



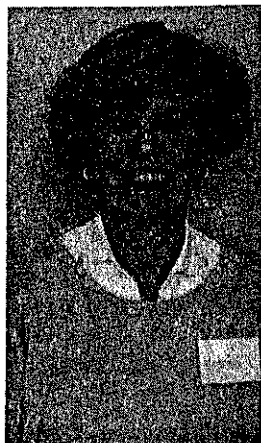
# Master Minutes

Volume Six

Number One

February 1995

## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Sheila Mehaffy  
**SPOUSE:** Mike, does highway construction, bridge building  
**CHILDREN:** two grown children - a son in Enola, a daughter in Little Rock, and two grandchildren.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1993  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Newsletter Biographies, Mount Holly Cemetery, State Hospital  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** a shovel and

leatherskin gloves, both Christmas gifts this year.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Foxglove

**GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Digging in the dirt and, believe it or not, pulling weeds

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Lack of time to do all she wants to do

Sheila is a long-time resident of Little Rock. She and her husband live in her husband's childhood home. She especially likes her vegetable garden. While working for Poe Travel Agency, Sheila had the opportunity to do a lot of traveling. Her advice to new gardeners is: don't be reluctant to experiment, to try new things. If it doesn't work, you can always dig it up.



**NAME:** Wincie Hughes  
**SPOUSE:** Joe, works in pollution control and ecology  
**CHILDREN:** Three grown children. A son in Maumelle, daughter in North Little Rock and another daughter married to a military orthodontist stationed in Darmstadt, Germany  
**BECAME A MG:** 1992  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Social Activities Chairperson, Old Mill (both gardening & conducting tours)

**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** Electric hedge trimmer

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Pansies and Camelias. Forsythia & Jonquils in Spring.

**GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** The friends I have made in the Master Gardener Program

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Hates to pull up her Impatiens in the Fall when they are still so pretty and doing well in order to plant pansies.

Wincie grew up in Heber Springs. She met her husband at Henderson State. During her husband's military career, they lived in Germany, Panama, Washington, Maryland and Texas. Because of the tropical plants, Wincie enjoyed her stay in Panama despite the heat and humidity. She enjoys cooking, especially baking pies. She has taught classes in cooking and participated in National pie bake-off competitions in Atlanta and Los Angeles. As a result of having placed at the Arkansas State Fair, Wincie will be having lunch at the Governor's Mansion.

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## 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 wa 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, cornmeal mixed with peanut butter and other fatty foods to help keep them warm.

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### *Bulb Dreams*

*"Sleep little bulb  
Dream the dreams of Spring,  
When chirping sounds and warm sunlight  
from your slumber bring*

*the metamorphosis you were planted for  
in the late Fall shadows,  
to light a smile upon the faces  
of those your beauty dazzles.*

*Terry Eastin*

*Master Gardener Class of 1994*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- FEB. 24,25,26      **ARKANSAS FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW**  
Statehouse Convention Center. (Details elsewhere in Newsletter)
- MONTH OF FEB.      **Pinnacle Mountain State Park Collection of Used Books for Spring Book Sale**
- FEB. 3,4              **Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Herbal Adventures Workshops, Visitors Center Demonstrations, Hands-on, luncheon, entertainment \$32.50 in Advance 868-5806**
- FEB. 3,4              **ARKANSAS NURSERYMAN'S ASSN. MEETING (Call Beth for Details)**
- FEB. 11,12           **Pinnacle Mountain State Park - Eagle Awareness - Jane Gulley. Slides & live birds. 1 & 3 p.m. on Saturday; 2 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets required. Obtain free by requesting from Visitor's Center 868-5806**
- FEB. 14               **MASTER GARDENER REGULAR MEETING, ARK-LA BLDG. - 11:30 A.M.**
- FEB. 15               **Contemplation Garden Meeting, 1:00 p.m. at ARK-LA Bldg.**
- FEB. 28               **CENTRAL ARKANSAS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING, 6:30 - Little Rock Garden Center**
- MAR. 4,5              **WILDWOOD BLOOMS - Ricks Armory**
- MAR. 10, 11, 12      **Arkansas River Valley Garden Show, Fort Smith**
- MAR. 27-31           **Southern Spring Gardens Tour - Special for Master Gardeners  
Call Diamond Tours 821-3700**
- JULY 21-28           **International Master Gardener Conference,  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada**

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

The Christmas Party was wonderful! Thanks to the Social Committee - you did a great job and we appreciate you all very much.

The following nurseries donated door prizes for the Master Gardener Christmas Party and we want to send our grateful appreciation to all of them for their generosity:

Birnam Wood  
Lakewood Gardens, North Little Rock  
Rollins Nursery

Home Quarters, North Little Rock  
Hocott's Garden Center  
Cantrell Gardens

## DUES NOTICE

1995 dues in the amount of \$10.00 are due from all Master Gardeners with the exception of the new class of 1994. You can send them to Ann Cooper, Treasurer, 31 Rocky Valley Cove, Little Rock, AR 72212, or bring with you to the February Master Gardener Meeting. Make checks payable to Master Gardeners of Pulaski County.

**4TH ANNUAL ARKANSAS FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW**  
**FEBRUARY 24-26, 1995**  
**STATEHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER, LITTLE ROCK**

The show this year will feature more outstanding, beautifully landscaped gardens - a total of 14! In addition to the gardens, over 70 commercial exhibits featuring garden-related items and an outstanding line-up of speakers are in store for this year's attendees. Once again, there will be children's activities and a major flower show sponsored by the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. A new component of this year's show is a Professional Florist competition which will be held in the rotunda of the Statehouse Convention Center. The 1995 show is sure to be the outstanding garden event of the year. So, make plans to attend and bring your families and friends!

**Friday, February 24**

- 10:00 "Attracting Birds & Butterflies to Your Garden" - Jane Gulley, Pulaski County Master Gardener  
11:00 "The Thomas Jefferson Gardens" - Peter Hatch, Monticello  
1:00 "Weather Trends in Arkansas" - Barry Brandt, Meteorologist, Channel 4  
1:45 "Vegetable Gardening" (I told you not to do that!) -  
Jerry Parsons, Texas A & M Vegetable Specialist

**Saturday, February 25**

- 10:00 "Organic Gardening, Xeriscaping, Native Plants & Other Such Nonsense" - Jerry Parsons  
11:00 "Grow First What Grows Best," tough plants for tough times - Felder Rushing, Mississippi State University and Consultant for Southern Living Magazine  
1:00 "Searching for the Plants of Jefferson" - Peter Hatch  
2:00 "Water Gardening, Wet and Wild" - Felder Rushing  
3:00 "Tree Training" Parenting tips: from seedling to mature tree - Kim Coder, University of Georgia

**Sunday, February 26**

- 1:30 "Be Kind to Your Trees, Preventing Damage to Trees" - Kim Coder  
2:30 "The ABC's of Taking Care of Your Landscape" - Janet Carson

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**PLANT OF THE MONTH**

*Aloe*

*Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener*

The aloe is in the succulent family. Cacti are members of the very large succulent group, but not all succulents are Cacti. Such is the case with Aloes. They are very low in maintenance and available in a variety of shades of color and shape. They will stand more neglect than ordinary house plants. The word succulent literally means "juicy plants" - ones that are capable of withstanding prolonged periods of drought. Some recommended aloes are: *A. arborescens* (candelabra aloe, octopus or torch plant) which can grow to 15' (only young plants recommended for indoors); *A. aristata* (lace aloe) stemless, each leaf about 6" long and 3/4" wide; *A. barbadensis* (also *A. vera*) used extensively in cosmetics and as treatment for burns; *A. brevifolia* (short-leaved aloe) has stem that eventually elongates and topples over; *A. ferox* (Cape aloe) of value as a house plant when very young while its bronze-green leaves are still of manageable size; *A. variegata* (kannedood aloe) partridge-breasted, pheasant's wings or tiger aloe, most popular dwarf species, grown for its thick, mottled leaves; *A. nobilis* (gold-toothed aloe) has pale green leaves with prickly teeth along the edges. There are many possibilities for cultivating these wonderful house plants such as dish gardens with colorful pebbles surrounding succulents belonging to the *Crassula* genus, haworthias and possibly a sedum or two joining the Aloe.

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**Light:** bright - those with spiny leaves usually do well in full sunlight, but the softer-leaved kinds such as *A. variegata* do best if sunlight reaches them indirectly.

**Potting**

**& Repotting:** 1/3 humus, 1/3 perlite, 1/3 washed sand. Some advise not using vermiculite in the mix - it retains too much moisture. Most aloes should be moved into pots one size larger every Spring. To prevent rot, make sure that plants with thick basal leaves are never buried deeper than they were before. Repot overcrowded plants at any season, but be especially careful not to set aloes any deeper than they grew previously.

**Propagation:** Offsets can be taken from the base of a plant early in summer. These small new rosettes are often attached to the parent by a short underground stolon and may already have little roots, which should be retained for propagation. These rosettes, or suckers, given an opportunity to develop, crowd against the original plant in time form clusters of plants. All that is needed to make new plants is to cut away the rosettes with a sharp knife, cutting loose to the main stem. Although rosettes seldom have roots, they usually grow their own if they are potted in the proper soil for the species.

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**1995 MASTER GARDENER COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Publicity ..... Cathy Rodgers - 868-4446  
Travel ..... Pam Bredlow, 961-9352 or 961-9354  
Calendar ..... David Dodson, Chairman, (H)223-8372 (W)228-1370; Gayle Elder, Co-Chairman, (H)470-3870 (W) 758-4170  
Social ..... Wincie Hughes, 758-5271  
Newsletter ..... Kathy Johnson, Editor, (H)666-2979, (W)661-0252; Laura Lasiter, Data Entry (H)374-6595 (W)791-8516  
Program ..... **Not Designated at Newsletter Deadline**

**1995 GARDEN PROJECT CHAIRMEN**

Old Mill ..... Joe Dickens, Chairman, 758-0814; Co-Chairmen: Cecilia Buck, 834-2825 & Linda Hubbell, 834-8680  
Old Statehouse ..... Linda Holbert, Chairman, 225-6806; Bettye Jane Daugherty, Co-Chairman, 221-2865  
Extension Service Beds ..... Martha Staples, Chairman, 663-5238  
Pinnacle Mountain ..... Marie Jordan, Chairman, 961-9974; Kate Lynn, Co-Chairman, 961-9715  
State Hospital ..... Jane Gulley, Chairman, 225-2072; Karen Vesole, Co-Chairman, 228-9704  
Governor's Mansion ..... Don Thompson, Chairman, (H)455-6330 (w) 682-8916; Ann Ward, Co-Chairman, (H)666-1303 (W) 340-6650  
Baptist Rehab ..... Mary Lou Dillaha, Chairman, 225-4231; Lavon Spears, Co-Chairman, 753-0204  
Greenhouse ..... Clark Taplin, Chairman (H)834-2558 (W) 835-4804; Phyllis Watson, Co-Chairman, (H) 868-4656 (W) 562-6000  
Jacksonville City Hall ..... Joan Zumwalt, Chairman, 982-8816; Dottie Heckenbach, Co-Chairman, (H)982-5573 (w) 982-4906  
Arts Center/  
Contemplation Garden ..... **Not Designated at Newsletter Deadline**  
Bus Stop ..... Carol Clawson, Chairman, 835-0909; Wini Carter, Co-Chairman, 227-7676  
Mount Holly Cemetery ..... Nancy Wade, Chairman, 664-8460  
Zoo Garden ..... Mickey Williams, Chairman, 821-4360; Jeff Johnson, Co-Chairman, 562-7926  
(Note: the Zoo Garden is currently on hold due to construction at the LR Zoo.)

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Ruth Gibson has a few good forsythias. (835-0158)

Aleta Newell has lots of forsythias. (661-0991)

Breck Campbell has garlic chive plants. (666-9195)

Mary Evans has liriope. (664-7863)

Mildred Boyles Walton has chrysanthemums and lavender. (663-7331)

Linda Hubbell wants creeping phlox, white & light lavender (834-8680)

Carol Wallis has pine straw: wants herbs. (501-333-2519)

Ginger Coggins has obedience plants. (225-2778)

Ray Robbins has jerusalem artichokes. (227-6565)

Karen Vesole wants herbs for May. (228-9704)

Martha Staples has angle leaf pink geraniums: wants red bud tree. (663-5238)

Fred Henker has horseradish, bird of paradise: wants french tarragon. (565-7260)

Janie Steele is selling foxglove plants, giant shirley hybrids. (Call her if she can't sell them). (455-1457)

**Trading Post**  
**Plant and Seed Exchange**



# Master Minutes

Volume Six

Number Two

March 1995

## Meet our Master Gardeners



PLACE  
PHOTO  
HERE

**NAME:** Donald Hazelton  
**SPOUSE:** Susie  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASSES:** Enjoyed all of the sessions. All of the presenters were knowledgeable and he learned a lot.  
**FAVORITE PLANT:** Chenille. He particularly likes tropical plants also.  
**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** With his vision problem, it is hard for him to read

directions, especially on bottles; also insects, especially cabbage loopers who manage to eat more cabbage than he does!

Don has been involved with the Lion's World Services for the Blind horticultural program for the past couple of years. He has some of his plants in their greenhouse as well as at his home. His tropicals like the south and west windows there. The backyard vegetable garden is a joint project with Susie. He does the spading and digging and she does the planning and planting. They both eat the produce if the bugs leave some for them.



**NAME:** Anita Chamberlin  
**SPOUSE:** Gary, UALR Professor  
**CHILDREN:** Three grown children, four grandchildren and one more on the way. All live in the Little Rock/North Little Rock area.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASSES:** Information on annuals and perennials which she can use.  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Contem-

plation Garden and the Old Mill.  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** Hand trowel and clippers. Also a book on Southern gardens given by her son as a birthday gift.  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Easy care types such as hostas, liriopie and creeping phlox.

Anita and her husband grew up in Northwest Missouri where there is plenty of good, black soil. They moved to Colorado where the soil is made of clay, and then moved to Little Rock which has a little dirt here and there between the rocks. However, she loves digging in the dirt, even prefers that to doing housework. Anita and Gary are finding a real challenge in trying to grow things at their place in Hot Springs. It seems the soil has all washed off, the lot is quite shady, and it gets very dry between their visits to the place. Other than that, things are fine. I guess we should all wish them luck!

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## 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 probably, 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!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3/1 **Tour of Carl Ameson's Native Plant Garden**, Calion, AR. Participants will be walking through a naturalized wooded area, so wear comfortable clothes and good walking shoes. Bring a sack lunch and a drink. They will try to get started around 10:00 a.m. Call Beth Phelps for more details.
- 3/4-5 **Wildwood Blooms**, Ricks Armory in Little Rock
- 3/6 **Landscape Fundamentals: Overview of Design Principals** 6 sessions, 2 hours each. Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at #5 State House Convention Center (the Excelsior), downtown Little Rock. Cost: \$75.00 + \$5.00 for materials. Call University of Arkansas at Little Rock Downtown Extension Office at 375-3690 for more details.
- 3/8 **Fruit Tree Pruning Demonstration** by Dr. Keith Patterson  
10 a.m. to Noon, Goodson Orchards (off Hwy. 10) Call Beth Phelps to sign up.
- 3/9 Pleasant Valley Garden Club is sponsoring a trip to a jonquil festival near Hope, AR. Will also tour Hope area. Leaving L.R. at 9:00 a.m. by bus. Return to L.R. late afternoon. Cost \$44.00. For more information contact Kevin Allis, 228-7007.
- 3/10-12 **Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Garden Show**. Phoenix Village Mall, Fort Smith. Conducted by Fort Smith area Master Gardeners in conjunction with the county extension offices of Sebastian and Crawford Counties. 1 p.m. - 8 p.m. Friday. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets \$2.00. Call Beth Phelps to volunteer or for more information on seminars.
- 3/14 **REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING**. 11:30 a.m., Ark-La Blue Flame Room.
- 3/16 **MG Trip to Larry Loman's Nursery in Wynne, AR**. Meet at Extension Office at 8:00 a.m. to car pool. Bring sack lunch. We will pick up the North Little Rock contingent at the Galloway Exit about 8:15 a.m. Number limited to 30. Call Ms. McKinney if you want to go.
- 3/18 **Walnut Ridge Garden Show**. Sponsored by radio station KRLW. Contact Lance Brown 886-6666 for more information.
- 3/20 **ARBOR DAY IN ARKANSAS--PLANT A TREE!!!!**
- 3/27-31 **Southern Spring Gardens Tour for Master Gardeners**  
Call Diamond Tours @ 821-3700
- Mid April **MG Tour of Moore's Rhododendron Nursery and Shitaki Mushroom Production Facility**, Clinton, AR - More details later.
- 4/22 **Orchid Society Show & Sale**
- NOTE!** The travel committee has checked into a tour of Fox Orchids, 6615 West Markham, but they do not give tours to large groups. They do welcome "onesies" or "twosies" anytime, however. You can just stop by or call ahead @ 663-4246.





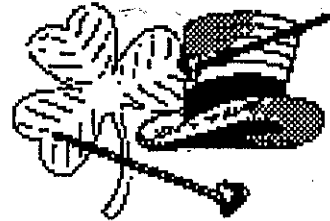
# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## Shamrock

Cheryl Kennedy, Master Gardener

It's March - time to go to the pub and celebrate Irish genes, leprechauns and shamrocks. The horticultural encyclopedias seem to agree that the true shamrock is *Trifolium repens*, however, most people who have seen it naturalized almost everywhere in the United States and Canada think of that as white clover.

Most shamrocks commonly kept as houseplants are *Medicago lupulina* or a kind of *Oxalis* (wood sorrel), of which there are more than 200 variations. These plants range from hardy to tender; most are found wild in South Africa and the tropical and subtropical Americas. Four wild kinds even occur in this state and are listed in "Weeds of Arkansas": *O. dillenii* Jacq., the common yellow wood sorrel; *O. stricta*, uncommon here; *O. rubra* St. Hil., the rose wood sorrel that has escaped cultivation; and *O. violacea* L., or violet oxalis.



*Oxalis* derives its name from the Greek *oxys*, meaning "sharp" because of the acid taste. Falkland Islanders used *O. enneaphylla* to produce a refreshing cool drink, and back in the days of the sailing ships, sailors used this plant as a popular cure for scurvy (a disease caused by a lack of vitamin C). The French also make soup from wood sorrel. I was unable to discover if all kinds of *Oxalis* are okay to ingest, so, unless you know, please don't get all excited and start mounding up salads, simmering soups and brewing tea!

*Oxalis* is a cormous plant. It quickly goes dormant if allowed to get dry. One of the most popular types is *O. deppei*; it has four leaflets with brown zig-zag markings and bears reddish or pink flowers in early summer. *O. regnellii* has triangular leaves with white flowers. *O. aureo-reticulata* has green leaves with gold veins and rosy-red flowers. *O. montana* (American wood sorrel) has flowers veined with lilac. There are half a dozen other common kinds, including the double-flowering *O. cernua* flore-pleno.

