



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 Four

Number One

January 1993

FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! Your January newsletter is going to be very brief since we are in a transition phase with Janet moving to her new state job in December and our new county agent, Beth Phelps, not taking over the county office until January 4, 1993. January is a rather slow month for gardening anyway, and most of us stay extremely busy in December with all the holiday preparations.

Items to be submitted for publication in the newsletter must be received by the 15th of each month. Please try to give items to the appropriate newsletter staff members before the 15th. (Staff positions have not been assigned yet -- they will be listed in the February newsletter.) I will be contacting those of you who expressed an interest in working on the newsletter about our first meeting early in January.

Any cartoons, quotations or articles you might like to have included in the newsletter can be mailed to me at: 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. (The zip code listed in the telephone book is WRONG, so please use 72211 if you want your mail to reach me in a couple of days instead of a couple of weeks!)

Be sure to send your time sheets to the county office on a timely basis (once a month is best). The time sheets are very important because reports have to be submitted to various agencies showing the number of volunteer hours we have contributed to their projects.

Julie Eckberg

Happy New Year!

*To dig and delve in nice clean dirt
can do a mortal little hurt.*

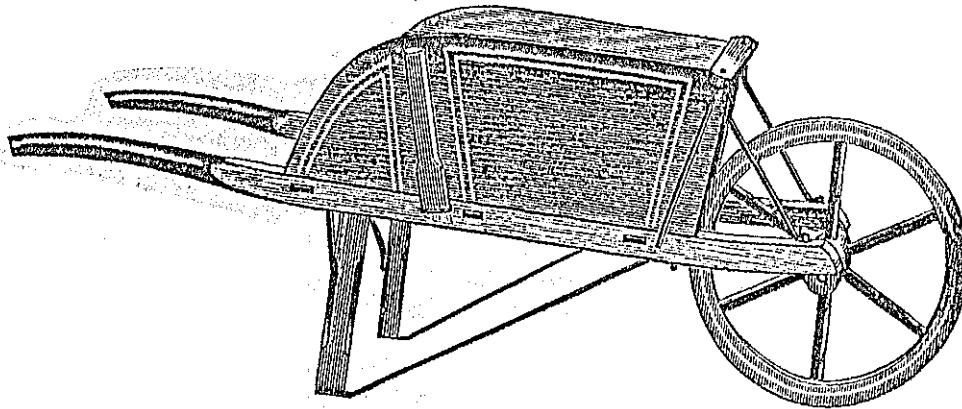
John Kendrick Bangs
'Gardening'

A big thank-you to all who helped
with the craft shows. We couldn't
have done it without you!

The Fund Raising Committee

Calendar of Events

- Jan. 12 Master Gardener monthly meeting, ARKLA Gas Blue Flame Room, 11:45 a.m. Mickey Stephens will speak on roses. (Mr. Stephens tends the roses at the state capitol.)
- Jan. 11-12 Arkansas Turfgrass Assoc. Conference, Statehouse Convention Center
- Feb. 12-14 Flower and Garden Show, Robinson Center, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily. Mark these dates on your calendar now because we will all be expected to assist with this major event. Pat Green will be helping with all the arrangements and scheduling again this year. Setup will be on Feb. 11 and the exhibits will be taken down the evening of Sunday, Feb. 14.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE BOX 391
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203
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Master Minutes

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Number Two

February 1993

Welcome to Beth Phelps!



Beth is our new Extension Agent for Pulaski County and will be working with the Master Gardeners Program. She grew up in Hot Springs and is no stranger to Little Rock. After earning a BA in Biology at Hendrix College, she joined the Peace Corps and taught high school science in Kenya. She was located near the capitol city of Nairobi in an area where coffee and tea were the principal crops.

Reflecting her interest in plants and growing things, Beth returned from Africa to obtain her master's degree in Horticulture from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She then accepted a position as Extension Agent for Escambia County, Florida (Pensacola area). Among other duties, she was responsible for the Master Gardeners Program.

As Beth is living in an apartment, she will be growing things in pots and containers. This will provide time to make the transition from sand for soil to Little Rock's pick-axe planting method. We look forward to the opportunity to get to know Beth and to work with her in the Master Gardeners Program.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Jay Hill is looking for someone to chair a telephone committee.
Please call Jay at 374-8276 (mornings) or 666-1299 (afternoon & evening).

Resolution Approved by Board of Directors

The board approved a plan where returning Master Gardeners can do up to 12 hours of phone duty to count towards either the 20 required recertification hours or work hours. New Master Gardeners would have to first complete the required 20 hours of phone duty. After that, they may count up to an additional 12 hours of phone duty toward recertification hours or work hours.

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*Gardening has compensations out of
all proportion to its goal.*

It is creation in the pure sense.

Phyllis McGinley

GARDENER'S FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

- ⊗ **PLANS:** On paper, layout and organize new designs for gardens and herbs; start construction of raised beds, borders, and planter boxes.
- ⊗ **MAIL ORDERS:** This is a good time to place seed orders to ensure availability. Order bare root roses, perennials, and shrubs.
- ⊗ **SOIL:** *New planting sites:* get your soil tested to determine the proper amendments to add. *Existing sites:* make it easy on yourself this year -- what you do now will determine how much watering, cultivating, and weeding you do later. Amend that soil (mulch, compost, etc.)! You'll be happy you did.
- ⊗ **BULBS:** Purchase pre-chilled bulbs for indoor displays of color and fragrance. Some suggestions include hyacinths in glasses, paperwhites, and daffodils.
- ⊗ **COOL SEASON ANNUALS & VEGETABLES:** Inspect plants for aphids -- tis the season! Aphids can easily be controlled with insecticidal soap.
- ⊗ **PLANTING:** Now is still a good time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs and bare root plant material.
- ⊗ **TRANSPLANT:** While still dormant, transplant or relocate trees and shrubs. Water in with "Superthrive" or root stimulator for all newly planted or transplanted material to ensure success.
- ⊗ **PRUNE:** Crepe myrtles, roses, ornamental fruit trees, shrubs, liriope, ornamental grasses. Be sure to prune according to specific type of plant, i.e., all roses are not pruned alike -- hybrid teas differ from floribunda, etc., and all shrubs are not pruned alike. Wait to prune your forsythia or flowering quince until after they bloom.
- ⊗ **STILL O.K. TO:** Apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees, shrubs, and roses for control of borers, mites, aphids, and scale later on in the year. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions.
- ⊗ **COLD PROTECTION:** Still needed this month for those tender plants.
- ⊗ **BIRDS:** Don't forget our feathered friends -- fill those feeders!

♥ REMEMBER YOUR VALENTINE!

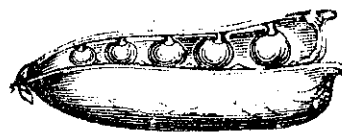
How can you go wrong with gifts of cut flowers or potted blooming plants such as cyclamen?

The Pawpaw Tree- *Asimina triloba*

by Adam Harris

The Pawpaw tree and its cousin the Dwarf Pawpaw tree comprise the Custard Apple family in Arkansas. The Pawpaw prefers wet areas along streams and rivers. It is a small tree with trunk from which long, straight, slender, brittle limbs extend. It has smooth gray bark. The flowers are distinctive in several ways. Blooming between March and May before the leaves appear, the flowers are approximately one inch wide. Their unusual traits include petals that are dark auburn, wrinkled, and leathery to the touch. The flowers are six-petaled, cup-shaped, and surrounded by green sepals. With light green pistils and stamens peering from the midst of the dark petals, some people liken the flower to an eye. They mature into pea-green fleshy fruits anywhere between July and September. Foot-long leaves with obovate bases ending with a sharp point constitute the Pawpaw's foliage.

Deer will browse on the tree, and beavers will eat its bark. Its fruits are enjoyed by small animals and birds, but the enjoyment of the fruit is not limited to wildlife. The Pawpaw fruit is safe for human consumption and has a banana-like taste. However, the Pawpaw picker best beware the Pawpaw curse; when its foliage is crushed, a bad odor is given off. Fortunately, this appears to be its only drawback. While it is not commonly found in retail nurseries, it is native to the entire state.



Note

Roxie Adams (224-3698) and Sherry Gunter (835-0437) need volunteers for periodic clean-up at the State Hospital Gardens.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

BAPTIST REHABILITATION CENTER

The first of a two-part training program was held on January 9th with the program on "Plants That Clean the Air" by Lavon Spears and her group. The second part of this training session will be January 23rd on "Potpourri Wreaths." The February 6th program will be given by Ann Bridgers, C L Holt, and Sandy Miller. February 13th program will be given by Mary Ann Dillaha, Hilda Broger, and Bill Gruges.

OLD MILL

In late fall, bulbs were planted: tulips, daffodils, hydrangea, etc. On February 4th, a clean-up work day will start at 9:00 A.M. -- please bring tools (rakes, etc.).

OLD STATE HOUSE

The pansies have been replaced, but are still not blooming. Some of the shrubs have been replaced with Holly, but there are still a few footprints here and there.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

Things are dormant on Pinnacle Mountain right now, but will "humming" as spring approaches.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

No happenings right now.

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

The Zoo garden is growing vegetables to be planted in the late winter. There are still 16 flats of Pansies available for purchase.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Work day on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 9 A.M.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

They are still picking winter vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, turnips, and greens. On January 4th, they also planted late winter vegetables in the greenhouse to be set out in February.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

Aleta Newell (666-0991) has native dogwoods for the digging. (2nd week of Feb. will be a good time to dig them, weather permitting.) You will need to bring containers to carry them.

Nancy Brilllos (758-6884) would appreciate donations of ferns for the Old Mill. They will even come and dig them for you! This would be a great bonus if yours need to be thinned!

1993 Newsletter Staff

Editor	Julie Eckberg
Assistant Editor	Helen Pitcock
Activities	Darlene Younts James Wilks
Biographies	Elmer Van Egmond
Calendar of Events	Ann Cooper Kay Groce
Checklist	Nancy Brilllos
Courier	Lois Corley
Data Entry	Adam Harris
Desktop Publishing	Helen Pitcock
Plant of the Month	Virginia Johnson Adam Harris
Projects	Karol McNeal Wincie Hughes
Special Reports	C L Holt
Trading Post	Alice Preston Margaret Fizer

1993 Master Gardener Board of Directors

"Past" President - Breck Campbell
1st Vice-President - Cecelia Buck
Treasurer - James Wilks

President - Sally Garrison
2nd Vice-President - Jay Hill
Secretary - Jaine Waldron

1993 Project and Committee Chairpersons

(NOTICE: If you did not turn in your project/committee sign-up sheet (especially returning Master Gardeners), please contact the appropriate chairpersons to volunteer your time as soon as possible. Chairpersons should send an updated list of volunteers to Jay Hill or Cecelia Buck as soon as you feel your list is complete.)

Projects:

Zoo Vegetable Garden

Jeff Johnson (H) 562-7926 (W) 666-2406
Willie Wiley, Jr. (H) 666-6110

Zoo Birdhouse

Lynn McMahon (H) 663-0639 (W) 661-0252

State Hospital Gardens

Roxie Adams (H) 224-3698
Sherry Gunter (H) 835-0437

State Hospital Greenhouse

Breck Campbell - Grounds & Structures (H) 666-9195
Mary Frances Roman - Purchasing (H) 821-2209
In charge of production and growing:

Ruth Owings (H) 455-4344
Frances Young (H) 821-3524
Dorothy Wilks (H) 225-0524

Old Mill

Linda Dantzler (H) 771-0844
Joe Dickens (H) 758-0814

Old State House

Ellen Kane (H) 868-5035
Mary Lee McHenry (H) 221-2590 (W) 961-2423

Arkansas Arts Center Contemplation Garden and Courtyard Garden

Ruth Jones (H) 664-8977
Ginger Coggins (H) 225-2778

Baptist Rehab. Institute Plant Therapy Program

Jaine Waldron (H) 666-3364

Pinnacle Mountain Hummingbird and Native Plant Gardens

Jane Gulley (H) 225-2072

Committees:

Fund Raising

Karen Vesole (H) 228-9704

Newsletter

Editor - Julie Eckberg (H) 225-6721
Assist. Editor - Helen Pitcock (H) 225-9100

Program Planning

Mary Lee McHenry (H) 221-2590 (W) 961-2423
Ann Bridgers (H) 224-1798 (W) 227-0603

Publicity

Ruth Gibson (H) 835-0158

Social Activities

Mary Frances Roman (H) 821-2209

Trip Planning

Sally Garrison (H) 835-4163
Sarah Henson (H) 835-1057

FROM THE EDITOR

Has Spring arrived yet? The gardening catalogs have been arriving in large numbers, and the daffodil, jonquil and narcissus bulbs I planted last fall think Spring is here -- they all emerged during the beautiful, sunny weekend we had in the middle of January. (I hope they will survive until they bloom this year!) Has anyone heard of petunias surviving the winter here? Most of mine are still a pretty green, so I haven't had the heart to pull them yet.

Time has not yet allowed me to experiment with one of my Christmas presents, a new computer software package for designing landscapes. (The software I already had does not look as sophisticated or as flexible as this new one.) The visions of grand gardens in my mind can come to life on paper, but scheduling the time and resources greatly limits the speed with which those ideas could become a reality. I wonder if all those projects will ever be completed!

Please remember to sign up for working at the Flower and Garden Show. It is one event this year you definitely do not want to miss!

Note to Newsletter Staff: Thank you for a job well done this month! Keep up the good work!



GROWING AND HARVESTING HERBS

by Dorothy Veirs

It is not difficult to grow herbs in this area, although most culinary herbs require full sun. Any soil suitable for vegetables, moderately fertile and well supplied with organic material, is ideal. Good drainage is a must. In areas where there is poor drainage, raised beds will solve the problem. Raised beds may be made with metal edging, concrete blocks, bricks or wooden slabs. Concrete blocks also can provide planting pockets in the blocks for lime-loving plants such as lavender.

Sage, rosemary, thyme, oregano, marjoram and mints need well drained but moderately moist soil. Many of these herbs will grow well as pot plants.

One to three herb plants will serve a families' culinary needs. It is often wise to purchase plants from the nursery rather than starting your crop from seed. One reason to purchase plants is the very long germination time for some seeds. Rosemary, sage and thyme are good examples. Parsley also takes approximately 28 days to germinate, but you may wish to have extra of these plants to share with friends.

The plants mentioned above are perennials and will last several years before new plants need to be started. Parsley is a biennial and in the second year the seed head indicates the plant will die. Sometimes parsley will reseed itself, making the gardener think it is a perennial.

Annuals such as dill, summer savory and the many varieties of basil should be purchased as seeds. Why pay a buck to a buck and a half for plants that grow like weeds! You can almost see basil grow before your eyes!

Harvesting and drying your herbs is an easy process. One hard and fast rule is never cut more than a third of the plant at a time. You should get at least three cuttings during the season from most herbs. Basil grows so fast that you can pinch a branch back to a two-leaf point and it will branch out. With basil, you must be sure to pinch off the flower heads as they start. If they go to seed, they have completed their life cycle and will start to die.

Dill is another fast growing annual. Pinch off 6 or 8 of the ferny fronds, put a rubber band around the stems and hang in a cool dry place to dry. When crackly dry, remove the heavy leaves and place in a glass jar to use for dill weed. The dill heads will mature, and when brown, should be hung to dry. These can be covered with a brown paper bag with holes punched in it for the air circulation. The seeds will fall to the bottom of the bag or can be pulled off and again stored in a glass jar to be used as dill seeds. The seed heads used for pickles can be cut at any time the heads form.

Parsley, one of the most used herbs, can be used fresh or easily dried. Pinch off the larger bottom foliage and rinse if needed. Blot off moisture with paper towels and break into small sections. Spread on a brown bag on a cookie sheet. Heat oven to 200 degrees and turn off. Place the cookie sheet in the oven and let stand. You may have to do this more than once but be sure that the oven is not too hot. Your parsley will be green and you can have an ample supply for the next year.

Sage, oregano, sweet marjoram, thyme and the mints can be hung to dry. When crispy dry, strip the leaves from the stems and store in glass containers. You should not pulverize or break up the leaves until they are to be used to keep the volatile oils intact, hence more flavor.

Suggested Reading:

The Complete Book of Herbs	<i>Lesly Premness</i>
The Pleasure of Herbs	<i>Phyllis Shaudys</i>
Herbs, How to Select, Grow and Enjoy	<i>Norma Jean Lathrop</i>
The Complete Book of Herbs and Spices	<i>Sarah Garland</i>
Southern Herb Growing	<i>Madeline Hill and Gwen Barclay</i>
Cooking with Herbs	<i>Emelie Tolley and Chris Mead</i>
Vegetable Gardening Progressive Farmer/ Southern Living	
(This book available in M.G. Telephone room.)	

Mailing Notice

Please send any Master Gardener correspondence (time sheets, etc.) to
2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204.

(Mail addressed to the PO Box goes to the State Extension office, not the County office.)

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 4 Old Mill work day, beginning at 9 A.M. Bring tools, particularly anything sharp for pruning and clearing.
- Feb. 5-6 Arkansas Nurserymen Association Meeting, Trade Show and Seminar. Contact the county extension office for registration information.
- Feb. 9 Master Gardener monthly meeting at 11:45 A.M. in Arkla's Blue Flame Room
- Feb. 11 Set up for the Flower and Garden Show beginning at 9 A.M.
- Feb. 12-14 Flower and Garden Show, Robinson Center, 10 A.M.-6 P.M. daily. In addition to setting up and taking down (evening of Feb. 14), Pat Green needs many volunteers in 4-hour shifts Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Call Pat or return the volunteer sheet mailed to you.
- Feb. 13-14 Pinnacle Park Eagle Awareness. Jane Gulley will give the same slide lecture at 1 and 3 P.M. on Saturday and 2 P.M. Sunday. For free tickets, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Pinnacle Mtn. State Park, 11901 Pinnacle Rd., Roland, AR 72135. Limited seating.
- Feb. 20 Work Day for the Zoo Birdhouse 9 A.M. Call Lynn McMahon for more information.
- Feb. 20 Pinnacle Park Volunteer Hard Hat Day.
- Feb. 20 Pinnacle Park "Train for Trout." 10 A.M.-4 P.M. Basics of fly-fishing. \$25 fee. Limit 10. Call 277-8096.
- Feb. 21 Pinnacle Park "Critter Care." 2-3 P.M. Lucy Moreland, author of Wildlife Challenge, will answer many of those "Can I keep it?" questions.
- Mar. 6 Pine Bluff Convention Center Annual Lawn and Garden Seminar & Show, sponsored by the Pine Bluff Beautification Commission and Arkansas Extension Service. Opens 8:30, first seminar at 9 A.M. No fee. Call 535-0110 to register.
- Mar. 9-10 Arkansas Composting Conference -- State House Convention Center
- Apr. 13-14 Master Gardener overnight trip to Tulsa to visit the Conservatory, Woodward Park, the Arboretum, Swan Lake and the Philbrook Art Museum. There will also be time to visit Utica Square. Call Mrs. McKinney to indicate your interest. We'll have a firm price soon.
- Apr. 14 Grafting Demo -- Pine Bluff 1-4 P.M. Register by Mar. 29 through Pine Bluff Extension Office- 534-1033.
- Aug. 12-15 "MaGIC" -- Master Gardener International meeting in San Antonio. Make plans to go on a group trip -- details will be given when they are worked out.

