



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 Three

Number One

January 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Marie Flickinger

The first biography of the new year is a sketch of your new 1992 Master Minutes editor, Marie Flickinger. Now Marie is not a new Master Gardener, but a graduate of the class of 1990. Before she became editor, Marie's Master Gardener activities included working at the Old Mill and the Deaf School. She is pleased to be able to serve as editor because she is still recuperating from surgery.



Master Gardeners is not Marie's only gardening group, but one of several she has belonged to since the 1950's. She is a charter member of the Little Rock Horticultural Club and is the presiding president of Elmhurst Garden Club for the second year.

Marie has always had a garden. Her garden at home features perennials, annuals, azaleas, herbs, and a small salad garden. She specializes in potted plants. Her living room is abloom with amaryllis, paper whites, African violets, and geraniums. She has two different varieties of kalanchoes ready to burst into bloom. (A feat this writer has never been able to duplicate.) Marie believes kalanchoes bloom best in crowded conditions.

Marie is the former Director of Planning for Pulaski County and has won an award for "Excellence in Planning" from the American Planning Association. She is the mother of one son, Elliott.

Dorothy Veirs

Dorothy Veirs has been a "plant person" all her life, but her main interest is herb growing. She has been lecturing on herbs for forty years - even, as she said, when they were not popular. She has served on the National Board of Directors of the Herb Society, Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Board and President of innumerable other clubs.



She served for twenty-three years as a volunteer for the Mentally Ill in Columbus, Ohio. She devised a way of working with the Mentally Ill Volunteer Council as a liaison for fund-raising - an idea that was picked up by the Meninger Clinic. She received many awards. She helped the mentally ill in working with their hands and in the dirt as therapy. She enjoys teaching others ways to work with their hands.

Dorothy and her husband, Steve, have three children, and the whole family has traveled extensively. One of her sons is in charge of scientific concerns of the National Parks in the west coast area. One son is a Geologist in Washington, D. C.

Happy New Year

GARDENER'S JANUARY CHECKLIST

Plan on paper a new garden or changes in the old

- * **Order seed** for early planting. (If you don't have a catalog, buy the current issue of Flower and Garden with its Preview of 1992 New Plants and free catalog offers.)
- * **Prepare** the soil for new beds. Whether your soil is clay or sand, it will benefit from the addition of compost, manure, or other organic matter.
- * **Cut back** browned perennials.
- * Blow or rake up remaining leaves. **Mulch** to make vacant beds appear tended. Mulch **lilies** if this was not done at the time of planting. Mulch **Spinach** with pine straw to prolong your supply of greens.
- * If you are growing cover crops, consider turning it into the soil with a fork or tiller during the next few weeks. That will give the green materials time to break down and enrich the soil before planting time.
- * **Fertilize trees.** **Spray** Broad-leaved evergreens, especially hollies, photinia and euonymus if infested with scale. Otherwise no spray needed.
- * **Get lawn mowers and other equipment in working order now.** Make necessary repairs to cold frame. Check condition of spraying equipment, hose attachments or pressure sprayers. Make an inventory of flats, stakes, labels and replenish your supply.
- * **January is a good time to plant** winter blooming shrubs like winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) or winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*)
- * The latter part of this month is the ideal time to plant sweet peas.
- * Perennials, trees and shrubs may be moved any time the soil is friable enough.
- * **Bromeliads** thrive indoors with minimum care. Just place room-temperature tap water in its cup about every two weeks; refill when the cup is nearly empty. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy.
- * Try a branch of **Mahonia** in a large bottle. It will root in water and last all winter.
- * The gold flecked variety of **Aucuba** also roots in water. **Sansevieria** (Snake Plant) will last indefinitely arranged in an inch or two of water. 🌿

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

- Nov. 20 Trip to Pinnacle Mountain for program on the new Arboretum
- Nov. 26 Trip to Fox Orchid Nursery. Mr. Fox explained to Master Gardeners how easy (?) it is to grow orchids.
- Dec. 3 A workshop was held at Highland Valley Methodist Church on Greenhouse growing.
- Dec. 5 A Christmas Party at Ellen Kane's house was enjoyed by approximately 70 Master Gardeners and a great time was had by all.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan. 6 Central Arkansas Fruit Growers Meeting. Dr. Curt Rom will speak on "LIGHT QUALITY" at 7:00 P.M.
- Jan. 8 A Master Gardener Committees meeting at Brady Extension Homemakers Building.
- Jan. 18 Zoo Birdhouse work day.
- Jan 27-28 Turf Grass Meeting.
- Feb. 6 Pruning demonstration - tree fruits at Goodson Farm small fruits at Hidden Valley farm. Registration necessary
- Feb. 13-16 Flower and Garden Show

**ARBORETUM:
A PLACE WHERE MANY KINDS OF TREES AND
PLANTS ARE GROWN FOR EXHIBITION OR STUDY.**

By Nell Ambrose

How many people know that Pinnacle Mountain State Park (PMSP) is home to the Arkansas Arboretum that is being developed by the Arkansas State Parks? Several years have gone into terrain and plant evaluation of the site before developing plans for the arboretum on an 80 acre site at the Park. Recently, the arboretum received a donation that will get trail construction under way which will make it more accessible to the public.

At a ceremony and reception in November, held at PMSP, International Paper Co. made a \$16,000 donation to the Ark. State Parks. A part of this was designated for the development of a barrier-free trail in the arboretum and for educational materials for students and teachers who will use the arboretum as an outdoor classroom.

The arboretum plans call for the area to replicate the 6 natural divisions of Arkansas: Ozark Mountains, Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas Valley West, Gulf Coastal Plain, Mississippi Alluvial Plain, and Crowley's Ridge. Plant groups indigenous to each of these divisions will be developed at the arboretum. Even though the tasks in the years ahead will be challenging, the site already has an exceptional variety of topography and soil types. In addition to focusing on native plant communities, the arboretum will include cultivation of rare and endangered species.

We are very fortunate to have the Arkansas Arboretum so close to home. It will become an invaluable place to learn more about the native flora of our beautiful state. Anytime during the day, stop by the visitors' center at PMSP for a copy of the plans, then take a self-guided tour of the arboretum.

Master Gardeners who attended the November reception and arboretum tour were: Maxine Hamilton, Marie Flickinger, Joe Moran, Wanda Jenkins, Ellen Kane, and Nell Ambrose. ♡

FROM THE EDITOR

This is your first issue from your new staff.



I know some of the new Master Gardeners will have questions on "payback time" and "recertification time". We will try to come up with some answers for you from time to time in this publication, with a checklist to show how you are faring on both. For the time being you need to keep track of it and turn it in to Mrs. McKinney.

The deadline for the Newsletter is the 15th of the month. Send us anything you consider newsworthy and we will try to print it. Any visits to gardens or gardening trips you would like to pass on would be welcome.

If you have seeds or plants to swap, we'll print that also.

Cold days are coming. Don't forget to feed the birds. ♡

Garden to Garden...

by Virginia Johnson

The Misunderstood and Maligned Poinsettia

Few plants have the power of the poinsettia to put one in the holiday spirit. However, many people have misconceptions about the poinsettia and few plants undergo as much abuse in the home setting. In fact, several of the Master Gardeners have said they no longer buy poinsettias because of their high mortality rate. Many young parents are afraid of bringing a plant into the home because of the rumor that the plant is highly toxic. These fears are unnecessary.

Back in the 1950's, a good friend of mine lived in Mercedes, Texas in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. She said that her next door neighbor had a border of poinsettias and poppies. At times of full bloom for the poppies, the air was filled with myriads of colorful butterflies. When the poinsettias were in bloom, a flock of gold finches would descend on the plants. Her neighbor's garden was a symphony of movement and color throughout the year.

Poinsettias are not highly toxic, at least not any more than a lot of houseplants. That rumor was started in 1919 when the two-year-old son of an Army officer stationed in Hawaii supposedly died after eating two bracts. The original story is not documented and in 1971, a research team at Ohio State University conducted an animal toxicity study using rats. They concluded that the rats were not poisoned and did not seem to show any ill effects. In 1975, another study by the New York State Consumer Product Safety Commission reached the same conclusion. In 1981, survey statistics from 500 poison control centers in the U. S. revealed no legitimate hospitalizations or deaths from poinsettia ingestion. As with a lot of household items, children should be taught to respect them and not put anything that is not food in their mouths.

Selecting the plants for the home is difficult because of the many varieties from which to choose. The new hybrids can keep their colorful bracts until April. The cultivar *Subjibe* is characterized by large, vibrantly colored bracts that have a velvety appearance. *Subjibe V14* requires very bright light, though, or the bracts will fade from red to vermillion. Colors include white and pink, and some unusual ones such as *Hegg* which has smaller bracts, but is a very dark red with one leaf of each bract is mottled maroon. New whimsical varieties include *Marbles*, a cream with pink variegations and *Jingle Bells*, a dark red with bright pink splashes. *Marbles* is a very fragile cultivar and the plants break easily.

Most people have certain guidelines for selecting houseplants, but these are frequently forgotten when selecting a poinsettia. The poinsettia, also known as the Flower of the Holy Night, is a native of Mexico. Its botanical name is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. Like other members of this genus, the plant needs bright light. Unlike most of the genus, it likes a fair amount of water. The plant consists of true leaves, colorful leaves (bracts) and small yellowish-green flowers at the center of the bracts. To select a high quality plant from the nursery, look for strong stems, lots of bracts, and bright, even coloration. Also, look at the flower buds. They should be tight and mostly unopened. If almost all the buds have opened, exuding a clear, sticky sap, with a lot of pollen dusting the leaves, then the plant has past its prime for the current year.

After selecting the plants, be sure that the nursery "sleeves" the plant for the trip home. This helps prevent breakage of the bracts and keeps the plant warm. If a bract should break and it is to be used in a bouquet, first cut the stem and burn the end until it is dried and make sure the hollow of the stem is exposed before placing it in water. The bract will last longer.

Once home, if the pot is in a water-proof cover or wrapped in foil, loosen this to encourage air circulation. It may be difficult in some cases, as florists usually use duct tape to help the cover stay tight. Place the plants in as bright light as possible. The room needs sufficient light to read fine print. Do not crowd the plants--they need air.

Daytime temperature should be about 70°F. It should not exceed 72°F or the bracts will fade faster. Nighttime temperature ideally should be about 60°F, but the plants can tolerate 50°F if it cannot be avoided. Avoid cold drafts, and heat from radiators, heating ducts, and appliances. Keep them up and out of traffic and away from unmonitored children and pets.

Watering should be done when the soil surface is barely dry. Hanging baskets will need to be watered more frequently. Try to keep the soil evenly moist, but not wet. Water thoroughly and discard the excess. The roots will rot if the pot sits in water. One important note on watering is to water the soil only. Do not get water on the leaves or bracts as this makes the plant susceptible to botrytis rot. Crowding the plants, keeping them too wet or too warm also encourages this fungal pathogen. Remove yellow and damaged leaves and dead plant matter from the soil surface daily.

(Continued)

When the bracts fade, cut the plant back to 8" to grow as a foliage plant. Place the plants outside when temperatures are warm and harden off the plant as one would when transferring any houseplant outside. They need direct sun 6-8 hours per day and are heavy feeders. One professional grower said that for a home-grown plant, an all-purpose water-soluble fertilizer (20-20-20) is best. Once the color begins to show, though, the growers leach the soil.

Poinsettias bloom in response to a day length of 12 hours or shorter. The photoperiod treatment should begin about Sept. 25 to Oct. 1. At 6 p.m., cover the plant completely with a brown paper bag. Keep the plant in absolute darkness until 8 a.m. the next day. It must be total darkness - even the light of a candle 100 ft. away will delay bloom. Grow in a bright window during the day. Do the treatment every night until U. S. Thanksgiving Day. After treatment, keep the plant in a bright window with temperatures 65-70°F at night. If the temperatures go over 70°F, flowering will be delayed. Temperatures below 60°F can cause a greenish cast on white bracts or floral parts.

Enjoy the new season! 🌿



City of North Little Rock

PATRICK HENRY HAYS
MAYOR

November 26, 1991

Mrs. Cecelia Buck
27 Tennyson Court
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116

Dear Cecelia,

Thank you for taking time to compliment our City's horticulturist Ms. Nancy Brilllos. Since the time I decided to create such a position and Nancy was hired, many landscape improvements have been made at very little cost. I am very proud of what Nancy and her small crew have accomplished by beautifying North Little Rock's parks and medians. Time will yield even better results.

Also, I want to express my appreciation for the contributions you, the North Little Rock Junior League and the Pulaski County Master Gardeners have made to make our community a better place to live. I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Hays".

Patrick Henry Hays
Mayor

PHH/dkw



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Two

February 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Dottie Heckenbach

Dottie Heckenbach became a Master Gardener in 1990. She said she saw a notice for the St. Louis trip in the paper. She applied for both the trip and the program. Master Gardeners may be the perfect activity to combine her love of gardening and travel.



Dottie grew up in South Arkansas, became a well-traveled military bride, mother of three sons who all grew up to be Toyota mechanics, and then retired to Jacksonville from the LRAFB. Dottie worked for Johnson's Greenhouse until it was sold in 1981. She is currently employed by Pathfinder's and works part-time for Lakewood Gardens. At Pathfinder's, she does payroll, training, and even does their vegetable garden.

Dottie's main gardening interest is African Violets. Dottie doesn't have enough time to do extensive gardening at home, but has tried innovative approaches like growing vegetables in bags of soil. She said the tomatoes were great and only cost her \$10.00 a pound. Her yard is a haven for wildlife, and she even has a downy woodpecker who comes for dinner.

Julie Eckberg

Julie Eckberg, a 1991 Master Gardener, is responsible for the beautiful formatting and layout of Master Minutes. She and her husband, Eric, operate a personal computer consulting company, Micro Support Systems. Julie says that the graphics and the articles for Master Minutes can be scanned



into the computer and then rearranged as desired. (For those of you who are not computer literate, this is sort of like waving a magic wand over the page and having it appear on your computer screen.)

Julie's background is art and accounting. She has worked as a financial analyst for Savers, Capitol Savings and Loan, and Resolution Trust Corporation. She is currently very happy to be helping her husband with their business. She has landscaping software for her computer and might one day like to do landscape design.

Julie remembers that her grandmother always had beautiful flowers and houseplants and her parents had a large vegetable garden. Julie began working in her yard as a form of stress reduction because it made her "feel better". She does a little bit of everything except houseplants. Julie says that some of her favorite aspects of Master Gardener training included all the information she received, and meeting so many wonderful people with similar interests and hobbies.

Groundhog Day - February 2

GARDENER'S FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

- * **Just when you feel as though you can't wait for Spring, you realize you don't have to. Go out and cut a few branches of spring-flowering trees and shrubs**, such as redbud, forsythia, flowering cherry, flowering quince, and dogwood. Place them in a bucket of warm water in an out-of-the-way place, and change the water once or twice a week. You'll have spring flowers for arrangements long before blooms appear outdoors.
- * **The first big job of the month is to get a dormant spray on the garden.** Such a spray at this time will greatly cut down later trouble by killing the eggs and spores of many pests and diseases. Pick a calm day when the temperature is above 40 degrees. Spray plants before the leaf buds open to avoid burning them. Practically everything in the garden will be benefited if included in this spraying, trees, shrubs, evergreens, roses and perennial border. *Note: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese maple, walnut, beech or magnolia trees.*
- * **Weeds:** Apply preemergence herbicides now. You can apply them to an established lawn as well as newly planted ground cover and shrub beds.
- * **PRUNE: Remember why we prune!** We prune for size, for shape control, removal of dead and diseased wood and for the forcing of new growth in old plants. Check your manual for information and instruction pertaining to specific trees and shrubs.
- * **PLANT:** February is the ideal time to plant roses (as soon after the 15th as possible), dogwood and broad-leaved evergreens, especially magnolias and hollies. A note on *bare-root plants*. Only buy plants that are still dormant or those that the nursery has planted in pots. Before planting bare-root nursery stock, soak the roots in water overnight. If you're not ready to plant, cover the root system with moist soil or compost, and store in a shady location. When ready to plant, set trees in a well-prepared bed at the same depth they were growing (look for soil stains on the trunk). Roses should be set so that the graft union is about an inch above the soil line. **SEED:** Sow seed outdoors of annual candytuft, cornflowers, larkspur and phlox drummondii. **COLD FRAME:** For early bloom, plant seeds and cuttings of shrubs.
- * **FERTILIZE : ROSES:** Apply top dressing of cottonseed meal and bone meal under generous layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure eliminates danger of nut grass and weed seeds. **LAWNS:** Apply lime if needed and not done in December or January. **TREES:** if not done in January. **ANNUALS:** As the weather begins to warm, pansies and other cool-season annuals will begin to grow and bloom. Give them a boost by feeding with a slow-release fertilizer at the rate recommended on the label. This will provide them with a constant supply of nutrients over the coming months.
- * **SOIL:** You may have heard gardeners say that it is too wet to plant, yet the first thing they do when they plant is to water. The reason is that wet soil cannot be turned, loosened and amended without compacting it and leaving it in hard, unworkable clods. To judge whether your soil is dry enough, pick up a handful and squeeze it in your palm. Then drop it. If it breaks up, you can work the soil. If it remains a clod, you had better wait. "*When it's wet, it's shiny.*"
- * **HOUSEPLANTS:** The sun is stronger now and the days appreciably longer. Houseplants that have been sitting on sunny windowsills must be checked for burning. Most houseplants will do best if their soil is allowed to dry out (turn light on the surface before they are watered again). Waterlogged plants can suffer from lack of oxygen. This may mean that you shouldn't water all of your plants at the same time.
- * **BIRDS:** Birds need a regular supply of fresh water. They appreciate your keeping the feeder full of seeds but they will be even more grateful for suet, doughnuts, cornmeal mixed with peanut butter and other fatty foods that help them to keep warm. ☺

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

James Wilks	225-0524
Has: Hardy Amaryllis (will be ready when it can be dug in Spring)	
Julie Eckberg	225-6721
Would Like: Source for well-rotted manure	
Virginia Johnson	375-7342
Would Like: Xanadu philodendron	

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

At the Arkansas Orchid Society Show and Sale on Nov. 16-18, Mary Russell, a new Master Gardener employed by Frances Flower Shop, won a red ribbon for a floral spray entry. Jim and Dorothy Wilks, Master Gardeners, also won a red ribbon for their Cattleya Orchid entry "Chocolate Drop".

On Jan. 3, 1992, approximately 15 Master Gardeners pruned shrubs and trees at the Old Mill. A wild-flower meadow was planted on the southwest corner and rocks were moved to the site for a rock border.

On Jan. 6, 1992 at the Fruitgrowers meeting, a slide presentation was shown by Dr. Curt Rom. Four Master Gardeners were present along with several professional fruitgrowers.

A meeting on planning committees was held on Jan. 8, 1992. Each committee met and elected a co-chairman. Goals were discussed, tentative plans were made by several committees, and further meetings for each committee were set.

Calendar of Events

- Feb 6 Tree Fruits demonstration - Goodson Farm
 Small Fruits demonstration - Hidden Valley Farm
 (registration necessary on both)
- Feb 14-16 Flower and Garden show "Spring Comes to Arkansas" Robinson Center
- Feb 17 Newsletter Committee meeting - 10:00 A.M. (at Virginia Johnson's House - 15th & Broadway)
- Feb 29 Rose Pruning demonstration - State Capital 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M.
 (If rain/snow - move to following Sat. March 7th)
- Notice: Anyone interested in working in the Zoo Garden should call Jeff Johnson - 562-7926
 or Willy Wiley - 666-6110

Anyone assigned to the Baptist Rehab. Institute Plant Therapy Project - if you are still interested, and have not been contacted, or any Master Gardener who wants to be a part of this program, call: Jaine Waldron 666-3364



From the Editor...

The seed catalogues are coming in to brighten these cold days, and now is the time to plan for the gardens we'll have when the weather turns warmer. Even if you buy from local nurseries, it's fun to plan from the catalogues, and they are mostly -- free!

On these sometimes frigid days, the beauty of our gardens lies dormant under the touch of winter's ways. It's a joy to remember that pine cones stuffed with suet, peanut butter, and/or seeds, and hung by wire or cords from a convenient limb, or the side of the house, are a welcome sight for the birds who visit our gardens on these frosty mornings. In return, they visually provide the color and beauty to remind us of what soon awaits us from our upcoming endeavors.

Note: Keep up with the hours you spend on Master Gardener activities. We'll have something on this soon.

