



# How To Cope When The Ice Man Cometh

Janet Carson, in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, tackled the problem of what to do about the damaged trees and shrubs. She advises to trim off all the rough, broken branches at the break site, into a smooth surface but not to coat this surface with anything to seal it. Do not prune the plant at this time. Give the plant time to overcome the stress on its own. If it doesn't recover, you can prune it or remove it later.

### After The Storm

J.E. Guyette in *City Trees*, *The Journal of The Society of Municipal Arborists*, says experts after the ice storm in the Northeast and New England in 1997-1998 advised tree and landscape workers not to take a slash and burn approach. For many of the damaged trees, simple pruning of branches, if done correctly, was all that was required to bring them back around to health.

Landscape managers were urged to resist customers' urges to have trees cut down, when in fact, they might be healthy and capable of complete recovery. In many cases, however, severely damaged trees had already been removed and homeowners were looking for replacements.

Simple pruning is much less expensive than removal and replacement. And that's even if you can get suitable replacements due to the huge



demand that will be placed on local nurseries.

People need to realize that salvageable plants already on site can save many years of waiting for a replacement to reach the size and beauty of the original, as well as saving on the purchase price of the replacement.

Many species, such as oak and sycamore, usually respond well to corrective pruning and other procedures used to restore them. However, for all tree species, the age, health, growing conditions and the final appearance must be considered when determining the suitability of a tree for corrective pruning and care. It is

also important to remember that damaged trees and shrubs are under stress and can attract harmful pests and disease organisms.

### Before The Storm

The following steps will not guarantee that your trees won't suffer storm or ice damage but it can increase the odds of tree survival and reduce the possibility of breakage and damage to the tree.

However, it is also important to

remember to identify any potential targets that could be damaged and consider those in See Ice Storm, 2nd column, page 6

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**MASTER GARDENER**

### Arkansas Is Our Campus

# Master Gardeners' Plot For February

## Annuals

Apply a slow-release fertilizer to annuals and overwintering tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label.

Prune back by one-third to one-half tropical bloomers that are overwintering indoors.

Place orders for seeds to ensure availability. Indoors at 65 to 75°, 6 inches under artificial light, sow annual flowers and vegetables. Keep the light on for 10-12 hours a day, and keep the soil moist. It takes 6-8 weeks to grow a viable transplant. Outdoors, sow broccoli, cabbage, candytuft, cornflowers, larkspur, onion sets, English peas,

phlox and seed potatoes. Plant sunflowers to attract the natural enemies of the white fly. In a cold frame, plant annual salvia, chrysanthemum, lupine, nicotiana, scabiosa, snapdragon and verbena.

Use insecticidal soap to control aphids on cool season annuals and vegetable plants.

## Deciduous

Cut back dwarf crape myrtles to within 6 inches of the ground. Only prune back larger crape myrtle shrubs if needed to maintain size, or to remove

suckers. Thin tree forms of crape myrtles every 3-5 years. Annual pruning of this tree destroys its natural appearance, and is not needed.

Remove largest third of buddleia, hydrangea, nandina and spirea canes. *Do not prune forsythia* or flowering quince until after bloom.

Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (8 inches with at least two buds underground) in a cold frame.

February is the best time to plant dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side.

For borers, mites, aphids or scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs. Check the label for optimum conditions. (Usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to be above 40° for three days and no rain is expected for 24 hours.) Spray plants before leaf buds open to avoid burning them.

## Evergreens

Plant broad-leaved evergreens, such as magnolias and hollies. All newly planted or transplanted material should be watered in with "Superthrive" or other root stimulator. Remove dead wood and branches that turn in or overlap in the center of broadleaf evergreens. Wherever the plant is cut, it will thicken, so prune above a twig growing outward and not above a leaf bud. To control insects, apply dormant oil spray to evergreens.

## Fruits

Prune undesirable limbs and tip terminals on fruit trees and grapevines, and thin out crowded shoots. Leave some branches of fruit and berry trees for small animals to eat this winter. Remove older canes of blueberry plants. Cut back lateral branches of blackberries to 1 foot.

## Groundcovers

Mow or shear to 4-6 inches winter-creeper, euonymus, Japanese honeysuckle, English ivy, mondo grass, monkey grass, pachysandra, pampas grass, crown vetch and vinca minor. Shear to 6 to 8 inches santolina, lavender cotton and junipers. Apply preemergence herbicides to your



groundcovers.

## Lawns And Shrubs

Apply lime to lawns if not done in December or January.

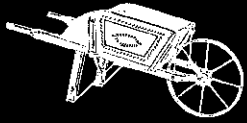
Fertilize trees with a high nitrogen fertilizer if not done in January.

Plant ball and burlap trees, shrubs and bare-root plant materials 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 a shady location.

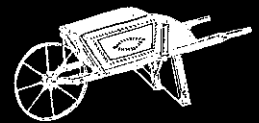
For new planting sites, test soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend soil with mulch, compost, etc.

Apply preemergence herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill spurwood and other

See Plot, continued 1st column, page 6



# Calendar And Notes



## February

*Pine Bluff Lawn and Garden Show*, February 10, at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. Contact Lisa Holland at (870) 535 2900.

Saturday February 10, is the first session of a *Four Seasons Gardening Workshop*. The spring session is February 10, 9-11 a.m. Mary Evans will teach it. Tuition is \$20. Call 666-0759 to register.

*Pulaski County Master Gardener monthly meeting* at 11:30 a.m. on February 13 at the State Office on University Avenue.

Mary Evans will teach a workshop on *Perennial Border Gardens* on Tuesdays (February 13, 20 and March 6, 13 and 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.) The cost is \$89. Call 666-0759 to register.

On February 17 at DeGray Lake Resort state Park is a *migrating waterfowl and bald eagle watch*. Reservations for the boat tour can be made Friday, February 16, by calling (501) 865-2811.

Also on February 17, Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts (20919 Denny Road) will have a *Daffodil Walk*. Guided tours will be given on the hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free to the public.

February 24 at the State Capitol there will be a *rose pruning demonstration*.

## March

The *Arkansas Flower & Garden Show* is March 2-4 at the Little Rock Convention Center. See "MG Alert!" on page 7 for more information.

Sally Horsey, ASLA Landscape Architect, will teach a

course on *Landscape Fundamentals*, March 6, 13, 17, 20 and 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$89 plus a \$5 materials fee. Call 666-0759 to register.

March 10-11 *Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival* at Bigelow. *Mid-season daffodils and early azaleas will be the focus of guided tours* at Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts (20919 Denny Road) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 10.

Admission is free to the public.

*Pulaski County Master Gardener monthly meeting* at 11:30 a.m. on March 13 at the State Office on University Avenue.

*PCMG Daffodil Tour to Char Rouch's* on March 15th. More details soon.

*Patio and Container Garden Basics* will be taught by Mary Evans on Saturday March 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$20. Call 666-0759 to register.

March 24-25 *Daffodil Show* at Hendrix College, Conway.

March 25-27 *State Master Gardener Conference* at Fort Smith. See "MG Alert!" on page 7 for more information.

*Orchid Society Show and Plant Sale* March 31-April 1 at the North Little Rock Community Center.

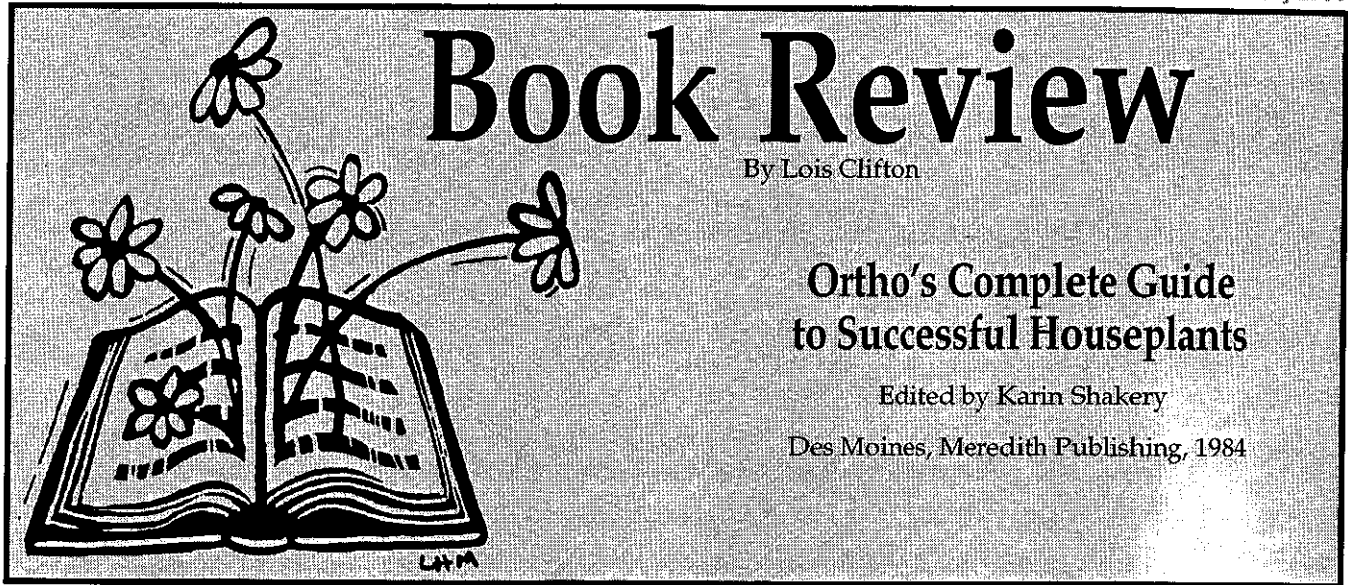
## In The Future

June 2001 — *The International Master Gardeners Conference*.

Tentative August 22-25, 2001 — *Vancouver Tour*.

April 2002 — *Holland Tour*.





# Book Review

By Lois Clifton

## Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Houseplants

Edited by Karin Shakery

Des Moines, Meredith Publishing, 1984

Why do we have a fondness for plants in our homes? If all we are looking for is a particular shape, texture or color, wouldn't something else — a piece of furniture, an urn or a basket — do as well?

The answer is a resounding "No!" In this technological age, there is still a need to stay in touch with nature, a desire to have living, growing things around us. A happy, healthy plant fulfills these needs and supplies a sense of meaningful accomplishments. Plants add life and warmth to interiors, and the fact that they are living things enhances their contribution to our space.

*Ortho's Complete Guide to Successful Houseplants* aims to impart the joy of indoor gardening. It contains ideas and practical information, but the primary intent is to encourage you to bring live houseplants into your home.

In "The Gallery of Houseplants" chapter, the listings are divided into two categories: flowering and foliage. There are more than 300 color photographs and descriptions of flowering and foliage houseplants. Entries are in alphabetical order by botanical name. Beneath the botanical names are the most common names. Each listing contains plant care requirements such as light, water, humidity, temperature, fertilizing and problems.

The book has full pages of color pictures to show how we use plants in decorating, and guides help you select plants that fit your lifestyle and home. Also to this end, you'll find references to "growers" and "maintainers" throughout the book. It is not a matter of the right attitude and the wrong one. It is, instead, a matter of recognizing which group you belong to and selecting appropriate plants.

If you are a "grower", you'll probably want to check out the chapter on "Greenhouses, Solariums and Window Greenhouses." There also is a chapter on propagation techniques.

Knowing that flowers appeal to everyone, Shakery includes a chapter on flowering houseplants with methods for prolonging the blooming period as well as forcing bulbs and flowering branches into bloom.

Another tip you'll find here: a special plant should have a special pot. The basic principle is to make sure the container enhances what it contains while keeping in mind that pots directly influence the growth and needs of the plants they contain.

Home magazines do a fine job presenting ideas for decorating with plants. However, even though you can decorate in the same way that the magazine does, you will still have to make arrangements to provide the appropriate plant care. This may mean having two locations — one where the plant looks best and another spot, possibly in another part of the house, where it grows best.

Now that your plants are all inside to protect them from the cold and a place has been selected for each one, make a list of maintenance requirements for individual plants. Watering, lighting, fertilizing, grooming, propagating and seasonal care are the basic processes of plant survival. Each of these is explained and pictured in this book. In addition, Shakery writes about potting, transplanting, root pruning and soil, as well as the correct tools to help with plant maintenance.