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Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Three

March 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Nancy Brilllos
BORN Kansas City, MO
EMPLOYMENT Superintendent of Landscapes for Parks & Recreation of NLR
BECAME A MG 1992
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS enjoyed it all
MG WORK

ACTIVITY Newsletter and Old Mill
FAVORITE PLANT Texas Mountain-laurel and lilies
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION new Mantis tiller
BEST PART OF BEING A MG meeting all the Master Gardeners
PET PEEVES cigarette butts in flower beds and Bermuda grass in flower beds
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDENING, IT IS to plan
I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT vegetable gardening
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN, I WOULD provide for more planting space in the sun
BEST GARDENING ADVICE to visualize and contemplate the end result



NAME Catherine Hamilton
PLACE OF BIRTH Milwaukee, WI (L.R. since 1959)
CHILDREN Two grown sons
BECAME A MG 1991
FAVORITE PART OF A CLASS Variety of speakers
WORK ACTIVITY

Pinnacle Mountain Gardens
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION Material and Workbook received from MG Course
BEST PART OF BEING A MG The field trips and being with the other MGs
FAVORITE PLANT Iris
GARDENING PET PEEVE Rocks
IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING IN MY GARDEN, IT IS Gardening lets me get close to nature and creation
I WISH I KNEW MORE ABOUT Insects and plant diseases
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN, I'D Specialize in fewer plants
BEST GARDENING ADVICE EVER RECEIVED Prepare the soil before planting
ASK ME ABOUT Audubon Camp. Catherine is Coordinator of the Arkansas Audubon Ecology Camp for 11 and 12 years old children, organizing and making arrangements for the camp. She served on the Little Rock Sewer System Board for 12 years and is a retired chemistry teacher from Hall High School.

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One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides. --W. E. Johns

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 6 Pinnacle Mtn. Backpacking Basics for Beginners 1-5 p.m. \$10 fee. Reservations required.
- Mar. 6 State Hospital Greenhouse flower sale, 9 a.m.- noon. Many potted bulbs from the Flower & Garden Show.
- Mar. 7 Pinnacle Mtn. Adopt a Trail Workshop 2-3 p.m. Reservations required.
- Mar. 8 Fruit tree pruning with Dr. Keith Patterson. Register by calling the Extension office. (No charge, but will be limited to 40 attendees.)
- Mar. 9 M.G. meeting - 11:45 a.m. at the ARKLA Blue Flame Room. Beth Phelps will be speaking on Environmental Landscape Maintenance.
- Mar. 11 Old Mill MAJOR planting day, 9 a.m. Call Joe Dickens (758-0814) for more details. (This will be the beginning of weekly plantings to ready the Old Mill for The Victory Gardens' Jim Wilson.)
- Mar. 13 Baptist Rehab. Center - meeting time changed to 10 a.m. All plant therapy group members are urged to attend.
- Mar. 13 Birnam Wood "Indispensable Shrubs" workshop, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 13 Pinnacle Mtn. Arbor Day activities, 2-3 p.m.
- Mar. 16 State Hospital planting day, 9 a.m. Reserve your work space by calling Ruth Owings (455-4544).
- Mar. 18 Old Mill planting/work day, 9 a.m. Contact Joe Dickens for details.
- Mar. 20 Zoo Aviary (Birdhouse) Work Day, 9 a.m.
- Mar. 20 State Hospital Greenhouse flower sale, 9 a.m.- noon.
- Mar. 20/21 Pinnacle Mtn. Canoe Day Floats, 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. \$25 fee. Call for details.
- Mar. 21 Pinnacle Mtn. "Spring Has Sprung". Help to spring clean.
- Mar. 23 Pinnacle Mtn. Partners for Pinnacle General Meeting, 7 p.m. Open to all.
- Mar. 23/25 "Art in Bloom" co-sponsored by the L.R. Garden Clubs and the Ark. Arts Center. For more information, call M.G. Irene Davis (663-5678) or the Arts Center (372-4000).
- Mar. 25 Old Mill planting/work day, 9 a.m. Contact Joe Dickens for details.
- Mar. 27 Birnam Wood "Passion for Perennials" workshop, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 27/28 Pinnacle Mtn. Spring Book Sale, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. & 1-5 p.m.
- Apr. 13/14 M.G. Tulsa Trip - \$90 covers bus, box lunch and Embassy Suites room. Call Mrs. McKinney to reserve your space.
- Apr. 16 M.G. picnic with Jim Wilson of The Victory Garden at the Old Mill, sponsored by Lakewood Gardens and the city of North Little Rock. Make plans to attend!!!
- Apr. 17 Seminars by Jim Wilson and Carl Hunter at Lakewood Gardens. (Recertification opportunities!)
- May 11/12 M.G. Memphis trip. \$90 covers bus, Embassy Suites room and admissions. Call Mrs. McKinney to reserve your space.
- Aug. 12/15 MaGIC meeting in San Antonio, TX (Master Gardeners International Corporation).

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Bonnie Cargile: Cypress Vine Seed (hummingbirds and butterflies love it!) 868-5404
Jim Christian: 2 Clematis vines / small white blossoms 666-0978
Ginger Coggins: Chrysanthemums 225-2778
Bettye Jane Daugherty: Chrysanthemums and Lamb's Ear 221-2865
Ruth Gibson: Forsythia 835-0158
Gail Roberson: 7 large Red Wigela shrubs and Red Cannas (Call in the evening) 834-1055
Mildred Boyles Walton: 2 Crepe Myrtle (2 feet) and several chrysanthemums 663-7331
Virginia Johnson: hostas and ever-blooming bleeding hearts (to be divided in spring) 375-7342

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

MASTER GARDENER'S MARCH CHECKLIST

🌸 **ANNUALS:** Several annuals can be planted now; snapdragons (Try 'Princess' if you like medium height plants with a bi-color flower — an interesting addition to the spring flower beds.), dianthus, calendulas, sweet peas, alyssum, pansies, and lobelia. New varieties of these plants are introduced every year and are worth trying.

🌿 **PERENNIALS & HERBS:** Plant seedlings now for early root establishment. Note: dipping temperatures this month are still very probable, so take precautions to protect newly planted seedlings. Many perennials do not bloom well or at all the first year, but purchasing full one gallon plants now could remedy this problem. These larger plants were probably started last year, making them ready to perform well for you this year.

🥬 **VEGETABLES:** Seedlings of cole crops can be planted; kale, cabbage, radish, and cauliflower. Other types include lettuce, turnips, beets, endive, onion, Irish potatoes, Swiss chard, snap beans, and carrots.

🌳 **TURF:** If your lawn has more than 1/2" of thatch, now is the time to dethatch, before the lawn turns green. Vertical mowers can be used. Or, lower the height of your mower's blades for the first cutting in spring and mow in several directions, removing dead material after each mowing. Fertilize cool season grasses (rye, fescue, bluegrass). Warm season grasses should be fertilized two weeks after the first sign of green up.

🌳 **STILL O.K. TO:** Plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs; best to plant these before they break dormancy. Start seedlings indoors for late spring vegetables and flowers.

🌳 **ARBOR DAY:** Arkansas celebrates Arbor Day the third Monday of March, which will be March 15th this year. Many committees throughout the state recognize Arbor Day with ceremonies involving tree planting, tree care education, and free trees for planting. Get involved with your community celebration projects — they need your participation and ideas!



An Invitation

Lakewood Gardens and North Little Rock Mayor Patrick Hayes invite all Master Gardeners to attend a picnic at the Old Mill, North Little Rock, AR. The picnic will be April 16, 1993 from 5-7 PM with Mr. Jim Wilson of "The Victory Garden" as our special guest. Food and drinks will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. with Mrs. McKinney

at the county extension office by Friday, April 9, 1993.

Mr. Wilson will also be appearing at Lakewood Gardens all day Saturday, April 17, 1993.

ART IN BLOOM

Art in Bloom at the Arkansas Arts Center March 23-25 should be of special interest to Master Gardeners. The Little Rock Garden Club (current president, M.G. Irene Davis) is co-sponsoring this event celebrating the relationship of horticultural art to fine art. For information on events and tickets, contact Irene Davis at 663-5678 or the Arkansas Arts Center at 372-4000.

Bill Welch left seven copies of his book, "Antique Roses for the South" to keep from having to carry them back to Texas. They are available for \$16 at the county extension office. (Mrs. McKinney will sell them to the first seven callers.) Please make checks payable to the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.

1993 Newsletter Staff

Editor	Julie Eckberg
Assistant Editor	Helen Pitcock
Activities	Darlene Younts James Wilks
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The Iris: A Landscape Blessing

by Virginia Johnson



With the busy lifestyles of today's gardeners, it is nice to have a landscape plant that performs well with little care. One of these plants is the iris.

There is an iris to suit almost everyone's taste. They are divided into two types: bulbous and rhizomatous. Bulbous iris include the Spanish, Dutch (*I. xiphium*), and the miniature snow iris *I. reticulata* and *I. danfordiae*. These are native to Southern Europe, Africa, and Asia Minor. Rhizomatous iris include the bearded types *I. germanica*, *I. fulva*, and *I. pumila*, and the non-bearded Louisiana, Japanese, and Siberian types. The miniature crested iris, *I. cristata* is also rhizomatous. The beardless and crested types are native to North America.

All iris are characterized by stiff, blade-like foliage and flowers that are described in three parts. The upright petals are called standards, the lower petals comprise the falls, and the "shoulder" of the fall is known as the haft.

Iris like moist, well-drained, slightly acid to neutral soils well supplied with organic matter. Most require full sun, and bearded types need all the sun they can get. However, Japanese and crested types can tolerate partial shade.

Plant bulbous iris in the fall at the same planting time as daffodils, etc. Plant rhizomes in mid to late summer.

Before planting, add generous portions of compost or well-rotted manure at a depth of one foot below the rhizome. Do not add this directly next to the rhizome. Plant the rhizomes about one foot apart, leaving the top of the rhizome slightly exposed. If several are planted together, plant them in a circle with the leaves turned outward. If the leaves are turned inward, they will become too crowded and not get enough sun.

In mid-March, give the iris a top dressing of equal proportions of bone meal and lime. Avoid excess watering and rich nitrogen fertilizers. After all the blooms on the stalks have withered, cut the stalks no closer than halfway down to the rhizome. Remove dying leaves so that they do not block sunlight from the rhizome, but don't cut all the leaves, as they are necessary to provide food for the rhizome.

Divide iris after blooming about once every four years. Lift the entire clump with a spade and select only the healthiest rhizomes for replanting. Allow water to run over them while the soil is prepared for new plantings. Mix some bone meal with the soil. Be careful not to wound the rhizomes, as this could encourage borers and root rot.

Get your camera ready!

FROM THE EDITOR



I'm sure everyone will agree that the second annual Flower and Garden Show was a tremendous success! I set aside time this year to attend some of the lectures, and it looked like everyone enjoyed them as much as I did. (Having the lectures at the Camelot was a great improvement!) The Master Gardeners should thank everyone involved for making this event possible, especially Janet, Pat Green, and Beth.

Spring must not be too far away now. My tulips have emerged over the past week (even though the temperatures have been in the 20's and 30's the past few days) and the goldfinches and purple finches have been at my feeders in increasing numbers each day. And I am ready to get outside to start preparing for my garden and flower beds for this summer!

MASTER GARDENER ACTIVITIES

Arkansas Arts Center

Weather permitting, a work day was held on February 23. This consisted mainly of cutting back and getting ready for spring planting. They will be doing a special project for the Art Center a little later in the year.

Baptist Rehabilitation Institute

On February 6th, Ann Bridgers' group did a Valentine fresh flower arrangement, with individual little pots and decorative bows added to the flowers. The group led by Bill Burgin transplanted tomato seedlings on February 13th, and also demonstrated how to start vegetables and flowers from seeds. The plant therapy group also has taken on the project of enhancing the courtyard area to make it look like "Master Gardeners" have been there. This is a good example of the spirit of Master Gardeners. This group of M.G. volunteers do so much with the people inside, but saw a chance to brighten and beautify another area not only for the patients, but also to show others what we are all about. Keep up the great work!

Old Mill

Work days are scheduled for March 11th, 18th and 25th (Thursdays) at 9:00 a.m., with a major planting day scheduled for March 11th. (Call Joe Dickens for more details.) This is to prepare the Old Mill for Jim Wilson's visit on April 16th. We are all anxious to show off the Master Gardeners' contributions to the beauty of the Old Mill!

Old State House

The pansies are now blooming and the bulbs have come up, so all is back in order. Weather permitting, impatiens and caladiums will be planted very soon.

Pinnacle Mountain

They will have had their Dogwood Dig (Feb. 16th) by the time our newsletter is out. Other than cleaning up, the Pinnacle group remains in a holding pattern for now.

State Hospital Gardens

The pansy bed (which looks great!) has just been fertilized, and this group will be waiting a while longer to do anything else.

State Hospital Greenhouse

A work / clean-up day was held, and some of the plants the Fayetteville club gave them after the garden show were sold. They will have two more sale days for the remainder of the plants on March 6th and March 20th. These include pots of tulips, hyacinths, etc., so plan to come by and pick up some great bulbs and plants really CHEAP.

Zoo Birdhouse

The birdhouse crew has been keeping the leaves picked up and watching for bugs. As you might guess, things are a little slow right now. A work day was held on Feb. 20th and another is scheduled for March 20th.

Zoo Vegetable Garden

Winter vegetables have been planted and a few of the late vegetables are still being harvested. No report from Jeff Johnson this month, but we will catch up with him in the next newsletter.

Congratulations to the Master Gardeners on the Flower and Garden Show first prize award for Most Educational Booth! Special thanks to *Carl Montgomery* and *Lakewood Gardens* for providing the plant materials for the booth, to *Hilda Boger* for the applied Master Gardener banner, and especially to *Marvina Petrik* and *Cathy Rodgers* for setting up the booth. We greatly appreciate all your contributions!

Beth Phelps would like to thank all the Master Gardeners for helping to make the Flower and Garden Show a great success. It would not have been possible without your volunteer hours!

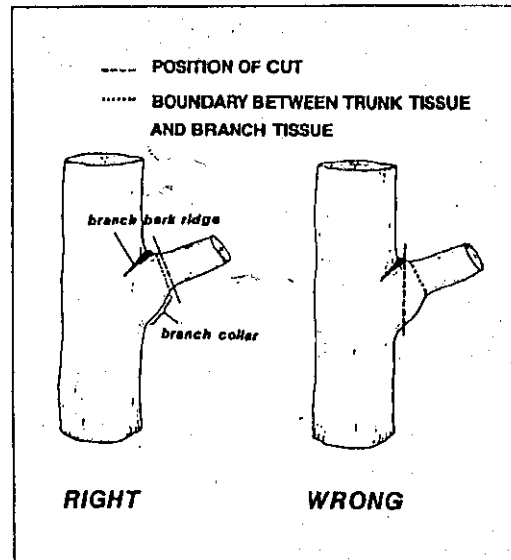
(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

A Short Pruning Update

by Beth Phelps

It is the time of year everyone thinks about pruning their trees and shrubs. We have received many calls at the Extension Office from people requesting information about pruning. The following is an update of the information contained in the Extension Publication Pruning Ornamental Plants.

Although the recommendation in the past has been for tree branches to be pruned back flush with the trunk, recent research has shown that this is not the best method of pruning. By pruning flush with the trunk of the tree, a wound is opened into the tree trunk tissue. This will be a permanent wound into the basic structure of the tree even though the tree will form a protective barrier. It is best to make a pruning cut to the branch side of both the bark ridge and branch collar. (See diagram.)



The bark ridge is usually very easy to see. The branch collar, however, is more difficult to locate. Practice locating these structures on trees. The branch collar is the swollen area at the base of the branch and is very chemically active and important in wound healing. By positioning the pruning cut to the branch side of these structures, you can be assured that you have not wounded the tree trunk.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS



Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Four

April 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Wini Carter
SPOUSE Dick (also a Master Gardener)
CHILDREN Two boys, an attorney in Little Rock and one in Boston
BECAME A MG 1992
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS Interaction with people - very friendly. Also excellent, interesting lecturers

MG WORK ACTIVITY Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION Kneeling cushion
GARDENING PET PEEVE Bermuda grass and raccoons eating our goldfish
FAVORITE PLANT Herbs and perennials
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN I would start with a master plan.

Wini was born in Eldorado, Kansas. She obtained her degree from Kansas State University and was a teacher of physical education. She came to Arkansas when her husband was transferred to Aegon Insurance Company in Little Rock.

Wini is an avid tennis player, and plays bridge. She loves to read and gives book reviews. She and her husband Dick have travelled extensively to Europe, China, Australia, and New Zealand and visited gardens when the opportunity was available.



NAME Ann Bridgers
SPOUSE Tom
CHILDREN Two boys and two girls
PLACE OF BIRTH Stuttgart - picture of some relatives are in the museum
FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASS Very interesting and experienced

MG WORK ACTIVITY Co-chairperson, Program Committee for MG, and Horticulture Therapy at Baptist Rehab
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION A pick
GARDENING PET FRUSTRATION Dealing with weeds, bugs and varmints in an environmentally safe manner
FAVORITE PLANT Lilacs, roses, or whatever is in bloom
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN Give more attention to soil preparation and plan
ADVICE TO GARDENERS Just enjoy it

In addition to gardening and being active in a family business, Ann enjoys reading, playing bridge, and listening to music when time permits.

Visiting the Floriade in the Netherlands was a highlight of a European visit which included gardens in Switzerland and England. She especially enjoyed the gardening and floral displays at the Ameriflora in Columbus, Ohio with the MG tour.

As her daughter's wedding is planned for June, Ann's time for other activities will be limited as preparations become the main focus.

