned her nursing degree from UAMS and is married to Jon Newsum, an anesthesiologist at St. Vincent. They have two daughters, Jennifer (20), who attends UALR and Kathryn (14) who attends Pulaski Heights Jr. High. The Newsoms have lived across the U. S. from Massachusetts to California, and from Illinois to Florida. They have been in Arkansas for the past ten years and Julie is happy to call Little Rock their home.



Breck Campbell loves all types and aspects of gardening, whether it might be starting flowers from seed in his greenhouse, growing vegetables on two large plots at the county farm, or studying and photographing Arkansas wild flowers. This Master Gardener was born in Little Rock and attributes much of his interest in gardening to his parents. Both were avid gardeners and Breck's mother was instrumental in creating the Rose Garden at the Pulaski County Courthouse.

After graduating from Columbia University in New York with a degree in engineering, Breck worked with Whittenberg, Delony, and Davidson for thirty five years.



He retired a few years ago and has devoted his time to his many hobbies and interests such as woodworking, photography, and naturally, gardening.

Francis and Breck Campbell have been married for 38 years. They share their home with dog, Pete. The Campbells have recently returned from a trip to Mexico where Breck photographed flowers and gardens in that country. He is in the process of compiling a slide presentation on Arkansas wildflowers for interested groups and clubs.

Master Gardener Activities:

ZOO GARDEN (Ann Ward)

The Zoo Garden was planted (finally) on 11 March by Joy Broach, Darrell Patton, Pat Stover, Wanda Cottrell, Linda Dantzler, and myself. We planted lettuce, radishes, turnips, carrots, parsley, beets, peas, and much, much more for our Spring planting. The next work day (to weed) will be 25 March at 9:00 AM. If you have any questions, please call Ann Ward at 660-6650 on Thursdays or Fridays.

PLANT WORKSHOP-26 FEBRUARY 1991 (Shirley Garnett)

Master Gardener, Lynn McMahon's vast experience in interior design with live plants was apparent in her presentation. The warehouse for the Plantscape Division of Tipton and Hurst, Florist was a perfect location for the class. If the four walls had been covered, you would have thought you were in a rain forest. Lynn covered general environmental requirements and maintenance of various categories of tropic and sub-tropic greenery available for creating an interior garden.

She touched on the dramatic affect one can achieve with plants in interior settings. The inside gardens provide purified air.

Design can be achieved for height and screening with Palm, Dracaena, Ficus, and Spathiphyllum. Color and textures of foliage can be added for a dramatic affect with Dumbcane, Chinese evergreen, Bromeliads, and Cast-iron plant. Other affects can be achieved by draping, or trailing the Spider plant, Grape ivy, or Needle point ivy. An unusual plant can be added for a conversational item.

The environment needs for the inside garden were discussed: temperature, lighting, humidity, soil mixtures, fertilizers, and watering requirements. Lynn emphasized the importance of dust free leaves, or fronds. These vascular plant structures should not be cleaned with oil, or wax substances, as these items will clog the pores, decreasing their "breathing" process.

Lynn stressed that damaged leaves should be trimmed, or cut. Plants of feather, or fernlike shapes should be shaken to stimulate growth as the wind does. Proper drainage is important to avoid root-rot. Temperature and humidity must be monitored closely in a business location so that these conditions can be maintained within tolerable limits.

The spider mite is feared in the indoor gardens as it thrives in warm and dry settings. Due to the size of the spider mite, damage can be done before they are recognized. These moving "specks of dust" are usually noticed only in groups, or from the webs they spin. Should you suspect them, shake a few leaves over white paper, if the dust moves, you have spider mites. Immediately isolate an affected plant from the others as the spider mites spread rapidly.

CALENDAR ITEMS AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 10 - Pinnacle Mountain - Kingfisher Trail. wildflower walk with Park Naturalist. 10:00 AM
- April 13 - Workday scheduled for the BIRDHOUSE at the ZOO. This is a Saturday.
- April 13 - "Home Grown Markets" opening for the season at 2nd Presbyterian Church.
- April 17 - Field trip to Azalea Hill Gardens & Nursery in Pine Bluff. They primarily grow: azaleas, rhododendrons, and camilleas. Meet at the Coop. Extension Office and plan to leave by 9:00 AM. Please get your reservation for this field trip in by April 15, so that the Extension van and/or car pools can be arranged.
- April 17 - Highland Valley United Methodist Church at 15524 Chenal Parkway - Wendy Welch will be the guest speaker with a slide presentation on wildflowers. Lunch starts at 11:30 AM (bring your own sack lunch) and the program begins at 12:30 PM.
- April 23 - Field trip to Black Forest Nursery in Stuttgart; has over 40 acres of field grown ornamental trees and shrubs. Again, the scheduled departure time is 9:00 AM from the Extension Offices on Roosevelt Road and reservations for the trip should be in to the office by April 18.
- April 25 - Janet Carson will conduct a vegetable gardening seminar at the Jacksonville Recreational Center in Jacksonville starting at 7:00 PM. Reservations are required in order to obtain use of the Rec. Center. Call either 988-7588 or Ext. Office (660-6650.)
- May 11 - Workday scheduled for the BIRDHOUSE at the ZOO. This is a Saturday.

MASTER GARDENER INTERNATIONAL

International Master Gardeners To Meet In Detroit (Gayle Elder)

Garden tours . . . gardening workshops . . . speakers such as Jim Wilson of VICTORY GARDEN and Peter Hatch, director of grounds and gardens at Monticello . . . all this and more will be on tap when the International Master Gardeners gather in Detroit, September 24-27.

Registration by April 12 will save you \$25.00 off the registration fee. A form and complete information is enclosed with this newsletter.

RECERTIFICATION POINTS

RECERTIFICATION POINTS - Claim the ones you've earned (Gayle Elder)

Farm Show - February 2 - 1 point for attendance

Carl Hunter - February 13 - 1 1/2 points

Rose Pruning - February 23 - 2 points

PAYBACK & RECERTIFICATION

PAYBACK OR RECERTIFICATION -- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE (Gayle Elder)

Recertification is the "continuing education" aspect of Master Gardening. Points are awarded for scheduled Master Gardener learning experiences, such as Carl Hunter's program at the February meeting. A total of 20 points is needed for recertification. If you attend a non-extension sponsored educational activity that you think might qualify, send Janet a copy of the program, or tell her what you did and she will assign points, if the event qualifies.

Payback is just that -- paying back the Extension Service for the education we've received. We do so by working the telephones, by hands-on gardening in official Master Gardener gardens, or in other work, such as the recent Arbor Day preparation and activities. Payback opportunities are listed in each newsletter.

Payback is measured in hours -- 40 for new Master Gardeners, 20 on the telephone and 20 hands-on work. Veteran Master Gardeners need only 20 hours of payback.

Recertification is measured in points -- 20 for everyone. As of this newsletter, we will try to publish recertification points of recent Extension sponsored activities.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Master Gardener Olivia Nisbet on her recent marriage to Ralph Patterson! Her new address is West River Towers, 8NS, 35 Cedar Hill Rd., 72202 and the telephone number is 663-5757. Please change your telephone listing.

SOME MORE CORRECTIONS TO THE TELEPHONE LISTING

Breck Campbell's number is 666-9195

Anne McCord's new work number is 372-8506

Lynn McMahon's home number is 663-0629

Chris Benson's new address is 301 McMillen Trail, 72207 and the telephone number is the same.

A WELCOME LETTER FROM A 1988-89 MEMBER

26 February 1991

Dear Janet, Fellow Master Gardeners and Friends at Cooperative Extension Service,

Sorry I have done such a poor job of responding to your newsletters, educational opportunities, and great times with a super group of people. However, I have a very good excuse. I have been stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, serving as the unit clerk for the 119th Personnel Service Company. Yes, I'm the "Radar" of my unit. In fact, just yesterday I started for the telephone before it began to ring. I'll probably get me a teddy bear soon.

For security reasons I am unable to give you any details about my duties here, but suffice to say that we are responsible for taking care of our soldier/brothers financial and insurance details before they ship off to Saudi. Prior to being activated, I was a military drug cop. Believe it or not, I was able to use some of the skills I learned as a Master Gardener. I grew some of the best marijuana plants the Drug Enforcement Agency ever had. Although my mission was surveillance and arrest, I was additionally responsible for teaching DEA recruits about the properties of the "plant." Actually, I was in a lot more danger out in the field than I am now. I got shot at three times, and had the ever living crap beat out of me by an old mountain man who objected to my photographing him while he harvested his crop. It has definitely been an unusual year. I look forward to getting back home and finding a real job.

We keep rather long hours, working from 6:30 AM to about 7:30 PM. It is now 8:30 and I'm fading fast. According to radio reports we are getting, the war is going well for us. I believe we will be home within three months after it is over, so I will have more time to catch up on the great things you guys are doing.

If possible, I would like you to mail my correspondence to the following:

SGT Rick Lawson
119th Personnel Service Company
Fort Sill, OK 73503-5100

I will be home the week of 8 April to testify against a retired Air Force COL. Maybe I can drop by and see how things are going. In the mean time, keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing all of you again.

Sincerely,

Rick

HAPPENINGS!

Plant lovers anywhere near Louisiana this Spring should not miss the second annual "Festival de Fleurs de Louisiane" from April 5-7, 1991 in Lafayette.

The festival was established by local plant societies to benefit the horticultural department at the University of Southwest Louisiana.

This year's festival will not only include shows and displays by all the major plant societies and garden clubs in this horticulturally rich area, but will also be the site of the 3rd International Cryptanthus Show.

Visitors look forward to the large sales area featuring many unusual plants, as well as the latest perennials, annuals, and native plants available.

Serious Nurserymen, florists, and hobbists should not miss this event and the chance to see what's new.

Last year I discovered all sorts of new varieties of some of my favorite plants along with variegated dwarf, pendulous, and varieties of plants I had never seen before.

It was truly a wonderful show. The seminars alone were worth the price of admission. For more information, contact:

The Cryptanthus Society Show
Chairman Michael Young
4364 Sycamore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
phone 505-355-5408

HGA News Mid-Winter 1991

SCENIC BYWAYS SHOW BEST OF SPRING (Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Touring)

Of the 70 routes in the United States designated as National Forest Service Scenic Byways, eight are in Arkansas. Travel any one of the following highways this Spring for an unforgettable look at Spring in the Natural State.