Moving plants outdoors rejuvenates them but, when you move them back in, they must be checked as carefully for pests and disease as when you first bought them. If you notice anything unusual or see changes in your plants, identify the problem and try to correct it at once. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the best and simplest way to deal with plant problems is to try to avoid them. The chapter on "Solving Plant Problems" lists a symptom and then the cure, with pictured examples.

Furthermore, all through the book are bits of wisdom, such as this one:

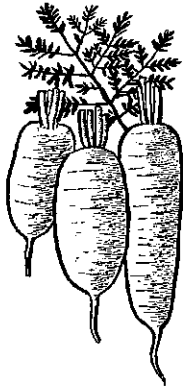
"Beautiful leaves that are striped with gold,  
Spangled with silver, or mottled with white  
Welcome as flowers, for when ye unfold,  
Ye shine forth in day, as stars shine at night."

We think you'll find this is a beautiful book, as well as a very helpful one.



# Biennials Confound Our Usual Notions Of Plant Life

Few plants puzzle gardeners more than biennials. At the heart of their mystique is a life cycle that confounds our usual notions of plant life. They're neither as fleeting as annuals, nor as enduring as perennials.



A biennial grows vegetatively during its first season, putting out many healthy leaves, in a low rosette, that nourish the roots. A cold spell or a change in day length triggers a period of dormancy, which in turn sets off the plant's second, or reproductive, phase, resulting in the formation of flowers and seeds. Learn to recognize the plant at various stages,

or you may end up weeding it out of your garden by mistake.

But in some cases the complete cycle of growth from seed germination to seed production is only one growing season. This situation occurs when the plant experiences drought, variations in temperature or other climatic fluctuations. These cause the plant to physiologically pass through the equivalent of two growing seasons in a single growing season. This phenomenon is known as "bolting".

## Nursery Beds for Biennials

Some biennials grow quickly enough that they can be sown in early spring for same year flowers, but the home gardener is better advised to treat biennials as two year crops. Sometimes gardeners sow biennials in July, moving them to nursery rows in September, mulching throughout the winter, and transplanting to their flowering site in April.



In regions where the winter temperatures are extremely cold, biennials should be moved indoors.

Because biennials have such a brief flowering season, they do not require the extensive soil preparation that perennials demand. From the point of view of soil preparation, biennials can be considered as annuals.

Examples of common biennials follow.

## Flowering Biennials

Canterbury bells's rough, leafy rosettes in the first year give no hint of the lush spikes of flowers that will follow. The distinctive upturned blossoms of year two have a range of color from blue to mauve to white.



English daisies are moved to their flowering location in mid-

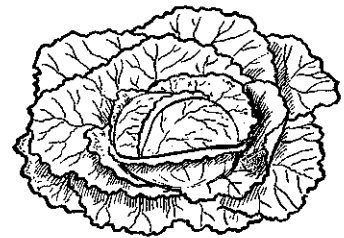
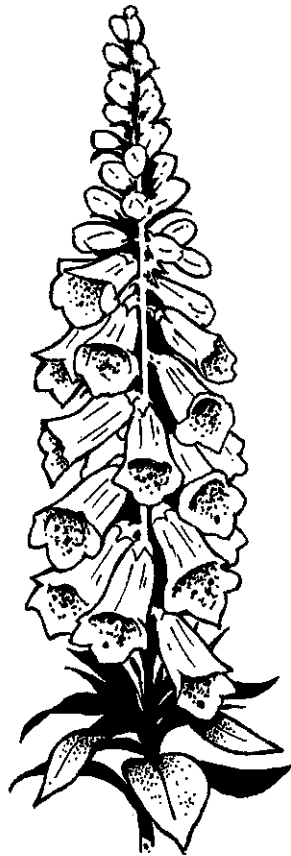
April, after removing the protective winter

mulch. These are short plants, six to eight inches tall, so they're good at the front of the perennial border as short-lived members of the annual border, or as edging plants: they're appealing next to sweet William or around a tall plant, like perennial phlox. They're best in full sun but will also tolerate half-day sunlight. English Daisies are at their best in the cool spring. They flower four to six weeks, but their blossom show lets up from that point on. They seem to attract aphids once the weather warms up, so, although they may have occasional flowers till frost, pull up the plants in July and give the space over to another plant.

Forget-me-nots are very commonplace in garden centers in the spring but seeds can be sown in midsummer, wintered in a mulched nursery bed and moved in the spring to their flowering spots. They can be used both in rock gardens and as edging plants in an annual or perennial bed. Forget-me-nots have a roundish look, standing 6 to 9 inches in all directions. They do their best in half-day and filtered light and have a 6-week

blossom time through May and June.

Foxgloves can grow 4 to 5 feet tall with stalks of spotted, pink-mauve flowers in the second year. Standard varieties of foxglove tend to become perennial because they both self-sow and send up basal offshoots. Because these are hybrids, the self-sown seedlings will not breed true, so pull these out. The offshoots can be left for another crop of lovely flowers the following year.



*Plot, continued from page 2*

winter weeds now before they have time to set seeds.

For borers, mites, aphids, or scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs, evergreens, roses and the perennial border. Check the label for optimum temperature conditions (Usually on a calm day when the temperature is expected to above 40° for three days and no rain is 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.*

### Perennials

Outdoors, sow perennial candytuft, cornflowers and phlox. In a cold frame, plant perennial salvias, feverfew, lupine, scabiosa and verbena.

To control pests in the perennial border, apply dormant oil spray before buds break.

Put out asparagus crowns and strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable.

### Roses

Place orders for bare-root roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant roses. Water in roses with "Superthrive" or other root stimulator. Top dress roses with cottonseed and bone meal and cover with a layer of compost or rotted manure. Dehydrated manure will limit nut grass and weed seeds. Mid-February, prune rose bushes (hybrid teas 8 to 18 inches, floribundas and multifloras) to maintain their size and vigor. Prune ever-blooming climbers only to invigorate older plants and to remove weak canes, not annually. The most important spray of the year is now. Cover roses with a dormant spray before leaf buds start emerging for the most effective job.

### For the Birds

Provide fresh water near the birds' shelter. To attract a variety of birds, feed them cornmeal mixed with peanut butter, cracked corn, doughnuts, chopped fruits, suet or sunflower seed. Or plant barberry, beautyberry, coral-berry, cotoneaster, dogwood, hawthorn, holly, mahonia, possumhaw and viburnum, which all provide fruits and berries in a February landscape.

### For Inspiration

Plan to attend the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.

### February Stock

Outdoors: flowering almond, anise Florida, arum, bridal veil, camellia, chionodoxa, crocus, daffodil, dogwood, forsythia, helleborus, hyacinth, iris (stylosas and reticulatas), Carolina jasmine, kerria, loropetalum, Oriental magnolia, muscari, pansies, phlox, primrose, pussy willow, quince, redbud, scilla sibirica, snowdrops, spirea thunbergii, viola and violet.

Indoors: cyclamen, kalanchoe, orchids and pre-chilled bulbs (hyacinths, paperwhites, daffodils). Place cut branches of spring flowering shrubs (forsythia, fruit trees, Oriental magnolia, quince, etc.) into 1 gallon of warm water with 2 tablespoons of ammonia. Keep the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open. \*

*Biennials, continued from page 5*

Thriving in partial shade or full sun, foxglove will flourish as long as temperatures aren't too hot and the soil is moist and loamy.

Sweet williams make up for being vertically challenged with wonderful fragrance. Thomas Jefferson grew ringed petals in solid or ringed shades of white, pink, and red. Strictly speaking, sweet William is a short-lived perennial: it blooms in its first year. But it's classified as a biennial because it dies after flowering in the second year.



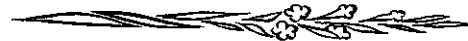
### Vegetable Biennials

The fact that there are also biennial vegetables (beet, Brussels sprout, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, onion, parsnip, rutabaga, Swiss chard and turnip, for example) eludes most gardeners because they eat them before they've "bolted" and reached the reproductive stage.

### Herb Biennials

Parsley is as appealing a garnish in the garden as it is

*See Biennials, continued 1st column, page 8*



*Ice Storm, continued from page 1*  
any treatment decision.

### Plan Ahead

When selecting trees to plant, choose those which have strong wood and good growing habits. (Silver maple, ash, camphor, cottonwood, elm, willow and some varieties of pear, for instance, are notorious for weak wood.)

### Proper Pruning

"Pruning" does not mean topping a tree in order to remove branches that could break, nor removing most of the canopy but, instead, thinning the canopy to allow wind to blow through the crown. It also means removing dead or dying branches and branches with weak attachments or included bark. This reduces the possibility of breakage by removing branches with a predictable potential for failure.

### Cabling and Bracing

This can be considered for trees which have landscape value to the owner. Candidates for this treatment may include larger trees that have characteristics which indicate failure potential, including brittle wood, co-dominant stems, major forks and/or narrow forks. The installation of cables and/or braces provides additional support to the tree structures.

People plant trees and shrubs that may be colorful, cheap and fast growing but that also may have no strength. The branches are often brittle, and they hold their leaves late into the winter. The leaves then get icy and cause problems. Certain species of trees do hold up better to winter's fury than others. In the future issues of the *Master Minutes*, we plan to include articles on plants which are not especially susceptible to ice damage. \*

# Master Gardener Alert!

## Dues

2001 PCMG dues are due. Exception is the members of the 2000 class. Others should make their check payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners with a notation that it's for 2001 dues. Mail to the County Office, attention Mrs. McKinney or bring it to the February 13 meeting.

## Remembrance

Connie Ruth Smith, a PCMG past president, lost her battle with cancer and passed away on December 12, 2000. She will be missed.

## Flower & Garden Show Speakers

*Friday, March 2, 2001*

10:00 Better Plants for Arkansas Gardens; Jim Robbins or Gerald Klingaman, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

11:00 Butterfly Gardens; Jaret Daniels, Butterfly Kingdom

1:00 The Southern Landscape; Steve Bender, *Southern Living*

2:00 Tropicals for Containers; Glenn Stokes, Stokes Tropicals, New Iberia, Louisiana

3:00 Building Your Own Cottage Garden; Greg Grant, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas

*Saturday, March 3*

10:00 Growing Tropicals Out of Zone; Glenn Stokes, Stokes Tropicals

11:00 The Southern Heirloom Garden; Greg Grant, Stephen F. Austin State University

1:00 Orchids; Hermann Pigors, Oak Hill Gardens, Dundee, Illinois

2:00 Japanese Garden Design Principles for American Gardens; David Slawson, Landscape Architect, Cleveland, Ohio

3:00 Flower Arranging and Design Principles; Lou Cook and Linda Robinette

*Sunday, March 3*

1:00 Shade Gardening; Tom Dillard

2:00 Janet Carson

## Flower Show Exhibit Rules

All entries must be preregistered for the show. Entries

will be received Thursday, March 1, 2001, from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. General information and horticulture rules are available from Norma Weems, 22 Kingspark Road, Little Rock, AR 72227-4814.

## Flower And Garden Show Volunteers

To volunteer, contact Trudy Goolsby at 835-5083 or Beth Phelps at 340-6650 before February 10, 2001.

## State Meeting Registration

You should have received the information about the state meeting which will be in Fort Smith, March 25-27, 2001. Early registration of \$60 must be postmarked by February 9, 2001. After that, the price goes up to \$80. All registrations must be in by March 1. The tours will fill up quickly, so get your registration in early to get what you want. If you have not received the registration mailing, call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650.