The Newsletter Committee will meet each month on the 15th. If you have news articles, please get them to us by that date. If the other various committees wish to have the information about their meeting times/ places listed in the newsletter, please send the specifics to us by the 15th of each month. ♡

Garden to Garden...

by Virginia Johnson

Troubleshooting in Early Spring

Is your topsoil a thin layer of red clay full of rocks on top of a solid rock? Even though it is possible to build great soil by composting and incorporating organic matter every fall, the process can be somewhat time consuming. In our modern, fast-paced lives, we want the perfect garden--now. One solution is to replace whole sections of your garden with a prepared soil mix. The following formulation should help:

- 1 bale of peat moss: 6 cu. ft.
- 1 large bag of coarse vermiculite: 4 cu. ft.
- 10 pails (2.5 gallon size) sharp sand: 3 cu. ft.
- 2 pails wood ashes
- 10 pails of compost: 3 cu. ft.
- 1 1-lb. coffee can full of lime
- 1 1-lb coffee can full of basic, slow release fertilizer
with a low NPK value.

Total volume: 16 cu. ft.

Replace very poor soil to depth of 1 foot.

Plants of the mustard family, such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and radishes should be planted early, so that the plants can mature while the weather is still cool. Transplants should be planted no later than 5 weeks before the last frost. Direct seeded radishes should be planted no later than 3 weeks before last frost and succession planted every 1-2 weeks. Are your radishes all top and no bottom? The problem is either too much nitrogen or not enough sun. Onions can suffer from these problems as well.

Carrots should be direct seeded 3 weeks before last frost and succession planted every 2-4 weeks. Try short, round, stubby types for heavy soils. Withhold water near maturation date to keep them from splitting.

Lettuce should be direct seeded or transplanted 4 weeks before last frost. They are heavy feeders and like full sun and to be kept moist. Lack of water results in bitter lettuce.

Several Master Gardeners have complained about poor germination rates of sugar snap peas. From personal experience, Sugar Mel at best has about a 50% germination rate. Sugar Ann or Sugar Bon are much better choices. Mix presoaked seeds with legume inoculant powder, then plant 1" deep about 5 weeks before last frost. Water and cover with a plastic-covered tunnel. This concentrates warmth and keeps the birds away.

Direct seed spinach 5 weeks before last frost and cover the row of young plants with a fine mesh screen to prevent leaf miners.

Ornamental notes: My variegated hostas that were growing in mostly shade in some of the poorest soil turned green last summer. Some research revealed the reason. The cultivar is known as Hosta fortunei 'Albo-picta' (Aureo maculata) and it is supposed to turn solid green around June and remain that way the remainder of the season.

Through recent conversations about lupines, I've been told that growing them in our climate is as worthwhile of an endeavor as purchasing stock in breeding mules. An annual lupine, the Texas Bluebonnet will grow here. Its 8-12" spike is not nearly as spectacular as Russell hybrid perennials, but the blue color is a welcome addition to the mixed border. Direct seed as soon as the soil can be worked after nicking the seed coat with a metal file and soaking the seed in warm water for 24 hours. ☺

Newsletter Staff

Position	Primary	Alternate
Editor	Marie Flickinger	
Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	J.C. Whisnant
Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
Garden Activities	Manfred Morris	Eloise McAfee
Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilkes
Historian	Elizabeth Cornelison	
Photographer	Darlene Younts	

Other Staff Members:

Mary Russell	Sarah Henson
Marie Jordan	Debbie Ward
Wendy Welch	Ann Rademacher
Kay Kilgore	Joy Broach
Ann Cooper	Joe Dickens
Shirley Garnett	Nancy Jones
Arden Kate	Rand Retzloff
Dorothy Wilkes	



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Three

March 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Virginia Johnson

She tried it and she liked it because it was different. Virginia Johnson, a 1991 Master Gardener, has a penchant for the unusual. Right now Virginia would like a Xanadu philodendron to go with 53 varieties of daffodils, red shamrocks, and 4 kinds of salt water algae which she raises in a salt water aquarium.



Virginia has a degree in biology and works in research at UAMS. She is horticulture editor for Master Minutes. She is very interested in working with "youths at risk" and feels that gardening can teach these youths to care for themselves and others, as well as build self-esteem.

Virginia grew up gardening. She had a bean patch at 18 months, raised cotton at five, and now raises cacti from seeds and ferns from spores. In the yard of her 120-year old house, she has a walk-through rock garden. Other interests include renovating her home, pottery, clay sculpture, and dried flowers.

James & Dorothy Wilks

James and Dorothy Wilks are one of three couples who "do" Master Gardening together. They are both graduates of the class of 1991. Dorothy is retired from Sears and James is retired from the Navy and Century 21 Reddick. The Navy provided them with the opportunity to live in Cuba,



Puerto Rico, and Corpus Christi, Texas. They chose to retire in Arkansas because it is halfway between his family in Missouri and her family in Texas.

Jim and Dorothy live on about half an acre by a lake. They have shrubs, flowers, fruit trees and some vegetables. In years past, they have had an extensive vegetable garden and fed the family with fresh, frozen, or canned produce. Jim says he mows his lawn with a hand mower and walks three miles every time he mows the lawn.

Jim and Dorothy have always relied upon the extension service for gardening information and learned about the Master Gardener program from Nell Ambrose. They have enjoyed learning about different methods of gardening and enjoyed the company of other gardeners.

Their daughter says they would travel 100 miles to see a plant. This year they plan to visit the Orchid show in Alexandria, LA and Ameriflora in June.

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Projects & Meetings	2
Trading Post	2
Master Gardener Activities	3
Flower and Garden Show Report	3
From the Editor	3
Garden to Garden	4
Calendar of Events	5

GARDENER'S MARCH CHECKLIST

- * **As soon as the soil dries out enough, begin to cultivate.**
- * **PRUNE:** Roses (the first week of the month), Crape Myrtles, evergreens (if not done in February), and ivy (cut back hard).
- * **FERTILIZE:** All the garden except acid-loving plants. Feed cool-season grasses early this month and warm-season grasses about 2 weeks after they have turned green. A small amount of bone meal early will increase the size of tulip and daffodil flowers.
- * **PLANT:** New roses (before March 15), tree roses, English peas (before March 15), broccoli, spinach, turnip greens, lettuce, cabbage, onions, potatoes, beets, carrots, chard, mustard greens, parsnips, and radishes. Wait until danger of frost is past (after April 5-10) to set out herbs. **EVERGREENS:** Still time to plant magnolias, hollies, etc. Divide and replant border plants. **ANNUALS:** Sow seeds or plants. **FLOWERING SHRUBS:** May be moved with ball of dirt, small plants bare-rooted. Replenish mulch on azaleas and camellias. March is the best month to move crape myrtles. Apply final dormant oil spray for roses. ♡

Master Gardener Projects and Meetings

☆ The **Baptist Rehabilitation Institute Plant Therapy Program**, our newest project, is now in its second month. Many thanks to Mary Ann Dillaha, Bobbye Dennis, Gayle Elder, Shirley Garnett, Virginia Johnson and Lavon Spears for their programs and assistance. This is an opportunity for any Master Gardener who is interested in working with people who are recuperating from and readjusting their lives after strokes, accidents or other illness which affected them physically. The programs presented are 30-45 minutes covering any gardening topic of interest and expertise of the Program leader. For more information or to volunteer for this rewarding project, call Jaine Waldron at 666-3364.

☆ The **Fund-raising Committee** met at Karen Vesole's home with co-chairpersons Karen and Maxine Hamilton. The following ideas were discussed as ways of raising funds:

1. a letter appeal.
2. bulb & plant sale.
3. garden tours of homes in LR and NLR.
4. a bake sale using vegetables & herbs, possibly in conjunction with bulb & plant sale.
5. rent a booth at the craft show at 4-H center in November to sell plants, bulbs and baked goods.

☆ The **Greenhouse Group** is planting seeds of Marigolds and Moss Roses.

☆ Roxie Adams invites anyone who would like to pinch Pansies at the **State Hospital** to come on out and go to work.

☆ Jeff Johnson says the work will be going on at the **Zoo Garden**. If you want to work, bring your tools (spading forks, etc.) and come on out.

☆ Call Jane Gulley or Sally Garrison about things going on at **Pinnacle**.

☆ The **Newsletter Committee** met Jan. 23rd at Virginia Johnson's home and on Feb. 19th at the Extension Center. They decided meet on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Extension Center at 10 AM.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Virginia Johnson 375-7342

Would like: Dutchman's Breeches

Marie Flickinger 758-4202

Has: Lemon balm to trade in a month or so

Hocott's Nursery and White Wagon Nursery are both looking for part-time help.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Marie Flickinger (758-4204) or Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

On Feb. 6, a tree fruits pruning demonstration was held at the Goodson Farm. Dr. Keith Patterson showed Master Gardeners and commissioned growers the correct pruning procedures for peach trees and spur and non-spur apple trees. A spray schedule was handed out.

During the small fruits demonstration at the Hidden Valley Farm on Feb. 6, Dr. Keith Patterson showed the correct pruning procedures for blueberries and blackberries. Pruning to maximize fruit production was covered, as well as determining the ages of the canes by examining their trunks and limbs.

Master Gardeners helped exhibitors set up their displays at the "First Annual" Flower and Garden Show on Feb. 13 at the Robinson Center. A Master Gardener booth was manned by several Master Gardener volunteers on Feb. 14-16, providing the public with helpful information while enjoying all the spectacular displays themselves.

Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

February 14-16, 1992

by Reporter Shirley Garnett

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world,... indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

A small group of gardeners, including Master Gardeners, brought a smile to thousands. Sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and under the direction of Ken Scott, Extension Horticulturist-Ornamentals, the group orchestrated an outburst of early spring with the Arkansas Flower Show. The bare floors of Robinson Center were "coming up" everything but roses, though a few bushes were for sale. Patches of greenery, flowers, walk-ways and fountains covered the center, with a few frogs waiting for the right moment to turn into a prince or princess. Each landscaped demonstration garden gave the viewers a variety of 12 themes to pick and dream right into their own backyard... and to dream spring right over the horizon a month early.

To put those dreams into reality, 40 commercial booths were set up around the perimeters to offer assistance to the gardeners. Every type of dream was included, as the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs flower competition was adjacent, showing elegant table settings each with arrangements of cut flowers.

While the adults were dreaming, the future generation had an opportunity to learn with 4H members and staff about nature and how to replenish her resources without "trashing" what is left of the planet. The adults also learned from the seminars scheduled throughout Saturday and Sunday, which covered a variety of subjects to sharpen private gardeners' skills.

The first Arkansas Flower and Garden Show definitely went from frogs to royalty with the audience... and a bouquet of spring flowers to the planners and workers for making a difference in February 1992. I imagine the subjects will expect a curtain call next year! 🐸



From the Editor...

What a delight to know that the 75 Master Gardeners' efforts and enthusiasm helped to make the Flower & Garden Show such a tremendous success. Pat Green declares that it is so - and wants to thank all who volunteered. I'm sure all of us want to thank Pat for the marvelous work she did. I hope all of you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Your Editor is pleased to announce that the two horticulture specimens she entered for competition won 1 blue and 1 red ribbon.

Also - at the show, one Master Gardener reported seeing geese flying north, and another said that purple martin scouts had arrived. So, my friends, can Spring be far behind? 🐸

Garden to Garden...

by Virginia Johnson

Plan to Spring Forward

Now is the time to evaluate your spring flower beds to decide which changes need to be made. It is easier to plan for next spring's glory when you can visualize your current arrangement. Also, a lot of the mail-order bulb companies make their catalogs available in late March and April.

Unfortunately, it takes a little more planning to garden with bulbs in Zone 7. We have problems of heavy clay soil along with the concomitant fusarium bulb rot and botrytis blight that our northern counterparts don't have to contend with.

Start with high quality bulbs. Choose large, firm, dry bulbs. Don't buy bulbs that are tiny "rounds", have soft spots, or feel wet. You probably won't get any blooms in these cases. Build your beds 10-12" deep and have 1/4-1/2 of the bed sand or compost. Be sure to mulch your beds.

Narcissus usually don't need fertilizing beyond the initial planting, but tulips and hyacinths will benefit from semi-annual applications. In fall (around planting time), use a bulb booster (9-9-6). About 6 weeks before bloom time in spring, top-dress with a high nitrogen fertilizer at the rate of 1 lb. per 100 square feet. Needed calcium is usually available as long as the soil pH is 5.4 or greater.

Dr. Paul Nelson at North Carolina State University (Raleigh) conducted 4-yr. trials in Zones 7, 8, 9. The results were reported in a publication titled "Spring-Flowering Bulbs: Trials in North Carolina." According to the report, these are the best bets for our area:

Tulips

Delmonte	Diplomate
*Don Quichotte	Dyanito
Frankfurt	Golden Oxford
Golden Parade	Hoangho
Isle de France	Karel Doorman
Kees Nelis	Leen Van Der Mark
Los Angeles	*Oxford
*Parade	Yellow Dover

Daffodils

Brighton	Estella de Moi
February Gold	*Flower Record
*Fortune	Gigantic Star
*Jack Snipe	Jumblie
*Tahiti	*Thalia

Hyacinths

*Delft Blue	*City of Harlem
Ostara	

(* Denotes those cultivars currently growing in my garden.)

For a one-time show, the pink peony-flowered Angelique tulip, Triumph hybrids with white margined foliage Cheerleader and New Design, and the pastel rose on yellow Rembrandt Gudnoshnik are real show stoppers. I am currently doing trials on various species tulips in my yard. It is too early in the season at this writing to know how they are going to bloom, but it appears that Wilsoniana Botanical tulips' foliage is as robust as last year.

My favorite hyacinth is a small burgundy 1880 introduction called Distinction. All cultivars of grape hyacinths except Muscari alba (white) seem to do well and make nice fillers.

Other spring bulbs in my yard include Snow Drops (Galanthus nevelis), Snow Iris (Iris reticulata), and crocuses. Blue Bird snow crocus usually bloom in the first week of January and they are multiplying at an alarming rate. Flower Record giant crocus is also very prolific and has dark purple petals with bright orange stamens. They look great with orange pansies. Mix and match for a cheerful display! ☺

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Newsletter Staff	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	J.C. Whisnant
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Manford Morris	Elois McAfee
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Historian	Elisabeth Cornelison	
	Reporter	Shirley Garnett	

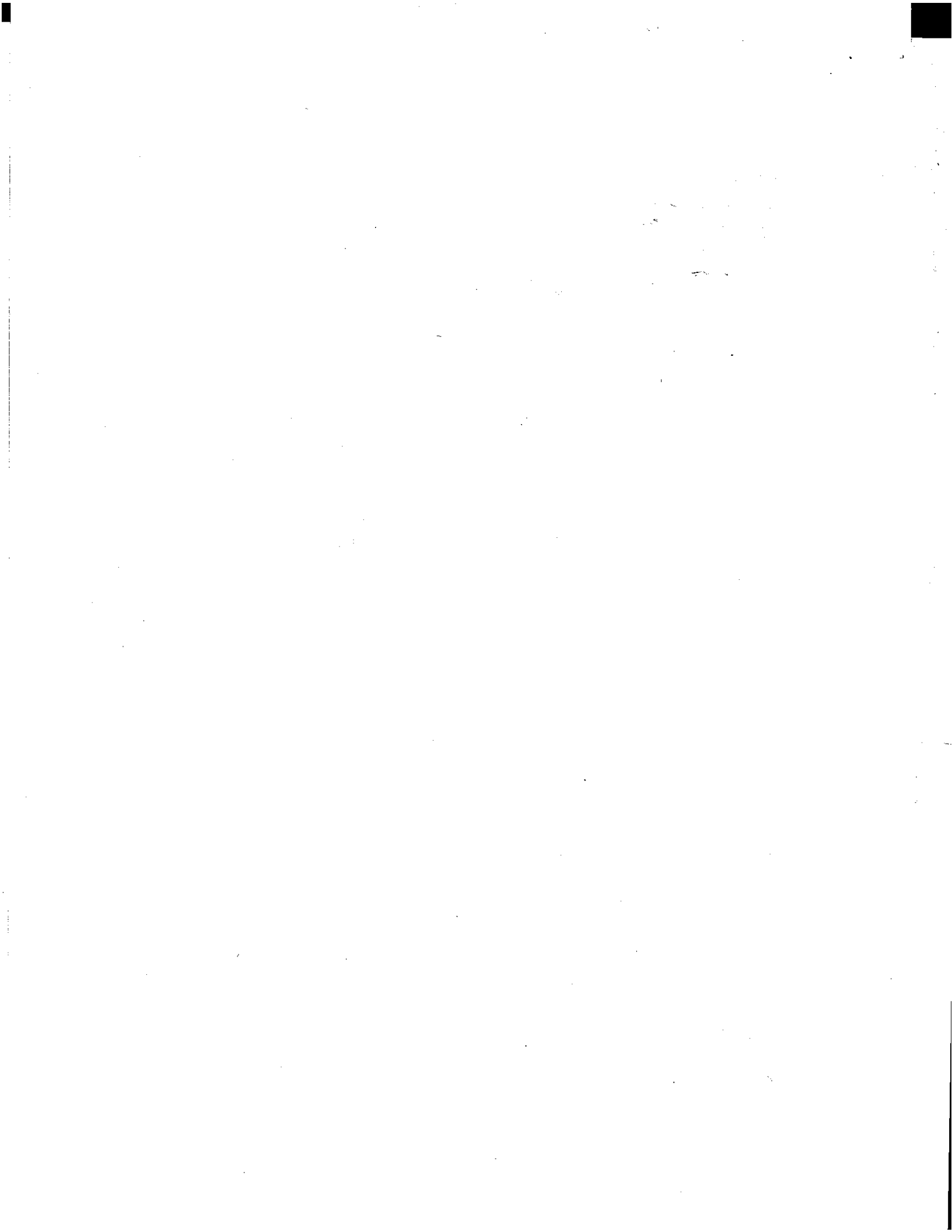
Calendar of Events

March

- ZOO GARDEN - each Monday at 8:30. Contact Jeff Johnson or Willie Wiley for more information.
- 2 Central Arkansas Commercial Fruit Growers Association meeting at North Little Rock Bonanza, with dinner at 6:30. (Each person will pay for their own dinner.) At 7:00, Dennis Gardener will speak on "sprayer calibration".
- 4 Janet Carson will present a program on house plants at the Jacksonville Recreation Center, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- 7 Workshop on Antique Roses for Southern Gardens by Glenn Schroeter, at Birnam Woods, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 9 Janet will present a program on Basic Home Landscape Maintenance at the Jacksonville Recreation Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 12,19,26 McClellan High School Adult Outreach Series - Janet Carson and Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30 p.m. (If any Master Gardeners are interested in teaching for this series, please call Janet).
- 14 "Trees for Kids" - Arbor Day activities for children in North Little Rock, Jacksonville, West Little Rock and downtown Little Rock.
- 14 Zoo Birdhouse work day - 9:00 - til. For more information call Lynn McMahan.
- 14 Trees, Shrubs and Vines workshop will be presented by P. Allen Smith at Birnam Woods 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 16 Arbor Day
- 21,22 State Daffodil Show at Hulen Hall - Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., each day with free admission.
- 21 Workshop on Perennials for Arkansas Gardens at Birnam Woods by Tom Dillard and P. Allen Smith, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 22 Senior Sunday at St. Vincent's - 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 24 Pinnacle State Park - Carl Hunter will give a program on "How to Grow Wildflowers in Your Yard", with slides of 120 species. 7:00 p.m. at Visitors Center.

April

- ZOO GARDEN - each Monday at 8:30 a.m.
- 9,16,23 McClellan High School Adult Outreach Series
Janet Carson & Master Gardeners
- 4 Birdhouse work day - 9:00 - til.
- 22 Trip to Larry Loman's Nursery, at Wynne, Arkansas.



Calendar of Events

March

- ZOO GARDEN - each Monday at 8:30. Contact Jeff Johnson or Willie Wiley for more information.
- 2 Central Arkansas Commercial Fruit Growers Association meeting at North Little Rock Bonanza, with dinner at 6:30. (Each person will pay for their own dinner.) At 7:00, Dennis Gardener will speak on "sprayer calibration".
- 4 Janet Carson will present a program on house plants at the Jacksonville Recreation Center, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- 7 Workshop on Antique Roses for Southern Gardens by Glenn Schroeter, at Birnam Woods, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- 9 Janet will present a program on Basic Home Landscape Maintenance at the Jacksonville Recreation Center, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 12,19,26 McClellan High School Adult Outreach Series - Janet Carson and Master Gardeners. 6:30-8:30 p.m. (If any Master Gardeners are interested in teaching for this series, please call Janet).
- 14 "Trees for Kids" - Arbor Day activities for children in North Little Rock, Jacksonville, West Little Rock and downtown Little Rock.
- 14 Zoo Birdhouse work day - 9:00 - til. For more information call Lynn McMahan.
- 14 Trees, Shrubs and Vines workshop will be presented by P. Allen Smith at Birnam Woods 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 16 Arbor Day
- 21,22 State Daffodil Show at Hulen Hall - Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, from 2:00-5:00 p.m., each day with free admission.
- 21 Workshop on Perennials for Arkansas Gardens at Birnam Woods by Tom Dillard and P. Allen Smith, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- 22 Senior Sunday at St. Vincent's - 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- 24 Pinnacle State Park - Carl Hunter will give a program on "How to Grow Wildflowers in Your Yard", with slides of 120 species. 7:00 p.m. at Visitors Center.

