



Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Two

February 1994

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Dick Carter
SPOUSE: Wini (also a Master Gardener)
CHILDREN: Two sons (Daniel, an attorney in Little Rock and Tom, in the advertising business in Boston). She has two grandchildren
BECAME A MG: 1991
WORK ACTIVITY: Old State House

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: An automatic sprinkler system.

FAVORITE PLANTS: peonies which he states are difficult to grow in Arkansas.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: lack of patience and Arkansas rocks.

Dick's working career with the National Old Line Insurance Company has taken him to Kansas, Illinois and now Little Rock. He learned to like gardening from his mother. Dick and Wini now enjoy gardening together.



NAME: Ruth Parker
SPOUSE: Michael
CHILDREN: Two sons, one attends Rhodes College in Memphis and one attends Catholic High School.
BECAME A MG: 1990
WORK ACTIVITY: Old State House (Chairman last year) and Mount Holly Cemetery

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: A husband with a strong back and muscles who also is interested in gardening.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Roses (She is planning to put in a new rose garden this year)

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Insects, especially ones that eat her hollyhock leaves and seem to ignore bug spray.

Ruth was born in Little Rock, moved to Jonesboro and went to school there. Her family and her husband's family still live there. She moved back to Little Rock when Michael finished law school and has lived here ever since. She learned about gardening from her grandmother and her mother. Her grandmother raised all the flowers for the altar at the Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Memphis. Ruth remembers that her grandmother was a great gardener and loved growing flowers.

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The next regular Master Gardener meeting will be Tuesday, February 8, 1994, at the ARKLA Building, Blue Flame Room, at 11:45 A.M.

GARDENER'S FEBRUARY CHECKLIST

PLANS: On paper, lay out 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: For new planting sites, get your soil tested to determine the proper amendments to add. For 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.

PLANTING: Now is still a good time to plant balled and burlapped trees and shrubs and bare root plant material. As soon after the 15th of February as possible is the ideal time to plant roses, dogwood and broad-leaved evergreens, especially magnolias and hollies. A note on bare-rooted plants: only buy plants that are still dormant, soak the roots in water overnight before planting. If you cannot plant right away, cover the roots with moist soil or compost and store in shady location. **SEED:** Outdoors, some seed that can be sowed now are annual candytuft, cornflowers, larkspur and phlox drummondii. There are others - check your reference material or seed packets. **COLD FRAME:** For early bloom, plant seeds as well as cuttings of shrubs.

TRANSPLANTING: 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.

FERTILIZING: Roses -- Apply top dressing of cottonseed meal and bone meal under generous layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure eliminates danger of nut grass and weed

seeds. Lawns -- Apply lime if needed and you have not done this in December or January. Trees -- If not done in January. Annuals -- As the weather begins to warm, cool season annuals will begin to grow and bloom. Give them a boost by applying a slow-release fertilizer at the rate recommended on the label.

PRUNE: Crepe myrtles, roses, ornamental fruit trees, shrubs, liriope, ornamental grasses. Be sure to prune according to specific type of plant, i.e., (1) wait as long as possible to prune fruit trees. If pruned too early, they can break dormancy early and might suffer damage from a late cold snap; (2) all roses are not pruned alike -- hybrid teas differ from floribunda, etc. -- and all shrubs are not pruned alike. Check the literature to be sure. Wait to prune your forsythia or flowering quince until after they bloom.

WEEDS: Apply pre-emergence herbicides now. You can apply them to an established lawn as well as newly planted ground cover and shrub beds.

INSECT CONTROL: Apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees, shrubs, evergreens, roses and the perennial border for control of borers, mites, aphids, and scale later on in the year. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions. Usually on a calm day when the temperature is above 40 degrees and no rain expected for 24 hours. Spray plants before leaf buds open to avoid burning them. Note: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese maple, walnut, beech or magnolia trees. Inspect cool season annuals and vegetable plants for aphids - 'tis the season! Aphids can easily be controlled with insecticidal soap.

COLD PROTECTION: Still needed this month for those tender plants.

BIRDS: Don't forget our feathered friends -- fill those feeders and provide a regular supply of fresh water. If possible, feed suet, doughnuts,

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Call the County Extension Office if you would like a copy.

- FSA6039 - Establishing Pecan Trees in Arkansas
- FSA6040 - Culture and Care of Pecan Trees in Arkansas
- FSA6037 - Growing Strawberries in Arkansas

HERBAL WORKSHOP

By the Herbin' League: Friday, February 4 and repeated Saturday, February 5. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. both days. Tina Marie Wilcox and Marion Spear, herbalist, gardeners, and entertainers at the Ozark Folk Center will discuss how to grow herbs, their use for making seasonings, their use in cooking, and will guide participants in making herbal specialties for Valentine's Day. Participants should bring scissors and a glue gun. A Registration fee of \$30 (+tax) is required which covers all materials and includes lunch. Make checks to Tina Wilcox C/O Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 11901 Pinnacle Valley Road, Roland, AR 72135. Call for information: 868-5806.

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 4 - 5 Herbal Workshop, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 9:00am - 4:00pm
- Feb. 8 Master Gardener Meeting, ARKLA Building Blue Flame Room, 11:45am
- Feb. 12 Eagle Awareness, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Feb. 13 Eagle Awareness, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 2:00pm
- Feb. 19 Volunteer Hard Hat Day, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 9:00am - 12:00pm
- Feb. 20 Blue Bird Workshop, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 1:00pm - 4:00pm
- Feb. 23 Deadline for reservations for the Cherry Blossom Festival scheduled for March 23 - 27
- Feb. 24 Flower and Garden Show - Setup Booths, Statehouse Convention Center, 7:00am
Volunteers Needed -- Please contact Beth at 660-6650 as soon as possible if you can assist in the Booth Setup
- Feb. 25-27 Flower and Garden Show, Statehouse Convention Center, 9:00am - 6:00pm
- Feb. 27 Flower and Garden Show - Tear down Booths, 5:00pm - 9:00pm
- Mar. 2 - 3 Volunteer Trail Guide Training, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 9:00am - 2:00pm
- Mar. 8 Master Gardener Meeting, ARKLA Building Blue Flame Room, 11:45am
- Mar. 21 ARBOR DAY IN ARKANSAS -- PLANT A TREE!!
- Mar. 23-27 Cherry Blossom Tour, Macon, GA. Sponsored by the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs,
Phone 225-8877 to make reservations. \$423 per person/double occupancy.
Deadline for reservations, February 23.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

- 3 Bridal Wreaths, Myckie Hamilton, 225-2122
4 o'clock seeds, fuschia, Karen Vesole, 228-9704
Empty, clean plastic pots; chive plants,
Marge Van Egmond, 224-7632
Frazier Sun drops, Bettye Jane Daugherty, 221-2865
Garlic bulbs & plants, Aleta Neuell, 666-0991
Pink Crepe Myrtles (3), Mildred Boyles Walton, 663-7331
1 Rose, The Fairy, Jane Gullely, 225-2072
Lambs Ear, Linda Dantzler, 771-0844
Chives, Daffodil bulbs, Lemon Balm plants,
Fred Henker, 565-7260

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 reports, articles, or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Laura Lasiter, 2005 West 13th Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. Her phone numbers are: (H) 374-6595 (W) 758-6126. The deadline for getting items to her for the MARCH newsletter is Monday, February 7. If possible try to have submissions typed. If this is not possible, please print.

1994 Project and Committee Chairpersons

(Chairman listed first, Co-Chairman listed second.)

Projects:

ZOO GARDEN (10 Members)

Jeff Johnson (H) 562-7926 (W) 666-2406
Mickey Williams (H) 821-4360

ZOO BIRDHOUSE (5 Members)

Lynn McMahon (H) 663-0629 (W) 661-0252
Kathy Johnson (H) 565-5226 (W) 661-0252

STATE HOSPITAL (20/25 Members)

Ruth Gibson (H) 835-0158
Jo Anne Hulsey (H) 562-6471

GREENHOUSE (10/15 Members)

Clark Taplin (H) 834-2558 (W) 835-4804
Debbie Coates (H) 664-9133 (W) 375-6427 (Part time)

OLD MILL (30 Members)

Joe Dickens (H) 758-0814 (W) 661-7261
Marie Flickinger (H) 758-4202

OLD STATE HOUSE (12/14 Members)

Bettye J. Daugherty (H) 225-4231
Cathy Rodgers (H) 868-4446

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN (10/12 Members)

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

BAPTIST REHAB. (20 Members)

Mary Ann Dillaha (H) 225-4231
Lavon Spears (H) 753-0240

PINNACLE MOUNTAIN (15 Members)

Jane Gulley (H) 225-2072
Sally Garrison (H) 835-4163

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL (10/12 Members)

Joan Zumwalt (H) 982-8816
Dottie Heckenback (H) 982-5573 (W) 982-4906

BUS STOP/EXT. OFC. (10/12 Members)

Elmer & Margorie Van Egmond (H) 224-7632

MOUNT HOLLY CEMETARY (8 Members)

Nancy Wade (H) 664-8460

Organizational Committees

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

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

SOCIAL

Wincie Hughes (H) 758-5271

NEWSLETTER (Co-Editors)

Kathy Johnson (H) 565-5226 (W) 661-0252
Carol Wallis (H) 333-2519 (W) 378-2519

TRAVEL

Marie Jordan (H) 961-9974
Kate Lynn (H) 961-9745

PUBLICITY

Cathy Rodgers (H) 868-4446
Wini Carter (H) 227-7676

FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW BOOTH

Cecelia Buck (H) 834-2825

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Amaryllis - Genus '*Hippeastrum*' Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener '92....

This plant was not chosen because it starts with the first letter of the alphabet in the first month of the year! Of all the bulbs that will flower out of season indoors, one of the easiest and most rewarding winter house plants to grow is the Amaryllis. Garden historians disagree about its origin. Although credited to South Africa, South America also claims to be its birth place. Amaryllis lovers actually don't care! This lovely plant provides bright flowers during the dark months from December or January to early spring, fully content (and does very well) in the same pot for two or more years! A surprising fact is that it much prefers to live with two thirds of its king-size bulb above the soil level and fully exposed to all the air there is! Planted in pots two to four inches wider than the bulbs, their blossoms appear in about two to four weeks after placing it in the light and growth begins. (Avoid light-weight pots which may become top heavy when your Amaryllis is in full bloom.) The typical old-time blossoms were plain red with a bit of white intermixed. Now there is a wide range of considerably softer tones and notable varieties, all of which are often sold as Dutch hybrids. Their names are Apple Blossom (blush pink), Beautiful Lady (Salmon Orange), Fire Dance, (bright red), Scarlet Admiral, (deep scarlet), and White Giant, (snowy white). Try to grow some within the next month. This magnificent plant will reward you with massive, colorful blossoms - some can be as much as 8 to 10 inches in diameter, borne at the top of the leafless one-to-two foot stems! They will speak with nature's voice, saying Happy New Year! Spring is definitely on the way.

REPORT ON SPEAKERS FOR THE FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

February 25	10:30 a.m.	Landscaping with Herbs	Betty Pagan
	11:30 a.m.	Lawn Care Tips	Dr. John Boyd
	1:30 p.m.	Trees & Shrubs For Your Garden	John Elsley, Sr. Horticulturist, Wayside Gardens
	2:30 p.m.	Experience with Wildlife Planting in Arkansas	Wendy Welch
February 26	3:30 p.m.	Hostas to Know and How to Grow	Bob Hambuchen
	4:00 p.m.	All You Wanted to Know about Tomatoes	Dr. Craig Anderson, U. of A.
	10:30 a.m.	Perennials for the Shady Garden	John Elsley
	11:30 a.m.	Your Garden, An Extension of You	Karen Hanna, Asst. Prof. of Landscape Architecture, U. of A.
February 27	1:30 p.m.	Flower Arranging for a Special Wedding	Joy Angel
	2:30 p.m.	A White House Christmas	Imogene Miller
	3:30 p.m.	America Botanic Gardens	Carl Totemeier, retired Director of Brooklyn Botanical Gardens
	1:30 p.m.	Year-round Interest in the Garden	Carl Totemeier
	2:30 p.m.	Annuals for Seasonal Color	Janet Carson
	3:15 p.m.	Impressions of A Horticulturist in China	Dr. Harold Klingaman

Volunteers are still needed for the Flower & Garden Show, February 25, 26 and 27. Don't forget to sign up on the blue sheet enclosed with the newsletter. Volunteers needed for all days in all areas, especially Thursday for set up from 7:30 a.m. on, and on Sunday evening from 5:00 p.m. on. A couple of hours of volunteer work during this show will be most appreciated.

PRESS RELEASE FROM PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

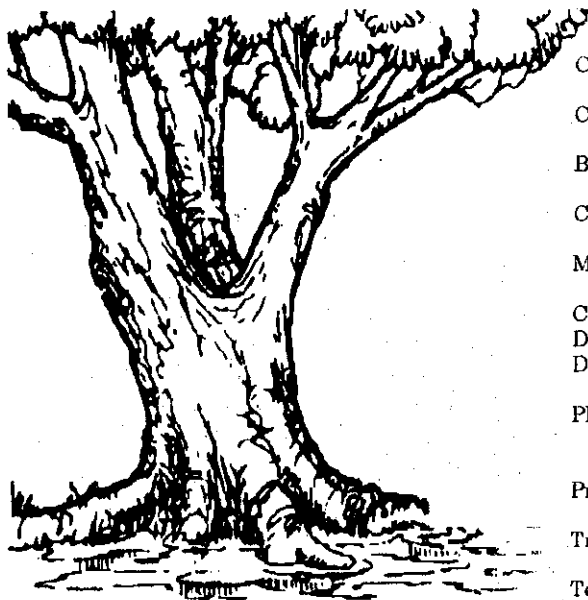
Dr. Steven Still
3383 Schirtzinger Road, Hilliard
Ohio 43026
Phone (614)771-8431
FAX (614) 876-5238

The Perennial Plant Association's **Perennial Plant of the Year** for 1994 is *Astilbe 'Sprite'*. This perennial was selected for its long season ornamental effect and adaptability to most areas of the United States and Canada. Homeowners will be able to obtain this excellent cultivar through their local garden centers or through mail order nurseries. Previous selections for the **Perennial Plant of the Year** include: 1990 - *Phlox stolonifera*'; 1991 - *Heuchera 'Palace Purple'*'; 1992 - *Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'*; and 1993 - *Veronica 'Sunny Border Blue'*.

Astilbe 'Sprite' is hardy. It is a reliable performer in USDA Hardiness Zones 3 - 8. It tolerates full sun to partial shade in the North and partial to full shade in the South. It requires fertile, well-drained but moist soil for successful culture. Its unique qualities are: tiny, pink flowers on graceful, arching plums which appear in mid-summer. Its deep, rich, green foliage is finely dissected and crinkley-edged. Use it as an accent plant, or massed as a ground cover. Bare-root plants are best planted in early spring; potted plants may be set any time from spring until one month before a hard killing frost. Potted plants should be planted so they are at the same depth as they were in the pot.



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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1994 Newsletter Staff

Co-Editors	Kathy Johnson Carol Wallis
Committees & Board	Phyllis Watson Virginia Johnson
Biographies	Elmer Van Egmond Sheila Mchaffy
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Monthly Checklist	Laura Lasiter Kathy Scheibner
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Plant of the Month	Kathy Scheibner Marjorie Van Egmond Lois Corley
Projects	Joyce Bumgardner Charlotte Gebhart
Trading Post	David Dodson Phyllis Watson
Telephone Mailing List	Verna Mathis David Dodson

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

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Number Three

March 1994

Meet our Master Gardeners

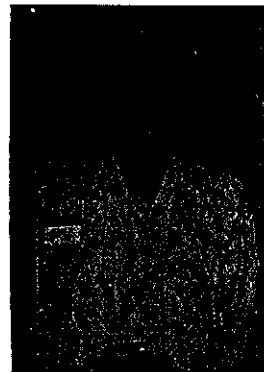


NAME: Pat Marchese
SPOUSE: Joseph
CHILDREN: Fran, 11 and Nathan, 9
BECAME A MG: 1989
WORK ACTIVITY: Pinnacle Mountain
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her children - they help her garden.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Peonies. She has some

stock from plants planted 100 years ago. They even do well in rocky soil.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: rocky soil

Pat grew up in Perry County and learned the love of gardening from her parents. Her family did mostly vegetable gardening. Pat grows some herbs at her home. She enjoys her garden and finds that her children are great at picking up rocks and helping her in many ways.



NAME: Joan Zumwalt
SPOUSE: Mac
CHILDREN: Greg: an Aerospace engineer with NASA in Langley, VA. Lisa Bamberg: self-employed with B.J. Enterprises, Little Rock.
Kelli: works in marketing, Miami, Fla.
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORK ACTIVITY: Jack-

sonville City Hall

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Sharp Shooter Shovel

FAVORITE PLANTS: Caladiums

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Aphids

Joan grew up in southern Indiana and was motivated by her mother to learn and enjoy gardening. She has lived in Arkansas for 30 years. Her husband is a retired military officer who was the commander of LRAFB. Joan enjoys her garden where she is helped by her daughter, Lisa. She also works in several memorial gardens in the area.

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The next regular Master Gardener meeting
will be Tuesday, March 8, 1994,
at the ARKLA Building, Blue Flame Room,
at 11:45 A.M.

GARDENER'S MARCH CHECKLIST

PRUNE: Roses (the first week of the month), Crape Myrtles, evergreens (if not done in February), and ivy (cut back hard). For climbing roses that bloom once per year, prune after blooming and seal cuts with pruning paint or white glue.

FERTILIZE: All the garden except acid-loving plants. A small amount of bone meal early will increase the size of tulip and daffodil flowers. Fertilize cool season grasses (rye, fescue, bluegrass). Warm season grasses should be fertilized after green-up. Trees may be fertilized now before green-up of lawn. This will help those trees that were damaged or stressed during the previous year.

MULCH: Replenish mulch on azaleas and camellias.

INSECT & DISEASE CONTROLS: Apply final dormant oil spray for roses. As roses leaf out, begin spraying every week to 10 days with Funginex to control disease. If fungus has been a problem in Red Tip Photinia, remove mulch, apply fresh mulch, spray with Daconil, Funginex, or Bordeaux now and again 2 weeks later. (Consider eleagnus as an alternate evergreen planting.)

ORNAMENTALS: Still time to plant magnolias, hollies, etc. Divide and replant border plants. Flowering shrubs may be moved with ball of dirt, small plants bare-rooted. March is the best month to move crape myrtles.

ANNUALS: Sow seeds or plant seedlings. Several annuals can be planted now - snapdragons, 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. Wait until danger of frost is past (after April 5 - 10) to set out herbs.

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.

LAWNS: Don't use herbicides on the lawn during the green up period. Turfgrass is very sensitive during this time. Apply a pre-emergent to lawn for crabgrass control, if needed, by March 1.

STILL OKAY 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.

PLANT: New roses (before March 15), tree roses, English peas (before March 15), broccoli, spinach, turnip greens, lettuce, cabbage, onions, potatoes, beets, carrots, chard, mustard greens, parsnips, and radishes.

HOUSEPLANTS: Don't move houseplants outside too soon! Move them outside in May and then back inside in September. Some plants are tropicals, which means they cannot stand temperatures below 55 degrees. Others, while not considered tropicals are also tender below 55 degrees. To ensure plant health, when buying houseplants during cold weather, cover them before taking them out to your car and if extremely cold, warm the car beforehand. Thin out Hibiscus branches in winter, prune back hard in March and, when it is ready to go outside in May, fertilize it well.