## Statewide Advisory Board

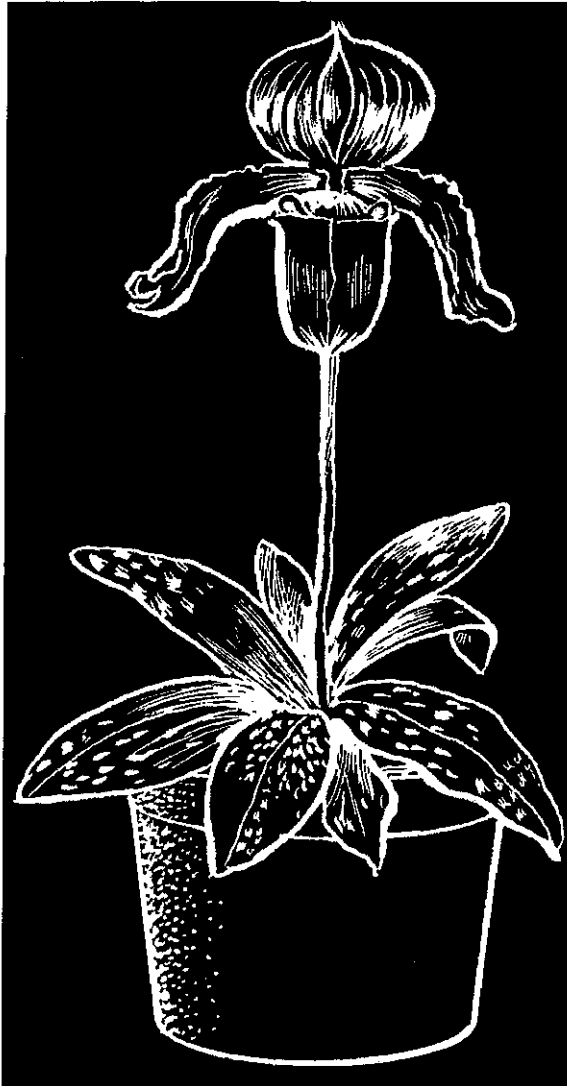
The Master Gardener Advisory Board is made up of 10 Master Gardeners from around the state. Two individuals serve from each district and there are two "at large" positions. Each person on the board serves for two years on a rotating basis.

Pulaski County is in the Southeast District. Gail Northcutt, term expiration 2002, from Arkansas County, and Gerald Andrews, term expiration 2001, from Jefferson County, are our representatives. Martha Thompson, Pulaski County, is the alternate. Jane Druff is our nominee to replace Gerald when his term

expires. Each county can submit a nominee. The new board member will be randomly selected from the nominees submitted by the county programs.

## 2001 Membership Directory

Enclosed in this mailing is the 2001 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Roster. Also there is a single sheet which lists the 2001 Officers and Committee and Project Chairs/Cochairs. Be sure to save these. They can be slipped into your telephone directory so that you will always have them handy.



## Winter Holiday Party Recipe Shrimp & Artichoke Dip

From Jan King



14 oz. can artichoke hearts  
(drained and cut up)

4-1/2 oz. can shrimp or white lump  
crab meat (drained, rinsed, and  
picked over)

1/2 cup mayonnaise (not low-fat)

1/2 cup Pace's picante sauce (mild  
— but can use medium or hot if you  
like things spicy)

1/4 cup Kraft's grated parmesan  
cheese

4 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese  
(softened)

Small to medium onion, finely  
chopped (for topping)

Optional strip of red pepper  
(chopped hot pepper for spiciness)

In ovenproof dish, place cream  
cheese on one side and microwave for  
20 seconds.

On other side of dish, place shrimp  
or crab meat and mash with potato  
masher or fork.

Put everything else, except onions,  
in the bowl and mix well. Spread  
chopped onion on the top.

Place in oven for 20-25 minutes at  
350°.

Serve with Tostitos chips or toasted  
thin slices of small loaves of French  
or Italian bread. \*



*Biennials, continued from page 6*  
on the plate. The bright green leaves  
of second-year plants festoon a bor-  
der in the earliest spring, before most  
other plants break dormancy.

During the growing season, har-  
vest biennials for foliage so that at  
least 4 to 5 inches of growth remains.  
A good general rule is to harvest no  
more than the top half of the plant at  
one cutting. Most biennials may be  
harvested several times each season.

If you are growing biennial plants,

See *Biennials, continued next column*

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural  
problem have you stumped? These  
resources can help you solve nearly  
any gardening dilemma:

### Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

### Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
671-2000

### Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

### University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Website: <http://www.uaex.edu>

*Biennials, continued from previous column*

like caraway, for their seeds, avoid  
harvesting the foliage the first year.  
The more energy the plants can make  
and store, the more seeds they can set  
the following year.

### Propagation

Most biennials drop enough seeds  
to keep a colony going. Saving seed  
from biennials requires work and a  
commitment, for these plants don't  
send up their seed stalks until the  
second season. Most nurseries sell  
second-year biennials. \*

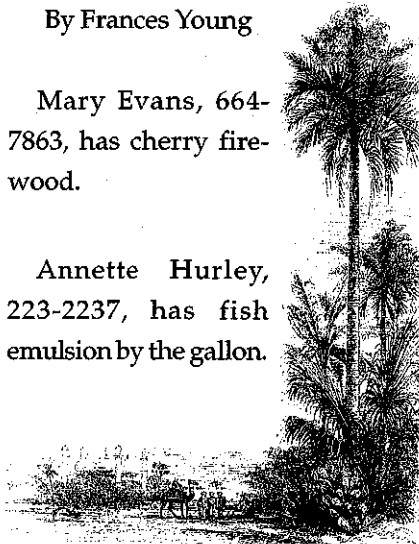
## TRADING POST

PLANT & SEED EXCHANGE

By Frances Young

Mary Evans, 664-  
7863, has cherry fire-  
wood.

Annette Hurley,  
223-2237, has fish  
emulsion by the gallon.



## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a  
newsworthy photo, or need to tell the  
general membership something  
about your committee, this newslet-  
ter is your opportunity to reach all  
Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to  
us by the meeting February 13 to see  
your message in the March issue of  
the newsletter.

You may bring your information to  
the meeting or send it via: Beth  
Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative  
Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt  
Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650,  
bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney,  
340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429,  
rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl  
Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and  
fromthegarden@earthlink.net.

If you have late-breaking news un-  
available by the closing date, Beth  
may be able to add it to her letter that  
is mailed with the newsletter. \*

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

Chair/Editor	Rose Hogan
Co-Chair/Layout Staff	Cheryl Kennedy
	Debra Atencio
	Tom Bruce
	Lois Clifton
	Jan O. Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Helen Hronas
	Annette Hurley
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Kathy Kohl
	Julia Loyall
	Linda Moyer
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer
	Linda Westergard



Pulaski County Master Gardener Volun-  
teers are trained volunteers working with  
the University of Arkansas Cooperative  
Extension Service and Pulaski County  
Government to provide demonstration  
gardens and horticulture-related infor-  
mation to the residents of the county. In  
2000, these volunteers gave more than  
8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



## Chinese Pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) Is An Excellent Yard Tree

By Linda Moyer

In the aftermath of our ice storms, many of us are looking for a good shade tree for our front and/or back yards. After doing a lot of research looking for trees that I would like to have in my own yard, I'd recommend the Chinese pistache.

It has been highly acclaimed by Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, Arizona State, and Kansas State universities. Texas A&M University calls it a "Texas Superstar" and "The first shade tree to receive the coveted 'Earth-Kind' designation from the Texas Agricultural Extension Service for its high levels of genetic resistance to insect and disease problems."

The Arizona State University web site states uses as being a lawn, park or avenue tree. Good in public places. Needs room to spread. Efficient windbreak. Large deciduous tree with dense, rounded crown. Grows at a slow to moderate rate to 60 feet high, with a spread of 50 feet. (They also state that it looks out of place in the desert.)

The *Southern Living Landscape Book* also recommends it as a great tree for the South and as one of the most consistent performers for fall color in the South.

Chinese Pistache is used as the understock on which the commercial pistachio nut (*Pistacia vera*) is grafted. It is grown from seed.

Winter hardy to central Kansas and heat tolerant to the middle of Florida, it is better equipped to take our occasionally hard winter and long hot muggy summers. Since it is



very drought tolerant, it is also better able to stand our long hot dry spells. It is long lived, with hard wood. The tree grows in both full sun and partial shade. Although it will do better in a moist, well-drained, loamy, acidic soil, it tolerates alkaline. It offers good shade for one-story houses. So a lot of good things can be said about this China native.

Although it can grow to be 60 feet

high and 50 feet wide, most of the time it only gets to be 25 to 30 feet high with a spread of 20 to 25 feet. The final height in your yard will depend on your soil condition, watering and fertilizing habits. The shade is not too dense, so other plants can be grown under it. Its summer leaves are a dark green. In the fall, its leaves turn a brilliant orange to red color — it's said to rival the sugar maple in fall color.

Since it is grown from seed instead of grafting, each seedling will have a slightly different fall color. This can range from orange to red. So, if you want to be sure of your tree's fall color, select your plant in

### In This Issue ...

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**MASTER GARDENER**

See *Pistache*, continued on page 7

*Arkansas Is Our Campus*

# Calendar and Notes

By Ruth Jones

## March

2-4 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show at the L.R. Convention Center.

2, 3, 4 Jonquil Festival, Old Washington State Park.

6, 13, 17, 20, 27 Landscape Fundamentals by Sally Horsey, ASLA Landscape Architect from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$89 plus \$5 for materials. Call 666-0759 to register.

9-10 Camden Daffodil Festival.

10 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts guided tours will focus on mid-season daffodils and early azaleas. Free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour. Open to the public.

10-11 Wye Mountain Daffodil Festival at Bigelow.

13 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting, 11:30 at the State Extension Office on University.

17 Patio and Container Gardening Basics taught by Mary Evans from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost \$20. Call 666-0759 to register.

19 National Arbor Day, Lake Charles State Park. Learn to plant and maintain a tree.

22 MG Daffodil Tour to Char Rouch's garden. Meet at Second Presbyterian Church parking lot and leave at 8 a.m. sharp. Bring lunch and drink. \$5 charge for driver's gas.

23-25 Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Garden Show at Ft. Smith.

25-27 State Master Gardener Conference at Ft. Smith. \$80 if there are still openings. Call Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650.

24 Garvan Gardens education session on azaleas. Call Bob at 501-262-2711.

24 South Arkansas Garden Show at Smackover.

24-25 Daffodil Show at Hendrix College, Conway.

31 Orchid Society Show and Plant Sale at the N.L.R. Community Center.

## April

6-8 Wildflower Weekend at Bull Shoals State Park.

7 Wildflower Weekend at Degray State Park and at Petit Jean State Park.

7 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts guided tours will focus on late daffodils, azaleas and native flowering trees. Free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour.

10 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting at 11:30 at the State Extension Office on University.

12 Landscape Construction Workshop, State Extension Office, Little Rock.

14 Wildflower Weekend at Devil's Den State Park.

17 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Tour of Garvan Gardens.

18 Herb Workshop taught by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m. Call 666-0759 to register.

21 Earth Friendly Gardening by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m.. Call 666-0759 to register.

28 Spring Garden Tour sponsored by the L.R. Council of Garden Clubs.

## May

1 Pulaski County Master Gardeners tour of Memphis Botanical Gardens and some private gardens. Being planned by the Travel Committee.

1 Year Round Color taught by Mary Evans from 9 - 11 a.m. Call 666-0579 to register for \$20.

4-5 Thirteenth Annual Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza at Mt. View Ozark Folk Center State Park. Prepaid registration required at (870) 269-3851.

12 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, Mothers Day Weekend. Focus on Azaleas. Free tours from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on the hour. Open to the public.

28-June 1 International Master Gardener Conference in Orlando, Florida.

## Future

August 22-26, 2001 Gardens of British Columbia tour by Janet Carson.

August 26-29, 2001 Rocky Mountaineer Railtour optional addendum to the above tour.

April 2002 Holland Tour.



# Master Gardeners' Plot For March

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

Plant pansy seedlings and tuberoses. In a hot house, cold frame, or in a bright window indoors, sow brussel sprouts, chard, cucumber, nicotiana, peas, pepper, scabiosa, summer squash, tomato seeds and verbena. The annuals, alyssum, calendulas, carrots, collards, sweet corn kernels, dianthus, kale, lettuce, lobelia, mustard greens, parsnip, sweet peas, pansies, radish, snapdragons, and turnip seeds can be planted outside now.

## Deciduous

Cut one-third of the oldest wood to the ground of forsythia, hibiscus, florist hydrangea, oakleaf hydrangea, Peegee hydrangea and summer blooming spireas.