April

- ZOO GARDEN - each Monday at 8:30 a.m.
- 9,16,23 McClellan High School Adult Outreach Series
Janet Carson & Master Gardeners
- 4 Birdhouse work day - 9:00 - til.
- 22 Trip to Larry Loman's Nursery, at Wynne, Arkansas.



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Four

April 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Willie Wiley, Jr.

If a good man is hard to find, Master Gardener Willie Wiley must be very good. He can't be found sitting around. He enjoys his retirement by "staying busy." He has two part time jobs and actively works with the senior citizens in his church. He takes them to Wednesday morning Bible study and then shopping and bill paying. He plants gardens for seven church seniors.



Willie learned about Master Gardeners from his wife, Georgia. Georgia listens to Janet's radio show and suggested that he might be interested in the program. Willie enjoyed Master Gardener training last fall and thought the programs were very well planned.

Willie's special area of gardening interest is vegetables. He has a backyard vegetable garden, a garden at the county farm, and he works at the zoo vegetable garden. His wife puts up much of what he grows.

Willie is retired from the U.S. Army and from Union Pacific. He had many overseas tours including Germany, the Phillipines, Okinawa, Korea and Viet Nam. He is a "diehard" Razorback fan and a member of the Little Rock Razorback club.

Jaine Waldron

Jaine Waldron, a 1991 graduate, found out about the Master Gardener program from a friend who serves on the City Beautiful Commission. When asked what she liked best about the training, she replied, "I never thought it would be so wonderful." She particularly enjoyed the programs on perennials, herbs, and landscaping.



At home she concentrates on raising herbs. She is fortunate to have a room in her house that has north and east light for raising her herb seedlings. This year she is going to experiment with lavender to see if she can find where it will grow best in her yard. She enjoys doing creative things with herbs and later this year she plans to make potpourri and dried flower arrangements.

Jaine was born and raised in Carlisle, Arkansas. She came to Little Rock in the early 80's and started a calligraphy business that included teaching. Now she freelances and does mostly wedding invitations and certificates. She and her husband, Bill, enjoy driving out in the country and identifying wildflowers.

"Spring is wonderful! It makes you feel young enough to do all the things you're old enough to know you can't!"

Anonymous

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Trading Post	2
Master Gardener Activities	3
From the Editor	3
Garden to Garden	4
Master Gardener Projects & Meetings	5
Calendar of Events	6

GARDENER'S APRIL CHECKLIST

- * **ANNUALS:** Many flowers can be sown directly into a prepared garden bed. Sow seeds thinly in a well-prepared bed and cover as directed on the seed package. Seeds that perform well at this time include zinnias, gomphrena, cosmos, cleome, abelmoschus, marigolds, sunflowers, tithonia and morning glories.
- * **PERENNIALS:** Divide and replant violets. Plant perennial phlox. Transplant seedlings of early planted perennials. Transplanted early, seedlings get off to a good start before it gets hot. But take care not to put tender bedding plants out too soon.
- * **VEGETABLES:** After April 10, plant seeds and transplants of warm weather vegetables. Crops to sow include cucumbers, beans, melons, squash and sweet corn. You can set out young plants of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.
Note on tomatoes: If an unexpected late freeze is forecast after you have planted, cover tomato plants with paper bags, baskets, straw or anything that will hold the warmth of the day around the plants. If you cover with plastic, support the covering so that it does not touch the leaves. Be sure to remove the plastic during the day or open a vent so it will not collect too much heat from the sun. Remove all covering as soon as the weather warms again.
- * **SUMMER BULBS:** Cannas, dahlias, gladioli and tuberose can be set out now. You can also grow agapanthus, calla lilies, caladiums and gloriosa lilies (vines) in the garden or in pots on a porch or terrace. Many of these will be winter hardy if mulched heavily.
- * **HERBS:** You can grow flavorful herbs beside other garden plants, as long as you avoid pesticides labeled "not for edible plants". **Basil** makes an upright plant about 3 feet tall and 2 feet across. (**Spicy globe basil** will stay about 1 foot tall.) It is an annual ideal for a bright green element among your flowers. **Creeping thyme** grows into a fine textured mat for the front of a border or to trail over a wall. **Rosemary** is cold hardy to 15 degrees and grows well in a pot. Placed near a walk or terrace, it releases a piney fragrance whenever it is touched. Most herbs require full sun, sweet soil on the limey side. A few, like bergamot, salad burnet, chervil, costmary, cress, lemon balm, marjoram, mints, pennyroyal and sweet woodruff, will tolerate light shade.
- * **HANGING BASKETS:** Consider planting a mixed basket using several different kinds of flowers or foliage to give variety in color, texture and form. Two interesting combinations: narrow leaf zinnia, white petunias and cape plumbago; purple-leaved wandering jew and ageratium or ornamental kale and sweet alyssum. For a large full basket, use a wire one instead of the plastic type. Begin by soaking sheets of sphagnum moss in a bucket of water. Then press the wet moss along the inside of the wire frame to form a lining. Wrap the moss over the rim, and fill the basket with sterile potting soil. Set transplants in the center of the basket. For extra fullness, cut slits in the moss and set transplants into the sides of the basket as well.
- * **AZALEAS:** Feed after flowering with a fertilizer that contains iron and other elements. (Follow package directions.) Azalea roots are compact, fibrous and shallow. Because they grow near the surface of the soil, they are very sensitive to drying. Water regularly during periods of drought and insulate them with a 2-3 inch layer of mulch before hot weather arrives.
- * **EASTER LILIES:** After lilies fade, plant the bulbs in a sunny, well-drained location. Let the foliage remain all summer; then cut it back with the perennials as they die in the fall. Next year the bulbs will sprout again. Although they will not bloom for Easter, you will have flowers in late spring or early summer.
- * **LAWNS:** If centipede and Bahlia lawns yellow even after they have been fertilized, they probably need an extra shot of iron. To turn the grass green again, spread iron sulfate granules over the lawn at the rate of 10 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Use a fertilizer spreader to distribute the material and water well after applying. OR you can spray the lawn with a solution of liquid iron, such as Greenol, at the rate recommended on the label.
- * **ROSES:** Do not plant dormant roses after April 15th. Potted roses can be planted until May 15th.
- * **PRUNE:** Flowering shrubs as soon as they have finished blooming.
- * **MULCH:** It is very important that every newly planted flower, shrub or tree should be mulched at the time of planting. Do it as a part of the planting routine, like watering. It will add a great deal to the plant's chance of success if you keep the ground around it from caking on top. Mulching also reduces the need to weed and hoe.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Dorothy Veirs 225-2106
Has: Lemon balm and several roadside roses for the digging.
Marie Flickinger 758-4202
Has: Lemon balm and oregano.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Marie Flickinger (758-4204) or Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

On Feb. 25, Master Gardeners at the Old Mill planted azaleas. Be sure to go and see the Old Mill soon. Azaleas, irises, and dogwoods there are already in full bloom!

The Master Gardeners' bi-monthly meeting was held at the Arkla Building on Feb. 26. Nancy Brilllos of the NLR Parks showed slides on antique roses, hybrid climbers, and hedging roses.*

Delayed by rain, the zoo garden activities got underway late February-early March with Jeff Johnson, Willie Wiley and other Master Gardeners by planting broccoli, kale, beets and peas. The grounds were made ready for transplants grown in the State Hospital greenhouse. Lettuce will go out on March 16.

At the State Hospital greenhouse this month, approximately 70 flats of marigold & portulaca seeds were planted by several Master Gardeners. Three to four hundred wax begonias from the Flower & Garden Show were pruned and repotted. Breck Campbell and Robert Murray worked on repairing the sink, staining the sink counter, and constructing a new potting soil box.

Hands on Participation programs were held on the 1st & 2nd Saturdays of Feb. & March at the State Hospital. Jaine Waldron presented a program on "Low-light plants"; Bobbye Dennis and Mary Ann Dillaha presented a "Potpourri" program; and Virginia Johnson presented a program on "Shamrocks".

"A Tree Thing for Kids" was held March 14 at NLR McCain Mall, Jacksonville, and the 12th & Battery Harvest Foods in Little Rock. Approximately 50 to over 200 children showed at the locations. Good volunteer support was provided by Master Gardeners. Smokey Bear was there. Children planted rye grass in styrofoam cups, had a nature grab bag and examined "tree cookies" to determine ages and conditions trees were grown under. Master Gardeners and other volunteers gave away pine seeds, pine seedlings, and free information on the program. 🌲

* Antique Rose Emporium
Rt. 5 Box 143
Benham, TX 77833
1-800-441-0002
Catalog \$2.00

Roses of Yesterday and Today
802 Brown's Valley Road
Watsonville, CA 95076-0398
Catalog \$2.00

Heritage Rose Gardens
16831 Mitchell Creek Road
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
Catalog \$1.00

Pickering Nurseries
670 Kingston Road
Pickering, ON, Canada L1V1A6
Catalog \$2.00

From the Editor...

The birds singing in my garden (I'm always keeping one eye open for my cat 'Missy' - renamed Jaws!) have told me that Spring is really here. I am bravely going ahead uncovering flower beds, even though the last median frost day in this area is April 10th. In years past, I've been known to gather all the sheets in the house and chase-about, covering plants when a late frost is predicted in the evening.

Our Horticulture Editor begged off this issue, and we are lucky to have an article by Dorothy Viers, the Herb-Guru, entitled "Start Your Own Herb Garden".

If interested in joining Master Gardeners International (\$10), or as a joint member with the American Horticulture Society (\$16), or with an associate membership (\$25), I am enclosing copies of the applications to be sent in with your check. We, as a group, are already members, and a copy of their newsletter "MaGIC" is being received in the extension office. 🌱



Garden to Garden...

by Guest Reporter, Dorothy Veirs

Start Your Own Herb Garden

Herbs are easily grown in sun or partial shade and in well drained soil. All herbs prefer a pH of 6.00 to 7.50 and do well in raised beds. Herbs do not need large amounts of fertilizer but you can give them a spring and late summer moderate feeding (5-10-5). Too much fertilizer results in lush foliage and small amounts of fragrant oils.

A list of the more commonly used herbs follows. Since many of the seeds take weeks to germinate, it may be best to purchase plants.

BALM (*Melissa officinalis*) Hardy perennial with a lemony flavor. Sprigs can be used for tea, in fruit salads or dried in potpourri. Grows in sun or partial shade.

BASIL (*Ocimum basilicum*) Tender annual very easily started from seeds. It has an invigorating spicy odor and flavor. Germination is rapid! Fresh or dried leaves can be used in salads, soup or stews. Purple basil can be used in the same ways. These plants are beautiful used in flower arrangements and dried for potpourri.

CHIVES (*Allium schoenaprasum*) A perennial used in soups, salads and vinaigrette. The pink flowers added to vinegar and allowed to stand for a week will give the vinegar a light pink color and mild onion flavor for salads.

DILL (*Anethum graveolens*) A fern leafed plant with seed heads best known for flavoring pickles. This annual (plant from seed) should be planted in the back of your garden. It will reseed but is difficult to transplant because it has a long tap root. Use the fern leaves for flavoring butters, cream cheese and potatoes. The seeds are used in potato salad, breads and in butters.

MINTS (*Menthe*) Buy plants of the many varieties of mints. Spearmint, peppermint and orange mints are favorite perennials. Remember how they spread so plant them away from your border plants. The mints grow from runners and seem to move, obviously they have used up the nutrients and move on to more fertile soil. Mints tend to mix (the botanists do not know which mints were the original ones) so plant them away from each other. Mints are used in teas, sauces, with fruits and dried in potpourri.

OREGANO (*Origanum vulgare*) This perennial, sometimes known as wild marjoram, has a strong flavor and is a must in Italian dishes. It needs full sun and can be dried.

PARSLEY (*Petroselinum Crispin*) This biennial is undoubtedly the best known herb in our country. It has innumerable uses, in soups, stews, vegetables and is the main ingredient in fine herbs and bouquet garni.

ROSEMARY (*Rosemarinus officinalis*) It is a tender sub-shrub that can freeze if the winter is bad. The pine-like needles are used with meats, vegetables and soups. It is a natural with fish or lamb and adds a pine-like flavor to mayonnaise and vinegars.

SAGE (*Salvia officinalis*) This perennial bushy plant loves the sun. It is best known for seasoning the Thanksgiving turkey dressing. It can be used fresh or dried. Dried it is often used for wreath bases or decorations.

THYME (*Thymus vulgaris*) The many varieties of thyme have a pungent scent. It is a popular culinary herb. Buy plants since seeds take so long to produce desirable sized plants.

Editor's Note:

We may print follow-up articles covering harvesting herbs and uses and/or recipes if there is enough interest. Let me know if you would like to see these articles in the following months. ☺

Newsletter	Position	Primary	Alternate
Staff	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie & Eric Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Manford Morris	Elois McAfee
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Historian	Elisabeth Cornelison	
	Special Reports	Shirley Garnett	

Master Gardener Projects and Meetings

From the **Zoo Garden** -- Bill Valentine says, "It never rains at Ray Winder Field." But across Jonesboro Drive, it's a different story. Most Mondays (which we have designated as our weekly work day) the Zoo Garden soil has been entirely too wet to be worked.

Hopefully, by the time this newsletter reaches you, things will have changed and the garden will show much progress. Thanks to the new greenhouse, we started lettuce, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and cucumbers inside. Kale, beets and peas were planted direct in raised beds which gave some degree of drainage.

One question often asked is if we use zoo animal manure in the garden. The answer is no, because hoofstock animals are relatively poor digesters of hay. Grass seed goes right through unharmed. (It is used for the golf course.) Willie Wiley and Jeff Johnson

Breck Campbell and Robert Murray continue to work on the various fixtures in the **greenhouse**. A drain to the outside was installed in the sink, the sink counter was varnished, and a potting soil box was constructed adjacent to the sink.

Ruth Owings, who is in charge of greenhouse production, planted sixty or seventy flats of marigold and portulaca seeds with the help of Arden Kate, Sherry Gunter, Aleta Newell and Ruth Gibson. Also, they pruned and repotted three to four hundred wax begonias that were left over from the Flower and Garden Show. The cuttings are being rooted in moist sand.

Mary Francis Roman, our supplies person, has done a great job of keeping flats, pots and potting soil on hand for the planting operations.

In March, the marigold and portulaca seedlings will have to be pricked out and potted up. Also, the shrubs we found in the greenhouse yard will need to be pruned and repotted into fresh soil. Our schedule of alternate-day watering will continue.

Any Master Gardeners who would like to work in the greenhouse should call Ruth Owings (455-4344) to schedule a time. Breck Campbell, Chairman

Pinnacle Mountain State Park -- Master Gardeners Nell Ambrose, Gayle Elder and Ellen Kane are serving on the board of directors for Partners for Pinnacle, Inc. Jeff Johnson is chairing a subcommittee to develop educational programs for the arboretum.

The **Newsletter Committee** met March 13 at the Cooperative Extension Center. Janet Carson met with the committee to help work out a few problems. (Janet will be meeting with other committees to stay informed of their progress.) All future Newsletter Committee meetings will be the second Friday of each month at the Extension Center at 10 AM, unless notified otherwise.

The **Baptist Rehabilitation Institute "Hands-On" Plant Therapy Program** meetings at B.R.I. are on the first and second Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

April 4 - Dish Gardens by Mary Ann Dillaha and Bobbye Dennis.

April 11 - Patio Gardening. Ann Bridgers will be presenting the program with transplants in the raised bed located in the B.R.I. Patio.

Anyone interested in working in the **Plant Therapy Program** is expected to attend at least one program prior to presenting a program. This is a "hands-on" program which means that all of our presentations are designed to encourage participation from the patients.

Volunteers are needed to assist the program leaders. (Sometimes there are as many as 10 patients and they all need some assistance.) Call Jaine Waldron at 666-3364 for more information. ☺

We wish to thank the following businesses for contributing prizes to the Master Gardener Booth during the Flower and Garden Show:

City Farmer
Farmer's Association
Flowers For You
Green Tree Nursery
James Brothers Nursery
Maumelle Nursery and Landscaping
Pizzazz Cards and Gifts
Sherman Natural Landscapes

Calendar of Events

Zoo Garden - each Monday at 8:30 A.M.

April:

- 4 Birdhouse Workday from 9:00 A.M. till ?
- 4-5 14th Annual Wildflower Weekend, Pinnacle Mtn. State Park
- 9 Old State House 10:00 A.M. - planting annuals
- 9, 16 & 23 McClellan High School Adult Outreach Series
Janet Carson and Master Gardeners
- 11-12 Wildwood Blooms Benefit - Ricks Armory
- 13 Bi-Monthly Meeting - 6:30 P.M. Game & Fish Bldg., Natural Resources Drive
- 18 Workshop on Creating Gardens for Butterflies & Fragrance
Bonnie Fiero/Birnum Woods Nurseries, 10:00-11:30 A.M.
- 18-19 3rd Annual Native Plants and The Native Americans
Scott, Toltec Mounds State Park
- 21 State Hospital - planting Marigolds & Moss Roses 9:00 A.M.
Sherry Gunter 835-0437 Roxie Adams 224-3698
- 22 Trip to Larry Loman's Nursery - Wynne, Ar
- 24-26 Siloam Springs City Park Dodwood Festival
- 25 Workshop on 12 Easy Herbs to Know & Grow
Becky Thompson/Birnum Wood Nurseries, 10:00-11:30 A.M.
- 28 - May 1 Master Gardener Spring Trip to AmeriFlora '92 - Columbus, OH
- May 5 School Children's Program - L.R. Waterworks
Master Gardener volunteers needed!

The Flower and Garden show lingers on in our memory with pictures.





Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Five

May 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Lois Corley

Lois Corley learned about Master Gardeners while participating in the Extension Homemakers Club. She remembers Janet giving a program to her group. Lois says her daughter is also named Janet and that is one name she never forgets. When Lois's extension club duties became lighter, she decided to undertake Master Gardeners in the fall of 1991. Her favorite parts of the training were the classes that Janet taught and the sessions on drains, lawn and garden care, and house plants.



Lois, born and raised in Saline County, has been retired since 1985. She owned an antique and lamp repair shop. Her business did some of the lighting in the county judge's office.

Lois doesn't have much space to garden at home but does garden at the Brady Extension Homemaker's clubhouse. She has recently organized two work days for club members. This spring she will be working at the Old State House.

Max Thorn

Max Thorn is one of our newest crop of Master Gardeners. Max learned about the Master Gardener program because he has listened to Janet's radio show for many years. He was trained last fall. His favorite parts of the training were sessions on lawn care and annuals and the congenial gardeners.



Max recently retired from St. Vincent's Medical Center as Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs. Old doctors never die, they just lose their patients. Dr. Thorn demonstrates he has lost neither his patience nor thorough, scientific approach in his handling of his yard problems. He has had a mysterious lawn ailment affecting his zoysia grass. He has a diary of the lawn conditions and the days he has cut or applied chemicals to the lawn. He hasn't solved his problem yet, but his approach is certain to clarify the problem.

Max is a regular volunteer at the Old Mill. He loves the Old Mill and hopes that it will soon be the spectacular place it can be.

Max's hobby is woodworking which he incorporates into his gardening. He has built arbors and descending decks in his yard. Max and his wife Liz have three children and three grandchildren.

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Trading Post	2
Be a Good Bookkeeper	3
From the Editor	3
Garden to Garden	4
Tulsa Garden Center	4
Dogwood and Azalea Festival	5
Herb seminar at Mountain View	5
Calendar of Events & Projects	6

☞ Notice to Newsletter Staff ☜

All information for the newsletter will go to Janet Carson at the Extension Center for the next two months. Please get the information there by the 15th deadline and please try to have the information typed.