While you need to know what your exact kind of shamrock needs, because the plants do very, following are some general hints for growing these lovely plants. Since most grow naturally in the woods, the majority prefer half shade; a few types like full sun; all need shade from the hot summer sun. Mist leaves occasionally. Avoid temperatures above 70 degrees, whenever possible. Keep the plants at 50 degrees until flower buds form; they prefer temperatures around 60 degrees when they're growing. Water moderately while the plant is actively growing. The crowns may rise above the soil, and this can be corrected when you replot.

Often the foliage withers when the plant stops flowering. Stop watering at this time. Keep the pot in a cool, shady spot. Some people dry them once a year, place the pots in the refrigerator for several weeks and then replot their corms. Other people say their plants flourish year around, never going dormant.

In late autumn or early spring, remove the offsets and plant them immediately, just below the soil surface. I've found them to be rather delicate and the less handling the better. Fit about six to nine corms into a six-inch pot, or three bulbs in a four-inch pot. Water them sparingly until the leaves develop and they are well rooted. Then, use a dilute fertilizer weekly. They prefer light, well-drained, nourishing soil (a mixture of humus and sand).

## Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange

Dana Nixon (982-2379) needs seed flats, inserts. She has lavender mums.  
Margaret Fizer (834-2338) needs pine needle mulch.  
Elmer Van Egmond (224-7632) has yellow swamp iris.  
Linda Dantzler (771-0844) needs purple coneflower with burgundy center (not the orange center).  
Jan King (758-3446) has 2 white crepe myrtles, old double orange daylilies.  
Carolyn Newbern (663-1222) needs winter jasmine.  
Anita Chamberlin (758-1959) has luffa seeds - hyacinth bean vine seeds.  
Bonnie Cargile (868-5404) has pine needles (if you want to rake).  
Mildred Boyles Walton (663-7331) has lavender mums.  
Julie Eckberg (225-6721) has 3 dogwood trees (need to be planted soon).

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### MASTER GARDENER NOTES

#### AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Association recommends the following addition to the bylaws. A discussion and vote will take place at the March meeting, March 14, 11:30 a.m., Arkla Blue Flame Room.

ADD to Section #5 to Article II (Objectives): *Demonstration Gardens (Projects) shall be provided to State, County and City managed properties in addition to projects sponsored by the Arkansas and Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service.*

#### NEW PROJECT

A 108 year old victorian cottage known as the "Barth-Hempfling House" on Main Street is the latest of the Master Gardener Projects. Work will be under way this Spring. The structure houses part of North Little Rock's government with various agencies, including the Historical Society, meeting there. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

In the 1880's Anna Hempfling's mother, Stefanie Barth, lived with her parents and brother and sister in Baden Baden, Germany where the family operated a winery. The promise of opportunity lead them to move to the United States. Real estate speculators in New York advised them to move to Arkansas so they moved to Lonoke where they raised cattle. When Barth died, his son, Adolph, moved the family to Argenta and bought three lots on Newton Street (now Main Street). On the corner lot of 5th & Maple, Adolf built and operated a butcher shop, the cottage where the family lived stood on the second lot and a building on the third lot was rented out to a store. Stefanie Barth took over the butcher shop when Adolf died. One of the employees was John A. Hempfling, whose job was to deliver the meats to homes in town by buggy. When Stefanie Barth and John Hempfling married, they gave up the butcher shop and Hempfling went to work for the railroad. On January 15, 1899, Anna Hempfling was born to the couple in the cottage at 507 Main, where she lived until around 1980 when she went to live with a relative. The house is a one-story Victorian cottage with an L-shape plan. It has a 6 x 18 foot entrance hall which is thought to have once been an open hallway, or dogtrot. The rear kitchen and bath addition were added in 1915. The richly decorated front porch is embellished by jog-sawn trim and supported by turned posts. Original rooms have eleven foot ceilings. Pine floors remain throughout the house as well as four panel doors with fluted molding. The house also has a secret basement reportedly used during prohibition. The Barth-Hempfling House is important as the only surviving house of its type along a street once lined with many similar houses. Constructed in 1886, it is one of the oldest structures still standing in the entire city.

**Marie Flickinger** will chair the project. It is a small project. The City of North Little Rock is going to pay for the materials and volunteers are needed. Call Marie at 758-4202 or Beth Phelps if you want to work on this project. They are developing the committee now. There are some exciting plans for the grounds, including an old-fashioned kitchen herb garden!

## PROGRAM FOR MARCH MEETING

Al Bruno from the Good Earth Nursery has been invited to present the program at the March MG meeting. His program will be on perennials.

## PROGRAM ON BEE KEEPING

An interesting program was presented at the February MG Meeting. The program on bee keeping provided the Master Gardeners with a broad overview of the various facets of bee keeping, including information on the "killer" bees. (Warning: do not swat at a bee swarm or attempt to move it or break it up - they may be killer bees). Mr. Ray Robins was present and he informed the group that if you have a bee swarm on your property and want to get rid of it - call him, he will take it. (He didn't specify what type of bees - killer or regular). He also informed the group that the Bee Keepers Organization is having a meeting March 10 in the Hoover Room at St. Vincents and interested MG's are welcome to come.

## REPORT FROM BAPTIST REHAB COMMITTEE

Jerry Quick, Program Leader, reports that on February 4, a program on landscaping was conducted for eight participants. Assisting were Mildred Boyles Walton, Aleta Newell, Pat Marchese, Mary Ann Dillaha, Hilda Boger, and Gail Roberson. They used foam for the ground, blue cardboard for the water, and rocks, sand, plastic trees, flowers and other plants as well as artificial turf for the grass. Miniature African violets and miniature roses were purchased to add to the landscape and for the patients to take home. They gave a short lecture on landscaping principles and then each participant was given an assortment of materials to landscape their little tract of land. Photos of each project were taken. Two prints were made - one for each patient and one for MG records.





# Master Minutes

Volume Six

Number Three

April 1995

## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Mildred Walton  
**SPOUSE:** Arnold  
**CHILDREN:** One daughter, Manager of the Target store in North Little Rock, and two sons - the oldest is a physician in Jonesboro, the other works at the Library downtown.  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Baptist Rehab. Also worked at the Flower Show and does children's activity at the Arboretum.  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** A hoe, rake

and shovel. Her husband especially likes his heavy-duty tiller and blower.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Camelias, dogwoods, pansies and bulbs.

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** How to control bugs without the use of chemicals.

Mildred and Arnold have a place on the lake at Conway and have a large garden there. They also maintain the yard at Mildred's mother's house so they see plenty of action in the gardening area. Mildred also has kept bees but, unfortunately, Sevin dust was used in the area and the bees were killed.



**NAME:** Libby Thalheimer  
**SPOUSE:** Lee  
**CHILDREN:** Two girls and a boy, all attending Forrest Park Elementary.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**FAVORITE PART OF MG CLASSES:** Learning about such a wide variety of gardening topics.  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Program Committee, Baptist Rehab and the Greenhouse.  
**FAVORITE GARDENING TOOL:** She likes to use her

hands for planting and weeding. Uses a trowel when the soil is too hard.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Dogwood Trees, Azaleas and Forsythias.

**GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Planning, pruning and maintaining her garden and watching things grow.

Libby grew up in Forrest City and has lived in Little Rock for some time. Although her mother was the gardener in the family, it was her father who got her interested in gardening. She has two city lots to garden in which back up to Alsopp Park, so she has ample space for her flower gardens and can also enjoy the trees and plants in the park.

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## 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.

**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.

*See Checklist - Page 6*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

- 4/4 **Fruit Tree Irrigation Field Day at Larry High's Peach Orchard**  
10:00 a.m. 'til Noon. Call Beth Phelps for map.
- 4/11 **REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING.** 11:30 a.m., Ark-La Blue Flame Room
- 4/15 **Home-grown Market opens at Second Presbyterian Church**
- 4/21 **MG Tour - Clinton and Shirley Area - See Details Below**
- 4/22-23 **Orchid Society Show & Sale, North Little Rock Community Center, 2700 Willow, NLR**  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: \$1.00
- 4/25 **Central Arkansas Horticultural Society, 6:00 p.m.** Call Ann Cooper for directions.
- 4/27 **Herbal Reception & Feast - Ozark Folk Center State Park**  
**Heritage Herb Garden Programs.** Semi-formal candlelight dinner and live program of musical entertainment featuring the herbal bounty of the Heritage Herb Gardens in recipes developed by the park's herbalist and restaurant chefs. 7 p.m. reception precedes 8:00 p.m. dinner. Advance, pre-paid reservations required. \$15.00 per person. Call (501) 269-3851.
- 4/28-30 **Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza - Ozark Folk Center State Park**  
Herbs and culinary arts will be explored in a 3-day seminar. Nationally-known herb authority, Adelma Grenier Simmons, of Caprilands Herb Farm, Coventry, Connecticut, will be the 1995 special guest lecturer. She has designed and planted more than 30 herb gardens and written numerous books relating to the knowledge of the cultivation and use of herbs. Other guest herbists and horticulturists will lecture and demonstrate. Herb plants and crafts on sale. Advance, pre-paid registration required: \$60/3 days; \$40/2 days; or \$22.50 per day.
- 4/30 **Central Arkansas Iris Society Show.** Southwestern Bell Telephone Building, 1111 West Capitol Avenue. 1 - 5 p.m. Admission: Free

### MAY

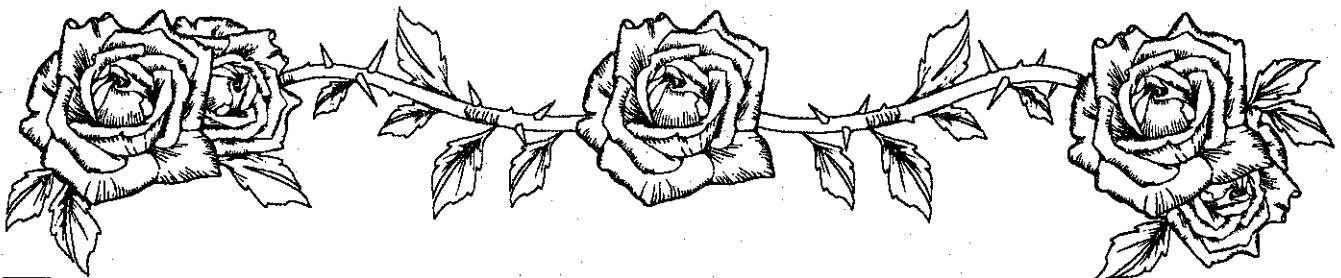
- 5/9 **REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING.** 11:30 a.m., Ark-La Blue Flame Room.
- 5/11 **Master Gardener Picnic.** Details Later.
- 5/19 **Master Gardener Trip to Hot Springs - Morrison's Garden and the 20th Century Garden.** There will be a fee for the 20th Century Gardens, \$6.00 admission, \$8.00 for boat ride. Bring a sack lunch. There is a minimum of 20 for the 20th Century Gardens.

### JUNE

- 6/21 **Master Gardener Trip to Conway.** Daylilies. Hambuchen's and Stout's Gardens. Details Later.

### JULY

- Central Arkansas Iris Society Rhizome Sale.**



# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## *Wisteria*

Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener

By description and definition, our plant of the month comes out way on top of the list of desirable climbing vines. Words mentioned include hardy, vigorous, high climbing, remarkably long lived, a striking single specimen and other complimentary remarks. The sight of a well-trained specimen in full bloom is a thrill to any Master Gardener!

A deciduous, climbing flowering shrub named for Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), Professor of Anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania and one of the early owners of what is now Vernon Park in Philadelphia. *Wisteria*, along with *Forsythia*, *Fuschia*, *Dahlia*, *Verbena* and some other specimens, came from South America by way of the clipper ship trade. By the nineteenth century, Americans were eagerly incorporating these newcomers into their gardens without developing any style that was particularly of that period. However, they soon learned how to use this dense-leaved, fast growing, twining vine to their advantage. *Wisteria* not only provides excellent screening or pattern effects, but also produces decorative, dramatic blossoms - making them good choices near a terrace or wherever color is desired. Some terrace roofs are made of an "egg crate" grid of lumber spaced to give open squares. This adds greatly to the usefulness by providing shade all summer while allowing a free circulation of air. Because they are deciduous, they shed their leaves in the winter allowing sunshine to pour through when the season is dreary. They can climb as high as 40' to 50' or more over sturdy trellises and produce long clusters of delicately fragrant flowers just before the leaves unfold. *Wisteria* does best in full sun in rich, drained soil. A chain link fence will seem to disappear under the covering of this vigorous vine! There are three main species listed for *Wisteria*:

*W. Floribunda* (Japanese) - produces purple, white or pink blossoms in clusters up to 3' long, then large compound leaves. Long velvet, silky seedpods develop in autumn and eventually turn a reddish brown. Hardy to Zone 4.

*W. sinensis* (Chinese) - the most widely planted and produces its pea-shaped flowers all at once, making a grand display in the spring. Usually the flowers are of a violet-blue color but a lesser known variety, *W. s. alba* has fragrant, white blossoms of "exquisite beauty" as one author described it. Hardy to Zone 5.

*W. frutescens* (native American) - known as a tamer version than the two foreign imports named above. American *Wisteria*, found naturally in the South from Virginia to Florida to Texas, is much smaller in all respects than its Asiatic cousins. It grows much slower than the other varieties, so it's known to be easier to keep in bounds. It doesn't grow a thick trunk, so it won't destroy most supporting structures. In an article titled, Don't Fear the Creeper, found in *Southern Living* a few years back, a grower from Aiken, South Carolina says "it's neater and less invasive than other wisterias and better suited to a small property."

*Wisteria* should never be allowed to get out of control. They can crush arbors, strangle trees and pull the gutters off houses. When young, reduce the number of major stems and train the early growth not to form heavy twisted ropes. This will avoid a lot of problems later on. If the central part of the *Wisteria* is well branched, the tangle in the outer parts is not so serious. *Wisteria*, especially the Chinese variety (*W. sinensis*) should be pruned back severely every year, preferably after the blooming season, before the growth of new wood. Check the base for side runners sent out by the parent trunk at the base and remove any you see. Don't twist the limbs the wrong way. As the plants mature, Chinese *Wisterias* twine counter-clockwise (when viewed from the top) and Japanese *Wisterias* twine clockwise. Respect these directions of growth and the plants will be far more cooperative. Roots of some vines do not thrive in soil of high temperatures. *Wisteria* and *Clematis* are two examples. Mulch well with sawdust or compost to help keep the soil cool. Fertilize in Autumn after the leaves fall. Use well-rotted or dehydrated manure. Don't fertilize with nitrogen, as this promotes leafy growth at the expense of flowers. If your *wisteria* fails to bloom, it may not be old enough. There is no single age at which they all bloom, but six to ten years is within a normal range for maturity. Be sure the vine is a grafted vine, not one grown from seed. Grafted plants, produced from scions taken from heavy-blooming plants are apt to bloom at an earlier age than plants grown from cuttings or seed. (A scion is a detached shoot or twig containing buds from a woody plant. For more flower buds, work the plant over every couple of weeks during the summer, pinching back any extension growth to two leaves. In this way each shoot will be pinched back about three times during the season and no winter pruning will be needed with this method.

## **Trading Post Plant and Seed Exchange**

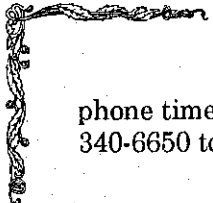
Ruth Gibson (835-0158) has gaillardia (Mexican daisies). Wants cardinal flower.  
Debby Coates (664-9133) has white dogwood trees. Wants poppy seeds, tall sweet william.  
Bonnie Cargile (868-5404) has cypress vine seed (hummingbirds love it!).  
Dorothy Veirs (225-2106) has feverfew, rose campion and iris.  
Carolyn Newbern (663-1222) has jasmine nudi florum. Wants hardy plants for Knoop Park (iris, daylilies, nandinas).  
Janie Steele (455-1457) has foxglove for sale - ready to bloom.  
Martha Staples (663-5238) has angel leaf begonias.  
Cheryl Todd (834-8371) wants ferns (woodland or native) and hydrangeas.

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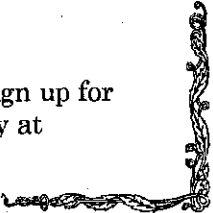
### **MASTER GARDENER NOTES**

DETAILS OF CLINTON/SHIRLEY AREA MASTER GARDENER TOUR ON APRIL 21, 1995

- 8:00 a.m. Depart from from 2nd Presbyterian Church (S.E. corner HWY 10 & I-430, LR)
- 10:00 a.m. Sue & Bradley Mohr - Industrial Drive, Clinton, AR  
Tour the garden featuring Rhododendrons
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch - "On Your Own" (Western Sizzlin' recommended)
- 1:00 p.m. Shirley Community Development Corporation, Director - Tom Kimmons  
Tour Shitake Mushroom Commercial Operation  
Available for Sale:
1. Fresh & Dehydrated Mushrooms
  2. Books on How To Grow Shitake Mushrooms
  3. Menus & Various Recipes
  4. Prepared, Inoculated Logs for Home Production of Shitakes
- 3:00 p.m. Bob Galbraith Greenhouse & Florist, Clinton, AR  
Tour major production of bedding plants, hanging baskets, potted mums, etc., has most plants seen in garden centers in season. Plants on hand will be available for Master Gardeners to purchase at a reduced price.
- 4:30 p.m. Return to Little Rock.



This is a great time for new and experienced Master Gardeners to sign up for phone time. Lots of calls are coming in and help is needed. Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650 to schedule some phone time.



The Perennial Plant Associations' **Perennial Plant of the Year** for 1995 is *Pervoskia atriplicifolia* - Russian Sage. 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. It is an ideal blue spiky flowering plant for a sunny spot with well-drained garden soil. It looks especially striking when planted along with white-flowered perennials like *Phlox paniculata* 'Mt. Fuji'. It is also a good cut flower. It performs well in dry soil. Plant bare root plants in early spring; potted plants any time from spring until one month before a hard killing frost. Hardy Zones 3-8.



**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:** If centipede and Bahia lawns yellow even after they have been fertilized, they probably need an extra shot of iron. To turn the grass green again, spread iron sulfate granules over the lawn at the rate of 10 lbs. per 1,000 square feet. Use a fertilizer spreader to distribute the material and water well after applying. OR you can spray the

lawn with a solution of liquid iron, such as Greenol, at the rate recommended on the label. 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.

**WEEDS:** The appearance of dandelions, pennywort and other unwanted warm season weeds begins. An early application of a post-emergency herbicide can help control these weeds before they take over your law. Be sure and use chemicals specifically for your type of lawn.

**PESTS:** Due to the warm winter, many people are already experiencing white fly, aphids, lacebugs, and other "bugs." Control with insecticidal soap or other appropriate measure as soon as you notice them before they get out of control.