Cut woody shrubs, such as privet and pittosporum, above a twig turning outward, not above a leaf bud. Wherever you cut, the shrub will thicken.

Cut back beautyberry, butterfly bush, clematis (Comtesse de Bouchard, Crimson Star, Henryi, Jackmanii, J.rubra, J. superba, Lanuginosa candida, Neil Moser, Ramona and The President), to within 1 to 2 feet of the ground.

Prune wisteria roots about 2 feet from main trunk.

Prune shrub althea, crape myrtle, and mimosa according to desired form.

March is the best month to move crape myrtles. Plant balled and burlapped flowering cherry trees before they break dormancy. Flowering shrubs may be moved with a ball of dirt. Small plants may be moved bare-rooted. Pull or cut away sprouts of lilac and forsythia and transplant.

## Evergreens

Cut woody glossy abelia, aucuba, euonymus, hollies, weeping privet and St. Johns wort above a twig turning outward.

Thin out one-third of the oldest canes of nandina to the ground.

Cut back ivy hard, whether on a wall or as a ground cover.

Try rooting some cuttings from azaleas, camellias, hollies, roses and other flowering shrubs.

Apply aluminum sulfate to gardenias, and wood ashes to peonies.

If fungus has been a problem on red-tip photinia, remove mulch, apply fresh mulch, and spray with Daconil, Funginex, or Bordeaux now and again in 2 weeks. (Consider replacing with an alternate evergreen planting.)

## Fruits and Vegetables

Plant arugula, one-year-old asparagus crowns, beet seedlings, broccoli plants, cauliflower seedlings, horseradish crowns, kohlrabi seedlings, leek seedlings, onion transplants, potato seed pieces, and rhubarb roots. Be sure to water in new plantings, and then cover with mulch.

## Houseplants

Re-pot houseplants and fertilize them.

## Lawns And Shrubs

De-thatch warm season grasses (Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine and Zoysia).

Mow Bermuda at 1 inch. Mow Centipede, St. Augustine and Zoysia at 1.5 inches. Mow Bluegrass, Fescue and Rye at 2 to 3 inches.

Fertilize all in the garden (except acid-loving plants and iris), including cool season grasses (Rye, Fescue and Bluegrass). If you use a

chemical fertilizer, be sure to combine it with plenty of humus, or composted manure. Using chemical fertilizers without any organic amendments will eventually burn up every living thing in your garden.

Apply preemergent herbicide on all grasses.

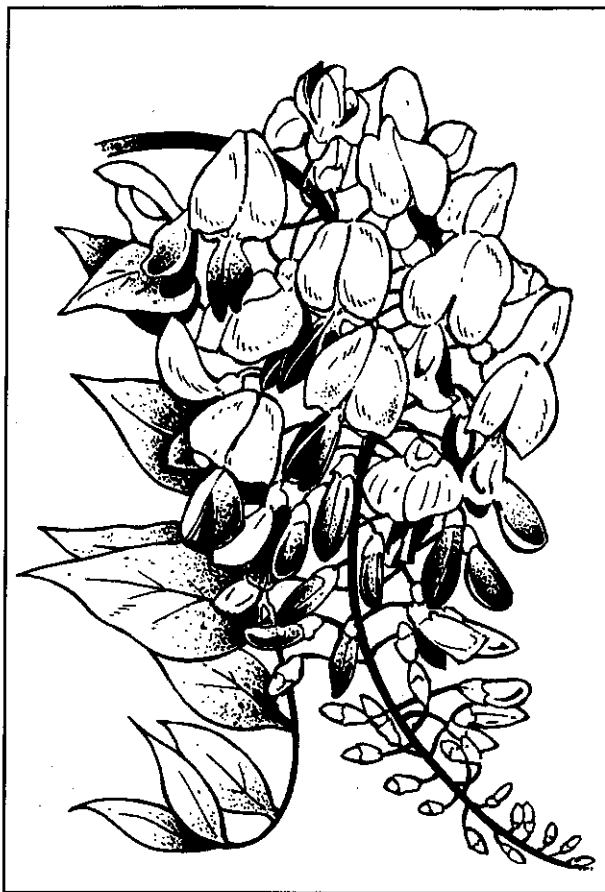
Apply fungicide on cool season grasses (Bluegrass, Fescue and Rye) to control brown patch or dollar spot.

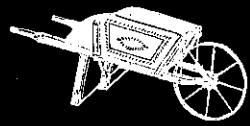
## Perennials

Divide established perennials and replant in an enlarged area to prevent crowding. If planting the divisions in the same site, add organic matter and fertilizer before replanting.

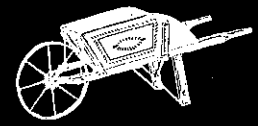
Plant perennial seedlings at their proper depth now

*See Plot, continued on page 7*





# What Works!



By Linda Moyer

## Weed Control

To control weeds, pull at least one weed every time you go into the garden. If you weed a little bit each time, you can stay ahead of them.

## Clean Hands

Cut the toe section off panty hose (about six to eight inches). Put a bar of soap inside and tie a knot in the open end. Tie it around your outside faucet. Now you can wash your hands before going inside.

Don't like or can't use gloves? Before you start digging in the garden, run your fingernails across a bar of soap. You will get soap under your fingernails and the dirt can't get under the soap. After you finish digging in the dirt, the soap will dissolve and wash away — makes for cleaner fingernails.

If you still have stains or soil on your hands, squeeze a little lemon juice onto your hands and rub in, rinse and your hands should be clean. Or drop a couple of denture cleaning tablets into a bowl with some warm water and let it sit until foamy. Put your hands into the bowl and the stains will fizzle away.

## Outdoor Container Mix — Mike's Miracle Mix

(Downloaded from [www.rebeccasgarden.com](http://www.rebeccasgarden.com))

- 5 gallons milled sphagnum peat moss
- 1 gallon perlite
- 1 gallon vermiculite
- 2 cups granular lime pellets
- 5 cups oak leaf mold
- 5 cups dry granular organically based fertilizer

Take a 5-gallon bucket filled with peat moss and dump into a wheelbarrow.

Take a 1-gallon bucket filled with perlite and one filled with vermiculite and dump into wheelbarrow.

Add remaining ingredients into the wheelbarrow.

Use a garden hoe to mix the ingredients thoroughly.

Add a little water for moisture: *Do not get the mix too wet!*

## Snakes in Your Garden?

First, don't bother with pesticides or chemicals made to kill snakes. No safe product has been proven effective for this purpose, and you may end up harming other wildlife, household pets, or even humans.

For the most effective, long-lasting results, make the environment undesirable for snakes so that they will want to go elsewhere. To do this eliminate potential shelters.

Clean up piles of rocks, logs and other debris where snakes can hide. It's a good idea to wear tall boots and heavy work gloves to protect yourself while doing this.

Trim tall patches of grass or other high, dense vegetation that might attract rodents and insects - the snakes may be coming to your property in search of these food sources.

If you have firewood stacked in the yard, elevate it with a platform built a foot or more off the ground.

Check for any crevices or spaces in walkways, as well as in the foundations of the house and garden sheds.

As the weather gets warmer, snakes will be seeking out cool, damp hiding places with plenty of food nearby — eliminate these attractions and they won't stay.

*Assuming the variety of snake you are dealing with is not poisonous, snakes can be helpful. A few average garden-variety garter snakes are better than any pesticide or folk remedy for controlling the populations of insects, slugs and many other pests.*

## Frost Protection

Old lampshades make wonderful protection for tender plants when frost is predicted. Thrift shops are great sources for obtaining various sizes of inexpensive shades.

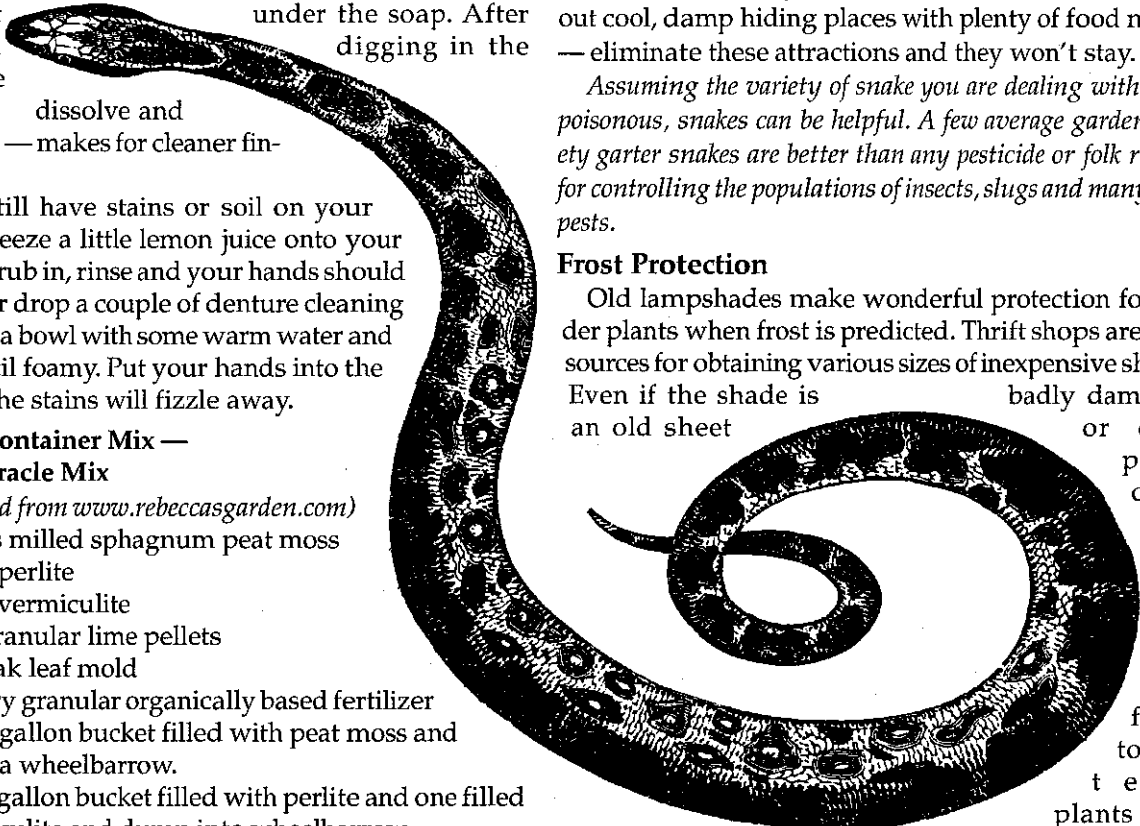
Even if the shade is badly damaged, an old sheet

or other piece of material can be draped over the frame to protect plants from

cold. You can use bricks or stones around the outside to hold everything in place.

If just the lampshades are put into the garden, push U-shaped pins made from 10 to 12 inch lengths of coat hanger wire into the soil over the bottom rim of each shade to anchor it.

*"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, internet, friends and neighbors. Call Linda with hints and ideas, be ready to jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting, or write "What Works!" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204.*



# Where Did You Get Those Wonderful Seeds?

By Carl Goodson

Seeds are miraculous things. They provide the bulk of the sources of plants for the vegetable garden.

Plants already up and growing are available in season, and the gardener relies on them for early production. But seeds are counted on for the main crops of most vegetable gardens. They are available now from a variety of sources: catalog suppliers, bulk seed retailers and packet seed displays. Each has advantages, so that the average or large plot gardener may purchase some seeds from each source.

To be successful and provide a bountiful crop, seeds need to have certain qualities: freshness, a high percentage of germination, good genetic traits and freedom from contamination. And, the price must be affordable.

Start your seed search with a list of the vegetables that you want. Make estimates of the amount of space available. Then try to determine the amount of seeds to sow. Sowing thickly and thinning after the first true leaves appear is a good practice.

## Catalog Suppliers

The seed catalogs have already been received by those who are on the suppliers' mailing list, but it's still not too late to order from this source although there may be delays in shipping.

Catalogs offer a wide span of quantities with savings per seed in the larger amounts.

They also offer the widest range of varieties of individual vegetables.