GARDENER'S MAY CHECKLIST

- ☉ **ANNUALS:** Set out transplants now for a summer full of color. Choose annuals that will perform well in your particular garden situation. If you have full sun, plant verbena, Madagascar periwinkle, ageratum, marigolds, zinnias, petunias, celosia or wax begonias. In shaded beds, impatiens, coleus, and browallia will be the best. If you have a northern or eastern exposure that gets only partial sun, some of the early-flowering annuals will continue all summer. These include sweet alyssum, lobelia, and annual dianthus.
- ☉ **PRUNE:** Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs after they have finished blooming. Remember, prune only if you have a reason. If the plant has overgrown its place, take out the largest limbs where they originated. A key to success: You should not be able to tell the plant has been pruned when you finish. If you are constantly pruning to keep the plant in bounds, consider replacing it with one that will mature at a smaller size. Try to work with the natural form of the plant unless you are keeping it trained for a hedge or topiary. Forsythia is a problem for many gardeners; it has a naturally weeping form and should be planted where it will be appreciated. Spirea, weigela, kolkwitzia, quince and wintersweet do need occasional shaping, but azaleas, rhododendron, Japanese andromeda (pieris), and loropetalum are some that very seldom need shaping.
- ☉ **VEGETABLES:** You'll be harvesting cool-weather crops now and begin planting green beans, lima beans, squash, melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers. Soak okra seeds overnight before planting and sow them on the north side of your vegetable garden so the tall stalks won't shade the other plants. Recommended selections include Clemson Spineless and Annie Oakley. Lee and Blondy are dwarf plants, growing only 3 feet tall, but are good producers. Park's Candelabra Branching offers more than one stem per plant for higher yields in less space. And try one of the red selections, such as Burgundy, Red River or Red Velvet. They turn green when cooked, but will add color if used raw in a salad, and they are great in arrangements.
- ☉ **ROSES:** If you find suckers arising from below the graft on your rose, do not cut them off. Instead, push your trowel down beside the trunk of the rose so that you tear off the sucker. This will remove any dormant buds at the base of the shoot. Suckers that sprout from beneath the graft will not produce the same kind of flowers as the grafted shrub.
- ☉ **WEEDS:** Never pass up a chance to pull a weed. If you allow them to go to seed, you'll be pulling hundreds later in the season.
- ☉ **MULCHES:** Mulching will help keep down weeds and will keep soil cooler, conserve moisture and even contribute nutrients as they decompose. Lawn clippings are good and readily available mulches. Do not mix wood-chips with the soil as they tie up available nitrogen for some time. Make sure that manures are thoroughly composted before using.
- ☉ **INSECTS:** When you see *ANTS* crawling on garden plants, look closely for *APHIDS*. Some species of ants tend aphids by protecting them from predators and stroking them to excrete more honeydew. The ants aren't likely to damage your plants, but the aphids sure will. They suck sap from tender leaves, stems, and buds, causing distorted new growth and preventing flowering and fruiting. Kill aphids with insecticidal soap. Be sure to spray the stems and underside of the leaves. *SLUGS:* A menace to bedding plants and young vegetables during warm, wet weather. They climb on plants during the nights, often stripping whole stems of leave. Diatomaceous earth can be used to kill slugs and commercial baits are effective, but are toxic to children and pets. Slugs are also attracted to beer. Set a shallow pan of beer in the garden, or sink a margarine tub or a similar container near the plants so its rim is at ground level. Fill with at least an inch of beer. In the morning, you can dispose of drowned slugs. *THRIPS:* Small brownish yellow insects that are attracted to plants with light-colored or white blossoms. Signs of thrip damage are discolored blotches on petals, failure of buds to open properly, and deformed blooms. If you suspect damage from thrips, cut an affected flower, and pull it apart or shake it over a white piece of paper. The insects move about quickly when disturbed. To avoid trouble, make sure plants are well irrigated; those under water stress are more susceptible to infestation. Also, keep the garden clear of weedy patches and high grass in which thrips can breed. Remove infested flowers immediately, and apply insecticidal soap, or Orthene. Spray three times, allowing 7 to 10 days to elapse between treatments.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Marie Flickinger 758-4202
Has: Lemon balm and oregano.
Dorothy Viers 225-2106
Has: Extra special peppermint.
Does anyone know of a source for good
topsoil?

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

BE A GOOD BOOKKEEPER

By Anne Borg

Each time you work in one of our gardening areas or attend an educational programs, try to write it on your calendar at home. Note the length of time you worked and the project you worked on. If you went to a lecture, note the length of the lecture, the name of the speaker and the topic. If you went on a field trip, specify the destination. Janet will assign the point value for programs not listed in the newsletter. Many have asked if their garden club meetings count as education time. If the program is at least 30 minutes long, this may be turned in.

Educational Time

Educational time (or recertification, as it was previously called) is for those who want to remain in the program longer than one year. Any horticulture program or field trip that you attend and are learning (not working) is education time. Janet will assign each program or field trip education points. You must get 20 education points to qualify for the program next year.

These education points are in lieu of the original class work that you completed. This is how we insure that our Master Gardeners are continuing to learn and grow in their knowledge of gardening. Watch your newsletter for programs which you can attend and for their education point value.

Payback Time

New graduates into our Master Gardener Program are required to payback 40 hours of volunteer time to the community in exchange for the 40 hours of Master Gardener Training which you received. Twenty hours of this time is to be paid back at the Extension Center answering the telephone. Twenty hours will be paid back in the volunteer projects of your choice.

Returning Master Gardeners from previous years are not required to do telephone time but may, if they so desire. Twenty hours of volunteer time is required in any area you choose. Some ways to payback the community are:

- Working in a Master Gardener garden
- Attending Master Gardener planning meetings
- Committee work
- Speaking programs
- School programs
- Highway clean-up programs

If you have not started working on your payback time or gotten involved in any Master Gardener projects, plan on starting soon. Don't wait until the end of the year to get your hours.

Anne Borg and Lynn Parker are working diligently to collect all the time sheets that gardeners are sending to the office. Be a good bookkeeper and keep up with it on a weekly basis. Once a month or every other month, send your time sheets to us at the Extension Center office.

From the Editor...

The recent rains have "greened up" the garden. Roses, irises, etc. are making our gardens a joy to be behold (never mind the ants, aphids and other bugs who want their share). Don't forget to compost your shredded leaves and grass clippings along with kitchen waste like coffee grounds, and vegetable and fruit peelings. It will make great soil conditioner as well as relieving the landfills. Try insecticidal soap sprays on your bugs and watch those fluorocarbons. Remember, we need to be good stewards of this special place called Earth.

I will be taking a two-month vacation from the Newsletter in order to take care of some personal business. Send your news information to Janet at the Extension Center.



Garden to Garden...

by Virginia Johnson

Gardening's Legacy

They probably didn't even think about the historical significance. As they gently worked the soil with their spades, they were only dreaming of the beauty in their small corner of the world--a serene place for their families to spend a quiet summer Sunday afternoon. And yet, these Victorian gardeners did leave an impression on this earth that we can cherish today.

There are several "vacant" lots near my home. At first glance, they are sad vestiges of our throw away society--homes long since burned and demolished; whiskey bottles, cigarette packages, and fast food litter strewn about. It appears that there is nothing left to remind us that these were once vibrant communities of the people who shaped our history, except for a few crumbling stone walls.

Every spring, however, the work these gardeners did comes to life. Hundreds of grape hyacinths cover the fields, having outgrown the original beds in which they were planted. Tiny daffodils announce spring as their ancestors have done every year for the last century. Brilliant blue Tradescantia and Bachelor's Buttons sparkle above the grass. Wonderfully scented sweet-peas ramble across old stone steps, and a perennial vinca climbs its way into an ancient crepe myrtle.

Summer brings glowing orange day lilies and tiger lilies beckoning admiration, as the scent of sweet Autumn clematis soon follows. In fall, bright red spider lilies line up like soldiers along a forgotten border. Occasionally, a small iris bed or an old rose bush survive years of neglect to further tell the story of the land.

Despite the weeds and trash, I know that once upon a time, someone cared. As I walk through the gardens that were started so long ago, I feel a sense of kindred spirit with the souls that took the time to create such a beautiful legacy, and I hope that my gardens will continue their tradition. ☺

The Tulsa Garden Center

by Martha Staples

While attending a church conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma, it was my privilege to visit the Tulsa Garden Center. The building where the Garden Center is located was originally a part of the Creek Indian allotment of Helen Woodward Slump. Through 1923 and 1954, there were four different owners. In 1954, the property was purchased by the city of Tulsa to be used as a Garden Center. The Tulsa Garden Center bought the property and building from the City of Tulsa and developed the building and grounds. The arboretum was planted in 1964. There is an auditorium for the many activities of the Garden Center. The basement room has been upgraded to a classroom with sinks, cabinets, and a projection screen. It is set up to provide members and the general public with programs and activities related to horticulture.

There are many opportunities for volunteers to work in the library, the Gift Shop, and other duties. Part of the library has been arranged for the use of the Master Gardeners.

Tours conducted at various times include the conservatory, which has a tropical garden, cactus garden, and general hothouse plants. The rose garden is outstanding with 137 different varieties of roses. The rose garden is a very formal landscape design. The evergreens are arranged in a formal pattern that complements the rose garden. There is an herb garden, a bird sanctuary, and many interesting arrangements of bulbs in season. Woodward park has several arrangements of trees, shrubs, in a natural design.

This garden is attractive and interesting with good use of the area and beautiful landscape designs. ☺

	Primary	Alternate	
Newsletter Staff	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Historian	Elisabeth Cornelison	
	Courier	Lois Corley	

Dogwood and Azalea Festival

by James Wilks

I was asked to write a brief column for this month's Garden to Garden section about Lilies. But the "LILIUM" plant family is so large and diverse that it makes any article of 1/2 to 3/4 page so brief that it would be almost meaningless. My Wymans Gardening Encyclopedia alone devotes ten pages to the subject. Instead I decided to write about a little known Dogwood and Azalea Festival which has been held annually in the small town of Charleston, MO for the past 24 years.

A couple years ago, the Arkansas Gazette printed an article about this festival along with another festival held about the same time in Muskogee, OK, which I also visited several years ago. After finding this small town on my Missouri map, I couldn't believe it to be worthwhile compared with the Muskogee festival with its 35,000-plus Azalea plants scattered over a 100-acre park. Nevertheless, I wrote and asked the Chamber of Commerce for more information.

Charleston is the County seat of Mississippi County located on Highways US 57 and State 105 in the "boot-heel area" of Missouri (almost on the MO-IL-KY line). The town dates back to about 1837 and now has a population of about 5,250. I did not plan to go to the festival; however I did pass through this town the following Monday with a couple hours allotted to visit, and it was really worthwhile.

As you can imagine, the parade route is short. But most of the streets are lined with Pink and White Dogwood trees, many of them 20-25 feet tall. There are also many evergreen and deciduous trees along the way and they were in their height of bloom. The town was clean with much evidence of prosperity and pride in their accomplishments over the years.

The festival, along with the usual parade and the crowning of the Azalea and Dogwood Festival Queen, consisted of 8-10 musical groups and dancers, an old-fashioned ice cream social, a dog show, a 5k run and various other activities. There are also many beautiful old homes, but apparently only one, the Historical Society, was open for the festival.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you may miss the festival this year, but it might be a worthwhile visit anyway. Further information may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce at 108 East Commercial St., Charleston, MO 63834. (Or phone (314) 683-6509.) If you miss it this year, you may want to put it on your calendar for next year. The date is around the 21st of April for both the Charleston and Muskogee festivals.

Joy Broach and Gayle Elder attended a seminar at Mtn. View

The herb seminar on February 22, 1992 was a six-hour delicious and informative program conducted in a show-and-tell format by the two ladies from the Mtn. View Folk Center. It covered everything from planting, growing and cooking with herbs, to where to purchase them in the central part of the state. In addition, there were dried herbs, seeds and a multitude of books for sale that ran the gamut of the herb world. Gayle Elder and I compared notes at every opportunity.

It began with Marion Spears' Bran Muffins (yum) and herb butter and ended with Tina Marie Wilson's directions for planting the chocolate mint sprig and cilantro seeds given to each attendee.

MARION'S BRAN MUFFINS

3 cups bran	1 cup hot water	1/2 cup oil
2 eggs	1 cup unsulphured molasses	2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1 pint buttermilk or sour milk (2 Tbs vinegar to 1 pint milk to sour)		
2 1/2 tsp baking soda	1 tsp cinnamon	1/2 tsp allspice
1 cup nuts	1/2 tsp cloves	1 cup raisins

Place 1 cup bran with 1 cup hot water. Set aside. Combine oil, eggs, molasses and spices. Mix well. Add remaining bran, wheat flour and milk. Mix well. Mix in baking soda, nuts and raisins. Bake in muffin cups at 375 until inserted toothpick comes out clean, about 20 to 25 minutes.

FOR OTHER HERBAL EVENTS, AT MTN. VIEW, call (501) 264-3851

Calendar of Events

- May 1-3 5th Annual Herb Spring Extravaganza, Mtn. View (Ozark Folk Center)
- May 4 Baptist Rehab Institute - Program on Herbs by Jaine Waldron Phone: 666-3364
- May 5 School Children's Program - L. R. Waterworks - Volunteers needed
- May 6 Pinnacle Mountain Workday - 9:00 A.M. Phone: 821-3509
- May 9 Workshop on Container Gardening, 10:00 - 11:30 A.M. Birnam Woods
- May 11 Workday at Old Mill - Pruning and maintenance Phone: 835-3509
- May 12 Trip to Brambleberry Farms (Perennial wholesale farm), 8:00 A.M. till 2:30 P.M.
- May 13 Pinnacle Mtn. Committee to meet at Ark. Fish & Game Bldg. 9:00 A.M. Phone: 821-3509
- May 13-15 Landscape Design Short Course IV with Critics Exam on March 15
- May 16 Workshop on Gardening with Shade 10:00 -11:30 A.M. Birnam Woods
- May 19 Meeting at Carl Hunter's house at 9:00 A.M. for talk on "Wildflowers for the Home". Call and register with the office.
- May 23 Baptist Rehab. Institute - Program on Easy Terrariums by Virginia Johnson. Phone: 666-3364
- May 26 Deadline for money and registration for the Fayetteville trip on June 16 and 17.
- June 16-17 Overnight trip to Fayetteville to visit the Holland Wildflower Farm, Terra Studios and U of A Experimental Farm; cost \$56.00
- June 20 Conservation Days at Little Rock Zoo; Master Gardener Booth; Contact Jeff Johnson Phone: 562-7926 Work: 666-2406
- June 22 Master Gardener Family Picnic
- July 15 Trip to Scott, Ark.
- July 24-25 Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting
- July 28 Tour State Plant Board.

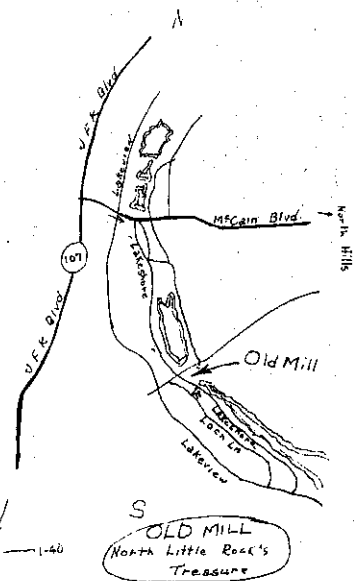
Master Gardener Projects

- ☉ Roxie Adams and Sherry Gunter need volunteers for the **State Hospital** project. Please call 224-3698 or 835-0437.
- ☉ During the last workday at the **Old Mill**, Master Gardeners planted antique roses, Dusty Miller, sedum, penstemon, dianthus, hostas, azaleas, ferns and Louisiana irises. The wildflowers are beginning to bloom, so plan a sightseeing trip soon!
- ☉ At the **State Hospital Greenhouse**, there is not much work to do at this time. We'll plant pansies in August.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

University of Arkansas, U.S. Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating
2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204





Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Six

June 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Ruth Gibson

Many gardeners receive gardening items as gifts. Ruth Gibson is probably among the few to have received a goat to control weeds. After inviting all her grown daughters to a clearing party on her very large lot on Loop Road, in Northern Pulaski County, she found a pregnant goat under her Christmas tree.



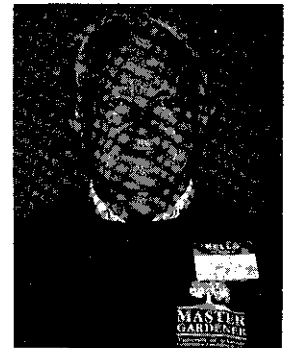
This may be the gift of a thoughtful and generous family or it may be retaliation for forced labor. The reader must draw his own conclusion.

Ruth learned about Master Gardeners through Janet's radio show and through her friend and neighbor Sally Garrison. She liked all the training, but was especially interested in the sections on perennials and wildflowers. She usually works at the Old Mill, but also has worked at the Contemplation Garden, State Hospital, and the greenhouse. Ruth also is a regular on Master Gardener trips, including AmeriFlora and Bellingrath Gardens.

Ruth is a retired school speech pathologist from Jefferson Elementary School in Little Rock. Her hobbies, other than gardening, include square dancing, sewing and traveling. She has been to Europe three times and plans to hike through the Himalayas with Sally Garrison later this year.

Fred Henker

If you invite Fred Henker for dinner, be sure to ask him to bring the horseradish. This is just one of many items found in his 20' X 60' vegetable garden, which is in perpetual cultivation. His main gardening interest is vegetables. He grows a wide variety of vegetables and herbs including such Oriental specialties as yard long green beans, bok choy, and Chinese cabbage. His wife Virginia enjoys Oriental cooking.



Fred grew up gardening on a double lot on Alice Street, close to Lamar Porter Field. His first years in medicine enabled Fred to travel to many areas of the United States. He returned to the Little Rock area in 1954 as a country doctor in Sheridan and then went on to specialize in psychiatry. He was with UAMS for 32 years. His reward to himself when he passed the national boards in psychiatry in 1959 was a greenhouse.

Fred learned about Master Gardeners from a newspaper article and went through training in 1991. He can be found working in the zoo garden most Mondays.

☞ Notice to Newsletter Staff ☜

All information for the newsletter will go to Janet Carson at the Extension Center next month. Please get the information to Janet by the 15th deadline.

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Projects	3
Master Gardener Activities	4
Calendar of Events & Projects	5
Trading Post	5

GARDENER'S JUNE CHECKLIST

- ⊗ **ANNUALS:** Most annuals respond to cutting by producing new flowers. If your plants get leggy, cut them back and sprinkle a teaspoon of 5-10-10 under each plant.
- ⊗ **VEGETABLES:** Harvest at the peak of maturity. Watch for insects and diseases. If you are growing corn, dust with sevin dust or use mineral oil on the silks as soon as they appear, and continue until the silks turn brown. This will prevent the corn earworm.
- ⊗ Continue to pinch back your chrysanthemums repeatedly until mid July. Fertilize monthly.
- ⊗ **PESTS AND OTHER PROBLEMS:** Apple tree pests: Codling moths and other insects will be stuck for life on "bogus apples" created by painting burned out light bulbs red and then covering them with petroleum jelly. Hang two or three in each tree. Azaleas are becoming infested with lace bugs, causing a stippling effect on the leaves and black dots on the underneath side of the leaves. Spray underneath with insecticidal soap or malathion.



Master Gardeners admire one of many AmeriFlora exhibits

"Whew!" Kate Lynn working up a sweat planting impatiens at the Old State House



MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

The **Zoo Garden** is producing in abundance with regular harvesting of broccoli, lettuce, Chinese cabbage, and sugar snap peas. Succession plantings of cucumbers, lima beans, Swiss chard, peppers and eggplants are up and doing well. First plantings of corn, Italian edible gourd, okra, peanuts and tomatoes are also looking good. Our only real failure was kale, which was direct seeded. This was probably attributed to poor seed germination due to the unusually wet and cold late winter. Successive plantings of lettuce and Chinese cabbage filled that void, however.

Three cultivars of Chinese cabbage were tried. The Pak Choi produced large heads, but started bolting in the warm spell we had in mid April. The Wong Bak also produced well and showed less tendency to go to seed. The Mei Qing was so-so but was planted in less favorable soil location. Our fall garden will definitely include Pak Choi and a fall-recommended Michili.

Paris White Romaine and Buttercrunch lettuce both did us proud. Would you believe that beet thinnings could be transplanted successfully? We didn't, but Fred Henker proved us wrong, (at least so far).

Monday morning is still our work time, at least for now. We start at 8:30 and are generally done by 10:00. The crew so far as been Willie Wiley, Jeff Johnson, Mickey Williams, Fred Henker and Robert Murray. The rest of you who signed up are welcome to come join the fun.

Thanks to the committee who put the beds in shape and then planted at the **Old State House**.