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Calendar of Events

- Apr. 1 Old Mill Work Day, 9 a.m. Call Joe Dickens for more details. (All volunteers are welcome to help ready the Old Mill for Jim Wilson's visit!)
- Apr. 6 Greenhouse Work Day, transplanting seedlings, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 8 Old Mill Work Day, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 9 Deadline to R.S.V.P. with Mrs. McKinney for April 16 picnic at the Old Mill with Jim Wilson of "The Victory Garden". Arrangements have been made in case of rain, and spouses are invited to attend as long as you also R.S.V.P. for them.
- Apr. 10 Birnam Wood "Season Your Life with Herbs" workshop, 10-11:30 a.m.
- Apr. 10/11 Pinnacle Mtn. "Wildflower Excursions", 10 & 11 a.m. on Sat.; 1 & 2 p.m. on Sun.
- Apr. 11 Pinnacle Mtn. "Wildflowers and the Wildflower Garden" with Carl Hunter, 3 p.m.
- Apr. 13/14 M.G. Tulsa Trip - \$90 covers bus, box lunch and Embassy Suites room. Call Mrs. McKinney to reserve your space.
- Apr. 15 Old Mill Work Day, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 16 M.G. picnic with Jim Wilson of "The Victory Garden" at the Old Mill, sponsored by Lakewood Gardens and the City of North Little Rock. Make plans to attend!!!
- Apr. 17 Seminars by Jim Wilson and Carl Hunter at Lakewood Gardens. (Recertification opportunities!)
- Apr. 17 Zoo Birdhouse Work Day, 9 a.m.
- Apr. 20 M.G. monthly meeting - 11:45 a.m. at the ARKLA Blue Flame Room. Mr. Carl Hunter will speak on growing wildflowers. (NOTICE - The meeting is NOT the 2nd Tues. this month --- there was a conflict with the Tulsa trip.)
- Apr. 24 Birnam Wood "Container Gardens: Large Dividends from Small Spaces" workshop, 10-11:30 a.m.
- May 1 Birnam Wood "The Care and Feeding of the Perfect Lawn" workshop, 10-11:30 a.m.
- May 1-2 Quapaw Quarter Tour, Downtown Little Rock
- May 11/12 M.G. Memphis Trip - \$90 covers bus, Embassy Suites room and admissions. Call Mrs. McKinney to reserve your space.
- Aug. 12-15 MaGIC meeting in San Antonio, TX (Master Gardeners International Corporation).

Trading Post

Plant and Seed Exchange

- Bonnie Cargile: Cypress Vine Seed (Hummingbirds and butterflies love it!) 868-5404
- Jim Christian: 2 Clematis vines / small white blossoms 666-0978
- Ginger Coggins: Chrysanthemums 225-2778
- Bettye Jane Daugherty: Chrysanthemums and Lamb's Ear 221-2865
- Elmer Van Egmond: Louisiana Iris and Upright Sedum 224-7632
- Ruth Gibson: Ajuga and 3 large Forsythia 835-0158
- Aleta Newell: Lots of Monkey Grass (good to control wash) 666-0991
- Gail Roberson: 7 large Red Wigela shrubs and Red Cannas (Call in the evening.) 834-1055
- Mildred Boyles Walton: 2 Crepe Myrtle (pink) 663-7331
- Virginia Johnson: Hostas and Ever-blooming Bleeding Hearts (to be divided in spring) 375-7342



OOPS! We left out part of the biography info. on one of our Master Gardeners last month--remember Nancy Brillios? Well, Nancy has an interesting gardening background in that she has lived in five different planting zones, 6, 3, 8, 9 and 7. (She introduced herself as being from zones 6, 3, 8, 9 and 7 during her talk on Antique Roses for the Feb. 1992 M.G. meeting.)

She also loves animals almost as much as plants, currently having three cats and one dog. (Excuse us please, Nancy!)

MASTER GARDENES' APRIL CHECKLIST

TURF: Start mowing this season with a good sharp blades on your mower; the quality of cut is much better and it will eliminate the ragged, brown tips on the grass blades. This year, consider a mulching mower or a mulching kit for your old mower. The benefits of mulching your grass clippings are a big plus toward the overall health and appearance of your lawn.

WEEDS: The appearance of dandelions, pennywort and other unwanted warm season weeds begins. An early application of a post-emergence herbicide can help control these weeds before they take over your lawn.

AZALEAS: Fertilize azaleas after they bloom with a fertilizer including iron and minor elements. Azalea roots are shallow, compact and fibrous, so follow package directions carefully. (Granular or foliar feedings both work well.) Add another layer of mulch or compost around the plant to protect the roots — azaleas are very sensitive to drying out.

SUMMER BULBS: It's time to plant caladiums, cannas, dahlias and gladioli tuberoses. All of the bulbs are available in many different colors and heights. The strap-leaf form of caladium will even do well in full sun.

ANNUALS: As the soil temperature warms, you will have better germination rates when planting seeds of zinnias, cosmos, marigolds, gomphrena and melampodium — all of which are easy to grow. For the pansies, calendula and other cool season annuals, an application of foliar feed fertilizer will help prolong the vigor of your plants. Aphids are hungry for your pansies and other plants this time of year — inspect the buds and undersides of leaves for signs of aphids.

PERENNIALS: Divide plants at this time, making sure new shoots are present with each division. Replant at the depth they were originally growing and water with "Superthrive". As shoots emerge of those unlabeled perennials, try to identify and label them now.

EASTER LILIES: After Easter lilies fade, plant bulbs in a sunny, well-drained location. Do not cut the foliage until the fall, when other perennials are cut. Your lilies will bloom next year in late spring or early summer, but not at Easter. (Lilies must be forced in a greenhouse to produce seasonal specialty blooms.)



Cecelia Buck and Breck Campbell accept 1st Place award for Master Gardeners for "Most Educational Booth" at the Flower and Garden Show.

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MASTER GARDENER NOTES

The April monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, which is the NOT the usual second Tuesday of the month! (It's actually the third Tuesday in April because there was a conflict with the Tulsa trip on April 13.) Carl Hunter will be our guest speaker, with a program on growing wildflowers.

At the March M.G. meeting, Breck Campbell said an anonymous donor has generously provided a Mantis tiller. The tiller will be kept at the greenhouse and can be "borrowed" by individual Master Gardeners. Call Breck Campbell (666-9195) for more information.

Joan Zumwalt (982-8816) is the chairperson for the newest Master Gardener project, Jacksonville City Hall. Five or six Master Gardeners will be needed to help rejuvenate and maintain the landscaping around City Hall. Call Joan if you would like to volunteer for this new project!

The Old State House has two new chairpersons:
Ruth Parker, chair 666-4200
Marian Berry, co-chair 663-1693



And, Ellen Kane (868-5035) is the new secretary for the Master Gardener Board of Directors.

Tax Tip: If you itemize deductions, you may deduct certain unreimbursed expenses you incur while performing volunteer work. Although you may NOT deduct the value of your services, costs you may deduct include postage, stationery, equipment and any other expenses essential to volunteer work. (Be sure to keep detailed records of these expenses!) If you use your car while performing charitable services, you may deduct actual expenses for gas (OR you may elect to deduct 12 cents per mile for gas), and actual expenses for tolls and parking fees. For more information, see IRS Publication 526 - Charitable Contributions or call the IRS for more information.

The Travel Committee has met and completed plans for this coming year. They are very interested in your input for planning the 1994 trips. Please call Carolyn Henslee (666-7502) with your suggestions for future trips.



FROM THE EDITOR

"Each spring ... a gardening instinct, sure as the sap rising in the trees, stirs within us. We look about and decide to tame another little bit of ground." Lewis Gannett

Does anyone know where I can get more information about toxoplasmosis? It is a parasitic infection transmitted by contact with cat feces. It generally does not produce symptoms in adults, but can be transmitted to an unborn child, causing miscarriage, stillbirth or irreversible birth defects. It seems that all the neighborhood cats love our yard, so I'm very worried about working in my own flower beds and garden. Any additional information would be greatly appreciated, especially since my

hands have been itching to get out in the dirt!

I made a good investment at a garage sale last year — the purchase of several old sheets for use outside. They really come in handy with our wonderful Arkansas weather, and I've already had to use them once this year. (Some of my azaleas started showing some color in mid-March.)

Happy Gardening!

Editor's Note: If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. My phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. (Example: March 15 is the deadline for the April newsletter.) Please try to have submissions typed.



MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS



ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

They had a clean up day. The next work day will be announced at the Master Gardeners meeting in April and will be followed up with calls to all the committee members. They also worked on getting the potted plants ready for the "Art in Bloom" Forum at the Arts Center.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

Their March 6th program was done by Jerry Quick and his group on "Gardening with kitchen discards" - using pineapple tops and seeds such as apple, orange and avocado. They also planted shamrocks. Group II headed by Norma Parker made "Succulent gardens" using 6-inch terra cotta saucers and 6 different kinds of plants. Jerry Quick is going to plant wild flowers in the wooded areas around the hospital and they have planted African violets in window boxes inside. They are planning a visitation program later this year to follow up on those who participated in their program.

OLD MILL

They will have had a major planting day by the time the newsletter comes out and will be having work days each Thursday in April (1, 8 and 15) to get ready for Jim Wilson.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Their work day (so far) has been the second Wednesday of the month. In March they cleaned up and dead headed the pansies. They also have some decisions to make as to the shrubberies - they still aren't in too good of shape. They will be planting impatiens and caladiums very soon.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

They will be meeting at the Visitor Center in Pinnacle Mountain State Park on March 16th. At that time they will be signing up for their work week and for volunteering to grow plants for the roadway right-of-way. Randy Johnson will be talking to them about their work and if the weather is nice they will be touring the arboretum.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

They have fertilized and will be weeding and dead heading the pansies and would appreciate help. If you can help them please call Roxie Adams, 224-3698. They are going to plant an assortment (5 or 6 different kinds) of plants this year in May, so it will be a little different this year.

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

The sale of plants from the U of A that they received after the flower show went very well. They planted seed for the State Hospital the weekend of the 20th and will be putting them in small pots the 6th of April - they need quite a bit of help at that time. After that it will be water, water and more watering. Breck Campbell has been busy cleaning up outside on the grounds.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

They are still in the "clean up and out" time frame but will be doing some planting very soon.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

All their planting efforts became a disaster due to the weather. They are making plans to establish a limited orchard with trees being donated by "Friends of the Zoo" tree adoption program. They will be approaching a group for 15 trees (apple, pear and persimmon) in March. The Zoo Director stated he will try to get a bee hive for them.

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)



Remember the **insect sheets** Beth passed around at the last meeting? You can order them (the sheets, not the insects) from Publications, IFAS Bldg. 664, P. O. Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611. They are \$3.18 for a set of 15. Make your check for out to the University of Florida and ask for SPSET 3.





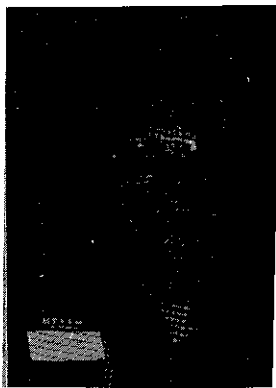
Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Five

May 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Ray Robbins
SPOUSE Peggy
CHILDREN Three boys and four girls, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild
PLACE OF BIRTH Avant, Arkansas (on Lake Ouachita)
BECAME A MG In 1991
WORK ACTIVITY State Hospital Greenhouse
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Troy Bilt and Mantis tillers

FAVORITE PLANTS Muscadines, blueberries, blackberries and raspberries

GARDENING PET PEEVE Rabbits with large appetites
IF I COULD REDO MY GARDEN, I'D Prepare a plan and lay out the garden before planting

Ray served in the Marine Corps for 21 years seeing service in Japan, the South Pacific, South America and several stations in the United States. He obtained his Ph.D. and developed a second career teaching Business Administration at UALR.

He has several hobbies including woodworking, welding and beekeeping. He owns a dump truck, two backhoes and two pick-up trucks which he uses to create more garden space.

Ray and family usually spend their summers traveling to interesting areas, such as Vancouver and Alaska. This summer, however, he plans to stay home and concentrate on his garden.

*Spring hangs her infant blossoms on the trees,
Rock'd in the cradle of the western breeze.
William Cowper*



NAME Hilda Boger
SPOUSE Jim
CHILDREN Two children, a daughter getting married this summer and a Junior at Vanderbilt
BECAME A MG In 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Baptist Rehabilitation Institute
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION Mantis tiller (My husband likes it, too!)

FAVORITE PLANT Hostas and water lilies, if they bloom

GARDENING PET PEEVE Neighbors' dogs who like to visit my garden

Hilda attended the University of Arkansas, and is a Medical Technician. She enjoys being outdoors with the plants and the quiet. Plans are being developed for her garden and she is looking forward to completing the design.

Hilda's suggestion to other gardeners is "to read, read and read some more."



The Master Gardener picnic at the Old Mill was a big success. From front left, NLR Mayor Patrick Hays, Mike McCullars from AETN, Jim Wilson of the "Victory Garden", Joe Dickens, Old Mill Project Director, Master Gardeners and guests in background.

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Tulsa Trip

by Ruth Gibson

Fourteen Master Gardeners boarded the bus for Tulsa Tuesday morning, April 13. A speedy and uneventful bus ride transported us to Tulsa's Woodward Park, where we arrived shortly after lunch. (Lunch had occurred on the bus whenever we got hungry!).

The park grounds were lovely, the greenhouses were vast, and we wandered through the greenhouses at will. Plants for all of Tulsa's civic gardens are grown there and readied for planting throughout the city. There were entire sections of orchids and cacti in addition to many more familiar plants.

Our tour guide met us as scheduled and we walked over the entire park. Huge beds of lush tulips were everywhere, some with hyacinths and pansies as colorful borders. Rock paths led us among dogwoods, redbuds (include white redbuds), and azaleas just beginning to burst into bloom. The enormous rose garden promised glorious blooms later in the summer.

We had a rare advantage on this trip. Sally Garrison's daughter, Linda, is a Tulsa resident, familiar with the city. She led our bus through a residential area of lovely homes and even lovelier gardens, some of which were included in the Tulsa garden tour planned for this weekend. Our "oohs" and "aahs" reflected our pleasure at this unexpected bonus.

The threatening weather forecast and Linda's advice caused us to alter our plans a bit, and we visited Swan Lake

Tuesday afternoon. It's a small lake in a residential area, so called because of a pair of majestic swans who are permanent residents. The swans share their pretty lake with turtles and many ducks of great variety. Linda provided us with stale bread which we fed the hungry catfish. (The ducks do not thrive on a bread diet.)

Those of us who had eaten our lunches early on the bus were glad to get to the Embassy Suites Hotel, having been tempted to steal a morsel of bread from the catfish! After a sumptuous dinner and a good night's rest, we awoke to a heavy rain, which had arrived as predicted. Armed with umbrellas and undampened spirits, we headed for Philbrook Museum and its lovely grounds. This enormous mansion was donated to the city by Frank Phillips of Phillips Petroleum in 1936, and now houses an extensive art collection ranging from Indian works to European art. Some Rodin sculptures were on loan to the museum, highlighting the exhibit. A few of the hardiest of us toured the grounds, which are beautifully planted on a terraced slope with fountains and a clear pool with a nearby gazebo.

A friendly volunteer in the Philbrook gift shop told us of a private garden whose owner welcomes all visitors. It is called "The Magic Garden" by locals. As it was near our next stop, we went there and discovered a garden unsurpassed by public gardens. We made a quick tour. Undaunted by the rain, we enjoyed the fruits of labor of the owner who asked us to sign her guest book. Her watering hose was pink to match her patio furniture! She said she is 88 years old, which should reassure all of us that gardening will keep us young.

On to Utica Square for lunch and shopping before returning to Little Rock. Linda was an excellent and cheerful guide during the entire trip and our bus driver was pleasant and competent. We returned home inspired by our sister state to dig, plant and enjoy gardening.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Nell Ambrose: Money plants and seeds (Lunaria annua) 821-3509

Ginger Coggins: Would like some Mexican Sage 225-2778

Linda Dantzler: Lamb's Ear 771-0844

Elmer Van Egmond: Louisiana Iris 224-7632

Margaret Fizer: Aloe Vera plants 834-3217

Marie Flickinger: Lemon Balm 758-4202

Aleta Newell: Lots of Monkey Grass (good to control wash) 666-0991

Alice Preston: Clay pots 3" - 8" (about 15 pots) 664-4854

Ray Robbins: Mint and Jerusalem artichoke 227-6565

Martha Staples: Geraniums, Aloe Vera, Angel Leaf Begonias, small blossom Begonias and Jade plant 663-5238

Karen Vesole: Columbine 228-9704

Mildred Boyles Walton: 2 Crepe Myrtle (pink), Chrysanthemums 663-7331

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

MASTER GARDENERS' MAY CHECKLIST

PESTS: When you see ants crawling on plants, look for aphids. Ants "farm" aphids by stroking them to cause the ants to produce more honeydew and protect them from certain predators. The ants probably will not damage your plants, but the aphids will. Insecticidal soap will easily kill aphids.

Watch for spider mites and lace bugs on your azaleas. You will notice yellow specks on leaves as a result of pests feeding on the undersides of leaves. Try spraying with a dormant oil to suffocate mites, lace bugs and their eggs without killing beneficial insects in the area. Carefully follow directions on the label (some dormant oil sprays have temperature restrictions) and be sure to spray the undersides of leaves.

Thrips are tiny brownish-yellow insects which are attracted to plants with light colored blossoms. These pests are so small that you will probably see the damage before you see the insect. Thrips are a common problem on roses where they discolor the flowers by leaving spots or streaks on the petals. To control, remove infected flowers immediately and apply insecticidal soap or Orthene. More than one application will be necessary.

PESTICIDES: Before you open a pesticide to spray, read the label. Mix the solution at the recommended rates, not

stronger; more damage can be done by too strong a solution, including killing the plant. Too weak a solution may not solve the problem. Be sure to wear protective clothing, i.e. long sleeves, rubber gloves, boots, eye wear, etc.

VEGETABLES: Harvest cool weather crops now and begin planting beans, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers by seed or transplants. Some good varieties of okra to try for dwarf plants are: Clemson Spineless, Annie Oakley, Lee, and Blondy. All are good producers.

STILL OK TO: Plant caladiums, cannas, other summer bulbs and any container grown trees and shrubs. Buy azaleas now for next year's bloom -- prices are reduced after they have finished blooming.

ANNUALS: It's finally time to plant those impatiens, marigolds and petunias that have been for sale in the nurseries since the beginning of March.

BLUEBERRIES: Fertilize established plants this month with a formula for acid-loving plants. Apply regularly through the growing season.

SHRUBS: Spring-flowering shrubs can be pruned after they bloom. Try to work with the natural form of the shrub unless it is trained for a hedge or topiary.

MOTHER'S DAY: If you are fortunate enough to receive a gardenia for Mother's Day, treat it as an annual in your landscape or plant it in a container to bring it in and out of the house. Beware: gardenias are whitefly havens!

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

MASTER GARDENER NOTES

Master Gardener Jane Gulley was one of six persons recently inducted into the Arkansas Outdoors Hall of Fame. She was selected for her educational work with eagles.

For Zoocology Days, June 12 & 13, the Master Gardeners will have a booth at the zoo garden. Additional volunteers will be needed to help run the booth.

The Mantis tiller is now available for Master Gardener projects. Call Breck Campbell (666-9195) for more information.

The 1994 Flower & Garden Show committee is looking for Master Gardeners who would like to serve on the committee to help coordinate volunteer work. Call Beth for more details.

Mary Buerdelin (835-1224) in Indian Hills, NLR has free daylilies if you dig them. Call to set up a time to dig.



1993 Newsletter Staff

Editor	Julie Eckberg
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Calendar of Events	Ann Cooper Kay Groce
Checklist	Nancy Brillos
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Plant of the Month	Virginia Johnson Adam Harris
Projects	Karol McNeal Wincie Hughes
Trading Post	Alice Preston Margaret Fizer



Jim Wilson (left) of "The Victory Garden" accepts a print of the Old Mill from Joe Dickens (right) at the Master Gardener picnic on the Old Mill grounds in April.