Catalogs usually describe the varieties in such a way that you have a better idea what to expect in produce. Further, they tag some varieties as especially desirable. Until you have had a chance to try them in your local growing conditions, you will not know which varieties are good for you.

Plant two or more varieties of each vegetable, because your plot is a distinctive environment with wide possibilities of fertility, moisture, light, temperature and tilth. Then place your order. In a few days the supplier will usually deliver, rarely substituting varieties and then only if you permit it to.

## Bulk Seed Retailers

Bulk seed suppliers offer the most reasonable prices.

Bulk seeds are sold in feed, grain and some rural hardware stores by weight or by a scoop. The named varieties are not numerous, usually only one of each kind of vegetable. You can be assured that the supplier offers varieties that do well in the local growing zone. A knowledgeable supplier can also give you tips on how to get the most out of the seeds he sells. If it is a bargain you are after, the bulk store is the place to go.

## Packet Seed Displays

Most gardeners seed rack in count stores. open as

are familiar with the nursery and discount stores. They are usually soon as the ground is ready to receive the seeds.

The individual packets have a colorful picture of the vegetable on the front along with the name of the vegetable at the top and the variety in smaller print under the name. At the bottom, the weight of the contained seeds is listed. On the back, instructions explain to how to plant and how much space is needed. Other cultural instructions are usually given in considerable detail.

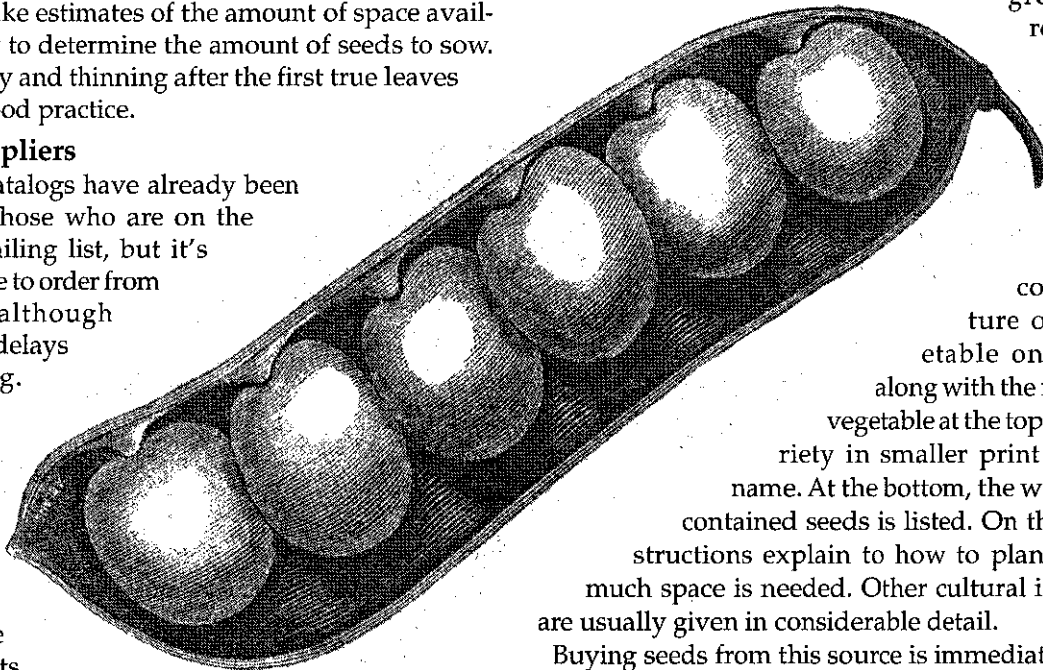
Buying seeds from this source is immediately satisfying, though most expensive. You can plant the same day you order. Discount stores usually remove the display racks before the growing season is over. So anticipate what seeds you need for fall and winter gardening and lay in a supply ahead of time.

Sometimes there are displays of very cheap seeds in grocery, drug and discount stores. Since you pay for what you get, this is not the best source of seeds.

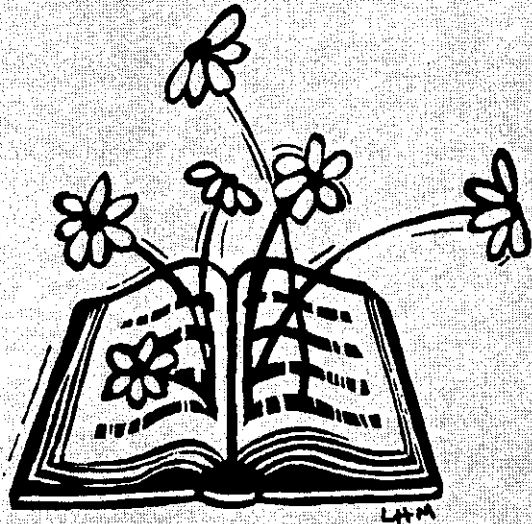
## Seed Trading

Another source for seeds is seed trading between gardeners. It requires that you harvest seeds, clean and dry them carefully, store them in dry, cool places, and have enough of them that you can trade or share with others. There are national clubs that exist to keep old varieties going by handling the seeds in a scientific way.

Whatever method you chose as the source of seeds, obtain, plant, nurture and enjoy.



wid- of the in-



# Book Review

By Julia Loyall

## The Well-Tended Perennial Garden: Planting and Pruning Techniques

By Tracy Di-Sabato Aust

Portland, Oregon, Timber Press, 1998, 209 pages

Last year this was Timber Press's bestselling garden book. This year it's their all-time bestselling hardcover. Why? Because it deals with a unique subject that troubles many homeowners — the care of perennials, those non-woody plants that die back each year.

Since revival of interest in perennials in the '80s, homeowners have been choosing perennials for a low-maintenance home landscape and finding that they don't always prosper as planned. In last summer's devastating heat, I cut back some scruffy post-bloom perennials to the ground just to get them out of sight. The pink hollyhock rebloomed as a shorter plant. The clematis died. The yarrow and soapwort stayed green and spread madly without flowering. The verbena grew upward instead of along the ground, and the flowers changed color. There's much I need to learn about perennials!

Books on individual perennial species and descriptive perennial encyclopedias abound, but the differing maintenance and long-term needs of common garden perennials previously have not been covered in a single text.

Aust's goal with this book is to fill that gap. She is an Ohio landscape designer, author and lecturer who has specialized in perennial gardens for 20 years. She has tested and photographed results of different pruning and shaping techniques in her landscape work and in her own 4600 square feet of perennial border gardens. In this book Mrs. Aust shares with us her expertise on creating a perennial garden and on rejuvenating an established one.

There are three main sections to *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*: Basic Perennial Garden Planting and Maintenance, Pruning Perennials, and an Encyclopedia of Perennials. These are followed by three useful appendices, a USDA Plant Hardiness Map, a metric conversion chart, a glossary, a bibliography and an index of plant names, Latin and common.

### Perennial Garden Basics

The six chapters of the basic section stress the importance of light, moisture and soil. The right plant in the right place will be easy-care.

Aust urges testing your site's original soil and a sample

of that soil with the addition of the correct proportions of the amendments you will add to the site.

She uses stone borders around the bed and eliminates weeds with Round-Up or black plastic. She waits to be sure all weeds are dead. She discusses in depth soil amendments and an easy formula she uses for quantities. Good soil is her key to low maintenance. Aust describes her planting techniques, strategies for pest and disease avoidance without sprays and methods of staking and dividing plants.

To rejuvenate the tired perennial garden, she recommends removing temporarily those plants you plan to save, and beginning with weed elimination, soil testing, and organic soil amendments as in a new bed.

### Pruning Perennials

The second section reveals her secrets for all the times and ways we can prune and shape plants to improve bloom, height, health and survival in weather extremes. She explains how, when and why to deadhead, cut back, pinch, disbud, thin and deadleaf.

### An Encyclopedia Of Perennials

Section Three is the fascinating Encyclopedia of Perennials, which made this book a must-have for me — it and the author's before-and-after art (131 large color photographs and 21 line drawings by Beth Ann Daye) which show so clearly her methods and successes.

### Appendices

Appendix A covers care of ornamental grasses. B has a schedule of perennial garden planting and maintenance. C has 36 lists of plants grouped for quick reference by their specific pruning and maintenance requirements. The lists use Latin plant names, but the index has the common name with the scientific name.

You'll want this book too, but you may not borrow my copy. I need it! Order from Timber Press (1-800-327-5680) or your favorite local book store.

Bright spot: Tracy dislikes bearded iris because she is plagued with iris borers in her soggy clay soil in Ohio. Our hot dry summers have kept them at bay so far. ♦

the fall when the leaves are turning color.

The Chinese Pistache is dioecious, meaning that there are female trees and male trees. The fruits appear on female trees only if there are male trees in the vicinity. The fruits are 1/8 inch nutlike fruit, bright red at first, and turning dark blue as they ripen.

Most sources didn't think that this fruit would be a litter problem, but it is an aspect of the tree to consider. It has no serious pest problem and is easy to maintain. The only problems found have been a susceptibility to Texas root rot and occasional verticillium wilts and oak root fungus.

About the only bad factor is its need to be pruned when young. Although most trees turn out looking fine without being pruned, it is recommended when the tree is young to improve the mature form. If your sapling has never been pruned, the first thing to do is top it. This will force the sapling to form branches. Pick one branch to be the trunk and another one to be the branch. Remove all of the other branches, leaving just the two for the main trunk and the branch. After the tree grows taller, top the tree again about 18 to 24 inches above the last pruning. This will force the tree to put out branches again. You should continue to prune this way until you get a tree with well-spaced branches. Its ugly duckling appearance when young is one of the reasons it is not planted as often as it should be. Nonetheless, an ugly 5-gallon container plant will grow into a beauty.

An excellent yard tree, the Chinese pistache gets rave reviews from many different sources. If you want to learn more about it, check out the following websites. You can see a small picture and more information at these sites:

<http://www.plantadviser.com/plants/pistchin.shtml>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/cemap/pistache/pistache.html>

You can see a picture of fruit at <http://californiagardens.com/PlantPages/Pistachefruit.htm> \*



*Plot, continued from page 3*

for maximum root establishment.

Try rooting cuttings from carnations, chrysanthemums, shasta daisies, and pinks.

Plant clematis vines, ferns, gladioli corms (plant at two week intervals for extended blooming), regal lilies and zephyranthes lilies.

Apply superphosphate or bone meal to tulips and daffodils; and lime to clematis and ivy.

To prevent thrips on gladioli, soak corms for three hours in a solution of 1.5 tablespoons of Lysol to a gallon of water before planting.

## Roses

Prune bush roses to within 1 to 2 feet of the ground. March is a good time to move roses. Apply final dormant oil spray for roses.

## March Bloom

Anise Florida, azaleas, camellias, chionodoxa, crabapples, daffodils, forsythia, hyacinths, early iris, Carolina jessamine, kerria, magnolia stellata, maple, mertensia, muscari, myosotis, oxalis, pansies, flowering peach, pearl bush, phlox subulata, photinia, English primrose, quince, red bud, spirea, tulips, viburnum burkwoodii, violet, wisteria and woodbine. \*

## Spring Wildflowers — Watching In The Ouachitas When And Where To See The Spring Flowers

By Rose Hogan

*Remember, wildflowers are there for everyone. Please avoid picking them so that they can brighten someone else's day.*

### Part 1

#### April

The best places to see wildflowers in April include the Crystal Vista Auto Tour south of Mr. Ida: Scenic Highway 7 Byway north of Hot Springs; Albert Pike, Charlton, and Little Missouri Falls Recreation Areas; Hickory Nut Mountain Vista; Caney Creek Wilderness Area; and the Shady Lake Trails.

Violets come in many colors and can be found throughout the forest, especially near streams.

Small, fuzzy pussytoes with short spikes of white flowers are common in rocky woods.

Trilliums and dog-tooth violets flower in deeply shaded stream bottoms.

Mayapples bloom in shady areas where hardwood trees dominate the forest.

Columbines flower by mid-April. Look for them in moist shady places, especially around bluffs.

By mid-April, coreopsis will be flowering throughout central Arkansas. It is common along roadways.

Dogwoods and Redbuds are abundant throughout the forest in April.

Dwarf iris can be seen blooming in most small seeps and along many streams throughout the Ouachitas.