Mount Magazine Scenic Byway - Highway 23 north of Ozark to its junction with Arkansas 16

The "Pig Trail" Scenic Byway - Arkansas 21 north of Clarksville to the Buffalo National River.

Highway 7 Scenic Byway - Two sections of Arkansas 7 from Hot Springs National Park in the Ouachita National Forest north through the Ozark National Forest. This highway has been called "one of the most scenic drives in America."

Sylamore Scenic Byway - Arkansas 5 and 14 from Calico Rock and Allison to Blanchard Springs Caverns near Mountain View.

St. Francis Scenic Byway - Arkansas 44 and Forest Road 1900 between Marianna and Helena/West Helena.

Arkansas 88, the Talimena Scenic Byway - runs for 55 miles from Mena in Arkansas to Talihina in Oklahoma.

The National Scenic Byways program was begun in 1988. To be designated as a national scenic byway, a highway must have high scenic, cultural, historical, or interpretive value and offer easy access to the public.

SPRING IN ARKANSAS (Arkansas Dept. of Parks & Tourism.)

April brings Arkansas' exquisite wildflowers, and a number of state parks focus on these beauties with walks and special programs. The first weekend of the month features events at Millwood (April 5-7); Lake Catherine (April 6); Logoly, Petit Jean and Pinnacle Mountain (April 6-7); and Village Creek (April 7-13). Devil's Den has chosen April 13-14 for its wildflower weekend and Catherine has a second installment on the 13th, with four parks holding theirs on the following weekend: DeGray Lake Resort, Bull Shoals, Lake Ouachita (April 19-21) and Woolly Hollow (April 20), Crowley's Ridge and Lake Catherine round out the month with their salutes to wildflowers on April 27. Guided walks and hikes, lake tours when applicable, talks and demonstrations by wildflower experts, photography workshops and slide programs are some of the activities you'll find at the various parks.

The U.S. Forest Service will also celebrate the wildflowers of Arkansas as Blanchard Springs Caverns hosts a Spring Color Walk on May 11. A one and one half mile walk will start at 1:30 PM at the Blanchard swimming area, featuring Ozark wildflowers and birds. It will last approximately two hours.

Dogwoods bloom profusely throughout the state, especially in the Ozarks. Siloam Springs will hold its 17th annual salute April 26-28 in the City Park. Activities scheduled are arts and crafts exhibitions, various types of entertainment and numerous concessions. April 27 is the date for the 4th Annual Dogwood Days Festival in Horseshoe Bend. There also will be a dogwood festival in Lakeview on April 26-27.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS NOW 15TH OF THE MONTH!

We are trying to have the newsletter in the hands of the Master Gardeners by the first of the month, or as close to it as possible. To effectively do this, all articles must be in the hands of the responsible people by the 15th of the month, so they can be edited, compiled, keyboarded into the computer, proofed, corrected and then "printed." We then have to allow time for the United States Postal Service to do its thing. You can see that this is time consuming and "slack" is needed. Your help and cooperation will be appreciated by all concerned with the publishing of the newsletter.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Arkansas, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating



Master Minutes

**MASTER
GARDENER**

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service

Volume Two

Number Three

May 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Christiana Leonard

When Christiana Leonard saw a newspaper ad for the 1988-89 Master Gardener program, she was immediately interested. She saw gardening as a great family activity; however, she was frustrated by too many gardening mistakes. So Christiana felt this training opportunity would be invaluable.



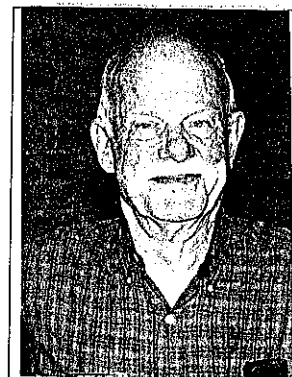
This delightful German-born Master Gardener has been in the United States since 1964. She has enjoyed raising vegetables and berries for several years and is now extending her interest to flowers.

Christiana is perhaps best known for her expertise in composting. The heavy clay soil in Little Rock was her inspiration to look for alternatives to simply adding fertilizer and huge amounts of peat moss. As she began to compost, Christiana became more and more excited with the results in her garden.

Interest in ecology is growing and people are

Stacy Coggins

Stacy Coggins followed his wife Ginger into the Master Gardener program. She completed the course in the 1989-90 class. The Cogginses, who have been married for 40 years, have the distinction of being the only married couple in our area who are both certified master Gardeners.



After graduating from Emory University in Atlanta, Stacy worked for General Motors for 32 years. He has lived in Little Rock since 1971. His forte is fruit and vegetable gardening. Stacy raises most of his produce on two plots at the county farm and in his back yard orchard.

Stacy's hobbies include computers, reloading ammunition, shooting and wine making.

We are indebted to Stacy for typing our monthly newsletter

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or handicap, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

becoming more aware of the benefits of composting. Christiana will speak on the subject at a state-wide recycling conference at the Camelot Hotel May 4. Her seminar is scheduled to begin at 11:45 a.m.

Although this conference is designed primarily for municipal officials and educators, others are welcome. Janet has complete information.

Master Gardeners Team with Northside Neighbors

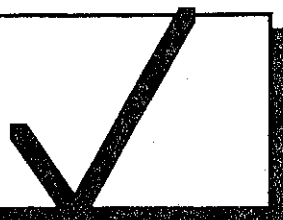
Built in 1895, the E. O. Manes house in North Little Rock was placed on the National register of Historic Places in 1976 after extensive architectural restoration. But nothing had been done about landscaping until recently. Some plantings were inappropriately placed while other were not in keeping with the architecture.

Nancy Brilllos, North Little Rock city horticulturist, made suggestions for plants and placement; the North Little Rock Junior League provided money for new plants; and Master Gardeners Cecelia Buck, Edoline Chester, Linda Dantzler and Linda Hubbell provided the muscle for relandscaping this northside landmark.

The gals moved a dozen boxwoods and a variety of other shrubs to make way for six Betty Prior floribunda roses, 12 coral bells azaleas, a pink hydrangea and three sasanqua camellias. They also thinned a monkey grass border. Most old plants were recycled into different spots on site, with the excess monkey grass going to the courthouse. The planting of pink Lord Derby caladiums will complete the project.

The League has leased the house from the city since 1962. It is available for rental for social functions.

Gardening Checklist



Lawns- The first application of fertilizer can be made this month. 2,4-D can be used as a post-emergent herbicide once the grass has turned green.

Look !

A Change of Address

Lynn Parker's address and phone number are now 478 Ridgeway, L.R., 72205, 666-2737.

Tent Caterpillars- Infestations of these pesky little critters should be winding down. However, Diazinon or Dipel (it's organic) can be used to put them out of your misery.

Fleas and Ticks- Warm weather brings some unwanted visitors, including fleas and ticks. Diazanon, Dursban, or Sevin may be used to send these little sucker to meet their maker.

Lacebugs on Azaleas- Lacebug eggs hatch in May and produce tiny sap-sucking nymphs which congregate on the underside of the leaf. As the nymphs and adults feed, they leave behind a number of brownish specks caused by the fecal deposits. Leaves of affected plants have a grayish or brownish cast at first, followed by yellow mottling. Control with Dursban or Orthene. Two or three applications, beginning around the first of June and repeated at ten day intervals may be necessary.

Roses- Continue to spray roses every 7 to 10 days with a fungicide to prevent blackspot.

Strawberries- Now that strawberry season is here, slugs may become a problem. Be sure to remove garden debris where slugs can hide. Diatomaceous earth may be distributed around the perimeter of the strawberry bed to keep the slugs out since the microscopic glass-like shells it contains act like barbed wire to a slug. Be sure to take proper precautions to prevent inhaling Diatomaceous earth into your lungs. Beer traps may be sunk into the ground to attract the slugs. Budweiser and Michelob seem to be their favorite brand of beer but the actually seem to prefer Kingsbury Malt Beverage, a non-beer product.

Fruit Trees- Spray fruit trees with a general purpose mix to combat brown rot, scab, codling moth, curculio, and plant bugs Spray every 7 to 14 days from petal fall until harvest

Master Gardener Calendar

Upcoming Events of Interest to Master Gardeners

Saturday, May 4, 1-3 p.m. — “Another Tree Thing for Kids,” Centennial Park, 16th and Battery, held in conjunction with the Quapaw Quarter Spring Tour of homes. Gail Roberson is chairing this project; please call her if you can help.

Wednesday, May 8, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.—Jack Wilson Water Treatment Plant (formerly Pleasant Valley Water Treatment Plant), 10901 Rocky Valley Dr., Celebration of Water Day featuring activities for children as well as for adults and sponsored by Little Rock Water Works. Janet will give a general gardening presentation at 10:00. Bedding plants will be given away.

Tuesday, May 14, trip to Bramleberry Farm, perennial wholesalers at Center Ridge. We will caravan from the Extension office at 8:45 a.m. Make reservations with Janet by May 9. Bring a sack lunch. We will be able to buy plants.

Tuesdays, May 21 and May 28, 6:45-8:45 p.m.—Maumelle Neighborhood Landscape Short Course. Location decided later. Janet teaches this every year. Call her if you want to attend or can help teach.

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m.—Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, “Trees and Shrubs of the Ouachita Region,” nature walk/talk with Carl Hunter.

CALENDAR FOR GARDEN PROJECTS:

ZOO BIRDHOUSE:

Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. —Men needed to finish standing up the big tree!

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 a.m.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Mondays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. - until—but as we go to press, it's been too wet to work here. Call Ann Ward to get on the regular crew for either day. She's at the Extension office Thursdays and Fridays; other days you can try her at home.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN, McARTHUR PARK

Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.

This crew needs more gardeners. Roxie Adams is chair.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Thursday, May 16, 1:30 p.m. —planting.

Thursday, May 23, —rain day for May 16.