Master Gardeners were entertained at the picnic by "Par Four," a barber shop quartet from North Little Rock.

Photos by Arkansas Video Production

Down By The Old Mill Stream

by Marie Flickinger

Amid dogwood blossoms, azaleas, tulips and other springtime beauties, a reception was held at the Old Mill in North Little Rock on Friday, April 16, at 5:00 PM. Mayor Patrick Henry Hays, the city of North Little Rock and Lakewood Gardens hosted the soiree to honor Jim Wilson, AETN's Victory Gardener and the Master Gardeners of Pulaski County.

More than one hundred guests were entertained by the Barbershop Quartet "Par Four" before enjoying a beautiful banquet served by "Simply The Best" catering service.

Joe Dickens presented Mr. Wilson with a framed picture of the Old Mill and a Master Gardener shirt and cap. Mayor Hays introduced Mr. Wilson, Carl Montgomery, manager of Lakewood Gardens, and other city officials. He also introduced Catherine Martin, granddaughter of Justin Matthews, the developer of the Mill, which was built in 1934. She presented AETN with a check from the Justin Matthews Foundation.

The Old Mill had never looked more beautiful, and the Master Gardeners were proud of the part they played in its beautification. The Master Gardeners thank the City of North Little Rock and Mayor Hays for a lovely evening which was enjoyed by everyone present.

FROM THE EDITOR



All of the Master Gardeners should have attended the reception for Jim Wilson of "The Victory Garden" at the Old Mill on April 16. After speaking with several people who have been visiting the Old Mill for many years, we all agreed it had never been more beautiful. Congratulations and thank you to all of the Old Mill volunteers -- your hard work created a masterpiece. (I was saddened to hear from Nancy Brillos that some of the azalea bushes were stolen the weekend after the reception. Nancy says these thefts occur quite frequently. Too bad we can't provide some kind of a "Crime Watch" for our gardens!)

Work in my yard and garden is progressing rather slowly this year. I am moving a little more slowly now, and tilling the garden is out of the question, but I do hope to plant several old-fashioned climbing roses along our back fence this year. (The baby is due July 1, so I'll probably be doing well just to maintain my current beds and at least plant tomatoes in the garden!)

Editor's Note: If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. My phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. (Example: May 15 is the deadline for the June newsletter.) Please try to have submissions typed.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

No report this month.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

An interesting program on "Propagation of Herbs" and "Herb Seed" was given on April 3 by Jaine Waldron. She also gave a demonstration on how to create a mini-greenhouse using baggies to transplant mint cuttings. Mary Ann Dillaha, Hilda Boger and Bill Burgin presented a program on making Easter Basket arrangements for the "Annuals" program. The huge planter in the recreation room has been cleaned and replanted by Hilda Boger and the African Violets are getting good care from Mildred Walton. (Thanks Hilda and Mildred!) The May 1 program will be given by Mary Keats McKinney and Mildred Walton, and the May 15 program will be presented by Gail Roberson.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

No report this month.

OLD MILL

The last big work day for cleaning and planting before the arrival of Jim Wilson was Thursday, April 15. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the picturesque beauty around the Old Mill during the Easter holidays. A summer maintenance plan starts in May.

OLD STATE HOUSE

April 14 was a scheduled work day, if the weather cooperated. Spring planting will begin as soon as the plants arrive. Until that time, the group is cleaning and preparing the area for planting.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

Several workers made a trip to Prescott to dig bulbs, Sumac and Beauty Bush, and 560 Jonquil bulbs were planted by the road to the Visitors Center. Workers have been assigned work weeks to maintain this project. Thanks to Wini Carter and Sally Garrison for cleaning the front beds and the hummingbird garden.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

Planting Day -- Friday, May 14 9:00 a.m. Bring tools for planting. (In case of rain, come on Tuesday, May 18.) If you can come, call Roxie Adams 224-3698 or Sherrie Gunter 835-0437. Help is also needed to weed the pansies.

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

Maintenance of plants already in the greenhouse is about all the activity for now. A work day will be scheduled in May.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

For the first time ever, the soil is being turned -- a back-breaking effort! This will give a fresher look to the packed soil. A work day is scheduled for May 8 at 9:00 a.m. -- all help will be greatly appreciated!

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Broccoli, collards, lettuce and assorted greens can be seen growing in about one-third of the garden, and the second planting of green peas is faring well. Tomato, eggplant and pepper plants growing in the greenhouse will be transplanted around May 1. Corn will be planted in about one-fourth of the garden. Work days are Monday mornings at 8:30 a.m. -- everyone is invited to help!

Calendar of Events

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| May 1 | Baptist Rehab -- program by Mary Keats McKinney and Mildred Walton | 11:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. We'll return to Little Rock around 5:30 p.m. Call Mrs. McKinney if you would like to go on the trip -- she needs to know by May 3. | |
| May 2 | Central Arkansas Iris Society Show 1-5 p.m. -- Garden Club Center, Lee at Kavanaugh | | |
| May 3 | Deadline to sign up for the Hot Springs 20th Century Garden trip. | May 14 | State Hospital Gardens workday 9:00 a.m. (Rain day -- May 18) |
| May 3, 10, 17, etc. | Zoo Garden workdays every Monday at 8:30 a.m. | May 15 | Baptist Rehab -- program by Gayle Roberson. |
| May 8 | Workday at the Zoo Aviary 9:00 a.m. | May 15 & 29 | Pinnacle Park "Friends Around the Firelight" 8-10 p.m. Meet at the Visitors Center for the campfire and program. Bring stick, marshmallows, blanket and flashlight. |
| May 8 | African Violet Society Show and Sale 10 a.m. - p.m. University Mall (One recertification point for attending.) | May 16 | Pinnacle Park "Tale of Two Trails" 2-3 p.m. Guest speakers Jim Rawlins and Tim Ernst, authors, will tell about the state's longest hiking trails. |
| May 11 | M.G. regular monthly meeting 11:45 a.m. ARKLA Blue Flame room. Richard C. Butler will present a program on iris. | May 25 | M.G. trip to Brambleberry Farm. Carpools will leave from the Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch. We'll return about 2:30 p.m. |
| Canceled | May 11-12 M.G. Trip to Memphis -- not enough interest. | Canceled | June 8-9 M.G. trip to Oklahoma -- not enough interest. |
| May 13 | Garland County M.G.'s will host a trip to the 20th Century Garden in Hot Springs. The cost will be \$12 for the boat ride to the garden. The "Belle of Hot Springs" is docked on Highway 7 South, past the race track and the Holiday Inn. It will leave at 1:00 p.m. If you wish to car pool to Hot Springs, meet at the Commuter Parking lot at I-630 and Shackelford Road at | Aug. 12-15 | Materials have been sent to those who showed interest in the convention trip to San Antonio. |



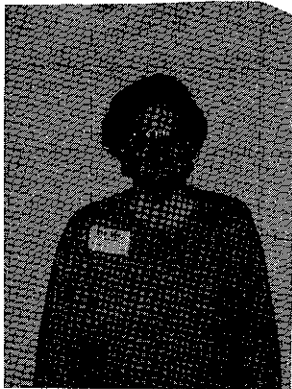
Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Six

June 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Helen Pitcock
SPOUSE Jim
CHILDREN Three boys and one girl. They all live in Arkansas, three in Little Rock and one in Fayetteville.
BECAME A MG In 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Old State House and computer layout and graphics for the Master Minutes

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION New chipper / shredder

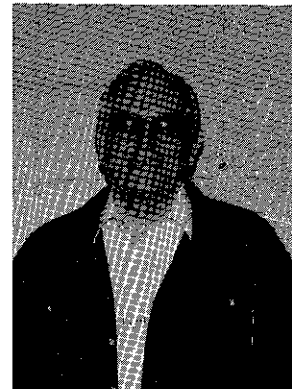
FAVORITE PLANTS Perennials

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Her two golden retrievers who like to use her flower beds for their bed

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Look into perennials that do well in this area

Helen went on a trip to China in April this year. It was springtime there and the countryside was very green and pretty. She particularly remembered the crops planted in narrow strips rather than in large fields as we are accustomed. Also, every square inch of space was planted.

After attending the inauguration in February, Helen was excited to locate the home of her first American ancestors in Virginia. They had come from England in 1630 among the first settlers. As she had been trying to locate her ancestors for some time, it was a real thrill to locate the original homesite and find that the land was still owned by descendants of the original settlers.



NAME S. H. Bill Burgin
SPOUSE Marguerite
CHILDREN Two children, a son and a daughter, plus two grandchildren
BECAME A MG In 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Baptist Rehabilitation Institute
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Drip watering system in his garden

FAVORITE PLANTS Whatever vegetable is producing at the time

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Not enough space in raised beds

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Use a raised bed system for vegetables and use cloche covers in winter to extend the growing season

Bill is a native Arkansan, born and raised in Cato. He is a retired insurance representative presently working in a physical therapy center as a massage therapist.

Not only is Bill a Master Gardener, but he is an international gardener as well. While in England for two years with the European Division of the Prudential Insurance Company, he rented some old church property in the Oxford area for a vegetable garden. He reports that cool weather crops did very well, but a greenhouse was necessary to raise crops such as tomatoes and peppers.

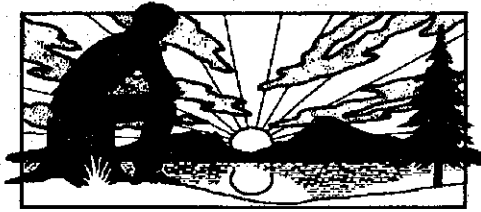
(Bill's garden was featured as a KATV Channel 7 Weather Garden on May 20. Congratulations Bill!)

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No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth.

--Thomas Jefferson



CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

McArthur Park / Art Center
Marcia Holder, M.G. '90

This garden is dedicated to all those who have suffered the tragedy of violent crime.

May its beauty and peace rejuvenate our spirits as we continue to work towards a safer world.

--April 22, 1990

These words are inscribed on a plaque in the rock portion of the Contemplation Garden. Once a year, a vigil is

held at the garden culminating activities of Victims of Violent Crimes Week. (This garden is a memorial for Victims of Violent Crimes.)

The garden was built by the city of Little Rock with a monetary gift from a private source. The city provides supplies and maintains the garden and pond in McArthur Park along with the rest of the McArthur Park acreage. This is the third year that the Master Gardeners have been caring for the garden.

Master Gardeners Ruth Jones and Ginger Coggins are co-chairing the Contemplation Garden project for the second year. They plan and coordinate plantings biannually and supervise weekly maintenance. The project members often work under "hazardous conditions" due to the resident geese.

The Fine Arts Club of the Arkansas Arts Center finances the continuing project. The garden is "jeweled" with both perennials and annuals. Plantings include creeping verberna, ageratum, periwinkle, zinnia, thyme, sedum, Louisiana iris, purple coneflower, Shasta daisy, lisianthus, weeping yupon, creeping phlox and liriopse, and jonquils and pansies in the spring.

Plan a visit to the garden near the Art Center and take some time to reflect on those it memorializes.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Boon-Nam Blackwell: Volunteer impatiens 224-7557 (call 7 to 9 p.m.)

Cecelia Buck: Vinca minor ground cover 834-2825

S. H. Bill Burgin: Looking for shade/partial shade perennials 221-3559

Breck Campbell: Garlic chives 666-9195

Ellen Kane: Althea/Rose of Sharon -- yours for the digging 868-5035

Mary Lee McHenry: Would like Lilies of the Valley 221-2590

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

GREENHOUSE UPDATE

by Breck Campbell

During 1992, there were several major activities at the Master Gardener greenhouse. First was the cleanup day soon after we were given permission to use the facility. The yard was almost waist high in weeds and the greenhouse only had one bench. About 20 Master Gardeners armed with weed eaters, rakes, scythes, mowers and lopers attacked the yard and completely cleared it. In amongst the weeds, we found many potted shrubs which were set aside to salvage later — photinias, ligustrums, helleri hollies, aucuba, etc.

The greenhouse itself was empty except for one bench along the north side, a propagation table with a mister and a HUGE Ficus tree. (We still have the Ficus tree. Many of us have wondered if it would even be possible to get it out since it is so large.) Several Master Gardeners built benches for the south side and the middle area of the greenhouse. We made a bench for mixing potting soil and put in a sink adjacent to it. We also built a small desk for records.

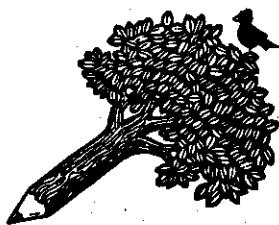
We have had two major planting efforts so far. We raised marigolds and portulaca from seed, and later raised pansies from plugs. We had good success both times, and the

plants were used in the State Hospital gardens. Plants left over from these projects were used for money-raising activities. Many of the plants found during our initial cleanup were repotted and salvaged. Several hundred pine seedlings and cypress seedlings were planted in pots for the Forestry Commission.

Some of the exhibitors at the Arkansas State Flower and Garden Show gave us their leftover plants, which we repotted and made cuttings for propagation. We raised several hundred wax begonias this way. Pumpkins were planted in the greenhouse yard from seedlings started in flats in the greenhouse. The pumpkins were then sold at craft shows last fall.

The zoo garden crew has raised vegetable seedlings to plant in the zoo garden. We are presently raising some yellow flag iris from seed donated by Carl Hunter. Some of these plants will be used at the Old Mill.

In the coming year, we will again raise plants from seed to be used in the gardens of the State Hospital. We are currently raising yellow bearded irises, yellow water irises (for sale), celosia (cockscomb), a few cypress trees and some perennials for use by other projects. The greenhouse is a busy place!



MASTER GARDENER NOTES

The Zoo Garden Committee could use some help with the Master Gardener booth for Zoocology Days on Saturday, June 12. Please call Jeff Johnson (562-7926) if you would like to work a shift.

HELP! The State Hospital Committee could use some temporary help during the summer months. If you would like to accumulate a few extra work hours, call Ruth Gibson (835-0158) to set up your work time.

Want to show off your garden? Beth is looking for a variety of gardens for the KATV Channel 7 Weather Garden program. The Weather Garden is filmed live for Channel 7 weather at 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. If you live in the Little Rock / North Little Rock area and would be willing to share your garden, please call Beth at the Extension Office (660-6650).

There has been some confusion about who can use the donated Mantis tiller. Both Master Gardeners AND the Master Gardener projects are welcome to borrow the Mantis for their tilling needs. Call Breck Campbell (666-9195) to reserve the tiller and make arrangements for getting and returning it. Don't forget the Master Gardener Gardens tour on Tuesday, June 8. (See the Calendar of Events for more details.)

If you would like to go on the U of A Fruit Experiment Station trip to Clarksville, please call Mrs. McKinney (660-6650) by June 14. (See Calendar of Events for more details.)

Marie Flickinger (758-4202) and Lois Corley (666-2498) are co-chairing the Social Activities Committee and will be planning a Fall Picnic and Christmas Party. Thanks to Mary Francis Roman for doing such a great job last year. Any volunteers to help with planning, etc. for this year's events would be much appreciated!

MASTER GARDENERS' JUNE CHECKLIST

Pests and Disease: Apply a 3" thick layer of mulch around shrubs and in the vegetable garden to keep down weeds.

Aphids and lacebugs are out in full force, attacking everything from azaleas to tomatoes. Use insecticidal soap or malathion. Be sure to get good coverage on the underside of the leaves, and hose off any plant with water about two hours after application if it is not certain the plant cannot be damaged by the insecticide used.

Placing aluminum foil around the base of the tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants will not only reflect more light on the plants, but will also confuse aphids which seek out the darker underside of the leaf. Flea beetles, unfortunately, enjoy bright, dry and hot places, and the foil will encourage them.

Whitefly can be controlled by using insecticidal soap or a strong water spray. A trap can be made by cutting strips of a bright yellow plastic detergent bottle, coating it with petroleum jelly, and suspending them around the gardenia bushes, etc. The whitefly is attracted to the color yellow and will get stuck. Clean and replenish the

petroleum jelly periodically.

Blackspot has arrived! Keep up the spraying schedule on tender Chinese Tea roses and Red-tipped Photinias. Hardy antique roses (if affected) probably will survive the attack. Clean up and destroy any diseased foliage falling to the ground. Do not put it in the compost pile!

As with any pesticide treatment, be sure to follow the label instructions.

Vegetables: All seeds and seedlings should be planted by now. Be sure to keep up with the watering when the weather is dry. Also, add some lime to the soil around tomatoes about once a month. Harvest eggplants 42 days after the fruit first formed. The sugar content is the highest at this point.

Perennials: Iris should be left alone for about 6 weeks after they finish blooming, then they can be lifted and divided. Peonies and roses are heavy feeders; be sure to fertilize them regularly and keep them watered. Wait until the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs turns yellow before cleaning up the bulb bed.

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

Calendar of Events

- June 2** Pinnacle Mtn. Happy Birthday Arkansas State Parks! The Arkansas State Parks system is 60 years old. Facility Manager Bill Dillion will present the "Ask Me About Arkansas" program featuring slides and information on all of our state parks. Also, they will kick off their "I Hiked 100 Miles" T-shirt program.
- June 7-11 or June 14-18** Pinnacle Mtn. Discovery Camps for 7 to 10 year olds. Five days of adventure discovering forests, ponds, rivers and wildlife. Cost is \$55. Call for reservations.
- Canceled June 8-9** M.G. trip to Oklahoma -- not enough interest.
- June 8** Master Gardener Landscape Tour 9 a.m. See Beth's enclosed letter for the meeting place location. We will tour selected gardens of our members. Bring a sack lunch.
- June 12** Wildwood Festival '93. Nature walk with Carl Hunter 10 a.m.
- June 12-13** Zoocology Day -- The Master Gardeners will have a booth at the zoo garden on June 12 only. If you would like to help, call Jeff Johnson (562-7926).
- June 17** Trip to U of A Fruit Experiment Station in Clarksville. Bring a sack lunch and drinks. Time will be spent out in the orchards, so dress comfortably. We will carpool from the Extension Office at 8 a.m. and return at about 4 p.m. If you would like to come along, please call Mrs. McKinney by June 14.
- June 19** Wildwood Festival '93. Nature walk (guide unknown at this time) 10 a.m.
- June 19** Pinnacle Mtn. Starlight Concert 7 p.m. Musicians from the Ozark Folk Center will perform in the West Summit Picnic area. Bring lawn chairs or blankets and a picnic supper.
- June 26 & 27** Pinnacle Mtn. Canoe Day Float 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Glide through the heart of the park on a guided interpretive float. Cost \$25 and bring your lunch.
- Aug. 12-15** Materials have been sent to those who expressed interest in the convention trip to San Antonio. Registration is due by July 1. (Mail directly to Texas.) If you need a registration form, call Mrs. McKinney.

FROM THE EDITOR



Greetings Master Gardeners! Hasn't the weather in May been wonderful -- some cool days, some sunny, warm days and a few days with a little too much rain. My red hardy amaryllis are in full bloom and it looks like all of my annual begonias survived the winter, thanks to the leaves left on my flower beds for frost protection and the mild winter. (They're even blooming already.)