ARBOR DAY: Arkansas celebrates Arbor Day the third Monday of March, which will be March 21st 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!

SPRING IS HERE !!

Spring must be here! The telephone is ringing! If you can help with the telephones, please call Mrs. McKinney and sign up. Remember, 1993-94 Master Gardeners need 20 hours of phone time. Experienced Master Gardeners can use phone time as recertification OR volunteer time.

*"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

Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 2-3 Volunteer Trail Guide Training Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. FOR INFORMATION CALL 868-5806
- 3 Pruning Fruit Trees Work Demonstration 9:00 a.m. Little Rock Zoo (Bring your own tools)
- 5 Pinnacle Mountain State Park - Backpack Basic 1 - 5 p.m.
- 5-6 Wildwood Blooms, Ricks Armory
- 7 Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration by Dr. Keith Patterson at Goodson's Farm on Highway 10 2:00 p.m. Limit 40 people. Call the Extension Office for more information.
- 8 Master Gardener Regular Meeting, ARKLA Blue Flame Room, 11:45 a.m.
- 12 Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Angler's Delight, 10 - 4 p.m.
- 15 Master Gardener Tour to Dick Butler's Home to see the Daffodils. Contact Travel Committee
- 19 Pinnacle Mountain State Park Volunteer Orientation, 2 - 4 p.m.
- 19 -20 Pinnacle Mountain State Park Spring Book Sale, 9 - 5 p.m. (19th) Noon - 5 p.m. (20th)
- 21 ARBOR DAY IN ARKANSAS--PLANT A TREE!!!!
- 22 Partners for Pinnacle General Meeting. 7 p.m.
- 22 Pinnacle Mountain organization meeting, State Park Visitors Center, 10:00 a.m. Only meeting this year to decide work schedules, with walk-thru of gardens and watering system demo. Arboretium will also be toured. Bring sandwich for picnic lunch.
- 23-27 Cherry Blossom Tour, Macon, GA., sponsored by the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Phone 225-8877 to make reservations. \$423 per person/Double occupancy. Deadline for reservations - 2/23
- 26-27 Pinnacle Mountain State Park Canoe Day Floats. 9 - 2 p.m.

APRIL

- 10-16 NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK!
- 22 EARTH DAY!
- 20-23 Approximate dates for State Master Gardener Trip to New Orleans to tour gardens and plantations. Janet Carson is organizing and will provide additional information.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Lemon Balm, Flowering Quince, Marie Flickinger, 758-4202
Organic Gardening 1994 Almanac Booklet,
Margaret Fizer, 834-2338
Pachysandra, Debbie Coates, 664-9133
Jerusalem Artichokes, Ray Robbins, 227-6565

Needed by Bill Burgin, 221-3559 - Hostas, Bleeding Hearts,
Ferns or other shady area perennials.

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1994 Project and Committee Chairpersons

(Chairman listed first, Co-Chairman listed second.)

Projects:

ZOO GARDEN (10 Members)

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MOUNT HOLLY CEMETARY (8 Members)

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PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Ann Bridgers (H) 224-1798 (W) 227-0603
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NEWSLETTER (Co-Editors)

Kathy Johnson (H) 565-5226 (W) 661-0252
Carol Wallis (H) 333-2519 (W) 378-2519

TRAVEL

Marie Jordan (H) 961-9974
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FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW BOOTH

Cecelia Buck (H) 834-2825

RECIPES FROM THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Cheese Ring with Strawberry Jam

(Prepare One Day Ahead)
Debby Coates

Serves 10

1 pound Sharp Cheddar Cheese, grated
1 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup mayonnaise
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, pressed
1/2 teaspoon Tabasco
1 cup strawberry jam
1 cup chopped pecans to cover the completed
cheese ring (optional).

Mix first six ingredients together well until creamy with an electric mixer. (You can do this by hand, but you will not have a fine consistency, which is nice with spreadable cheeses.) You can mold this by hand into a ring shape on your serving dish, or line your mold with dampened cheesecloth and press the cheese mixture into it. Refrigerate over night. Unmold onto a serving plate and place strawberry jam in the center. Serve with crackers.

I DOUBLED THE RECIPE FOR THE MASTER GARDENER PARTY. I ALSO HAD SOME EXTRA PECANS AND CHOPPED THEM AND PRESSED THEM AROUND THE OUTSIDE OF THE MOLDED CHEESE RING BEFORE SERVING.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

Symbols of Spring, Lois Corley, Master Gardener

DAFFODILS

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills
When all at once I saw a crowd --
A host of golden daffodils
Beside the lake, beneath the trees
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."

-- William Wordsworth

The Narcissus is important in all our gardens. It's easily grown and familiar to all. Daffodil, Narcissus or Jonquil -- which is correct for this beauty that announces Spring? Although it generally applies to the white and often cluster-flowered types, the correct botanical name for the entire genus is Narcissus.

Breeding of Narcissi is relatively modern, but the genus has been grown and collected with enthusiasm for hundreds of years. Plant bulbs in early Fall to establish the roots before winter. Choose a well-drained location in sun or light shade. After flowering, allow foliage to ripen and die back completely before cutting.

CROCUS

Small plants with grass-like foliage. Spring-blooming flower February to April. Fall-blooming flower September to November. Crocus do best in cool areas. Grow in well-drained soil and full sun to part shade. If rodents don't bother them (a major problem), they multiply rapidly. Foliage should ripen naturally before being cut. Fall-blooming crocus is a source of saffron.

Crocuses are the most popular among the early blooming minor bulbs. Other favorites are "Snowflake, Dwarf narcissi, Spanish bluebells, and Grape hyacinths." These little bulbs lend themselves admirably to many situations, in rock gardens, woods' edge, mixed borders and naturalizing in ground covers. Remember to keep colors together and plant in numbers for the best impact.

More Recipes

Crunchy Frozen Punch

From Thirty Years at the Mansion

Serves 50. This punch is featured in the Governor's mansion at Christmas parties.

- 3 3-oz. packages gelatin (any flavor)
- 9 cups boiling water
- 4 cups sugar
- 4 cups water
- 1 16-oz. bottle lemon juice
- 2 46-oz. cans pineapple juice
- 6 quarts ginger ale

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Combine sugar with 4 cups water and bring to a quick boil. Add to gelatin mixture and set aside to cool.

Add lemon juice and pineapple juice. Mix well and freeze in a plastic bucket covered with foil.

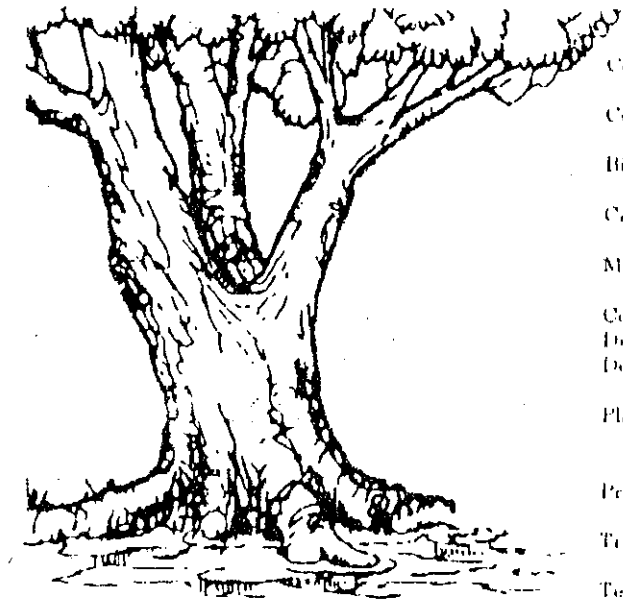
When ready to serve, put in a large container and add ginger ale to consistency desired. This punch may be broken up with a large knife as it thaws. It is ready to serve when it is slushy.

Going on a Trip?

You may be interested in gardens visited by fellow Master Gardeners in the state you're visiting. We now have files started on the following states: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Tennessee and Texas. These are located in the Master Gardener office. The name of the garden and its location, followed by the Master Gardener who submitted it. If you have brochures or photos that you would like to share, mail them to the extension office, including comments, dates and your name. HAPPY TRAVELS!

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This MASTER MINUTES newsletter is compiled by Master Gardeners to support the Pulaski County Master Gardeners 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 Five

Number Four

April 1994

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Jim Bowling
SPOUSE: Jo Ann (also a Master Gardener)
CHILDREN: 2 boys, 1 girl - all married. Boys live in LR area. Daughter, in Maryland.
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Old Mill and Bus Stop Extension Office
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Perennials developed from my

grandfather's plants. Also sprinkler and drip irrigation system for the lawn and beds.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Not having time for all I want to do.

Jim grew up in N.W. Arkansas. He has worked in North Central and North West Arkansas as a County Agent and as District Director. Master Gardeners and other County gardeners are fortunate in having Jim's training and experience available as he is now working part time at the Pulaski County Extension Office. During his "spare time" Jim is restoring an antique car and a pick up. He is also redoing his yard works with his son in the Bowling Agricultural Services Co. in North Little Rock. The company provides lawn care services, landscaping and irrigation systems.



NAME: Jo Ann Bowling
SPOUSE: Jim (also a Master Gardener)
CHILDREN: 2 boys, 1 girl - all married. 6 grandchildren
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Old Mill
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her husband. He does the heavy work. She helps with the planning and he does the hard

part.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Can't get all the things done that I want to do.

FAVORITE PLANT: Amaryllis.

Jo Ann grew up in Des Ark. She obtained her degree in Home Economics at the University of Arkansas. Her grandmother and Jim's grandmother were good friends and lived near each other in Prairie Grove. Visits to grandmother's houses led to visits on other occasions and well, you know how the story turned out. Among other interests, Jo Ann does pattern test work for Leisure Arts in crocheting and knitting. She checks on instructions for accuracy and completeness. The object she makes is then photographed and used to show how the completed pattern should look.

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The next regular Master Gardener meeting will be Tuesday, April 12, 1994, at the ARKLA Building, Blue Flame Room, at 11:45 A.M.

(Fall Foliage Tour Deposit Due)

GARDENER'S APRIL CHECKLIST

VEGETABLES: All cool season crops can be planted through the month of April. After April 10th, plant seeds and transplants of warm weather vegetables. Crops to sow include cucumbers, beans, melons, squash and sweet corn. You can set out young plants of tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. Note on tomatoes: If an unexpected late freeze is forecast after you have planted, cover tomato plants with paper bags, baskets, straw or anything that will hold the warmth of the day around the plants. If you cover with plastic, support the covering so that it does not touch the leaves. Be sure to remove the plastic during the day or open a vent so it will not collect too much heat from the sun. Remove all covering as soon as the weather warms up again.

BULBS: Remember to let leaves of Spring blooming bulbs remain until they decline. The bulbs may then be left in the ground or dug and stored. The bulb coat should be a light brown before being dug. After digging, dry them in an airy shaded spot. Then, store in a cool, dry, dimly lit area. **Summer bulbs** such as cannas, caladiums (the strap-leaf type does well even in full sun), dahlias, gladioli and tuberose can be set out now. You can also grow agapanthus, calla lilies, caladiums and gloriosa lilies (vines) in the garden or in pots on a porch or terrace. Many of these will be winter hardy if mulched heavily.

PRUNING: All Spring flowering shrubs may be pruned once they have finished blooming.

MULCH: It is very important that every newly-planted flower, shrub or tree should be mulched at the time of planting. Do it as a part of the planting routine, like watering. It will add a great deal to the plant's chance of success if you keep the ground around it from caking on top. Mulching also reduces the need to weed and hoe. Add to mulch around established plants if necessary.

ROSES: Chemical control of black spot should begin in Spring as the foliage starts to expand. Additional spray should be applied at 2-week intervals throughout the growing season. The best fungicides for black spot control are Benlate, Funginex or Daconil. Do not plant dormant roses after April 15th. Potted roses can be planted until May 15th.

ANNUALS: Many flowers can be sown directly into a prepared garden bed. Sow seeds thinly in a well-prepared bed and cover as directed on the seed packet. Seeds that perform well at this time include zinnia, gomphrena, cosmos, cleome, abelmoschus, marigolds, melampodium, sunflowers, tithonia and morning glories. 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 them.

PERENNIALS: Divide and replant violets. Divide other perennials at this time also, making sure new shoots are present with each division. Replant at the depth they were originally growing and water with "Superthrive." As shoots emerge from those unlabeled

perennials, try to identify and label them now. Plant perennial phlox. Transplant seedlings of early planted perennials. Transplanted early, seedlings get off to a good start before it gets hot. But, take care not to put tender bedding plants out too soon.

HERBS: You can grow flavorful herbs beside other garden plants as long as you avoid pesticides labeled "not for edible plants." **Basil** makes an upright plant about 3 feet tall and 2 feet across. (**Spicy glove basil** will stay about 1 foot tall.) It is an annual ideal for a bright green element among your flowers. **Creeping Thyme** grows into a fine textured mat for the front of a border or to trail over a wall. **Rosemary** is cold hardy to 15 degrees and grows well in a pot. Placed near a walk or terrace, it releases a piney fragrance whenever it is touched. Most herbs require full sun, sweet soil on the limey side. A few, like Bergamot, Salad Burnet, Chervil, Costmary, Cress, Lemon Balm, Marjoram, Mints, Pennyroyal and Sweet Woodruff, will tolerate light shade.

HANGING BASKETS: Consider planting a mixed basket using several different kinds of flowers or foliage to give variety in color, texture and form. Two interesting combinations: narrow leaf Zinnia, white Petunias and Cape Plumbago; purple-leaved Wandering Jew and Ageratum or ornamental Kale and Sweet Alyssum. For a large full basket, use a wire one instead of the plastic type. Begin by soaking sheets of sphagnum moss in a bucket of water. Then press the wet moss along the inside of the wire frame to form a lining. Wrap the moss over the rim, and fill the basket with sterile potting soil. Set transplants in the center of the basket. For extra fullness, cut slits in the moss and set transplants into the sides of the basket as well.

AZALEAS: Feed after flowering with a fertilizer that contains iron and other elements. (Follow package directions carefully.) Azalea roots are compact, fibrous and shallow (Granular or foliar feedings both work well.) Because they grow near the surface of the soil, they are very sensitive to drying. Water regularly during periods of drought and insulate them with a 2-3 inch layer of mulch before hot weather arrives.

EASTER LILIES: After lilies fade, plant the bulbs in a sunny, well-drained location. Let the foliage remain all summer, then cut it back with the perennials as they die in the fall. Next year the bulbs will sprout again. Although they will not bloom for Easter, you will have flowers in late Spring or early Summer.

LAWNS: Lawns will be greening up in April! It is advisable not to use any kind of herbicides (postemergent or preemergent) while grass is turning green - wait until after it is totally greened up. Also, wait until the grass is totally green to fertilize. The appearance of dandelions, pennywort and other unwanted warm season weeds begins. An early application of a post-emergent herbicide (after the grass has greened up) can help control these weeds before they take over your lawn. Be sure and use chemicals specifically for your type of lawn and **READ THE LABEL CAREFULLY.** If centipede lawns yellow

Continued on page 3

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 2 Spring Wildflower Strolls, Pinnacle Mountain State Park Strolls 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Carl Hunter will show wildflower slides at 3:00 p.m.
- 7 Weed Identification, Old Mill, 9:00 a.m.
- 9 Crash Bird Course, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 10-16 NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK
- 12 Master Gardener Regular Meeting, ARKLA Blue Flame Room, 11:45 a.m. (Please remember - Deposit is due for Fall Foliage Tour)
- 15 20th Century Club Azalea Workshop (Details in Trips section)
- 20-23 Master Gardener Trip to Louisiana (Details in Trips section)
- 22 EARTH DAY!
- 30 Breakfast With The Birds, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- 30 Elf Encounter Workshop, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MAY

- 10 Master Gardener Regular Meeting, ARKLA Blue Flame Room, 11:45 a.m.
- 24 Master Gardener Tour, Clark Taplin's "Flowers In The Field"

Continued from page 2

even after they have been fertilized, they probably need an extra shot of iron. To turn the grass green again, spread iron sulfate granules over the lawn at the rate of 10 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Use a fertilizer spreader to distribute the material and water well after applying. OR you can spray the lawn with a solution of liquid iron, such as Greenol, at the rate recommended on the label. Start mowing this season with 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.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Have:

Magic Lilies (Pink)
Lirope
Obedience Plant
Violets

Leslie Scott
Bill Burgin, 221-3559
Ginger Coggins, 225-2778
Margaret Fizer, 834-3217

Want:

Monkey Grass (Mondo)
Hostas, Ferns, Sedum, Iris,
Daisies, Cone Flowers
Bleeding Heart
Yellow Linaria

Ruth Jones, 664-8977
Bill Burgin, 221-3559
Ginger Coggins, 225-2778
Mary Evans, 664-7863

PROJECTS

OLD MILL All Dates Listed - Meet at Old Mill at 9:00 a.m.

A planning session will be held April 5. April 7 (weed & plant identification), April 21, May 5, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18. Feel free to go other days to weed or clean. No new beds planned. We will work on maintaining existing beds, turf and installation of irrigation at some point.

ZOO GARDEN

We have started working our temporary garden at the greenhouse. We are there each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Bring your favorite weeding tool. Those wishing to do some weeding and cleanup on weekends should call the hospital operator at 686-9000, ask for Security, and tell them when you will be there. Call Jeff Johnson 562-7962 to get the lock combination.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE

Workday scheduled for Saturday, April 16th. Please bring a shovel.

BAPTIST REHAB

Going well with team effort and programs being well received by all! **WORK DAYS:** April 2, April 9, May 7, May 14, June 4, June 11, July 9, July 16, August 6, August 13 - to start.

STATE HOSPITAL

The Spring maintenance schedule is in place. Color is now provided by pansies and later by tulips. Annuals and perennials will be planted in May.

GREENHOUSE

Plans are to meet every Friday in April at Noon (April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29) to work with the seedlings and annuals that we will be growing for the projects and for the MG group. Plan to come when it is convenient for you, bring a lunch if you want and stay as long as you can. When we got together in February, we had lots of help and no one had to stay very long. Seedlings will be ready for project plantings on May 1, and some seedlings may be available for sale to MG's. Call Clark Taplin (834-2558 H or 835-4804 W) or Debby Coates (664-9133 H) for more info.

OLD STATEHOUSE

They report they are maintaining pansies and eagerly awaiting the May blooming tulips.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

Work days will be April 9 and 26th at 9:00 a.m. Please note that if weather is questionable, call Ruth Jones, 664-8977; or Ginger Coggins, 225-2778.

BUS STOP AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE

We need help deadheading pansies, weeding and pruning beds. Please call the Van Egmonds if you can assist. The committee will be informed of the next work day by mail.

MT. HOLLY

Work days scheduled for April 7 and 23 at 9:30 a.m., April 16 at 9:00 a.m. and May 5 at 9:30 a.m. All who are interested in helping are welcome.

No work dates received from Pinnacle Mountain, Jacksonville City Hall by newsletter deadline.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

PARSLEY

(More than just a pretty leaf!)

Marge Van Egmond - Master Gardener '92

An Important Fact: A 1 oz. serving (1/2 cup) of chopped fresh parsley gives one an impressive amount of Vitamin C and A. What's more, PARSLEY is also a good source of iron and folic acid. No wonder the nutritionists are devout advocates of this wonderful herb. Although most of us don't have enough room in our gardens to plant a peck of parsley, try growing your own and be assured of pesticide-free parsley to perk up your palate year 'round.