We have the responsibility of the four beds in the front around the fountain. We planted some beautiful red caladiums, white impatiens, and geraniums in the urns. We have plans to add some herbs.

One special event coming up in May will be a party for Governor Bill Clinton's major contributors. We sure want things to be lovely.

Our wildflower meadow at the **Old Mill** is brilliant blue with bachelor buttons and is dotted with pink and white foxgloves, yellow California poppies, galliardia, lamb's ears, linum and rudbeckia. Coreopsis will be in bloom shortly.

We are grateful to Wendy Welch (M.G.) from the State Highway Dept.-Roadside Wildflower program and her coworkers, Phillip and Donna, for a truckload of royal ferns. Wendy saved these ferns from the bulldozers on a right-of-way in Pine Bluff. The old mill crew planted them. The next work day they planted various flats of annuals.

On May 2, Jaine Waldron presented a plant therapy program using herbs at the **Baptist Rehab Institute**. Lavon Spears assisted her with the program. More volunteers are needed for this program, which meets two Saturdays a month for one hour. For those needing Saturday morning work, contact Jaine Waldron at 666-3364

May 6 was the workday at **Pinnacle Mountain**. Master Gardeners worked the gardens in front of the visitor center. A new butterfly garden was planted. Also, they planted a huge butterfly and hummingbird garden, and filled planters with nectar-producing flowers at the **Arkansas Game and Fish** building on May 13. Both gardens are looking great.

Master Gardeners have been hard at work planting planters and beds in the courtyard of the **Art Center**. The workers added new planters, rearranged old ones, added new soil, fertilized and planted impatiens, petunias, geraniums, ageratums, ferns and various other plants. The contemplation garden is looking spectacular with the various annuals and perennials blooming all over it. It was recently featured on the Weekend Gardener with Bob Bray.

The large beds at the **State Hospital** were planted with the marigolds and portulaca that we grew in the greenhouse. With the dry weather that followed planting, we almost had some casualties, but things are on the road to recovery. M.G. Wanda Jenkins has graciously agreed to be in charge of watering those beds, and schedules are forthcoming for work days for those who signed up for this project.

Cecelia Buck and Janet Carson with the help of John Buck, planted the planters outside the County Judges office last week. The County Judge is very interested in having flowers and pretty plants around the County Administration Building, so more planting days may be in the works.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

30 M.G.'s attended the trip to Larry Lowmans native plant nursery in Wynne, AR on April 22. If you missed this trip, you missed an excellent tour on native plant materials. Larry knows his plants forwards and backwards. His enthusiasm for the plants, made all of us want one of everything he talked about. We saw lots of unusual and interesting plants. We will for sure go back to this nursery in another season.

Three MG's assisted Janet at the Water Fair at the Little Rock Water Works May 5. Over 650 school children came through and were taught how plants grow, why they are important. Each child got to plant a flower or vegetable to take home.

A crew of 30 plus M.G.'s attended the trip to Brambleberry Farm perennial wholesale operation. As usual, everyone enjoyed the information we received, the slide show and tour. We also came home with our cars laden with perennials.

28 M.G.'s attended Carl Hunter's house for a tour of his wildflower yard. Carl's knowledge of wildflowers and the unique specimens we saw, made this a very informative and fun activity. Many of us came away with his books in hand.

Ameriflora

Our trip to Columbus, Ohio and Ameriflora '92 was outstanding. Although we were on the "bus from hell," we survived the ride and thoroughly enjoyed our visits at Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN and the show at Ameriflora. A total of 32 brave souls rode the bus and got to enjoy the wonderful sites in Columbus. This show is open until the middle of October. If you have an opportunity to get to Columbus, don't miss it. The flowers, landscape designs, video displays, and the conservatory were all fantastic. We took a ton of pictures, which we will all bring to the family picnic on June 22. A copy of the official Ameriflora book will be in the office for you to look at. A great big thank you goes to Lisa Percy in organizing this trip, and having to deal with the bus company. Lisa has been our trip planner now for three years and she always does a remarkable job. We couldn't do it without her.

We Need Your Help

To raise money for our Master Gardener program, the fund raising committee has reserved booths at two different craft shows--Pinnacle State Park-October 24 and West Pulaski Arts and Crafts at the 4-H Center November 20-22. We plan to sell bulbs, plants and possibly baked goods that have a vegetable or herb as an ingredient. Do you have any ideas? Please contact Karen Vesole or Maxine Hamilton.

Master Gardener Assistance Needed

This summer, August 9-13, the Arkansas County Agricultural Agents Association will host the annual meeting of the National Association of County Agents here in Little Rock. Approximately 2500-3000 county agents and their families from all over the US. will be here for the conference which will be held at the Excelsior Hotel.

Allan Beuerman in our office is chairman of the Decorations committee and he needs some help. The type of assistance needed would involve making flower arrangements and moving plant materials from room to room during the conference. They are also looking for donated plant material. If you are interested in helping, please call the office.

We will also be hosting several tours to the Old Mill with a small reception. More details will be forthcoming.

International Master Gardener Conference

The next M.G. international meeting will be in San Antonio, Texas August 12-15, 1993. We will plan a trip to this conference, which is a year away. They are looking for people interested in making presentations. You have two options: classes at 50 minutes or clinics at 100 minutes. You may do lectures, slide presentations or hands on demonstrations. To be considered the applications (which Janet has) must be submitted by July 1, 1992. Registration fees will be covered for speakers. I think it would be great if we were represented!!!

Newsletter Staff	Primary	Alternate	
Position	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Historian	Elisabeth Cornelison	
	Courier	Lois Corley	

Calendar of Events

- June 13 Pink Tomato Festival--Warren, Arkansas
- June 13 Workday at the zoo birdhouse. 9:00 - til.
- June 16-17 Overnight trip to Fayetteville, AR
- June 20-21 Conservation Days at Little Rock Zoo. Need Master Gardener volunteers for the two days. Will have tables set up for display. 9:30 - 3:30
Call Jeff Johnson - 562-7926 (W) 666-2406
- June 22 Master Gardener Family Picnic - L.R. Zoo\ 6:30 p.m.
- July 1 Master Gardener meeting at the Blind School - Herb Garden of Exploration. 8:30 a.m.
Herb Society member Betty Pagan will be there to teach us about herbs and their uses.
- July 15 Trip to Scott
- July 24-25 Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association
- July 28 Master Gardener Tour of the State Plant Board
- Aug 4 Master Gardener Bi-monthly meeting - Lynn McMahon speaker
- Aug 9-13 National Association of County Agriculture Agents meeting - Excelsior Hotel
- Aug 18 Weidekehr and Post Winery Tour
- Sept 2 Master Gardener Project Tour
- Sept 22 Delta Farm Tour
- Oct 9-18 Arkansas State Fair
- Oct 21 Master Gardener Fall Foliage Tour
- Nov 18-19 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting

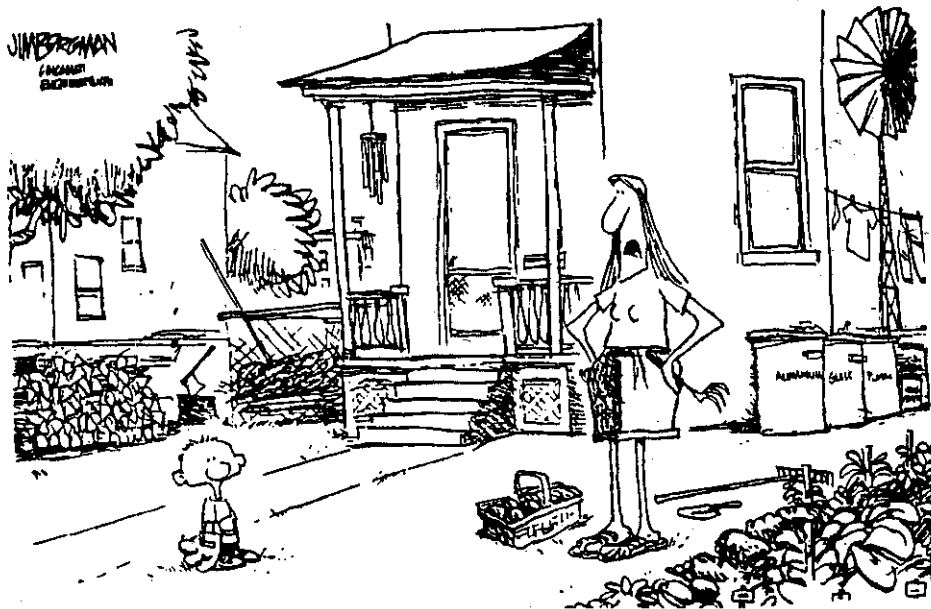
Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Call Roxie Adams (224-3698) if you know of a source for good topsoil.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".



—M. Twohy in Audubon



"I don't want you playing with that little Jones boy. His family doesn't even compost."

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Seven

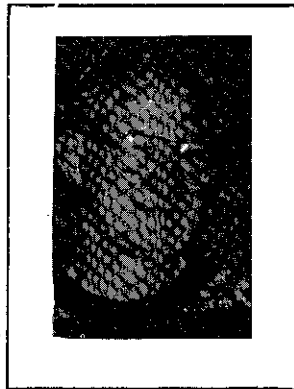
July 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Manford Morris

Manford was born in Kamiah, Idaho. His wife Betty encouraged him into gardening, because her parents were fruit farmers. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Manford is a retired professor of Pediatrics and Biochemistry at UAMS. After he retired and listening to Janet's radio show regularly, he decided to apply for the Master Gardener program. He said his favorite part of the Master Gardener class was vegetables and small fruits. One of his work activities is the garden at the Art Center. Can you believe one of his favorite jobs is answering the phone at the Extension office! He is interested in learning more about flowers and organic gardening, and his most valued garden possession is his compost pile. He also commented that tomato stakes are always in the way, and his favorite plant is peppers, for their color and variety. Manford said if he could redo his garden again, he would put his irrigation system in first and be better organized. His final comment was "I just stay dirty all the time."



Karen Vesole

Karen was born in Iowa City, Iowa, but raised in Little Rock. Her husband, David, works at Arkansas Cancer Research Center. They have two children, Laurie, age 10 and Steven, age 5. She is employed by the Little Rock School System.



Karen became a Master Gardener in 1990, to learn more about gardening, and confided that at one time she "killed a plant a month." Her favorite part of the Master Gardener session was home gardening and perennials. She is involved in several activities, the Zoo garden, educational projects in schools and is co-chairman of the fund raising committee.

She said the best gardening advice she ever received was be sure to have a good irrigation system, and her most valued garden possession is her disposable rubber gloves. Her favorite plant is the Japanese Maple. Karen said the best part of being a Master Gardener is the people she has met and friends she has made.

Earth laughs in flowers.
Ralph Waldo Emerson

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Denver Botanic Gardens	2
Fayetteville Trip	2
Master Gardener Projects	3
Note From Janet	3
Master Gardener Activities	4
Opportunity	4
Calendar of Events & Projects	5
Trading Post	5

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

Old State House

Master Gardeners at the Old State House have done such a fine job during this rainy season. Thanks to everyone for all the work. The red caladiums look good as do the geraniums in pots; the impatiens, however, need to shape up! We have pulled the pansies and filled in a bit with white begonias. We have a pretty good start before the hot weather hits.

Baptist Rehab

Jaine Waldron is chairman of this project and needs more volunteers! They normally have between 5-10 patients at their Saturday programs. The June programs were on propagation of herbs. If you need hours and can work for one hour on Saturday mornings, please call Jaine.

Old Mill

Since last month, we have planted impatiens, ageratum, chenille plant and caladiums. We will soon be adding more plants to the wildflower garden. If you have any cleome (spider flower) seedlings you can spare, let us know. We will also plant butterfly bush, butterfly weed, yarrow, cosmos and Queen Ann's lace. (call Cecelia Buck at 834-2825 or Pat Green at 835-6215 if you would like to donate any of the above).

The first week of August, we plan to drain the upper pool and plant tubs of water plants. Keep up the weekly maintenance and we'll let know about planting days as they occur.

On August 12, several bus loads of County Agents will tour The Old Mill, in conjunction with the National County Agents Association Meeting.

Note from Janet...

The trip planning committee has worked very hard planning some great educational trips (which are also fun) for us. Sally Garrison is the leader of this group, and has done a fantastic job. When we have to pay for a bus, or hotel and need reservations, please be considerate of the others in the group, and don't just sign up and then when it is time (or, past time) to pay, decide you're not going. These trips prices are broken down with minimum numbers. If we don't have enough to cover our costs, we have to cancel, and have deadlines in which to do this. You may notice some increases in the trip prices, to buffer against this happening. If you are not sure if you can go, wait and see if there is space available right before the trip. You may not get to go, if the trip is full, but it saves us reserving space that may not be used. After the money is in, there can be no refunds. I hope you all understand about this. If you have any questions or comments, please call me.

Congratulations

We have several new "sprouts" in the Master Gardener program. Lisa Percy, our dedicated travel coordinator, had baby Madelyn on June 10. Mike Carter and his wife also had a baby girl--Jessie Marie on June 10th as well. One of our first master gardeners Claudell Wood also recently had a baby boy. Master Gardeners are good at growing all kinds of things!

In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes to Master Gardener Susan Mehlburger on the recent death of her husband. Susan has not been very active in the last year, because her husband was so ill. She's now ready to "get her hands dirty" again. We look forward to working with her. Also our staff chairman, Betty Oliver recently lost her mother Mrs. Ferguson. Our sympathy goes to her and her family.

Sunshine Committee

Ellen Kane has agreed to take on the duty of "sunshine" committee. If you know of any Master Gardeners or their family that has been ill, or in need of congratulations, call Ellen and she will send out a card in our behalf.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

Reported by Darlene Younts

State Hospital

Schedules with a calendar of names have been sent to each Master Gardener volunteering for the watering and upkeep schedule at the Arkansas State Hospital. These volunteers have been watering, weeding, and maintaining the various beds on the grounds of the State Hospital and they look wonderful. Keep up the good work!

Greenhouse

Roxie Adams reported a funny story to me about the perils of working on government property. The Master Gardener volunteers were unloading soil to take to the greenhouse, but found the gate was locked. Dorothy Wilks and Roxie Adams walked to the back to find someone to let them in, when Marcia Holder decided to climb the fence. She was pulling the bags of soil under the fence and storing them at the greenhouse. When she had finished, she climbed the fence to get out when the security guards drove up. They had a hard time convincing the guards they were putting the soil in and not taking it out. The guards finally believed them and let them go. Another exciting day in the life of a Master Gardener.

NOTE: Breck Campbell and Ruth Owings have requested a Greenhouse workday, July 2, from 8:30 a.m. til 12:00 Noon. Please come if you have a free morning.

Zoo Birdhouse

Workday at the Zoo birdhouse was June 13. Ricus pumilla, a groundcover was planted. Further work is being delayed until the Zoo has redone the walls in the birdhouse.

Arkansas Arts Center

June 11, was the workday at the Arkansas Arts Center. The Contemplation Garden washed out a little from the heavy rains and Master Gardeners added begonias from the State Hospital greenhouse. The marigolds were doing badly, so they were pruned and fertilized. The rest of the garden looks great! The papyrus grass, planted in the fountain located in the courtyard, is doing so well it was staked to prevent it from falling over. A watering and upkeep schedule has been set up. The schedule is as follows for June, July, August and September:

1st week - Ruth Gibson

2nd week - Jo Anne Hulsey

3rd week - Ginger Coggins & Marcia Holder

4th week - Dorothy & Jim Wilks

If you would like to work with them, please give them a call for the dates. Their numbers are in your Master Gardener phone list.

OPPORTUNITY

You have the chance to make a difference. The Arkansas Highway Department is willing to plant wildflowers instead of grass on the right-of-way on Hwy. 300. You can help show them public opinion favors the wildflowers.

If you choose to write, please make your letter brief and address the envelope and letter with Attention: Project Hwy. 300.

Arkansas Highway Dept. Project - Highway 300, 10324 Interstate 30, Little Rock, AR 72209

Newsletter Staff	Primary	Alternate	
Position	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Historian	Elisabeth Cornelison	
	Courier	Lois Corley	

Calendar of Events

- July 1 Master Gardener meeting at the Blind School Herb Garden of Exploration, 8:30 a.m. Herb Society member Betty Pagan will be there to teach us about herbs and their uses. Following the meeting will be our Master Gardener tour of homes, so bring a sack lunch and we will carpool from there.
- July 4 & 5 Pinnacle Mt. State Park, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Table talks in picnic area.
- July 11 Partners for Pinnacle, Fight Dirty, litter clean-up, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- July 15 Wild Wednesday, Pinnacle Mt. State Park, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Teaching resource workshop for teachers and youth leaders; bring sack lunch and wear comfortable clothes, no charge.
- July 15 Trip to Scott, AR. Meet at McCain Mall behind Shoneys at 10:30 a.m. We will visit New Leaf Greenhouse, specializing in herbs and the Biblical Herb Garden at All Souls Church and then lunch at 1:15 p.m. at Cothams. Call office by July 6 for reservations.
- July 18 Volunteer Hard Hat, Pinnacle State Park, 9 a.m. till.
- July 19 FUN DAY, John Williams of UALR Planetarium will talk about the sun; call for time; 868-5806
- July 24 & 25 Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting.
- July 25 Christmas in July; Pinnacle State Park; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Craft workshop; \$20.00 fee, advanced registration required.
- July 25 Star Party; Visitors Center; Pinnacle State Park; 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Planetarium will provide a telescope for viewing.
- July 26 Marvels of Mid-America Museum; 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. Linda McDowell will present a demonstration on natural science.
- July 28 Tour State Plant Board. 9 am. We'll tour the apiary office (bees), labs, etc. Located next building past Game & Fish on Natural Resources Drive. Plenty of parking.
- August 4 Master Gardener Bi-monthly meeting, Lynn McMahon speaker.
- Aug. 9 - 13 National Association of County Agriculture Agents Meeting; Excelsior Hotel
- August 18 Weidekehr and Post Winery Tour-\$15.00 pre-payment by July 27, 1992
- August 29-30 Zoo days
- Sept. 2 Master Gardener Project Tour
- Sept. 8 1st Monthly meeting of M.G.'s--Election of officers.
- Sept. 22 Delta Farm Tour
- Oct. 9 - 18 Arkansas State Fair
- Oct. 21 Master Gardener Fall Foliage Tour
- Nov. 18 - 19 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Sorry, no items this month.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".



Master Minutes

Volume Three

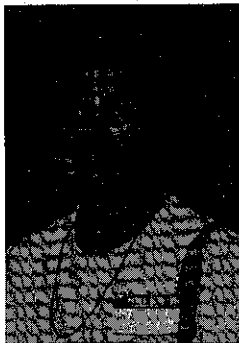
Number Eight

August 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Mary Frances Roman

Mary Frances has been raising horses, children, and timber out Colonel Glenn Road, at Whippoorwill Ridge Farm since 1970. She grew up in a "horse family," in Germantown, Tennessee and Mississippi. She has three grown sons; one a race horse trainer, one an artist, and one following in her husband Juan's footsteps, as a medical student.

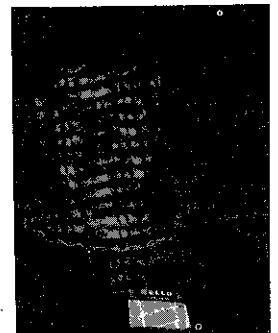


Mary Frances says she has always loved flowers, especially roses, and started gardening when she realized that if she were to have a supply of fresh flowers, she would have to grow them herself. She read about Master Gardeners in the newspaper and felt that she finally had the time. Mary Frances has volunteered at the greenhouse and planned our delightful picnic at the Zoo. She says that she has learned a lot in the Master Gardener program, which is quite a comment from someone who majored in Agriculture, among other things.

MARY FRANCES SAYS: Her most valued possession is her wheelbarrow. The best gardening advice she has received is to mulch. Her garden pet peeve is when her Irish Wolfhound lays down on her plants.

Carolyn Moore

Carolyn Moore has been a Master Gardener for almost a year now, but she has always been interested in the programs the Extension Service has to offer. Carolyn's husband, Architect Kip Moore, is a long time Janet Carson Show fan. Carolyn was involved with 4-H with her three grown children. She had read about the Master Gardener program in the newspaper, and Ruth Gibson talked about them in the Extension Service upholstery class. She hopes she will learn how to manage her property better through Master Gardeners.



Carolyn says digging in the dirt and mowing is her therapy. Since she lives on eight acres near Galloway, she has plenty of opportunity to engage in these opportunities. Because she works for her husband, she has a flexible schedule and can do a letter at midnight and participate in Master Gardeners during the day.