Cinnamon ferns are just coming up now, their fuzzy fiddlenecks can be found in seeps.

Wood betony is common now and can be found in moist, shady woods.

Cinquefoil blooms profusely in April in marshy places that get a lot of sun.

Larkspur is common from mid-April in open woods.

False indigo blooms by mid-April. Its yellow flowers can be seen along highways in the Ouachitas.

Blackberries will be blooming by late April. They occur almost everywhere it is sunny.

By the end of April, phlox will be common throughout the forest.

Rose vervain flowers with phlox in most places. Both species occur in a broad range of habitats.

Spiderworts come in a broad array of colors and can be found in many forest types in the Ouachitas.

Mountain azalea makes its pink to rose blooms in shaded spots on hillsides and forest edges.

#### May

May is usually our best month for wildflowers. Many of April's wildflowers continue to put on a good show into mid-May. Great places to see wildflowers in May include

*See Wildflowers, continued on page 8*

*Wildflowers, continued from page 7*

the Winona and Buffalo Gap Auto Tours; the Talimena, Mt. Magazine, and Highway 7 Scenic Byways; Albert Pike; Little Pines, Knoppers Ford, Shady Lake, Collier Springs, and Lake Sylvia Recreational Areas; Beech Creek National Scenic Area; Flatside Wilderness; and the Cedar Lake, Old Pine, and Hunt's Loop Trails.

Waterleaf blooms in moist, shady spots in hardwood dominated forests.

Wild geraniums are common along streambanks and moist roadsides.

Fire pinks can be found as scattered clumps in rocky woods.

Indian pinks are common in sunny spots with moist soils throughout the forest.

Several varieties of hawthorns flower in the understory of hardwood forests during May.

Wild wisteria blooms in woody thickets in the central Ouachitas.

In late May, tickseed coreopsis begins to bloom with the showy coreopsis along the highways.

By mid-to late May, Queen Anne's lace will be blooming along most rural highways.

Showy Evening Primroses form pink drifts in grassy areas, especially along roads on the Caddo RD.

The little Venus' looking glass thrives in dry rocky soils in pine dominated woods and along roads.

Beard-tongues bloom in May. They tend to prefer flat places near (but not next to) streams.

Sensitive briers show their pink powder-puff flowers in pine woods and glades in May.

The low, mat-forming partridge-berry blooms best in hardwood dominated forests.

The colorful and hairy goats rue is common now in dry, rocky places like glades.

Wild petunias are common in dry rocky areas like glades.

Purple coneflower and pale purple coneflower bloom in sunny spots throughout the forest in May.

Black-eyed Susans come into bloom in May. Find them in open pine woods.

A variety of wild mints bloom in May. In general, they like open areas in pine woods.

The showy and yellow passionflowers bloom by late May. Look for them in hedgerows along roads.

Yucca flowers bloom in rocky soils in the northern portions of the forest.

*This information was compiled by Wayne Owen, Forest Botanist, Ouachita NF. For more information call the Ouachita NF at (501) 321-5202. Part 2 (June) will be in the April "Master Minutes".*

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2301 South University  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:** <http://www.uaex.edu>

## TRADING POST

PLANT & SEED EXCHANGE

By Frances Young

Margaret Breen, 758-1883, wants cannas for the North Little Rock Water Department Master Gardener Project.

Kelly DeBusk, 868-5180, wants monkey grass.

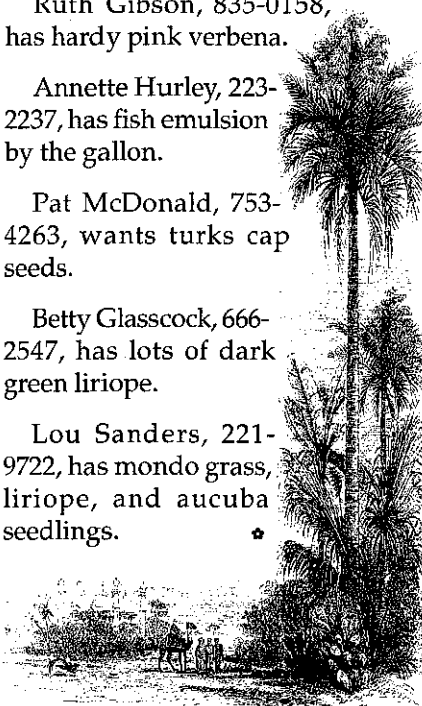
Ruth Gibson, 835-0158, has hardy pink verbena.

Annette Hurley, 223-2237, has fish emulsion by the gallon.

Pat McDonald, 753-4263, wants turks cap seeds.

Betty Glasscock, 666-2547, has lots of dark green liriopae.

Lou Sanders, 221-9722, has mondo grass, liriopae, and aucuba seedlings. \*



## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting March 13 to see your message in the April issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net.

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. \*

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

<b>Chair/Editor</b>	Rose Hogan
<b>Co-Chair/Layout Staff</b>	Cheryl Kennedy
	Tom Bruce
	Lois Clifton
	Jan O. Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Helen Hronas
	Annette Hurley
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Julia Loyall
	Linda Moyer
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



**Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteers are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.**

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture





## When You Can't Go Out, Go Up!

By Carl Goodson

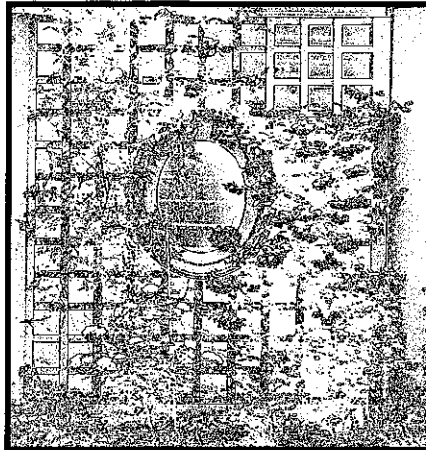
When the vegetable garden is full to overflowing and there is no possibility for expansion in any geographical direction, then plan to go up. Using non-dwarf varieties, you can increase production with no more lateral space by training the plants to grow toward heaven. Some thought and planning need to go into the process, making sure that your sky reachers do not shade too much the smaller vegetables nearby. In addition to saving space, vegetables that grow up reduce the stooping and bending at harvest time.

A number of vine vegetables such as beans, English peas, cucumbers and squash trained up on supports can be more productive than their dwarf or bush cousins. The one vegetable that profits the most from training upward is the tomato. This article will focus on the methods of training tomatoes to take advantage of space and to ensure a longer lasting harvest area. The way the tomato is handled can be applied to other climbers.

For early tomatoes, most gardeners plant the "determinate" or patio varieties. These are so-called because their gene-determined growth pattern is for a quick spurt of growth and early fruit. When they have reached a height of three or four feet, they stop growing and put their strength into

three or four clusters of fruit that ripen quicker. These profit from staking because the fruit is not allowed to touch the ground and rot.

For the main crop of tomatoes, it is wise to plant "indeterminate" varieties which continue to grow all season, ever higher, until they are stopped by



frost. A day or two before that predicted first frost, harvest all the fruit and allow it to ripen in clean, dry, low-light conditions. With careful handling, these tomatoes will still be available until the end of the calendar year. Their taste is not as good as the vine ripened tomatoes, but it is still superior to the hothouse tomatoes that are offered for sale late in the year.

There are several ways to train these varieties: poles, cages and *Arkansas Is Our Campus*

guidewires between upright brackets. The other vegetables can be trained upward in the same ways.

### Poles

Poles are the simplest method. Canes, wooden poles and fence posts — either wooden or metal — will serve the purpose. Have the poles on the ground when you plant the tomatoes. Dig a hole large enough and deep enough that, when it is back-filled, the pole will not be blown over in a gusty wind. When the pole is in

place, plant the tomato close to it as deeply as the bottom green leaves will allow. As the plants increase in height, fasten the main branches to the pole with *See Up, continued on page 7*

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**MASTER GARDENER**



# Calendar And Notes



## April

**6-7 Arkansas County Master Gardeners' 4th Annual Garden Festival.** See MG Alert for more details.

**6-8 Fourteenth Annual Ozark Springtime Wildflower Weekend.** Bull Shoals State Park. Contact Stewart Carlton at (870) 431-5521.

**7 Pulaski County Regional Solid Waste District** will hold Household Chemical & Electronics Recycling Collections from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jacksonville Community Center and **April 21** at Pinnacle Mountain Arboretum. Contact 340-8790.

**7 Wildwood Park** for the Performing Arts guided tours will focus on late-blooming daffodils, azaleas and native flowering trees. Free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour.

**7-8 Wildflowers of Lake Catherine State Park Weekend.** Information can be obtained from Glynda Pryor (501) 844-4176.

**7-8 Wildflower Weekend at Petit Jean State Park.** Contact Karen Westcamp-Johnson at (501) 727-5441.

**7-8 Wildflower Wandering at DeGray Lake Resort State Park.** Contact Kelly Farrell (501) 865-2801.

**10 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting** at 11:30 at the State Extension Office on University.

**12 Landscape Construction Workshop — cancelled!**

**11-14 Wonders of Wildflowers** at Village Creek State Park near Wynne. Contact Vickie Trimble (870) 238-9406.

**11-14 Wildflower Weekend** at Devil's Den State Park. Information available from Harry Harnish at (501) 761-3325.

**17 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Tour of Garvin Gardens.** Meet at Second Presbyterian Church and leave at 9:30. Bring your lunch.

**18 Herb Workshop** taught by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m. Call 666-0759 to register. Cost \$20.

**20 Annual Spring Dogwood Tour** from Jasper-Newton County Court House. Tour is 80 miles with 3 or 4 stops. Transportation is provided. Contact the Buffalo Ranger District at (870) 446-5122.

**21 Earth Friendly Gardening** by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m. Call 666-0759 to register. Cost \$20.

**21 Celebrating Herbs,** the third annual plant sale sponsored by the Arkansas Unit of the Herb Society of America

from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the River Market in Little Rock. Largest selection of herbs in one place. Answer Ladies will be there. Information on the sale is available from Jan King at 758-3446.

**21 Pulaski County Master Gardeners will visit Jeb Leggett's Nursery at Mt. Vernon.** Meet at the Second Presbyterian Church at 9 a.m. Wear boots. Bring your lunch.

**28 Spring Garden Tour** sponsored by the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs. Tickets and details available at 663-7515 Wednesday through Friday mornings.

**28 Ozark Natural Science Center 1-5 p.m.** Wildflower Walk with Carl Hunter. Cost \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members. Call (501) 789-2728 to register.

## May

**1 Year-Round Color** taught by Mary Evans from 9-11 a.m. Call 666-0579 to register. Cost \$20.

**4-5 Thirteenth Annual Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza.** "Beneficial Plants, Bugs & Butterflies." Lavish herbal dinner May 3. Featured speaker Pat Reppert. Sponsored by Heritage Herb Garden Committee and the Ozark Folk Center. For information call 1-800-264-3655.

**5 Household Chemical & Electronics Recycling Collection.** 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at NLR High School East Campus. Contact 340-8790 for more information.

**5 Water Garden Basics** taught by Mary Evans from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Call 666-0579 to register. Cost is \$20.

**5 Ozark Natural Science Center** will conduct a Water Garden Construction Workshop from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. To register phone in advance (501) 789-2728. Cost \$90.

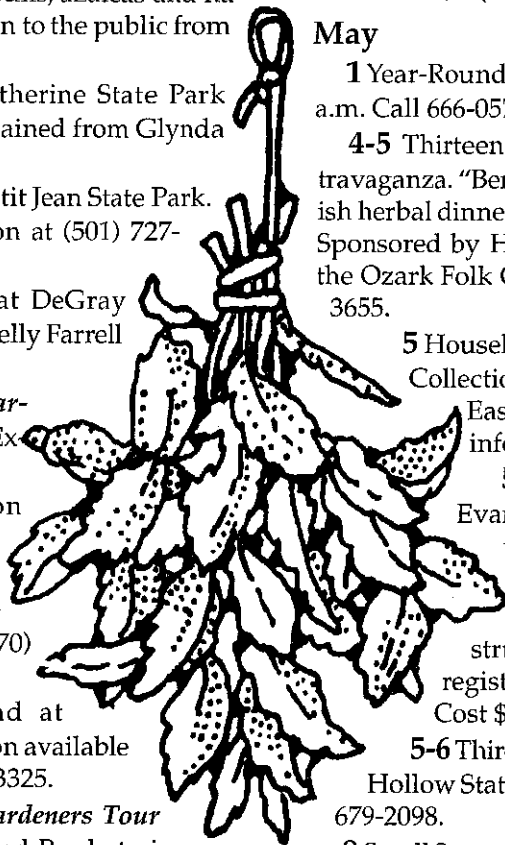
**5-6 Third Annual Wildflower Weekend.** Woolly Hollow State Park. For more information call (501) 679-2098.