North Little Rock High School participates in Earth Day '91

*The old Lakota people were wise.
They knew that any lack of
respect for growing, living things
led to a lack of respect for
humans, too, so they always kept
their hearts close to Mother
Earth's influence.*

Chief Luther Standing Bear

More than 50 North Little High School students participated in activities at Lake Sylvia in observance of Earth Day '91. Monica Davis, Master Gardener and member of the newsletter staff, and Liz Fulton, both NLRHS teachers, led the project.

Held in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the event included presentations on wildlife biology, forestry careers, fire prevention, and conservation. Students also planted dogwood trees in the Lake Sylvia recreation area.

Monica's ecology classes were presented with a "Plant the Future" certificate for planting 96 red oak trees in a clear-cut area of the Ouachita National Forest in March. This plot will be used in a Forest Service study focusing on the re-establishment of hardwoods in a pine stand.

The NLRHS science club and ecology classes also planted 17 trees on the west campus in observance of Arbor Day.



MASTER GARDENER

**University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service**

Garden project update

Roxie Adams reports that new plants were washed out of the ground at the Contemplation Garden when the pond flooded during April rains. Roxie and crew replanted vinca and Siberian irises and replaced bark mulch also washed away.

This group needs more gardeners. Can you help?

TRAPNALL HALL

We have once again taken this garden on as a project. Ruth Owings and Shirley Garnett will be chairing this project and they too could use some more workers. The plants have already been planted, we will just have to maintain them.

THANK YOU FROM CENTRAL NEIGHBORS

Janet passes along a letter from Ethel Ambrose and Bill Hendry of Central High Neighborhood, Inc., which sends thanks to all who worked during a "Tree Thing for Kids" in March. Excerpts

Special thanks to the hardy souls who donned the Smokey Bear costume . . . We are all inspired to work to build on the foundation you laid with the youngsters who came by for the program.

Those who didn't have a chance to participate in that event may be interested in "Another Tree Thing for Kids." See the calendar listing in the back of this newsletter.

Bellingrath Remembered

The sun didn't dance off the azaleas March 21 when our Master Gardening tour visited Bellingrath Gardens, but we were warm and dry; and I didn't miss the sunlight. The vast and refined ornamental development of garden paths winding to the Bellingrath home held my attention.

The 65 acres on the Isle aux Oies River near Mobile, Alabama, was once a fishing gateway. Manicured and polished to perfection, the gardens featured azaleas amid remnants of winter and hints of the coming summer. I could see how nature can be presented for the Creator's and humanity's enjoyment.

Walter Bellingrath's promise to his mother in a letter written October 16, 1892 was

...by God's help I am going to try to make the world better (and) brighter by being here.

This gardener has no doubt Mr. Bellingrath achieved his promise. Maybe we Master Gardeners are trying to do the same thing on a fraction of Bellingrath's scale.

(Thanks to Shirley Garnett for sharing her thoughts about her experience at Bellingrath.)

Recertification Points

Bellingrath tour, March 21- 12 points

Daffodil show, March 23-24 - 1 point

Kingfisher Trail wildflower walk, April 10 - 2 points

Azalea Hill trip, April 17 - 2 points

Wendy Welch's wildflower program, April 17 - 1 point

Reminder: Please send in your charts for payback hours and recertification points at least once a quarter. It's hard for Janet to try and deal with them all at once at the end of the year. If you prefer not to mail them, you leave them in Janet's box when you do phone duty.



MASTER GARDENER

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service

Master Minutes

Volume Two

Number Four

June 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Darrell Patton

Darrell Patton has travelled the United States and Mexico and observes, "Plants are always a way to communicate with people you don't have to be able to talk to communicate." Darrell cites his recent work with students at the Arkansas School of the Deaf as proof that communication is more than words.



It was about 20 years ago that Patton's son, Patrick, watched a Mr. Rogers television show highlighting gardening. The child was so interested that Darrell helped him plant their first garden. While vegetable gardening is Darrell's main interest, he enjoys flowering trees and other ornamentals as well.

Darrell was regional sales manager with Textron Corp. when he retired. When his wife, Camille, saw an ad for the 1990 Master Gardener class, she encouraged Darrell to apply. Since completing the course, he has been a tireless worker, contributing time at the zoo bird house, the zoo vegetable garden, and the deaf school.

Interested in learning to plant dogwood from the wild? This Master Gardener is an expert in that area!

Gayle Elder

(Gayle in background)

Gayle Elder's main gardening interest is using native plants in landscaping. She also enjoys growing herbs and perennials.



Gayle explains that she was delighted to learn that she had been accepted for the 1990-1991 Master Gardener class. This was

her opportunity to learn the basics of horticulture and get accurate information to further her gardening interests

This busy mother of three is a volunteer naturalist at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and has signed on with the Thursday zoo gardeners with a background in publishing, she is also the editor of this newsletter.

Although originally from Tennessee, Gayle and husband, Will, have been in Little Rock for 27 years. Their next project is building a new home on Lake Conway -- complete with gardens!

Gardening Checklist

It's time to renovate strawberries after they've finished producing. Remove all grass and weeds, and thin the plants out if necessary. Ideally, plants should be spaced six inches apart in rows that are not more than 18 inches wide.

Blackberry season starts late this month.

Blossom end rot on tomatoes is not a disease. It's caused by a calcium deficiency. A product called "Stop Rot" may be sprayed on affected plants. Mulch tomato plants to keep the moisture level constant.

On squash plants, the male flowers (which do not produce fruit) appear first. Be patient. If, however, female flowers fail to appear later, cut back the plant to allow more exposure to sunlight. If this doesn't seem to help, crush a few leaves to stimulate flowering.

Lawns can be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer now. You may fertilize monthly.

Lawns, shrubs, ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables need one to one and half inches of water per week. If it doesn't rain, don't forget to water.

Dead head bedding plants to keep them flowering. Pinch plants back if they become too leggy.

AZALEA HILL IMPRESSES MASTER GARDENER

When one looks from the top of a hill, what does one see?

At Azalea Hill Gardens and Nursery west of Pine Bluff, the scene is azaleas and rhododendrons coloring the landscape in shades of scarlet, pink, salmon, and violet as far as the eye can see. Nestled in beds along paths with trees as second-story neighbors, cultivars with solid, striped and bordered blooms display single, flakes, or double blossoms in a variety of sizes. The plantings feature diverse leaf sizes as well.

Even though only a few plants had a fragrance, the beauty and flush of color through the forest setting satisfied my emotions. The cultivar names were enchanting and held stories of their own.

Ronnie and Donna Palmer guided Master Gardeners through their gardens 17 April. Their stock comes from 10 or so major hybrid groups. The business started in 1970 as a hobby. Now, as commercial growers, the Palmers exhibit their plants in an informal garden area where customers may browse in leisure.

The display is worth the drive. The Palmers appreciate a call for directions. The number is 1-247-1574.

(Thanks to Shirley Garnett for her impressions of Azalea Hill as well as for the information on the Palmers.)

MASTER GARDENING IS Magic !!

MaGIC is the acronym for Master Gardeners International Corporation. Members include gardeners from most of the United States as well as from Canada and France.

According to Jane A. Meyer, president of MaGIC, the organization was founded in April 1988, in response to the wishes of several hundred Master Gardeners and Extension Agents for an avenue to "expand communication among them and aid in the exchange of scientific information about horticulture."

"MaGIC Lantern," the group's quarterly newsletter, includes a substantial feature in each issue; the April topic is the American Horticultural Society's compost-conservation initiative. Other departments are book and video reviews, regional news and a calendar of activities.

A column titled "Search for Excellence" has highlighted such diverse programs as windowsill gardening program designed by Master Gardeners in Benton County, Oregon, to develop children's awareness of the agricultural and horticultural activities in the area, to encourage their appreciation of growing plants and to enable children to experience the excitement of actually propagating plants and a Chesapeake Bay area Master Gardening program designed to increase general awareness of the importance of soil and water management as well as to educate the public about good gardening techniques and the Master Gardening program.

From time to time, the "Lantern" prints notices of price reductions offered by nurseries and/or equipment dealers to Master Gardeners.

Enclosed is a copy of a membership application.

Garden Project Updates

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

The summer garden was planted May 6. Ann Ward will try to arrange for flexible scheduling for those who want to work in this garden but can't make it on Mondays. Call her if you are interested.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

Landscaping (pun intended) was the order of the day for workers here on May 15. according to Roxie Adams. To lower the level of the garden around the concrete edge of the pond, Breck Campbell tilled the soil while Roxie, Sherry Gunter and Makie Hamilton removed it. The work, designed to alleviate a washing problem, took three and a half hours -- Roxie says they'd be there yet without Breck and his tiller!

Excess dirt was moved by shovelsfull to an area of the garden that had washed out in heavy rains.

David DeBlock is weeding and tidying on a regular basis.

This group needs someone to share watering chores. Call Roxie, if you can help

Check with Roxie, or Sherry for the next general work date.

MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO MASTER GARDENERS

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 AM -- Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, "Trees and Shrubs of the Ouachita Region," nature walk/talk with Carl Hunter.

Saturday, June 8, 10:00 AM -- Wildwood -- "Great Gardens of Britain and Perennial Flowers," nature walk/talk with Allen Smith, Birnum Woods Nurseries.

Saturday, June 15, 10:00 AM -- Wildwood -- "Wildflowers," nature walk/talk with Hampton Roy.

CALENDAR FOR GARDEN PROJECTS

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Saturday, June 8, 9:00 AM -- Once again, Lynn needs men to finish standing up the big tree. Ducks nesting near the base foiled the last attempt!

Thursdays - Trapnall Hall 10:00 a.m.

Recertification Points

RECERTIFICATION POINTS FOR April 23 - May 15

These points were unavailable at our deadline. We hope to print a veritable windfall of these points, plus those through June 15, in the next issue.

* * * * *

Chairmen are:

- Contemplation Garden - Roxie Adams 224-3698
- Sherry Gunter 835-0437
- No. Little Rock Old Mill - Pat Green 835-6215
- Cecelia Buck 834-2825
- Old State House - Lynn Parker 666-2737
- Ellen Kane 868-5035
- Trapnall Hall - Ruth Owings 455-4344
- Mary Frances Roman 821-2209
- Zoo Bird House - Lynn McMahon 661-0252
- Zoo Vegetable Garden - Ann Ward 666-1303
- Joy Broach 370-2011



Master Minutes

MASTER GARDENER

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service

Volume Two

Number Five

July 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Ellen Kane

Over a sixteen year period, Ellen Kane had two completely different careers. She was first a school librarian and then a business entrepreneur, one of the original partners in Balloonacy. Now this Master Gardener enjoys having more time for herself and her gardening interests. She uses her green thumb on the five acres where she and husband Jim make their home. Ellen cultivates roses, wildflowers, perennials and hundreds of bulbs.