We did finally get the garden tilled, but then it rained (poured) for four days. So now it needs to be tilled again before we can do the planting. And the antique climbing roses are going to have to wait until next spring -- there have just been too many other things that took priority this year.

Editor's Note: If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. My phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. (Example: May 15 is the deadline for the June newsletter.) Please try to have submissions typed.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

April 27 was a work day at the Contemplation garden which included cleaning out the old plants and planting new ones. Another work day is planned for May 20 with work scheduled in the court yard. Ruth Jones entered the Contemplation garden in the City Beautiful Contest in the volunteer garden category. Best of Luck!

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

The May 1 program was presented by group #1 on "African Violets", and the May 15 program will be on "Container Gardening". After the May 15 program, the group will plant annuals and perennials in the court yard. The window boxes have been completed with a beautiful display of geraniums for everyone to enjoy. The Rehab. volunteers are also taking care of a number of planters of African violets. Group #3 will conduct the first program in June and group #4 will be in charge of the program on the third weekend.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

Our newest Master Gardener project sounds like it is a big undertaking. The group will be caring for three burms and maintaining beds around the entire building. Crape-myrtle have been planted on the Main Street side of the building and large quantities of monkey grass have been planted, courtesy of Aleta Newell.

OLD MILL

No report this month.

OLD STATE HOUSE

A major planting day was scheduled for May 14, with ongoing cleaning and planting throughout the month.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

The wildflower seeds have not been received yet, but will be planted as soon as they arrive. Plans for a shade garden on the west side of the Visitors Center are in the works.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

A work day was held on May 14 which included the planting of Mexican sunflowers, daisies and Obedient Nierembergia. Weekly maintenance will be scheduled to try to stay on top of all the beds for which we are responsible. Master Gardeners not on this committee will be called to volunteer at least one work day since this is a very large project. We want this project to look especially great to show our appreciation for the use of the greenhouse!

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

Flats of Pseudacous (yellow water iris) and Cleosia (bright rose color) have been planted and will be sold for the meager sum of \$4.00 per flat. Call Ruth Owings (445-4344), Breck Campbell (666-9195) or Dorothy Wilks (225-0524) and they will be glad to arrange a time when someone can be there for you to purchase plants.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

The soil is still in the process of being turned to try to give the birdhouse a fresh look. Lacewings have been ordered to try to control a mealy bug problem. We will keep you updated on their success.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

The zoo garden was featured as the first KATV Channel 7 Weather Garden this year. Jeff Johnson and Mickey Williams did a great job as television "celebrities"!

TWENTIETH CENTURY GARDEN TRIP

Martha Staples, Master Gardener 1989

May 13 was a red letter day for all the Master Gardeners who took the tour to Hot Springs.

Beginning around 11:00 AM, three vans and one car (future Master Gardeners from Conway) left for Hot Springs. We arrived at the "Belle of Hot Springs" boat dock around 12:00 noon and spent one enjoyable hour eating our sack lunches on the patio by the lake. At 1:00 PM we took a guided tour to the island where the Twentieth Century Gardens are located.

This garden has been developed by Mrs. Verma C. Garvan, who in 1985 bequeathed it to the Landscape Architecture Program in the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The property is composed of several large peninsulas with over four miles of shore line (the part that is open to the public today consists of around forty acres), native forests of pines, oaks, hickory, sweet gum, hawthorne, redbud and many dogwoods. You may observe hundreds of introduced species briefly listed in these categories.

The entrance walk is a 250 foot walk and is composed of native rock with many azaleas and dwarf white vinca. Dwarf mondo grass is planted along the sides of the walk to hold the soil intact. The rock gardens with native rocks have been added to those rocks already there. They support dwarf azaleas, dwarf false cypress, ferns, mahonia, *galax*, *sarcococca* (sweet box), and other shade loving plants.

The conifer border consists of 265 feet walking path and contains more than 15 species selected for their tall upright growth and unique colors and textures.

Twin Rock Ridge - here we have two natural rock bridges running east and west and planted with daffodils, dwarf hollies, tulips, dwarf iris, junipers and boxwoods. The tulip and daffodils had gone by but the evergreens were lovely.

Woodland Walk - This is one of the main walks and leads to Daffodil Hill, the Border of Old Roses, Camellia Trail and Hawthorn Hill.

White Oak Walkout focuses on a large white oak which turns a brilliant red in fall. Centipede grass and fescue grass cover the center area. Other interesting plants on the sides include the rare yellow magnolia, Elizabeth laurel and Katsura tree. Also Buford hollies planted across the back for the Border of Old Roses. A collection of old antique roses dating back to *Rosa gallica* (c. 1300) is backed up by *magnolia grandiflora* (Timeless Beauty). There were also some attractive baptista plants in bloom. The roses were overflowing with blooms and fragrance.

A Woodland Walk - this is also one of the main walks and leads to the Japanese Maple Hill which runs east and west and is planted with over forty Japanese maples and twenty tree peonies.

The Old Brick Road is made from solid red brick. (The Garvan family owned the Acme Brick plant in Malvern.) The walk continues down past Hawthorne Hill and back to the boat dock on the island. Many azaleas and companion plants line the one mile loop trail.

Many thanks to Mrs. Garvan for sharing her garden with us; the Master Gardeners of Hot Springs who were the tour guides; those who provided our walking stocks; and the County Agent of Garland County. We also appreciated those who drove the vans.

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Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Seven

July 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Jay Hill
PLACE OF BIRTH Little Rock
BECAME A MG 1991
FAVORITE PART OF CLASS Enjoyed all aspects
WORK ACTIVITY 2nd Vice President of Master Gardeners and loves to do the telephone at the Extension Office
MOST VALUED

GARDEN POSSESSION His backyard! and his light-weight tiller.

FAVORITE PLANT Vegetable garden

BEST PART OF BEING A MG Learning so much about Arkansas plants and what grows well in our area

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Whiteflies. He would like to know more about the organic treatment of insects rather than using chemicals.

GARDENING ADVICE Learn about Arkansas plants for your garden.

Jay became interested in gardening as a Hendrix student in the late forties when he helped Professor Spassard with his hydroponic tomato farm.

He especially loves tilling the soil and bed preparation. He volunteers at least one hour a day, 5 days a week, year round, pruning, weeding, and overseeing beds at the country club. Fortunate indeed are those MGs who serve telephone duty with Jay and learn of his vast knowledge of gardening!



NAME Aleta Newell
PLACE OF BIRTH Quitman, Arkansas
BECAME A MG 1991

FAVORITE PART OF CLASS Fruits
WORK ACTIVITY Greenhouse

MOST VALUED GARDEN

POSSESSIONS Tiller, Weedeater, and pickup truck (especially at the

farm)

BEST PART OF BEING A MG Being able to share with others and to use information received

FAVORITE PLANT Roses

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Not remembering everything I would like

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Enjoy your garden and know how important it is to take care of the soil, earth and plants.

BEST GARDENING ADVICE RECEIVED

There are a few things that have no answer.

Aleta sees the handiwork of God in growing things and wishes to pass on to her children and grandchildren her appreciation and love for plants and gardening.

She spends a part of every week on her 40 acre farm near Quitman that her grandfather homesteaded and where she grew up. It has been a real joy for her to get the property lines re-established and fenced; and after clearing the fence rows to discover hundreds of dogwood trees which she generously shared with MG projects. One member of the Pinnacle Mtn. group, on the digging trip to her farm, discovered that she and Aleta were distant relatives!

Aleta raises honey bees and some of us have been fortunate enough to get some of her delicious honey!

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OUR TRIP TO BRAMBLEBERRY FARM

Wini Carter, Master Gardener '92

On May 25, twenty-four Master Gardeners took a delightful trip to Brambleberry Farm (near Center Ridge). The hosts were Ed and Karen Robinson and their daughter, Rebecca Palek.

The group toured and viewed the greenhouses filled with perennials and saw a slide show and video tapes on perennials. Beth Phelps said that copies are being made of the video tapes and will be available at the Extension Office around July 1.

Lunch, supplied in brown bags by the Master Gardeners, was enjoyed on the porch of the Robinson home.

A highlight for many was the purchase of some of the beautiful perennials. Fortunately, the Blackwell van had been driven to the farm -- it provided much needed extra space to bring plants back to Little Rock when car trunks had been loaded to capacity.

OLD STATEHOUSE GARDENS

Ruth Gibson

The gardens at the Old State House have recovered from the election of our new President when the Democratic National Committee had the plantings from all four beds removed for the evening of November 3. Birnamwood Nursery was in charge of this project and after the election, the beds were planted again with new pansies and some shrubs were replaced.

The gardens began 1993 with pansies and daffodils in bloom. Several workdays have replaced the early Spring blooms with red caladiums and white impatiens. The Summer maintenance schedule is in place, and includes weeding, deadheading, fertilizing and watering as needed. Two people are assigned per week throughout the summer.

The gardens are lovely, and the committee has been rewarded by receiving the City Beautiful Award as the best volunteer effort.

Pink tulips and pansies will replace the daffodils, and will be planted in the Fall to provide bloom for Winter and Spring.

Ruth Parker and Marian Berry co-chair this committee.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Marie Flickinger (758-4202) Lemon balm and spearmint

Aleta Newell (666-0991) Lots of monkey grass and big gourd seedlings

Alice Preston (664-4854) About 15 clay pots 3-5"

Ray Robbins (227-0565) Mint and Jerusalem artichokes

Martha Staples (663-5238) Geraniums, aloe vera, angel leaf begonias, small blossom begonias and jade plant

Karen Vesole (228-9704) Red and yellow columbine, and lots of white/red rose of Sharon

Mildred Boyles Walton (663-7331) 2 crepe myrtles, pinkish-white chrysanthemum, goldenrod

Master Gardeners, do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call **Alice Preston** (664-4854) or **Margaret Fizer** (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".



MASTER GARDENERS' JULY CHECKLIST

Pests and Disease

Apply a 3" thick layer of mulch around shrubs and in the vegetable garden to keep down weeds.

Aphids, Cutworms, Corn Borers, and the evil cousins of the Ladybug (Mexican Bean Beetles, and Spotted Cucumber Beetles) will need vigilant control this month. Use registered insecticides like Malathion and Carbaryl as controls.

New research on slug traps shows that really large slugs can sip all the beer they want and then slime away without being caught in the trap. Try mixing a little flour with the beer to make it goopy. The large slugs usually get stuck in it then. Also, it seems that slugs prefer non-alcoholic beer; apparently it is the Brewer's Yeast smell that attracts them.

Vegetables

Keep those tomatoes supplied with mulch, lime, calcium and ample water. Even moisture will help prevent Catfacing, Fruit Cracking, and Blossom-End Rot. Blossom drop will be a problem as daytime temperatures soar into the upper 90's (Let's hope they don't go any higher!) and the nighttime temperatures do not get below 75°F.

Cucurbits (squash, cucumbers, melons) will be very susceptible to Vine Borers now. As a control, some people have had success with placing moth balls around the base of the plants as the adult is a moth.

Perennials

German Bearded Iris should be lifted and divided if they have been in place 3-5 years.

Cannas can be attacked by Corn Earworms. Try *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as a control. Shrubs: Watch out for Powdery Mildew and Black Sooty Mold on the leaves. Use a registered fungicide such as Funginex to control Powdery Mildew and control aphids to control Black Sooty Mold, as it grows on the "honeydew" secreted by aphids.

Roses should be kept sprayed throughout the summer to prevent Black Spot.

Annuals

"Dead-head" the spent blossoms to prevent the formation of seeds, which will inhibit repeat blooming.

Tools

Keeping them in a state of good repair saves headaches later. Keep pruning equipment sharp and dry. Be sure to sharpen the blades on the lawn mower, and change the oil and air filter.

In case of drought

Water, water, water the soil (not overhead as this encourages diseases)

Questions from Virginia Johnson

1. For those of you who got bleeding hearts and hostas from me: How are they doing?
2. How is money plant harvested? Should I go ahead and cut the yellowing stalks and hang them to dry, or should I allow the stalks to completely dry on the plant and then cut them?
3. Last year my hostas were horribly chewed up by slugs. This year I have not had any damage at all. What went right?

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

Calendar of Events

- June 23 - Aug. 11** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Nature Discovery Days program for 7-10 year olds, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Call 868-5806.
- July 13** Master Gardener Board meeting at 11:00 AM, Extension Office.
- July 17** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park arboretum work, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Meet at the Arboretum parking area. Wear "grubbies", sturdy shoes, insect repellent.
- July 24** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Christmas in July Craft Workshop, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. \$25 fee. Advance registration. Call 868-5806 for details.
- July 31** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park "To Band a Hummingbird", 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon. Demonstration, talks, slides.
- Aug. 12-15** Master Gardener Convention in San Antonio.
- Sept. 16** Master Gardener tour of Clark Tapline's in North Little Rock, 9:00 AM. Grows wildflowers and also supplies cut flowers to florists.
- Sept. 28** Master Gardener tour to Larry Loman's.
- Oct. 6** Tour of Master Gardener projects with the new class.

FROM THE (Assistant) EDITOR

Helen Pitcock, MG '92



EDITOR Julie Eckberg

Our editor Julie Eckberg and her husband, Eric, are expecting their first child any day now, so Julie will be taking the next couple of months off to get acquainted with the new little person at her house.

I didn't make it to the last group workday at the Old State House and that may be why I'm on the weekly list for the some of the hottest days in the summer! Think maybe co-chairmen Ruth and Marian are trying to tell me something? That's what happens when you don't show up when you're supposed to!

Just kidding. The Old Statehouse garden is a lovely place no matter what the weather - and now so much a part of our national history - what an honor to be able to contribute my small part.

Newsletter contributors, please see my address below for August and September articles and please be on time because I need all the help I can get!

Assistant Editor's Note: If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Helen Pitcock, 2300 Gunpower Road, Little Rock, AR 72207. My phone number is 225-9100. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. (Example: July 15 is the deadline for the August newsletter.) Please try to have submissions typed.

MASTER GARDENER NOTES



‡ The Pulaski County Master Gardener Association is now a non-profit corporation registered with the state of Arkansas.

‡ There will be a tour of Clark Taplin's wildflowers and greenhouse September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Clark Taplin, M.G. '92, grows flowers for cutting to be sold to local florists.

‡ Thanks to Breck Campbell, Jay Hill, Cornie Thomas, Hilda Boger, Bettye Jane Daugherty and Karen Vesole for welcoming their

fellow Master Gardeners into their gardens for the Garden Tour on June 8. It was a great treat! Special thanks to Jay Hill for arranging the wonderful tour.

‡ Recertification points -- 20th Century Garden Tour = 3 points -- 1993 Master Gardener Garden Tour = 3 points.

‡ Catherine Hamilton, M.G. '91, was married on April 24 to her high school sweetheart, Jack Hepinstall. Catherine says she will be signing her name as Catherine Hamilton Hepinstall since her former students will always remember her as Catherine Hamilton. Congratulations Catherine and Jack!

‡ Mary Buerdelin in Indian Hills, NLR, still has many free daylilies for the digging. All you have to do is call (835-1224) to set up a time and provide the muscle power!

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

The work day in June was very productive. Clean-up and deadheading were of course a must but new plants were added among the rocks. Many of the flowers are blooming and the beauty and serenity are in full force. Work schedules have been set up in two person teams, each taking a week in which they will be responsible for the garden and pots outside the Art Center.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

No report

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

No report

OLD MILL

No report

OLD STATE HOUSE

They have gotten everything back in good shape and are just maintaining the status-quo with watering and maintenance.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

They planted trees, bushes and wildflowers along the roadside leading to the Visitor Center. They also moved flowers and older significant foliage prior to the construction of the Aboretum trail.

STATE HOSPITAL GROUNDS

They have all their beds mulched and planted now with day lilies, Mexican sunflower, cosmos, daisies, obedience and a variety of other flowers. The beds are beautiful! They are looking to the future and would like to plant just perennials in yellows, red and oranges. They would like to know if any of our Master Gardeners out there have anything of this nature they would like to donate. If you do, please call Ruth Gibson at 835-0158 or Joann Hulsey at 562-6471. They have two-person teams made up for working but could still use more help. Again, please call Ruth or Joann.

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

No report


ZOO BIRDHOUSE

No report

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Their summer vegetables such as tomatoes, yellow squash, lima beans, white corn and cucumbers are coming on quite nicely. They event they had the weekend of June 12-13 was well attended. Bill Bunten, City Parks Director, has indicated that he wants to replace the railroad ties around the garden with rocks. This may be a future happening.

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1993**

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This MASTER MINUTES newsletter is compiled by Master Gardeners to support the Pulaski County Master Gardener volunteer program. Master Gardeners have contributed over 8,500 hours of service to the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service since 1989.

Prepared for

Beth Phelps

Beth Phelps, C.E.A. - Agriculture



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 Four

Number Eight

August 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Marcia Holder
SPOUSE John
CHILDREN Two sons - Devon is a student at UALR. Ryan is a sophomore at the University of Mississippi at Oxford.
BECAME A MG 1990
WORK ACTIVITY Contemplation Garden at the Art Center

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Spading fork, which Marcia operates

FAVORITE PLANT

Hostas and impatiens
ADVICE TO GARDENERS Don't be afraid to pull things out and start over.

Marcia enjoys landscaping and likes to build and organize things. During the recent heat wave she has especially enjoyed her pool and cabana.

Her backyard also produces a yearly family of raccoons which make interesting residents of a woodsy area.

Marcia received a degree in dietetics from Iowa State University in Ames. She has seen several parts of our country having grown up in Minnesota and spent time in San Antonio, Frederick, Maryland, and Denver before moving to Little Rock.



NAME Norma Parker
SPOUSE David
CHILDREN Daughter in Greenville, Texas, working as a nuclear medical technician
BECAME A MG 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Baptist Rehabilitation Institute
MOST VALUED

GARDEN POSSESSIONS Knee pads, garden hose and sprinkler heads

FAVORITE PLANT

IRIS
Norma's garden is a rocky, shady hillside. With terraced beds and containers to work with, you can understand her regard for hoses and sprinklers during our long hot, dry spell.

She was born in Star City, Arkansas, and later moved to Risen. This past year Norma completed her BA in English at UALR. A belated congratulations are in order!

Project Reports

All projects reported the same thing this month except one. Everyone's working hard doing the same thing -- watering!

Jacksonville's new Master Garden at City Hall has been planted with 250 mums with at least 400 more to be planted in the near future.

They're getting ready for Jacksonville's "Mums, Music and Muscadines" Festival the first weekend in October. Jacksonville MG's tell us to mark our calendars now for this big event.

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Master Gardener Notes

Motion to be presented

The Master Gardener's Board of Directors unanimously approved a motion to be presented to the general membership to consider implementation of \$10 annual dues for returning members. This would be used to cover the cost of the newsletter and the projects. A vote will be taken at the September 14 meeting.

Trip to Larry Loman's

We'll carpool from the Extension Office at 8 AM, Tuesday, September 28, for Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery. Bring a sack lunch. Call Mrs. McKinney if you plan to go so we can better plan the car pools.