Main Types: **Curled Leaf** (*Petroselinum Crispum*, grown mostly for its leaves and commonly used to decorate restaurant dinner plates. **Flat Leaf Italian** (*P. crispum* var. *neopolitanum*) more flavorful and easier to clean. Excellent for soups and stews. **Root type - German Hamburg** ("turnip rooted"), grown mostly for its parsnip-like, fleshy roots. Excellent for hearty wintertime stews. **Japanese** (*Cryptotaenia japonica*), mild flavored. Long stalks can be blanched and used as celery. Excellent for soups, salads, or stir-fries.

Parsley is a biennial. It takes two full seasons to reach its full growth and produce seeds. This healthy herb, in cool spring soils can take 3 or 4 weeks to sprout. However, a preliminary overnight soaking in tepid water speeds up germination. An alternative is to nick or "scarify" the seeds with a file. Best grown in sun-filtered shade or morning sun and afternoon shade in partially moist soil that should be enriched with compost or manure.

Parsley was one of the herbs the Romans grew in Britain "way back when" for export to the rest of the Empire. It had many uses - symbolic, medicinal and culinary. Parsley was served between courses and chewed to cleanse the breath of garlic and onion, a trick that works just as well today. So, the next time you find parsley on your plate as a garnish (wherever you find yourself), don't leave it there -- EAT IT!

MASTER GARDENER TRIPS - 1994

BASIC INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for all trips will be on a table at the monthly Master Gardener Meetings. Reservations for out-of-town trips can also be made through Mrs. McKinney at the Extension Office (340-6650). Make checks payable to: Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Spouses and friends are welcome on all trips, provided all Master Gardeners are accommodated first. Details for each trip have been planned by individual members of the Travel Committee. Their names are listed by the trip as Planners. You may call them for additional information on each trip. **Important: A deposit for the Fall Foliage Trip must be made by our monthly meeting date of April 12, 1994.**

APRIL 15 (Friday) AZALEA WORKSHOP, 20th Century Garden, Hot Springs

Morning Session departs on the Belle of Hot Springs at 10:00 a.m., Lunch on the way back. Afternoon session departs on the Belle of Hot Springs at 1:00 p.m. Lunch on the way to the garden. Reservations made through the Belle of Hot Springs 1-525-4438. Cost \$25.00.

APRIL 20-23 (Wed-Sat.) NEW ORLEANS

Travel with State Master Gardeners and Janet Carson to New Orleans and gardens of the deep South. Information regarding the trip was sent to you enclosed with the March Master Gardener Newsletter. If you need additional information, call Beth at the Extension Office.

MAY 12 (Thursday) LITTLE ROCK BEAUTIES

See three beautiful, lush, Spring gardens in our own Little Rock area at the homes of Allen Smith, Bettye Jane Daugherty and Betsy Gray. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the back parking lot of Second Presbyterian Church located at Cantrell and Pleasant Valley Drive. Visits should be completed by 11:30 or 12:00.

Planner: Sheila Mehaffy 663-5981

MAY 24 (Tuesday) FLOWERS IN THE FIELD

Experience seeing fields of flowers for cutting grown by Master Gardener, Clark Taplin. Bring a sack lunch and stay for a picnic at the flower farm. Departure time and place to be announced.

Planner: Sally Garrison 835-4163

JUNE 2 (Thursday) DAYLILIES, PLANTATION, HERBS

Journey to Scott for a tour and lunch at Marlsgate Plantation at 11:00 a.m. Cost \$23.00 plus tax per person, minimum of 16 needed. Others may join us after lunch at no cost for a tour of the plantation grounds and see a wide variety of daylilies at their peak bloom. Then, we're off to Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse for a cool glass of herb lemonade and good buys on herbs and other plants.

Planners: Marie Jordan 961-9974
Kate Lynn 961-9745

JULY 7 (Thursday) HAMBUCHEN'S HOSTAS

Experience the refreshing coolness of green hostas on a visit to Bob Hambuchen's garden in Conway. Bob has over 100 varieties of hostas and will have some for sale at excellent prices as this is his last year of business. Plan for a picnic lunch. Look for car pooling information later.

Planners: Bonnie LoBianco 851-6741
Melanie Holland 851-0301

SEPTEMBER 27 (Tuesday) LARRY LOMAN'S RIDGECREST NURSERY

Car pool with us to Wynne, AR, for a unique visit with Larry Lowman and a nursery full of native plants, exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. We will take a sack lunch and leave the Extension Office at 8:00 a.m.

Planner: Carolyn Henslee 666-7502

OCTOBER 18-19 (Tuesday-Wednesday) EUREKA SPRINGS, FALL FOLIAGE

Overnight bus trip to see fall foliage & Eureka Springs. 26 persons to stay at Heartstone Inn Bed & Breakfast at a cost of \$50.30 per person double occupancy. (One room for three people and the cottage for four people.) **If stairs are a problem, please let us know.** An additional Bed and Breakfast will be secured for 14 more persons at approximately the same cost. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 per person is required by April 12, the next monthly meeting date. Deposit can be sold. Someone will be at sign-up table at the April monthly meeting to accept deposits or they can be sent to Mrs. McKinney. Bus fare will be approximately \$25 per person. There will be additional expense of three meals. Plans are being made to visit the Eureka Springs Botanical Garden, Thorncrown Chapel, Perennials, Etc. Nursery, shopping time and possibly a train ride to see "Lions, Tigers, and Bears."

Planners: Bonnie Cargile 868-5404
Sally Garrison 835-4163

(Kathryn Cobb has been in charge of housing)

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RECIPE

The following dip was a hit at our Christmas Party and we have had many requests for it.

TAMALE CHEESE DIP.....provided by Melanie Barton, Dept. of Finance & Adm.

- 1 1 lb. box mild Velveeta cheese
- 2 16 oz. cans Hormel chili without beans
- 2 16 oz. cans Hormel tamales
- 1/2 8 oz. jar Pace picante sauce (mild or hot)
- 1 cup water

In crock pot on high, melt 1/2 box cheese with 1 can of chili, the water, and 1 can tamales. Simmer until cheese melts (about 20 minutes). Reduce crock pot temperature to low. Add remaining chili, tamales, cheese and 1/2 jar picante sauce. Stir thoroughly and break tamales with fork as they cook. Simmer on low for another 30 minutes until mixture reaches the desired thickness. Add water if needed. To serve, spoon over chips.

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Beth Phelps

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent - Agriculture



Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Five

May 1994

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: David Dodson
SPOUSE: Sarah
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Greenhouse and Bus Stop
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Compost Heap
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Very wet, clay soil. Everything has to be planted in raised beds.

David grew up in Magnolia, Arkansas, near the UA-Magnolia campus. He was always around agricultural areas although his immediate family was not particularly interested in gardening. David and Sarah have lived in Little Rock for 20 years and his interest in gardening grew as he enjoyed his "back yard garden." David, who works as Director of Printing at the Arkansas Farm Bureau has been a great help in maintaining the "Master Minutes" mailing list and in working with the "Trading Post" column for the news letter. He has also designed and printed the great new forms for the monthly reporting of work hours!



NAME: Marie Jordan
SPOUSE: Ben
CHILDREN: 2 adult sons: Steve, who lives with his wife and 3 daughters in Searcy, and Chris who lives in Seattle.
BECAME A MG: 1991
WORK ACTIVITY: Pinnacle
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Shovel

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Not enough time and space to grow everything that she would like.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Whatever is blooming, but especially Chrysanthemums.

Marie grew up in Quitman, Arkansas, on a farm. Her mother always had vegetable and flower gardens and Marie learned to love gardening by working with her mother. Ben, her husband, is a Methodist minister. He is now retired, but serves as the minister at All Souls Church in Scott where Marie and Ben live. They have moved several times during their marriage, but Marie has always planted a garden wherever they were and has always left a dogwood tree for the next person to live in their home. She is a retired teacher who is presently serving as Chairman of the Travel Committee for the Master Gardeners.

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The next regular Master Gardener meeting will be Tuesday, May 10, 1994, at the ARKLA Building, Blue Flame Room, at 11:45 A.M.

GARDENER'S MAY CHECKLIST

ANNUALS: Set out transplants now. Choose those that will perform well in your particular garden area. Good in full sun: Verbena, Madagascar Periwinkle, Ageratum, Marigold, Zinnia, Petunia, Celosia, Wax Begonia. Good for shade: Impatiens, Coleus, Browallia will be the best. Northern or eastern exposures with partial sun, some of the early annuals will continue all summer. These include: Sweet Alyssum, Lobelia and Annual Dianthus.

BULBS: Still okay to plant caladiums, cannas, other summer bulbs.

ORNAMENTALS: Still okay to plant CONTAINER GROWN trees and shrubs. **Spray Red Top Photinia** with Daconil (you will probably need to spray 2-3 times for control). **Prune Spring-flowering trees & shrubs** after blooming. Prune only if you have a reason. Key to success: no one should be able to tell the plant has been pruned when you finish. Spirea, Weigela, Kolkwitzia, Quince and Wintersweet do need occasional shaping, but Azaleas, Rhododendron, Japanese Andromeda (Pieris), and Loropetalum are some that very seldom need shaping. **ROSES:** Continue to spray every 7 to 10 days with a fungicide to prevent blackspot. Don't cut suckers that grow from beneath the graft. Instead, push trowel down beside the trunk so that sucker is torn off. This will remove any dormant buds at the base of the shoot. Suckers that sprout from beneath the graft will not produce the same kind of flowers as the grafted shrub.

LAWNS: The first application of fertilizer can be made this month. 2,4-D can be used as a post-emergent herbicide once the grass has turned green. **READ THE LABEL! MAKE SURE HERBICIDE YOU USE IS COMPATIBLE WITH YOUR TYPE OF GRASS!**

FRUIT: Fertilize established blueberry plants this month with a formula for acid-loving plants. Apply regularly through the growing season. Slugs may become a problem in strawberry plants. See below for control of slugs. Spray fruit trees with a general purpose mix to combat brown rot, scab, codling moth, curculio, and plant bugs. Spray every 7 to 14 days from petal fall until harvest.

VEGETABLES: Cool weather crops can be harvested now. Begin planting green beans, lima beans, squash, melons, cucumbers, tomatoes, eggplant and peppers (seed or transplants). Soak okra seeds overnight before planting and sow on the North side of your vegetable garden so the tall stalks won't shade the other plants. Recommended

selections include Clemson Spineless, Annie Oakley, Lee and Blondy (dwarf plants), and Park's Candabra Branching (more than one stem per plant for higher yields in less space).

MULCH: Mulch to keep soil cooler, conserve moisture, contribute nutrients and to keep down weeds. Lawn clippings are good and readily available mulches. Don't mix wood chips with the soil as they tie up available nitrogen for some time. Make sure that manures are thoroughly composted before using.

INSECTS: Watch for **SPIDER MITES AND LACEBUGS** on your azaleas. Lacebug eggs hatch in May and produce tiny sap-sucking nymphs which congregate on the underside of the leaf. As nymphs and adults feed, they leave a number of brownish specks caused by fecal deposits. Leaves of affected plants have a grayish or brownish cast at first, followed by yellow mottling. Control with Dursban or Orthene. Two or three applications beginning around the first of June and repeated at ten day intervals may be necessary. Another way: 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). **APHIDS:** signs: distorted new growth and prevention of flowering and fruiting. Kill aphids with insecticidal soap. Be sure to spray the stems and undersides of leaves. **SLUGS:** they strike at night, often stripping whole stems of leaves and eating into fruit and vegetables. Diatomaceous earth can be used to kill slugs and commercial baits are effective, but toxic to children and pets. Slugs are also attracted to beer. Sink a margarine tub or equivalent near the plants so the rim is at ground level. Fill with at least an inch of beer. In the morning, dispose of the drowned slugs. Ugh! **THRIPS:** You will spot damage before you spot them. Common problem on roses. Signs of thrips are discolored blotches on petals, failure of buds to open properly, and deformed blooms. If suspected, cut affected flower, pull apart or shake over white piece of paper. They move about quickly when disturbed. To avoid trouble, make sure plants are well irrigated; those under water stress are more susceptible to infestation. Also, keep the garden clear of weedy patches and high grass in which thrips can breed. Remove infested flowers immediately and apply insecticidal soap, Orthene or Orthenex. Spray three times, allowing 7 to 10 days to elapse between treatments.

PESTICIDE CAUTION: *Before you buy*, READ THE LABEL! Make sure what you buy is safe and effective for the plant(s) you will be spraying. *Before you open* the container to use - READ THE LABEL! Mix at recommended rates - not stronger; more damage can be done by too strong a solution, including killing your plants. Too weak a solution may not solve the problem. Be sure to wear protective clothing, i.e., long sleeves, rubber gloves, boots, eye wear and approved mask.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

- 10 M.G. REGULAR MEETING, ArkLa Blue Flame Room 11:45 a.m.
12 M.G. Tour of Gardens, Meet on Back Lot, Second Presbyterian Church (to Car Pool)
Cantrell & Pleasant Valley Drive, 9:00 a.m.
19 M.G. SPRING PICNIC, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Lakewood Pavillion and Old Mill, Lakeshore
Drive, North Little Rock, FAMILIES WELCOME!!!!, (Details below)
24 M.G. TOUR - CLARK TAPLIN'S "FLOWERS IN THE FIELD"

JUNE

- 2 M.G. Tour to Marlsgate and Nonie Mae's Newleaf Greenhouse at Scott
15 Tour of Clarksville Experiment Station Fruit Crops, Contact Beth Phelps at the Extension
Office for Details.

MASTER GARDENER SPRING PICNIC

Join in the Fun, Fun, Fun!!!!
FAMILIES WELCOME!!!

Thursday, May 19, 1994 - 5:00 p.m. til 8:00 p.m.

Lakewood Pavillion and Old Mill
Lakeshore Drive, North Little Rock

Master Gardeners and Families

Catered by: Backyard Burgers

Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Chicken Sandwiches (Cooked on Site!)
French Fries, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans
Tea or Lemonade
Apple or Peach Cobbler

Cost: \$6.00 per person

Prepaid Reservations accepted at the April and May MG Monthly Meetings.

Make check payable to: Pulaski County Master Gardeners

OR

Mail reservation and check to one of the Master Gardeners listed below:

Wincie Hughes
4 Pine Tree Point
NLR, AR 72116
758-5271

Linda Holbert
4 Gipson Drive
LR, AR 72207
225-6806

Pat Petkoff
13526 Saddle Hill Dr.
LR, AR 72212
224-3741

Reservations must be received by May 17, 1994.

SEE YOU THERE!!!!
IF YOU HAVE PLANTS TO SWAP.....BRING THEM!

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BASIC INFORMATION:

Sign-up sheets for all trips will be on a table at the monthly Master Gardener Meetings. Reservations for out-of-town trips can also be made through Mrs. McKinney at the Extension Office (340-6650). Make checks payable to: Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Spouses and friends are welcome on all trips, provided all Master Gardeners are accommodated first. Details for each trip have been planned by individual members of the Travel Committee. Their names are listed by the trip as Planners. You may call them for additional information on each trip.

MAY 12 (Thursday)

LITTLE ROCK BEAUTIES

See three beautiful, lush, Spring gardens in our own Little Rock area at the homes of Allen Smith, Bettye Jane Daugherty and Betsy Gray. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the back parking lot of Second Presbyterian Church located at Cantrell and Pleasant Valley Drive. Visits should be completed by 11:30 or 12:00. Planner: Sheila Mehaffy, 663-5981

MAY 24 (Tuesday)

FLOWERS IN THE FIELD

Experience seeing fields of flowers for cutting grown by Master Gardener, Clark Taplin. Bring a sack lunch and stay for a picnic at the flower farm. Departure time and place to be announced. Planner: Sally Garrison, 835-4163

JUNE 2 (Thursday)

DAYLILIES, PLANTATION, HERBS

Journey to Scott for a tour and lunch at Marlsgate Plantation at 11:00 a.m. Cost \$23.00 plus tax per person, minimum of 16 needed. Others may join us after lunch at no cost for a tour of the plantation grounds and see a wide variety of daylilies at their peak bloom. Then, we're off to Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse for a cool glass of herb lemonade and good buys on herbs and other plants. Planners: Marie Jordan, 961-9974 & Kate Lynn, 961-9745

JUNE 15 (Wednesday)

FRUIT CROPS

Tour of Clarksville Experiment Station Fruit Crops. Contact Beth Phelps for Details.

JULY 7 (Thursday)

HAMBUCHEN'S HOSTAS

Experience the refreshing coolness of green hostas on a visit to Bob Hambuchen's garden in Conway. Bob has over 100 varieties of hostas and will have some for sale at excellent prices as this is his last year of business. Plan for a picnic lunch. Look for car pooling information later. Planners: Bonnie LoBianco, 851-6741 & Melanie Holland, 851-0301

SEPTEMBER 27 (Tuesday)

LARRY LOMAN'S RIDGECREST NURSERY

Car pool with us to Wynne, AR, for a unique visit with Larry Lowman and a nursery full of native plants, exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. We will take a sack lunch and leave the Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. Planner: Carolyn Henslee, 666-7502

PLANT OF THE MONTH - DAYLILY

HEMEROCALLIS - FROM THE GREEK, MEANING BEAUTIFUL FOR ONE DAY.

by Lois Corley - Master Gardener

Height: foliage 18 inches, scape to 5 feet, spread 3 - 4 feet

Foliage light green, may be evergreen or partially so, or fully deciduous. Flower-all colors are represented, except only pure white and blue, yellow, orange, dark red, pink, and combinations. 6 to 12 blooms on tall scapes. Most daylilies thrive in sun or light shade, in a wide range of soils, as long as they are well drained. However, prefers deep fertile loam.

Water thoroughly once a week during hot weather for better and more abundant blooms. A light application of a complete fertilizer when growth begins is usually adequate for the season.

Growth rate rapid. Mulch until established. Useful in masses for large scale or roadside plantings and to control erosion on banks, and near water. Will grow in difficult places with minimum care.

Pest Problems: None

Few perennials have earned the popularity enjoyed by daylilies. Flowering times vary from spring until frost. Hundreds of cultivars are added annually. More than 12,000 varieties are grown.

PROJECT REPORTS AND WORKDAYS

OLD MILL All Dates Listed - Meet at Old Mill at 9:00 a.m.

Work days on May 5, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18. Feel free to go other days to weed or clean. No new beds planned. We will work on maintaining existing beds, turf and installation of irrigation at some point.

ZOO GARDEN

We have started working our temporary garden at the greenhouse. We are there each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Bring your favorite weeding tool. Those wishing to do some weeding and cleanup on weekends should call the hospital operator at 686-9000, ask for Security, and tell them when you will be there. Call Jeff Johnson 562-7962 to get the lock combination.