CAROLYN SAYS: She is blessed with wonderful rock-free soil. If she could redo her garden again she would have more brick surfaces and raised beds. Carolyn hopes she never has to move back to the city again. Do what you can, and don't worry about what doesn't get done.

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Projects	3
Gardens at the Billmore Estate	3
Master Gardener Activities	4
Note from Janet	4
Calendar of Events	5
Trading Post	5
Scott Trip	6

"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must have sunshine, freedom, and a little flower."

Hans Christian Andersen

GARDENER'S AUGUST CHECKLIST

- ☉ **DAYLILIES:** If Daylilies haven't flowered well, it's probably due to overcrowding. Dig up entire clumps; then remove soil from the roots to expose the crown. Pull plants apart by hand, or split with a sharp knife. Then replant the new divisions about 12 to 18 inches apart.
- ☉ **FALL BULBS:** Bulbs such as colchicum, spider lilies, and fall crocus need to be planted now. Set the bulbs in well-drained soil at a depth twice their width; a 2-inch wide bulb needs to be 4 inches deep. Use massed plantings (at least 40) of smaller bulbs, such as crocus, for best effect.
- ☉ **FALL VEGETABLE GARDEN:** Cool season vegetables that can be planted now are - Southern peas, summer Squash, Carrots, Collard, Cabbage (plants), Cauliflower (plants), Beets, Broccoli (plants), Turnips, Chinese cabbage, Swiss Chard, Beans (bush), Beans (lima), Mustard, Cucumbers & Kale.
- ☉ **SUMMER PRUNING:** Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now because they are forming flowerbuds for next spring's displays.
- ☉ **FALL FLOWERS:** Fertilize late-summer and fall flowers, such as chrysanthemums, dahlias, and asters, now. Apply about 1 cup of liquid fertilizer or 1 tablespoon of granular 10-10-10 around each chrysanthemum or dahlia plant.
- ☉ **CONTAINER PLANTS:** These long hot days can be tough for plants in containers. If roots have filled the pots, you may have to water daily to prevent wilting. Because nutrients wash through the soil, frequent watering will require frequent feeding. Step up your fertilizer schedule as needed to keep plants looking healthy or add slow-release fertilizer to each container.
- ☉ **HERBS:** You can have an indoor herb garden this winter if you get started now. Divide mint, sweet marjoram, and oregano growing in the garden. Cut back divisions, pot them, and place in a sunny window. Pot chives as well, but leave them outside for a month of frost to encourage fresh shoots when you bring them indoors. Sow seeds of dwarf basil and parsley directly into pots. Although rosemary is evergreen, it may be killed by cold temperatures. Thyme is hardy and evergreen, so leave it in the garden.
- ☉ **INSECTS:** If you notice yellowing foliage on azaleas, pyracantha, cotoneaster, or hawthorn, check for lace bugs. Black dots of excrement on the underside of leaves are a sure sign of their presence. Adult lace bugs are tiny, only 1/16 to 1/8 inch long, so you'll probably need a magnifying glass to identify their netlike wings. To control, spray with insecticidal soap or malathion, according to directions.
- ☉ **ROSES:** Get them in shape for fall. Experts at the Antique Rose Emporium suggest watering deeply every week, and fertilizing monthly with granular Rose food or liquid formulations as recommended on the label. Prune shrub roses to remove errant branches and direct new growth; do not prune climbers at this time. Mulch to insulate rose roots, and if your roses are vulnerable to leaf diseases, continue regular sprays of Funginex or Benlate to prevent infection. Be sure to follow label directions exactly.

REMINDER

The Fund Raising Committee has reserved booths at two different craft shows. Pinnacle Mountain State Park - October 24 and West Pulaski Arts and Crafts, at the 4-H Center - November 20-22. We would like for each member to give one item for each event.

Plants, baked goods, dried herbs, crafts, potpourri, etc.

On August 20, a craft work day is scheduled at the Brady Extension Homemaker building on Rodney Parham road starting at 9:00 a.m. Jaine Waldron will be demonstrating how to make the plant identification markers. We'll also be making decorated garden gloves and aprons for sale at the craft shows. Please try to attend. MASTER GARDENER's! COME ON DOWN! If you can attend, please call the office and let us know.

We will also be having a bird house decorating contest. Either buy one or build your own, then decorate. These will also be for sale at the craft shows.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

OLD STATE HOUSE

We have added some white Vinca to the white Impatiens in the sunnier bed at the Old State House. Miracle Gro plus Osmocote has given the beds a little energy and we will water and watch.

BAPTIST REHAB

Recent programs included a patriotic planting of red, white and blue plants, herb propagation and other hands on plantings. Jaine Waldron is still looking for more interested people, in giving up one hour on Saturday mornings once or twice a month.

STATE HOSPITAL

The marigolds and portulaca are doing great. Master gardeners have done a great job of keeping the weeds pulled, the plants deadheaded and fertilized. Hats off to Wanda Jenkins for keeping these beds watered.

The greenhouse crew has also been busy. A crew of gardener's along with Francis Young's husband, plowed up some ground and planted several varieties of pumpkins. Ruth Owings has also ordered our pansy plugs. We'll grow the pansies for state hospital plantings and for sale to the Master Gardeners.

ZOO GARDEN

Willie Wiley and Jeff Johnson and their small crew have done a super job this year. The garden is producing an abundance of things. The first harvest of sweet corn was made the middle of July. Jeff also promoted our program in the zoo magazine, with a wonderful article. A copy of this will be in the county office.

OLD MILL

The Old Mill keeps getting prettier all the time. The wildflower meadow is full of black-eyed susans and the other perennials and annuals are looking great. A work day is set for August 4. We will put extra effort into cleaning, weeding, pruning, etc. and possibly place water plants in the upper garden. The National Association of County Agents will tour the Old Mill on August 12. (Anyone interested in helping with a small reception there on that date, please call Cecelia or Pat).

The Gardens at the Biltmore Estate - Asheville, No. Carolina

Reported by Nancy Jones

It's hard to put into words the beauty of these gardens which we visited recently while on vacation. The entire grounds (the original estate consisted of 125,000 acres) are magnificent, breath-taking and like a picture.

The gardens and grounds of the Biltmore Estate were created by Frederick Law Olmstead, whose brilliant landscape designs include New York City's Central Park.

There's the LIBRARY TERRACE covered with an arbor of wisteria and trumpet creeper vines.

The ITALIAN GARDEN, with its three formal pools, is part of a design concept dating back to the 16th century.

Then THE RAMBLE or SHRUB GARDEN filled with Chinese holly, Japanese cutleaf maples, azaleas and dogwoods.

The four-acre English WALLED GARDEN is maintained in the grand tradition of the Old English private garden.

The ROSE GARDEN features All-American Rose Selections as well as over 2,000 plants in approximately 100 varieties.

And the CONSERVATORY was used to provide citrus fruit, flowers and plants for the house during Vanderbilt's time.

The AZALEA GARDEN, containing one of the country's most beautiful collections of native azaleas, is adjacent to the BASS POND.

There is something blooming year round here - you will be spellbound at the beauty, and want to get on their volunteer team immediately!

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

TRIP UPDATES

Weiderkehr and Post Wineries-- On August 18 we will take a one-day bus trip to these wineries in Altus, Arkansas. We will tour both wineries, which will include a view of the grape harvest, the bottling, the aging process and wine tasting. We will leave the Extension office at 8:00 am and will return by 4:00 pm. Cost is \$15.00. Lunch is on your own at the Wiederkehr's.

Delta Farm Tour-- On September 22 we'll go to West Memphis to take a guided tour which will include visits to rice, soybean, and cotton farms, where we will see the farmers harvesting. Other possibilities include a visit to a cotton gin, a peanut farm and a catfish farm. Lunch will be at the Snowden Plantation Home at Hughes. We will leave the County office at 8:00 and return around 4:00. Cost is \$38.00, which includes lunch, the bus and the tour cost. Reservations and prepayment are due by August 20.

NOTE FROM JANET

Summer is passing by quickly. Thanks for all the hard work you have all put in at the gardens, at the office and on various projects. The National County Agents meeting is rapidly approaching. We'll need lots of volunteers. A list of dates and times and number of volunteers needed is below. Please call the office if you can schedule some time. If you have questions or concerns, please call me.

We're getting closer to incorporating the Master Gardener program. Our first elections will be at the September meeting which is September 8. A nominating committee met and selected the following slate of officers for your consideration. President- Sally Garrison; 1st Vice President-Cecelia Buck; 2nd Vice President-Jay Hill; Treasurer-James Wilkes; Secretary-Jaine Waldron. If you have any other nominations, please call me and we can put them on a ballot. See you all soon!

CONGRATULATIONS: To Darlene Younts and family on the birth of a daughter, Amanda Nicole, born July 6.

NOTE: Contemplation Garden needs people to weed. We would appreciate any help. Thanks

NOTE: Send all newsletter information to **Marie Flickinger** for the next issue of Master Minutes, no later than AUGUST 15. Please type, print or write legibly. Thanks for your help.



Newsletter Staff	Primary	Alternate	
Position	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Courier	Lois Corley	

Calendar of Events

- August 1 Midsummer Night Hike, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 8-10 p.m.
August 4 Master Gardener Meeting--Lynn McMahon speaking on houseplants. Noon meeting at the County office. Bring a sack lunch.
August 8 Backyard Wildlife Workshop-Pinnacle Mountain 2-4 pm
August 8-9 8th Annual Wild Orchid Hunt, Logoly State Park, 695-3561
August 9 Here Comes the Judge, 2-3 pm, Pinnacle Mountain, honoring Judge Fulk, who was donator of the Park.
August 9-13 National Association of County Agriculture Agents meeting; Excelsior Hotel.
August 11-15 Annual Tontitown Grape Festival, Tontitown, 361-2612.
August 13-16 16th Annual Watermelon Festival, Hope, AR 777-3640.
August 15 Volunteer Hard Hat Day, Pinnacle State Park, 9:00 a.m.
August 15 Photo Safari, outdoor photo workshop, 8-12 noon, Pinnacle State Park.
August 18 Weidekehr and Post Winery Tour-\$15.00. There are still slots available.
August 20 Craft work day, Brady Extension Homemaker building, 9:00 a.m.
August 29-30 Zoo Days - Call Jeff Johnson or the office.
August 29 Pond Plod, 10-11 a.m., Pinnacle State Park.
August 30 Calls of the Wild, Pinnacle State Park.
Sept. 2 Master Gardener Project Tour
Sept. 8 First monthly meeting of Master Gardener's, election of officers.
Sept. 22 Delta Farm Tour - \$30.00 pre-payment by Sept. 1.
Oct. 9-18 Arkansas State Fair
Oct. 21 Master Gardener Fall Foliage Tour
Nov. 18-19 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting



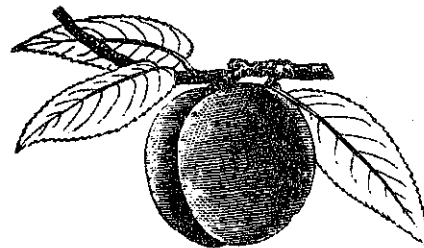
HELP NEEDED

As noted in last month's newsletter, Allan Beuerman can use some help during the National Agricultural County Agents Association annual convention, to be held August 9-13, at the Excelsior Hotel. The type of help needed would include flower arranging and general leg-work in moving decorations and signs from room to room. The periods that help will be needed most are Sunday afternoon (August 9) from 2-5 p.m., and Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, each day - 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. These times are approximate and if you can fit into any of these periods it would be appreciated. Call Allan at 660-6650 to sign up or if you have questions.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Jim Wilks (225-0524) has mixed narcissis and daffodils for naturalizing.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".



Scott Trip

Reported by Ruth Gibson

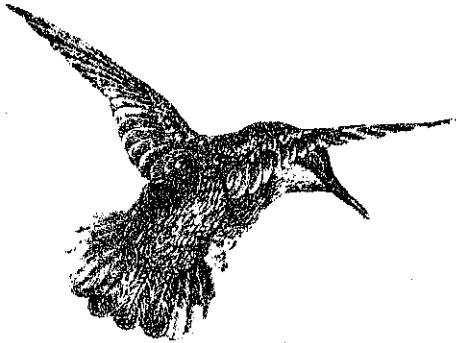
About 30 Master Gardeners visited Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse at Scott on July 15.

Naomi, who is an area expert on herbs, explained characteristics and uses of plants in her nursery and at nearby All Souls Church. Ladies of the Church thoughtfully served us herbal lemonade and cookies as we visited the Church's garden of Biblical herbs.

Our next stop was the Plantation Museum, where the exhibits present a history of cotton farming in the area.

The trip ended with lunch at Cotham's General Store. We felt as if we were in a time warp sitting among such a wide variety of goods that are seldom seen in urban establishments. But the food served there was tasty and plentiful.

Hats off to Sarah Henson for making the plans and arrangements for us.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Master Minutes

Volume Three

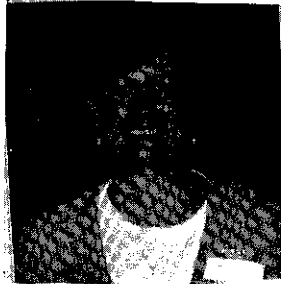
Number Nine

September 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners

Wendy Welch

Wendy "Wildflower" Welch works for the Arkansas Highway Department. Her job deals with any kind of vegetation problem that may arise along the byways. She deals with wildflowers, reforestation and coordinates public beautification. She came to MG as job-related education and feels that the knowledge she gained has helped a lot in her work. Wendy has a degree in biology from Hendrix and 2 years of postgraduate work at UCA.



WENDY SAYS: She wishes she knew more about propagation techniques; her most valued garden possessions are her gloves; her favorite plants are wildflowers and ferns; and the best advice she received is to not be afraid to get dirty hands. If she could redo her garden, she would take out all the crossties and put in rock.

Arden Kate

Arden Kate became a Master Gardener in 1990. She says that she was the proud owner of a new house and wanted more information and education about what to do with her yard. Arden has enjoyed swapping ideas with other gardeners and various field trips. Her favorite parts of the MG class were the sections on annuals and perennials. She is putting some of her new knowledge to use in her backyard landscape which features beds representing the cycles of the moon. In retrospect, Arden wishes she had built raised beds or had a tiller.



Arden is a Clinical Therapist at Pinnacle Point Hospital. When asked if she talks to her plants, Arden said yes, she thanks her hibiscus for blooming. But if her hibiscus didn't bloom, Arden would probably try something else and experiment until she found what did work.

ARDEN SAYS: She wishes she knew the botanical names of plants; her garden pet peeve is slugs; she has learned to water as low to the ground as possible.

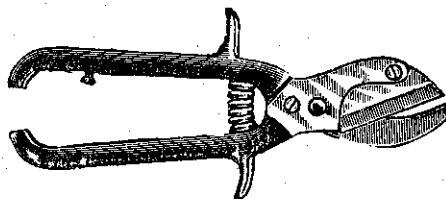
In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Projects	3
Trip to Quality Gladiolus Farms	3
Master Gardener Activities	4
From the Editor	4
Calendar of Events	5
Trading Post	5
Fall Festival	6

*In all things of nature
There is something of the marvelous*
Aristotle

GARDENER'S SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

- ☉ **ANNUALS:** Rejuvenate tired annuals by removing faded flowers and cutting back long, leggy stems. Feed with liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer, and the plants will be back in bloom in a few weeks. If your summer annuals are too far gone, pull them out and replace them with new ones for fall. Although marigolds are usually considered a summer annual, they are becoming a popular alternative to chrysanthemums and may actually bloom longer.
- ☉ **VEGETABLES:** It's not too late to plant fast-maturing vegetables. Cress matures in two to three weeks, leaf lettuce and spinach mature in as soon as six weeks, mustard takes four to five weeks, and radishes three to four weeks.
- ☉ **HOUSEPLANTS:** Most houseplants are tropical, so they can be damaged by temperatures we consider quite moderate. If you have taken your plants outdoors for the summer, bring them in when temperatures are predicted to drop below 55 degrees.
- ☉ **PERENNIALS:** If bearded irises have become crowded, it's not too late to dig the rhizomes, divide, and replant. Make sure each 2- to 4- inch division contains a part of the rhizome, some roots and foliage. Cut foliage back to about 6 to 8 inches, and replant not more than 2 inches deep in well-prepared soil. Divide overcrowded daylilies as well. Carefully dig and lift the clumps, and then break apart. After replanting, apply a fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, according to label directions. Coneflowers, yarrow, pinks, lamb's ear, and many other spreading or clumping perennials can be similarly divided. To make daylilies bloom again this fall, cut foliage to the ground. After removing the foliage, fertilize with a handful of Milorganite (a 100% natural organic food) per plant. Your daylilies will think it's spring again and will bloom in four to six weeks. Don't do this to first-year plants: they will need the time to become better established.
- ☉ **BULBS:** Fall flowering bulbs should be set out immediately. If you wait too long, these eager bulbs may flower unnoticed in a paper bag. Good choices for fall color include colchicums, crocuses, baby cyclamen and white swamp lilies. For a fragrant surprise in late autumn, plant Paperwhite narcissus outdoors now. They will bloom about 6 to 12 weeks after planting, depending on the selection. Spring Bulbs: By midmonth bulbs will have arrived at your garden center. For the best selection, go ahead and buy now. Look for firm bulbs with no signs of mold. Store them in a cool, dry location until you are ready to plant. Late October through November are good times to plant. Spider lilies: You can plant spider lilies now but they are sometimes finicky and take a year or two to become established. When planting, incorporate a slow-release bulb food into the soil. The foliage will appear this winter and then die down next summer. Then about this time next year, the flowers should appear without any leaves.
- ☉ **HERBS:** Plant perennial herbs now to fill bare spots in beds. Sage, oregano, lemon balm, thyme, and winter savory may not grow much this fall, but they will develop a good root system that will support growth next spring. You can also set out cloves of garlic for harvest in late spring and early summer. Allow 4 to 6 inches between plants. Clip off the flower stalk when it appears next spring to divert energy to the underground bulbs. This is also a good time to sow seeds of biennials and hardy annuals. Caraway, coriander, and chervil can be sown in well-prepared soil. While caraway and coriander need exposure to full sun, chervil requires partial shade.
- ☉ **PRUNING:** Avoid severe pruning this time of year, as it may encourage new growth. Light pruning or "heading back" can be done at any time. Just remember that if you prune spring-flowering shrubs now, you'll be removing flowerbuds as well. Resist cutting fall roses because even this pruning will reduce their cold hardiness. Just let them go to seed and stop growing.
- ☉ **ROSES:** Feed for the last time about six weeks before frost is expected. Continue spraying to control diseases and insects until frost. Funginex will control most foliage diseases, while Orthene is a good choice for insect problems.



MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ZOO GARDEN

Zoo Garden workday, every Monday 8:30 AM.

STATE HOSPITAL

Will be planting Pansies in October. Date to be announced later.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN (ARTS CENTER)

Ruth Jones wants to thank everyone for their help, and to let them know they have received so many compliments. Nothing is planned for this month, but volunteers are always welcome for pulling weeds.

OLD MILL

Wendy Welch gave 6 different water plants to this project, and they are planted at the lower level. The city planted cosmos, cleome and blackeye susans, and they are very proud of the volunteer work.

The County Agents reception was held here. Several busloads came to the area, and were very complimentary. They were interested in the Master Gardener Program.

Jaine Waldron made several signs. They are all in place, and look good.

GREENHOUSE

Will plant pansies on September 22, 9:00 AM. If you are interested, call Ruth Owing 455-4344, or Sherry Gunter 835-0437.

Trip to Quality Gladiolus Farms

Reported by Jim Wilks

I can't add too much to what was stated in the article last year except that the farm is very easy to locate. We came in from state highway 226 just a little above the business district of Jonesboro, onto the US 63 bypass south. In less than a mile, we saw the dahlias off to the right and we were there. We were met at the business office by Kent Kelly, a son-in-law of Mr. Sirois. Once I explained the purpose of our visit, he suggested that we join him in a crew cab pickup for a drive through the fields. There wasn't much show of Gladiolus, as they are cut every morning for the blooms just as the color is starting to show. There were several plantings, machine planted in rows, and he told us that the last planting would come off just at frost. This farm, I estimate, was about 50-60 acres, mostly planted in flowers. In addition to the glads, they grow tuberoses, liatris, and of course the dahlias. After we returned to the farmyard, Mr. Kelly took us through the cold storage rooms. There they have various varieties of flowers, some shipped in from other dealers (including orchid blooms from Fox orchids right here in Little Rock), and we saw how they are readied for shipment. After we arrived back at the office, I wanted to take a few pictures so he told us we could go anywhere we wanted to take them.