**8 Small Space Gardening** taught by Mary Evans from 9 - 11 a.m. Call 666-0759 to register. Cost \$20.

**11-12 Fourth Annual Spring Fling Weekend.** Ozark Natural Science Center. Contact (501) 789-2728 for more information.

**12 Wildwood Park** for the Performing Arts, Mothers' Day Weekend. Focus on azaleas. Free tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour. Open to the public.

**12 Attracting Hummingbirds & Butterflies To Your Garden.** Powhatan Courthouse State Park. Contact J.J. Meals at (870) 878-6794.



# Master Gardener April Checklist

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

Sow these annual seeds: abelmoschus, cleome, cosmos, crotalaria, gomphrena, grasses, marigolds, melampodium, morning glories, sunflowers, tithonia and zinnia. Watch for aphids on your pansies and other plants this time of year.

For the pansies, calendula and other cool season annuals, an application of foliar feed fertilizer will help prolong the vigor of your plants.

## Bulbs

Remember to leave greenery of spring blooming bulbs until they begin to decline. Summer bulbs such as cannas, caladiums, dahlias, gladioli and tuberose can be set out now. After Easter 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 not bloom for Easter but will bloom in late spring or early summer.

## Fruits, Herbs And Vegetables

Plant cool season crops through the month of April. After April 10th, sow thinly in a well-prepared bed and cover as directed on the seed packet: basil, beans, borage, sweet corn, cucumbers, dill, melons, summer savory and squash. Set out young plants of basil, salad burnet, chervil, cress, eggplant, lemon balm, marjoram, mints, peppers, rosemary, creeping thyme and tomatoes. Plant sweet potato cuttings. If an unexpected late freeze is forecast, 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 any leaves. During the day, remove the plastic or vent it to prevent overheating. Remove all covering as soon as the weather warms up again. For berry-producing plants, apply a small amount of Epsom salts.

## Lawns And Shrubs

Start mowing this season with good sharp blades on your mower. Fertilize lawns with a complete fertilizer. If centipede and bahia lawns yellow even after they have been fertilized, they probably need an extra shot of iron. Spread iron sulfate granules over the lawn at the rate of 10 lb. per 1,000 square feet. Use a fertilizer spreader to distribute the material and water well after applying. Or spray the lawn with a solution of liquid iron, such as Greenol, at the rate recommended on the label. An early

application of a post-emergent herbicide can help control dandelions, pennywort and other unwanted warm season weeds before they take over your yard. Be sure to use chemicals specifically for your type of lawn. Rotate or change chemicals you use to more effectively control pests, as they build up resistance to chemicals over time. Also, chemicals lose potency, so do not carry them over from year to year.

Inspect the buds and undersides of leaves for signs of aphids. Control white fly, aphids and lacebugs with insecticidal soap or other appropriate measure as soon as you notice them — before they get out of control.

Mulch all new plants, shrubs or trees at the time of planting. 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.

All spring-flowering shrubs may be pruned once they have finished blooming. Feed azaleas after flowering with a fertilizer that contains iron and other elements. (Follow package directions carefully.) Azalea roots are compact, fibrous and shallow and they grow near the surface of the soil so granular or foliar feedings both work well.

For specimen blooms, disbud peonies and roses.

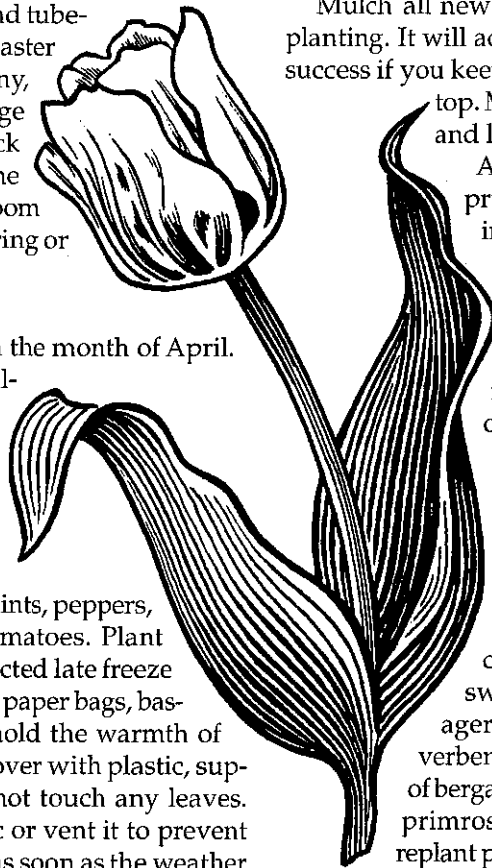
## Perennials

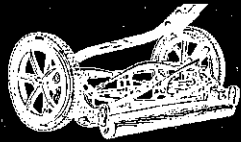
Sow perennial hollyhock and morning glory seeds. In a cold frame, sow early asters, Canterbury bells, celosia, columbine, foxglove, petunias and sweet William. Start cuttings of dwarf ageratum, chrysanthemums, torenia and verbena in a cold frame. Set out young plants of bergamot, clematis, pennyroyal, pink showy primrose and sweet woodruff. Divide and replant perennials at this time, making sure new shoots are present with each division. Replant at the same depth and water with Superthrive. As shoots emerge from those unlabeled perennials, try to identify and label them. Transplant seedlings from the cold frame of early planted perennials to get them off to a good start before it gets hot. But take care not to put tender bedding plants out too soon, as we can have frost until the end of April.

## Potted Plants

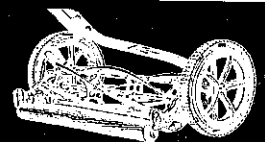
Set out agapanthus, calla lilies, caladiums, geraniums, gloriosa lilies (vines, and pandanus in containers on a porch or terrace.

*See Checklist, continued on page 6*





# What Works!



By Linda Moyer

## Cutting Ornamental Grasses

To cut back ornamental grasses, wrap duct tape 5-6 inches above the ground, then cut 3-4 inches above the crown. You may need a chain saw if the grass is very thick. This gives you a "stack" of grasses for mulch, compost, etc. without the messy cleanup. *(Courtesy of Nancy McCowan)*

## Tomato Stakes

Metal fence posts, 36-48 inches, make very good tomato stakes. Sturdy, they drive into the soil easily. In addition, they store well, are inexpensive and won't have a termite problem.

## Keeping Pests Away

When you are transplanting your young plants, put an empty toilet tissue roll around the plant. Sink it a couple of inches below the surface of the soil. Then the cutworms can't get to the tender new plant.

Marigolds are believed to keep nematodes away. Plant some among your vegetables. The odor also repels rabbits.

Sprinkle baby powder on your bed after planting tulips and lilies. It discourages varmints (squirrels, etc.). *(Courtesy of Marie Flickinger)*

Also, red pepper, cumin or chili powder can be used to discourage animals. A rain shower can "leach" the spices into the soil. So after a rain, an additional application will be needed.

## When To Dig

Don't start digging your garden when the soil is too wet. It only creates problems. The big hunks of dirt will dry hard as rocks. Take a handful of soil and squeeze it. If it stays in a ball, the soil is too wet. If it crumbles, you can work the soil.

## Wildflower Requirement

Carl Hunter points out that pH, the amount of acidity, is a more important consideration for wildflowers than fertility.

## Recycling Ideas

Doreen Howard in *Flower Gardens 2000* shares some of her tried and true ways to make gardening cheaper, easier and more exciting.

Throw-aways like old pantyhose can be used to tie tall flowers and vines to stakes and trellises.

Use newspaper and old sheets to cover tender vegetation when frost threatens.

For weed control, place six layers of newspaper on the ground between plants and cover the paper with a thin

layer of dirt or shredded bark. The papers will rot by season's end, improving the soil, and not a single weed will survive.

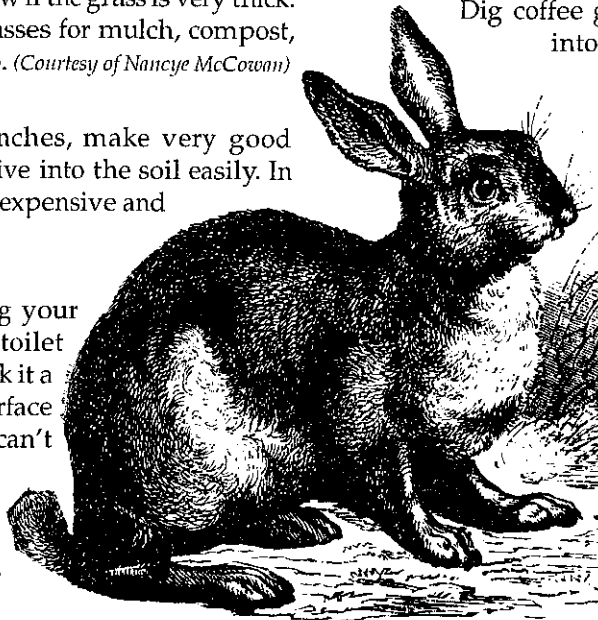
Dig coffee grounds, tea bags and eggshells into the ground around roses, azaleas and rhododendrons. The household garbage slightly acidifies the soil.

Mulch plants with used aluminum foil for insect control. Foil reflects light to the underside of plant leaves and fries pests such as whiteflies, aphids and thrips that gather there seeking shade.

Prepare a "rose-boost cocktail" by fermenting banana skins in a sealed jar of warm water for 14 days. Pour directly on rose bushes, or spray plants with the liquid. The skins are loaded with magnesium, calcium and phosphorous — all

minerals that roses crave.

"What Works" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, internet, friends and neighbors. Call Linda with hints and ideas, be ready to jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting, or write "What Works!" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204.



## Bernice Johnson's Refreshing Mint Cooler

Serves 16 to 18

- 2 cans pineapple juice (46 oz. each)
- 3 tablespoons crushed fresh spearmint leaves
- 3 tablespoons crushed fresh lemon-mint leaves
- 1/2 cup lime juice
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 24 oz. club soda
- Ice
- Mint sprigs for garnish



In a large pan, bring pineapple juice to a simmer. Pour the hot juice over mint leaves in a large container. Add lime juice and sugar. Mix well. Steep 30 minutes. Cool and refrigerate. When it's time to serve, strain juice into a pitcher and add club soda. Serve over ice. Garnish with mint.

# Master Gardener Alert

## Greenhouse Sale

Watch the mail. You will be receiving a notice of the Spring Greenhouse Sale. It will be about April 15, but the exact date has not been set yet.

## Arkansas County Garden Festival

Gail Northcutt, (870) 673-1127 or [c&gnorthcutt@futura.net](mailto:c&gnorthcutt@futura.net), has extended an invitation to Pulaski County Master Gardeners for the 4th Annual Arkansas Country Garden Festival.

The Garden Festival will be held in DeWitt, Arkansas at the Arkansas County Fairgrounds on April 6-7.

The festival begins with the opening of the trade show at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 6. The show will close at 6:30 p.m. for dinner with Dr. Gerald Klingaman, who will host a slide presentation on "Reworking Your Landscape: A Look at How Gardens Have Changed." Tickets for the dinner are \$15, with proceeds going into the Arkansas County Courthouse Gazebo Fund. The dinner is provided by Arkansas County Master Gardeners. The menu comes directly from *Cream of the Crop*, their popular cookbook, and this year features a chicken entree complete with rice, vegetable and dessert.