BAPTIST REHAB

Plant therapy program going well with team effort and programs continuing to be a learning experience for patients and Master Gardeners. The volunteers work with mostly stroke patients in wheel chairs. Verna Mathis, Jerry Quick, Carol Clawson, Lavon Spears, Mary Ann Dillaha and Beth Phelps attended the BMC/BRI Volunteer Orientation and Team Meetings on Saturday April 9. Also on April 9th, the program was "Impatiens." Patients learned about the different kinds of impatiens, which ones tolerate more sunlight, and planted them in pots for their rooms or to send home. Lavon Spears, Mildred Walton, Verna Mathis, Mary Ann Dillaha, lead. On April 2, Sandra Miller's program was an "Easter Basket of Annuals." Patients planted (and learned about) annuals in brightly-colored Easter baskets. Attending were Maxine Ramage, Hilda Boger, Mildred Walton and Lavon Spears. On March 11, Gail Roberson led the program on Plants that Heal. Her presentation and research were outstanding. She explained to patients some of the medicinal uses of plants, including aloe vera. Patients enjoyed planting peppermint and sampling several herb teas. Sandy Miller, Lavon Spears, Mary Ann Dillaha assisted. On March 5, Jerry Quick gave a program on Landscaping. The patients then landscaped on styrofoam base, using miniature trees, bushes, rocks, gravel, sand, artificial turf and flowers. This is one of our most popular programs with patients. Aleta Newell, Mildred Walton, Kathy Johnson, Mary Keats McKinney and Lavon Spears assisted. Patients always enjoy Jerry's program. **WORK DAYS: May 7, May 14, June 4, June 11, July 9, July 16, August 6, August 13 - to start.**

STATE HOSPITAL

The Spring maintenance schedule is in place. Color is now provided by pansies and later by tulips. Annuals and perennials will be planted in May.

GREENHOUSE

The Greenhouse Committee met each Friday during April to plant and transplant seedlings. They had a plant sale on Friday, April 15th.

OLD STATEHOUSE

They report they are maintaining pansies and eagerly awaiting the May blooming tulips.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

Please note that if weather is questionable, call Ruth Jones, 664-8977; or Ginger Coggins, 225-2778.

BUS STOP AND COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE

We need help deadheading pansies, weeding and pruning beds. Please call the Van Egmonds if you can assist. The committee will be informed of the next work day by mail.

MT. HOLLY

Work day scheduled for May 5 at 9:30 a.m. All who are interested in helping are welcome.

Report On Daffodil Tour of the Butler Home by Martha Staples

On a beautiful afternoon, the Master Gardeners were privileged to visit the garden of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Butler. Their home on River Ridge Road is landscaped, terraced and sloped toward the Arkansas River. What a treat to see the lovely daffodils in bloom! We were given a classification sheet for identifying each different variety. There were several different varieties. We learned they use low nitrogen fertilizer. They also divide the plants often. Benches along the way were stopping places to enjoy the view. This was a very nice couple, very eager to answer questions and make us feel at home. They certainly could be examples for using retirement years in a happy and active way. Mr. Butler recently planted 1000 Daffodil bulbs at Wildwood in the Park. Isn't it great to be a Master Gardener!

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TRADING POST

Marie Jordan, 961-9974, **has** Pink Verbena,
Deep Pink Chrysanthemums, & Obedience Plant
Linda Hubbell, **has** Cardinal Flowers
Caryl Heath 224-8677, **has** Liriope
Mildred Walton, **has** Goldenrod & Pink Chry-
santhemums
Ginger Coggins, **has** Yellow Chrysanthemums,
wants Bleeding Heart
Marie Flickinger, 758-4202, **has** Lemon Balm &
Oregano, **wants** Hostas
Debby Coates, 664-9133, **has** White Dogwood
Seedlings & Pachysandra, **wants** Daylilies (Pink &
Yellow) & Shasta Daisy
Fred Henker, **has** Ginger plants, Chives &
Lemon Balm, **wants** Tarragon
Karen Vesole, **has** Yarrow - 2 types, Columbine,
& Bleeding Heart
Ruth Jones, 664-8977, **wants** Mondo (Monkey)
Grass

If you have reports, articles, or any other items to be included in the M.G. Newsletter, mail them to: Laura Lasiter, 2005 West 13th Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114. Her phone numbers are: (H) 374-6595 (W) 758-6126. The deadline for getting items to her for the MAY newsletter is Monday, May 9. If possible try to have submissions typed. If this is not possible, please print.

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



Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Six

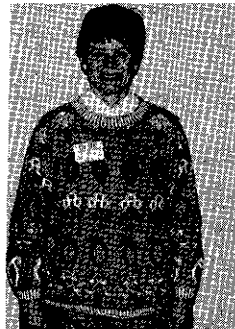
June 1994

MEET OUR MASTER GARDENERS



NAME: Mickey Williams
SPOUSE: Ron
BECAME A MG: 1991
WORK ACTIVITY: Zoo Garden
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: A general purpose garden tool. (Kind of a digger, sticker, shovel thing.)

FAVORITE PLANTS: Tomatoes, peppers and eggplant.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Weeds - any kind.
Mickey grew up in El Dorado. She became an RN and is married to a Neurosurgeon. She and her husband live on 40 acres in Maumelle with a variety of animals and birds. She has a new greenhouse which has enabled her to grow all her own plants from seed. As the City is designing and rebuilding the zoo garden, Mickey is looking forward to working in this new garden area.



NAME: Debbie Coates
SPOUSE: Wayne
CHILDREN: Andrew (10); Katherine (12)
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORK ACTIVITY: Greenhouse
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Two-ended

trowel and fork tool.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Peonies, iris and lilies.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: vine-type weeds, nut grass and the size of her yard.
Debbie grew up in Little Rock, then went to college in Lynchburg, VA. She spent her junior year of college in England, where she became acquainted with gardens. After completing college, Debbie worked as a travel agent for a time. She retired to raise a family and pursue her present career of full-time gardener.

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The next regular Master Gardener Meeting will be Tuesday, June 14, 1994. The meeting is a Tour Of The Master Gardeners Gardens it will begin at 9:00 A.M. in the parking lot of the Second Presbyterian Church on Cantrell road. Gardens of; **Mickey Williams** / Pulaski County Garden Center (old Penal Farm) with **Jeff Johnson** and others / and at **Ellen Kane's**, bring a sack lunch to enjoy at Ellen's.

—MASTER GARDENER JUNE CHECKLIST—

ANNUALS: Most annuals respond to cutting or dead-heading by producing new flowers. If your plants get leggy, cut them back and sprinkle a teaspoon of 5-10-10 under each plant. Mulch thickly to retain moisture during the hot summer months. Fertilize monthly.

VEGETABLES: All seeds and seedlings should be planted by now. Be sure to keep up with the watering during dry weather. Also, add some lime to the soil around tomatoes about once a month. Blossom end rot on tomatoes is not a disease. It's caused by a calcium deficiency. A product called "Stop Rot" may be sprayed on affected plants. Mulch tomato plants to keep the moisture level constant and to protect the plants from soil borne diseases. Harvest at the peak of maturity. Watch for insects and diseases. If you are growing corn, dust with sevin or use mineral oil on the silks as soon as they appear, and continue until the silks turn brown. This will prevent the corn earworm. Renovate strawberries after they've finished producing. Remove all grass and weeds, and thin plants out if necessary. Space plants six inches apart in rows not more than 18 inches wide. Blackberry season starts late this month.

ORNAMENTALS & PERENNIALS: Iris should be left alone for 6 weeks after 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. Continue to pinch back your chrysanthemums and asters repeatedly until mid-July. Fertilize monthly.

LAWNS: Lawns can be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer now. You may fertilize monthly. Watch for chinch bugs.

HERBS: Pinch back annual herbs. Thin basil.

WATERING: Lawns, ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables need one to one and one-half inches of water per week. If it doesn't rain, don't forget to water! Use soaker hoses where possible to conserve water and keep drops off foliage. Don't water in heat of the day. Early morning is best.

PLANT: You can still plant cannas and gladiolus, quick-growing annuals (nasturtium, nicotiana, portulaca, zinnia in bare spots.

INSECTS AND DISEASE: Apply a 3" layer of mulch around shrubs and in the vegetable garden to keep down weeds. **Aphids and lacebugs** are out in full force, at Get good coverage on the underside of the leaves and hose off any plant with water about two hours after ap-

tacking everything from azaleas to tomatoes. Use **insecticidal soap or malathion**. Be sure to read the label! plication 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. To control **Blackspot**, keep up the spraying schedule on roses and red-tipped Photinias. Clean up and destroy and diseased foliage falling to the ground. Do not put it in the compost pile! **Fireblight of Fruit Trees** is a bacteria spread by bees and windblown rain, causing affected parts to blacken and die. Make pruning cuts several inches below obviously infected parts and sterilize instruments between cuts. Sprays which include streptomycin may be used during the bloom period to reduce damage. Watch for **Aphids, bagworms, black vine weevils, chinch bugs, fungus, Japanese beetles, lace bugs, leaf miners, slugs, whiteflies**.

TRADING POST

Fred Henker (565-7260) has: Ginger Plants, Horseradish, Lemon Balm, Coleus, Night Blooming Cereus, Chicory.

Aleta Newell (661-0991) has: Cypress Vine Plant.

Mildred Walton (663-7331) has: American Holly, Silver Lace Vine.

Bonnie Cargile (868-5404) has: Eupatarium Coelestinum (perennial), blue lavender mist flowers (looks like Ageratum) 15 - 24.

Roxie Adams (224-3698) has: white violets.

Dana Nixon (982-2379 - Jax) needs: flats & cell inserts for greenhouse growing.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- JUNE 2 **M.G. Tour to Marlsgate and Nonie Mae's Newleaf Greenhouse** at Scott
(Details in Travel Section)
- JUNE 4 **National Trail Day Hike**
Pinnacle Mountain State Park - 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- JUNE 6 - 10 Pinnacle Mountain State Park: Attention 7 - 10 year olds!
Join the **Discovery Day Camp I** held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through
Friday. Registration Fee \$55.00.
- JUNE 13-17 **Discovery Day Camp II**
- JUNE 11 **Kids' Fishing Derby** (Ages 4 - 12)
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 8:00 a.m. to Noon
- JUNE 14 **MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETING**
11:45 a.m. - Ark-La Blue Flame Room
- JUNE 15 **Tour of Clarksville Experiment Station Fruit Crops**, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Contact Beth Phelps at the Extension Office for Details.
- JUNE 18 **Volunteer Orientation**
Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
R.S.V.P. 868-5806
- JUNE 25 **Starlight Concert** - 7:00 p.m.
Pinnacle Mountain State Park
- JULY 7 **M.G. Tour Bob Hambuchen's Hosta Garden** in Conway
(Details in Travel Section)
- JULY 22-23 **Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting**
Airport Holiday Inn, Little Rock. If interested, contact Beth Phelps.
- AUGUST 3 **Turfgrass Weed Control Field Day**, Lonoke Research and Extension Center. If you are
interested in turfgrass weed control, you can see the trials they are conducting.
- SEPTEMBER 27 **Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery**, Wynne, Arkansas
(Details in Travel Section)
- NOVEMBER
16 - 17 **Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting**, Fort Smith.
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.

MASTER GARDENER TRIPS - 1994

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Kate Lynn 961-9745

JUNE 15 (Wednesday) FRUIT CROPS

Tour of Clarksville Experiment Station Fruit Crops. Contact Beth Phelps for Details.

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Experience the refreshing coolness of green hostas on a visit to Bob Hambuchen's garden in Conway. Bob has over 100 varieties of hostas and will have some for sale at excellent prices as this is his last year of business. Plan for a picnic lunch. Look for car pooling information later.

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Melanie Holland 851-0301

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Planner: Carolyn Henslee 666-7502

SPRING PICNIC

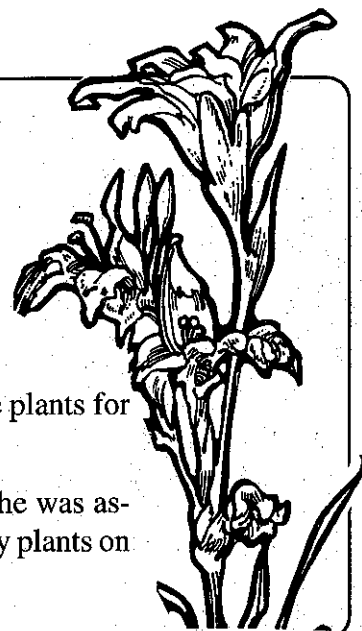
Wini Carter, MG 1992

Master Gardeners and their families enjoyed the picnic on Thursday evening, May 19, at the Lakewood Pavilion in North Little Rock. The picnic was catered by Tommy Hilburn and his crew from Backyard Burgers. Approximately 85 people enjoyed the delicious food.

The plant exchange provided much interest and many Master Gardeners took home plants for their gardens.

The picnic was planned by Wincie Hughes, Chairman of the Social Committee. She was assisted by Dorothy Hobbs Linda Holbert, Pat Petkoff and Maxine Ramage. The lovely plants on the tables were donated by Lakewood Gardens.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF THEM FOR A SUPER JOB!!!!



MASTER GARDENER NOTES

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 are willing to show your garden - OR - if you know of someone who has a garden who might want to show it, please call Beth at the Extension Office (340-6650).

THE PHONES ARE RINGING AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

ROSE CONTEST: The All American Rose Selections (AARS) is sponsoring a Landscape with Roses contest. To qualify for entry, a garden must have at least 10 rose plants, and at least two of them must be AARS winners (from any year). There are both residential and commercial divisions, with three categories in each, based on the number of roses you have. Gardens will be judged on appearance, creativity, and appropriate use of roses. Prizes will be awarded. Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight July 8. For a complete set of rules and an entry form, send a self-addressed envelope to Rules, 1994 AARS Landscape with Roses Contest, 221 North LaSalle Street, Suite 3500, Chicago, IL 60601, or call Pattie Tobin at 312-372-7090. I know we have some good rose gardens out there, so enter!!!

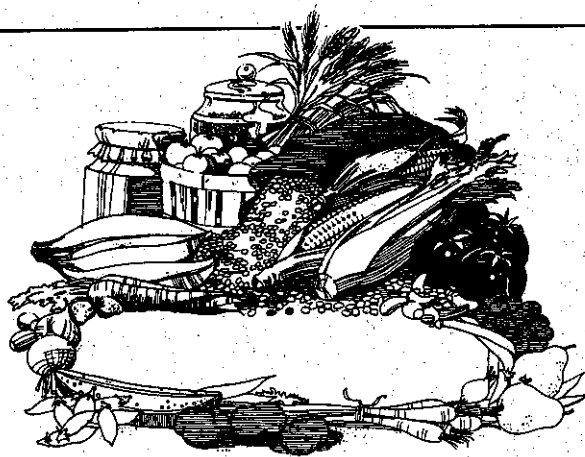
The mail-order seed company Thompson & Morgan is recruiting gardeners throughout the U.S. to conduct trials of selected vegetable and flower cultivars. Participants in the "Plant Partnership" program will be given free seeds and will be provided with opportunities to test new cultivars against established ones in regard to vigor, yield, flavor and pest resistance. The aim is to find out how the cultivars perform in a wide variety of climatic conditions, grown by gardeners having varying abilities and using techniques ranging from completely organic to completely conventional. If you are interested in participating, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Bruce Sangster, Thompson & Morgan, Inc., P. O. Box 1402, Jackson, NJ 08527.

The Calendar Committee met Thursday, May 19 to discuss plans for the Master Gardener Calendar. Several examples of calendars were exhibited and discussed as was what the overall scope of the project should be. Costs to produce the several types of calendars are to be researched and the Committee plans to hold a second meeting soon. If any of the Master Gardeners have ideas on what you would like to see in the calendar, contact David Dodson, Chairman, at 223-8372 "after it's too dark to see outside in the garden."

Thoughts for Life

*"If I had but two loaves of bread,
I would sell one and buy hyacinths,
for they would feed my soul."*

THE KORAN



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PLANT OF THE MONTH

Azalea - (Rhododendron spp.)..... Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener

A Gorgeous Rebloomer! A rebloomer by definition is a flowering houseplant which will most likely bloom again every year indoors. It will almost certainly bloom again every year outdoors if given the proper care after its initial blossoms fade. Other popular rebloomers are gardenias, hibiscus, hydrangea, and miniature roses. All are widely available across the United States in flower shops, garden centers and even some supermarkets and they are relatively inexpensive if purchased in 6" to 8" pots. Any of them can be transplanted into the ground or taken outside in its pot while the ground is still on the cool side.

Focusing on our star bloomer, the azalea, these vibrant plants are available year 'round with blossoms large to small in a wide range of pink, orange, red and variegated shades, as well as white. Most varieties are broad-leaved plants generally preferring light shade. They cannot survive in soggy sites. In fact, the name "azalea" is a Greek derivative of the name Azaleos, which actually means dry (there was an old-fashioned idea that they demanded a dry situation, but that's an allusion.) Background. Much to my surprise, a department of our beloved U.S. Government is credited with searching for new species of honeysuckle, lilac, azalea and other then-exotic plants back in the early nineteen hundreds. The U.S. Department of Agriculture sent Frank Meyer into the mountains of China in 1908. Joseph Rock crossed the Koko Nor mountains in Tibet in 1925. Mr. Rock stayed on in China and Burma and for the next twenty-seven years hunted plants for the Arnold Arboretum. Thanks to them and others such as Lionel de Rothschild, an English member of the banking family, we now enjoy over fifty different types of azaleas. Outdoor care. Fortunately, we live in a temperate climate, so azaleas, especially the varieties of A. indica Hortorum can stand intense heat. The small evergreen shrub can provide a year 'round edging. They grow best in light, porous soil (mix in a little peat moss) and water frequently. No extensive pruning is needed when cultivated outdoors. A Common Pest. Around May or June (and even later on!) keep a sharp eye out for the "azalea lace bug", a pest that (despite its aristocratic name) can cut some real blue collar holes in your azaleas! So, if the leaves of your plants are spotted and have brownish specks on the underside, it is time to spray them with Malathion or Sevin. With a severe infestation, it might take two or three applications seven days apart. Common Diseases. For common diseases such as "fungus leaf spot," spray with Captain or Zaneb at the beginning of the growing season and spray every two weeks. To check up on the latest "state of the art" treatment, call 340-6650 and ask to talk to a handy, dandy Master Gardener! You can be sure of prompt, accurate and courteous service.



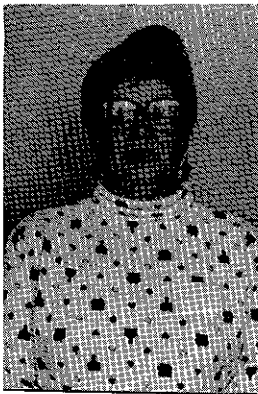
Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Seven

July 1994

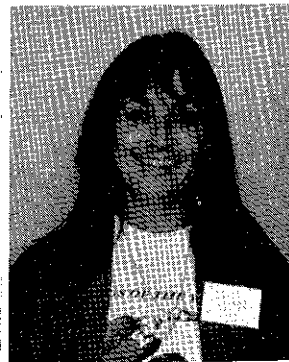
Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Carol Wallis
SPOUSE: Ken - also a Master Gardener
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Greenhouse, Mount Holly Cemetery & Newsletter
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Chipper Vac - great for shredding and mulching.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Roses & Herbs

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Rocks: Carol and Ken recently moved to Bigelow and are in the process of making new gardens.

Carol grew up in Abilene, Texas, but has lived in Little Rock since 1964. She was allowed to water a beautiful flower garden in Abilene when she was a child of 6 and has loved beautiful flowers ever since then. This year, Carol and Ken are concentrating on their vegetable garden, but she also has some flowers - tulips, lilies, roses and peonies. She plans to have a large herb garden. Carol, along with Kathy Johnson, serves as co-editor of the Master Minutes.