Fall Foliage tour from Little Rock to Harrison.

We will leave from Second Presbyterian Church (in the back) at 8 AM, Thursday, October 14 and travel north of Russellville on Highway 7.

We hope to catch the foliage at its peak. Lunch will be at the Rockhouse Bar B-Que in Harrison.

We'll return to Little Rock about 5 PM. The cost for bus fare will be \$20. Please call Mrs. McKinney to make a reservation and send your bus fare to Beth.

Make checks payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Need yellow, red or orange perennials for the State Hospital grounds beds

Call Joann Husley (562-6471) or Ruth Gibson (835-6884)

Old Mill Note Cards: pen and ink drawing, 8 cards/envelopes - \$4.50.

Call Nancy Brilllos for more info (758-6884)

...ATTENTION...

Not many of you have called us,
But, we know you're out there.
It seems as though it's just too hot
To really even care.

Look around your yard today.

See what's in your way.

Give us a call,

And we'll help you make someone's day.

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

Master Gardener Calendar

August/Sept

Help Pinnacle Mountain educational programs by donating used books (except textbooks) and magazines for their fifth annual book sale in September. Bring books to the Visitor Center anytime during regular hours.

Aug 12-15

MG trip to the international convention in San Antonio

Sept 14

MG regular meeting at 11:45 AM in Arkla's Blue Flame Room

Sept 16

MG tour of Clark Tapline's in North Little Rock beginning at 9 AM. He grows wildflowers and also supplies florists with cut flowers.

Sept 28

MG trip to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery

Oct 6

Project tour for the new class of Master Gardeners

Oct 7

MG Fall Family Picnic at Burns Park

Oct 12

MG regular meeting

Oct 14

MG Fall Foliage tour from Little Rock to Harrison

Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 10

Training sessions for the class of new Master Gardeners

Nov 9

MG regular meeting

Master Gardeners at Work and Play



Master Gardeners at 20th Century Garden in Hot Springs, 1993



Master Gardeners at Fruit Substation in Clarksville, 1993

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

Checklist for August

LAWNS

Let your lawn grow about 1/2 to 1 inch taller during the hottest part of summer. Grass is under stress this time of year and needs the extra leaf surface for photosynthesis.

The turf will stay thick enough to slow evaporation from soil. Water only when needed, water well, water deep to encourage deep roots that will sustain the turf during drought.

WATERING

Dry periods will injure even established trees and shrubs. Water often in times of drought conditions. Use a soaker hose or drip irrigation to reduce runoff and evaporation. Building wells or dams around trees to catch and hold more water will help the watering tasks.

To reduce competition for water on newly planted trees (one year in ground), eliminate the turf grass around the tree replacing it with mulch. Resist planting flowers around the new trees as well.

ANNUALS

Some annuals will be getting leggy. Cut back plants and fertilize with a water soluble product. You still have time to replant a second crop of zinnias, marigolds, and several other bedding

plants if you choose to pull the diseased or bad ones.

Some suggestions for easier to grow late summer "fill in" plants are: cosmos, they grow very rapidly and love the heat, come in a variety of colors; sanvitalia, daisy type blooms, tolerate heat and dry conditions; zinnia linearis, the white is a new color for this rugged heat loving annual, blooms all the time with a fine texture leaf; melampodium, star shaped golden blooms will tolerate heat and bloom all season.

FALL BULBS

Plant fall blooming bulbs now -- crocus, colchicums, spider lilies.

Divide iris this month into September. If your plants haven't bloomed well the last few years it may be due to overcrowding.

FALL WEBWORMS

You may begin to notice webs on the limbs of pecan, cherry, persimmon, and sycamore trees. These are the nests of webworms and they can do considerable damage to foliage if untreated.

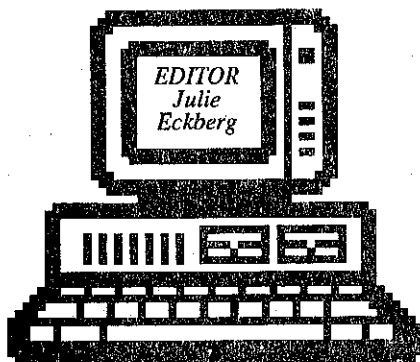
Recommended treatment is to remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* spray to leaves the worms are feeding on.

FROM THE (Assistant) EDITOR Helen Pitcock, MG '92

Congrats to Editor Julie Eckberg and husband, Eric, on the birth of their daughter, Jessica Marie, on July 10. Jessica weighed in at 7.5 pounds and Julie says she has lots of hair and is the smartest, cutest etc. etc. etc. (Of course, we knew that.)

Well, I waited as long as I could before turning on the water last week...watered well, watered deep (just like our checklist said)...the day before the storm. But considering our poor neighbors to the north, I'm not complaining.

Try to stay cool in this weather, use good watering techniques, remember to put out fresh water and provide shade for your pets and the wildlife.



Editor's Note: If you have articles or any other items to be included in the Master Minutes Newsletter, mail them to: Helen Pitcock, 2300 Gunpowder Road, Little Rock, AR 72207. My phone number is 225-9100. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please try to have submissions typed.

1993 AARS-Honored Roses

Four new rose varieties have earned the All-America Rose Selections badge of excellence for 1993. The winners--Rio Samba, Sweet Inspiration, Solitude and Child's Play--boast qualities that rose buyers want, according to AARS President Robert DeMayo.

Rio-Samba--is a hybrid tea being introduced by Jackson & Perkins. Its brilliant yellow flowers shade into orange. The color seems to intensify in sunlight and the orange on the petal edges becomes more prominent as it ages.

Rio Samba was named for the brilliantly dressed Samba dancers who add color and spectacle to Carnival in Rio. Like its namesake, Rio Samba is a true attention getter.

This rose also boasts good flower form as well as a gentle perfume. Flower buds are a handsome pointed oval, and flowers open with 25-30 petals. Like all hybrid teas, its flowers grow one to a stem making it excellent for cutting.

Sweet Inspiration--is also being introduced by Jackson & Perkins. A floribunda with exceptional form, it has already been honored with a Silver Medal in Japan.

It stays compact and dense, giving it lots of uses outside the traditional rose garden. With its pleasant pink flowers, Sweet Inspiration makes a wonderful addition to a sunny flower bed, perennial or shrub border.

Solitude--is a radiant orange grandiflora with orange-gold reverse. Solitude's unique coloring is "a blend of all the colors of sunset," according to Steven Hutton of The Conard-Pyle Co., the rose introducer.

A vigorous plant, Solitude promises lots of blooms with scalloped outer petals for an elegant, old-fashioned

look. And Solitude's buds are attractive even before the flower opens thanks to beautifully shaped red-green sepals.

Child's Play--is a miniature introduced by Nor'East Miniature Roses and is as easy to grow as its name suggests. The vigorous little plant grows to almost two feet in height and produces a dense, well-branched bush.

Child's Play opens with classic pointed bud form, revealing white petals edged with pink. As the flower opens fully, the white becomes more pronounced with the pink remaining at the very edges of each petal for a picotee effect unusual in roses.

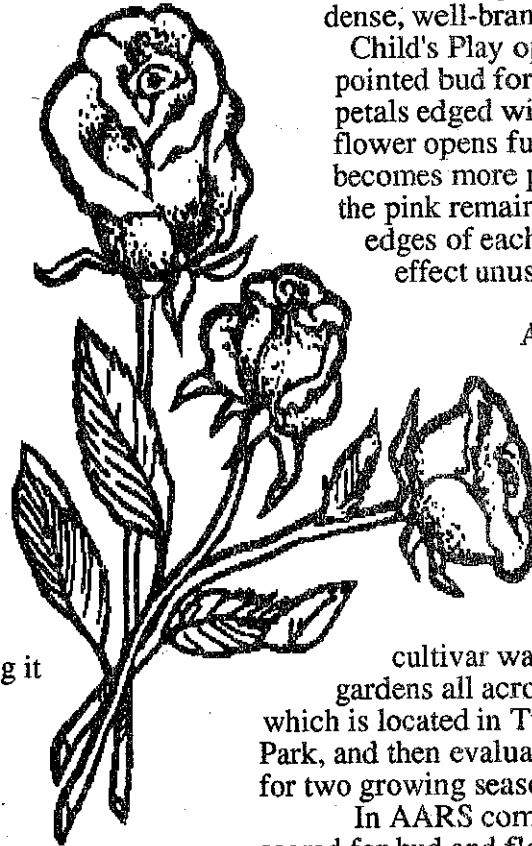
AARS Chooses Excellence

Like all AARS winners, the roses honored for 1993 have completed a rigorous two-year test program. Each

cultivar was planted in test gardens all across the U.S., one of which is located in Tulsa at Woodward Park, and then evaluated by rose experts for two growing seasons.

In AARS competition, roses are scored for bud and flower form, vigor, hardiness, growth habit, disease resistance, foliage and fragrance. Only truly outstanding introductions can win high marks in all of these areas and be named AARS award winners. All AARS winners have already proven themselves in just about every area of the U.S. and are ready to thrive in home gardens.

If you want to learn more about how to choose and grow roses, you will want "The Wonder World of Roses," a four-color booklet prepared by AARS. Send a check for \$1, plus a self-addressed, stamped #10 envelope to All-America Rose Selections, Department CR, 221 N LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601.





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MASTER GARDENER

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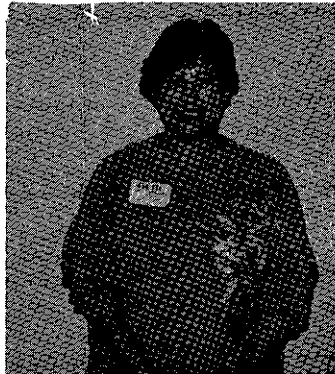
Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Nine

September 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Diane Tidwell
SPOUSE Gary
CHILDREN One grown daughter, Lori
BECAME A MG 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Pinnacle Mtn. gardens and co-chairperson of the Pinnacle Arboretum
MOST VALUED GARDEN POS-

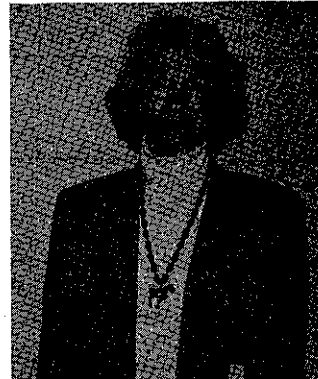
SESSION Her front-tine tiller

FAVORITE PLANTS Crepe myrtle and Bradford pear trees

ADVICE TO GARDENERS If it doesn't work, yank it out and try something else.

Diane keeps very busy with her one-half acre garden near the river. A wildflower garden and Rose of Sharon planted around the perimeter of the garden attract many butterflies and hummingbirds. The garden does have a sprinkler system, and thank goodness for the sprinkler since she planted 110 tomato plants this year! Some of the vegetables in her recently planted Fall garden include broccoli, cabbage, and the tomato varieties, Spitfire and Hawaiian (recommended for late Fall gardens).

She studied psychology in college, but Diane thinks she became fascinated with gardening because her mother would not let her play in the dirt when she was growing up.



NAME Bettye Jane Daugherty
SPOUSE Harold
CHILDREN Three grown children, two sons in Little Rock and a daughter in Maine
BECAME A MG 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Old State House, State Hospital greenhouse

and the Fair Park bus stop

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Her rock bar and the watering wand her husband made for her.

FAVORITE PLANTS Hosta and Foxglove

BEST GARDENING ADVICE According to Bettye's grandmother, "The best fertilizer is a gardener's shadow."

Bettye says she has always been involved in gardening. Most of the gardens around her home are formal, with both sun and shade gardens.

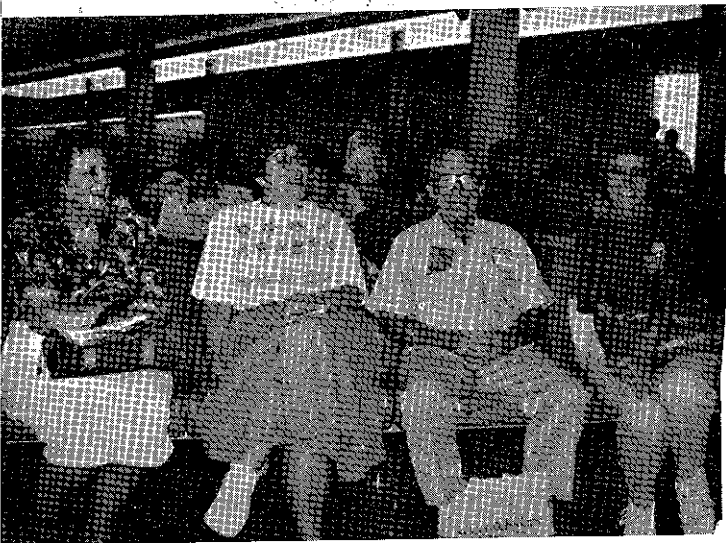
In the shade garden, Bettye has installed a little pool which has fish that will eat from her hand. And since she enjoys brick and stone laying, the pond has flag stones around it.

Bob Bray with Channel 11's Weekend Gardener (on Saturday and Sunday 5 o'clock news) was supposed to feature Bettye's gardens on August 15, but the afternoon golf tournament ran late. Hopefully, the story will run the next weekend.

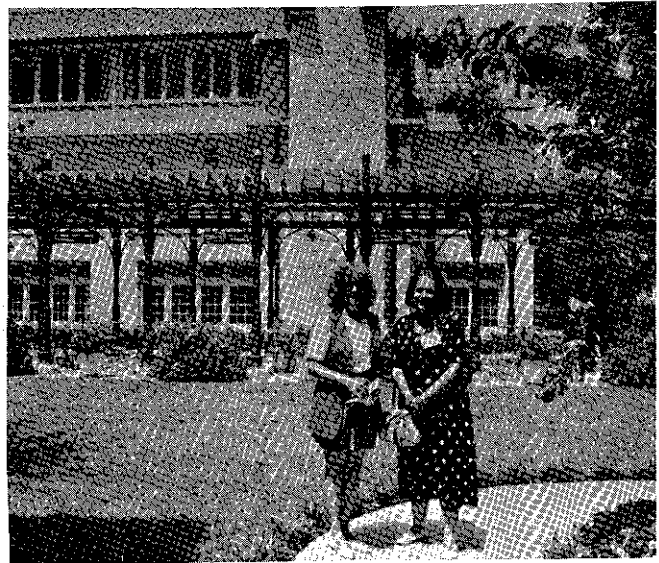
Bettye's home was also one of the stops on the Master Gardener tour of gardens. She was very surprised when nearly 100 people arrived with the tour to see her gardens!

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Prize winners. (1 to r) Dorothy Veirs, Jane Gulley, Breck Campbell, Dottie Heckenbach.



Mary Lee McHenry and Ann Bridgers enjoy the garden at the Art Museum.

Pulaski County Master Gardeners attend convention, present program, win prizes

Twenty Pulaski County Master Gardeners were in San Antonio, Texas, August 12-15, for the Master Gardeners of North America Convention in the River Center Marriott on the beautiful San Antonio Riverwalk. Our own Lynn McMahon was a guest presenter, and her seminar on Interior Landscapes was very well received.

Breck Campbell, who had been sick the entire time he was at the convention, was healed almost instantaneously by being named the Grand Prize Winner of a Troybilt Tiller, which he decided not to drive back to Arkansas because of the intense heat. Additional door prize winners were Linda Dansler, Jane Gulley, Dorothy Veirs, and Dottie Heckenbach, who won two prizes.

Others attending the meeting were: Roxie Adams, Boon-Nam Blackwell, Ann Bridgers, Nancy Brillos, Cecelia Buck, Janet Carson, Sally Garrison, Ruth Gibson, Sarah Henson, Jay Hill, Ellen Kane, Mary Lee McHenry, Beth Phelps and Karen Vesole. Although Tina Turner was seen on Riverwalk, we do not think she was a Master Gardener delegate.

Among the fine speakers at the convention were Jim Wilson of Victory Garden fame and Mel Bartholomew, author of Square Foot Gardening.

It was rumored that several Master Gardeners, after they had been to their classes of course, were locked in the River Center shopping mall after it had closed for the evening. One or two persons (maybe more) remembered a fondness for margaritas, and although the grand finale social event was a barbeque and western dance at the Rio

Cibolo Ranch on the final evening, Jay Hill declared it "too dusty," so he was not one of the participants in the chicken dances and other cultural events at the party.

On the way home, many of the overhead baggage compartments in the airplane were filled with an odd assortment of plant life, which will probably be seen later at many garden sites around Pulaski County.

The next meeting of the Master Gardeners of North America will be July 23-26, 1995, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

Lynn says thanks

"I want to thank all of you for your support and for letting me represent you by speaking at the conference in San Antonio. I had a wonderful time and really learned a lot.

I would also like to thank all of you who helped Nancy Brillos and me carry our plants through the airport, propagation has begun!

Several people suggested we develop a 12-step program for our plant "problems", however you have to admit you have a problem first!

Thanks again.

Lynn McMahon"

Nominees selected for '94 officers

Breck Campbell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, announces the nominees for 1994 Pulaski County Master Gardener officers.

President - Cecelia Buck
1st Vice President - Jay Hill
2nd Vice President - Jane Gulley
Secretary - Ellen Kane
Treasurer - James Wilkes

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Leslie Scott has water lily hyacinths (they live in water). Call her at 225-5542.

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept 4** MG program - Baptist Rehabilitation Institute
- Sept 11** MG program - Fall Herbs - Baptist Rehab.
- Sept 11** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park yearly event, 9 AM-2PM- Great Arkansas Clean-up. Lunch provided for all workers.
- Sept 13, 14, 15** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Hunter Education. Materials provided by Arkansas Game & Fish, 6-9PM. Call 868-5806 for registration.
- Sept 14** MG regular meeting, 11:45 in ArkLa's Blue Flame Room
- Sept 16** Cancel MG tour of Clark Tapline's. Heat and drought have stunted the wildflowers. We'll reschedule in the Spring.
- Sept 25** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Hawk Watch, 9 AM-3PM. Join staff and Audubon members on the Visitor Center Overlook to search for migrating birds of prey.
- Sept 25-26** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park Fall Book Sale, Saturday 9AM - 5PM, Sunday 1-5PM
- Sept 28** MG trip to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery. Carpool from the Extension Office at 8AM. Bring a sack lunch. Call Mrs. McKinney so we can better plan the car pools.
- Sept 28** Partners for Pinnacle General Meeting, 7 PM in Visitors Information Center
- Oct 6** MG Fall Family Picnic at Burns Park, 6 PM. \$2 each. Call Mrs. McKinney by October 1 to make reservations and to let her know if you can bring a side dish to accompany the hamburgers and hot dogs.
- Oct 8-17** Arkansas State Fair
- Oct 12** MG regular meeting
- Oct 14** MG Fall Foilage Tour from Little Rock to Harrison. We will leave at 8 AM from Second Presbyterian Church, lunch at the Rockhouse Bar-B-Que in Harrison, and return to Little Rock about 5 PM. Call Mrs. McKinney to make a reservation and send \$20 bus fare to Beth. Make checks payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners.
- Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 10** Training sessions for the new class of Master Gardeners
- Nov 9** MG regular meeting.
- Nov 17, 18** Arkansas Horticultural Society meeting in Ft. Smith. Call Mrs. McKinney if you are interested in attending.
- Dec 7** MG Christmas party - mark your calendars.