He also told us about another farm they have just outside of Bay. This farm is managed by Mr. Ted Isabel, and Mr. Kelly gave us directions. We did drive by, but it was right at the lunch hour, so we took the photos we wanted from the road area without disturbing the manager. There are about another 30-40 acres of Dahlias and glads growing here. This is a wholesale flower operation, so any trips should be scheduled in advance (the business phone is 982-4533), which we did not do. They indicated that the plants and fields would not be so ragged about mid-September. We found the trip very educational and enjoyable.

Prayer of the Woods

"I am the heat of your hearth on the cold winter nights, the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun, and my fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you journey on."

"I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your table, the bed on which you lie, and the timber that builds your boat."

"I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead, the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin."

"I am the breath of kindness and the flower of beauty."

"Ye who pass by, listen to my prayer: harm me not!"

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

PROJECT TOUR

The tour will start at the Old Mill, at 8:30 AM, on Sept. 2nd, 1992, and end at Pinnacle Mountain Butterfly Garden. Bring a sack lunch. It is recommended that you car-pool from your area.

MASTER GARDENER MEETING

We will meet at 11:45 AM in the Arkla Gas "Blue Flame Room" on Sept 8th, 1992. There will be an election of Officers.

DELTA FARM TOUR

On Sept 22nd, we will go to West Memphis to take a guided tour. (See August Newsletter).

FALL FOLIAGE TOUR

This trip will be to Queen Wilhelmena State Park on October 21st. We will leave the County Office at 8:00 AM, and return around 4:00 PM. Lunch will be on your own at the Lodge. The cost of the trip will be \$20. You will need to make a reservation.

NEW TRAINING SESSION

The new M.G. Training session will be from Oct 15th - Nov 12th, at the new Seniors Center on 12th St. If you know of anyone who is interested, have them call the office for an application.

CRAFT WORKSHOP

The next craft show workshop will be Sept. 24 at the Brady Extension Homemaker building on Rodney Parham road at 9 a.m.

NOTICE:

Take donations for the the Oct. 24th Pinnacle Craft Show to Karen Vesole (228-9704) at 31 Valley Club Circle on Oct. 23!

FROM THE EDITOR



Don't let these wonderful cool days fool you. We're bound to have some more hot weather. But, hasn't it been great!

I have a new rose this year that I must tell you about. It's Jackson and Perkins brand new (not in their catalog yet), "Spirit of Peace". It even has it's own bronze marker. This rose has been in constant bloom since early spring. It's a lovely coral pink, and has been a perfect delight.

Are mosquitoes bad at your place? Try Vitamen-B Complex tablets or garlic capsules to keep them away. Mosquitoes give me a very bad local reaction with swelling and inflammation, and I'm **trying** everything to keep them away from me.

Did you take the book "Vegetable Gardening in Arkansas" out of the Master Gardener Room? It's out of print now. Please return it to the office as **soon** as possible.

P.S. Would you like to join a garden club? Call me at 758-4202!

Newsletter Staff

Position

Primary

Editor
Assistant Editor
Computer Layout
Horticulture
Biographies
Master Gardener:
 Activities
 Meetings & Projects
Gardening Checklist
Courier

Alternate

Marie Flickinger
Stacy Coggins
Julie Eckberg
Virginia Johnson
Gail Roberson
Darlene Younts
Elois McAfee
Jaine Waldron
Lois Corley
Stacy Coggins
Carolyn Moore
James Wilks

Calendar of Events

- Sept 2 M.G. Project Tour - 8:30AM at Old Mill
Sept 5 Star Party, Pinnacle Park, 8-10 PM
Sept 6 Outdoor Group Seminar, Pinnacle Park, 2-3 PM
Ark. Canoe Club & Partners for Pinnacle
Sept 7 Bug Hunt, Pinnacle Park, 1-3 PM
Sept 8 1st Monthly meeting of M.G.'s; Elect Officers Arkla Gas "Blue Flame Room" - 11:45 AM
Sept 12 Great Ark. Cleanup, Pinnacle Park, 9AM-2PM
Little Maumelle River Cleanup 9-Noon
Sept 13 Outdoor Group Seminar, Pinnacle Park, 2-3PM Audubon Society & Arkansas Wildlife
Sept 14, 15, 16 Hunter Education, Pinnacle Park, 6-9 PM
Sept 19 Volunteer Hard Hat Day, Pinnacle Park, 9:00AM
Sept 19 Annual Herb Fest. Highland Valley Methodist Church Sponsored by the Herb Society.
(For "Culinary Uses and Other Topics" info: contact Janet.)
Sept 20 Outdoor Group Seminar, Pinnacle Park, 2-3 PM
Sierra Club & Ark Society
Sept 20 One Step At A Time, Backpacking, 1-5 PM Pinnacle Park.
Sept 22 Delta Farm Tour- \$38 (Bus & Lunch) Reservations by Sept 1st. Call Ms McKinney for
available seats.
Sept 26 Hawk Watch, Pinnacle Park, 9AM-3PM
Sept 26 & 27 Semi-Annual Book Sale, Pinnacle Park, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 1-5
Oct 9-18 Arkansas State Fair
Oct 21 Master Gardener Fall Foliage Tour (see Activities)
Oct 24 Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Craft Show
Nov 18-19 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting
Nov 20-22 West Pulaski Art & Crafts Show @ Ferndale 4-H Center

* ATTENTION MASTER GARDENERS *

We need to know what you have pledged for the Craft Shows (each M.G. is being asked to give one item for each show). Several people are making phone calls. If you haven't been contacted, or cannot reach your telephone person, please call:

Maxine Hamilton 225-2122

Karen Vesole 228-9704

Frances Young 821-3524

We need this information by October 1st!!!

Those who want to donate money, make the check payable to the Pulaski County 4H Foundation, and send it to the Extension Office. Please mark your envelopes to "Fund-Raising Committee".

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Jim Wilks (225-0524) has mixed narcissus and daffodils for naturalizing.

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".



FALL FESTIVAL

Enjoy Mountain Music, Mountain Crafts, and Mountain Vittles.

Pinnacle Mountain State Park, on October 24th, 1992.

Volunteers are needed to make this Festival a success. If you wish to volunteer, call:

Lori Launius 224-4694 Wanda Jenkins 568-0927

Sorry, no Master Gardener Credit Hours, except for hours in M.G. Booth.

ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PANSIES

CROWN GIANT MIX _____ SWISS GIANT MIX _____ PINK _____

Pansies are \$6.00 per flat, will be first come first served, and will be available for sale in October. No orders at this time, please.

DAFFODILS

KING ALFRED _____

These are for sale at \$.40 per bulb. Get your order in as close to Sept. 1st as possible. We will send in our order on Sept 10th.

PLEASE MAIL TO OFFICE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Ten

October 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Nell Ambrose
PLACE OF BIRTH
Hempstead County
SPOUSE Harry
CHILDREN 3 grown children
BECAME A MG after learning about MG at a Pinnacle Mtn. workshop
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS general horticulture, herbs,

perennials and wildflowers
MG WORK ACTIVITY greenhouse, Old State House, Flower & Garden Show and picnic
WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT landscaping
BEST GARDENING ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED to use native plants
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION short handle pick
GARDEN PET PEEVE spider mites and flea beetles
FAVORITE PLANT purple coneflower (has seed to share)
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDENING, IT IS keep trying, never give up
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN AGAIN, I'D have a plan before I began working
ASK ME ABOUT my bluebird babies



NAME Wanda Jenkins
PLACE OF BIRTH
Northwestern Arkansas, raised on a farm
JOB UAMS
BECAME A MG 1989
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS vegetables and fruits
MG WORK ACTIVITY State Hospital and greenhouse

WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT houseplants
BEST GARDENING ADVICE I EVER RECEIVED if you don't fail at something, you're not trying hard enough
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION wheelbarrow
GARDEN PET PEEVE mosquitoes
FAVORITE PLANT iris and daffodils
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDENING, IT IS don't overwater
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN AGAIN, I'D find a place with more sunshine and better drainage
SPECIAL INTERESTS Pinnacle Mountain State Park

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Activities	3
From the Editor	4
Altus Trip	5
Trading Post	5
Calendar of Events	6

*'Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone.*

Thomas Moore

GARDENER'S OCTOBER CHECKLIST

- **FALL PLANTING:** Now is a good time to **plant trees and shrubs** so the roots can get established before spring. Dig a planting hole twice as wide as the root ball and 6" deeper. Amend the backfill soil with one part sphagnum peat moss, compost or other organic material to one part of soil. If you have clay soil, you may also want to include sand in the backfill mixture. Shovel enough soil into the hole to raise the root ball of the plant 1" above the original soil level. If the plant is balled and burlapped, loosen any cords around the trunk, and cut away the top third of the burlap to prevent it from wicking water away from the root ball and water again. You may need stakes for trees and shrubs that exceed 6' in height or those planted in a windy area. Time to **set out Pansies**. Space about 6" apart and apply about 1 tsp. of a slow release fertilizer around each plant. Wait till hard freezes are forecast to mulch heavily. Remove faded blooms for continued flowering. Ornamental cabbage, kale, petunias and marigolds will continue to do well until freezing weather. **COVER CROPS:** To keep soils from drying out or washing away during winter, plant a cover crop now in unused parts of the vegetable or cut flower garden. **LEGUMES** such as **hairy vetch, crimson clover** and **sweet clover** trap nitrogen from the air, which then becomes available in subsequent crops after the legumes are turned under. **FALL VEGETABLES:** Plant fast maturing vegetables such as garden cress, turnips (for greens) and radishes. **HERBS:** Plant **Cilantro** and **Coriander** but don't look for two kinds of seeds. They both come from the same plant. Coriander refers to the sweet spicy seeds while cilantro is the name used for the leaves. Cilantro will remain green through winter producing flowers and seeds in spring. Sow seeds on the surface of the well-prepared soil, and pat them into place. Do not cover. They will germinate in about two weeks. Transplanting is difficult because the plants have tap roots; sow seeds where you want the plants to grow.
- **MULCH:** Fungal diseases often survive the change of seasons in the mulch and debris beneath the plant so it is a good idea to clean out the old before adding new mulch.
- **HOUSEPLANTS:** Bring in your summering houseplants from outside before night temperatures get much below 45 degrees. Most of them are tropicals and are easily injured by cool temperatures. **PUMPKINS:** A woody stem, hard rind and deep orange color indicate that pumpkins are ready for harvest. Cut (don't pull) them from the vine and leave a 3' piece of stem attached. Let them cure in the sun for about a week, then store in a cool dry place.
- **ROW COVERS:** You can prolong your harvest of tender vegetables by covering them on cold nights. Plastic is effective but you'll need to remove it during the day to prevent heat build-up from the sun light. Check out the floating row covers at your garden center.
- **PESTS & INSECTS:** **Tea scale on camellias, white peach scale on Peach or Pear trees?** Control white peach scale with a spray of oil such as Volck, ornamentals with *Cygon*. Treat fruit trees again with a dormant oil after fall leaf drop. **Cabbage Loopers:** You can easily recognize these green caterpillars by the way they loop their bodies as they crawl. Unless controlled, these pests may eat large holes in the leaves of broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)* or *Carbaryl* according to label directions.
- **PERENNIALS:** To restore vigorous growth to perennials and increase the number of plants in your garden, divide **phlox, coreopsis, black-eyed Susan and coneflowers every 3 or 4 years**. Autumn is an excellent time to do this as most perennials are nearing dormancy. Lift the entire plant or clump using a spade or fork. Shake away excess soil so you can see the separate crowns that grow from the single mass of roots. Tease the crowns apart, or cut them apart with a knife, trowel, or other sharp garden tool, if they are very crowded. Each division should have a shoot with roots attached. Replant in previously prepared beds.
- **BULBS:** Dig up frost-tender bulbs such as **caladiums and gladioli**. Remove any soil clinging to the bulbs, make sure they are dry and keep them in an old onion or potato bag in a cool dark area.

Annual Orchid Sale

The Annual Orchid sale will be held by the Arkansas Orchid Society at the Little Rock Garden Club, 1501 Kavanaugh (Little Rock) on October 11, 1992. This sale is of home grown plants from members. Many are in bud and bloom, and are good healthy plants. This is an excellent opportunity for Master Gardeners and others interested to get good plants at a reasonable price. Advice is free from society members.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

FALL FOLIAGE TOUR: Queen Wilhelmena State Park on Oct. 20th will cost \$20.00. Call Mrs. McKinney for reservations.

PINNACLE MTN STATE PARK CRAFT SHOW: Will be on Oct. 24th. Take donations to Karen Vesoles' house on Oct 23rd. (We need donations and volunteers. Call Lori Launius 224-4694 or Wanda Jenkins 568-0927.)

WEST PULASKI ARTS & CRAFT SHOW: This will be at the Ferndale 4H Center. We need donations. Call Maxine Hamilton 225-2122, Karen Vesole 2289704, or Frances Young 821-3524.

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING: Begins Oct 15th at Senior Citizens Center located on 12th Street, Little Rock. If you can help, call Janet.

CRAFT SHOW WORKSHOP: The craft workshop, at Brady Extension Homemaker Building, was well attended. We will have pictures for you.

ZOO GARDEN: Workday every Monday, at 8:30 - call Willie Wylie 666-6110 or Jeff Johnson 562-7926.

GREENHOUSE: The pansies potted on Sept. 23rd will take 5-7 weeks before they are ready to be planted at the State Hospital. This will probably be around the first week in November. Some plants will be for sale at that time.

OLD STATE HOUSE: The summer of 1992 is over and we're looking fall right in the face. We are going to try to save the caladium bulbs to use again next summer. Janet has given us this advice:

1. Put a little bone meal around bulbs some time before the season is over.
2. Pull caladium bulbs (mid-October) and let dry 3-4 days not touching.
3. Cut off foliage and store in perlite or peat over winter away from extreme cold.

We will be planting pansies (three shades of blue) mid-October after we pull the caladiums. We will also plant parsley around the pansies as a filler.

Thank you wonderful Master Gardeners for all your effort and green thumbs at the Old State House this summer. Reported by Ellen Kane.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE PLANT THERAPY PROGRAM: Mary Ann Dillaha presented the program on September 12 using succulents provided from her garden. She was assisted by Jaine Waldron and Ann Bridgers. The September 26 program will be Potpourri by Ann Bridgers and Jaine Waldron. Programs are scheduled for **October 10th and 31st, and November 7th and 14th.** Program leader and program topics will be announced. **Volunteers welcome!** (Call Jaine Waldron at 666-3364.) Remember these are Saturday programs! We meet at the recreation room of BRI at about 10:15 to get ready. Programs usually run from 10:30 to 11:30 at the latest. If you are wanting Saturday volunteer time, I think you will be impressed with Plant Therapy.

Board of Directors Meeting: The first meeting of the newly appointed Board of Directors was held at the Cooperative Extension Office on September 15th. After 3 hours of discussion, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held in the Blue Flame room of the Arkla building at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 13th. (That's an hour before our regular monthly Master Gardener Meeting.)



*August 20th MG Craft
Workshop Participants*



More Fun at the
August 20th MG
Craft Workshop



FROM THE EDITOR

Fall arrives this month with trees turning colors, and it's time to begin cleaning up the garden and planning for next year. Chrysanthemums are showing their wonderful colors, pansies are for sale everywhere, and hopefully the mosquitoes (bane of my life) will quit biting.

My pineapple sage hasn't shown any signs of blooming this year - hopefully it's only late. I always count on them to fill out autumn bouquets. If you haven't grown pineapple sage, you should. They not only are delightful as an addition to salad, but their fragrant pineapple leaves also bloom scarlet spikes which are long-lived in arrangements. Try some arranged with chrysanthemums in baskets. The plants will usually last through the winter, if mulched heavily. If you allow the flowers to go to seed, you will have many more plants next spring.

Have any of you had extra good luck growing anything this year? Do you have seeds, plants, bulbs, etc. to swap or share? Let us know about it. We would love to hear from you. The Lilies we received from James Wilks last spring, bloomed and were beautiful.

Newsletter Staff	Position	Primary	Alternate
	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins		
Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg		Stacy Coggins
Horticulture	Virginia Johnson		
Biographies	Gail Roberson		Carolyn Moore
Master Gardener:			
Activities	Darlene Younts		
Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee		
Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron		James Wilks
Courier	Lois Corley		

ALTUS TOUR

"The more knowledge is inherent in a thing, the greater the love. Anyone who imagines that all fruits ripen at the same time as the strawberries knows nothing about grapes."

Paracelsus

Master gardeners and friends with an interest in grape harvesting and processing left for a day at Altus, Arkansas, on August 18, 1992. Arrow Coach Line provided the designated driver. Our first stop was the Wiedekehr Vineyards and Winery. Beginning in 1880, this family-oriented business was the largest winery of the tour. "Grandpa Wiedekehr", according to Jerry Wiedekehr, was famous for his blue ribbon bottling techniques at county fairs. Cucumbers were their main crop at that time, although cotton, grain, apples and grapes were production crops. Wine products were for family and friends. The expanding circle of friends created a demand for the wine products, necessitating the processing of 1.5 million gallons by the 1970's and 1980's. Bottling activity is still dictated by current sales and orders. Three styles are available -- pure wine, champagne and carbonated beverages. Maintenance operations of the facilities and vineyards, along with scouting grapes for future production and sales activities, make this a year-around operation. Mass production is handled by sophisticated bottling equipment, processing 120 bottles a minute (10 cases) with only three of the personnel monitoring the machine. Cases proceed upside-down on a conveyor belt, returning the finished bottles back in the case, ready for orders.

The casks storage facilities are temperature controlled at 50 to 55 degrees year-round. The remainder of the buildings house filtering, blending and fermenting operations. A number of dry palates were moistened at the tasting area, a masterpiece of a bar with papier-mache figurines of gold leaf over-lay, shipped from Italy. The artwork is one-third of the original design created for a Italian couple as a wedding present, date unknown. Here, our host explained fermenting of white wine without the skins, etc., and red wine complete with all the natural enzymes. The moistened palates were ready for lunch at the Weinkeller Restaurant, offering a delightful menu in a symbolic atmosphere.

After lunch, our venture continued to the Post Familie Vineyards and Winery, another family business started in the 1880's. Tina Post provided an excellent overview of their operations, including an opportunity to taste cold storage wine ready for table grape sales. Ms. Post's description of "Method of Champagne" for the sparkling wines was very interesting, along with a view of vats storing 18-year old sherry ... the antiquated qualities should bring a good profit!

Like the Weidekehr operations, harvest each year is the determining factor in general pricing. Again, bottling operations included bottle set, fill, top, heat seal and back to front labels. Another unique gift shop offered bottling products, including grape juices for our designated driver. One could observe a few smiles on the return trip, but no singing ... all that knowledge was exhausting, requiring a nap!

Paracelsus was right! Grape harvest is different from strawberry harvest...but both fruits are a delight for the palate.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Nell Ambrose has purple coneflower seeds to share. 821-3509

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Calendar of Events

- Oct 3 Flames & Friends Campfire Program, 8-10 P.M., Pinnacle State Park
Oct 4 One Step at a Time, basics of backpacking, 1-5 P.M. Pinnacle State Park
Oct 10 Zoo Birdhouse workday, 9 am
Oct 9-18 Arkansas State Fair
Oct 11-12 Moonlight Canoe Floats, 6:45-10 P.M., Pinnacle State Park
(Reservations required and a fee will be charged.)
Oct 15 Training for new MG begins at Sr. Citizens Center, 12th Street, Little Rock
Oct 17 Fungus Fair, 10 am to 5 P.M., learn all about mushrooms, Pinnacle State Park
(Fee \$4 for persons 18 & older.)
Oct 17 Trails Maintenance Workshop, Pinnacle State Park, call 868-5806 for details
Oct 18 Camouflage: The Art of Concealment; 2-3 P.M., Pinnacle State Park
Oct. 21 Master Gardener Fall Foliage Tour
Oct 23 Donations for Pinnacle Craft Show to be delivered to Karen Vesole, 228-9704
Oct 24 Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Craft Show, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
Oct 29-30 Phantoms of the Forest, 7-10 P.M., freaky fun for the whole family, Pinnacle Park
Oct 31 Fall Color Walks, enjoy fall colors and learn to identify local trees, Pinnacle Park
Nov. 18-19 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting
Nov. 20-22 West Pulaski Art & Crafts Show @ Ferndale 4-H Center



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
OFFICIAL BUSINESS



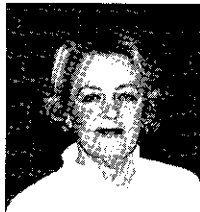
Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Eleven

November 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Maxine Hamilton
SPOUSE "W. P."
CHILDREN 2 daughters
BECAME A MG In 1990
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS Perennials
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION A gardening bag made by daughter and grandchildren to

hold all gardening tools

GARDENING PET PEEVE Raccoons

FAVORITE PLANT Tree roses

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDENING IT IS To use fungicides regularly on roses

I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT Lawn care, especially zoysia

MG WORK ACTIVITY Fundraising, landscaping

ON HERSELF, MAXINE SAYS: "I was born and reared in San Francisco and spent my summers growing up in the Napa Valley. That old saying, "You can't go back" is not true for me. I love to go back to smell the sea air, hear the fog horns and visit all of the wonderful places that I know so well. The Japanese Tea Garden has always been one of my favorite places, and one place I'm sure, every Master Gardener would enjoy."