NAME: Kathy Johnson
SPOUSE: Joe Brixey
CHILDREN: Lynnette (26), who teaches on an Indian Reservation in Arizona; Candy (23) who works in music therapy in Houston; Michael (21) who is in college in Houston; Matthew (20) who is in college in Midland, Tx.
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Zoo

Birdhouse, Baptist Rehab & Newsletter.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Wheelbarrow

FAVORITE PLANTS: Tropical Plants
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: trying to keep the dogs out of the garden.

Kathy grew up in West Texas and only moved to Little Rock in 1993 from Dallas. She works in the Plantscaping Department of Tipton and Hurst and is responsible especially for the plant maintenance at the Excelsior Hotel. She learned to love gardening from her father who raised roses and from her grandmother who had a green thumb and could just "make things grow." Kathy, along with Carol Wallis, serves as co-editor of the Master Minutes.

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Thoughts for Life

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the bird for mirth
I am closer to God's heart in a garden
Then anywhere else on earth."*

Author Unknown

GARDENER'S JULY CHECKLIST

ANNUALS: Continue to dead head spent blossoms to prevent seed production and ensure continued blooms. Mulch thickly to retain moisture during the hot summer months. Fertilize monthly.

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 temps soar into the upper 90's and night temperatures do not fall below 75. If blossom end rot is a problem, remember it is a calcium deficiency and can be controlled by keeping the moisture level constant and by spraying three times with Stop Rot. Cucurbits 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. Later in the month, plant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and other fall vegetables. Tomatoes, Irish potatoes, summer squash, souther peas, and sweet corn can be planted for fall harvest. Check your Vegetable Gardening for Arkansas for more information. Rabbiteye Blueberries are still in season. Contact the Extension Office for locations to pick.

ORNAMENTALS & PERENNIALS: Cannas can be attacked by Corn Earworms. Try *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) as a control. Watch out for powdery mildew and black sooty mold on foliage of plants and shrubs. Use a registered fungicide such as Funginex to control mildew and control the

aphids to control the mold since it grows on the honeydew secreted by the aphids. Spray your roses throughout the summer to prevent Black Spot. Continue to check Azaleas for Lacebugs.

LAWNS: Control crabgrass and other grassy weeds in Bermuda and Zoysia by spraying with MSMA. Be sure to water well before application.

HERBS: Pinch back annual herbs. Thin basil.

WATERING: Lawns, ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables need one to one and one-half inches of water per week. This may be split into two applications, one at the beginning of the week and another a few days later. Do not water every day. If it doesn't rain, don't forget to water! Use soaker hoses where possible to conserve water and keep drops off foliage. Don't water in heat of the day. Early morning is best. Avoid getting water on foliage of plants and shrubs since overhead watering encourages diseases.

INSECTS AND DISEASE: Apply a 3" 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), whitefly and lacebugs, aphids, bagworms, black vine weevils, chinch bugs, fungus, Japanese beetles, leaf miners, and slugs** will need vigilant control this month. Use **insecticidal soap or malathion**. Be sure to read the label! Keep up the spraying schedule on roses and red-tipped Photinias for **black spot**.

MASTER GARDENER NOTES

NO MONTHLY MEETING FOR JULY.

THE PHONES ARE RINGING AND YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

Beth needs good pictures of the projects with people working in them.

Volunteers are needed for the FCE National Meeting at the 4-H Center on August 9,10, 11. There will be a garden setting at the entryway inside. Help is needed with transporting plants, setting up and taking down. It should be lots of fun and we'll need help. It is a large area and lots of help is needed. There are 1,500 to 2,000 people expected. If you can help, call Beth at the Extension Office.

Beth will be sending out applications for the 1994-1995 Master Gardener class in July, so if you have friends or neighbors interested, tell them to give her or Mrs. McKinney a call, 340-6650, and they will mail them an application. Training sessions will be held on the following Wednesdays at the Adult Center. October 5, 12, 26, November 2, and 9. The tour of projects will be September 28.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUL 7 M.G. Tour Bob Hambuchen's Hosta Garden in Conway
Meet at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Little Rock at 9 a.m. to car pool.
Bob has over 100 varieties of hostas and will have some for sale at excellent prices as this is his last year of business. Plan for a picnic lunch. Look for car pooling information later.
Planners: Bonnie LoBianco 851-6741
Melanie Holland 851-0301

NO MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN JULY

JUL 9 Berry Day Pinnacle Mountain State Park
Recipes given from 9 to 10 a.m.
Optional Tour of Hilltop Berry Farm near Wye from 10 - 10:30 a.m.

JUL 10 Snake Snoop Pinnacle Mountain State Park
Guided Walk 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Reptile Audio Visual Programs in the afternoon.

JUL 16 Starlight Concert Pinnacle Mountain State Park 7:30 p.m.
Music by the String Quartet of the Ark. Symphony Orchestra. Bring chairs & meet in West Summit Picnic area.

JUL 22-23 Arkansas Greenhouse Growers Association Meeting
Airport Holiday Inn, Little Rock. If interested, contact Beth Phelps.

AUG 1 Applications for the 1994 Master Gardener Training Class due into the Extension Office.

AUG 4 Turfgrass Weed Control Field Day, Lonoke Research and Extension Center.
If you are interested in turfgrass weed control, you can see the trials they are conducting.
For more information, call the Extension Office.

SEP 27 Master Gardener Trip to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery, Wynne, Arkansas
Meet at Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. to car pool.
A nursery full of native plants, exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. We will take a sack lunch.
Planner: Carolyn Henslee 666-7502

NOV 16-17 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting, Fort Smith.
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.

Items for the newsletter must be received by Laura Lasiter no later than the 10th of each month in order for them to be placed in the following month's newsletter. If you have any problems, call her at 374-6595 (H) or 758-6126 (W).

MASTER GARDENER TOUR REPORTS

THREE GARDENS

Even though the weather outlook was not very bright the morning of May 12, a lot of hearty Master Gardeners ventured out to visit three wonderful Little Rock gardens. Betsy Gray's garden was so serene with its inviting paths winding throughout the plantings - and not a weed in sight! The gardens of Allen Smith were "color coordinated" with a pink garden, a white garden and he is now planning a red garden. We also saw his long, narrow wildflower garden between his picket fence and the sidewalk - very interesting! Then, at Betty Jane Daugherty's garden, we were treated to viewing columbines in several colors and beautiful foxgloves. There were even refreshments provided and giveaway plants available. We were so glad we didn't let the weather stop us from enjoying this great day!

Nancy Casey, Master Gardener

CLARK TAPLIN'S FARM AND GREENHOUSE

The visit to Clark Taplin's was an unusual one. The garden was unusual, located on a large, rocky slope, sloping to the driveway. We observed a large variety of flowers, most of them native to this area. Paths wove through the garden for closer viewing. The back garden has gladiolus, tulips, lilies, yarrow and other flowers grown for cutting. Clark is a supplier for the retail market in this area. We visited another home where we were shown all varieties of flowers for cutting. The back fence was covered with many varieties of flowers and the greenhouse was used to grow the hot house plants. On our next stop, the home of Jeanne Lizar off Hatcher Road, there was another green house. He grows many small flowers there. We had a picnic in the cut flower field meadow near the small town of Cato, off Cato Road. A small cove had been prepared for us with tables and chairs. We viewed the meadow's native grasses and many wild flowers native to Arkansas. This area has an historical background. It was settled in 1802 by pioneer settlers and the Cherokee Indians.

Martha Staples, Master Gardener

MARLSGATE TRIP

Thirty-seven Master Gardeners enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Marlsgate Plantation on June 2. Preceding lunch, David Garner, the owner, conducted an informative and interesting tour of the first two floors of the home. We were all awed with the beautiful antiques. Following lunch, we viewed the plantation grounds and saw many daylilies in bloom. Then we went to Naomi May's New Leaf Greenhouse where many of us left with hands full of herbs and plants. We were refreshed with herb tea and lemonade. From the greenhouse we went to see the biblical herb garden and beautiful courtyard at the All Souls church. Marie Jordan had lovely plants from her garden to share with us. Kate Lynn, Carolyn Moore and Marie Jordan maintain all the courtyard flower beds at the All Souls Church. Fun Trip!

Wini Carter, Master Gardener

IRIS RHIZOME SALE

July 9, 1994, 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Greater Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs building at the intersection of Lee and Kavanaugh in Little Rock (lower level - enter building from Lee parking lot). The irises for sale will be those dug from the State Capitol iris beds a few days before the sale. I hope you had a chance to see them in bloom this spring - they were magnificent! Iris Society members will be there to help with your selection and to answer any questions on care you may have. If you have any questions about the sale, contact Pat Petkoff (224-3741).

PROJECT REPORTS AND WORKDAYS

Note: The information below was received too late for the June newsletter and may not be entirely accurate for July. If in doubt, call the project chairperson.

OLD MILL. They are hosting a lot of tours in cooperation with the North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission and are needing volunteers to assist with this program. Work day scheduled for July 21. They need more workers. If you can assist, bring a friend and weed whenever possible.

ZOO GARDEN. They are continuing a temporary garden at the State Hospital greenhouse. Those wishing to work should contact Jeff Johnson at 562-7962.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE. Bromeliads were planted in May. Please call Lynn McMahon 661-0252 if you can work at any time and she will go with you to the project.

STATE HOSPITAL. Summer maintenance is in full swing.

GREENHOUSE. Things have slowed down to the summer schedule. They are only maintaining the plants for the national meeting at the 4-H center in August. Will be planting pansies late this summer.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN. Members will be called for the summer's work schedule. The large planter in front of the Art Center was planted with lavender lantana to provide summer color.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL. Please call Joan Zumwalt 982-8816 or Dottie Heckenback (h) 982-5573 or (w) 982-4906 when you are able to assist and they will schedule a time for your to work.

BUS STOP AND EXTENSION OFFICE. Summer plantings are doing well. They are just enjoying the upkeep that will make the projects attractive throughout the summer.

MOUNT HOLLY. New Dawn roses were planted in May on each side of the front gates along Broadway. The project included the clearing and planting of an area two city blocks long. Other plans are being considered for the interior and additional rose fences as well as identifying all existing old roses. All who are interested in working are welcome.

PLANT OF THE MONTH by Lois Corley, Master Gardener

PEONIES

Perennial. Excellent for cut flowers. Exceptionally hardy and easy to grow. Very long lived, some having bloomed every spring for a century. Height 2 to 3 feet tall with an abundance of 6 to 10 inch flowers (some varieties fragrant) colored in white, cream and yellow, to pink, rose and scarlet. Most require staking to prevent blooms from falling over onto the ground. Plant in September or October. Prepare soil 8 to 10 inches deep and set roots with growing tips (eyes) 1 to 2 inches deep in rich, moist "humusy" loam in full sun. Space 3 feet from other plants. Keep watered during growing season. Mulch in winter. May fail to bloom if, after many years of undisturbed growth, they become overcrowded. If plants fail to bloom, reasons may be: (a) too small - they take several years to reach blooming size; (2) crowding - lift, divide and replant; (3) winter kill of buds - provide mulch in winter; (4) need of fertilizer - apply composted manure or a high-potassium fertilizer; (5) dry soil - make sure plants are kept moist - not wet; (6) not enough sun - they need 6 to 8 hours full sun daily; (7) buds killed by insects - thrips may cause deformed stems and buds, spray with insecticidal soap every third day for 2 weeks; (8) buds killed by disease - botrytis is a fungal disease that may affect peonies - use a fungicide as directed (it won't cure the disease, but will keep it from spreading to healthy parts of the plant once the infected portions have been removed.



Master Minutes

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Meet our Master Gardeners



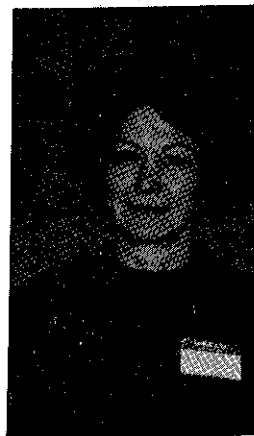
NAME: Kathryn Cobb
SPOUSE: Harvey
CHILDREN: Courtney, employed at Cranford Johnson Robinson and Ashley, who is in college.
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Special Projects. Kathryn designed the Master Gardeners' booth at the Flower & Garden Show and is Chairman of the upcoming show at the 4-H Center.

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her water garden where Kathryn likes to sit on a swing on her porch and watch the water and goldfish.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Rubrum lilies - especially the way they smell.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Realizing how much she does not know and constantly having to look up answers instead of just knowing them.

Kathryn grew up on Bossier City, LA., but was not interested in gardening until she and her family moved into a new house in North Little Rock where she wanted landscaping and flower beds. She is an interior designer with her own company, so she had knowledge of scale and design when she began her landscaping, but she was helped with the choice of plants. She now has an informal garden with wisteria, hollyhocks and other old fashioned plants that she remembers from childhood. Kathryn adds how grateful she is for the great people that she has met through Master Gardeners and all that she has learned from them.



NAME: Dorothy Becton
CHILDREN: Scott, who lives with his wife, Carol, in Fayetteville. Carol works in the U of A labs as a master of weed science. She does test plotting throughout the state to see how weeds respond to certain chemicals. Scott is in charge of the nucleus swine herd for Tyson. One grandson, Cade, 18 months.
BECAME A MG: 1991
WORK ACTIVITY: State

Hospital Garden. Dorothy also was in charge of the training session at Wildwood for the Wild Flowers Tours for at-risk children.

MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her small shovel because it is manageable.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Purple coneflowers which are naturalizing in her perennial garden.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Her reluctance to use chemicals. She says that she often puts it off too long.

Dorothy grew up in the agricultural community of McCrory, Arkansas, but did not do much gardening there - only what her mother told her to do. Several years ago, she moved into a house with a yard and garden and took the Master Gardener's training in order to learn. Dorothy has retired from First Commercial Bank where she worked as a vice president of commercial loans.

**No Master Gardener meeting in August.
The next regular meeting will
be September 13.**

GARDENER'S JULY CHECKLIST

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: It has been very wet lately, so watering should not have been a problem so far. However, should it become hot and dry, check container plants daily and water as needed. Water deeply twice a week or use a soaker hose or drip irrigation to reduce runoff and evaporation. Mulch well.

ANNUALS: Cut back leggy 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 easier to grow, late summer "fill-in" plants are: cosmos (rapid grower - heat lover - variety of colors), sanvitalia (daisy-type, tolerates heat/dry), zinnia linearis (rugged heat lover - blooms constantly - fine texture leaf), melampodium (star-shaped, golden flower - tolerates heat and blooms all season).

PERENNIALS: If daylilies didn't bloom well, it's probably due to overcrowding. Dig up entire clumps, then remove soil from the roots to expose the crown. Pull plants apart by hand, or split with sharp knife. Then, replant the new divisions about 12 to 18 inches apart. Fertilize chrysanthemums, dahlias, asters and other fall blooming plants now. Apply about 1 cup of liquid fertilizer or 1 tablespoon of granular 10-10-10 around each plant.

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.

VEGETABLES: Cool season vegetables that can be planted now are: Southern peas, summer squash, carrots, collard, cabbage plants, cauliflower plants, beets, broccoli plants, turnips, chinese cabbage, swiss chard, bush beans, lima beans, mustard, cucumbers and kale.

ORNAMENTALS: Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now because they are forming flower buds for next

Spring's displays. Give them a light application of fertilizer. Get your roses in shape for fall. It has been an extremely wet summer so far. If your roses are vulnerable to leaf diseases, continue regular sprays of Funginex or Benlate to prevent infection. Be sure to follow label directions exactly. If it becomes dry, water them deeply once per week and fertilize monthly with granular rose food or liquid formulations as recommended on the label. Prune shrub roses to remove errant branches and direct new growth; do not prune climbers at this time. Mulch to insulate rose roots.

HERBS: If you get started now, you can have an indoor herb garden this winter. Divide mint, sweet marjoram, and oregano growing in the garden. Cut back divisions, pot them, and place in a sunny window. Pot chives as well, but leave them outside for a month of frost to encourage fresh shoots when you bring them indoors. Sow seeds of dwarf basil and parsley directly into pots. Although rosemary is evergreen, it may be killed by cold temperatures. Thyme is hardy and evergreen, so leave it in the garden.

INSECTS: 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. If you notice yellowing foliage on azaleas, pyracantha, cotoneaster, or hawthorn, check for lace bugs. Black dots of excrement on the underside of leaves are a sure sign of their presence, as is white, mottled appearance on the tops of the leaves. To control, spray with insecticidal soap or malathion, according to directions.

NOTE: When using any kind of pesticide, whether fungicide, insecticide, or herbicide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. If there is not enough moisture in the plants, too much of the chemical will be taken up and there is a possibility of damaging the plants. Now is a good time to use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds as well as poison ivy and honeysuckle. Since poison ivy and honeysuckle are perennials, applying Roundup now can keep them from storing up nutrients for winter and the chance of their surviving until spring decreases.

Thoughts for Life

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- AUG 1 Applications for the 1994 Master Gardener Training Class due into the Extension Office.
- AUG 3 **Turfgrass Weed Control Field Day**, Lonoke Research and Extension Center. If you are interested in turfgrass weed control, you can see the trials they are conducting. For more information, call Beth or Mrs. McKinney at the Extension Office.
- NO MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN AUGUST.
NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 13th
- AUG 8-11 **Garden Display at the 4-H Center.** Help is needed with supplies and transportation. The actual setting up will be August 10. Call Beth at the Extension Center to volunteer.
- AUG 11-12 **Perseids Meteor Shower**, Pinnacle Mountain State Park Can be observed from the parking lot at the Visitors' Center, whose hours will be extended.
- AUG 18 or
SEP 1 **"You Can't Take It With You." A seminar on estate planning.** Sponsored by the Pulaski County Extension Service. Call Mrs. McKinney for a registration form.
- AUG 24 **Master Gardener Landscape Design Workshop** Hot Springs, AR. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. To register, send a \$10 check made out to Garland County S.C.E. to Janet Carson, P. O. Box 391, Little Rock, AR 72203.
- AUG 27 **Starlight Concert, Pinnacle Mountain State Park.** 7 p.m. Jazz singer, Ruth Ann Robinson. West Summit picnic area.
- SEP 13 **Master Gardener Regular Meeting.** 11:45 a.m., Arkla Blue Flame Room.
- SEP 14 **Master Gardener Tour of Carl Hunter's Wildflower Garden.** More details later.
- SEP 27 **Master Gardener Trip to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery, Wynne, Arkansas**
Meet at Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. A nursery full of native plants, exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. We will take a sack lunch.
Planner: Carolyn Henslee 666-7502
- NOV 16-17 **Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting, Fort Smith.**
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.

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Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work the phones. Help is still needed. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

TOUR REPORTS

by Martha Staples

A group of Master Gardeners toured area gardens on May 12 and June 14 and viewed some beautiful and practical examples of landscaping and gardening.

First on the tour May 12th were the beautiful gardens at P. Allen Smith's home in the Quapaw Quarter on Gaines St. He gave the group a short history of his home and guided them through his yard which is divided into gardens with several different color accents. The front, a long gallery, was created with shrubs, grasses, roses and perennials ranging from pink to purple. A purple smoke tree was one of the highlights of this garden. Next was a square area planted in whites, entered through an oval arch covered with white clematis. Crab apple trees were in the corners and plantings were in colors of white to pale cream. Another garden was planted in lovely shades of blue. Another, arranged in semicircles along a breezeway and fence row was planted in blue, white and yellow, while yet another, on the south side through the breezeway, was planted in reds (the small holly trees were very pretty). He also has a nice vegetable garden and neat wire compost bins with wire coverings to keep animals away.