## PROJECT UPDATES

**BUS STOP:** The pansies are beginning to show color and bulbs are popping up everywhere! The Bus stop should be pretty in a few weeks. Many thanks to the Master Gardeners who have been doing such a fine job maintaining the garden ..... Carol Clawson, Chairman.

**OLD STATE HOUSE:** The pansies and daffodils are at peak bloom and are absolutely gorgeous. Master Gardeners may want to visit the Old State House while the flowers are so pretty, especially since we have received so many compliments from visitors. A special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped to plant and maintain the flower beds. Project volunteers will be receiving a letter with details on the three work days being scheduled in May ..... Linda Holbert, Chairman.

### *Thoughts for Life*

*"The year's at the spring  
And day's at the morn;  
Morning's at seven;  
The hill-side's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;*

*The snail's on the thorn:  
God's in his heaven -  
All's right with the world!"*

*.....Robert Browning*



# Master Minutes

Volume Six

Number Four

May 1995

## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Lavon Spears  
**CHILDREN:** Two children: a daughter who lives in Alvin, Texas and a son who lives here in Little Rock.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1991  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Co-Chair of Baptist Rehabilitation Institute Program.  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Roses and annuals to use for dried flower arrangements and pot-pourri.  
**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Limitations in physical

ability to care for her roses and other plants.

Lavon was born and grew up in Damascus, Arkansas. She has lived in Little Rock and North Little Rock since her marriage. She enjoys working with patients who have been handicapped by stroke or accidents. Most of the participants are older people. Lavon has done a program on attracting humming birds. She provides information on plants the birds like. Containers, soil and plants are provided for people to pot up petunias and other plants which hummingbirds like. Patients take these to their rooms and plant them in their yards when they go home.



**NAME:** Cathy Rodgers  
**SPOUSE:** Dr. Dudley Rodgers  
**CHILDREN:** One son, a senior at Hall High School and two step-sons, one an engineer in Little Rock, the other working towards his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees at Vanderbilt University.  
**BECAME A M.G.:** 1992  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** M.G. Publicity Committee, Flower & Garden Show, and for the third year, the Reception Committee.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Herbs and sunflowers. Likes to use edible flowers such as nasturtium and borage.  
**GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Eating the things she grows, esp. tomato, tomatillo and hot peppers for salsa. (She learned to enjoy hot foods from a Mexican cook).

Cathy was born and grew up in Little Rock. About eight years ago, she and her husband moved to a fifty-acre wooded area reached by a private road off Highway 10. She has a wildflower garden, herb and vegetable gardens, flower & shrub gardens around the house. A bamboo garden is being developed which already has twelve varieties of bamboo plants. With her own greenhouse in the backyard, Cathy can garden to her heart's content.

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**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.

## 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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 9 M.G. REGULAR MEETING, ArkLa Blue Flame Room, 11:30 a.m. **Speaker: Carl Hunter**
- MAY 11 M.G. SPRING PICNIC, 5:30 p.m., Lakewood Pavilion and Od Mill, Lakeshore Drive, North Little Rock. **FAMILIES WELCOME!!!! PLANT SWAP!!!!** (Details Below)
- MAY 11 Pinnacle Mtn. State Park: Craft Workshop for Elf Encounters, 6-9 p.m.
- MAY 19 MG Trip to Hot Springs: Morrison's and 20th Century Gardens. Send \$14 check for admission & boat ride to Beth Phelps by May 9. Leave from 2nd Presbyterian Church at 8:30 a.m. to return between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Bring sack lunch.
- MAY 24 Advanced Master Gardener Training: Perennial Workshop, Russellville; AR. Call Beth for more information.
- MAY 25 Pinnacle Mtn. State Park: Craft Workshop for Elf Encounters. 6 - 9 p.m.
- JUNE 13 **NO REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN JUNE!!!**
- JUNE 13 Tour of Master Gardener's Gardens. Details later.
- JUNE 21 Master Gardener Trip to Conway: Visit Hambuchen's & Stout's gardens. Daylilies will be for sale. Details later.
- JULY 8 CAIS annual iris rhizome sale, 8-5 P.M., LR Council of Garden Clubs Building.
- JULY 21-28 International Master Gardener Conference. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Call Beth.
- OCT. 12-13 State Master Gardener Conference. Eureka Springs.

### MASTER GARDENER SPRING PICNIC THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1995 OLD MILL AND LAKEWOOD PAVILION

**Bring Family!**

**Plant Swap!**

5:30 P.M.

OLD MILL

SOCIAL TIME

6:30 P.M.

LAKEWOOD PAVILION

BARBECUE

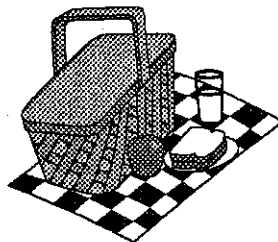
COST: \$6.00 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECKS TO: PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS  
SEND TO:

ANITA CHAMBERLAIN  
3400 NORTH HILLS BOULEVARD  
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72116

**RESERVATION DEADLINE: MAY 8, 1995**

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!!!**



# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## PEONIES

Cheryl Kennedy, M.G.

The peony has been cultivated in China for more than two millennia; the roots were used for food and medicine. The plant was named for Paeon, the doctor of the gods, who was given the first peony on Mount Olympus by Leto. Today, peonies are valued for their ease of propagation, freedom from pests and hardiness (in fact, they require cold temperatures before spring growth takes place and will not bloom well in temperatures above 85 degrees, and they usually bloom faithfully even if totally neglected). They sport massive flowers in every color except blue, plus dramatic, dark-green foliage that turns to autumn shades. As a bonus, the flowers keep for an extraordinary length of time.

Peonies are herbaceous (dying back to the ground each year) or tree (only dropping their leaves). Any of the plants are rated on a scale of 10; few are grown that rate below a 7.5. Tree peonies are generally taller, up to 7 feet; the flowers are also larger, and they bloom earlier. There are Japanese, European and lutea hybrid tree peonies; the luteas are known for their colors, which include shades of yellow, orange and red. Flower types include:

**Single** - five or more true petals around showy fertile stamens. Krinkled White, Sea Shell (pink), Red Warrior and President Lincoln (red) are examples.

**Japanese** - single row of large petals, but the center has enlarged stamens with little or no pollen. Try Sword Dance (dark red), Mikado (red), Nippon Brilliant (bright red), Amo-No-Sode (bright pink), Leto (white) and Nippon Gold (dark pink with a yellow center).

**Anemone** - Like the Japanese, but the centers have petal-like stamens with no pollen. You might like Nippon Beauty (red), Nippon Gold (pink and yellow) Gay Paree (pink with a white center) or Prairie Afire (fiery pink).

**Double** - Double peonies have the fullest, heaviest flowers. Try Bowl of Cream, Elsa Fass, Festiva Maxima (all white); Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (light pink and fragrant); Therese (light pink); Nick Shaylor or Pink Lemonade (pink); Pillow Talk (pale rose); Raspberry Sundae (raspberry pink inner petals, pale pink outer petals and fragrant); Reine Hortense (rose or Sarah Bernhardt (deep rose).

**Tree Peony** - Some varieties include Hana Kisoi (flesh pink), Akashi Gata (peach), Banquet (strawberry), Fuju No Akebono (scarlet), Reine Elizabeth (salmon and copper), Osirus (brown), Kamata Fuju (purple) and Souvenir de Maxine Cornu (yellow).

While peonies prefer rich, friable soil, they will grow in a variety of well-drained, slightly acid (pH 5.5-6.5) soils. The plants are heavy feeders; fertilize each spring when the growth is about four inches high. They do best in full sun, and need at least six hours a day of direct sunshine. Plant the crown in fall or early spring. Herbaceous crowns should be set 1 to 2 inches below the soil level; tree peonies should be set 4 to 7 inches deep. If they are planted deeper, they may not bloom as well. Mulch to help prevent frost heave and to keep weeds down during the growing season. Divide the clumps in October. Dig roots carefully, wash off all soil and, with a sharp knife, cut each clump into pieces having several plump buds. If sections are very small, it can take two or three years before the plants will bloom again. Every five to eight years should be often enough to divide plants. For better bloom, fertilize and make sure the plants have enough water when they're preparing to flower. If you want larger, better quality blooms, disbud all but the terminal bud on each stalk as soon as secondary buds appear, probably when the stalks are about 18 inches tall. After a rain, you might gently shake the water off the flower heads. Because the flower heads are so ponderous, plants should be protected from strong winds. Stake the long stems either with individual stakes or circular wire cages. Cut flowers in early morning, leaving as much leafy stem on the plant as possible to help feed the plant. Flowers that are left on the stem should be removed as they age, and seed pods should be removed. Leave foliage intact until the killing frost, then cut back and dispose of dead foliage to help prevent diseases. Plants can become infected with botrytis blight (spray with zineb or captan every 10 days from leaf-out until the flowers open), or may have roots infested with nematodes (discard roots).

**Trading Post**  
**Plant and Seed Exchange**

Marie Flickinger (758-4202) wants old plants, phlox, cannas, iris, etc for Victorian Cottage project.

Dana Nixon (982-2379) wants seed flats and inserts.

Jan King (758-3446) has liriopse and rudbeckia; wants old iris.

Marge Van Egmond (224-7632) has garlic chives, swamp iris and day lilies.

Karen Vesole (228-9704) has 4 o'clocks, rose of sharon (hibiscus); wants shade plants.

Bill Burgin (221-3559) has liriopse and double orange day lilies; wants purple coneflowers.

Ruth Owings (455-4344) has perennial foxglove for sale \$1.00.

Leslie Scott (225-5542) has lamb's ear and anemones; wants purple leaf ajuga.

Greenhouse Committee needs plastic pots - any size. Call Phyllis Watson (868-4656) or Clark Taplin (834-2558).

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**MASTER GARDENER NOTES**

M.G. Linda Dantzer has suggested a Sunshine Committee be formed to send cards or other acknowledgements in the event of illness, birth, death, etc., in our Master Gardener membership. If you have information of this nature to share, call Linda at 771-0844 and she will send the card or acknowledge the event in an appropriate manner. If it is timely and possible, let her know prior to the monthly Master Gardener meeting and she will bring the card to the meeting for everyone to sign.

The membership present at the April monthly meeting voted unanimously to buy good reference books annually for the Master Gardener library at the Extension Office.

The phones are ringing at the Extension Office. All new Master Gardeners need to call Mrs. McKinney and schedule hours to work the phones as soon as possible. Experienced Master Gardeners are needed also.

May 11, 1995 (the day of the M.G. picnic), Beth needs help with children's activities at the "Water Fair" in Pleasant Valley. Hours from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. She needs four or five Master Gardeners. Call Beth or Mrs. McKinney at the Extension Office if you can volunteer for this activity.

The program at the April monthly Master Gardener meeting was presented by Char Roush, Regional Director of the Southern Region of the American Daffodil Society. She educated the members present on the different classifications of daffodils, the care and culture of daffodils and presented color slides of representative varieties of the different classes and brought several examples for the members to examine. She gave Beth literature and information on all types of daffodils, care and culture, as well as catalog information for copying and distributing to any members who desire a copy. If you would like a copy, give Beth a call.

Carl Hunter will present the program at the May Master Gardener meeting. As most of you know, he is an expert on Arkansas native plants and wildflowers and has written several books on the subjects. Plan to be in attendance so that you won't miss the good information he will bring us!

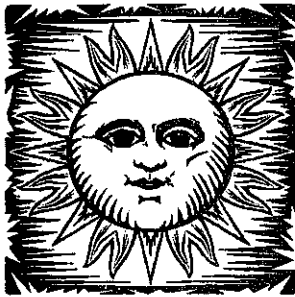
The Greenhouse Committee needs plastic pots for the greenhouse - any size. Call Phyllis Watson (868-4656) or Clark Taplin (834-2558).

Following the Regular Monthly Master Gardener Meeting on May 9th, the Greenhouse Committee will open the Greenhouse to Master Gardeners interested in purchasing seedlings. At deadline time, they had marigolds, moss rose, celosia, zinnia, snap dragons, forget me nots, some scarlet flax, some cuttings of old roses and some boxwood cuttings. If there is something that a Project Chairman or MG member would like to have the Greenhouse committee seed, root, etc. please give the Chairman or Vice-Chairman a call.

## Master Gardener Project Reports

Many thanks to all the Master Gardeners for the hard work and energy which contributed to keeping all the projects going and in such fine shape. Great job!

- Arts Center:** Three or four trees were blown down in the recent storm, but progress is being made on the work schedule.
- Baptist Rehab:** The clients made Easter baskets. The committee provided live plants for the baskets and they were very attractive.
- Extension Office:** Roses have been pruned and fertilized. General cleaning out and weeding has been done. Hosta and lilies of the valley were planted. Several projects are pending. Several workdays in April. A sign has been requested for the project.
- Governor's Mansion:** The vegetable garden is doing fine so far. They are getting some straw to keep down the weeds.
- Greenhouse:** A sale was held after the April MG meeting and on April 18th. For sale were marigolds, forget-me-nots, snapdragons, old rose cuttings, boxwood, celosia, zinnias, parsley, basil and eggplant, all at 25 cents a plant.
- Mount Holly:** Recent storms felled two large trees which had to be cut and taken away before damage could be assessed. A workday on April 22nd was scheduled for general clean-up, pruning, clipping and raking.
- Old Mill:** Progress is being made on the water problem. Regular work days are scheduled.
- Old Statehouse:** Several workdays in April. Beds prepared, annuals set out. Work days scheduled first week in May. Letter to go out to committee members regarding the plans.
- Pinnacle:** They have been planning and planting - rocks to phlox on several planting work days. Carl Hunter advised them on plantings at the entrance, advising on native plants for all season bloom at the entrance gates. They extended the beds at the entrance and reworked the soil with soil amendments before planting phlox, liatris and coreopsis. Rocks were planted in the mud for stepping stones in front of the east bed. The beds in front of the visitor center bloomed with fringe tree, crested iris, bird's foot, violets, phlox and spiderwort. All Master Gardeners are invited to visit. There should be something blooming throughout the summer and fall!
- State Hospital:** The gardens look wonderful! Workdays being scheduled. Members of the committee will receive an update from the Chairman.
- Victorian Cottage:** They had to start from scratch on this one. Plantings: boxwood across the front, two old-fashioned roses (Vanity and New Dawn), a back-yard kitchen herb garden. A ground cover is planned for under the tree in front. All old-fashioned plants are planned for the entire project. Work days until further notice are Mondays at 9:00 a.m. **More help is needed!** Call Marie Flickinger, Chairman, at 758-4202.
- War Memorial Park** (Formerly the Bus Stop) The garden was ablaze with color this last month. They cut the spent daffodils back to 6" because the pansies couldn't be seen. The City has "promised" a drip system which hopefully will be installed before the salvia is planted.



# Master Minutes

June 1995

Volume 6 Issue 5

## Meet our Master Gardeners



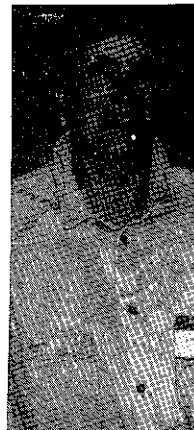
**NAME:** Linda Holbert  
**SPOUSE:** Don. Owner of Central Flying Service.  
**CHILDREN:** One son who is a student at UALR.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1993  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Chairman, Old State House.  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** No special item - she uses a variety of tools.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Herbs. Has developed an herb garden. She especially likes lemon scents - lemon balm, lemon thyme, lemon grass, etc.

**GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Wildflowers. She has a shady, wooded back yard and is trying to establish wildflowers there.

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Weeds.

Linda grew up in Alexandria, Louisiana and came to Little Rock when she married. She has an M.A. in nursing and is presently retired from practice. She enjoys hiking in the mountains and fishing and recently went on a backpack and hiking trip in North Carolina to help open an old Cherokee trading trail which ended at Charleston, South Carolina. Flowers and shrubs were in blossom such as mountain laurel, lady slipper, phlox, trillium and bearded iris.



**NAME:** Kate Lynn.  
**SPOUSE:** Bob.  
**CHILDREN:** A daughter living in Little Rock and a son living in England.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1992  
**WORK ACTIVITY:** Co-Chairman, Pinnacle Mountain.  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN POSSESSION:** A new tool called a garden claw. It's a

gadget you stomp on the ground and turn to dig up the dirt, weeds, flowers or vegetables which happen to get in the way. Kate's soil is very sandy, so it works well.

It's not recommended for use in Little Rock which has more rocks per square foot than the average gravel pit.

**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Wildflowers, especially Queen Anne's Lace.

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Nut grass and bermuda grass.

Kate grew up in Heber Springs. Her folks moved to Scott when she was in her teens. She and Bob have recently retired from farming which gives them more time to go fishing and hunting. Although her vegetable garden has only four tomato plants, she has plenty of vegetables. Kate and Bob provide a neighbor with fish and the neighbor provides them with vegetables. Now

<b>inside...</b>	Master Gardener June Checklist	page 2
	Calendar of Events	page 3
	Plant of the Month ... Iris in General	page 4
	Master Gardener Project Reports	page 5
	Master Gardener Notes	page 6



## 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 and lawn fungi.

**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, attacking everything from azaleas to tomatoes. Use insecticidal soap or malathion. Be sure to read the label! Get good coverage on the underside of the leaves and hose off any plant with water about two hours after application if it is not certain the plant cannot be dam-

aged 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! Firelight 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. Consult with the Extension Office or reference materials for proper and safe remedies.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JUNE 13 NO REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN JUNE!!!**

**JUNE 13 TOUR OF MASTER GARDENER GARDENS**

We will tour the gardens of Bill Burgin, Jean Roberts and Dana Nixon. We will start at 2nd Presbyterian Church at 9:00 a.m., tour the Little Rock gardens then head to Dana Nixon's garden in Jacksonville where we will have lunch. Bring a sack lunch. Cold drinks will be provided. This tour will be in lieu of our regular monthly meeting (We don't meet in June, July and August). If you plan to attend, please call Beth Phelps or Mrs. McKinney at the Extension Office.

**JUNE 21 MASTER GARDENER TRIP TO CONWAY: TOUR OF DAYLILY GARDENS**

Those wishing to car pool, meet at 2nd Presbyterian Church before 8:45 a.m. Those not wishing to car pool, meet at Joel Stout's in Conway at 9:30 a.m. Next, we go to Bob hambuchen's where there is also a large hosta collection. Both gardens will have daylilies for sale. If you would like, bring a sack lunch to eat after the Hambuchen tour.

Directions to Stout's: Take I-40 to Conway. Take Exit 127 (Ramada Inn) and head east on U.S. 64. Go 5 miles to Sunny Gap Road and take a left (cemetery on right). Go 1/2 mile and turn left at Cricket Hill Berry Farm. You will see the daylilies!

**JUNE 27 Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Partners for Pinnacle General Meeting**

**JULY 8 Central Arkansas Iris Society - Annual Iris Rhizome Sale**  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Council of Garden Club's building at corner of Kavanaugh Blvd. and Lee Avenue.