A devotee of Janet Carson's Saturday morning radio program, Ellen heard about Master Gardening while listening. She was excited, both about learning more about her particular gardening interests and about the opportunity to contribute to the community. Ellen is an enthusiastic volunteer at the Old State House garden project.



Don Thompson

Don Thompson's area of gardening expertise is growing vegetables. You might imagine this Master Gardener's frustration as he explains that between his busy schedule and wet weather, he has not been able to plant his own garden this year!



Don learned about the Master Gardener program from a newspaper ad and enjoyed attending the 1989-90 classes.

This Spring his volunteer work has been with "Plant-a-Tree," a program designed to interest and instruct children in growing trees. He did a sweltering stint in the Smokey Bear costume at "A Tree Thing for Kids."

Don made both the St. Louis and Bellingrath trips with the group and found them gratifying.

A Little Rock native, he is a graduate of Little Rock Central and works with the State Department of Human Service as an auditor.

Gardening Checklist

TOMATOES -- Many varieties will not set fruit if the daytime temperature is above 95 degrees F, or the nighttime temperature is above 75 F. This may explain why an abundance of blossoms does not assure an abundance of fruit. Blossom end rot continues to be a problem this month. Remember, it's due to a calcium deficiency and can be controlled by keeping the moisture level constant and by spraying three times with Stop Rot.

BLUEBERRIES -- Rabbiteye blueberries are still in season. Contact the Extension Office for locations to pick.

LAWNS -- For Bermuda and Zoysia, control crabgrass and other grassy weeds by spraying with MSMA. Be sure to water well before application.

Remember to water lawns and gardens during prolonged dry spells. Water one and a half (1 1/2) inches per week.

This may be split into two applications, one at the beginning of the week and another a few days later. Do NOT water every day.

AZALEAS -- Continue to check for lacebugs.

FALL VEGETABLES -- Think in terms of fall vegetable gardening starting about July 15. Vegetables such as tomatoes, Irish potatoes, summer squash, southern peas, and sweet corn can be planted for fall harvest. Check your Vegetable Gardening for Arkansas for more information.

Recipes

HOME GROWN TOMATOES STAR IN SUMMER SALADS

When winter offers only tasteless, mushy tomatoes with no appeal to those who think the homegrown tomato IS summer, we can't imagine ever tiring of BLT's and salad plates piled with plain sliced tomatoes. By the fourth of July, however, we often long for something different to do with them. Maybe one of these ideas will appeal to you.

TOMATO AND CUCUMBER SALAD

2/3 cup diced celery
2 small onions, diced
1 tablespoon salt
1/4 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 cup vinegar
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup cold water
3 cucumbers, sliced thin
3 tomatoes, sliced

Combine first eight (8) ingredients and pour over cucumbers and tomatoes. Cover and chill 3 to 4 hours. Yield: 8 servings. Monica Davis

TOMATO-MOZZARELLA SALAD

Mix:

1/4 cup red wine (or apple cider) vinegar
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic (about one clove)
1/2 teaspoon salt (less if using olives in brine)
black pepper to taste

Add slowly:

2 tablespoons olive oil. Stir constantly with fork until mixture is well blended.

Pour above mixture over:

3 cups chunked tomatoes (or halved cherry tomatoes)
1/2 cup coarsely chopped red onion
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil (or one tablespoon dried)
6 ounces mozzarella cheese, cubed
sliced olives, green, or black, to taste

Cover and refrigerate at least eight hours, stirring occasionally. Keeps up to two days. Makes 5-6 servings. Gayle Elder*

*Peggy Elder, my daughter-in-law, gave me this recipe after serving this salad to us last summer. I used it for potlucks for the rest of the summer and took it to another recently. I never fail to get requests for the recipe.

Master Gardeners at Pinnacle

Master Gardeners Sally Garrison and Jane Gulley maintain the butterfly garden adjacent to the Visitor Information Center at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Sally, Jane and Sherry Gunter planted the garden, which features plants easily found at any garden center, last year. Sally and Jane are also helping maintain the native plantings in front of the VIC.

Nell Ambrose assists with the maintenance and monitoring of 150 bluebird boxes at Pinnacle. This year she has also established about 60 boxes at Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts.

Gayle Elder and Jeff Johnson volunteer at Pinnacle as natural history interpreters in a program designed for kindergarteners through second graders.

Jeff, who is also a docent at the Little Rock Zoo, recently designed and built a nine cubic foot mouse box for the zoo's "Close Encounters" program held in the education building each spring during the last month and a half of school. Loaves of bread stacked inside the plexiglass structure make interesting homes for the mice to tunnel through to the delight of both children and adults.

The newsletter would like news of other Master Gardeners involved in environmental work.

New Address for Editor

Gayle Elder's new mailing address is 97 N. Dogwood Dr., Mayflower, AR 72106.
Telephone: 1-329-0473.

Items for the newsletter must reach Gayle by the 15th of the preceeding month.

Garden Project Updates

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Joy Broach, Jeff Johnson, Ann Ward and Willie Wiley spread straw throughout the garden, June 10.

All the plants are doing GREAT! Harvest time will require additional help; so please call Ann if you can help.

For now, Monday will continue to be the workday for this garden; once crops need to be picked, Thursday will be added.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN, MacARTHUR PARK

The garden is looking very good with some plants in bloom now. No additional planting is planned for now; but maintenance, such as weeding, deadheading, etc., continues. David DeBlock checks on Mondays, and Roxie Adams has been weeding. Stop by and see the garden for yourself -- and pull a few weeds while you are there!

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Saturday, July 13, 9:30 AM -- scheduled workday. Come on out and join in!

OLD STATE HOUSE

With the historic grounds and large trees as a backdrop, the garden blooming at the Old State House is lovely. Master Gardeners Anne Borg, Richard Carter, Barbara Freeling, Sherry Gunter, Ellen Kane, Lynn Parker and Ruth Parker have planted five Helleri hollies as well as pink torenia (wishbone flower,) white impatiens and ageratum. They have also moved lamb's ear and salvia in addition to weeding and watering.

Other workers sharing summer chores at this garden are Paul Bruhn, Nancy Jones, Janice Laman and Dorothy Veirs. Each gardener has a schedule for weeding and general upkeep duty and is to trade with another member of the crew in case of conflicts.

TRAPNALL HALL

Thursdays at 9:30 AM are regularly scheduled workdays for maintaining the planted areas at this site. If you can help with the weeding, cleaning and deadheading, please contact Ruth Owings or Mary Frances Roman.

OLD MILL

Twelve Master Gardeners and four city of North Little Rock workers -- a great turnout -- participated in a BIG workday reported to have been "super productive." The city furnished nandina, butterfly bush, false spirea, liriope, celosia, cannas and two truckloads of mulch.

A good time was had by all -- ask Joe Dickens about his clipper escapades!

Gracie and Jerry Dumeny, Cecelia Buck's parents, made a sign for the entrance to the area (maintained by Master Gardeners) as well as "Keep Off the Plants" signs that should be a big help. Thanks to the Dumenys for their generosity.

The Old Mill is a high use area (there were FIVE weddings there on Saturday, June 8,) and this crew can use additional help. Two-person teams are rotating on a maintenance schedule, but the site needs still more attention to keep vines back in a very pretty area. Call Pat Green, or Cecelia if you can help.

Recertification Points

Black Forest	4
Brambleberry Farm	4
Maumelle Landscape	2 1/2 hours each night
Carl Hunter at Wildwood	2
Allen Smith at Wildwood	2
Hampton Roy at Wildwood	2
MG Family Picnic	1

Calendar of Events

- July 13 Zoo Birdhouse
July 19-20 Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Assoc. Annual meeting: Airport Holiday Inn
July 23 Master Gardeners Tour of Lawns & Gardens. Start at 8:30 a.m. from the office.

If you would like to have your home on our tour, please call Janet. Also call for reservations for the tour, so we can arrange car pools. Bring a sack lunch.

July 29-August 2 Janet's vacation.

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH JULY - 1991

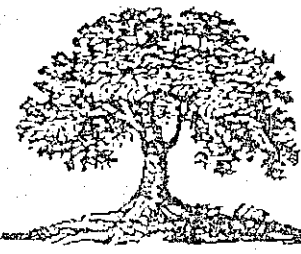
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 H ----- H	5 Dick Carter Susan Mehlburger ----- Ginger Coggins Paul Bruhn	6
7	8	9	10	11 Wanda Cottrell Pat Stover ----- Dick Carter Joe Moran	12 Ruth Parker Janice Laman ----- Carol Davis Ruth Owings	13
14	15	16	17	18 Pam Webb Kay Killgore ----- Ruth Jones Kay Killgore	19 Ruth Parker Janice Laman ----- Phyllis Wagner Dorothy Veirs	20
21	22	23	24	25 Dick Carter Kay Shurgar ----- Gayle Elder Marie Flickinger	26 Ruth Owings Nell Ambrose ----- David DeBlock	27
28	29	30	31			

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH AUGUST - 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Nell Ambrose ----- Barbara Freeling	2 Carol Davis ----- Maria Reynolds	3
4	5	6	7	8 Ruth Jones -----	9 ----- Phyllis Wagner	10
11	12	13	14	15 -----	16 -----	17
18	19	20	21	22 -----	23 ----- Phyllis Wagner	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

PLEASE CALL IF YOU CAN GIVE US
SOME TELEPHONE TIME



Master Minutes

**MASTER
GARDENER**

University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension Service

Volume Two

Number Six

August 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Bill Weidemann

"I was named for my grandfather," explained Bill Weidemann noting that her name is an unusual one for a woman. In addition to the gift of her name, Bill credits her grandparents for helping develop her love of gardening. Not only did this Master Gardener help her grandmother with the garden, she also worked in the cotton and peanuts on the farm.