Next was the very neat, clean and lovely garden of Betty Jane Daugherty. She has a shade garden planted in a circle around the side of the yard. The group viewed ferns, hostas, geranium, yellow iris and gold dust plants and a really pretty display of foxglove in bloom in several colors, as well as several varieties of herbs. The group was treated with coffee and cookies and some plants to give away.

The group then moved on to the delightful garden of Betsy Gray. Her back yard was covered with flowers of all kinds for sun and shade. This was a lovely garden with a very good use of a small space.

The first stop on June 14th was at the Mickey Williams estate. Beginning with a display of three fig trees, the group entered a vegetable garden area which was nicely arranged and included chard, white eggplant, and jingle bell peppers. Roses grow along the fence of the enclosure and grape vines run the length of the garden with a row of blackberries following. On this property, there is the beginning of the Little Maumelle River, and after walking across an area of fruit trees, the group enjoyed the view and the beauty of the small stream. The far side was a bluff of native stone. A short walk up to the Ferndale Cutoff road took us to the driveway and the main house. She also has a new greenhouse. This estate was a very good example of landscaping and use of land.

The second tour was of the Pulaski County Penal Farm Gardens. The group was met by Stacy Coggins, Breck Campbell and Jeff Johnson. They all have vegetable gardens there. This is a fine area for growing vegetables. Each garden was neatly arranged with various vegetables. These three are dedicated to gardening and it shows in their work!

The last tour was of Ellen Kane's home. Her pretty garden began in a wooden arbor covered with various varieties of roses. The group walked around a semi-circle area, each side of which was covered in flowers and woody plants. She has a small gold fish pond with running water and water plants. The north side was a built-up garden covered with azaleas. Ellen provided drinks for the group and they relaxed on her patio which had flowers growing along each side. This was another example of good landscaping and land use.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who planned these tours and to the gracious homeowners and gardeners for opening their gardens to the Master Gardeners. Their hospitality was great!

TRADING POST

Julie Eckberg (225-6721) needs Pine Straw mulch or where to buy it.

PROJECT REPORTS AND WORKDAYS

OLD MILL. They are hosting a lot of tours in cooperation with the North Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission and are needing volunteers to assist with this program. Work day scheduled for July 21. They need more workers. If you can assist, bring a friend and weed whenever possible.

ZOO GARDEN. They are continuing a temporary garden at the State Hospital greenhouse. Those wishing to work should contact Jeff Johnson at 562-7926.

ZOO BIRDHOUSE. Please call Lynn McMahon 661-0252 if you can work at any time and she will go with you to the project.

STATE HOSPITAL. Summer maintenance is in full swing.

GREENHOUSE. Things have slowed down to the summer schedule. They are only maintaining the plants for the national meeting at the 4-H center in August. Workdays scheduled for August 31 8:30 a.m. to prepare trays for pansy plugs. Workdays scheduled the 8th and 9th of September, 8:30 a.m., to plant pansy plugs. They expect to have the pansies ready for the annual pansy sale on Saturday the 22nd of October.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN. Members will be called for the summer's work schedule.

JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL. Please call Joan Zumwalt 982-8816 or Dottie Heckenback (h) 982-5573 or (w) 982-4906 when you are able to assist and they will schedule a time for you to work.

BUS STOP AND EXTENSION OFFICE. Summer plantings are doing well. They are just enjoying the upkeep that will make the projects attractive throughout the summer.

MOUNT HOLLY. All who are interested in working are welcome.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

CRAPE MYRTLE - (*Lagerstroemia indica*) - Zones 7 - 10

You may not feel up to serious gardening through the long, hot, southern summer. Let a few shrubs and trees like Rose of Sharon, Buddleia, and the inexhaustible Crape Myrtle carry on. It was a pleasant surprise for two of many new newcomers who "transplanted" into the fair State of Arkansas from more northern climes, to become acquainted with the Crape Myrtle, the most colorful element of southern gardens from mid to late summer. No wonder they are called the lovely "lilac of the South" that has long adorned plantation houses and city streets alike. In fact, George Washington, the father of our country, around 1785, ordered for his Mount Vernon estate, shrubs and seeds of Crape Myrtle. However, he made a common mistake of many of us by not choosing the right plants for the right places. He ordered them sent from the East Indies, which has a tropical climate. The Crape myrtle variety he received could not survive even the mild winters of Virginia. Later caretakers did plant some of these lovely shrubs, but is a different variety from the one which disappointed our first president.

So crinkly they look as if they are made of crape paper, Crape Myrtle is admired for its profuse, white, pink, red, lavender or purple; red flowers. Individually, they are about 1-1/2 inches across, are oval and 1 to 2 inches in length. Tolerating strong heat and drought, this plant is a good lawn accent and informal screen or hedge. Also serving as a good container plant, it withstands the polluted air of cities, growing well in backyards and doorways close to the street.

A series of hybrids with names of Indian tribes such as Navajo, Hopi, Apache, and Zuni has recently been introduced by the U. S. National Arboretum. They are hardy into Zone six. They may winter kill to the roots in severe winters, but will produce vigorous new flowering shoots in Spring. These hybrids generally flower the first year even from rooted cuttings. This Master Gardener has seen them "on site" about a month ago both at the Arboretum, and in abundance at retail nurseries in the area around Washington, D. C.

Crape Myrtles do best in full sun and in moist soil that has been well supplemented with peat moss, leaf mold or decayed sawdust. A common fungus disease is powdery mildew which coats foliage with a white or gray mealy powder. This is generally more unattractive than fatal. The mildew is aggravated by climate conditions so will vary in severity year to year. It attacks first in damp shaded spots or in crowded corners where air circulation is poor. Avoid late afternoon sprinkling. Prune overgrown shrubs, removing overabundant plants if necessary to allow air to circulate freely.

Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener '92



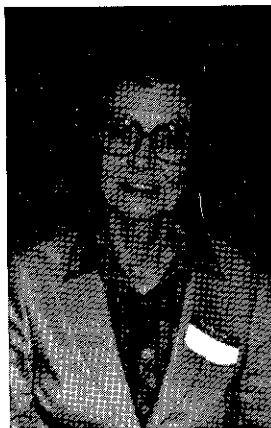
Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Nine

September 1994

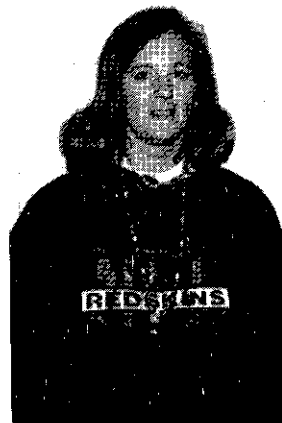
Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Sarah Henson
SPOUSE: Bill
CHILDREN: One married daughter who lives in Little Rock.
BECAME A MG: 1991
WORKACTIVITY: Old Mill, Calendar, and working on the garden display at the 4-H Center.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: A two-wheel cart which her husband gave her as a birthday present.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Lantana and Shasta Daisies.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Slugs chewing on her hostas. They seem to have an insatiable appetite.

Sarah grew up in Morrilton. She graduated from UCA in Conway and has since become a long-term resident of Little Rock. She has been a teacher, then moved into school counseling and psychology to work with students having behavior problems in the Pulaski County Special School District. She became interested in gardening through her grandfather and her mother. When she retired, she joined the Master Gardeners. Her husband also gardens. He is primarily interested in vegetables, while Sarah's main interest is in flowers and herbs.



NAME: Kay Groce
SPOUSE: Paul
CHILDREN: Jacqueline, age 11 and Benjamin, age 8. Both attend schools in North Little Rock.
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORKACTIVITY: Old Mill, Pinnacle, and the Bus-Stop garden.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her husband. She just tells him what to do and he gets it done.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Peonies. They were also a favorite of her grandmother.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Weeds, especially poison ivy which seems to be unusually persistent.

Kay grew up in Little Rock and moved to North Little Rock where her husband had his home. Her family all live her locally, so there is good opportunity for being in touch with each other. They recently moved to a house with lots of gardens. This stimulated Kay to become a Master Gardener. One disadvantage of the training is that now she notices when plants don't do well, whereas she used to think they all looked pretty good. Despite her new awareness, Kay is enjoying her home and garden very much.

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*As for rosemarie I lette it runne all over my garden walls,
not only because my bees love it,
but because it is the herb sacred to remembrance and to
friendship,
whence a sprig of it hath a dumb language.*

.....Sir Thomas More

GARDENER'S SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

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, i.e. 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.

ANNUALS: Rejuvenate tired annuals by removing faded flowers and cutting back long, leggy stems. Feed with liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer and the plants will be back in bloom in a few weeks. If they are too far gone, pull them out and replace with new ones for fall. Although marigolds are usually considered a summer annual, they are becoming a popular alternative to mums and may actually bloom longer!

PERENNIALS: Mums and Asters can be purchased and planted now. If you buy, try and get several that bloom at different times during the season, i.e., early (September), mid (October) and late (November through Thanksgiving). It's not too late to dig, divide and replant iris if overcrowded. Make sure each 2-4 inch division contains a part of the rhizome, some roots and foliage. Cut foliage back to about 6 inches and replant not more than 2 inches deep in well prepared soil. You can still divide overcrowded daylilies as well. Carefully dig and lift clumps and break apart. After replanting, apply fertilizer such as 5-10-5. Coneflowers, yarrow, pinks, lambs, ear and many other spreading or clumping perennials can be similarly divided.

BULBS: Fall flowering bulbs should be set out immediately! If you wait too long, these eager bulbs may flower unnoticed in a paper bag. Good choices for fall color include colchicums, crocuses, baby cyclamen and white swamp lilies. For a fragrant surprise in late autumn, plant paperwhite narcissus outdoors now. They will bloom about 6 to 12 weeks after planting, depending on the selection. Spring flowering bulbs should arrive at your garden center by midmonth. For the best selection, go ahead and buy now. Look for firm bulbs with no signs of mold. Store in a cool, dry location until ready to plant in late October through November.

VEGETABLES: The first half of September is the time to plant lettuce, radishes, mustard, turnips, spinach and kale for fall harvest. Cress matures in two to three weeks, leaf lettuce and

spinach mature in as soon as six weeks, mustard takes four to five weeks and radishes three to four weeks.

ORNAMENTALS: Remember, don't prune your spring blooming plants at this time as you will be cutting off next year's blooms. Avoid heavy pruning others also at this time of year since you run the risk that the plant will not have sufficient time to harden off before frost. Light pruning or heading off can be done at any time. Fertilize roses for the last time 6 weeks before frost. Continue deadheading and spraying fungicide and insecticide. Funginex will control most foliage diseases, while Orthene is a good choice for insect problems. 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.

HERBS: Plant perennial herbs now to fill bare spots in beds. Sage, oregano, lemon balm, thyme and winter savory may not grow much this fall, but they will develop a good root system that will support growth next spring. You can also set out cloves of garlic for harvest in late spring and early summer. Allow 4 to 6 inches between plants. Clip off the flower stalk when it appears next spring to divert energy to the underground bulbs.

HOUSEPLANTS: Most houseplants are tropical so they can be damaged by temperatures we consider quite moderate. If you have taken your plants outdoors for the summer, bring them in when temperatures are predicted to drop below 55 degrees. ***Be sure and check for "pests" and take care of them before you bring them in.*** Poinsettias: cut back to the desired height; leave three or four leaves per stem. To bloom between December 1 and Christmas, poinsettias must have total darkness from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. and bright light from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Continue fertilizing through December 1.

INSECTS AND DISEASES: Benlate can be used to control powdery mildew on crape myrtles, squash, lilacs and other plants if needed; Malathion or Orthene can be sprayed to control aphids which will control the sooty mold on crape myrtles also. **NOTE:** When using any kind of pesticide, whether fungicide, insecticide, or herbicide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. If there is not enough moisture in the plants, too much of the chemical will be taken up and there is a possibility of damaging the plants. Now is a good time to use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds as well as poison ivy and honeysuckle. Since poison ivy and honeysuckle are perennials, applying Roundup now can keep them from storing up nutrients for winter and the chance of their surviving until spring decreases.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SEP 13** **Master Gardener Regular Meeting. 11:45 a.m., Arkla Blue Flame Room.**
- SEP 10** Herb Education Day, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,
Trinity United Methodist Church, Little Rock
- SEP 14** Master Gardener Tour of Carl Hunter's Wildflower Garden. 10:00 a.m.
To car pool, meet at 2nd Presbyterian Church by 9:30 a.m. For those who don't want
to car pool, the address is 18 Pointer Drive in Quail Run, Alexander, AR. To get
there, take the Mabelvale exit off I-30. Go to the access road on the south side of I-
30. Proceed south to Affiliated Foods and turn left on Vimy Ridge Road. Go
approx. 1 mile to Quail Run Subdivision (large sign on the right in a yard). Turn right
on Sheri Marie. Take Sheri Marie to Pointer, turn left and you will see the house on
the right.
- SEP 17** Daffodil Society Meeting & Fall Bulb Sale, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
North Little Rock Western Sizzler Restaurant
- SEP 24/25** Fall Book Sale - Pinnacle Mountain State Park
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday; Noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday
- SEP 27** **Master Gardener Trip to Larry Loman's Ridgecrest Nursery, Wynne, Arkansas**
Meet at Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. A nursery full of native plants,
exotic plants, trees, shrubs, and perennials. We will take a sack lunch
Planner: Carolyn Henslee, 666-7502
- OCT 11** **Master Gardener Regular Meeting. 11:45 a.m., Arkla Blue Flame Room.**
- OCT 18/19** M.G. Fall Foliage Tour to Eureka Springs (details later)
- NOV 16/17** **Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting, Fort Smith.**
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.
- DEC 8** M.G. Christmas Party. Details Later.

SCHEDULE FOR NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

Classes Begin October 5. All sessions will be held at the Adult Center on West 12th Street in Little Rock. Registration will be from 8-8:30 a.m. each class day. **If you plan to eat lunch, reservations must be made with Beth Phelps by Monday of each week.**

- SEPTEMBER 28** Tour of Garden Projects. Leave from Extension Office at 9:00 a.m.
- OCTOBER 5** Basic Plant Science.
- OCTOBER 12** Fruit Crops
- OCTOBER 26** Ornamentals
- NOVEMBER 2** Vegetable Crops
- NOVEMBER 9** Turf in the morning. - Finish Up in the afternoon.

PROJECTS REPORTS

GREENHOUSE. Breck Campbell and his worker bees installed more shelving, put wire on all the new and put up a shade cloth to protect the pansies after they are planted in September. Pansies ordered for planting this year are Imperial Pink Shades, Imperial Frosty Rose, Imperial Antique Shades, Imperial Purple and White, Majestic Giants Blue Shades, Majestic Giants White with Blotch, Majestic Giants Yellow with Blotch, Majestic Giants Mix, Crown White, Crown Golden, and Crown Azure Blue. Lots more of the Pink Shades were ordered this year since they were such a favorite last year. Tentative schedule for pansy preparation and sale is as follows: Thursday or Friday, September 8th or 9th, plant pansies (Debby Coates will let the greenhouse committee members know for sure later). Friday, September 9 through Saturday, October 22nd, the committee members will take turns watering. Saturday, October 22nd - Pansy Sale - 9-11 a.m.; Saturday, October 29th, 9-10 a.m., Leftover Pansy Sale.

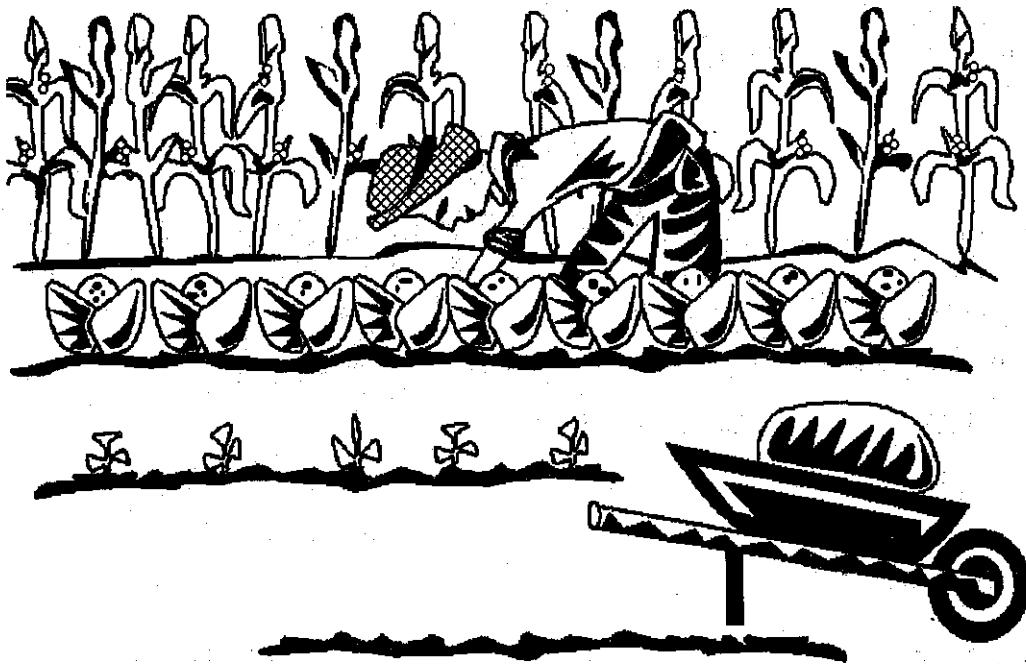
BAPTIST REHAB. Jaine Waldron, Mildred Walton, Jerry Quick, Mary Anne Dillaha, Aleta Newell held a program on requirements for successful herb gardening on July 30. Herbs and cuttings were transplanted, seeds were planted and participants were encouraged to ask questions and share their knowledge of herbs. Beth Phelps, Jaine Waldron and Bill Burgin did a workshop in Russellville on July 23rd for a Horticultural Therapy Program orientation for volunteers.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Master Gardener nominating committee met on July 21 and made the following recommendations for the 1994-95 officers:

President Jay Hill
1st Vice President Jane Gulley
2nd Vice President David Dodson
Secretary Ann Bridgers
Treasurer Ann Cooper

Members of the nominating committee were: Sally Garrison, Wini Carter and Ruth Jones.



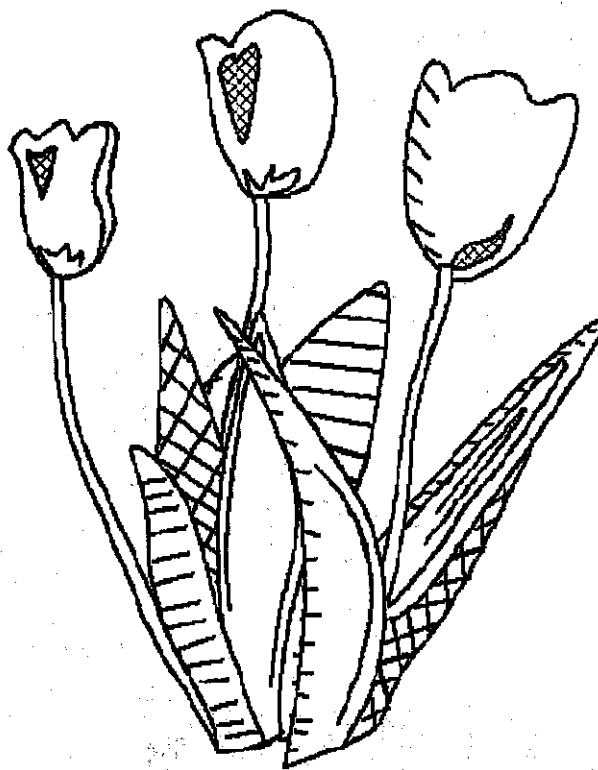
Name tags are being ordered for the new class. Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 by Oct. 1 to order yours. Cost is \$3.50.