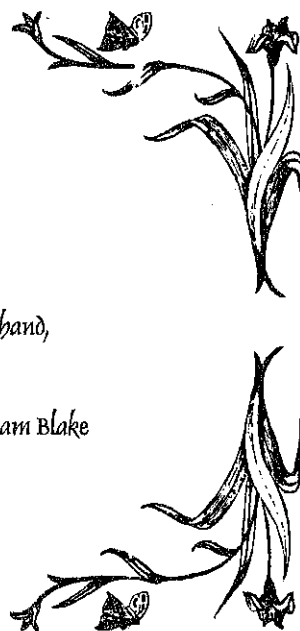
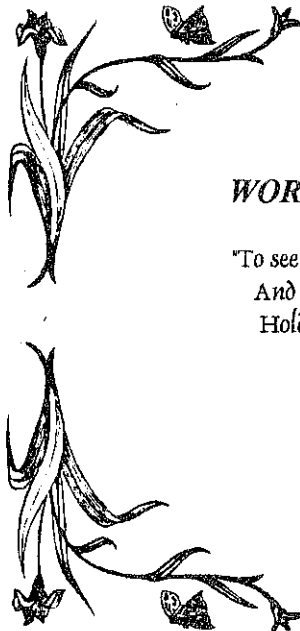
**JULY 11 MASTER GARDENER HERB GARDEN TOUR**

Meet at Arkansas School for the Blind at 9:30 a.m. and car pool from there to the Territorial Restoration and to the Governor's Mansion. Call Beth or Mrs. McKinney if you would like to attend.

**JULY 24-28 International Master Gardener Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada**

We have several Master Gardeners planning to attend. Those planning to attend are making their own travel arrangements as most are extending the trip or making it a family vacation. It will be interesting to hear their reports. Boon-Nam Blackwell says if you are a senior citizen, over 62, Northwest Airlines has a senior citizen rate.

**OCTOBER 12 STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE IN EUREKA SPRINGS**



### WORDS FOR THOUGHT

*To see the world in a grain of sand,  
And a heaven in a wild flower;  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,  
and eternity in an hour.*

William Blake

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## *Iris in General* *Bearded Iris in Particular*

*Marge Van Egmond, Master Gardener*

The ancient Greeks named this beautiful flower Iris, the "eye of heaven" which was also their word for the rainbow. It was a favorite of the royal gardens of Europe as early as the ninth century. In medieval times, the Iris was so beloved by the people of France that it was given a special distinction and became the symbol of the royal house of France; ultimately of the entire realm. It appears in many illuminated manuscripts, and in the heraldry, architecture and jewelry of the early Renaissance in France, it was affectionately called "Fleur-de-Lis." To this day, highly partial flower lovers will look on the Iris and question, "can one improve upon perfection?" Iris, the often neglected "flag" of pioneer days has definitely come a long way. It is presently a classic whose breathtaking beauty is celebrated universally, and the first to be judged in an international competition. Started in 1955 in Florence, Italy, the seven-day event was a deadly-serious contest during which entries were inspected daily. The winners were judged on "stamina, stature, color, form and substance." Basically, Iris can be divided into two general groups: bearded and beardless. The Iris blossom is composed of three upright petals (the standards) and three hanging petals (the falls). If each of the falls has a fuzzy, caterpillar-like appendage, it is a bearded Iris. If it contains no beard, it is a beardless Iris. The most widely grown and available of all Iris are the tall bearded kind. They are the aristocrats of the Iris garden, the type that has been most hybridized. Why do Iris growers keep hybridizing? Iris is easy to cross pollinate. In this, the jet age, the breeder can harvest pollen from a promising male parent in Milan, Italy, for instance, and apply it the next day to a female parent in his or her Chicago garden!

### TYPES OF BEARDED IRIS

**Dwarf:** These vary from 4" to 10" in height. In demand for borders and perennial gardens. They are the earliest to bloom.

**Intermediate:** These bloom after the dwarf. Similar to the tall type, but smaller in size and height. Valuable for perennial gardens because they produce more bloom per plant than the larger bearded varieties and are not so apt to be damaged by wind and rain. There are also several autumn-blooming varieties within the Intermediate group.

**Tall:** These can grow to more than 28" tall and have 2" to 4" flowers. The decorative landscape value of the tall bearded type remains unchallenged through the years. They may be planted in clumps beside a fence or low stone wall, in front of shrubbery or in beds devoted to Iris alone. They do not combine well in the average flower border because they will not tolerate mulch. They require plenty of open space around them, with lots of sun on the rhizomes to keep them from rotting.

### CULTURE OF BEARDED IRIS

1. Very good drainage.
2. They prefer full sun.
3. Enrich soil and properly prepare before planting.
4. Divide plants and reset every third year.

Choose a well-drained spot to plant iris. The soil should be worked well and deep and amended with generous helpings of 0-20-20, humus and agricultural limestone. Well-rotted manure and compost should also be incorporated into the soil. They prefer a soil that is very nearly neutral in reaction, although they will tolerate a mildly acid soil as well as one with a considerable degree of alkalinity. As a general rule, they are classed among lime-loving plants. If the bed is properly prepared, fertilizing will not be needed before the iris is lifted the third year after planting. In June, preferably, they should be divided, examined for any soft spots, the leaf tips cut back to fan shape, and then reset in soil that has again been prepared and enriched as for the initial planting. Space the plants 12 inches apart. Barely cover them with soil. In fact, referring to rhizome planting, one Southern Living Magazine writer a few years back stated, "plant them like ducks sitting in/on water." Iris need sunlight right down to the rhizome. Remove outer leaves as they begin to brown. At all times, keep litter, old Iris leaves and grass clippings away from the rhizomes.

**DISEASES** The three primary causes of trouble in growing Iris are:

**Rhizome and Crown rot** Dampness encourages rot. If Iris root rot has been a problem, mix gypsum into planting soil. Spread it like plant food. If you discover root rot in an old Iris clump, cut away infected portions and dust the clean cuts with gypsum.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

**GREENHOUSE.** A plant sale was held after the May Master Gardener meeting. The Chairpersons will notify members of upcoming work days.

**STATE HOSPITAL.** The committee has planted Copper Plant, Wormwood and yellow Lantana in the four big beds. Copper Plant and white Lantana in the middle bed behind the flagpole and yellow and white Lantana in the bed near Markham St. White Lantana and purple Mexican Heather were planted in the two beds down the hill. Jonquils were trimmed and variegated Liriope was planted. After the Tithonia or Torch Plants bloom, some may be re-arranged. They are hoping that the sprinkler system will be repaired. They have mulched and hope this will control the weeds, along with regular weeding by the committee members.

**OLD STATE HOUSE.** Two work-days in May. On May 16, 30 flats of impatiens were planted.

**EXTENSION OFFICE.** Zinnias were planted in April and black plastic was arranged around the roses. The beds are looking good and the roses are beautiful. They would like to have old

red brick. Call Martha Staples at 663-5238 if you can share.

**OLD VICTORIAN COTTAGE.** Marie Flickinger, Chairman, reports that her answering machine broke down and if someone called to volunteer to work, please call again (758-4202). They work every Monday at 9:00 a.m. unless there is rain.

**OLD MILL.** Everything is growing beautifully. Spring was wonderful! The committee members have been pulling weeds. Members are notified of work days.

**PINNACLE MOUNTAIN.** Over 19 varieties of native flowers were abloom during May in the six beds and along the roadside. Especially showy were the yellow indigo, coreopsis, ox-eye daisy, purple coneflower, yarrow, butterfly weed, cornflower, showy primrose, verbena and gaillardia. Watch for the liatris, cardinal flower, iron weed and sunflowers this summer. A work schedule has been established for summer maintenance by dividing the committee into four groups with each group taking a designated week each month to weed, water and dead head. Two

work days are being scheduled, one to identify and mark existing plants and one in October to plant/transplant new varieties for next year's bloom. October is a good-month to plant wildflowers.

**WAR MEMORIAL PARK GARDEN.** Needs volunteers. Call Carol Clawson (835-0909) or Wini Carter (227-7676).

**GOVERNOR'S MANSION GARDEN.** Workdays were held throughout April and May. Members are notified of work days.

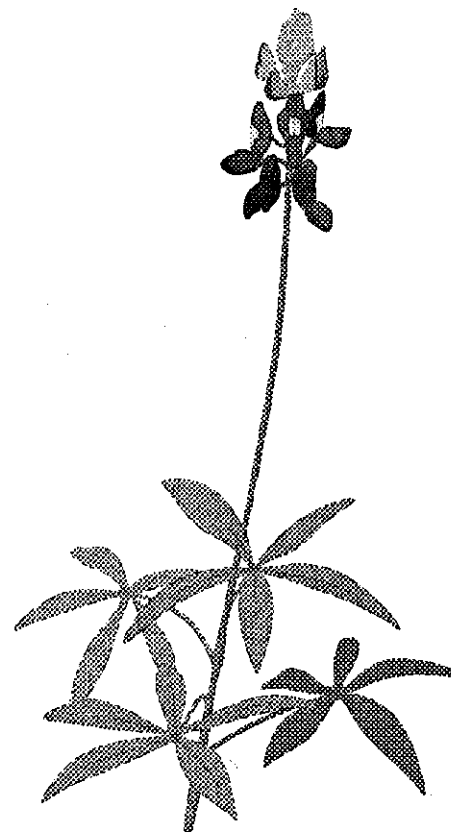
Beth and volunteers changed out the plants at the County Judge's Office on the second Friday of May.

### *Iris in General*

*(Continued from page 4)*

Newly planted Iris sometimes succumbs to a soft rot instead of beginning the usual vigorous growth. Watch over your garden and remove any sickly plants before they can spread the trouble.

**Borers** Borers (and leaf spot) can be controlled by removing the diseased foliage and spraying or dusting with malathion. Borers appear as regularly as do those in corn, if unattended. They are quite similar except for a habit of going underground to feast on the rhizomes. One could use an all-purpose garden spray for the diseases if you remember to do this early, before the buds open. The borer hatch from eggs planted by a moth which lays its eggs on dead Iris leaves. If you discover signs of damage in late summer, give the plant a strong dose of Cygon or malathion. For any specific questions you might have regarding Iris, or for membership inquiries, write to the American Iris Society, 2315 Tower Grove Building, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.



# MASTER GARDENER NOTES

A nominating committee has been appointed to draft a slate of officers for 1996. Elections will be held later. If you are interested in serving or know someone you would like to be considered, please call one of the Committee members.

Cecilia Buck (834-2825)  
Sally Garrison (835-4163)  
Breck Campbell (666-9195)



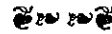
At the Board Meeting prior to the May Master Gardener meeting, the Board approved a motion to pay \$50.00 a year to be able to use the Garden Center on Kavanaugh which is owned by the Council of Garden Clubs. In doing so, the Master Gardeners will be affiliate members and we will have another site where meetings can be held when necessary. This will have to be approved by the Council of Garden Clubs prior to final action.



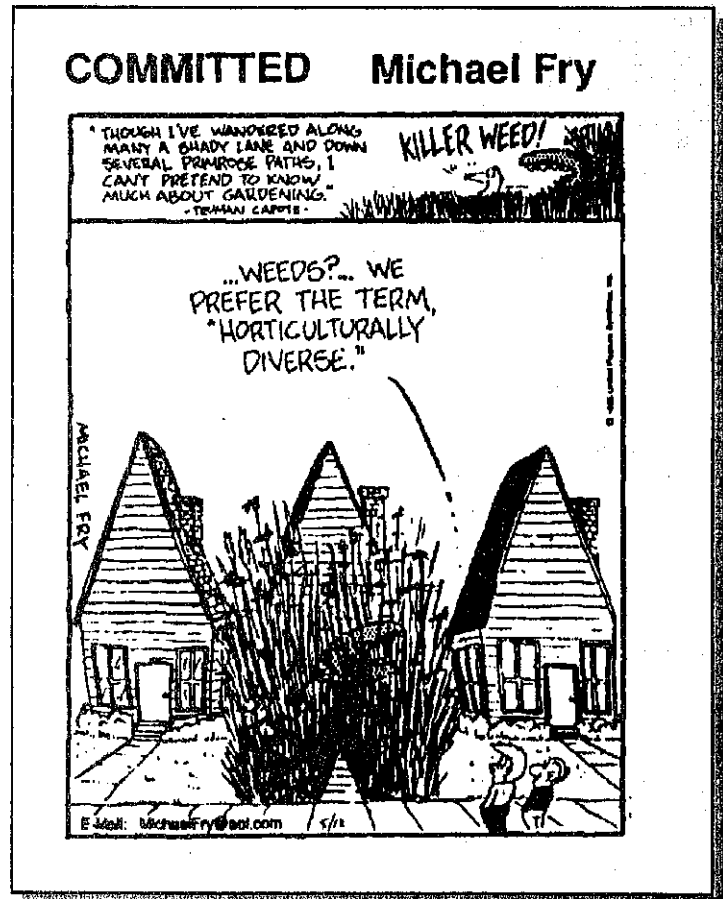
Many thanks to Carl Hunter for a very delightful and informative program on Wildflowers at our May Master Gardener Meeting. Those of you who were not able to make it missed out! Carl provided great information on native plants and shrubs for sun and shade, wet and dry spots. He told the group that Fall is the best time to plant wildflower seeds. He provided handouts which gave growing tips and a diagram of a layout for a wildflower bed which named some tall, medium and short varieties for a bed. If anyone did not receive a copy of the handouts, contact Beth Phelps and she will provide you with a copy. Copies of Carl's books were also available for sale at the meeting.

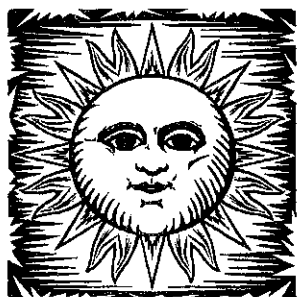


The Extension Office project committee wishes to locate old, red brick for the beds there. Anyone who wishes to donate, or knows of someone with this type of brick which they might want to donate, call Beth at the Extension Office.



The War Memorial Park Garden needs more workers. If you wish to serve on this project, call Carol Clawson (664-9133) or Wini Carter (227-7676).



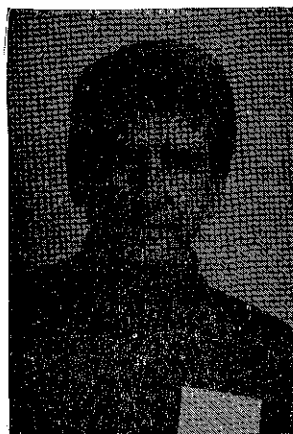


# Master Minutes

July 1995

Volume 6 Issue 6

## Meet our Master Gardeners



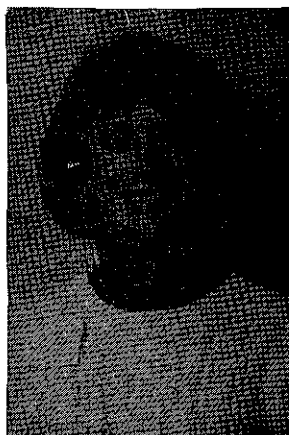
**NAME:** Charles Worden  
**SPOUSE:** Jan, also a Master Gardener  
**CHILDREN:** 5;  
**GRANDCHILDREN:** 3  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN TOOL:** Every tool he owns, to work his 2 acres of rock and clay!  
**FAVORITE PLANT:** Day Lilies. He has 50 different

varieties.

**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Keeping rabbits out of the garden and raccoons out of the new fish pond they are building this year.

**GREATEST GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Concord grape vineyard.

Charles also raises perennials, verbena, lavender and black-eyed susans, just to name a few.



**NAME:** Jan Worden  
**SPOUSE:** Charles, also a Master Gardener  
**CHILDREN:** 5;  
**GRANDCHILDREN:** 3  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Perennials.  
**GARDENING FRUSTRATION:** Keeping weeds out of their two acres of pecan trees, apple trees

(Fuji, Granny Smith, and Delicious)

**GREATEST GARDENING ENJOYMENT:** Working together with Charles on their land as a team.

Jan also grows vegetables, flowers, fruit trees, bulbs, etc.



<b>inside...</b>	Master Gardener July Checklist	page 2
	Calendar of Events	page 3
	Plant of the Month ... Crape Myrtle	page 4
	Master Gardener Project Reports	page 5

## MASTER GARDENER 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. Rab-biteye 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.

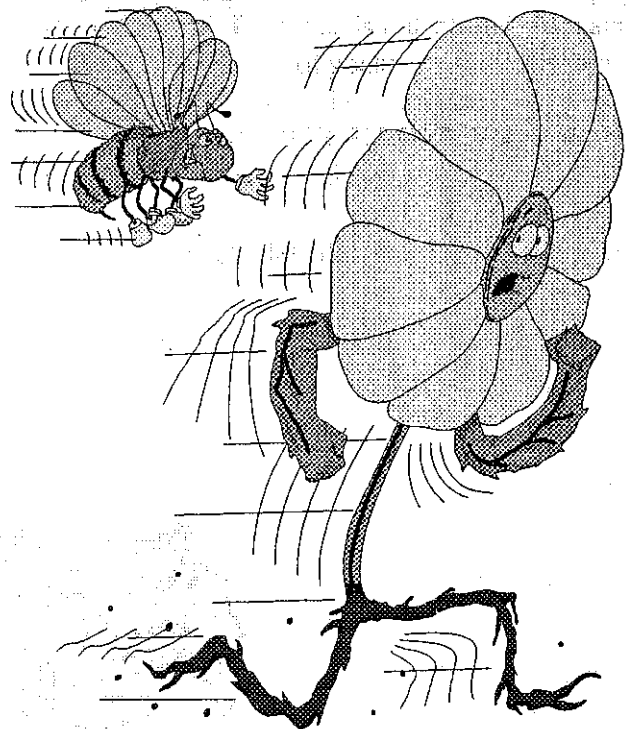
**LAWNS:** Control crabgrass and other grassy weeds in Bermuda and Zoysia by spraying with MSMA. Be sure to water well before application.