Born in Mississippi, Bill lived in Louisiana and Florida as well as in Wisconsin, where she and husband Bruce maintained a working dairy farm and grew sweet corn. In Arkansas for the past 11 years, Bill has enjoyed growing vegetables.

While living in Florida, she became interested in the muscadine grape production flourishing there. She continues to study muscadine culture and hopes to see the day when commercial production is possible in Arkansas.

A tireless worker at the zoo garden, Bill has also helped with plantings at the Old



Rand Retzloff

A certified Nurseryman whose forte is landscape design, Rand Retzloff can be found most days at Cantrell Gardens. He has worked in the nursery business for the past five years and especially enjoys helping people solve their yard and garden problems. This Master Gardener is a natural for extension service phone duty! Rand also works in the Deaf School project and helped with Arbor Day activities.

Rand terms his yard a "collector's garden." He believes the best way to learn about a plant is to plant and grow it. Perennials and other ornamentals are his favorites.

Wife, Beth, shares Rand's gardening interests and maintains her own garden of herbs.

Rand is the artist who designed the logo chosen by the Arkansas Growers Association.

This versatile gardener is also a talented musician. You can catch him on drums every



State House. The extension office appreciates her willingness to work phone duty.

Friday night when he plays in a three-man band at the Flaming Arrow Supper Club.

Gardening Checklist

FALL VEGETABLES -- August is the time to plant vegetables for fall harvest. Plant southern peas, summer squash, carrots, collards, lima beans and cucumbers during the first half of the month. Plant cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli transplants in mid-August. Plant spinach, lettuce and radishes from late August through mid-September. Turnips and bush beans may be planted any time this month.

PESTICIDES -- When using any kind of pesticide, whether fungicide, insecticide, or herbicide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. If there is not enough moisture in the plants, too much of the pesticide, etc. will be taken up and there is a possibility of damaging the plants.

Now is a good time to use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds as well as poison ivy and honeysuckle. Since poison ivy and honeysuckle are perennials, applying Roundup now can keep them from storing up nutrients for winter; so the chance of their surviving until spring decreases.

SPRING BLOOMING PLANTS -- Now that spring blooming plants such as azalea, lilac, spirea, etc., are beginning to set blooms for next spring, give them a light application of fertilizer.

INSECTS -- Continue checking for insects on fruits, vegetables and ornamentals.

It appears that we will have two generations of fall webworms. If webs can be reached, they can be removed by hand; otherwise, use an insecticide and be sure it penetrates the web.

Check for bagworms on junipers. The only way to get rid of them is to handpick them.

ARKANSAS WILDFLOWERS -- Wildflowers blooming throughout the state this month include various species of bright yellow sunflowers, several species of liatris (blazing star) which range from lavender to rose-purple, butterfly weed which is bright orange, and Queen Anne's lace and cowbane, both white. Many of these wildflowers grow in masses which you can view in comfort from your air-conditioned car as you travel the state's highways and by-ways.

If Only They'd Been Excited

"My Mommy and Daddy think I'm excited," granddaughter Sarah said in her best "you-know-how-parents-are" voice, as we approached the zoo.

Since she wasn't excited, we hurried through unloading our plants, by-passed the array of food, and went immediately to find the warthogs. Only an occasional flick of an ear enabled us to identify the muddy lumps before us as the zoo's popular new residents. Some other guests were unable to spot the animals; so Sarah and I helped them locate sleeping critters. We decided to return later in hopes of finding the hogs more lively.

Still not excited, we lingered at every pen between the warthogs and the picnic. At last we rejoined Master Gardeners and guests to visit old friends and make new ones, swap plants, and eat -- and eat -- and eat!

(The variety of delectable desserts proved that gardening is not the only talent of our members -- hats off to planners and cooks! GOOD JOB!)

Eventually I was sufficiently restored to complete our tour, and we visited every cage

and pen, some a second time. But we weren't excited.

We found one warthog on its feet and moving at my pace -- very slowly. But most animals were in their beds; so after finding three bears still awake -- but just barely -- we also decided to call it a night.

Occupied by two very tired people who had enjoyed everything to the max, our car was the very last to leave.

Pulling away from the zoo, I thought, "Just think how much fun we'd have had if we'd only been excited!"

(Sarah is the granddaughter of Master Gardener Ruth Gibson, who shares with us their adventures at the Master Gardener picnic at the zoo.)

Transplants To Begin Next Month

We plan to begin a new feature in the September "Master Minutes." It will consist of condensed "transplants" from other publications.

We have on file a few things sent by Cecelia Buck, Shirley Garnett and Ann Ward, and we hope to hear from more of you. We are particularly interested in gardening tips and information about plants suitable for this area.

If you do the condensing yourself, please also send the name and date of the publication from which you "transplant" information. Please double space, whether you type, compute, or write.

If you want us to do the condensing, please highlight the information you feel will be most interesting and helpful.

We will use "transplants" on a space available basis and try to run them in a timely fashion.

Faces Red Over Green Peppers

Oops! Are our faces red!

Did you wonder where the eighth ingredient was in Monica Davis' Tomato and Cucumber Salad in the last issue?

It was actually the FIRST ingredient we somehow omitted. Here's the corrected recipe.

Tomato And Cucumber Salad

2 small green peppers, diced
2/3 cup diced celery
2 small onions, diced
1 tablespoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup vinegar
1/4 cup sugar
1 cup cold water
3 cucumbers, sliced
3 medium tomatoes, sliced

Combine the first 8 ingredients, and pour over cucumbers and tomatoes. Cover and chill 3 to 4 hours. Yield: 8 servings.

Monica Davis

A Garden Party . . . And You're Invited

The Management and Staff

of

GOVERNOR'S PARK APARTMENTS

cordially invite you to a

GARDEN PARTY

dedicating the new Governor's Park
Gardens for the beautification
of the property and the City of Little Rock

Featuring Special Guests:

Sharon Priest, Mayor of Little Rock

Michael L. Sabin, Regional Vice President, Insignia Management Group

Janet B. Carson, Pulaski County Extension Agent-Agriculture

7820 West Capitol
Little Rock, Arkansas

Friday, September 6, 1991
2 p.m.

Sponsored by local businesses
(will be listed in program)

(Master Gardener Nancy Jones, manager of Governor's Park, planned most of the plantings herself!)

Garden Project Updates

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Lynn McMahon reports that results of our efforts are starting to show with plants filling in well. Due to some old-fashion control methods, the mouse problem is considerably improved.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Ann Ward reports the start of harvest of zucchini and beans. In spite of the late planting due to the wet spring, everything is looking very good.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

Roxie Adams reports that regular workers are doing a good job of maintaining their schedules. Joy Broach is a new worker, helping with watering and other chores. There are no planting or general workdays scheduled for now.

OLD MILL

Cecelia Buck reports the recent addition of caladiums and cannas are doing great. The Old Mill is presently closed for structural renovation, but workers will still follow regular maintenance schedules. Call Pat Green, or Cecelia for the key.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Lynn Parker reports that her group is "hanging in there" despite the heat. She reminds workers to get substitutes in case of inability to work at previously agreed times.

Calendar

Saturday, August 10, 9:30 a.m. -- Zoo birdhouse workday

Wednesday, August 14, noon -- Master Gardener information meeting at Brady EHC Bldg. 201 S. Rodney Parham. Location of this meeting has been changed from county extension office due to construction work at the extension office. Janet requests that ALL MEMBER TRY TO ATTEND. Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

Saturday-Sunday August 24-25 -- Zoo Days. We would like to have a Master Gardener booth for this activity. Please contact Ann Ward, or Janet Carson for scheduling work time.

Friday, September 6, 2:00 p.m. -- Garden party at Governor's Park. See invitation on previous page. .

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH AUGUST - 1991

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4	5	6	7	8 Ruth Jones ----- Maria Reynolds	9 Barbara Freeling ----- Phyllis Wagner	10
11	12	13	14	15 Kay Shurgar Pat Green ----- Kay Shurgar Maria Reynolds	16 Ann Cooper ----- Joe Moran	17
18	19	20	21	22 Gayle Elder Wanda Cottrell Olivia Patterson ----- Joe Moran Linda Dantzler	23 Breck Campbell Dick Carter ----- Phyllis Wagner Dorothy Veirs	24
25	26	27	28	29 Ruth Jones ----- John Ball	30 ----- -----	31

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH SEPTEMBER 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5 Dick Carter ----- -----	6 Bob Dixon ----- Bob Dixon Paul Bruhn	7
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22	23	24	25	26 Dick Carter ----- -----	27 ----- ----- Kay Killgore	28
29	30					



Master Minutes

**MASTER
GARDENER**

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service

Volume Two

Number Seven

September 1991

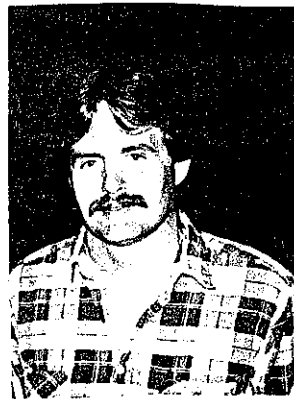
Meet Our Master Gardeners

David DeBlock

As A rule, Master Gardeners are a gregarious lot, and David DeBlock is no exception. He explains that he really enjoys helping people with yard and garden problems. It's easy, then, to understand why David excels at telephone duty at the extension service. He views phone questions as a learning experience for himself as well as an opportunity to help people meet all types of yard and garden challenges.

David has worked in the landscape business for 10 years, the last three with General Properties. This Master Gardener supervises three grounds maintenance crews whose duties range from planting and pruning to weed and pest control.

Most of David's work with Master Gardening has been at the zoo birdhouse and the contemplation garden at the Art Center. He and wife, Adrienne a Texan, share interests in flowers and cultivate an abundance of annuals and perennials at home. They have a daughter, age two and half years and are expecting an additional child in February.



Ann Turner

Master Gardener, Ann Turner, takes great pride in her yard, especially her zoysia lawn. Her extensive knowledge of chemical useage is an advantage in maintaining a beautiful turf. An employee of Scott Products, Inc., which sells farm supplies and chemicals, Ann has 17 years of experience and study of pesticides and fertilizers and their safe application.