Items for the newsletter must be received by Laura Lasiter no later than the 10th of each month in order for them to be placed in the following month's newsletter. If you have any problems, call her at 374-6595 (H) or 758-6126 (W).

Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work the phones. Help is still needed. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

TRADING POST

Julie Eckberg (225-6721) needs Pine Straw mulch or where to buy it. Julie also has a 20 foot roll of plastic industrial grade lawn and garden edging free for the asking.





Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Ten

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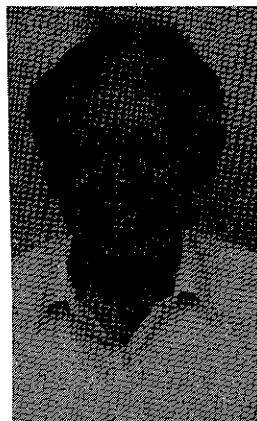
Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Boon-Nam Blackwell
SPOUSE: Quentin
CHILDREN: Five children living in Chicago, Wisconsin, Washington, Maryland and Thailand.
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORKACTIVITY: Zoo Garden, Travel Group.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Short-handled, four-tined cultivator.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Daffodils.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Insects that bite and raise welts that itch.

Boon-Nam was born in Bangkok, Thailand and lived in Taiwan for 15 years. She has lived in Arkansas for about 14 years. In 1974, she completed her degree in pathology and worked at a laboratory in Maryland. In Arkansas, she worked at the National Center for Toxicity Research at the Pine Bluff Armory. Boon-Nam recently retired from this position and is looking forward to having more time for gardening and travel.



NAME: Quentin Blackwell
SPOUSE: Boon-Nam
CHILDREN: Five children.
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORKACTIVITY: Art Center, Pinnacle Mountain, Travel Group.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: A garden cart which is great for moving things like dirt, gravel and rocks.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Daffodils.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Bugs that eat his plants.

Quentin was born in Kansas. He taught at Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois. He then went to Taiwan to work for the Navy as a biochemist. Returning to Maryland, Quentin worked for the National Cancer Society. He is now retired and looking forward to more opportunities to travel.

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*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

GARDENER'S OCTOBER CHECKLIST

LAWNS: 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. If you have done a good job fertilizing your lawn this year, you do not need to use a winterizer fertilizer. This type of fertilizer has no nitrogen, only phosphorus and potash. However, if your lawn is severely damaged, or the lawn (such as St. Augustine) was stressed this year, or if you have not been fertilizing regularly, or if you have new sod, you do need winterizer fertilizer.

ANNUALS: It is time to plant pansies. Place 1 tsp of a slow-release fertilizer around each plant. Wait until hard freezes are forecast to mulch heavily. Remove faded blooms for continued flowering. Ornamental cabbage, kale, petunias and marigolds will continue to do well until freezing weather. Other flowering plants that will tolerate a light to moderate freeze include Snap Dragon, Viola and Calendula, Larkspur, Lobelia, Nierembergia, Poppies, Scabiosa, Stock, Sweet Alyssum and Sweet Peas.

PERENNIALS: 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. Fall is also a good time to plant new perennials!

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

VEGETABLES: 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. Plant fast-maturing vegetables such as garden cress, turnip greens and radishes. Spinach, rape, turnips, kale and winter peas can also be planted. To keep soils from drying out or washing away during winter,

plant a cover crop now in unused parts of the vegetable or cut flower garden. Legumes such as hairy vetch, crimson clover and sweet clover trap nitrogen from the air, which then becomes available in subsequent crops after the legumes are turned under. A woody stem, hard rind and deep orange color indicate that pumpkins are ready for harvest. Cut (don't pull) them from the vine and leave a 3' piece of stem attached. Let them cure in the sun for about a week, then store in a cool dry place.

ORNAMENTALS: 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.

HERBS: Plant cilantro and coriander but don't look for two kinds of seeds. They both come from the same plant. Coriander refers to the sweet spicy seeds, while cilantro is the name used for the leaves. Cilantro will remain green through winter, producing flowers and seeds in spring. Sow seeds on the surface of well-prepared soil, and pat them into place. Do not cover. They will germinate in about two weeks. Transplanting is difficult because the plants have tap roots; sow seeds where you want the plants to grow.

HOUSEPLANTS: 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. Remember to check for pests before doing so.

INSECTS AND DISEASES: Don't worry about fall web worms. They may look unsightly, but do little damage to trees. As the temperatures cool, horticultural oil can be sprayed to control scale on fruit trees, camellias or other ornamental shrubs. Control white peach scale with oil such as Volck, ornamentals with Cygon. Treat fruit trees again with a dormant oil after fall leaf drop. **NOTE:** Horticultural oil also helps control leaf spot on red-tipped photinia. **CLEAN OUT OLD MULCH BEFORE ADDING NEW** to prevent fungal diseases next spring.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 5,12,26
NOV 2,9 New Master Gardener Classes, Adult Center, Little Rock.
- OCT 11 **Master Gardener Regular Meeting. 11:45 a.m., Arkla Blue Flame Room.**
- OCT 18/19 M.G. Fall Foliage Tour to Eureka Springs.
- OCT 22 **M.G. PANSY SALE - GREENHOUSE**
- OCT 22/23 Pinnacle Mountain Rendezvous '94
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. A \$4.00 car parking fee includes shuttle & event admission for all riders.
Fall festival of food, crafts, music, more.
- NOV 8 **Master Gardener Regular Meeting. 11:45 a.m., Ark-La Blue Flame Room. Speaker will be Imogene Miller. Topic will be "Decorating the White House for Christmas."**
- NOV 16/17 **Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting, Fort Smith.**
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.
- DEC. 8 M.G. Christmas Party for Master Gardeners & Spouses. Will be held at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. Details Later.

SCHEDULE FOR NEW MASTER GARDENER CLASSES

Classes Begin October 5. All sessions will be held at the Adult Center on West 12th Street in Little Rock. Registration will be from 8-8:30 a.m. each class day. **If you plan to eat lunch, reservations must be made with Beth Phelps by Monday of each week.**

- SEP 28 Tour of Garden Projects. Leave from Extension Office at 9:00 a.m.
- OCT 5 Basic Plant Science.
- OCT 12 Fruit Crops
- OCT 26 Ornamentals
- NOV 2 Vegetable Crops
- NOV 9 Turf in the morning. - Finish Up in the afternoon.

Trading Post **Plant and Seed Exchange**

Fred Henker (565-7260), has Chives, Night Blooming Cereus, Bird of Paradise, wants Tarragon

Karen Vesole (228-9704), has Four o'clock seeds & Rose of Sharon.

Martha Staples (663-5238), has Angel Leaf Begonias (Pink), wants Herbs

Linda Dantzler (771-0844), wants Perennial digitalis meratonis - strawberry color; Pale yellow blackberry lily.

Margaret Fizer (834-2338), has Flowtron Leaf Mulcher for small jobs. Works well, she just has too many leaves. \$15.00

Julie Eckberg (225-6721), has 20 ft. roll of industrial grade plastic lawn & garden edging, still in the box. Free to first caller.

PROJECTS REPORTS

GREENHOUSE

Committee members met August 31, September 8 & 9 to prepare the flats and plant the pansy slips. The Committee will hold a pansy sale Saturday, October 22nd from 9-11 a.m.; on Saturday, October 29th, 9-10 a.m., is scheduled as a Leftover Pansy Sale.

STATE HOSPITAL

The committee has been maintaining the plants at the state hospital project and are waiting to plant the pansies later this month.

OLD STATE HOUSE

The committee is making plans for fall planting of bulbs and pansies at the end of October.

CONTEMPLATION GARDEN

The committee has been maintaining the project and it has looked beautiful all summer.

PINNACLE

The Pinnacle project is expanding to include working with the new arboretum. They are seeking additional volunteers. The group will be holding tours on a 4th grade level for children and helping with plantings and upkeep. For more information contact Beth at the Extension Office.

BUS STOP

When the salvia is ready to be removed, there is going to be some repairs and renovation of the irrigation system before any other plants are put in. When that is finished, plans are to plant pansies there.

MOUNT HOLLY

The group planted roses in the spring and summer and they are all doing nicely. They planned to work there on September 24.

GOVERNOR'S MANSION

The fall garden is in.

NOTE: The reports above were taken during the monthly meeting reports by project chairmen. If the project committees want a more complete report in the Master Minutes on activities completed at their projects each month, or want to include upcoming information for their committee members in the Master Minutes, please notify Joyce Bumgardner at 758-9074, or Charlotte Gebhart at 228-5885, early enough so that the information can be given to Laura Lasiter by the 10th of each month.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

ASTER

The aster is a perennial that yields a carpet of daisylike blooms from early summer to late fall and requires little care. Asters produce a rainbow of colors from purple to lavender, rose, pink, red and white. They range in size from 1 to 8 feet tall.

In Spring or fall, make plant divisions about the size of a fist or propagate by stem cuttings taken in late spring or early summer. Plant in full sun if possible, or facing east or west in partial shade. Asters adapt well to most soils. Fertilize annually and water regularly, trying not to water the foliage.

Cut old blooms from them before they mature and drop. The seeds rarely, if ever, produce flowers that are true colors of the parent plant.

Lois Corley, Master Gardener

MASTER GARDENER NOTES

REMINDER: NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 11TH.

Reports need to be in to Laura Lasiter no later than the 10th of each month in order for them to be placed in the following month's newsletter. If you have any problems, please call her at 374-6595(H) or 758-6126(W).

Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work the phones. Help is still needed. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

Volunteers are needed to assist children in planting terrariums in plastic cups with plastic lids at an event at Wildwood on October 22nd and 23rd. The hours of the event are from 9 to 5 on Saturday, the 22nd and 12 to 5 on Sunday the 23rd. Need two volunteers to man the table at all times. Each shift is only two to three hours each. Please call Beth for details if you can help out.

If you have lost or broken your name tag, let Beth know and she will order you a replacement at the time she orders the new Master Gardener ones. Since our group is growing so large, we all do not know one another and it would be helpful to all if you would wear your name tag to all the meetings, events and work days so that everyone will get to know each other and will feel welcome.

Beth announced at the September meeting that all members are welcome at the monthly board meetings if they wish to come. If there is something a member wishes to have the board act on, it would be helpful to contact Beth ahead of time so that it can be put on the agenda. The Board meets at 11:00 a.m., in the Ark-La Blue Flame Room, prior to the regular monthly meeting for all members.

Dr. Amail Chudy (M.G. 1993) presented the program at the monthly meeting in September. He grows bonsai trees and gave the members an overview of the methods for selecting and growing bonsai. Some of the types of plants which do well are evergreen and deciduous trees, azalea and holly. He presented slides of some of his plants which were very impressive. He told the group that if they were interested in learning more about bonsai, that the Brussel Bonsai Nursery in Olive Branch, Mississippi (near Memphis) is the largest importer from Japan and China. He said that it was worth a nice trip there to see their stock of bonsai. Their phone number is 1-800-582-2593 for additional information.

Beth provided new brochures to those at the monthly meeting on Fire Ant Control. If any of the members not present would like a copy, contact the Extension Office.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

The following officers were unanimously elected for 1994-95 at the September 13th Master Gardener Meeting. officers:

President Jay Hill
1st Vice President Jane Gulley
2nd Vice President David Dodson
Secretary Ann Bridgers
Treasurer Ann Cooper



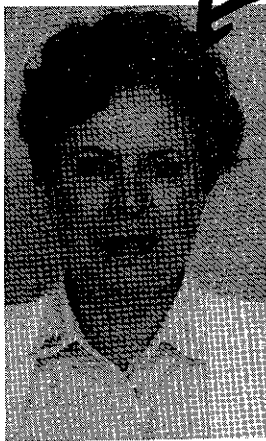
Master Minutes

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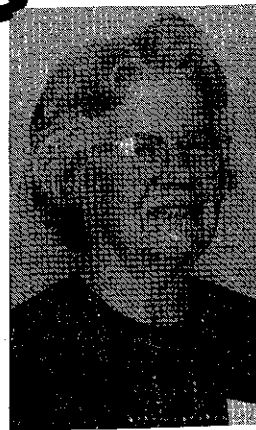
oop 51
Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Billie Kirkpatrick
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: State Hospital, Bus Stop & Extension Office.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Her water hoses. Billie is especially interested in maintaining her St. Augustine grass in her yard. She finds it necessary to water often.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Impatiens -- especially since they

will grow on the north side of her home.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Weeds and wild grass that spring up in her yard making it difficult to keep the lawn free of weeds.

Billie has lived in Little Rock most of her life but she has also lived in Oregon. She is now retired but worked for many years as a secretary in a doctor's office. Her mother raised flowers and always enjoyed having plants around her. Billie learned to enjoy plants as a child from her mother and continues to this day. She has a small flower garden as well as a lovely lawn at her home.



NAME: Laura Lasiter
SPOUSE: Dwayne
CHILDREN: Two grown daughters and two granddaughters, both age 7. One daughter is an insurance broker and lives in Jonesboro. The other daughter is a floral designer and lives in North Little Rock.
BECAME A MG: 1993
WORK ACTIVITY: Newsletter and Greenhouse are major ones. Helps on others

when time allows.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: Husband. He is an able and willing helper.
FAVORITE PLANTS: Perennials.
GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Insects, disease and growing conditions. Does not know how to accurately diagnose and correct problems.

Laura is originally from Tampa, Florida and moved to Little Rock at age 12. She has been employed by the City of North Little Rock for 21 years - 13 of them as Administrative Secretary to five Mayors and 8 as Personnel Director. She gardens for learning and relaxation in informal, old-fashioned "country" flower beds and experiments with annuals, old fragrant roses and perennials that attract bees and hummingbirds. Photographing flowers has become another hobby.

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"My little plot," said Miss Mapp. "My flower beds: sweet roses, tortoiseshell butterflies.

Rather a nice clematis.

My little Eden, I call it, so small but so well beloved."

E. F. Benson

GARDENER'S NOVEMBER CHECKLIST

LAWNS: 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. 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. Fescue lawns: the last application of fertilizer should be made now. Use a nitrogen fertilizer only for this application. Ammonium nitrate (34-0-0) at 3# per 1,000 square feet should be used.

ANNUALS: Seeds of winter annuals can be sown now. Try bachelor's button, delphinium, larkspur, foxglove, sweet peas, Johnny-jump-ups, forget-me-nots, Shirley and California poppies and nasturtium. It's not too late to plant pansies.

PERENNIALS: Plant perennials such as coneflowers, crinum, shasta daisies, African irises, daylilies, lycoris and goldenrod. After Chrysanthemums have finished blooming, cut them back to just a few inches above the ground.

BULBS: Generally, bulbs should be planted outdoors after the first killing frost. To ensure even flowering, dig out an entire bed to recommended depth and set them on the soil in a staggered grid pattern. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the backfill soil along with a generous portion of organic matter. Carefully refill the bed so you do not disturb the bulbs. Water well to settle the soil and add more soil to level the bed. Apply a mulch of pine needles or finely ground bark to keep out weeds. Dig tuberose and gladioli for winter storage.

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

ORNAMENTALS: There's still time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. However, protect newly planted young trees from winter and wildlife with paper or plastic trunk wraps which are available at garden centers or hardware stores. Deeply mulch gardenia plants after the first frost. They must also be covered with burlap or similar material when expecting ice and snow. Otherwise, the leaves will turn brown and the plant will die back to the ground. If temperatures for an extended period stay below 20 degrees, it may kill the entire plant.

HOUSEPLANTS: House plants won't need as much water during the winter months. Always check moisture level and water when soil feels dry to the touch.

GARDEN CLEAN-UP: Dead stalks and other debris left in the garden provide choice locations for insects and diseases to overwinter. Remove and destroy any infested material, add the rest to your compost heap. Do not allow leaves to pile up on the lawn as serious damage to the grass can occur (not to mention creating a fire hazard). This is a good time to take inventory of your tools and to clean, oil, sharpen before storing for the winter.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- NOV 2 New Master Gardener Class, Adult Center, Little Rock.
- NOV 8 Master Gardener Regular Meeting. 11:45 a.m., Ark-La Blue Flame Room
Speaker will be Imogene Miller. Topic will be "Decorating the White House for Christmas."
- NOV 9 Last class for new Master Gardeners. Come for lunch at 12 Noon to meet the new members and stay to hear Nancy Brilllos' program on Antique Roses from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Reservations for Lunch must be made by contacting Mrs. McKinney no later than Noon on Monday, November 7. Lunch is \$6.00.
- NOV 10 Restricted Use Pesticide Training
6:00 p.m., Extension Office. Contact Beth Phelps if interested.
- NOV 16/17 Arkansas State Horticulture Society Meeting, Fort Smith.
For Details, contact Beth Phelps.
- NOV 19 Pinnacle Mountain State Park
Crash Bird Course II. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Audubon Society. Fee of \$8.00. Advance reservations suggested. Afternoon field trip.
- DEC 3 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Elf encounter 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reasonably priced gifts, handmade, of natural materials will be for sale.
- DEC 3 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 9 a.m. to Noon. Winter Bird Count. Dress warmly and bring binoculars and field guides.
- DEC 4 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 2 - 4 p.m. Christmas for Critters. Popular event for all ages. Making edible ornaments to decorate the wildlife Christmas tree.
- DEC 8 Restricted Use Pesticide Training. 9:00 a.m. at Scott.
Contact Beth Phelps if interested.
- DEC 8 M.G. Christmas Party for Master Gardeners & Spouses. Will be held at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Details in December Master Minutes.
- NO MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- JANUARY 10 M.G. REGULAR MEETING. Ark-La Blue Flame Room. 11:45 a.m.

Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Joyce Bumgardner (758-9074) needs any shade plants.
Phyllis Watson (868-4656) needs wildflower seeds.
Mary Evans (664-7863) needs pine straw.

MASTER GARDENER NOTES

REMINDER: NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 8TH.

Reports need to be in to Laura Lasiter no later than the 10th of each month in order for them to be placed in the following month's newsletter. If you have any problems, call her at 374-6595 (H) or 758-6126 (W).

Be sure you have your required number of hours worked on the phones at the Extension Office before the end of the year. Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work the phones. Help is still needed. Several of the experienced Master Gardeners have volunteered to work with the new Master Gardeners to assist them in learning the ropes. Just tell Mrs. McKinney if you need the help. Help is not needed on Wednesdays.

If you have lost or broken your name tag, let Beth know and she will order you a replacement at the time she orders the new Master Gardener ones. Since our group is growing so large, we all do not know one another and it would be helpful to all if you would wear your name tag to all the meetings, events and work days so that everyone will get to know each other and will feel welcome.