**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.

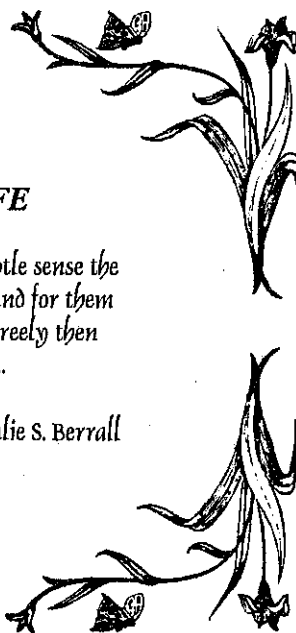
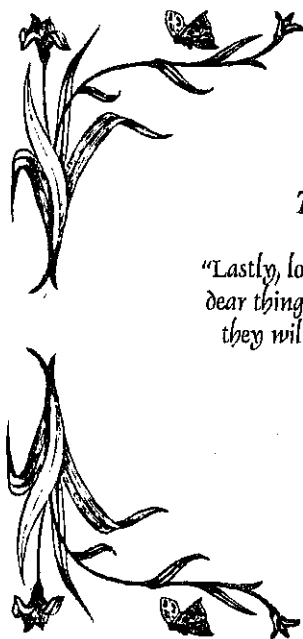
**INSECTS AND DISEASE:** Apply a 3" layer of mulch around shrubs and in the vegetable garden to keep down weeds. Aphids, cutworms, corn borers and the evil cousins of the Ladybug (Mexican Bean Beetles and Spotted Cucumber Beetles), whitefly and lacebugs, aphids, bagworms, black vine weevils, chinch bugs, 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.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NO REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN JULY

- JULY 8** Central Arkansas Iris Society - Annual rhizome sale. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Council of Garden Clubs building at corner of Kavanaugh & Lee Avenue 1-0301
- JULY 11** M.G. Herb Garden Tour  
Meet at Ark. School for the Blind at 9:00 a.m. and car pool from there to the Territorial Restoration and to the Governor's Mansion. Call Beth or Mrs. McKinney if you would like to attend.
- JULY 21-22** Greenhouse Growers Association Annual Meeting & Trade Show  
Little Rock Airport Holiday Inn. Call Beth for details.
- JULY 24-25** International M.G. Conference  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
- JULY 27-28** Arkansas Urban & Community Forestry Council Conference  
Lyon College, Batesville, AR. Registration: \$100 for full meeting. For more information contact Ralph Peterson, AUCFC, 104 Calais Cove, Little Rock, AR, 72211, or call Beth.
- AUGUST 1** Turf Grass Field Day  
Lonoke, AR. Call Beth for information.



#### THOUGHTS FOR LIFE

*"Lastly, love your flowers. By some subtle sense the dear things always detect their friends, and for them they will live longer and bloom more freely than they ever will for a stranger.."*

Julie S. Berrall



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### CRAPE MYRTLE - (*Lagerstroemia indica*)

*Cheryl Kennedy, Master Gardener*

Crape myrtle grows in zones 7 to 9. While it prefers full sun and moist, rich, well-drained soil, it will thrive in any ordinary garden soil; it can grow in a slight to moderately alkaline soil. Care is minimal - fertilize with compost or rotted manure in the fall. *Lagerstroemia* is suitable for xeriscaping and resists pollution and other adversities of city living. This shrub looks great year-round in informal hedges or as a specimen plant. A heavy flush of crepe-like blooms bursts forth in late summer (each cluster may be a foot long) followed by sporadic blooms for the remainder of the season. For autumn color, the shiny, mouse-ear-size leaves turn yellow and red. All year 'round you'll enjoy the amazing peeling bark. Flowers are available in white (the fast-growing 'Natchez'), pink ('Potomac' or 'Choctaw'), coral ('Tuscarora' or 'Tuskegee,' which has strong horizontal growth) or lavender. Varieties grow in three forms: under three feet, eight to twelve feet and twenty-five feet or more. The plant is among the last to leaf out in the Spring. It should be pruned before Spring growth begins, to maintain size, although it's not necessary to promote flowering on the smaller types. The medium-size shrubs can be trimmed to maintain optimum size for your landscape. Dwarfs should be cut back to within six inches of the ground just before new growth begins in the Spring. Completely remove small-diameter stems. Once new growth starts, you may need to snip a few more shoots to prevent crowding. The tree types usually have three to five trunks; the lower two-thirds are kept free of branches to show off the wonderful bark. This size blooms without pruning, but trimming every three to five years encourages growth and flowering. New plants can be propagated from seeds or cuttings. Powdery mildew is the most serious disease; however, 'Catawba,' 'Cherokee' and 'Seminole' are supposedly resistant varieties; another source says the 'Tuskegee' also is resistant. The mildew fungus overwinters in buds and appears on the new shoots early in the Spring. It spreads to the leaves and the flower stems, which will become stunted, and buds often fail to develop flowers. To control, spray with Bayleton or Benlate at 1 tablespoon per gallon when the buds first open and then repeat two weeks later. You can also use Karathane, sulfur dust or wettable sulfur at a rate of 1 tablespoon per gallon. The dusting sulfur must be applied after each rain until the mildew is controlled. Crape myrtles also can get leaf spot. Control with Funginex, Topsin or Fungo sprays at seven to 10-day intervals. Also, destroy leaves that are shed in the fall. Japanese and other beetles can be controlled by hand picking small quantities and throwing them in a can full of soapy water. Japanese beetles can be caught in traps. The larval stage can be controlled with milky spore disease. Orthene will wipe out whiteflies or aphids. Aphids can be stopped in a variety of ways, including spraying them off with water, spraying on soapy water, or using Malathion, diazinon, or a number of other insecticides.



## MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

**OLD MILL.** No report.

**ZOO GARDEN.** No report.

**ZOO BIRDHOUSE.** No report.

**STATE HOSPITAL.** The gardens look great! The State Hospital people really appreciate the work of this committee. On July 1st, prisoners will be doing the yard maintenance at the State Hospital. The committee will not have much if any contact with the prisoners. They are people who have been convicted of non-violent crimes. There will be five prisoners and one guard in each group and there will be three groups. We have been asked by Captain Flowers of the Department of Corrections not to have conversations with the prisoners. This is not because of our safety, but because these people are being punished and this work is to be a deterrent to future crime. Captain Flowers said many of these people are very personable - in fact they are con

artists and they are not to be made to feel they are "one of the group." They are losing the two beds at the bottom of the hill, not the Markham Street bed (wish it was the Markham Street bed). These are the two beds with Mexican Heather and lantana. The street is going to be widened. All the committee members are going to have to work on the Markham bed because of the lack of water. The water has been turned off. The State Hospital was required to replace a valve. The valve is to be replaced by June 15th, but the State Health Department has to inspect the work (and they are slow). We hope the water will be on in less than two weeks. In the meantime, take a wrench or big needle-nose pliers. The hose is rolled up by the faucet on the porch. It isn't too bad to use the hose since the committee won't have to water the beds down the hill. Happy Gardening from Jane Guley!

**GREENHOUSE.** No report.

**CONTEMPLATION GARDEN.** No report.

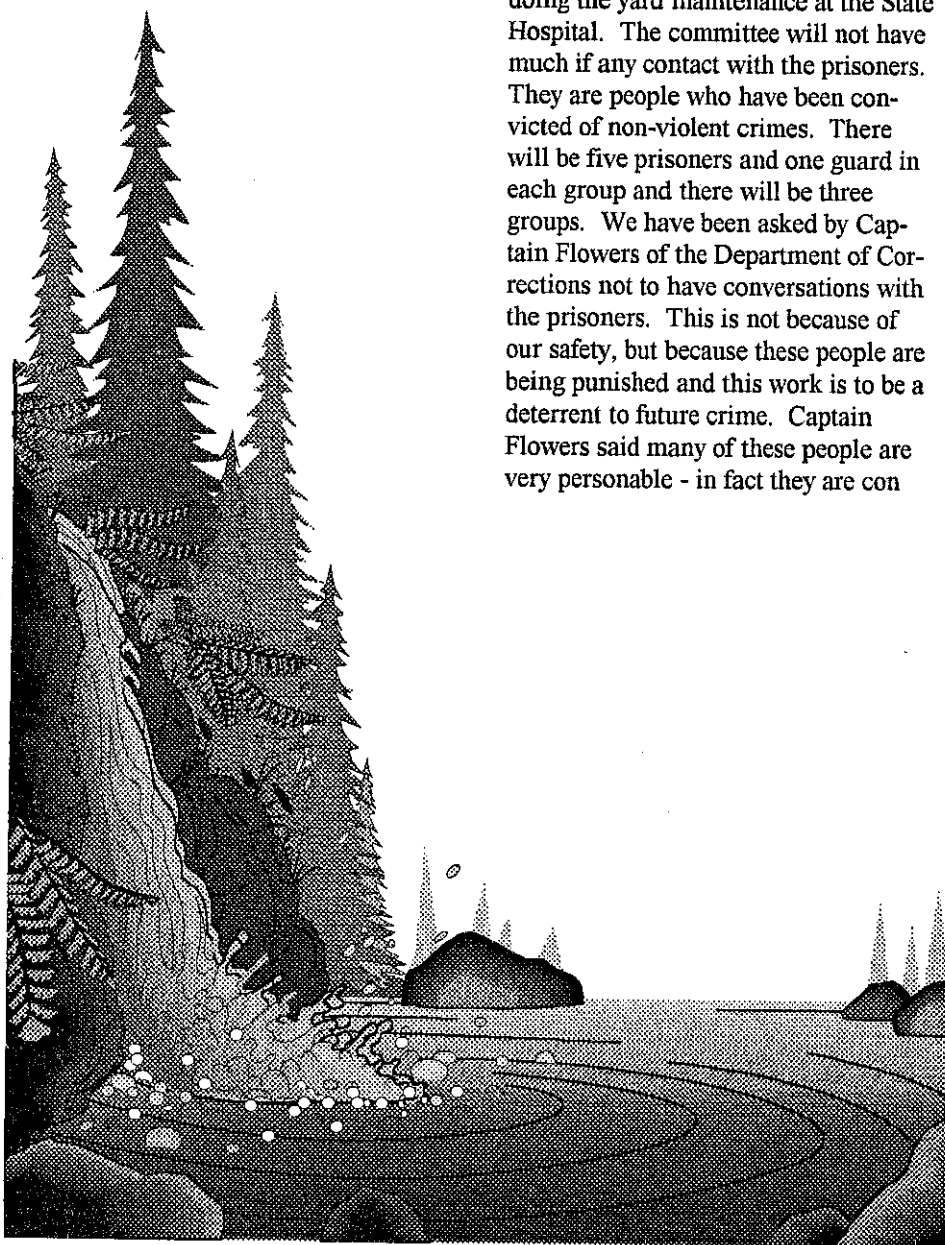
**JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL.** No report.

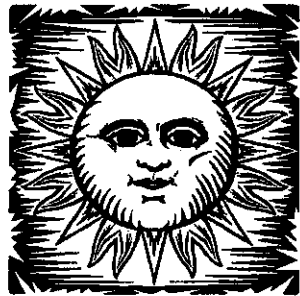
**WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN.** More volunteers are urgently needed. It is a perfectly safe place to work and it would be possible to work there in the evenings after work or when the weather cools.

**EXTENSION OFFICE.** Work Days were May 9 and May 22. The gardens are looking good. The pansies were removed and replaced with begonias and caladiums. We are still looking for old brick. More volunteers are also needed, so if you would like to help, please call Martha Staples.

**MOUNT HOLLY.** No report.

**VICTORIAN COTTAGE.** No report.





# Master Minutes

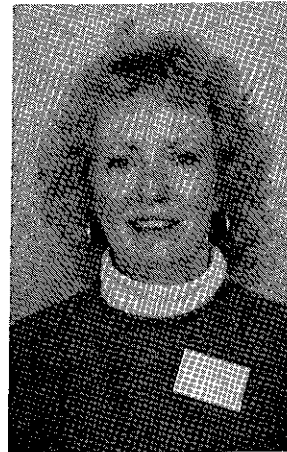


August 1995

Volume 6 Issue 7

## Meet our Master Gardeners

**NAME:** Allan Wagoner  
**SPOUSE:** Louise  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994 in  
Lonoke County  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN  
TOOL:** 4-tine tiller  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:**  
Enjoys growing nut orchards  
and tomatoes  
**GARDENING**  
**FRUSTRATION:** BUGS



**NAME:** Nancy Casey  
**SPOUSE:** Charles  
**CHILDREN:** Three sons and  
four grandsons  
**BECAME A MG:** 1993  
**MOST VALUED GARDEN  
TOOL:** Troybuilt tiller  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:**  
Perennials and herbs.

Nancy was born in Arkansas  
and later moved to Texas.

Allan is a retired Marine Sergeant and has lived in Arkansas for thirteen years. His main hobby is all kinds of gardening from vegetables to transplanting trees. Although his soil is mostly clay, he enjoys the challenge of making things grow in the acidic soil.

She has been back in Arkansas 20 years. She lives on 4 acres in West Little Rock and is a full time gardener and part time R.N. The entire four acres of her land is cultivated in grass or flowers or vegetables. Recently, Nancy added 34 azaleas around her long front porch. She enjoys her beds of old-fashioned roses and likes to pass along old flowers and plants like grandma grew. Her thornless blackberries are doing well along with her strawberries and vegetable garden.

### Thoughts for Life

*"What was Paradise? but a Garden, an Orchard of Trees and Herbs, full of pleasure, and nothing there but delights.....What can your eye desire to see, your nose to smell, your mouth to take that is not to be had in an Orchard?"*

*William Lawson*



### inside...

Master Gardener August Checklist  
Calendar of Events  
Master Gardener Project Reports  
Plant of the Month ... Russian Sage  
Master Gardener Notes

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## MASTER GARDENER AUGUST 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 well (at least an inch to an inch and one-half per week) during the dry spell we are having and water deep to encourage deep roots that will sustain the turf during drought.

**WATERING:** It has been very dry lately and you should be checking container plants daily and watering as needed. Water flower beds and vegetable gardens 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. Spider mites are also on the increase during the hot, dry spell we have been having. Use insecticidal soap or spray plants with a water hose daily. On vegetables you can also use Kelthane if you have a very bad infestation. On ornamentals you can use Orthonex (you can also use Orthene if you have some on hand, but it is not as good). Do not use Orthonex or Orthene on vegetables -it is toxic!!

**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

- AUGUST 12      **Starlight Concert with Vocalist Ruth Ann Robinson**  
Pinnacle Mountain State Park - 7:30 p.m.
- AUGUST          Pinnacle Mountain State Park (anytime) - Bring books (not textbooks)  
to the Visitor Center to help the annual book sale in September.
- SEPTEMBER 12    **MASTER GARDENER REGULAR MEETING**  
Ark-La Building, Blue Flame Room 11:30 a.m.  
Program by Jane Gulley and Ellen Kane on "Old Roses."
- SEPTEMBER 27    **New Master Gardener Class - First Day - Tour of Projects**
- OCTOBER 4, 11,    Training Dates for New Master Gardener Class. Adult Center.  
18,25, and      Experienced Master Gardeners welcome if notice is called in by the Friday preceding  
NOVEMBER 1, 8    the class date. Also let the office know if you want lunch.
- OCTOBER 9,10     Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference in Eureka Springs.  
More information later!



## MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

### BUS STOP AND EXTENSION OFFICE.

All the flowers at the extension office are blooming and the beds are looking good. We are spraying the roses and doing the general upkeep.

*Reported by Martha Staples*

### OLD STATE HOUSE.

The four front gardens are beautiful with the Showstopper species of white and salmon-colored impatiens. Three shades of salmon-colored impatiens cover the inside area of each garden, with white ones outlining the beds. The Helliery Holly are lush and full of new, green growth, providing a lovely border around each garden and complementing the tall, very colorful impatiens. Thanks to all the volunteers for keeping the gardens beautiful and healthy this summer.

*Reported by Linda Holbert.*

*NOTE: If you wish to report on your project, send the reports to Laura Lasiter at 2005 West 13th Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114, to reach her no later than the 10th of each month.*

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)

Perennial Plant Association Press Release

The MG plant of the month is also the Perennial Plant Association's Perennial Plant of the Year for 1995. 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.

Russian Sage is a reliable performer in USDA Hardiness Zones 3-8. It prefers full sun and a well-drained garden soil. *Perovskia's* light blue flowers are particularly striking when planted along with white-flowered perennials like *Phlox paniculata* 'Mt. Fuji.' Besides its attributes as a landscape plant, *Perovskia* is also a good cut flower. *Perovskia* performs well in dry soil. Uses in the landscape include plantings as an accent plant or massed as a ground cover or massing or filler in the border as well as being used to separate dominant colors. 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 at the same depth as they were in the pot. *Perovskia* has silver stems and small, grayish foliage. It reaches heights of nearly 4 feet and it is categorized as a sub-shrub with a woody base. The leaves are barely toothed, 1-1/2 inches long and, when crushed, have the scent of sage. Small, light blue to lavender flowers are arranged in whorls along the stem and the spikes are often 12" long or more. *Perovskia* begins flowering in July and often lasts throughout September. In winter, Russian sage provides interest in the garden with its silver-gray foliage and stems. Although there are seven species of *Perovskia*, only a few are cultivated and available. *Perovskia atriplicifolia*, the most readily available, is native to Afghanistan and Tibet and is a member of the mint family. However the *Perovskia atriplicifolia* currently sold in the U.S. has been identified as a hybrid between *P. atriplicifolia* and *P. abrotanoides*, and appears to be identical with *P. 'Blue Spire'*. *Perovskia atriplicifolia* grows best in sunny, dry locations and is one of the most heat and drought resistant perennials available. It will perform best in areas with consistently warm summers, even when the humidity is high. In shaded areas, plants will grow, but tend to be leggy and sprawling. The only condition that *Perovskia* resents is poor drainage, especially in winter. For best results, plants should be cut back nearly to the ground each spring before new growth begins. *Perovskia* is most easily propagated by 3-4" long stem cuttings which root easily in sand or in an equal volume mixture of peat moss and perlite. If placed under mist, remove immediately after roots begin to form since cuttings will be lost if they remain moist for too long. To avoid the use of mist altogether, plastic may be placed over the cuttings to maintain humidity. Seeds require a short cold treatment of about 30 days. Rooted cuttings or seedlings should be planted out in the spring or early enough in the fall to allow sufficient root development so plants to not heave the following spring. They grow best in neutral to alkaline soils. Commonly available *Perovskia* cultivars are: 'Blue Mist', Blue Haze', 'Blue Spire', and 'Longin'. The earliest flowering cultivar is 'Blue Mist' which, along with 'Blue Haze', has lighter blue flowers than the species. 'Blue Spire' has deep purple flowers and larger panicles. 'Longin' has stiff upright stems and a more formal appearance than the species. A new cultivar 'Filigran' has deeply cut foliage, bright blue flowers and is more compact than other cultivars. *Perovskia* is also a reasonably good cut flower.

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

We are into our long, hot summer. Remember, there will be no Master Gardener Meeting in August. The next regular meeting will be September 12th.

The following is a recipe for Rosemary Punch which was served on the Herb Garden Tour. It was wonderful!

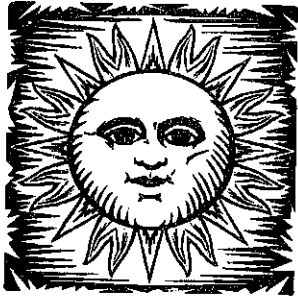
### Rosemary Punch      Jan King, Master Gardener

Ingredients:    2 cups Rosemary Infusion (directions follow)  
                   2 large cans pineapple juice, strained (one for the infusion, one for punch itself)  
                   1 12 oz. frozen lemonade, made up  
                   1 large bottle ginger ale

**Rosemary Infusion:**    Put 1 large can of strained pineapple juice in a glass pitcher and stuff with fresh rosemary, stems and all. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Next morning, put juice and rosemary in an enamel or glass pan and heat to just before the boiling point. Remove from heat and set aside, covered, to steep for 30 minutes. Makes 5 cups of infusion.