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)



FROM THE (Assistant) EDITOR
Helen Pitcock, MG '92

Editor Julie Eckberg will be back behind the wheel for the September issue. Please direct your articles to her. Thanks to all the Newsletter staff who have helped in her absence.

If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. Her phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please try to have submissions typed.



Lynn McMahon gave her presentation on Interior Landscapes at the convention.

Checklist for September

DROUGHT

Don't fertilize or spray pesticide if your garden is dry and plants are stressed. You will risk burning your plants. Wait until after you have watered or had rain, let the leaves dry. Spraying while leaves are wet will dilute the chemicals.

ROSES

Fertilize for the last time six (6) weeks before frost, continue deadheading and spraying fungicide. Fall can be the best time of year for the best display for blooms on your roses. Be sure to keep the soil evenly moist for your roses.

PRUNING

Avoid pruning your Spring flowering plants at this time as you will be cutting off next year's blooms. Also avoid heavy pruning at this time of year - the plant will not have sufficient time to harden off before frost. Light pruning or heading back can be done at any time.

AQUA, H₂O, WATER

Continue watering all plants, turf and trees - it's been a stressful year for all! (Not to mention us, who are paying those water bills!) The key for

the rest of this year will be to ease the plants into the Winter season with a minimal amount of stress, to enable their survival through the Winter.

LAWNS

Fertilize both warm and cool season grass now. St. Augustine, Bermuda, and Zoysia need one more feeding so that they will be healthy and cold-tolerant during the coming Winter. The key is to use a low-N fertilizer. Cool season grasses, Fescue, etc., need regular or higher N applications and it is best to choose a fertilizer that has 25%-30% of the N in a slow release form, such as urea-formaldehyde, methylene urea, sulfur coated urea, or IBDU. Urea is not slow release.

MUMS & ASTERS

These can be purchased and planted now. Many new varieties are on the market. Check your local nursery for the newest colors. Different mums offer several time periods for blooming, early (September), mid (October) and late (November through Thanksgiving). Ask the nurseries for more details. For you gardeners who haven't experienced the show of Asters in a Fall garden, they are definitely worth a try.

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

Thursday morning, August 12, was a work day for everyone who could come. At the Contemplation Garden there was a lot of weeding and cutting back to do. They are hoping the daisies will bloom again. Deadheading and some replanting was done in the Art Center Court Yard.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

The programs at the Rehab. Center are going strong each month. They have had a big variety of programs from "How to Attract Hummingbirds to Your Yard" to "Growing Wildflowers." One of the September programs will be on growing Fall herbs. As with all the projects this is a very dedicated group.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

I was unable to reach Joan for a report but I know she is very busy doing volunteer work not only for Master Gardeners so we will get an up-date next month.

OLD MILL

The gardens look beautiful here but Joe was quick to admit it was because of early planning and work - it has been too hot for much work the last few weeks. Weather permitting they will be getting back in full swing in September.

OLD STATE HOUSE

They are just pouring on the water and trying to keep things alive. They have formed two person teams in charge a week at a time. When it gets a little cooler they will be preparing for Fall planting. Their big concern right now is "DON'T FORGET TO WATER DURING YOUR WEEK!"

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

The Partners of Pinnacle donated hoses that reach to the front beds by the gates - so guess what they are doing. When each team goes out to work they set up the hoses and weed at least one bed then the staff at Pinnacle turn off the water for them later.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

This may be hard to believe but they have one bed that has too much water! The north bed had the water left on (for a number of days) and the soil was so wet the sunflowers up-rooted. They cut everything in that bed back very severely and have their fingers crossed that it will not all be lost.

They are gathering mulch now to have ready for their Fall pansy planting. (see related article below)

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

This is not their busy time of year - it catches up with them in the Fall and Winter though. They will be getting tulip bulbs and pansies ready next month.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

The next work day for the Zook Bird House is Saturday, September 11. We'll begin at 9:00 AM.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

The summer vegetables are going great (all but the tomatoes). They are picking okra, bell peppers, eggplant, cucumber and squash. They will be planting turnip greens soon and buckwheat to turn under. They invite anyone who would like to work to come out at 8:30 each Monday and join them.

SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE STATE HOSPITAL

by Ruth Owings

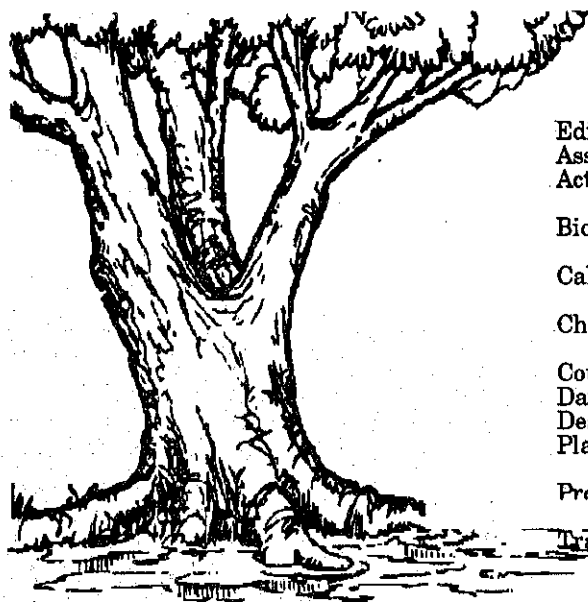
Here is a list of plants used at the State Hospital. They are all from Park except as noted:

Nierembergia, Mont Blanc
Dahlberg Daisy
Gaillardia, Red Plume and Blanket flowers
Cosmos, Sonata White & Sunny Red (Burpee)
Physostegia Virginiana, Crown of Snow
Salvia, Blue Queen
Marigold, Janie Yellow
Tritoma, Goldfinger (Mexican Sunflower)

At the greenhouse, pansy plants have been ordered again this year. There will be about 150 flats available for sale. I ordered Majestic Giant (gold, purple, scarlet & bronze, rose & red, blue shades); Imperial (pink shades, blue, beacon, orange, gold princess, antique, purple & white). There will be twelve (12) flats of each. Flats with 32 plants will be \$8 or a four (4) pack for \$1. They will be available the first week in November. Date and time will be in the November Master Minutes.

We will need help planting plugs into flats on Wednesday, September 22, starting at 9 AM. We bought twice as many as last year, so come out and help 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



1993 Newsletter Staff

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Calendar of Events	Ann Cooper Kay Groce
Checklist	Nancy Brillos Virginia Johnson
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Plant of the Month	Virginia Johnson Adam Harris
Projects	Karol McNeal Wincie Hughes
Trading Post	Alice Preston Margaret Fizer

This MASTER MINUTES newsletter is compiled by Master Gardeners to support the Pulaski County Master Gardener volunteer program. Master Gardeners have contributed over 8,500 hours of service to the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service since 1989.

Beth Phelps
Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent - Agriculture



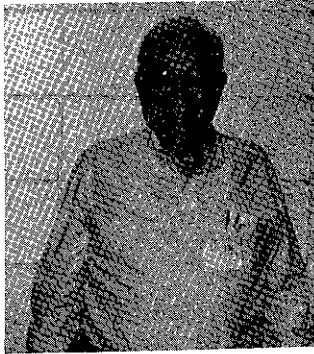
Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Ten

October 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME James Christian
SPOUSE Louise
CHILDREN A son in Arlington, Virginia.
BECAME A MG 1992
WORK ACTIVITY Zoo garden
MOST VALUED

GARDEN POSSESSION Mulching lawn mower

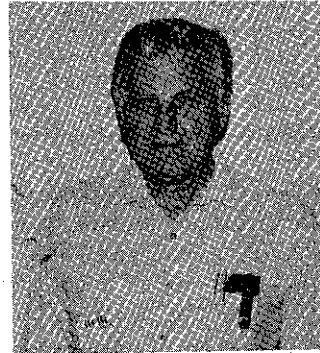
FAVORITE PLANTS Azaleas and hostas

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Ground ivy in St. Augustine lawn (treating the ivy also affects the grass).

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Exercise a lot of patience.

James has a very shady yard, good for hostas but not good for vegetables.

He was born in Texarkana and has lived in Arkansas all his life. After graduating from Hendricks College, James worked as a training officer for the Veterans Administration for several years. He then worked at the J.A. Riggs Tractor Company, a Catapiller Company distributorship, as a sales and marketing representative.



NAME Elmer Van Egmond
SPOUSE Marge
CHILDREN A son in Chevy Chase, Maryland, another son in Montague, Massachusetts and a daughter in Louisville, Kentucky.
BECAME A MG 1992

WORK ACTIVITY MG Newsletter and State Hospital garden

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION Soaker hoses and sprinklers (especially this summer!)

FAVORITE PLANT Amaryllis

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Find yourself a good helper. (Elmer's wife, Marge, is also a Master Gardener!)

Elmer has a large back yard which provides both sunny and shady areas for a good variety of plants. He learned about gardening from his father who had a large vegetable and flower garden in the backyard.

After serving in the Air Force, Elmer completed Bachelor, Masters, and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Michigan. A career in higher education has taken him to Massachusetts, Illinois and Arkansas. Although retired from the UA Medical Center, he continues part-time teaching in Gerontology and Sociology at UALR.

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The only fight which is lost is that which we give up.
--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

A lot of weeding and deadheading is still being done. They do want to remind all those on their committee to keep up with their work weeks. A fall planting will probably be scheduled.



JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

As always, Joan and her committee have been busy. They have planted 650-plus mums at the City Hall Festival Site in preparation for the festival this year. Joan says that Beth will be coming to Jacksonville to judge their "Yard of the Season" contest which will have both residential and commercial categories. (Joan also takes care of a couple of other gardens for the city of Jacksonville, including a Memorial Garden where she just planted over 100 mums.)



STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

A work day was held on September 22, and a "few" hundred fall plants were potted to be used on the hospital grounds. (A few extras will be for sale.) The back yard is also being cleaned up so it will look good when the new class of Master Gardeners visit on the tour.



BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

The "hands-on" programs continue with good response. Other continuing projects at the Rehabilitation Center are keeping this group busy.



PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

The Pinnacle workers are so thankful for the new hoses by the well house — this saved them from hauling milk jugs of water. The wildflower plots are being prepared for planting, with seeding scheduled for the last of September. Wendy Welch of the Arkansas Highway Department gave them three large bags of wildflower seeds, so the plots will be alive with color this spring.



(The projects with no report does not mean they have not been busy — your reporter did not reach them in time to include their activities this month.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 6** Tour of all the Master Gardener projects for the new class. If you wish to go on the tour, call Mrs. McKinney. Also let her know if you can provide an additional vehicle.
- Oct. 7** MG Family Picnic at Burns Park at 6 p.m. — \$2.00 per person. Call Mrs. McKinney to make reservations and to let her know if you can bring a side dish or dessert to accompany the hamburgers and hot dogs.
- Oct. 8-17** Arkansas State Fair
- Oct. 12** MG regular meeting at 11:45 a.m. in ARKLA's Blue Flame room.
- Oct. 13** New MG class meeting at the Adult Center — general information on plant and soil science. Let Mrs. McKinney know if you wish to attend and if you wish to buy lunch.
- Oct. 14** MG fall foliage tour from Little Rock to Harrison. We will leave at 8 a.m. from Second Presbyterian Church, have lunch at the Rockhouse Bar-B-Que in Harrison and return to Little Rock about 5 p.m. Call Mrs. McKinney to make a reservation and send \$20 bus fare to Beth. Make checks payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners.
- Oct. 20** New MG class meeting — Fruit.
- Oct. 23 & 24** Pinnacle Mtn. State Park — Mountain Rendezvous, 9 a.m. -5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the picnic area. Crafts, music and vittles.
- Oct. 27** New MG class meeting — Ornamental Horticulture.
- Nov. 3** New MG class meeting — Vegetables and herbs.
- Nov. 10** New MG class meeting — Turf grasses in the morning; finish training in the afternoon.
- Nov. 10** **MG regular meeting changed from Nov. 9.** Meet at the Adult Center on 12th Street at noon for lunch with the class of new Master Gardeners. Cost is \$5.30 per person if you wish to eat, with reservations to Mrs. McKinney by Nov. 5. Wendy Welch will present a program on wildflowers from 1 to 2 p.m.
- Nov. 17 & 18** Arkansas Horticultural Society meeting in Ft. Smith. Call Mrs. McKinney if you are interested in attending.
- Dec. 7** MG Christmas party — MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Ellen Kane: Althea/Rose of Sharon white or pink. 868-5035

Ruth Gibson: Carolina Jasmine and Wisteria. 835-0158

Julie Eckberg: 7-8 ft. tall Ficus tree. You provide transportation! (Needs more room to grow.) 225-6721

Margaret Fizer: 50 pound bag of 46-0-0. Free to a good home. 834-3217

Aleta Newell: Lots of Monkey Grass and Native Dogwood in January or February. 666-0991

Martha Staples: Jade and Lilies of the Valley. 663-5238

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

Checklist for October

by guest reporter, Beth Phelps

It is time to plant pansies. Place 1 tsp. of a slow-release fertilizer around each plant. Other flowering plants that will tolerate a hard freeze include Snap Dragon, Viola and Calendula. Larkspur, Lobelia, Nierembergia, Poppies, Scabiosa, Stock, Sweet Alyssum and Sweet Peas will tolerate a light frost.

Fall is a good time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. The latest research on planting techniques does not recommend adding soil amendments to the planting hole. If you are planting in a bed, it is a good idea to amend the soil in the whole bed. However, soil amendments such as peat moss, compost or other organic material added to the backfill for individual planting holes has been shown to be, at best, of no benefit and at worst, detrimental to the establishment of trees and shrubs.

As the temperatures cool, horticultural oil can be sprayed to control scale on fruit trees, Camellias or other ornamental shrubs. (Editor's note: Horticultural oil also helps control leaf spot on Red-tipped Photinia.)

Don't worry about fall web worms. They may look unsightly, but do little damage to trees.



Divide perennials to restore vigor to old and crowded plants. Phlox, Coreopsis, Black-eyed Susan and Coneflowers need to be divided every three to four years.

Dig tender bulbs such as Caladiums and Gladioli. Gently remove any soil clinging to the bulb. After drying the bulbs, store in a cool, dark well-ventilated area. Old potato or onion sacks work well as a storage container.

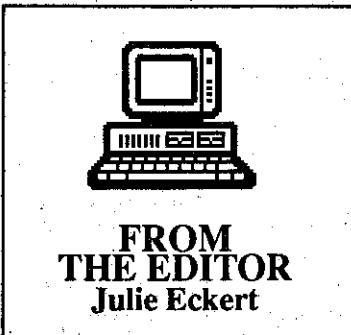
Check the vegetable garden for cabbage loopers. They will be found on Cabbage, Broccoli, Cauliflower or Collards. These green caterpillars can be easily controlled using any Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) product.

Spinach, Rape, Turnips, Kale and Winter Peas can be planted in the vegetable garden.

Prepare your house plants and tropical plants to be moved inside for the winter. Tropical plants should be moved in before night-time temperatures reach 45 degrees to prevent any damage.

Keep the leaves raked! A layer of leaves blocks the sunlight from reaching the turfgrass. Your turfgrass needs this sunlight to keep it healthy as growth slows before going dormant.

Thank you to the newsletter staff for doing such a great job while I took a couple months off for "maternity leave". Special thanks to Helen



who sets most of my schedules. It's too bad

Pitcock for taking over as editor since this required her to do three jobs; data entry, editing and desktop publishing (layout).

Well, I now have a new little gardening assistant

Jessica is not yet big enough to help me because my poor yard could certainly use A LOT of help after this hot, dry summer. I was very glad that the vegetable garden did not get planted this spring since we barely had time to maintain our existing plants and the lawn. (Several of my year-old azaleas and a Japanese painted fern perished in the heat.)

I did manage to plant my sunny flower bed with Eric's help on July 1, my due date. The soaker hose we buried made this bed nearly maintenance-free this summer. Now I'm trying to plan a buried soaker hose system for all my beds in the back yard!

Master Gardener Notes



NOTICE: On Monday, Oct. 4, join us for a short-notice trip to Brambleberry Farms. They are closing the business, so this will be your last chance to buy plants here. The Little Rock group will meet at the Second Presbyterian Church on Cantrell at 8:30 a.m., and North Little Rock Master Gardeners will meet them at 9:30 a.m. at the Plummerville exit. You can bring a sack lunch, but we may not stay long enough to eat

At the September 14 meeting, the Pulaski County Master Gardeners passed a resolution by a vote of the general membership to collect \$10/year per household beginning January 1994. The funds will be used to pay newsletter printing and other organizational costs.

CORRECTION: The 1993 Master Gardener picnic will be held on Thursday, October 7 at Burns Park. (We had more flies than Master Gardeners at the 1992 picnic at the zoo last year.) The date listed in the September newsletter Calendar of Events was incorrect.

October's bright blue weather



*O suns and skies and clouds of June,
And flowers of June together,
Ye cannot rival for one hour
October's bright blue weather;
When on the ground, red apples lie
In piles like jewels shining,
And redder still on old stone walls
Are leaves of woodbine twining;
When all the lovely wayside things
Their white-winged seeds are sowing,
And in the fields, still green and fair,
Late aftermaths are growing;
O sun and skies and flowers of June,
Count all your boasts together,
Love loveth best of all the year
October's bright blue weather.*

--Helen Hunt Jackson

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. Her phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please try to have submissions typed.



Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Eleven

November 1993

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Marge Van Egmond
SPOUSE Elmer
CHILDREN Two sons and a daughter. The daughter lives in Louisville, Kentucky, one son lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and the other son is in Massachusetts.

BECAME A MG 1992

WORK ACTIVITY State Hospital garden
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Ratchet pruning shears

FAVORITE PLANTS Tulips and daffodils

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Pair up with someone who likes to dig holes. (Marge's husband, Elmer, also a Master Gardener, was featured in the October newsletter.)

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Learning the special planting and growing requirements when you move to different regions of the United States.

Marge grew up in Holland, Michigan where she participated in the Tulip Time Festival as a Dutch Dancer. She learned to love the brilliant floral displays of the Dutch bulbs and learned how to best grow them from her father, an enthusiastic backyard gardener.

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NAME Clark Taplin
SPOUSE Martha
CHILDREN Two children, Randy and Samantha, who live locally.

BECAME A MG 1992

WORK ACTIVITY State Hospital greenhouse

MOST VALUED

GARDEN POSSESSIONS Tractor and tiller

FAVORITE PLANTS Flowers, especially liatris and gardenias

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Enjoy your work and the results.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION Bugs, especially cucumber beetles.