Ann completed the 1989-90 Master Gardener class and has continued to enjoy working telephone duty. She is also an enthusiastic worker at the zoo birdhouse.

A self-described Army brat, Ann returned to Arkansas when her father retired after his military career. Her husband, Bobby Joe, is an Arkansas row crop farmer.

Ann and her husband, Bobby Joe have three married children and are very fond of all of the spouses.



Gardening Checklist

VEGETABLE GARDENING -- The first half of September is the time to plant lettuce, radishes, mustard, turnips, spinach and kale for fall harvest.

If your garden has been plagued by various pests and diseases this year, clean it out after harvest and till it. Apply Vapam, a soil sterilizer, and cover with a layer of plastic. This should prevent problems next year.

LAWNS -- It is now time to plant tall fescue, a cool season grass.

If you have not yet put down a final application of fertilizer on your warm season grass, do so by mid-September. Use a complete fertilizer.

HOUSEPLANTS -- Move houseplants back indoors by the end of September. If they remain outside later, the cooler nights will cause them to harden off and increase the chance of shock when the plants are finally moved inside.

POINSETTIAS -- Cut back to the desired height; leave three or four leaves per stem. To bloom between December 1 and Christmas, poinsettias must have total darkness from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and bright light from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Continue fertilizing through December 1.

ORNAMENTALS -- Garden mums are available at garden centers. If planted now, they will provide fall color and last until the first killing frost.

Master Gardener Travels To 18th Century on Vacation

One of the highlights of a recent trip to Nova Scotia, Canada, was a visit to the Fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton. A restored historical site and Canadian National Historic Park, the fortress maintains everything as authentically to the time (1740-1760) as possible. The buildings, staff attire and food are all as they were in that period. There are demonstrations of drying cod, baking, gardening, etc.

Fortress Louisbourg, a French military installation, was intended to provide a safe harbor for French colonists. There was a major fishing industry here; in 1742 over 30 million pounds of dried and salted cod were shipped back to France from this port. Providing all the fresh vegetables and herbs for both dietary and medicinal purposes, the gardens were an important part of the settlement.

Laid out formally in raised beds, similar to the flower gardens at Versailles, the gardens used soil brought to the coastal area from about eight miles inland; existing soil was too salty and sandy. High fences around the gardens kept out both animals and soldiers; crops were primarily for the upper class! Each major home had an extensive adjacent garden, tended daily and nurtured painstakingly.

Gardeners, highly valued and paid on the same scale as craftsmen, were on a par with other trades such as bakers and carpenters. Families passed on gardening skills and knowledge to provide children a trade for their livelihood.

Today, gardeners dressed as their predecessors would have been in the 1700's, tend the gardens with historically accurate equipment and tools.

Should you plan a trip to Cape Breton, the Fortress of Louisbourg is a VERY worthwhile stop. Plan to spend at least half a day!

(Master Gardener Paul Bruhn and his wife vacationed in Nova Scotia last month. Thanks to Paul for this account of a gardener's dream stop.)



Where Would You Like To Go?

Janet is looking for suggestions for both a spring trip and for field trips to nearby spots.

Master Gardeners have proposed visiting a Christmas tree farm, the Ozark Folk Center, a daylily breeder near Siloam Springs and Holland Wildflower Farm as well as returning to places such as Brambleberry Farms and Black Forest Nursery.

Suggestions for a spring trip include San Antonio, Ft. Worth and Dallas botanic gardens and arboretum and the Tyler, Texas Rose Festival.

Where would you like to go? What are your suggestions? Let Janet know.

Adding It All Up

Recertification points and payback hours accumulate on a calendar basis, January to January. Check with Janet if you are having difficulty getting in enough activities to meet the requirements.

Future Project Opportunities

Janet reports that we have some exciting possible opportunities for future projects. Helping stroke patients at Baptist Rehabilitation Center with some sort of gardening project is one possibility. Details are sketchy as yet.

The State Hospital in Little Rock may let us use a greenhouse in return for planting and maintaining flower beds on the grounds on West Markham. With greenhouse space, we

could raise plants during the winter and possibly force bulbs for spring sale. This project drew overwhelming support from those present at the August 14 meeting.

Most of our current garden projects will be carried over into next year. Final decisions will be made before the new Master Gardener training in the fall.

Arkansas Flower And Garden Show

Master Gardeners are vital to the success of the First Annual Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, February 14-16 1992, at Robinson Center in Little Rock. The theme is "Spring Comes Early To Arkansas." There will be 70 commercial exhibits and 13 completely landscaped gardens in conjunction with the Federation of Garden Clubs flower show. Sponsors are Channel 11, KARN and "The Arkansas Gazette." Pat Green and Connie Fugedy are working with Janet on details. Watch the newsletter for developments to see what you can do to help.

Wanted: Phone Folks and Partiers

HELP!

During the State Fair, October 7-11, agents will be busy at the fair. Can you help answer the phone during this period?

Are you a party animal? Can you help plan a Halloween party or a December holiday gathering?

Call the office to volunteer for either.

Garden Project Updates

Project reports at the August 14 meeting were encouraging. All project gardens can use additional help anytime. Fall planting days will be coming up for several gardens. If you need hours and can't remember who chairs what, please call the office or refer to the list in the June newsletter.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Monday and Thursday continue as workdays. Things are doing quite well overall and harvest is good -- over a bushel of tomatoes a week now! Special thanks to Joy Broach, Ann Cooper, Jeff Johnson, Janice Laman, Kay Shurgar, Karen Vesole and Willie Wiley. Ahead is a fall planting day, as yet unscheduled, to plant greens. Thanks to Breck Campbell for tilling.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

The September 21 workday will be a clean-up, fix-up affair. Miraculously, insects have been almost non-existent. The monthly work has paid off, and things continue to look good.

OLD MILL

This site is now open to the public again. Compliments about the improved appearance have poured in, and everyone who has helped can be very proud of the accomplishment. The city of North Little Rock will provide azaleas for fall planting, as yet not scheduled.

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH SEPTEMBER 1991

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15	16	17	18	19 Dick Carter Connie Fugedy ----- Connie Fugedy	20 Janice Laman ----- Phyllis Wagner	21
22	23	24	25	26 Dick Carter ----- Willie Wiley	27 Kay Killgore ----- Kay Killgore	28
29	30					

WE NEED ONE PERSON PER TIME SLOT..... WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER 7 - 11, WHILE AGENTS ARE WORKING STATE FAIR.

MASTER GARDNERS

MONTH October - 1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3 Olivia Patterson ----- Wendy Welch	4	5
6	7	8 Kit Smith 8:00 - 10:00 -----	9 Wendy Welch -----	10 Jeff Johnson -----	11 Helen Moix ----- Helen Moix	12
13	14	15	16	17 Irene Davis ----- Irene Davis	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 -----	25 -----	26
27	28	29	30	31 -----		

TRAPNALL HALL

Ruth Owings and Mary Francis Roman continue to keep this project going, but they can use some additional HELP!! Watch for a fall planting day here, too.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

This garden is looking very lush. This site is on a maintenance program now.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Workers are doing a good job of keeping things clean and picked up. Paul Bruhn reports that the grounds look good and well groomed.

Calendar

- Friday September 6, 2:00 p.m. -- Garden party at Governor's Park Apartments, 7820 W. Capitol, Little Rock. Master Gardener Nancy Jones, manager of Governor's Park, planned most of the plantings.
- Saturday September 21, 9:00 a.m. ZOO BIRDHOUSE WORKDAY.
9:00 a.m.-- 3:00 p.m. -- Herbfest at Second Presbyterian Church, lunch is included in \$30.00 fee. Immediate registration advisable. Check with Janet for registration information.
- Wednesday October 2 -- Master Gardener Float Trip. Pinnacle Mountain State Park naturalists will guide 20 Master Gardeners. First come, first served; so call Janet if you want to be one of the 20.
- Tuesday October 15 - November 12 -- Master Gardener training.
February 14-16 1992 -- Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.

Master Gardener Family Up-Date

CONGRATULATIONS to Edoline Chester (MG 89-90) on the birth of triplet grandchildren, Cameron, Christen and Courtney. The triplets were born to Edoline's youngest son, Mark and his wife Linda, of Dallas, Texas.

Linda Hubbell had surgery August 14. She is home now and doing well.

Aleta Newell was in the hospital three days. She had a heart flare-up. Seems to be doing better now, but will have more tests shortly.

Phyllis Wagner and family are moving to Connecticut. Their address will be: 48 Litchfield Pond, Litchfield, CT 06759.

Michael Mangin has moved to Conway.

Julie Newsum had surgery recently and will be convalescing at home for a few weeks. Seems an azalea got in her way.

Our sympathy is sent to LeRoy Wood, on the death of his brother, who died June 20.

Please inform the office of any news we need to know.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Arkansas, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating



MASTER GARDENER

University of Arkansas
Cooperative Extension Service

Master Minutes

Volume Two

Number Nine

October 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Joy Broach

As a little girl, Joy Broach played in the dirt and made mud pies and hated having to help in the family vegetable garden. As an adult, Joy is still "playing in the dirt," this time as a Master Gardener volunteering at the Contemplation Garden and, surprisingly enough, at the zoo vegetable garden as well. She has come to appreciate what she describes as "a basic premise of gardening — the growing of food —" and has extended this interest to the cultivation of herbs.



An Arkansas native and University of Arkansas alumna, Joy maintains a busy schedule that includes managing the 500-acre family farm that produces cotton, rice and soybeans. She is actively involved in the Aesthetics Club, St. Mark's Episcopal Church and the advisory committee of the Little Rock Club.

Joy's constant companion is Miss Toodles Noodles, a golden retriever the Broaches have had for years. Joy and

See Joy, Page 2

Joe Dickens

Joe Dickens laughingly wonders how a biology degree led to his current position as automotive service manager for Montgomery Ward!! A graduate of Hendrix College, Joe made a career change last year after a 17-year association with Western Auto.



Joe explains that he has always enjoyed working around his yard, and this led to an interest in the Master Gardener program. He cultivates a shade garden featuring fern, hostas and perennials, but also raises vegetables. A new project is growing herbs.