**Punch:** Mix together the infusion, the remaining large can of strained pineapple juice, the lemonade and the large bottle of ginger ale just before serving or mix all together except the ginger ale and refrigerate until ready to serve and then add the ginger ale (to preserve the "fizz").

If you attend a gardening seminar or event, we'd love to hear about it. Articles about gardening research are also welcome, as are book reports and any reports of Master Gardener events which you attend. Any other information which you feel would be informative or entertaining to other Master Gardeners is welcome. Also, if you would like to see an article regarding a favorite plant or one which you would like to know more about, let us know and we will try to feature it in one of the "Plant of the Month" articles. We have already done articles in past issues on the following: Aloe, Amaryllis, The Paw Paw Tree, Shamrock, Daffodils, Wisteria, Parsley, Peonies (2X), Daylily, Iris, Azalea, Crape Myrtle (2X), Aster, Chrysanthemum and Hybrid Lilies. You can call Laura Lasiter with your information (if brief) or submit it in written form. Information is due no later than the 10th of each month.



# Master Minutes

September 1995

Volume 6 Issue 8

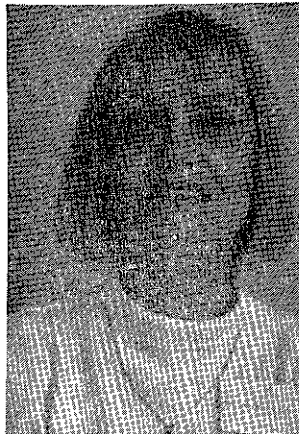
## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Mim Hundley  
**CHILDREN:** Two daughters, ages six and one-half and eleven.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**PROJECT:** Mount Holly Cemetery and Extension Office phone time.

Mim was born and raised in Houston, Texas, but has lived in Little Rock for ten years.

She became a Master Gardener because she loves to get dirt under her fingernails. She really loves flowers, especially bulbs, poppies, sunflowers, etc., and cutting flowers. She comes by her love of gardening naturally. Both parents are green to their elbows. Her father raises orchids. She loves cutting and giving bouquets to friends. Her daughters may be third generation gardeners. She loves gardening because it is therapeutic. Her mom taught her to share her cut flowers with friends all year 'round.



**NAME:** Peggy Leopulos  
**CHILDREN:** Two grandchildren, Jerry, age 11, and Brigette, Age 5.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994

Peggy became a Master Gardener to learn more about growing and caring for flowers. Born in Stuttgart, she attended school out of State and after working six years, returned to the prettiest State in America, Arkansas. She enjoys the challenge of working in her yard. She has lots of iris and loves anything that is green and alive. Peggy is also an amateur photographer and especially loves to photograph flowers in their natural setting.



### THOUGHTS FOR LIFE

*"Take time to listen and talk about the voices of the earth and what they mean - the majestic voice of thunder, the winds, the sound of surf or flowing streams.*

*Rachel Carson,  
"The Sense of Wonder"*



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## MASTER GARDENER SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST

**LAWNS:** When it cools off and lawns are not stressed, fertilize both warm and cool season grass this month. 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:** When it cools off, and if the plants are not stressed, rejuvenate tired annuals by removing faded flowers and cutting back long, leggy stems and 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:** When the heat and drought have eased off, the first half of September is the ideal 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:** Don't prune your spring blooming plants at this time as you will be cutting off next year's blooms. Avoid heavy pruning of 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 (and they haven't succumbed to the heat), 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

- SEPTEMBER 12 **MASTER GARDENER REGULAR MEETING**  
Ark-La Building, Blue Flame Room 11:30 a.m.  
Program by Jane Gulley and Ellen Kane on "Old Roses."
- SEPTEMBER 12-14 Hunter Education Classes, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 6 - 9:30 p.m. with materials provided by Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Call 868-5806 for registration & additional information.
- SEPTEMBER 23-24 Fall Book Sale, Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Saturday, 9-5 a.m.; Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. Half-price bargains Sunday!
- SEPTEMBER 26 Partners for Pinnacle General Meeting 7-8:30 a.m.
- SEPTEMBER 27 **New Master Gardener Class - First Day - Tour of Projects**
- SEPTEMBER 28-29 Volunteer Arboretum Trail Guide Training, Pinnacle Mountain State Park Thursday & Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. School groups will be needing guides. Call the Director of Volunteers at 868-5806 by September 21 to RSVP.
- SEPTEMBER 30 Hawk Watch, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- OCTOBER 9,10 Arkansas State Master Gardener Conference in Eureka Springs.  
**(NO MONTHLY REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN OCTOBER BECAUSE OF CONFERENCE)**
- OCTOBER 4,11,18,25, NOVEMBER 1, 8  
Training Dates for New Master Gardener Class. Adult Center.  
Experienced Master Gardeners welcome if notice is called in by the Friday preceding the class date. Also let Ms. McKinney know if you want lunch. The schedule is:
- |       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 10/4  | Introduction to Basic Plant Science |
| 10/11 | Vegetables & Herbs                  |
| 10/18 | Fruit                               |
| 10/25 | Ornamentals                         |
| 11/1  | Ornamentals                         |
| 11/8  | Turf Grasses                        |
- DECEMBER 7 Master Gardener Christmas Party. Mark your calendar!

### State Master Gardeners Conference, Eureka Springs, October 9 and 10.

On July 21, Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, sent all Master Gardeners a letter enclosing the program for the meetings October 9 - 10, and providing information regarding times and cost. The Registration Fee is only \$30.00 and includes dinner on the 9th, breakfast and lunch on the 10th, and entrance to the Eureka Springs Gardens. There is an optional tour to Little Portion Monastery, the cost of which is \$5.00. Information on the Programs and other information is provided in the Master Gardener Notes located elsewhere in this newsletter.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Trumpet Vine

Cheryl Kennedy, M.G.

As I look out my window, ruby-throated hummingbirds are dogfighting over the trumpet vine by the pond. One would think that with dozens of nectar-filled trumpets, there would be little reason to quarrel, but these little birds are all self-centered and must have played hooky from "Compromise and Sharing 101" while attending the Academy of Aeronautics. Since hummers are so fond of the stuff, it's just as well the trumpet creeper is a generous plant that spreads its shade and flowers as far as it's permitted to wander through a garden. This perennial woody vine can be a stunning addition to your garden, with a pruned specimen concentrating color in a small area, or a less-disciplined plant spilling its vibrant trumpets and dark-green foliage over a 30-foot-long wall. While several other plants go by the common name "trumpet vine" (among them *Bignonia Capreolata* and *Distictis buccinatoria*), this article confines itself to Arkansas' common *Campsis*.

All varieties of *Campsis* grow rapidly if they have their preference of full sun. They are not picky about soil or moisture, and they'll flourish with almost no attention. The common Chinese trumpet creeper, *C. grandiflora*, grows 40 feet or more and sports coral-red trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom from June through September. It sets bean-like fruit during the same period. *C. radicans* has orange, yellow and scarlet flowers and can withstand a variety of wet and dry soils. Or try *Campsis x tagliabuana* 'Mme. Galen,' or the yellow 'Flava.'

These are truly clinging vines. Scaling walls, tree trunks and other potential supports with their aerial roots, they just grab hold and "walk" right on up obstacles. Their branches don't become as heavy as wisteria, which can tear limbs out of a tree, so it's probably safe to grow *Campsis* up a mature tree, if you keep growth under control with annual pruning.

If you grow the trumpets near a tree or other specimen plants, remember that they'll compete for food - be sure to add compost and/or manure several times a year, if you want maximum growth. The more fertilizer, the fewer blooms are likely, however. If you're not overfeeding your plant and it refuses to bloom, it probably is not getting enough sun. When you site these plants, also be sure they're in a spot where they won't become a nuisance, since the growth above and below ground can be rampant. It will help if you can mow around the plant, or at least easily prune any sprouts. If you prune (or, more likely, *when* you prune) the main vine, do it right after blooming is over, so next year's flowers have maximum time to develop. If you want more trumpet creeper, the seeds will sprout, or you can take woody cuttings which should root easily. The plants also have some offshoots from roots that can be separated from the main plant.

Although the vine is pretty hardy and pest resistant, sometimes aphids and spider mites attack. If the leaves are curling, it's probably aphids. If they're turning yellow and mealy, it may be spider mites. Aphids are easy to get rid of with anything, from a strong squirt of water, to insecticidal soap, so you might want to try a more environmentally-friendly method before resorting to Malathion, which can't do hummingbirds or other flying critters that enjoy the vine any good. Remember, before you spray, that hummers include small insects on their menu!

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

**NO MONTHLY MEETING IN OCTOBER!!!** Master Gardener Statewide Meeting, Eureka Springs. Awards are to be presented at Statewide meeting. At the regular monthly M.G. meeting on September 12th, be prepared to make nominations and vote to determine Pulaski County's representatives to compete for the following awards:

**Outstanding Project:** This award recognizes the outstanding Master Gardener project within a county Master Gardener program. Total effort is judged on the scope of the project and its benefit to the community.

**Outstanding Master Gardener:** This award recognizes the individual Master Gardener who has made outstanding efforts in the Master Gardener Program. Degree of involvement, educational impact and evaluation are all important in this category.

**Funny Bone:** This light-hearted award category consists of a comical incident or request which has happened while in your role as an Arkansas Master Gardener.

Programs and presenters planned for the Conference are:

**Larry Lowman**, Owner of Ridgecrest Nursery, Wynne, AR, will present a program on "A Mid-South Nurseryman's Favorite Native Plants;"

**Susan Davisson**, Owner and Grower of Perennials, etc., will present a program on "Adding Color with Perennials for All Four Seasons;"

**Mark Cain**, Co-Owner of Dripping Springs Garden, Huntsville, will present a program on "Organic Raised Bed Techniques for the Home Gardener;"

**Crescent Dragonwagon**, Author and Innkeeper, Dairy Hollow House, Eureka Springs, will present a program on "Exuberant New Country Cooking, As Inspired by the Ozarks' Gardens and Orchards;"

**Dr. Carl Totemeier**, V.P. Emeritus, New York Botanical Gardens, will present a program on "Different and Unusual Bulbs for the Landscape;"

**John Folker** of Eureka Springs Gardens will give an overview of the gardens prior to the departure to tour the Gardens.

For those of you who may have lost the information, the following is provided:

The central location for the meeting will be the Best Western, Inn of the Ozarks. They are giving us a discounted room rate, and will be holding a block of rooms until September 9th. If you choose to stay there, contact them directly at 501-253-9768.

Janet will also be contacting each county for committee members to help with the meeting. If you would like to help, please contact Beth Phelps and let her know! If you would like a copy of the program you can contact Beth at the Pulaski County Extension Office or Janet Carson at the State Extension Service at 671-2000. We hope to see a good turn-out from our group. Make plans to join us in Eureka Springs!



The annual "MUMS - MUSIC - MUSCADINE" festival sponsored by the City of Jacksonville is coming up on September 30th. They will be planting the first week of September. If you would like to help, call Joan Zumwalt at 982-8816. For any Master Gardener who is short on project work hours, this will be a good opportunity to "catch up."

# MASTER GARDENER PROJECT REPORTS

## PROJECT REPORTS

### EXTENSION OFFICE.

Our gardens are doing well. We have placed soaker hoses in the rose beds. They are very helpful. We need some monkey grass to finish that project along the walk. We are praying for rain!

*reported by Martha Staples*

### WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

All we are doing at the present time is watering (and watering) and deadheading. Many, many thanks for everyone's help during the awful heat and drought. Please continue your fine job!

*reported by Carol Clawson*

### OLD STATE HOUSE.

During these long, hot summer days, the tall, leggy impatiens in the four gardens were beginning to fade away, so we trimmed and fertilized them to help bring them back to full bloom for the remainder of the Summer. Looking toward Fall, there will be a project work day in late October to pull out the impatiens and plant pansies for the winter. More details will be included in a letter sent the first of October to the Committee members.

*reported by Linda Holbert.*

*NOTE: If you wish to report on your project, send the reports to Laura Lasiter at 2005 West 13th Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114, to reach her no later than the 10th of each month.*

*If you attend a gardening seminar or event, we'd love to hear about it. Articles about gardening research are also welcome, as are book reports and any reports of Master Gardener events which you attend. Any other information which you feel would be informative or entertaining to other Master Gardeners is welcome. Also, if you would like to see an article regarding a favorite plant or one which you would like to know more about, or articles on plant problems, let us know and we will try to feature it in one of the "Plant of the Month" articles or elsewhere in the newsletter. (The plants of the month that have been featured include Aloe, Amaryllis, The Paw Paw Tree, Shamrock, Daffodils, Wisteria, Parsley, Peonies (2X), Daylily, Iris, Azalea, Crape Myrtle (2X), Aster, Chrysanthemum, Hybrid Lilies and this month - Trumpet Vine.)*

*You can call Laura Lasiter with your information (if brief) or submit it in written form. Information is due no later than the 10th of each month. If it is a request to see information on a favorite plant or something which you would like to more about, give Laura a call and she will see that the proper person receives the request in order to prepare the information for the newsletter.*





# Master Minutes

October 1995

Volume 6 Issue 9

## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Martha Whitehurst  
**CHILDREN:** Husband, Pete and two sons, one grandson.  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
**PROJECT:** Pinnacle Mountain Gardens

Martha has lived in Arkansas all her life. She is a member of the Chenal Garden Club and The Herb Society of America. She and her

husband enjoy making walking trails on their hill over the river in western Pulaski County. Growing flowers and herbs is a challenge in the red clay and shale. She also works in the Governor's Mansion Herb Garden and the Blind School Herb Garden. Her other hobby is fishing with Pete.



**NAME:** Connie Ruth Smith  
**BECAME A MG:** 1994  
Husband, Lyndel; two children and two stepchildren.

Connie and her husband own a small business in North Little Rock involved in commercial construction. Her favorite flower is the gardenia. Her other interests

include serving on the board of the Maumelle Property Owners Association and Sunbay Property Owners Association. She and her family are also active in their church. She is somewhat of a celebrity, having appeared on TV's Rescue 911 in connection with her rescue of a child from Lake Hamilton (he recovered completely)!



### THOUGHTS FOR LIFE

*"We once had a lily here that bore 108 flowers on one stalk; It was photographed naturally for all the gardening papers. The bees came from miles and miles, and there was the most disgraceful Bacchanalian scenes: bees hardly able to find their way home!"*

#### inside...

Master Gardener October Checklist  
Calendar of Events  
Plant of the Month ... The Heritage Rose  
Master Gardener Notes

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page 3  
page 4  
page 6

## MASTER GARDENER 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 avail-

able 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. If you've been experiencing problems in your lawn, vegetable or flower garden, now is a good time to have a soil test conducted so that you can make whatever adjustments might be necessary this fall so that the soil will be ready by the Spring.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 9-10 State Master Gardeners Conference, Eureka Springs. (See Details Below)  
(NO MONTHLY REGULAR MASTER GARDENER MEETING IN OCTOBER  
BECAUSE OF CONFERENCE)
- OCT 4, 11, 18, 25 Training Dates for New Master Gardener Class. Adult Center.  
NOV 1, 8 Experienced Master Gardeners welcome if notice is called in by the Friday  
preceding the class date. Also let Ms. McKinney know if you want lunch.  
The schedule is:
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| 10/4  | Introduction to Basic Plant Science |
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| 10/25 | Ornamentals                         |
| 11/1  | Ornamentals                         |
| 11/8  | Turf Grasses                        |
- OCT 5 - 8 Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View, AR.
- Oct. 5: Sumptuous Herb Harvest Dinner. 7 p.m. reception featuring autumn herbal punches and hors d'oeuvres. 8 p.m. candlelight dinner with banquet of the Ozarks' finest cuisine served in formal style and accompanied by live music. \$15.00 - advance registration required.
- Oct. 6-8: Herb Harvest Fall Festival. Nationally recognized special guest: Tom De-Baggio of Arlington, VA, a commercial producer of herb plants and advocate of *urban farming*, the intensive use of urban land for horticultural purposes, and noted writer and editor. Other noted herbists and horticulturists lecture and demonstrate. The craft area will showcase the finest herbal crafts, culinary products, everlastings and plants and seeds for sale. Fees: \$60 for 3 days, \$40 for 2 days, \$22.50 per day. Call the Folk Center at 501-269-3851 for additional information. (FAX is 501-269-2909).
- OCT 21-22 Pinnacle Mountain Rendezvous '95. 4th Annual Fall Festival brings together mountain men, indians, pioneers, artists, antique purveyors, great food, country music, and much more! A \$3.00 parking fee includes shuttle and admission.
- NOVEMBER 14 REGULAR M.G. MEETING. Arkla Blue Flame Room - 11:30 a.m.
- DECEMBER 7 Master Gardener Christmas Party. Mark your calendar!

### State Master Gardeners Conference, Eureka Springs, October 9 and 10.

On July 21, Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, sent all Master Gardeners a letter enclosing the program for the meetings October 9 - 10, and providing information regarding times and cost. The Registration Fee is only \$30.00 and includes dinner on the 9th, breakfast and lunch on the 10th, and entrance to the Eureka Springs Gardens. There is an optional tour to Little Portion Monastery, the cost of which is \$5.00. Information on the Programs and other information is provided in the Master Gardener Notes located elsewhere in this newsletter.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### The Heritage Rose (Queen of Flowers) - What Are They? A Brief History

Species-wild-of the genus *Rosa* have been identified almost everywhere in the Northern hemisphere - as far north as Alaska and Norway and as far south as North Africa and Mexico. None are found in the Southern Hemisphere. Fossilized remains over 30 million years old have been found.

The Chinese were the first to cultivate - 500 years before Christ! Confucius wrote of roses in the Imperial Gardens. The Persians were the first to make big money on roses. They established a flourishing trade in attar of roses (oil distilled from rose petals). The Greeks cultivated roses for perfume, beauty, and medicinal purposes. The rose was dedicated to two deities: Aphrodite (Goddess of love and beauty) and Dionysus (God of revelry). All this carried on to Roman times. During the peak of the Roman Empire, 300 years after the birth of Christ, the Romans were seriously raising roses - in greenhouses and forcing blooms using hot water! After the fall of the Roman Empire, the rose fell into disfavor by the church and was banned. Roses were only grown in monasteries for medicinal purposes. In 1000 AD their beauty could not be denied and they were again found growing in manor gardens for odor control.