The program at the October MG meeting was prepared by Ellen Cane and Mary Lee McHenry. The program consisted of narrative regarding a wonderful collection of color slides taken by Ellen and Mary Lee while on their trip to Monet's restored gardens at Giverny, France. The slides of Monet's pink brick home, gardens, water garden and the foot bridge were breathtaking. Spectacular color everywhere! The roses and lilies were spectacular. The presentation was very educational and was enjoyed very much by everyone.

PROJECTS INFORMATION

The Zoo Birdhouse will have a work day on the 1st Saturday in November. Contact Lynn McMahon at 565-3440 if you can work.

The Greenhouse Committee grew beautiful flats of pansies for the projects and for sale to members on October 22nd and 29th.

Jane Gulley, 1st Vice President, stated that for 1995, since the State Hospital garden is so big, they are going to possibly break down the garden committee to have four Chairmen who would be in charge for 1 week per month each, to make sure workers are there, etc. and one overall Chairman who would keep up with the four other chairmen and assist them in the continuity of the work, etc. If you would like to help, contact Jane Gulley, or Beth at the extension office.

David Dodson, 2nd Vice President, stated that volunteers are need for the following committees: Travel, Program, Publicity, Social, Newsletter, Flower/Garden Shows. Sign-up sheets were available at the meeting, but if anyone who was not in attendance would like to serve on any of these committees, call David or Beth at the extension office.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Chrysanthemum - (Golden Flower)

(A very hardy, reliable plant)

We are extremely grateful for this very hardy flower species which takes over the scene in a wonderful way in autumn when most summer plants give up blooming. We affectionately call them "Mums" for short. Right now, they are the Queen of the Show! The National Chrysanthemum Society presently lists thirteen categories. However, one reliable source states that there are more than 1,000 varieties of chrysanthemums in dozens of shades. Normally the plant blooms in beautiful clusters, but by using a technique called disbudding, specialists can produce single, oversized flowers which gained popularity a number of years ago at college and university football games. The Chinese introduced the chrysanthemum to Japan in the Fourth Century, and the Japanese were immediately captivated by the "erect, elegant flower, upon which honors were heaped." The emperor made this flower an imperial emblem in 797 and it has been celebrated down the ages in Japan by exquisite pen and ink drawings, celebratory poems and annual festivals. To this day, the Emperor is said to sit on the Chrysanthemum Throne. The imperial standard remains a stylized chrysanthemum of 16 petals, a motif reflected in the ensign flown by Japanese naval forces. It shows a red ball with 16 rays radiating from it -- skillfully combining the imperial chrysanthemum with the national slogan or motto, "Land of the Rising Sun."

Chrysanthemums are known as short-day plants, meaning that they bloom only in the Spring and Autumn when the days are less than twelve hours long. They join dogwood, goldenrod, orchid, poinsettia, aster and some others in this regard. After reading, then writing about this fascinating flower, I am eager to try some not-so-common varieties of mums. My vote at this time is Feverfew, (*Pyrethrum parthenium*) which grows about two feet tall and bears double white flowers. Usually an annual, it can be grown from seed. The taller Feverfews are excellent in bouquets; the smaller type is used as an edging plant. The latter grows only six to nine inches and has double white or yellow flowers. They will grow in full sun or in light shade. The botanical name of Feverfew means fire, an allusion to the bitter roots which, in old times, were regarded as a remedy for fevers. The dried heads of one species (*C. cinerariaefolium*) provide an effective insecticide, and the plant is grown in some areas as a crop for that purpose. Pinching back of all mums, spoken of as summer pruning, is a factor of great importance. After three or four pairs of leaves have formed, the growing tip of the shoot should be pinched back. From three to five side shoots will then develop and these, in turn, should be pinched back to induce further branching. For the early-flowering varieties, no pinching should be done after the middle of July; the late flowering types should not be pinched back after the early part of August. If the pinching is neglected, the plants will assume a spindly habit of growth, sprawling out over the garden in an unwieldy fashion, and they will produce few blooms. If pinching is done with purposeful regularity, however, the plants will develop into broad, spreading bushes, bearing many strong, flowering stems.

Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener '92



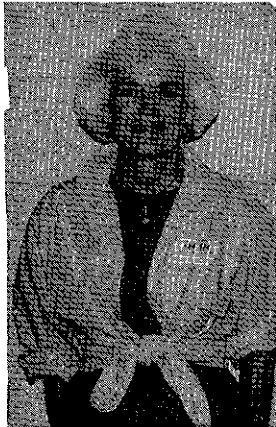
Master Minutes

Volume Five

Number Twelve

Dec 1994 / Jan 1995

Meet our Master Gardeners



NAME: Leslie Scott
SPOUSE: Clyde
CHILDREN: two grown children - a son, who lives in Little Rock, and a daughter, who works for President Clinton.
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORK ACTIVITY: Contemplation Garden and the special 4-H project.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: long-handled bulb planter, especially this time of year.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Russian Sage, Mexican Sage, and Salvia.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: animal visitors such as raccoons, groundhogs, and armadillos. The usual routine is that Leslie plants and the animals unplant.

Leslie grew up in Lake Village and developed her interest in gardening from her grandmother and her mother. It seems to be carried in the genes, since her daughter is also a gardening enthusiast. Leslie attended the University of Arkansas and moved to Little Rock with her husband. Her major interests, in addition to gardening, are tennis and golf.



NAME: Carolyn Stout
SPOUSE: Kimber
CHILDREN: Two college-age boys - Michael at Middlebury, Vermont and Kelsey, a senior at Yale.
BECAME A MG: 1992
WORK ACTIVITY: Mt. Holly Cemetery, Bus Stop and Old State House.
MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION: A long hose which gets water to the far corners of her yard.

FAVORITE PLANTS: Roses; herbs for cooking.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Buying more plants than I can get planted.

Carolyn was born in Pine Bluff, but grew up in Camden. She met her husband at Hendrix College. They spent a year in Portland, Oregon while her husband completed an internship in cardiology. They came to Little Rock where Kimber established his practice. Carolyn learned about gardening from her grandmother and her mother-in-law.

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*"God has given us our memories
that we might have roses in December."*

J. M. Barrie

GARDENER'S DECEMBER/JANUARY CHECKLIST

PERENNIALS: Clean up beds by cutting off dead foliage after frost. Rake or blow away fallen leaves that may smother mat-forming plants such as pinks and thyme. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, but leave 2-3 inch stalks to help you find them. This will prevent accidental uprooting of dormant crowns when you plant in early Spring. Wait until the first hard freeze to apply mulch. This will keep the soil an even temperature and prevent alternate thawing and freezing that can damage plants in the months to come. Divide plants when new growth appears. Mulch lilies if this was not done at time of planting.

BULBS: The day after Christmas, stock up on amaryllis bulbs as the price plunges to as low as \$5. This often includes an attractive ceramic container. Put the potted bulbs in a warm, sunny spot, and water sparingly until growth starts; then keep soil moist. The timing will be just right for a show of blooms on Valentine's Day.

VEGETABLES: Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of leaves, pine needles or hay to beets, turnips, radishes, parsnips and other root crops. This will keep the soil from freezing so the vegetables can be harvested as needed. Kale and spinach also overwinter in most areas. Although growth will stop in cold weather, it will resume in Spring, producing greens into May. If you are growing cover crops, consider turning it into the soil with a fork or tiller during the middle of January. This will give the green materials time to break down and enrich the soil before

planting time. Start broccoli and cabbage seeds indoors in January for transplanting 6-8 weeks later.

ORNAMENTALS: In mid-January, fertilize trees. Spray broad-leaved evergreens, especially hollies, photinia and euonymus if infested with scale. Otherwise, no spray needed. January is a good time to plant winter-blooming shrubs like winter honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*) or winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*). The latter part of January is an ideal time to plant sweet peas. Remember to fertilize pansies regularly all season during any warm spell. Water regularly, especially in cold weather and before a heavy freeze. Don't saturate, they just need to be moist.

HOUSEPLANTS: Rotate plants from dim locations to sunny ones so they will stay in good condition through winter. Remember to avoid placing them near vents where dry heated air will damage the leaves. Check plants weekly to ensure the soil is moist.

COLD PROTECTION: To protect cold-sensitive plants from a freeze, cover them with a box or blanket (burlap or even a sheet will do). You can also use plastic, but only if it is supported in a tentlike fashion and doesn't come in contact with the leaves. Simply throwing plastic over a plant may cause even greater damage. Protect the grafts of tender young fruit trees by wrapping with towels or with newspaper about 10 sheets thick.

GARDEN CLEAN-UP: Dead stalks and other debris left in the garden provide choice locations for insects and diseases to overwinter. Remove and destroy any infested material, add the rest to your compost heap. Do not allow leaves to pile up on the lawn as serious damage to the grass can occur (not to mention creating a fire hazard). This is a good time to take inventory of your tools and to clean, oil, and sharpen. Check condition of spraying equipment, hose attachments or pressure sprayers. Make an inventory of flats, stakes, labels and replenish your supply if necessary.

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 for next season. Winter is a good time to prepare the soil for new beds or adding amendments. *Whether your soil is clay or sand, it will benefit from the addition 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NO MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN DECEMBER

- DEC. 3 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Elf encounter 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reasonably priced gifts, handmade, of natural materials will be for sale.
- DEC. 3 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 9 a.m. to Noon. Winter Bird Count. Dress warmly and bring binoculars and field guides.
- DEC. 4 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. 2 - 4 p.m. Christmas for Critters. Popular event for all ages. Making edible ornaments to decorate the wildlife Christmas tree.
- DEC. 8 Restricted Use Pesticide Training. 9:00 a.m. at Scott. Call Beth Phelps if interested.
- DEC. 8 M.G. Christmas Party for Master Gardeners & Spouses. Will be held at the 4-H Center in Ferndale. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. \$3.00 PER PERSON. SPOUSES WELCOME! Make Check payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Send to Wincie Hughes, 4 Pine Tree Point, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72116 (758-5271). Reservation Deadline: Friday, December 2, 1994. Dress: Casual (Please wear name tag.)
- DEC. 13 Important Meeting for all Committee Chairmen, Project Chairmen and Board Members. 1:00 p.m., Extension Office. Board meeting at 2:00 p.m.
- DEC. 17 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. "Caroling in the Forest." 7 - 8 p.m. West Summit Picnic Area. Hot refreshments afterwards.
- Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Christmas Tree Recycling. Bring undecorated trees and greenery to the Park for wildlife shelters, etc.
- JAN. 10 M.G. REGULAR MEETING. Ark-La Blue Flame Room.
- NEW TIME FOR MEETINGS: 11:30 a.m.
- JAN. 16,17 Arkansas Turf Grass Association Meeting. Statehouse Convention Center. Call Beth Phelps for registration information.
- FEB. 24,25,26 ARKANSAS FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hybrid Lilies

In the *Lilium* family, there are eight divisions, each of which contains cultivars derived from a particular set of species. (A 9th division is reserved for the species themselves.) Some divisions are broken down into subdivisions by flower shape and orientation. There are 3 orientations recognized: upward facing, outward facing, and pendant. Growing modern hybrid lilies is really quite simple if you meet their one major requirement: good drainage. They can be grown successfully in a range of soil, light, and nutrient conditions, but they simply will not tolerate wet feet. Generally, they all need plenty of sunlight. If you are in doubt about the natural drainage of the site, make raised beds with rocks, bricks, cinder blocks, or railway ties. Mound the beds with loamy soil enriched with compost or peat moss. Add some sand too. When planting, mix 1 Tbsp. balanced granular fertilizer into the soil below the bulb. (Do not fertilize lilies with manures or high nitrogen fertilizers.) Plant with the roots down and cover with four to six inches of soil. Lilies are heavy feeders and form roots on the stem, so sprinkle more fertilizer on top of the soil to feed the stem roots. Water the area and mulch. Each spring a light sprinkling of fertilizer scratched into the surface is beneficial, but be careful: new growth is very tender and breaks easily, so avoid digging until all stems have poked through the ground. Lilies multiply by division of the main bulb and by the formation of smaller "bulblets" on the stem just above the main bulb. Every three or four years, this clump should be dug up and divided. Do your digging in October, and be sure to replant your lilies in new soil. Lilies are hardy perennial bulbs. You will be leaving them undisturbed for three to four years, so make an effort to plant them with care. You can plant them in either fall or spring but either way, start out right by buying

Continued next page

fresh, healthy bulbs. Bulbs that have dried and started to sprout seldom bloom their first year and often don't even survive. Just a few years ago, available hybrid lilies required a lot of "babying." Growers had to be vigilant against a host of dreadful maladies, including lily mosaic (a complex of viruses that attack the foliage), fusarium rot (a bulb and root fungus), and botrytis (another fungus that attacks the entire plant above the soil). Today's hybrids generally have some disease resistance, though you may still need an insecticide and, to control botrytis, a fungicide. Listed below are some of the characteristics of each of the eight Divisions.

Division I, Asiatic Hybrids: greatest variety of color and flower form, and have the longest blooming season. There is no fragrance usually. Their leaves form in whorls along the entire stem. They have cup-shaped flowers 4" - 6" wide, clustered at the top of the plant. They bloom May - July. The deep yellow Connecticut King (a florists' favorite), and the orange Connecticut Yankee are both tall, vigorous growers great for the back of a perennial border. Other reliable ones in the Connecticut Series are the Nutmegger, a spotted yellow; Yellow Blaze, a super vigorous clone which is a consistent summer performer; Sally and Tiger Babies, both salmon pink, sturdy and vigorous; Maple Cream (a beige pink with few spots), Miss Alice (a tall, spotless red), Timepiece (an orange); Cabaret & Willowood (both yellow with brush marks). Others: Enchantment (disease resistant - a nasturtium red); Pollyana, Cordelia, Joanna (all yellows) and Pixies (short-statured to 20").

Division II, Martagon Hybrids: beautiful, durable, very long lived, the first lilies to bloom each year. The flowers are in the form of a small turk's cap and have wide foliage in whorls. They may not sprout the first year. One of the varieties in this division is *L. Dalhansonii* which has been around over 100 years. It has glossy purplish-brown to mahogany flowers.

Divisions III, IV, & V, Candidum, American & Longiflorum Hybrids (respectively): not North American natives. Most are grown on the West Coast and they are difficult to grow elsewhere. They are rare in the trade.

Division VI, Trumpet & Aurelian Hybrids: usually taller and flowering later than other divisions (some Trumpets grow 6-7 feet high). Aurelians have a sweeter fragrance, trumpet-shaped flowers, bloom in mid summer. Their colors are pastels: white, pink, yellow, orange and green (they have a taller, less wiry stem than the orientals and are outward facing). This division includes hybrids of a number of Asiatic species mostly with trumpet-shaped flowers. They include *L. Henryi* group (starburst instead of trumpet). Many in this division are the easiest to grow and are fragrant. The White Henryi by Leslie Woodriff (each stem provides as many as 20 flowers) is a Hall of Famer. Another is Gold Eagle, a yellow, wide, flat flower.

Division VII, Oriental Hybrids: derived from species native to East Asia, mainly to Japan. They produce spectacular, open-faced, pendant flowers (6 - 12 inches across), usually in white, pink, and red, and often with fascinating spotting patterns. They are late season bloomers. A potent spicy fragrance is also characteristic of the group. Orientals tend to be more exacting in their requirements than other lilies. Those beginners who cannot be dissuaded should give Black Beauty (which can have 30-50 flowers on each stem) a try. Though it's classified as an oriental, "Black Beauty" has *L. henryi* in its parentage, which makes it far more rugged than most Division VII plants. Its blooms are a deep black-red edged in white and with a green, star-shaped nectary at the center. It, too, is a Hall of Famer. Two other orientals which are especially durable are "Journey's End" (which has performed well in many gardens), a deep red flower with chocolate nectary and, one of the most popular and most beautiful, "Casa Blanca," on which many florists have come to rely. It has huge, spotless white flowers and it has proven a good garden plant too. Others are Stargazer (red/white), White Henryi, Tempo (deep garnet), Rosy (white with pink/red spots), Laura Lee (white with deep pink spots), Le Reve (baby pink) and Fellowship (white with pink stripes).

Division VIII - a catch-all category: set up to include any hybrid that doesn't find a place in the previous seven divisions. At present it has very few members, but this scarcity is not likely to continue for long.

MASTER GARDENER NOTES

REMINDER: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER. FUTURE MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT 11:30 A.M. INSTEAD OF 11:45 A.M.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE 11:30 A.M. ON JANUARY 10, 1995.

Anyone wishing to share news or information which would be of general interest to all Master Gardeners can also send it to Laura (or if its brief, call her).

Be sure to complete the required number of hours worked on the phones, on projects, or recertification points completed before the end of the year. Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to let her know when you can work the phones.

MORE ABOUT THE TRIP TO CARL HUNTER'S WILDFLOWER GARDEN

M.G. Shirley Garnett was kind enough to share information she gathered while on the MG tour of the Wildflower garden of Carl Hunter in September. Shirley reported that Mr. Hunter has accomplished magic in designing a domesticated wildlife vista around his home, with over 140 specimens transferred in the past year. She described areas in the landscape planted with wood violets, American Beauty Bush, Passion Flower, Formosa Lily, Spiderwort, Beggar Ticks, Lobelia, Yellow and Doll's Daisy, Sawtooth Sunflower, Cardinal Flowers, Solomon's Seal, Columbine, Coneflowers, Cypress Vine, Ageratum, Chicory, Blazing Star, Jewel-Weed, Wild Quinine, Blackberry Lily, Evening Primrose, Blue Indigo Bush and Queen Anne's Lace. These were only some of the specimens the group observed planted and doing well there.

Mr. Hunter advised the group that gardeners interested in starting a garden with these delicate flowers of nature can obtain a copy of instructions and retail sources at the Extension Office. (Please don't be tempted to dig up wildflowers growing in the parks and forests. Some of them are on the endangered list and need to be left undisturbed where they are. Neither do you want to buy them from a nursery unless you know they have bought them from a reputable wildflower plant source or the nursery has, itself, propagated them on-site from seed not collected in the wild.)

Mr. Hunter advised the group that transplants are the easiest way to bring nature into your yards. He advised that for shade plants, to use the early bloomers, but transfer must be made before July to tolerate the move. Seed planting is the cheapest way, he advised, but if you are unsuccessful with seeds, try planting one-half of the seeds in the fall, and the other one-half in the Spring. This method will give double assurance of a take...one out of two tries may be successful. He advised that if you desire a longer blooming season, plant seeds "piggy back" - planting early and late bloomers on top of each other. When using transfers, interchange early wildflowers with fall specimens for color throughout the growing season, keeping in mind the prolific nature of these plants in your landscape design. Mr. Hunter shared information regarding some of the varieties planted, i.e., that the Blazing Star's color does not fade, and the Itea puts on a show in the fall. In addition, he stated that for night browsers, the Showy Primrose is a delight; the Phlox attracts butterflies, and the Queen Anne's Lace attracts hummingbirds for the insects which they feed to their young before they are ready for nectar.

The Master Gardeners enjoyed the natural beauty of the plantings and very much appreciated the kind hospitality of the Hunters in allowing them to view and enjoy the wildlife garden landscape design.

Trading Post
Plant and Seed Exchange

Mildred Boyles Walton has 4 pink crape myrtles,
head high. 663-7331

Marge Van Egmond has 4 O'clock seeds.
Will have crocus & tulip bulbs. 224-7632

Mary Evans has Lirope. Needs pine straw. 664-7863.

Bill Burgin has huge elephant ears. 221-3559

Cheryl Kennedy has 2 tiny Redbud trees. 753-8192.