This enthusiastic Master Gardener volunteers his time at the Old Mill and is an avid supporter of the field trips; his favorites this year include Brambleberry Farms and the tour of Master Gardeners' lawns and gardens.

Although he was born in Nashville, Tennessee, Joe has lived in North Little Rock most of his life. He and wife Jan have a 12-year-old daughter, Sarah, who is her father's

See Joe, Page 2

Joy

her husband Henry have three sons, all pursuing successful careers in other parts of the country.

With a great commitment to learning, Joy continues to expand personal horizons by studying the harp and taking flying lessons in addition to activities designed to increase her horticultural knowledge.

Joe

gardening assistant . . . and perhaps a future Master Gardener!

Fall Colors Foray

If you want to enjoy the fall colors in Arkansas, there are numerous activities scheduled for you. Mountain Home celebrates the entire month of October with an Ozark Open House. Every Tuesday and Friday of the month, the chamber of commerce offers bus tours to view fall color in the area. The first weekend in October brings the 11th Annual Colorama to Bull Shoals, complete with a parade, 5k Run and street dance. Other opportunities can be found through trail rides in Booneville October 5-6 and Marshall Oct. 12-13, a backpacking trip at Devil's Den State park Oct. 12-13 and driving tours along the Talimena National Scenic Byway Oct. 21-Nov. 16.

Other activities include Village Creek with the 15th Annual Fall Foliage Weekend Oct. 18-20, Woolly Hollow's 4th Annual Fall Color Saturday Oct. 19 and the 9th Annual Ozark Fall Tapestry in Devil's Den Oct. 26-27. Also, Bull Shoals State Park's 4th Annual Fall Frenzy Oct. 11-13, the 5th Annual Fall Foliage Extravaganza at DeGray Lake Resort State Park Oct. 18-27 and Lake Catherine's 11th Annual Wonders of Fall Oct. 26-27.

Garden Project Work Days

Thursday, October 3, 9:30 a.m. — Trapnall Hall planting.

Tuesday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. — State Hospital

Wednesday, October 9, 9:00 a.m. — Old State House planting

Wednesday, October 16, 9:00 rain date for Old State House.

Gardening Checklist



COMPOSTING— October is an excellent time to start a compost heap due to the abundance of organic materials. Leaves, grass clippings (free of herbicides), garden wastes, and kitchen wastes are all compostable. In order to avoid attracting pesky critters, don't put meat scraps or bones in the compost heap. The heap should be kept moist (not sopping wet) and turned periodically for aeration. Shredded materials will compost more quickly than unshredded materials.

ORNAMENTALS — It's time to plant pansies. Pansies will reward you with rich colors when many other plants are dormant.

BULBS - When selecting spring flowering bulbs, remember, the larger the bulb, the bigger the plant will be. With bulbs, you usually get what you pay for, so, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bulbs can be planted anytime from October through January. If you must store your bulbs before you are able to plant them, keep them in the refrigerator, preferably away from fruits and vegetables.

PERENNIALS — It's time to clean up those perennial beds. Cut back those bedraggled peonies now. If you have not completed your fall clean up by first frost (around November 10), then do so immediately thereafter. Remember, fall is also a good time to plant new perennials.

TREES AND SHRUBS — Fall is an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs. Roots will have all winter to get established, plus, you won't have to water as frequently as if you planted in the spring.

LAWNS — As a general rule, we don't recommend winterizer fertilizers. Instead, we recommend a good fertilization program during the growing season to establish a healthy lawn. If, however, the lawn (such as St. Augustine) was stressed last year, it may benefit from a winterizer this year.

Master Gardener Calendar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Wednesday, October 2, 9:00 a.m. — Master Gardener float trip.

October 4- October 13 -Arkansas State Fair

Saturday, October 5 — Lakewood Gardens — Meet Jim Wilson of the Victory Garden

Recycling Fair — Park Plaza

Tuesday's October 15- November 12 —Master Gardener Training
Highland Valley Methodist

Tuesday, November 12—general Master Gardener meeting and reception for new class at Highland Valley Methodist. 12:00 noon.

Thursday, October 17 — field trip to Brambleberry Farm. Please call for reservations.

November 20-21 — Arkansas Horticulture Society Meeting — Camelot.
Master Gardener division November 20.

December 3— Greenhouse Management and Production meeting for our new greenhouse.

Thought's about Fall

Fall is my favorite time of year.

Some see fall as a sad time. I think that must be due to a very understandable human resistance to change.

But I love fall precisely because every year it reminds me anew of the value of change.

Fall is a time of planning and planting — a time to walk through the garden and consider what did and didn't work this year, to ponder changes and additions to the small piece of the planet given into my stewardship, to clean up the debris of summer's end, to dig new beds, to plant bulbs and perennials, maybe even to add a tree or a few shrubs.

Without fall work in my garden, spring will be bleak

indeed. So I love fall — in fact, it's my favorite time of year — until spring!

(Gayle Elder shares a gardener's musings on fall.)

Jim Wilson, Victory Garden host, to visit N.L.R.

Lakewood Gardens, at 3101 North Hills Blvd., has planned a good program on Saturday, October 5 with Jim Wilson of "The Victory Garden" one of public television's most popular shows. Wilson will conduct demonstrations on container plants at 10:00 a.m., Herbs at 1:30 p.m., and have a plant doctor session at 3:45. Autograph sessions have been scheduled for 10:30 and 2:00. Lakewood Gardens have extended a personal invitation to all of the Master Gardeners:

October Updates

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

This team planted fall crops on September 9. Breck Campbell tilled the site to prepare it for raking and planting of turnips, lettuce, radishes, beans and spinach. Everything else has been pulled except the peanuts, which both gardeners and elephants hope have been harvested just before you read this. This crew could use some weeders — can you help? Call Ann Ward.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Planting of pansies and bulbs is set for this month. Salvia is to be moved at the same time. See calendar on page three.

OLD MILL

No word yet from the city of North Little Rock on when plants will be available for fall planting.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

Watch for a planting date for mums and pansies. This group need more gardeners to help with regular clean-up.

TRAPNALL HALL

This group is really small and needs additional HELP to plant pansies. See calendar on page three. Please call Ruth Owings or Mary Francis Roman.

STATE HOSPITAL

We signed on with the State Hospital and have the greenhouse as part of the agreement. We'll need as much help as possible with pansy plantings this month in the flower beds. Please call Janet if you can help.

Other Events

Saturdays, October 5, 12, 19 and 26, 10:00 a.m. - noon — Pinnacle Mountain State Park fall color walks. Enjoy fall color and learn to identify local trees and some of their uses. Call 868-5806 for meeting place on a given date, as different trails will be used from week to week.

Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center. Led by Jay Justice, Arkansas Mycological Society president, presentations include slides and lecture on "Poisonous and Edible Mushrooms of Arkansas", a walk to see wild mushrooms and practice in using keys to identify fungi as well as cooking and preserving instructions. A \$4.00 fee for persons over 18 is payable at the door.

Sunday, November 3, 3-4p.m. — Pinnacle Mountain State Park Visitor Center. Learn how to press, preserve and use fall leaves for decorative purposes.



MASTER GARDENER

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service



Master Minutes

**MASTER
GARDENER**

University of Arkansas
Cooperate Extension Service

Volume Two

Number Ten

DECEMBER 1991

Meet our Master Gardeners

Martha Staples

Jeffery Johnson

Martha Staples is an Arkansan "who loves to see things grow." This delightful lady credits her father for her early interest in gardening. Martha enjoyed a 38 year career with the Arkansas Plant Board, the agency that enforces laws concerning seeds, pesticides, fertilizer and feed. Since her retirement in 1987, she has devoted her time to volunteer work and her family, which includes two daughters and sons-in-laws, three grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.



This dedicated Master Gardener has worked with the Deaf School project and continues to help on the phones at the extension service. She has recently begun helping at Trapnall Hall. Her personal interest is container gardening and she points with pride to her staghorn fern growing in a basket with wood chips and moss.

A past president of her local AARP, Martha now serves as program chairman for the organization. She works with the Girls Training School Auxiliary in Alexander and is a corresponding teacher for World Bible School. Her students are in Nigeria.

Since Jeffery Johnson retired from the Air Force in the mid seventies, he has been an enthusiastic volunteer for many organizations. It was his association with the Little Rock Zoo that introduced him to the Master Gardening program. Jeff volunteers as a docent at the zoo. Having enjoyed vegetable gardening all of his life, he was naturally drawn to the zoo garden and has recently accepted co-chair responsibilities for that project, which he will head with Willie Wiley, Jr.



Jeff is excited with the opportunities that the state hospital greenhouse will offer and soon will begin potting for the zoo garden. He invites anyone interested in a rewarding gardening activity to work with the zoo vegetable garden.

This Arkansas native obtained his master's degree at Fayetteville in agricultural economics. His family includes two sons and a daughter. Jeff finds time to volunteer at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and in a program providing "pet therapy" to nursing homes.

Gardening Checklist

POINSETTIA - If you are fortunate enough to receive a poinsettia plant during the holiday season, be sure that it gets plenty of sunlight. Pull the foil back to expose all leaves and place it in a window with full sun. Lack of light will cause the leaves to turn yellow. Keep the soil evenly moist.

PANSIES - If December is warm, you can fertilize pansies to keep them blooming.

MULCH - Be sure to mulch your outdoor plants if you have not done so already.

HOLIDAY GREENERY - If you use fresh greenery to decorate for the holidays, be sure to keep them away from an open flame as they dry out very quickly and could be a fire hazard.

CHRISTMAS TREES - Before bringing in the Christmas tree, make a fresh cut at the base of the trunk so that it can take up water more easily. Keep the tree well watered to keep it from drying out too quickly. Commercial preservatives are ineffective, and therefore not recommended.

MISTLETOE - The berries of the mistletoe plant are poisonous and should be kept out of reach of small children.

Master Gardener Visits Mynelle Gardens

Mynelle Gardens in Jackson, Mississippi, feature azaleas, day lilies and camellias, but there are also many perennials, annuals and naturalized bulbs. There is also a small Japanese garden with an arrangement of Chinese rice paper plants (*Tetrapanax papuyrifus*.)