"I will always remember how marvelous the Japanese gardeners were. They are perfectionists in every aspect of gardening. I learned to love flowers and plants and gardens, I'm sure, because they are all so beautiful in California. The climate, the soil, and the Japanese gardeners make it so."

"I have learned so much as a Master Gardener and I am trying to put it all to good use in my garden."



NAME Darlene Younts
PLACE OF BIRTH Germany, courtesy of the military
SPOUSE David
CHILDREN 2 girls, ages 6 and 3 months
BECAME A MG 1991
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS Berries and fruit trees
MG WORK ACTIVITY

Writes activities column for Master Minutes

BEST PART OF BEING A MG Interacting with interesting people

I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT Organic gardening

BEST GARDENING ADVICE EVER RECEIVED

Use lots of compost and mulch to help eliminate weeding

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION Leather gloves

GARDEN PET PEEVE Slugs

FAVORITE PLANT Dogwoods and redbuds

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDENING IT IS If at first you don't succeed, try and try again.

IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN AGAIN I'd have a master plan

ASK ME ABOUT My old "homestead"

In This Issue

<i>Gardening Checklist</i>	2
<i>Master Gardener Activities</i>	3
<i>From the Editor</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>New Officers</i>	3
<i>Ozark Folk Center Trip</i>	5

GARDENER'S NOVEMBER CHECKLIST

❁ **PERENNIALS:** When planting perennial herbs or flowers, prepare the soil well by incorporating plenty of composted organic matter, such as old leaves, saw dust, and manure. Spread a 2-inch layer over the surface of the soil and turn it under to mix in. Make a hole in the loose soil using a spade or trowel. Put water in the hole, then carefully loosen the root ball, especially if the plant has been growing in a container. Add enough soil to the bottom of the hole to raise the top of the root ball to a level even with the surrounding soil and set the plant in place. Fill the remainder of the hold with soil, firm and water again. PLANT perennials such as coneflowers, crinums, shasta daisies, African irises, daylilies, lycoris and goldenrod. AFTER CHRYSANTHEMUMS have finished blooming, cut them back to just a few inches above the ground.

❁ **WINTER ANNUALS:** Sow seeds now of bachelor's button, delphinium, larkspur, foxglove, sweet peas, Johnny-jump-up, forget me not, Shirley and California poppies and nasturtium.

❁ **BULBS:** Begin planting now. To ensure even flowering, dig out an entire bed to recommended depth and set them on the soil in a staggered grid pattern. Mix a slow release fertilizer into the backfill soil along with a generous portion of organic matter. Carefully refill the bed so you do not disturb the bulbs. Water well to settle the soil and add more soil to level the bed. Apply a mulch of pine needles or finely ground bark to keep out weeds.

❁ **VEGETABLES:** Do not harvest cole crops such as cabbage, kohlrabi, and broccoli until a hard freeze is forecast. They will withstand temperatures as low as 26 degrees and collards and kale will tolerate 20 degrees. In fact, the flavor of greens seems to improve after they've been nipped by frost.

❁ **COMPOSTING:** If you aren't already composting, this is a good time to start. All you need is an out of the way spot to put leaves, grass clippings, spent flowers and vegetable plants, and vegetable trimmings from the kitchen. A bin or fence is not necessary but it will keep leaves from blowing back into your yard. Add a little soil to provide bacteria; then water and turn or stir pile occasionally. Nature will do the rest.

❁ **HOUSE PLANTS:** Fall and winter bring reduced light and cooler temperatures. This means your house plants won't need as much water. Always check moisture by poking your finger about an inch into the soil. Water when soil feels dry.

❁ **EQUIPMENT:** Drain and store sprinklers, garden hoses and terra cotta pots. They can be damaged or destroyed if they contain water when freezing temperatures arrive. Bring in timers.

❁ **PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS:** Protect newly planted young trees from winter and wildlife with paper or plastic trunk wraps which are available at garden centers or hardware stores.

❁ **GARDEN CLEAN-UP:** Dead stalks and other debris left in the garden provide choice locations for insects and diseases to overwinter. Remove and destroy any infested material, add the rest to your compost heap. Do not allow leaves to pile up on the lawn as serious damage to grass can occur.

WEST PULASKI ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

The West Pulaski Arts & Crafts Show will be held at the Ferndale 4-H Center on November 20-22. Donations are needed and should be taken to Karen Vesole by November 19.

NO PLANTS ARE NEEDED! Baked goods, bird feeders and craft items related to gardening would be a great contribution.

Thanks to all gardeners who worked so diligently and made donations for the success of the Pinnacle Show. Make plans now to attend the West Pulaski Show in November.

Ozark Folk Center Trip

Pat Marchese suggests that if you are interested in an interesting trip, this one is lots of fun and well worth your time.

Herbal Elves Holiday Shop
 Ozark Folk Center
 Mountain View, Arkansas
 November 21, 1992 - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	Door Garland Workshop
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Victorian Cone Ornaments
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	Advent Wreath Demonstration
2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Mini Herb Tree
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Cinnamon Ornaments

For reservations, call Ozark folk Center at 269-4181. The charge is \$30 which includes lunch and the door garland you make. All classes are taught by members of the Center.



*Karen Vesole with
 her **FIRST PLACE**
 blue ribbon at the
 Pinnacle Craft
 Show. Congratulations,
 Karen!*

Christmas Party



The annual Master Gardeners' Christmas party has been scheduled for December 8 and will be held at Whipporwill Farms. A letter from Janet is forthcoming which will provide driving directions, food assignments and other necessary details. Food will be provided by the Class of 1991 Master Gardeners. This has traditionally been a highlight of the year so mark you calendars now and don't miss out on the fun.

Newsletter Staff

<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Editor	Marie Flickinger	
Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Stacy Coggins
Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
Master Gardener:		
Activities	Darlene Younts	
Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
Courier	Lois Corley	

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

POST OFFICE BOX 391

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Master Minutes

Volume Three

Number Twelve

December 1992

Meet our Master Gardeners



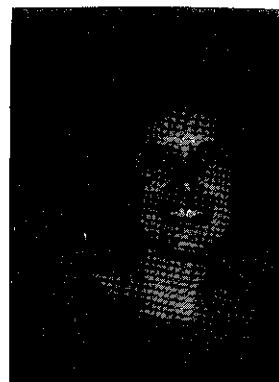
NAME Olivia Patterson
PLACE OF BIRTH Little Rock
SPOUSE Hugh
BECAME A MG in 1989
MG WORK ACTIVITY State Hospital
BEST GARDENING
ADVICE plant in the spring for fall, and in the fall for spring
MOST VALUED GAR-

DEN POSSESSION trowel and clippers
GARDENING PET PEEVE rabbits
FAVORITE PLANT perennials
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDEN-
ING, IT IS patience
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN AGAIN, I'D
have better soil

Olivia Patterson remembers when she rode her horse down Hayes Street (now University) to the barn on 12th Street. This long-time Little Rock resident became interested in Master Gardeners because she has always been interested in beautifying Little Rock, an interest she inherited from her mother.

She has a large perennial bed at her condominium and maintains pots at the pool and on her balcony.

Olivia's hobbies include traveling. She has visited gardens on all continents except Africa.



NAME Monieca West
PLACE OF BIRTH Ash Flat
SPOUSE Phil
CHILDREN 7 year old Whitney
BECAME A MG in 1991
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS flowers
MG WORK ACTIVITY Master Minutes, Old Mill

I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT how to design a garden so there are blossoms all the time
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION "memory plants"
GARDEN PET PEEVE Irish Setter puppy
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDEN-
ING, IT IS you can always start over

Monieca has a wonderful gardening tool that she made herself. Every month she cuts out the gardening section from Southern Living and files them by month. She has been doing this for ten years. She says this is the book all her friends want to borrow. With a book like this, she may even find she has a lot of new friends.

Monieca is a "memory gardener". She has plants from many of the places that she has lived and plants that special people have given to her. She even has the airplane plants that were in her bridal bouquet.

In This Issue

Gardening Checklist	2
Master Gardener Activities	3
The Pine Tree	4
From the Editor	4
October Meeting Minutes	5
Calendar of Events	5
Fall Foliage Tour	6

*Nothing is more the child
of art than a garden.*

Sir Walter Scott

Tree bark- In winter, garden features such as tree bark come into their own. The newer crepe myrtle selections are very showy. River birches are known for their light, peeling bark, and Heritage is an impressive selection. On sunny days, the white trunks of sycamore trees stand out. Other trees with exceptional bark are Japanese stewartia, bald cypress, Texas madrone, and Chinese elm.

WATERING- Landscape plants need water even in winter if the weather is dry. Flowerbuds of shrubs such as azaleas and camellias are especially subject to drought damage this time of year. Frequent, light watering can lead to poor root development, so water thoroughly.

LAWN CARE- Don't allow leaves to accumulate on the lawn. The leaves will mat and smother the grass. Remove the leaves, and put them in your compost pile. Also water lawns regularly. Fertilize cool season lawns and lawns overseeded with rye. Apply 16-4-8 that contains at least 50% slow release nitrogen (also called water-insoluble nitrogen). Broadcast with a spreader at the rate recommended on the label.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

Baptist Rehabilitation Institute Plant Therapy Program

We helped patients plant paper-white Narcissus on November 7th. On October 31st, we helped them to make Herbal wreaths with Boxwood covers surrounded with dried roses, flowers, pods, cones and tied with Raffia ribbon. **We need someone to help on Dec 5th & 12th.**

State Hospital

We need help to clean beds. If you can help call Roxie Adams 224-3698 or Sherrie Gunter 835-0437.

Old State House

Ellen Kane said she was very proud of how the grounds looked for the election celebration. The beds have not recovered yet. Pansies will be replanted. Bushes will not be replaced until after the first of the year.

Old Mill

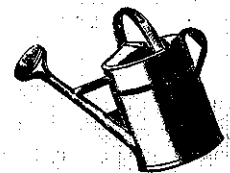
The Master Gardeners wish to thank Brambleberry Farms for the perennials they donated. Gardeners worked on November 18th planting the perennials and working in the wildflower bed. We will be planting bulbs and Pansies on Dec. 3rd - and need help. Cecelia Buck said that if you can help, give her a call.

Zoo Garden

We will be working every Monday starting at 8:30 AM - weather permitting.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be on Dec. 8th at Whipoorwill Farm. Please carpool due to parking limitations.



Shop at our Holiday Party!!!

Shopping! Did you say shopping?

Yes. Bring your checkbooks and find something special in our Master Gardener Gift Shop. We'll have garden markers, aprons and gloves in addition to seed basket ornaments and more...

Tree bark- In winter, garden features such as tree bark come into their own. The newer crepe myrtle selections are very showy. River birches are known for their light, peeling bark, and Heritage is an impressive selection. On sunny days, the white trunks of sycamore trees stand out. Other trees with exceptional bark are Japanese stewartia, bald cypress, Texas madrone, and Chinese elm.

WATERING- Landscape plants need water even in winter if the weather is dry. Flowerbuds of shrubs such as azaleas and camellias are especially subject to drought damage this time of year. Frequent, light watering can lead to poor root development, so water thoroughly.

LAWN CARE- Don't allow leaves to accumulate on the lawn. The leaves will mat and smother the grass. Remove the leaves, and put them in your compost pile. Also water lawns regularly. Fertilize cool season lawns and lawns overseeded with rye. Apply 16-4-8 that contains at least 50% slow release nitrogen (also called water-insoluble nitrogen). Broadcast with a spreader at the rate recommended on the label.

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

Baptist Rehabilitation Institute Plant Therapy Program

We helped patients plant paper-white Narcissus on November 7th. On October 31st, we helped them to make Herbal wreaths with Boxwood covers surrounded with dried roses, flowers, pods, cones and tied with Raffia ribbon. **We need someone to help on Dec 5th & 12th.**

State Hospital

We need help to clean beds. If you can help call Roxie Adams 224-3698 or Sherrie Gunter 835-0437.

Old State House

Ellen Kane said she was very proud of how the grounds looked for the election celebration. The beds have not recovered yet. Pansies will be replanted. Bushes will not be replaced until after the first of the year.

Old Mill

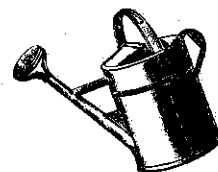
The Master Gardeners wish to thank Brambleberry Farms for the perennials they donated. Gardeners worked on November 18th planting the perennials and working in the wildflower bed. We will be planting bulbs and Pansies on Dec. 3rd - and need help. Cecelia Buck said that if you can help, give her a call.

Zoo Garden

We will be working every Monday starting at 8:30 AM - weather permitting.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be on Dec. 8th at Whippoorwill Farm. Please carpool due to parking limitations.



Shop at our Holiday Party!!!

Shopping! Did you say shopping?

Yes. Bring your checkbooks and find something special in our Master Gardener Gift Shop. We'll have garden markers, aprons and gloves in addition to seed basket ornaments and more...

The Pine Tree

By Lois Corley, M.G. '91

I intended to write an article on a Botanical Garden for this issue of Master Minutes, but sometimes things don't always work out.

But having been born into a family of sawmillers, my father and his five brothers, the pine tree is a "natural" for me.

Pine: any tree of the coniferous genus Pinus.

There are about 35 species in the United States, of which the white pine, the Georgia pine, the red pine and the sugar pine are among the most valuable. The pine is the largest and most important group of conifers. Pines are evergreen trees. The leaves are needle shaped, growing in bundles of two to five. The needles stay on for two or more years. The woody pine cone is the fruit and they require two years to mature.

Ten states honor a species of pine as their state tree, a wide and diverse geographical area including Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, ARKANSAS, Alabama and North Carolina.

Some of the early disputes with England erupted over uses of pine lumber.

The first coin that was minted in this country in 1652, was embellished with the pine tree. This resulted in the Pine Tree Schilling.

The first flag this country raised in defiance by Revolutionary forces bore the pine tree symbol.

Few things are more beautiful under a blanket of snow or tipped with new growth in spring than the picturesque pine tree. And wind rushing through branches making a whispering murmuring sound has been celebrated in literature and song.

The stately pine conveys much promise for the future-- it is the state tree of Arkansas.



FROM THE EDITOR

This will be my swan-song as editor of your newsletter. Julie Eckberg will take over next month, and all news should be directed to her.

I wish to thank all the staff of the newsletter for all their work this past year. You have all been wonderful to work with, and I've enjoyed being acquainted with each of you.

Some of you have mentioned you have had trouble with rabbits and other wild things eating your lilies, etc. An old trick that sometimes works - save hair combings from your comb or brush, and scatter on top of, or around the circumference of your flower bed or border. This may discourage them. I know they get hungry, but did they have to eat my

prize Star Gazer Lilly!

My cat, "Jaws", hasn't caught any rabbits yet, but she killed a rat that was almost as big as she is the other day. She came through without a scratch! She laid it on my door step - very proud of her trophy.

My Christmas cactus is blooming early.

Keep Gardening - it's fun!

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Newsletter Staff	Editor	Marie Flickinger	
	Assistant Editor	Stacy Coggins	
	Computer Layout	Julie Eckberg	Monieca West
	Horticulture	Virginia Johnson	
	Biographies	Gail Roberson	Carolyn Moore
	Master Gardener:		
	Activities	Darlene Younts	
	Meetings & Projects	Elois McAfee	
	Gardening Checklist	Jaine Waldron	James Wilks
	Courier	Lois Corley	

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

MONTHLY MEETING

OCTOBER 15, 1992

The regular monthly meeting of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners was called to order at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, October 15, 1992 in the Cafeteria of the Adult Center at 6401 West 12th Street. Presiding in the absence of Sally Garrison, President, was Cecelia Buck, 1st Vice President. Cecelia welcomed the new Master Gardener Trainees to the Program .

Minutes of the September 15th Board Meeting were read and approved.

New Board members were introduced followed by introductions of Project Chairmen. Each chairman briefly described the project.

The following tours and meetings were announced: Fall Foliage bus tour to Queen Wilhelmina State Park, Tuesday, October 20.; Craft Shows, Pinnacle Mountain on Saturday, October 24; 4H Center, Ferndale, November 20 through the 22nd.

Cecelia and Janet discussed the post cards which were sent out on October 8th to all Master Gardeners and explained payback and recertification requirements.

Janet informed the new Master Gardener trainees that any volunteer time spent in 1992 will count toward payback for 1993.

Julie Eckberg discussed various positions on the Newsletter Committee in terms of work hours, payback and recertification points received.

A suggestion was made by Breck Campbell to extend the deadline for those gardeners who have not met the requirements necessary to remain a Master Gardener. Janet agreed to extend the deadline (for this year only) to March 15, 1993.

Janet announced that she is leaving the County office on December 1, 1992 to accept the position of State Agent. She will in her new position, assume the responsibilities of overseeing the State's Master Gardener Programs. Applications are being accepted for a county agent to fill the position. The new agent will be responsible for the Pulaski County Master Gardener Program.

Janet asked that, because of the limited seating space available, Master Gardeners let her know by the Monday preceding Thursday Master Gardener training sessions if they plan to attend all or part of the day and if they plan to eat lunch.

The next monthly meeting was announced. It will be another lunchtime meeting on Thursday, November 12 in the Adult Center Cafeteria at 6401 West 12th Street. Bill Buntten, City of Little Rock Parks Director, is the scheduled speaker.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jaine Waldron
Secretary

Cecelia Buck
1st Vice President

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 3 Old Mill work day beginning at 9am.
- Dec. 5 Baptist Rehab Plant Therapy Program, 10:30am
- Dec. 5 Christmas for Critters, Pinnacle State Park, 2 to 3 pm, help decorate a special tree for woodland creatures.
- Dec. 8 Master Gardener Christmas Party.
- Dec. 12 Baptist Rehab Plant Therapy Program, 10:30am
- Dec. 12 Caroling in the Forest, Pinnacle State Park, 7-8 pm, caroling by candlelight.

Note: Pinnacle State Park will be collecting undecorated Christmas trees, wreaths and garlands after the holidays; contact Visitor Center for tree drop-off locations.

Also, they will have black oil sunflower seeds in 25 pound bags for sale. Goldfinches really like this seed.

Fall Foliage Tour

by Ruth Gibson

Anticipation of lovely fall colors resulted in a full bus of Master Gardeners and guests for the Fall Foliage Tour on October 22. Shortly before we were to board the chartered bus, our driver discovered that it had a bad wheel which could have caused an accident or breakdown along the way. Within a few minutes a different bus arrived, and we eagerly climbed aboard for the trip west.

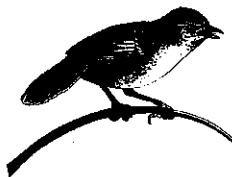
Perfect weather and brilliant sun made even the dull brown of the oaks look pretty. The hillsides and valleys presented spectacular panoramas of color.

We arrived at Wilhelmina State Park shortly before lunchtime. A lovely buffet had been set out for our group, and we were served in a private dining area by young ladies who wore lacy Dutch caps and bright smiles. The dining room was within Wilhelmina Lodge, a rustic building atop Rich Mountain. The original Wilhelmina Lodge was built in 1898 by Dutch railroad developers who built the inn to accommodate Queen Wilhelmina during an expected royal visit to dedicate the new railroad. It fell into ruin and was restored in the 1950s, only to be destroyed by fire.

Wilhelmina State Park was established in 1957. The present lodge, with its rustic fireplace and magnificent view westward over miles and miles of what was once Indian Territory, was opened as a tourist attraction in 1975.

Following lunch, Master Gardeners boarded the "Southern Belle," a miniature train, and took a trip around the mountain top. Some also explored a few hiking trails through the woods to "Lovers' Leap".

Too bad Queen Wilhelmina was not able to visit Rich Mountain as we did, because in all of its fall splendor, it is a sight everyone should see.



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
OFFICIAL BUSINESS