The Crusaders brought back stories of beautiful roses in the Middle East. In England, roses were being grown and during the 15th century, there was the War of Roses (a fight over the throne of England). The House of York was represented by a white rose and the House of Lancaster was represented by a red rose. Henry VII united England and took the Tudor Rose as his symbol (white rose superimposed on red) and it is still the symbol of English royalty. During the Renaissance period there was emphasis on beauty and design and the rose was held in high regard in the paintings.

Three important things happened to change the history of the rose:

In 1752, roses which bloomed all the time were introduced from China;

During the reign of Empress Josephine (married to Napoleon), she wanted a huge garden with all plants represented, but especially the roses which were her favorites. Millions of roses were grown and bred in hopes of getting one chosen for her garden. Roses became the rage.

In 1868, the hybrid tea rose was first developed while the Civil War was going on. The first was LaFrance. The hybrid teas held their blooms upright on strong stems. They embodied perfection of bud and bloom. They were frequent bloomers, in bright colors, on ugly bushes with lots of fragrance. 95% of roses sold now are hybrid teas.

Before 1868, the American Rose Society had a classification of "heritage rose." However, most "old rose people" classify the heritage rose simply as grown "before 1918." The classification of modern rose applies to roses developed after 1868 when the first hybrid tea rose was introduced.

Additional printed information was given as handouts at the September M.G. meeting. Topics such as, "Where Did They Come From," "Do I Want Them? Here Are Some We've Tried (Species, native & Climbers, Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia, China, Moss, Bourbon, Portland, Tea, Noisette, Hybrid Perpetual, Rugosa, and Musk," and "Characteristics of Roses - Alba, Bourbon, Centifolia, China, Damask, Gallica, Hybrid Perpetual, Portland, Rugosa and Tea." If you would like to have a copy of any of the information, let Beth know.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## MAIL ORDER SOURCES FOR OLD GARDEN ROSES

The following list of mail order nurseries is included to assist you in locating plants that may be unavailable locally. Some of the nurseries offer catalogs for which there may be a charge. It is suggested that you enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. This list is by no means complete.

Antique Rose Emporium	Rt. 5, Box 143, Brenham, Texas 77833	(409) 836-9051
Country Heritage Roses	Rt. 2, Box 1401, Scurry, Texas 75158	(214) 452-3380
Donovan's Roses	P. O. Box 37800, Shreveport, LA 71133 (Free List)	
Forest Farm	990 Tetherow Rd., Williams, Oregon 97544	(503) 846-6963
Greenmantle Nursery	3010 Ettersburg Rd., Garberville, CA 95440	(707) 986-7504
Hastings-Seedsman to the South	434 Marietta St., N.W., P.O. Box 4274 Atlanta, GA 30302	(404) 524-8861
Heirloom Old Garden Roses	24062 NE Riverside Drive, St. Paul, Oregon 97137	(503) 538-1576
Heritage Rose Garden	16831 Mitchell Creek Dr., Ft. Bragg, CA 95437	
High Country Rosarium 1717	Downing St., Denver, Colo. 80218	(303) 832-4026
Roses of Yesterday & Today, Inc.	802 Brown's Valley Rd., Watsonville, CA 97076	
Rose Acres	6641 Crystal Blvd., Diamond Spgs., CA 95619	(916) 626-1722
Wayside Gardens	1 Garden Lane, Hodges, SC, 29695-0001	(800) 845-1124
Yesterday's Rose	572 Las Colindas Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903	

## SOURCES FOR INFORMATION

The Old Texas Rose (quarterly newsletter), Mrs. Margaret P. Sharpe, 9426 Kerrwood, Houston, TX 77080

The Yellow Rose (monthly newsletter), Joe M. Woodard, 8636 Sans Souci Dr., Dallas, TX, 75238

Bev Dobson's Rose Letter (bi-monthly newsletter), 215 Harriman Rd., Irvington, NY 10533

The Heritage Rose Foundation, Charles A. Walker, Jr., 1512 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606

The American Rose Society, P. O. Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA 71130

Heritage Rose Group (Published Quarterly), Karen Walbrun, Rt. 2, Bx 6661, Pipe Creek, TX 78063

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

**NO MONTHLY MEETING IN OCTOBER!!!** Master Gardener Statewide Meeting, Eureka Springs. Complete Information on this trip was provided in the September newsletter.

At the September Master Gardener Meeting, Jane Gulley and Ellen Kane, both Pulaski County Master Gardeners, conducted an excellent program on Heritage Roses. Information on them is found elsewhere in the newsletter.

### ITS A SMALL WORLD by Beth Phelps

A few weeks ago I received a card. Since Mrs. McKinney opens my mail, I didn't pay attention to the envelope. I just began reading. The fact that the greeting was to Carolyn didn't slow me down. I finally stopped after reading the first paragraph thinking, "this doesn't make any sense." I then looked at the envelope. The card was addressed to Carolyn Newbern, care of the Pulaski County Extension Office. The contents then began to make sense. This was a schoolmate of Carolyn's from years ago. They had not kept in touch and this note was an attempt to contact an old friend who, it turns out, was also a Master Gardener and plant enthusiast. Carolyn's friend is a Master Gardener in Wichita, Kansas with a close friend in Fayetteville who is also a Master Gardener but does not know Carolyn. The Fayetteville Master Gardener had sent her Kansas gardening friend the article about the Master Gardener Program from the AR Democrat Gazette. It must have been a delight to recognize one of the Master Gardeners in the picture as a childhood school mate!

### AS PANSY PLANTING TIME APPROACHES, THIS MIGHT BE HELPFUL!

#### HOW MANY PLANTS DO I NEED?

Avoiding overbuying or underbuying the number of betting plants you need isn't all that complicated. All it takes is some simple arithmetic.

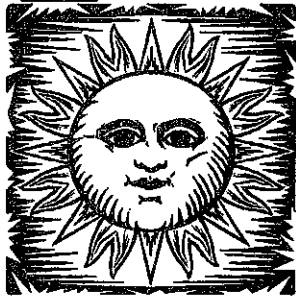
- 1.) Measure the area of your garden and calculate its square footage (width x length = square feet). If the area is irregularly shaped - oval, round or long and winding - a rough estimate will be good enough.
- 2.) Use the chart below to estimate the number of plants you will need. You will probably want to get at least a few more than you will need, just in case some are damaged by weather, animals or other pests.  
NOTE: If you are using plants with different spacing recommendations in a single area, estimate the square footage you will be using for each plant type.

Recommended Spacing	Number of Plants per Sq. Ft.
6"	4
8"	2.25
10"	1.44
12"	1
18"	.44
24"	.25

Please send your timesheets in to Beth.

The end of the year is fast approaching!





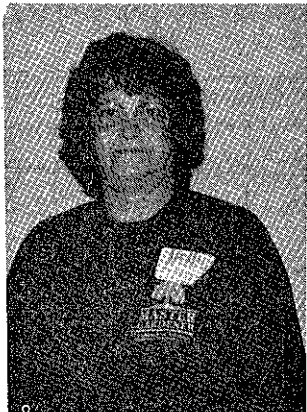
# Master Minutes



November 1995

Volume 6 Issue 10

## Meet our Master Gardeners



**NAME:** Lena M. Holland  
**CHILDREN:** two girls and one boy.  
**BECAME MG:** 1992  
**FAVORITE PLANT:** Single Rose

Lena's ninety-one year old mother had a nursery and greenhouse near Morrilton. She has continued the tradition by having a paradise or "jungle" in her backyard. No grass to mow, only beautiful living plants. She also has an extensive container garden. Her kissing dutch boy and girl statue is her favorite garden addition. She collects Franciscan and Frankoma pottery. Lena owns the LR-WLR Kumon Learning Center, a back to basics after school learning center for persons in age groups from kindergarten through college. Her greatest enjoyment is walking in her garden in the early morning.



**NAME:** Linda Hubbell  
**CHILDREN:** Two, ages 12 and 21.  
**BECAME MG:** 1991  
**FAVORITE PLANTS:** Wildflowers and Native fern  
Linda was born and raised in Nebraska. She says at the age of eight months her mother sat her in a box in a garden while her mother planted the spring garden and she has been gardening ever since! Her gardening frustration is bad soil, but she makes it from compost. Hobbies are water color, painting and photography. She also has had one children's book published, and makes corn-shuck dolls for museums. She loves to see the first perennial in the spring. Her husband is District Agent for Cooperative Extension Service.

### THOUGHTS FOR LIFE

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

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## MASTER GARDENER 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, crinums, shasta daisies, African irises, daylilies, lycoris and goldenrod. After Chrysanthemums have finished blooming, cut them back to just a few inches above the ground.

**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 tuberoses 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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- NOV 8      **Last M.G. Training Class - Turfgrass.**  
Adult Center, Little Rock. If you want to go, let Beth know in advance.
- NOV 9      **War Memorial Gardens Planting Date;** 1 p.m. All MG's welcome to come and help out.
- NOV 11     **"Fungal Jungle", Mushroom Workshop - Pinnacle Mountain State Park**  
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. \$8.00 at the door.
- NOV 14     **REGULAR M.G. MEETING.** Ark-La Blue Flame Room - 11:30 a.m.  
Open Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- DEC 7      **MASTER GARDENER CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Mark your calendar!
- JAN 9      **REGULAR M.G. MEETING.** Ark-La Blue Flame Room - 11:30 a.m.  
Open Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- JAN 15-16   **Arkansas Turfgrass Association Meeting.** Statehouse Convention Center
- JAN 19-20   **Arkansas Horticultural Society Meeting.** Fort Smith.
- JAN 26-27   **Arkansas Nurserymen's Association Meeting.** Statehouse Convention Center

## MASTER GARDENER PROJECT NOTES

**STATE HOSPITAL:** The committee plans to plant pansies on October 30th and 31st, starting at 9:00 a.m. in the morning until about 3:00 p.m. both days. Committee members (or any other Master Gardeners wanting to help out or earn hours) are welcome to come one or both days and anytime between 9:00 and 3:00, for one hour or many! The gardens look great. I cannot thank those who have worked on this project enough. You should be proud of yourselves and your positive impact on our community. Please remember October 30 and 31st workdays.

\_\_\_\_\_ reported by Jane Gulley, Chairperson

**HORTICULTURE THERAPY - BAPTIST REHAB INSTITUTE:** The committee gave instructions and assisted a group of 7 participants on October 7 in making dried hydrangea wreaths. Each participant was given a dried grapevine wreath, then chose from dried blue-green or burgundy spray-painted hydrangeas. Every wreath was unique and most were accented with a natural raffia bow. The program was led by Ann Bridgers. Master Gardener Assistants were: Sandra Miller, Aleta Newell, Mildred Walton and Hilda Boger.

\_\_\_\_\_ reported by Anne Bridgers, Program Leader

**WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN:** The garden looks beautiful! Many thank you's to all of you who helped. The severe deadheading, fertilizing and watering paid off. A work day for pansy planting is scheduled for the 9th of November at 1:00 p.m. Please bring trowels and kneepads.

\_\_\_\_\_ reported by Carol Clawson, Chairperson

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

### CLEOME

by M.G. Cheryl Kennedy

When I was a child, my grandmother grew pink-and-white spider plants that bloomed from May or June until the frost killed them late in the fall. I sowed seeds from descendants in her yard when we built our house 20 years ago, and their progeny are still going strong!

The dark green, palmate foliage is attractive, especially in April and May before the blooms really get started. While the white blooms brighten a garden any time of day, the pink-and-white tones fairly glow near sunset. Flower clusters are 7 to 9 inches across with trailing stamens; long, skinny green seed pods form in circles around the stem while new flowers keep popping out on top. Butterflies and hummingbirds seek the plants during the day; at night moths hover in droves over the flowers.

The spider plants are also known as *Cleome hasslerana* or *Cleome spinosa*; I suppose because the mature plants have spiny stems, like the prickles on okra or maybe a little worse (wear gloves when you pull older plants). "Pink Queen" is a variety that won a silver medal for excellence. "Helen Campbell" is a pure white. "Cherry Queen" has rosy flowers leaning toward red. "Violet Queen" has blue-violet blossoms. There are also "Ruby Queen" and "Rose Queen" varieties.

Stems are three to six feet tall, and blooms branch out on all sides of the main stem. I suppose that you could control bloom size by controlling the number of lateral blooms, but I've never tried. Late in the season, plants can become rather gangly, despite their strong stems, so use them scattered at the back of a tall border, or give them a wild, informal area in which to proliferate. They would also make interesting screen plants, or tub plants for a large patio.

These tender annuals prefer full sun (they don't grow as tall or bloom as well in partial shade) and rich soil on the dry side. Sow the seeds outside when the ground is warm, or buy transplants. When I've transplanted from one place to another in my yard, the plants invariably wilt despite cool days, moist ground, etc. However, even plants that looked like they were too dehydrated to make it not only survived but flourished. So, don't despair if they look like they're on their last gasp for a few days after you transplant.

These plants are prolific seeders - it seems to me like if all the seeds from only one plant germinated, they ought to produce enough seedlings to cover at least an acre! *Cleome* reseeds readily from year to year, unless you mulch heavily. When the plants begin to bloom, pull up any of a color you don't like to increase the chance of seeds remaining true to the color you do want.

The only pest I've noticed is white flies. Common remedies will work just fine I'm sure, but I'm always leery of insecticides on plants that attract so many butterflies, moths and hummers.

*Cleome* is definitely one of my old-fashioned favorites, with its huge flowers that are luminescent at dusk, long bloom from late spring to frost, pretty foliage, few demands on the gardener and great attraction for butterflies, moths and hummingbirds.

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

- ☞ Carl Hunter, noted author and wildflower expert, will present our program at the November 14th meeting. He has recently published another book, "Autumn Leaves-Winter Berries." All of his books will be available to Master Gardeners at a 20% discount.
- ☞ MG Nancy Casey says that she and several other Master Gardeners thought they would like to bring their copies of gardening magazines that they are finished with to the MG meeting each month and put them out on the table for others to pick up and take home. This sounds like a great idea! If any of you also have gardening magazines you're finished with, but can't bear to throw out, bring them with you to share -they provide a wealth of articles on plants and gardening information.
- ☞ Good News! Several huge gardens are planned for the new, 40-acre, \$14 million technology campus of the University of Arkansas System. At the southeast corner of the campus, at Hawthorne and University, along with the entry plaza and gatehouse, a native meadow garden and a wetland garden are planned. Along the southwest corner, Hawthorne and McKinley, spring bulbs and an azalea garden will be planted. A woodland pond, shade garden and spring garden will also be located in this corner. This area will also have a woodland wildflower walk on winding paths through old trees spared by the master planner who designed the gardens. A "heritage garden" is planned for the center of the campus. It will include old fashioned fruits and vegetables, rose arbors and medicinal herbs. Just south of the president's home, which is the completed building in the northeast corner of the campus, a family herb garden filled with fruit trees, herbs and flowering vines will be planted. The northeast corner, Brentwood and University, will have a meadow garden, shade garden and spring bulbs. The campus is being built on the former Pine Border estate, which was willed to the University of Arkansas in August, 1957, by the late Kate Cammack with the proviso that it be used for educational and cultural purposes. One of the more interesting plans for the Cammack Campus is for students to have available a kind of living laboratory, where they can study landscape architecture hands on. This development and planned use of the property will enhance the community in which it is located and would, no doubt, make Mrs. Cammack very proud!
- ☞ DON'T FORGET! Last month Beth mailed all Master Gardeners a Garden Project and Organizational Committee sign-up form, along with a list of Master Gardener Projects, and a return envelope. If you haven't done so, take a few minutes and fill these forms out and return them to her by November 10th, so new committees can be formed for 1996. Even if you want to remain on the same project/committee, it is important that you return your completed form.
- ☞ If any of you need to get work hours in, Carol Clawson, Chairperson of the War Memorial Garden, has scheduled a work day for planting pansies on Thursday, the 9th of November at 1:00 p.m. and she would love to have you come and help out. Just come and bring trowel and kneepads.



## Five Years of Service Certificate Recipients



Standing: Pat Green, Ellen Kane, Ruth Owings, Ruth Jones, Sally Garrison, Dotty Heckenbach, Linda Dantzler, Cecelia Buck, Beth Phelps; Sitting: Ann Cooper, Ann Ward, Martha Staples

**Not Pictured:**

Don Thompson  
Ruth Parker  
Pat Marchese  
Ruth Gibson  
Breck Campbell

Anne Turner  
Olivia Patterson  
Marcia Holder  
Joe Dickens  
Roxie Adams

Dorothy Viers  
Gail Roberson  
Linda Hubbell  
Marie Flickenger  
Ginger Coggins

Karen Vesole  
Kay Shurgar  
Jane Gulley  
Shirley Garnett  
Stacy Loggins

Nancy Wade  
Aleta Newell  
Maxine Hamilton  
Dick Carter

# CONGRATULATIONS!!

This MASTER MINUTES newsletter is compiled by Master Gardeners to support the Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Pulaski County Master Gardeners have contributed over 16,000 hours of service to the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service since 1989. The Master Gardener Program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent - Agriculture



# Master Minutes

December 1995

Volume 6 Issue 11

## Meet our Master Gardeners



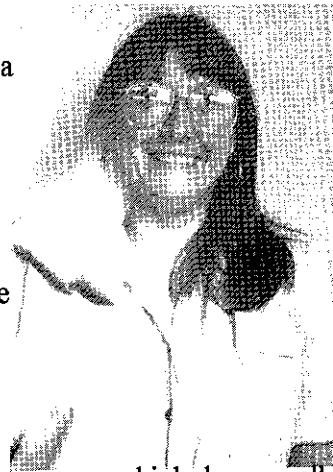
NAME: Cathy Sanders  
CHILDREN: Spouse, Luis, a teacher at UAMS and four daughters who are: an architect; a pediatrician; a teacher and a college student. She also has six grandchildren and one on the way.

BECAME A MG: 1994 GARDENING

FRUSTRATION: trying to

keep up with her husband in his knowledge of gardening and not being able to remember the correct names of every wild flower.

Cathy has sung in the choir at Pulaski Heights Methodist Church since 1958. She became a registered dietitian at the University of Minnesota, however, she grew up in Ames, Iowa and went to Iowa State University. She is on the Regional Aids Interface Network Team (RAIN).



NAME: Cheryl Kennedy  
CHILDREN: Two - a daughter, Krista and a son, Shawn.

BECAME MG: 1994

FAVORITE PLANTS:

Everything has its good points, but she especially likes the Ageratum which was just beautiful this year by her doorstep. She also enjoys her roses as well as her elephant

ears which do so well that they grow as high as the roof every year.

GARDENING FRUSTRATION: Spider Mites.

Cheryl was born in California but considers herself a native Arkansan since she has lived here all but two years. She has been a writer for fifteen years and has graciously agreed to be the editor of the Master Gardener Newsletter for 1996. She currently writes a gardening column for the local Active Years magazine and writes cover stories for the Branson, Missouri Active Years magazine. She serves as Associate Editor for both publications. Most of you will recognize her as the lady who drives a red sports touring motorcycle!



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## MASTER GARDENER 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. Move perennials anytime in late January as soon as soil is friable enough.