A wildlife sanctuary and a haven for songbirds, Mynelle Gardens were created through the lifelong dedication of Mynelle Westbrook Hayward, a Jackson native of national repute in the flower arranging and gardening circles. Mrs. Hayward travelled widely, gathering rare flowers and inspiration for the gardens she maintained around her home on Clinton Blvd.

The city of Jackson purchased the gardens in 1973 and maintains the site with the help of many devoted community volunteers.

There are two large southern homes on the property. The Westbrook house, built in 1917, is used for meetings and wedding receptions. The Greenbrook house is being converted into a library.

Although not outstanding, the gardens are very compact and pretty and certainly worth a couple of hours if you should be in Jackson.

(Thanks to Master Gardener Martha Staples for her impressions of Mynelle Gardens which she visited on a recent weekend in Jackson.)

Amaryllis - Winter's Faithful Flower

At summer's end, even as we look upon the full array of fall flowers as they come into their own, we sometimes find ourselves looking ahead into those cold and dark days of mid to late winter.

After Christmas, the only "brightness" for many gardeners are the catalogs that finally appear, like Spring sprouts, in our mailboxes. However, with a little planning, our living rooms can come "alive" much earlier, with color and blooms so large and colorful, you won't even be longing for Spring.

African Violets - yes, Tropical Hibiscus, of course. Nothing, however, so dramatic and beautiful, as the Amaryllis. Year after year the blooms will come back to you, faithfully, to bloom in the darkest, coldest part of the year.

All that's required is a little care after blooming, and you can depend on the thrill, year after year, of gorgeous blooms to feed your soul, through those sometimes dreary days of late December to mid February.

If you add a bulb each year, you will soon have a room full of the lovely blooms.

When you buy the bulbs, you must bury them in soil, or soilless-mix in a pot just a bit larger than the bulb, and you must keep at least 1/3rd of the bulb "out" of the soil. Place it in a warm spot in your home, and it will soon fill a "warm" place in your heart.

Within days after planting and watering, you will see it's first bud peeking up. The fast growth after that will astound you!

The single stalk, usually leafless, grows quickly. Place it in a location where it will get "medium" light.

The large blooms are beautiful. . .shades of dark red, orange or bright-red, and even several shades of pink, or even white. After blooming, the strap-like leaves appear - still a pretty pot plant.

As the warmer days of Spring come, place the pots outside. Keep them watered and fertilized, as with your other plants. In September, withhold water, and let the pot dry-out - they need this time to "rest." Place in a frost-free area, but keep them cool until December. Bring them into a warm place and the cycle begins again!

As you buy or pot each bulb, mark it's birthday (at least the year) on it's pot, Try a grease-pencil in a recessed area of the bottom of the pot, or with one of those metal pointed identifier-type markers to scratch the date into the pot. Re-pot each one every 2-3 years, and you will have a life-time of beautiful blooms to brighten your world - on what "used" to be - those cold, dark days of winter.

(Thanks to Master Gardener Marie Flickinger for her thoughtful instructions.)

The Time of a Flower

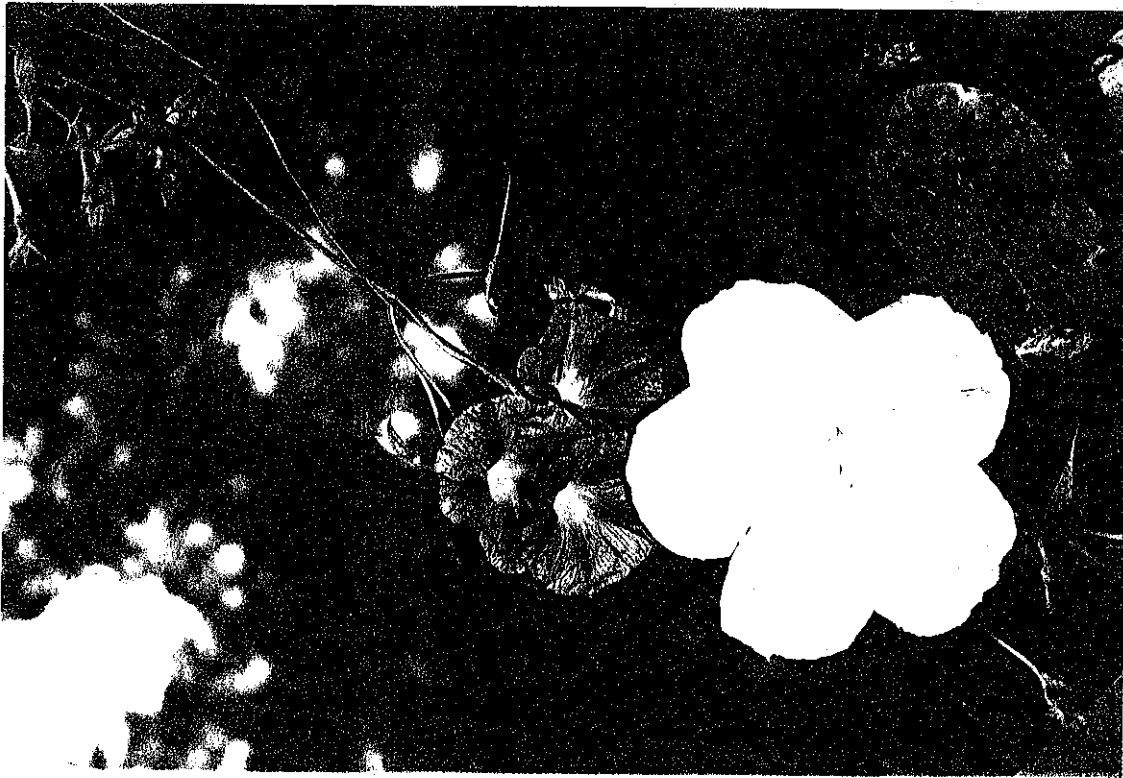
For a delicate flower of summer to exist in the variables of Indian summer, the desire to remain must be strong. . .it's season is ending; the will to live must overpower environmental stresses.

The morning glory and the moonflower are children of summer. Confused by the season's changes, they cry to linger for just awhile, another season! The fading light and the cold stiffen their systems. When the hour of their glory comes, the blossoms awake slowly, confused by the darkness and temperatures. Soon the sun soothes their distress; they linger, half awake, half asleep, waiting for the rhythms of their season.

"A time to laugh" or "a time for peace?" Some blooms endure the elements and laugh with the wind; others give up their redemption and sleep in peace. The sleepers know that life will prevail in the seeds that harbor the next generation; in their slumber, they wait for the new beginning that has been planted.

Even the most delicate specimen knows life does not end. A new "time to laugh" is on the horizon. Ahead is another season, when the Creator says "Try again; I am with you!"

See next page for picture



(Thanks to Master Gardener Shirley Garnett for sharing these thoughts and the picture. The Biblical quotations are taken from the NIV.)

Calendar

- Dec. 3 - 8:00-9:00 AM - All Master Gardener committees will have planning meetings prior to Greenhouse meeting at same location.
9:00-3:30 PM - Greenhouse management and Production Meeting at Highland Valley Methodist Church, 15524 Chenal Parkway.
- Dec. 5 - Christmas Party - 6:30 - 9:00 PM
- Jan. 18 - Zoo Birdhouse workday - 9:00 AM.
- Feb. 14-16 - Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.
- Apr. 28-May 1 - Master Gardener Spring Trip to Ameriflora '92 in Columbus, Ohio.

Projects

There are no scheduled workdays for December. Check with your project chairman if you have planted pansies. Pansies will benefit from picking spent flowers.

Congratulations To Our New Master Gardeners

Jo Dee Armstrong

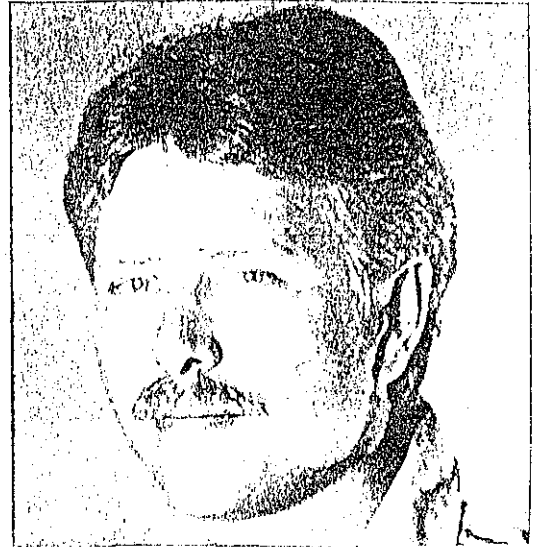
Elois B. McAfee

Dorothy Becton

Mary Lee McHenry

Bruce Clough

Bruce Clough, first class member of the Master Gardener program 1988-89 died October 21, 1991. Sympathy to his wife Annette, and all of the Clough family.



Annette Clough, RN and clinical nurse specialist with Diabetes Treatment Center at Doctors Hospital in Little Rock has been named the 1991 Dr. Frist Humanitarian Award winner, the most prestigious employee award at the hospital, for the humanitarian spirit of her personal and professional life.

Ann Bridgers
Jim Butler
Lois H. Corley
Elisabeth Cornelison
Dale S. Cowgill
Lorraine Cowgill
Bobbie H. Dennis
Mary Ann Dillaha
Patty Lou Dillaha
Becky Doncer
Julie Eckberg
Larry M. Ellis
Catherine H. Hamilton
Fred O. Henker
Carolyn Henslee
Sarah K. Henson
Jay F. Hill
Jo Anne Hulsey
Virginia Johnson
Marie Jordan
Carol Liebich
Kate S. Lynn
Anna L. Marks

Mike Mizelle
Carolyn Moore
Manford D. Morris
Robert H. Murray
Jerry Quick
Richard W. Roachell
Ray Robbins
Mary Russell
James F. Sawyer
Lavon Spears
G. Max Thorn
Jaine Waldron
Anne B. Ward
Monieca West
J.C. Whisnaut
Dorothy M. Wilks
James H. Wilks
Mickey Williams
Frances Young
Darlene L. Younts
Joan Zumwalt

Someone left their coat, gloves and hat at M.G. training. They are at the Extension office.

If anyone has lost their name tags and would like to order a new one, we will place an order soon, just call the office, Cost \$3.75