Clark's parents had a flower shop in North Little Rock and started raising flowers. They eventually sold the shop and became full-time gardeners. Clark learned to love flowers and how to grow them from his father. He now raises cut flowers for florists on about 130 acres. He also raises wildflowers which he hopes we can come and see next spring.

No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth...and no culture comparable to that of the garden...But though an old man, I am but a young gardener.

Thomas Jefferson

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

Chrysanthemums have been planted in the Contemplation Garden and it looks lovely. The next planting will be pansies.

Committee members will be called about an up-coming work day. If anyone on this committee cannot work on the scheduled work day, they can always go and work either alone or with a friend any time.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

The beautiful Chrysanthemums are awaiting the Fall Festival. Other fall flowers have been incorporated into their display, but the mums are by far the largest group.

Proceeds from the festival will go to beautify the grounds around the new City Hall.

OLD MILL

Watering is continuing, and a newly installed pump will help to make this chore much easier. A fall planting will be held soon.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

They are so thankful for their new hoses — they reach all the way to the beds at the front gates. Partners for Pinnacle also donated soaker hoses for the beds by the Visitors Center and more mulch.

The Pinnacle crew soaks one bed while they work, and then start the other and let the staff turn it off for them.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

The beds are being prepared for pansy planting. On November 4, a clean-up day will be held, and then planting will be on November 9. They can always use more help!

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

Two hundred flats of pansies have been planted — with 50 designated for the State Hospital flower beds. That leaves 150 flats for sale to the Master Gardeners. This may sound like a lot, but chances are pretty good they will not have enough for all who will want them.

The sale dates have been set for Friday and Saturday, November 12 and 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Soil is still being turned in the aviary. A work day is scheduled for November 13 — everyone come and bring a shovel and/or hand trowel.

In December, a planting will be done in the Dinosaur area.

ZOO VEGETABLE GARDEN

Okra, eatable gourds and some tomatoes are still being harvested, and Chinese cabbage and turnip greens have been planted.

They are collecting leaves from all over the zoo grounds to use for mulch. The leaves are directly worked into the soil using a method called "trench composting".

Their work days have changed to Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Jeff says someone will be there by 8 a.m. for those who like to come early.) They will be working all winter unless there is snow or sleet.

(The projects with no report does not mean they have not been busy — your reporter did not reach them in time to include their activities this month.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 4** State Hospital Workday - 8:30 a.m. General cleanup of beds.
- Nov. 8** Rose Society Meeting, Good Earth Nursery, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9** State Hospital Workday, 8:30 a.m., plant pansies.
- Nov. 10** Last training session for new Master Gardeners: Turf grasses in the morning; lunch; M.G. meeting, with program; finish up training in the afternoon.
- Nov. 10** Regular M.G. meeting combines with the new class of Master Gardeners. (The meeting is on a WEDNESDAY this month.) Meet at the Adult Center on 12th Street for lunch at noon. Cost is \$5.30 with reservations to Mrs. McKinney by Nov. 5. Wendy Welch will present a program on wildflowers from 12:30 - 1:30.
- Nov. 12** War Memorial Bus Stop Garden Workday, 10:00 a.m., plant pansies.
- Nov. 12,13** Greenhouse Pansy Sale, 9 a.m. - noon. \$8 for a 32-count flat. Majestic Giants in purple, scarlet & bronze, rose & red, blue, and Imperials in pint, blue, beacon, orange, gold princess, antique, purple, white.
- Nov. 13** Zoo Aviary Workday, 9:00 a.m., the soil needs to be turned. Bring shovels and trowels.
- Nov. 13** Birnam Woods Nursery, Shrub Workshop, 10 - 11 a.m.
- Nov. 17,18** Arkansas Horticultural Society meeting in Ft. Smith. Call Mrs. McKinney for information.
- Nov. 26** Central Arkansas Horticultural Society meeting, 6:00 p.m., Garden Club Center, 1501 Kavanaugh. Visitors and new members welcome.
- Dec. 4** Birnam Woods Christmas Open House.
- Dec. 7** Master Gardener Christmas Party, Brady Extension Center.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Ruth Gibson: Four O'clock seeds (all over the place!). 835-0158

Old Mill Note Cards: Pen and ink drawing, 8 cards and envelopes — \$4.50. Call Nancy Brilllos for more information at 758-6884. (Great gift idea!)

Martha Staples: Jade and would like herbs. 663-5238

Joan Zumwalt: White, purple and "unknown color" iris. 982-8816

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Fizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

Checklist for November

BULBS: Time to plant bulbs for spring blooming. Try new types of bulbs this year, with new colors, since our zone 7 climate allows the use of many kinds of bulbs. Dig tuberoses and gladioli for winter storage.

LAWNS: The falling leaves on your lawn can inhibit the amount of light your grass receives. Instead of spending hours raking or blowing your leaves this year, mulch them with the mower and mulching blade. This will add organic matter back into your soil and eliminate the problem of disposing of the bags of leaves.

For tired "old" lawns that are somewhat less than pure strands of grass (such as mine). Winter over-seeding with a Rye/Fescue grass mix can do wonders for the winter lawn. Proper amounts of a 8-8-25 fertilizer will help reduce nutrient loss from the established grass.

COLD FRAMES: Many designs and styles of cold frames are available depending on how elaborate you want to get. But the basic idea is the same, to provide protection for plants during winter weather and to start seeds much earlier. Make sure the structure is located in a sunny, well drained place. Lowering the cold frame 6 - 12" into the ground or placing it against a wall will provide additional heat storage.

FOLIAGE: (This sounded interesting to me, I'd like to know if anyone has tried this.) To preserve both evergreen and autumn foliage for winter arrangements, treat branches with glycerin (available at drugstores). Treated leaves remain pliable and attached to the stems. They do not stay green but turn shades of copper, tan and brown.

To make a solution, mix equal parts of glycerin and hot water. Make a fresh cut slanted to open the stems. Put them in the glycerin solution, strain the debris, then heat the solution until warm. Try the foliage of nandina, elaeagnus, acuba, rosemary, holly, sweet gum and English ivy.



**FROM
THE EDITOR
Julie Eckberg**

of our home and the yard and put together a newsletter every month. (Our poor yard has gotten the short end of this deal!) I've really enjoyed working on the newsletter these past two years, especially since working closely with so many of the Master Gardeners was part of the job.

As some of you have heard, I will be stepping down as editor for next year. It has been quite a challenge to juggle a new baby, do accounting and taxes for our business, take care

I do plan lend a helping hand to the 1994 newsletter staff, if needed, to assist them in getting off to a smooth start.

Please call me if you have any questions about the editor, desktop publishing or data entry positions, especially if you could help us fill these positions.

It's hard to believe that 1993 is quickly coming to a close. Plans are already underway for changes in my yard next year. The back yard is becoming more and more shady, and I'm afraid it's getting too shady for my vegetable garden. I really don't want to cut trees down because it stays noticeably cooler than the front yard in the summer.

I wonder how a vegetable garden would look in the front yard?



Master Gardener Notes

HELP NEEDED FOR 1994:

Are you interested in working on the Master Minutes for calendar year 1994? Some of the open positions include Editor, Desktop Publishing (computer layout) and Computer Data Entry. The Editor will be responsible for holding a meeting with all Master Gardeners interested in working on the newsletter and filling the staff positions. It's a great way to get to know many of the Master Gardeners and keep abreast of all our activities. Call Julie Eckberg (225-6721) or Jane Gulley (225-2072) for more information.

A chairperson is also needed for the Master Gardener educational booth for the 1994 Flower and Garden Show to be held on February 24, 25 and 26. This person will be responsible for decorating the booth and determining its contents.

DON'T MISS THE 1993 PANSY SALE!

According to Ruth Owings, 150 flats of pansies will be available for sale to Master Gardeners. The sale will be held Friday and Saturday, November 12 and 13, from 9 a.m. until noon. They will cost \$8 for a 32-count flat. See the Calendar of Events for details on the types and colors available.

MASTER GARDENER PICNIC WAS A SUCCESS

Chairpersons Marie Flickinger and Lois Corley would like to thank all the committee members and everyone who helped with the 1993 Master Gardener picnic — it was a great success! Around 100 members and guests were in attendance to enjoy the good food and good company. Many of the Master Gardeners also toured the North Little Rock greenhouse across the street from the pavilion.

Master Gardener Trips

Brambleberry Farm Swan Song

On Monday, October 4, a small group of Master Gardeners gathered for a quickly planned trip to Brambleberry Farm. This was strictly a buying trip with no planned program since Brambleberry will be going out of business on October 15. Many of their beds were already empty, but there was still a good selection in three greenhouses. As usual, we bought more than we intended. We will miss this pleasant family and the many perennials they have provided over the years.

Ridgecrest Nursery Trip

About 30 Master Gardeners visited Ridgecrest Nursery at Wynne on September 28. Larry Loman, the owner, took us on a two-hour tour of his nursery, explaining the attributes of each tree and shrub.

Ridgecrest specializes in native plants, and Larry enjoys propagating and improving species so we will have more plants available that will tolerate our Arkansas heat, drought and variable winters. Two of his new selections are featured in the current issue of the Nurseryman magazine.

Each Master Gardener received a six-page list of Larry's "Top Ten" — trees, shrubs, perennials, daylilies, daffodils and a list of rare, native and specialty plants available at Ridgecrest. Mr. Loman speaks of each plant with obvious pleasure and fondness. We were encouraged to visit in the spring during daffodil bloom — it should be quite a show!

After the tour, we ate our lunches, and — Katie bar the door — began to make our purchases. Ridgecrest must have showed a profit that day!

(Be sure to send in your time sheets to get credit for all those hours worked! Remember to send them to the county extension office at 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Let Beth know if you have had health or family problems which have caused difficulty in accumulating work hours or recertification points.)

If you have articles or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Julie Eckberg, 12 Elk Run Cove, Little Rock, AR 72211. Her phone number is 225-6721. The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Please try to have submissions typed.



Master Minutes

Volume Four

Number Twelve

Dec. '93, Jan. '94

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME Ann Cooper
SPOUSE Bill
CHILDREN One daughter and two grandchildren in Little Rock.
BECAME A MG 1990
WORK ACTIVITY Old Mill and Newsletter (Ann does the Calendar of Events.)



NAME Ginger Coggins
SPOUSE Stacy (also a Master Gardener)
CHILDREN Three grown children a son in Charlotte, North Carolina, a son in Puerto Rico and a daughter in Longwood, Florida. She also has four grandchildren.
BECAME A MG 1989

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION A small pick and Sharp-Shooter shovel

FAVORITE PLANTS All bulbs, hollies and azaleas.

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Prepare well before planting your garden.

A retired teacher of English, Ann presently works part-time in her husband's food brokerage business. She was born in Magnolia, Arkansas, and lived for a time in Fort Smith before moving to Little Rock. She remembers going into the woods (where Hall High now stands) to pick violets in the spring. Ann learned about gardening from her dad who grew both vegetables and flowers in their yard. She is currently learning about perennials. Other interests include the birds and wildlife that inhabit the wooded area behind her home.

WORK ACTIVITY Art Contemplation Garden and Container Garden

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION

Bucket for carrying tools, and Sharpie spade
FAVORITE PLANTS Russian Teal — they are hardy and require little care. Also any flowers in bloom.

Gardening frustration Rocks and poor soil.

ADVICE TO GARDENERS Be persistent.

Ginger grew up in north-central Florida, an excellent area for growing most any plant. She learned about gardening from her grandmother. Ginger's early interest in gardening led to her becoming a Charter member of the Garden Club in Madison, Florida.

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Nature is full of genius,
full of the divinity; so
that not a snowflake
escapes its fashioning
hand.

--Henry David
Thoreau

MASTER GARDENER PROJECTS

ARKANSAS ARTS CENTER

Pansies and a few other bright plants have been planted in the Contemplation Garden to spruce up the looks of the garden.

The Fine Arts Newsletter had a very nice article about both the Contemplation and Courtyard gardens. They were very appreciative of all the work done for them by the Master Gardeners.

It's always nice to be recognized and appreciated for our endeavors.

BAPTIST REHABILITATION INSTITUTE

The Baptist crew is gearing up for the Christmas holidays and programs are being presented along those lines.

The November programs, given by groups 1 and 2, were "Christmas Potpourri" and "Dried Christmas Wreaths".

The December programs will also be related to Christmas.

Jaine Waldron really praised her committee for their creativity and for being so faithful in attending and presenting the programs.

OLD MILL

A work day will be held November 24 at 9:00 a.m. They can use all the help they can get since this is a large project.

Joe Dickens extends a special invitation to the new class of Master Gardeners to get an early start on their payback hours.

Experienced Master Gardeners who are not on this committee are also invited to help.

OLD STATE HOUSE

Pansies and tulips have been planted. They are now in a holding pattern for the winter.

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN

Like some of the other projects, the Pinnacle group is doing mostly maintenance for the fall and winter.

STATE HOSPITAL GARDENS

The 50 flats of pansies were planted and mulched. This group is taking a much deserved rest — at least until the spring weeds start popping up.

STATE HOSPITAL GREENHOUSE

The pansy sale was GREAT! The 150 flats of pansies they had grown were sold and Ray James brought them 50 more flats, which also sold very quickly. (And some of us went to see Ray to purchase even more!)

(The projects with no report does not mean they have not been busy — your reporter did not reach them in time to include their activities this month.)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Nov. 24** Old Mill Work Day, 9:00 a.m. Joe says they can use all the help they can get. New Master Gardeners — here's a chance for you to get an early start on your work hours!
- Dec. 4** Birnam Woods Christmas Open House, 10 a.m. Workshop on quick Christmas arrangements.
- Dec. 7** Master Gardener Christmas party, 6-8 p.m. at the Brady Family and Community Education Bldg. (formerly the Extension Homemakers Bldg.), 201 S. Rodney Parham (behind the Brady Post Office).
- After Christmas** Take your undecorated trees, wreaths and garlands to Pinnacle Mtn. State Park for use as wildlife shelters and for erosion control. Contact the Park Visitor Center for tree drop-off points.
- Jan. 11** Master Gardener meeting, 11:45 a.m., ARKLA Blue Flame room.
- Jan. 17,18** Arkansas Turf Grass Association meeting in Little Rock. If interested, contact Beth Phelps.
- Jan. 28,29** Arkansas Nurseryman's Association Meeting and Trade Show in Little Rock. Contact Beth Phelps for more information.
- Feb. 8** Master Gardener meeting.
Feb. 24 Set-up day for 1994 Flower and Garden Show — workers needed!
- Feb. 25-27** 1994 Flower and Garden Show at the Excelsior Hotel Statehouse Convention Center. More workers are needed!

Trading Post
Plant and Seed Exchange

Jeanne Lizar: Amaranth seed 835-5431

Karen Vesole: Rose of Sharon and Four O'clock seeds (fushia) 228-9704

Do you have seeds or plants you would like to trade or share? Call Alice Preston (664-4854) or Margaret Eizer (834-3217) by the 15th of each month to have your items listed in the next month's "Master Minutes".

Checklist for December

MAINTENANCE: Remove faded blooms on pansies for continued flowering. Cut back brown, burned perennials. Blow or rake remaining leaves. Mulch to make empty beds appear clean and cared for.

COMPOST: Keep adding debris and turning your compost piles. Pine needles do not break down as fast as leaves and other clippings, you may want to consider using the needles this year for a 'top' mulch, that is to cover tender plants and dress up any bare areas in your yard. Pine needles can easily be raked up in the spring.

PLANNING: If you can't garden now, you can plan a garden for next season. Winter is a good time to prepare the soil for new beds or add amendments of compost, manure or other organic matter. Plan changes, additions or corrections to your garden. Garden catalogs and seed books are a good source for hard to find items, and they also pump you up to get out there and get started.

AMARYLLIS BULBS: Last year I bought an amaryllis bulb kit at Target for \$5 in three different colors. They make unique and inexpensive gifts, as well as a good source of entertainment waiting and watching for the blooms. (Well, maybe only for us true gardeners).

POINSETTIAS: We all get them or give them for Christmas. Every year, more and more new varieties are produced and marketed. Poinsettias are not just available in an 8" pot with red or white bracts. Now you can buy miniature plants in many colors, hanging baskets or poinsettia 'tree form' plants in red, pink, white or red with pink speckles, or white with green speckles or almost any other combination of colors and sizes. Look for the new ones this year.

INDOOR BLOOMING PLANTS: You can enjoy flowers this time of year even in your house. Some readily available easy to grow plants that will bloom indoors this winter include:

Bulbs: paperwhites, hyacinth, daffodils, amaryllis

Holiday cactus: many colors from red through white

Kalanchoe: also many colors from hot pink to yellow

Poinsettias: as discussed above.

The Holiday cactus, Kalanchoe and Poinsettia can be moved outside in warm weather to continue growing.

Happy Holidays!



**FROM
THE EDITOR
Julie Eckberg**

After reading last month's newsletter, maybe you can understand why I feel I must step down as editor for next year. I saw quite a few errors that I should have caught, but it was probably midnight when I finally had time to work on the newsletter and my mind is not very clear when it's groggy. (Jessica's naps during the day are usually only 15 minutes to half an hour long. I am grateful that she does sleep all night!)

We still need an editor for 1994 newsletter staff. This position requires organizational and writing skills more than anything else. Computer knowledge is helpful, but it's definitely not required. Please call Jane Gulley (225-2072) if you would like to volunteer or call me (225-6721) if you need more information.

Thank you to the 1993 newsletter staff — you did a great job this year. I hope to see you at the Master Gardener Christmas party December 7.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Gardening in 1994!



Master Gardener Notes



Notify Cecelia Buck or Beth Phelps if you would like to work on a different committee or project for 1994.

Experienced Master Gardeners will begin paying \$10 per family starting in January to help cover newsletter and other organizational costs.



Master Gardener Christmas Party!

The 1993 M.G. Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This year it will be at the Brady Family and Community Education Building (formerly called the Extension Homemakers Building) at 201 S. Rodney Parham. The class of 1992 will be providing the refreshments.

No smoking or alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the building, and some additional parking should be available behind the Brady Post Office.

(The party is for Master Gardeners only since we are such a large group and space is limited.)

Master Gardener Trips

Fall Foliage Tour

by Martha Staples

The Fall Foliage Tour began at the Second Presbyterian Church October 14, 1993 around 8:00 a.m. Everyone was in good spirits as we traveled by bus along Interstate 40 to Russellville.

After a short stop in Russellville, we continued to Harrison on Highway 7 North. Our first stop was Cliff House Scenic Point. This summit provided a beautiful view of the Ozarks. The overall color was not showing yet, but many individual trees were very attractive.

We enjoyed lunch at the Rockhouse Bar-B-Cue Cafe in Harrison. The food was very good.

Breck Campbell was familiar with Harrison. He directed us to the Maplewood Cemetery where there were many beautiful maple trees in red and yellow. We drove by the old "Baker Prairie" on the outskirts of Harrison. Here we saw goldenrod, chicory, asters, paintbrush, fleabane and several native grasses. We also stopped at Ferguson's Country Store — an enjoyable, unique store.

We returned to the Second Presbyterian Church in Little Rock around 5:00 that afternoon.

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