**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 (mulch with pine straw to prolong your supply of greens). 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. Trees & shrubs may be moved in late January any time soil is friable enough. 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. Make necessary repairs to cold frames.

**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. Order seed for early planting.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- DECEMBER 7                   **MASTER GARDENER CHRISTMAS PARTY.** Mark your calendar!
- DECEMBER 26               **CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING.** For Wildlife Shelter & Erosion Control. Pinnacle Mountain State Park - Call Visitor Center for location to drop off.
- JANUARY 9                   **REGULAR M.G. MEETING.** Ark-La Blue Flame Room - 11:30 a.m.  
Open Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- JANUARY 15-16           **Arkansas Turfgrass Association Meeting.** Statehouse Convention Center. Call Beth for details if interested in attending.
- JANUARY 19-20           **Arkansas Horticultural Society Meeting.** Fort Smith. Call Beth for details if interested in attending.
- JANUARY 26-27           **Arkansas Nurserymen's Association Meeting.** Statehouse Convention Center. Call Beth for details if interested in attending.
- FEBRUARY 13               **REGULAR M.G. MEETING.** Ark-La Blue Flame Room - 11:30 a.m.  
Open Board Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
- FEBRUARY 23,24,25      **ARKANSAS FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW**
- APRIL 22-25               **M.G. BUS TRIP TO THE TEXAS HILL COUNTRY.** A Janet Carson Tour. Visiting Antique Roses, Bluebonnets, and delightful Herb Gardens. Price: \$399.00 per person based on double occupancy. Includes roundtrip transportation on a deluxe coach, three nights lodging, full breakfast each morning, one dinner, two lunches, all admissions, fees and guides, fully escorted from Little Rock. Call Diamond Tours at 1-800-451-3552 for reservations. Reserve deposit due by February 1, 1996. They accept Visa & Mastercard.
- MAY 6-8                    **Southeast Region Master Gardener Continued Training Conference,** Pensacola Beach, Florida. To place your name on the mailing list to receive a free information packet, mail your name, address, city, state and zip code to Escambia County Extension Service, c/o Continued Training, P. O. Box 7154, Pensacola, FL 32534, or for additional information you can call Bruce A. Chladny, Horticulture Extension Agent, (904) 477-0953,  
FAX (904) 477-2893.
- AUGUST 12-27            **FUNDRAISER CRUISE/TOUR OF BRITISH ISLES GARDENS ON THE PRINCESS LOVEBOAT, ISLAND PRINCESS.** Ship is sold out except for their 25 staterooms. Space will go on sale Nov. 1 through mail and phone orders. Prices start at \$4,399 pp/do (includes air, 12-day cruise, hotel and 10 full day garden/sight-seeing tours and a \$100 tax deductible donation. All donations benefit educational goals of University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and WA State Master Gardeners' Foundation. For further information/reservations, call 441-7447 (State of Washington) or 1-800-340-7447.

If you have copies of gardening magazines that you are thinking of throwing away, don't! Bring them with you to the MG meetings to swap with other gardeners. There will be space provided on the tables each month to put them for others to pick up and take home.

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## HOLIDAY CACTUS WHAT KIND OF HOLIDAY CACTUS DO YOU HAVE?

Source: Escambia County Florida Master Gardener Newsletter

### Thanksgiving Cactus

The most common is *Schlumbergera truncata* (formerly *Zygocactus truncatus*), the Thanksgiving or Crab Cactus. It flowers over an extended period from late October through December, but most plants peak out around Thanksgiving. Flowers are irregular with the calyx (outer-most group of floral parts) smooth on the surface. Many hybrids are available, with colors ranging from white to pink, red or orange-red. To identify: the Thanksgiving cactus has horned leaf segments.

### Christmas Cactus

The Christmas cactus, *Schlumbergera bridgesii* (incorrectly called *Zygocactus truncata*), is an old-fashioned plant which many a grandmother has been growing on the front porch for years. It has nearly regular flowers, mostly cherry-red in color. It flowers more sparsely than Thanksgiving cactus and blooms around Christmas. It is not nearly as dependable a bloomer as *S. truncata* and many growers have abandoned it in favor of the easier-to-bloom Thanksgiving Cactus. To identify: the Christmas cactus has rounded leaf segments.

### Easter Cactus

The Easter cactus (*Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*, sometimes listed *Schlumbergera Makoyana*) has regular flowers ranging from pink to red to violet. It has a five-winged calyx and blooms in late winter or early spring, often around Easter. It is the least common of the species. To identify: the Easter cactus has flat or sometimes triangular leaf segments and tufts of brown hairs at the joints.

### GROWING REQUIREMENTS

The holiday cactus is native to tropical rain forests, unlike the vast majority of cacti which grow in dry desert areas. In nature, this plant grows on trees and shrubs, its roots serving as a means of secure attachment to the host; most other cacti grow rooted in the ground. As a result of these dissimilarities and others, the holiday cactus is cared for quite differently than most of its relatives. The Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas cacti have similar cultural requirements. Thus, each can be grown successfully by following the instructions below:

**Light:** Direct sunlight, except during summer when light intensity is high, at which time it may need protection from midday sun which can burn the stems. If in a window with hot sunlight during summer, move to location with indirect light or shade with sheer curtains or partially close venetian blinds.

**Water:** Water when top inch of soil in container feels dry to touch. Then, soak thoroughly until water comes through holes in bottom of pot. Wait 15 minutes, then discard water in drip saucer.

**Humidity:** Grows best when humidity is high. If necessary to increase humidity, place pot with drip saucer on tray filled with pebbles. Pour water over pebbles but don't allow water to rise above bottom of top layer of pebbles. Evaporation of water will humidify the plants.

**Soil:** Equal parts peat moss, perlite and packaged potting soil. Use caution on soil mixes with lime, since holiday cacti prefer somewhat more acidic soils.

**Fertilizer:** Water-soluble chemical fertilizer suitable for flowering house plants. Use every month at full strength or every two weeks at half strength. Reduce frequency of fertilization from autumn until after plants have flowered and new growth has begun.

**Pests:** Mainly mealybugs which resemble tiny wads of white cotton wool on undersides of stems or between stem "links." Control minor infestations by hand picking with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Or, wash plants with weak, soapy (not detergent) water and soft brush or cloth. Cover soil with aluminum to prevent soap contamination.

**Propagation:** Stem cuttings are the easiest method. Cuttings of 3 to 5 stem segments will root readily in moist vermiculite. Planting several cuttings in a 4-inch pot will produce a full plant relatively fast.

**Flowering:** Both temperature and day length affect flowering. Flower buds will form under the following conditions.

1. If night temperature maintained at 50-55 degrees F., buds will be produced regardless of day length.
2. If temperature between 55-70 degrees, 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness will result in bud formation.
3. If temperature between 70-75 degrees, 15 hours of uninterrupted darkness will result in bud formation. Buds produced under warmer temperatures may drop before opening. Thus, the first two conditions are preferred.

Uninterrupted darkness means NO light during the dark period, including light from lamps inside the home and from street lamps outdoors. To provide the dark periods described under conditions 2 and 3, cover plants with black cloth or place in a light-tight closet during the night. (Realize that if the temperature inside the closet is in the 70-75 degree range, 15 hours of darkness are required as described under condition 3.) Plants must be given darkness each night until buds are produced (approximately 6-9 weeks). Remember, if plants are grown in a cool location, 50-55 degrees, they do not require a dark period. A common and grave mistake is to leave plants in the dark 24 hours a day. The plants require direct light every day following the dark period.

### Preventing Premature Flower Bud Drop

Avoid drafts and rapid fluctuations in temperature after buds have been set; water correctly, as described above; keep humidity high; and avoid moving the plant from one place to another, or even rotating it, once color is visible in the buds.

### OTHER HOLIDAY PLANT HELPFUL HINTS:

Want to know how to rid your trees of mistletoe? Mistletoe is a traditional holiday greenery which is actually a damaging parasite that obtains all of its water and nutrients from its host plant. Breaking off the mistletoe will make the tree look better, but the mistletoe will grow back unless you cut a chip from the tree where it is attached. If the limb is small, consider removing the entire branch. Then, treat the wounded area with pruning sealer or orange shellac. Keep away from children as the berries are poisonous.

Buds in the center of the "bloom" on your poinsettia may still be small and green, or they may have opened into little yellow flowers. However, if these are dying and dropping off, the plant is past its prime. The bracts or "petals" should be fully colored without too much green, and the plant should have strong stems and green leaves. Make sure it gets plenty of sunlight. Pull the foil back to expose all leaves. Lack of light will cause the leaves to turn yellow. Keep soil evenly moist (not wet) and don't expose to cold drafts.

## MASTER GARDENER NOTES

- ☞ We were all very saddened to learn of the death of Jeff Johnson, Master Gardener, who was a mainstay at the Zoo Garden and the Pinnacle Arboretum. He will be missed greatly! At the regular Master Gardener meeting in November, the group voted to make a donation to the Arboretum to have a memorial plaque placed on one of the trees in his name.
- ☞ Beth announced that there was a shortage of persons signing up for the Social, Travel and Program Committees. The Social Committee plans the annual picnic and Christmas party and is usually composed of three to four people. The Travel Committee plans approximately 1 trip/tour per month. This committee is usually composed of ten to fifteen people. The Program Committee arranges programs and speakers for each monthly meeting and this committee is usually composed of about two to three people. Contact Beth if you are interested in serving on any of the above three committees.
- ☞ Ann Ward was elected Secretary by acclamation following her nomination by the Nominating Committee.
- ☞ **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The annual Flower & Garden Show is February 23, 24 and 25. We hope you will set aside time from your busy schedule to come help out. Workers are needed all three days. Beth is enclosing a notice with this newsletter with details.
- ☞ Those who were able to attend the statewide Master Gardener Meeting in Eureka Springs had a great time! Next year the event will be held in Hot Springs. Janet Carson sent her thanks for all the Pulaski County Master Gardeners do.
- ☞ Carl Hunter, noted author and native plant expert, presented a wonderful and informative program on autumn leaves and winter berries to the Master Gardeners present at the November Master Gardener regular meeting. He has recently published a new book entitled, "Autumn Leaves - Winter Berries," copies of which were available to Master Gardeners attending the meeting at a 20% discount. He told the group he is presently planning new wildflower gardens at Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Little Rock Country Club, and Wildwood Center and is helping plan landscaping with native shrubs and plants at Lakeview Country Club. He told the group there are also plans for wildflower meadows at the Aerospace Center at the Airport and the City of Little Rock is contemplating planting wildflowers in vacant lots. It's always fascinating to hear Carl speak on native plants and to give us many ideas for incorporating them into our landscapes.

## MASTER GARDENER TRADING POST

**Clark Taplin** (350-6860) has cock's comb seeds  
**Jan Richardson** (664-5292) has violets  
**Cheryl Todd** (835-0211) has lamb's ear  
**Jeanne Luzar** (835-5431) has tall, orangy cannas  
**Fred Henker** (565-7260) has assorted house-plants, wants rosemary and tarragon  
**Trudy Goolsby** (835-5068) has purple, homstead verbena (perennial)

**Elmer Van Egmond** has single red cannas and, possibly, daylilies  
**Mary Russell-Evans** wants hardy begonia  
**Kathleen Wesson**, in May and June, has tons of impatiens to give away. Also has hardy begonia.  
**Billie Kirkpatrick** (663-1449) has dry, raked pine needles for mulch

## 1995-1996 PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Karen L. Andersen	304 Maple, LR 72205	(H) 664-3937
Dick C. Blankenkemper	5809 Eagle Creek Rd., NLR 72116	(H) 835-0806 (W) 945-6414
Phillip Bullard	5813 "B" St., LR 72205	(H) 664-0590
Dick Butler	5905 Forest Pl.#210, LR 72207	(H) 225-3247 (W) 661-9808
Ann Cother	2213 Middleton Dr., NLR 72116	(H) 753-1547
Don Cother	2213 Middleton Dr., NLR 72116	(H) 753-1547
Debbie Cummings	309 Ridgelea, Sherwood 72120	(H) 834-7640 (W) 834-6649
Janeen W. Cushman	12 DuClair Ct., LR 72211	(H) 821-2244
Margaret Dorland	3115 Echo Valley, LR 72227	(H) 954-9236
Nan Jo Dube	1812 Waterside Dr., NLR 72116	(H) 758-1457
Claude E. Epperson	4901 Oaklawn Dr., NLR 72116	(H) 753-8198
Jackye Finch	6 River Glen Circle, LR 72202	(H) 666-1264
Bill Freeman	708 Gillette Dr., LR 72205	(H) 225-3846 (W) 227-2362
Pat Furr	7121 W. Ridge Rd., Roland 72135	(H) 868-8396
Carolyn A. Goettsch	61 Shoshoni Dr., Sherwood 72120	(H) 835-8522
Trudy Goolsby	8 Christopher Ct., Sherwood 72120	(H) 835-5068
Peggy Gray	1100 Cache River Rd., NLR 72116	(H) 753-7151
April Higgins	6920 Stagecoach Rd., LR 72204	(H) 455-1348 (W) 371-4770
Earl Hilliard	9 Van Lee Dr., LR 72207	(H) 227-6698
Helen R. Hronas	9710 Treasure Hill Rd., LR 72205	(H) 228-5680
Lew A. Huddle, Jr.	13020 Valley Vista Lane, Roland 72135	(H) 375-4357 (W) 227-4357
Jo Ann Janssen	#2 Fox Chapel Ct., LR 72212	(H) 225-6562
Anne W. Jarrard	1700 Spring, LR 72206	(H) 375-3903 (W) 375-4249
Rita Johnson	2200 Windsor Ct., LR 72212	(H) 227-5393 (W) 664-3008
Martha Jones	1117 No. Bryan, LR 72207	(H) 663-2373 (W) 664-0584
Lisa Hanson Mantle	6 Yellowstone Cove, Maumelle 72113	(H) 851-4414
Billie Massey	4501 Lakeview Rd., NLR 72116	(H) 753-7727
Robert McGowan	520 Midland, LR 72205	(H) 661-0364
Tom W. Norman	7202 Old Tom Box Rd., Jacksonville 72076	(H) 834-1677
Don A. Nutt	320 Johnson, LR 72205	(H) 664-6917 (W) 663-4813
Suzanne O'Donoghue	6508 South Rd., LR 72207	(H) 661-9658
Cheryl A. Overstreet	121 Red River, Sherwood 72116	(H) 834-0222 (P) 891-3788
Gayle Page	12 Masters Pl. Dr., Maumelle 72113	(H) 851-4852
Connie Panos	50 Wingate Dr., LR 72205-2556	(H) 225-4920
Patricia Pyron	2001 Millcreek, NLR 72116	(H) 753-1689
Rick Pruitt	1219 So. Shackelford Rd., LR 72211	(H) 228-6106 (W) 399-5185
Kelly Quinn	18 Coolwood, LR 72202	(H) 661-4642
Jan A. Richardson	5722 Stonewall Rd., LR 72207	(H) 664-5292
Joy C. Rockenback	2801 W. 6th St., LR 72205	(H) 663-5150 (W) 661-2783
Myra Runyon	3123 N. Cypress, NLR 72116	(H) 758-8068
Barbi Rushing	4909 E. Crestwood, LR 72207	(W) 664-3340
Sally Sanderson	#4 St. Johns Ct., LR 72207	(H) 664-7211
Ray Sarmiento	6909 Flint Rock, NLR 72116	(H) 835-2890
Molly Satterfield	#65 Robinwood Dr., LR 72207	(H) 225-0225 (W) 371-4790
Anne Tricot	65 Chenal Circle, LR 72211	(H) 821-4279
Jim L. West	1000 N. Coolidge, LR 72207	(H) 664-3434

## 1995-1996 LONOKE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

Shari Cartwright	162 Stacey Lynn Terrace, Ward 72176
Janice Edwards	P. O. Box 63, England 72046
Martha Feland	183 Windwood Hts. Lane, Cabot 72023
Betty Freeze	551 N. Highline, England 72046
Angelia Hudson	21 Sunflower Dr., Cabot 72023
David W. Landes	506 Lewisburg Rd., Austin 72007
Naomi G. May	P.O. Box 18, Scott 72142
Jeanetta Shiell	195 Castle Heights, Cabot 72023
James Talbert	615 E. Main, Cabot 72023
Patricia Vesrampatel	42 Red Oak Dr., Cabot 72023



**Welcome New Master Gardeners!!**

## **MASTER GARDENER PROJECT NOTES**

### **GREENHOUSE**

The Committee made about \$1,496.00 on the pansy sale. There may be a few flats of blue pansies left. If anyone is interested, contact Phyllis Watson, Chairman. The azaleas for the Flower & Garden Show will arrive in mid-January and greenhouse committee members will be notified of work days. Currently, some of the group are working on some minor propagation projects for the other projects.

### **PINNACLE MOUNTAIN**

They have been given access to rock, materials and labor to terrace at the entrance. The rock is to be moved at the island by the visitor center. They're going to plant native plants there when it is gone. One or two more workdays have been scheduled before the end of the year and members have been notified.

### **OLD MILL**

They now have automatic irrigation now, so the watering situation is better. They are planning one or two workdays as soon as they hear from NLR Parks that the pansies are ready to plant.

### **ARTS CENTER/CONTEMPLATION GARDEN**

All fall work has been completed and both areas look great!



## *A Gardener's Night Before Christmas*

*"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the yard  
The branches were bare and the ground frozen hard.  
The roses were dormant and mulched all around  
To protect them from damage if frost heaves the ground.  
The perennials were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of 5-10-5 danced in their heads.  
The new-planted shrubs had been soaked by the hose  
To settle their roots for the long winter's doze.  
And out on the lawn, the new fallen snow  
Protected the roots of the grasses below.  
When what to my wondering eyes should appear  
but a truck full of gifts of gardening gear.  
Saint Nick was the driver - the jolly old elf -  
and he winked as he said, "I'm a gardener myself.  
I've brought Milorganite, Funginex and Volck Oil too -  
To help with the weeding, a sharp hoe will do.  
To seed your new lawn I've a patented sower;  
In case it should grow, here's a new power mower.  
For seed-planting days, I've a trowel and a dibble,  
And a roll of wire mesh if the rabbits should nibble.  
For the feminine gardener, some gadgets she loves;  
Plant stakes, a sprinkler and waterproof gloves.  
A chemical agent for her compost pit,  
And for pH detecting, a soil-testing kit.  
With these colorful flagstones, lay a new garden path -  
And last, but not least, some well-rotted manure!  
A green Christmas year 'round, these gifts will insure."  
Then jolly St. Nick, having emptied his load,  
started his truck and took to the road.  
And I heard him explain through the motor's loud hum,  
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a GREEN THUMB!"*

The MASTER MINUTES newsletter is compiled by Master Gardeners to support the Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteer Program. Pulaski County Master Gardeners have contributed over 16,000 hours of service to the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service since 1989. The Master Gardener Program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.



Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent - Agriculture