Saturday's events include:

9 a.m. Trade Show Opens

10 a.m. Speaker Dr. Gerald Klingaman demonstrates "Building English Troughs"

11 a.m. Speaker and Master Gardener Jane Gulley talks about "Enjoying Native Plants in Your Yard."

1 p.m. Speaker Cecelia Buck, owner of Creative Landscapes, demonstrates "Great Containers Make Great Gardens" (a complete how-to on making and maintaining container creations).

2 p.m. Speaker "The Fairy Gourdmother", Sammie Crawford, demonstrates gourd creations. Crawford has appeared on HGTV and has had White House Christmas tree ornaments retired to the Smithsonian Institution for permanent display. Her first book, *Gourd Fun for Everyone* was released in August 2000. Her second book is due

out this fall.

Lunch and drinks will be available at the fairgrounds on Saturday.

## Arkansas Select

"2001 Arkansas Select 2001 — better plants for arkansas gardens", publication MP 420, includes dragonwing begonia, Japanese snowbell, homestead purple verbena, 'Million Bells' calibracoa and Arkansas blue star.

Plants in the 2001 program were nominated and selected by industry leaders because they are new and/or underused in the state. They are all widely adapted for Arkansas gardens. Arkansas Select plants will be available from greenhouses, nurseries and garden centers across the state. For more information, visit the web site, <http://www.uaex.edu/hort>.

## You Set The Date

Have you ever wanted to take an Ozark Folk Center organic herb growing class but couldn't on the date that was listed? Now you can set the date yourself.

The classes listed below are designed to be a quality learning experience for individuals and for groups of 2 to 12. One-on-one classes are available for \$65. Fees are \$40 per person for two or more in a group. The herb gardeners need advance notice of two weeks to schedule the workshop day. Classes are subject to instructor availability and park events. Classes begin at 10 and end at 4. You will be told what tools to bring.

Here are some of the options:

*Organic Herb Greenhouse I*

*Organic Herb Greenhouse II Becoming a Great Scout*

*Organic Herb Greenhouse III Scouting out Trouble*

*Organic Herb Container Gardening*

*Organic Gardening Workshop*

*Intensive Plant Propagation Workshop*

Greenhouse workshops can be held from October through mid-April. Intensive propagation, container gardening and organic gardening classes can be held any time of the year.

Contact the Ozark Folk Center, Attention: "Herbs", P.O. Box 500, Mountain View, AR 72560, (870) 269-3851; Web: [www.Ozarkfolkcenter.com](http://www.Ozarkfolkcenter.com).



*Dragonwing begonia*

# Spring Wildflowers — Watching In The Ouachitas

## When And Where To See The Spring Flowers — Part 2

By Rose Hogan

*Please avoid picking wildflowers so that they can brighten someone else's day. Remember, they are there for everyone.*

### June

May flowers usually hang on through mid-June. The best June flowers are found near streams and at higher elevations. Among the best places to see June wildflowers are the Poteau Mountain Rustic Drive; the Buffalo Gap Auto Tour; the Talimena Scenic Byway; Little Missouri Falls, Lake Sylvia, Little Pines, and Cedar Lake Recreation Areas; Black Fork Mountain Wilderness; Rich Mountain; Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum; Winding Stair Mountain; and the Earthquake Ridge Trails.

Small, white-flowered fleabanes are common in June in a range of wooded areas.

Hydrangeas bloom throughout June along the shaded, rocky banks of perennial streams.

Purple coneflowers are most common in June. See them along roadsides and in open pine forests.

Prairie gayfeathers bloom in June and are common along forest roads.

Trumpet creeper and cross vine are two showy vines that bloom in June, especially in fencerows.

Milkweeds become common in June. Most of them prefer dry soils in pine dominated forests.

Toward late June, rose pinks will be easy to find along roadsides in pine-dominated forests.

Guara makes huge displays of white flowers in wet

depressions along roads throughout early summer.

Wild roses are blooming very well by early June. They thrive in old pastures and in hedgerows.

Prickly pear cactus blooms in June. It prefers rocky (glade) areas with plenty of sun.

Water lilies can be seen flowering on many small lakes throughout central Arkansas.

Exotic lizard's tails flower in streams by mid-June.

Virginia and Maryland meadow beauty bloom in wetlands, June through summer.

Small, yellow seedbox flowers are common in wet ditches and at stream-crossings.

Dittany, also called wild oregano, blooms in dry woods by late June.

Mountain mints make small white and lavender flowers beginning in June.

Bright yellow partridge peas bloom along roadsides in June.

Ubiquitous sumacs produce great floral displays in June.

Jewelweed makes its orange

flowers in moist spots along trails and streams.

Red-flowered native honeysuckle blooms in a range of wooded areas throughout the state in June.

*This information was compiled by Wayne Owen, Forest Botanist, Ouachita NF. For more information, call the Ouachita NF at (501) 321-5202. Part 1 (April and May) was in the March "Master Minutes".*



*Checklist, continued from page 3*

### Roses

Do not plant dormant roses after April 15th. Potted roses can be planted until May 15th. Lightly feed roses with cottonseed meal, Milorganite or commercial rose food. 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.

### April Blooms

Ajuga, golden alyssum, anemone, anise Florida, azaleas, red-leafed Barberry, bellis, beauty bush, bleeding-

heart, red buckeye, calycanthus, candytuft, clematis, columbine, coral bells, daffodils, English daisies, daylilies, deutzia, dianthus, dogwood, epimedium, foam flower, forget-me-nots, fringe tree, fritillaria, grass pinks, heather, iris, yellow jessamine, kerria, leopards-bane, lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, lungwort, maple, meadow rue, mertensia, mock-orange, moneywort, muscari, oxalis, pansies, peonies, phlox, polemonium, primroses, ranunculus, rosemary, roses, sage, St. John's wort, scilla campanulata, Scotch broom, shooting star, snowflake, Solomon's seal, spireas, styrax japonica, tamarisk, thrift, trillium, tulips, viburnum carlesi, viburnum opulus sterile, viburnum tomentosum, vinca, violas, weigelia, and sweet William.★



soft twine, twist wires or discarded women's hosiery. To produce the biggest tomatoes, pinch out all suckers (the incipient branches that form in the axil between the main stem and every leaf). For the most fruit, allow the lowest three or four branches to grow, tying them to the pole as needed.

### Cages

Cages are the most efficient supports, and require no tying. Few commercial cages are large enough to accommodate an indeterminate plant. The cages that are sold in nursery, discount and catalog stores will take care of determinate tomatoes nicely. Larger cages can be made from stout wire fencing or from reinforcement steel (Rebar) offered for concrete paving; these are available at home improvement stores like Lowe's and Home Depot, etc.. Determine the radius (about 15 inches) and cut the steel a little more than three times larger than that. By leaving several horizontal tags on the one side of the material, you can twist them back around to the upright on the other side. The cages should be set and anchored soon after the plants are put in. Then it is just a matter of letting the new growth come up through the cage. An occasional errant lateral can be carefully guided back into the cage. Whether these are suckered or not is the gardener's choice.

### Brackets

Brackets erected more permanently at each end of a row can, with a little more labor, provide adequate support. Stout poles with cross arms allow binder twine to be strung back and forth under the leaves and branches and so support heavy plants in an upright position. Permanent brackets tempt the gardener to plant the same crop in the same place, but rotation can be achieved by following tomatoes with other vining crops.

So, with a little more work, the same ground which grew the bush varieties can be induced to grow more, when the burgeoning plants are directed up. \*

*Calendar, continued from page 2*

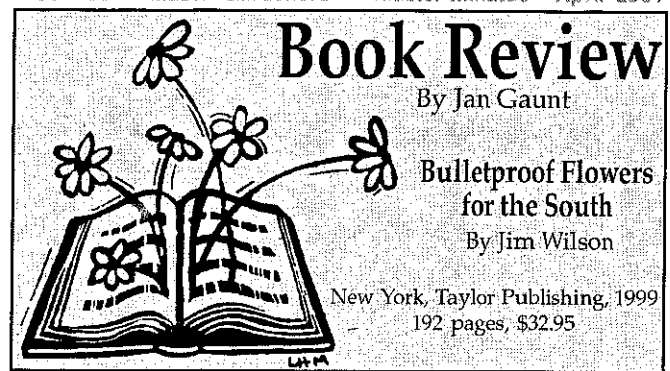
**15 Pulaski County Master Gardeners tour of Memphis Botanical Gardens, Dixon Gardens and a Japanese garden, then visit a Memphis nursery.** This will be a one day bus trip. The \$30 cost must be paid by the April PCMG meeting. Meet at 6 a.m. at Second Presbyterian Church. A box lunch and drinks are included. For more information call Paul McDonnell at 224-9094.

**19 Third Annual Historic Home & Garden Tour.** Bentonville. Contact Leah Whitehead at (501) 273-9664.

**19 Spring Landscape & Garden Tour** lead by Mary Evans, 9 a.m. to noon. Call 666-0579 to register. Cost \$29.

**25-31 Garden Glory Day at Ozark Folk Center.** Tour the Center's springtime Heritage Herb Gardens. Contact Tina Marie Wilcox at (870) 269-3851 for information.

**28-June 1 International Master Gardener Conference** in Orlando, Florida. \*



After two harsh Arkansas summers, advice is welcome on selecting flowering plants that stand up to our climate. Jim Wilson was formerly a co-host of the *Victory Garden* on TV. A Southerner himself, he appreciates the challenges of gardening in the southeastern United States.

In this book he describes "the very best of the South's heat- and humidity-hardy blooms." He includes some hardy perennials and herbs which may bloom more briefly, but which provide attractive foliage through the growing season. He describes how to plant the best varieties and suggests you mulch well during comfortable spring days before the steamy summer weather arrives. "Then, except for a few weed-pulling forays during early-morning or late evening hours, and watering during dry spells, you can sit on your screened porch, drink sweet tea, and enjoy color throughout the summer ... luxuriate in color all summer long!" Isn't that a delightful picture?

In addition to Wilson's own favorite bulletproof plants, a section of the book gives plant recommendations of many other garden experts from across the south. Other sections include "What Gardeners Can Do to Minimize the Impact of Heat and Humidity" and "Growing Flowers and Herbs in Containers." He recommends winter-blooming flowers as well. Also mentioned are some heat-loving plants to avoid because of their tendencies to rot in our rainfall and high humidity.

Wilson gives many helpful tips on gardening. For instance, he strongly recommends improving the soil, then top-dressing with mulch every year to replace the organic matter broken down by heat or washed out by torrential rains. He emphasizes testing the soil pH periodically, as many Southern soils become profoundly depleted of calcium and magnesium. Even supposedly acid-loving plants suffer in overly-acid soil, so test the pH: adding some dolomitic limestone may help your azaleas stay healthier and bloom more lavishly next spring.

The book includes a small encyclopedia of just over 100 plants. These made Wilson's short list of top performers. Each entry includes a photo, discussion, plant height, light preference and the recommended hardiness and heat zones. He names the specific varieties of the plants that do best in the Southeast.

*Bulletproof Flowers for the South* offers valuable advice on gardening in our climate. I especially recommend taking it along on plant-buying excursions to help pick varieties more likely to succeed here. \*

## Trading Post

By Frances Young

Nancye McCowan, 868-1335, has orange daylilies — free, extra from an MG site.

Kathleen Wesson, 663-9146, wants vinca minor.

Jan King, 758-3446, has mother wort.

Marie Flickinger, 758-4202, has vinca minor, wants rosemary and rue.

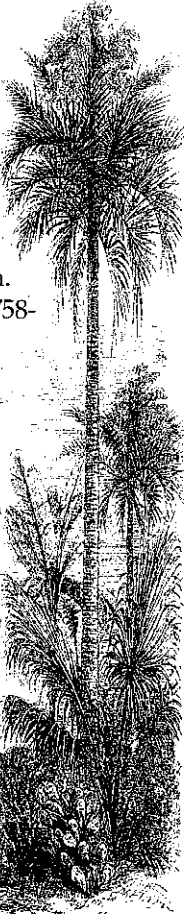
Paul McDonnell, 224-9094, has devil's walking sticks.

Lynn Phelps, 219-2449, has lilac bush (you dig). Wants pachysandra.

Wincie Hughes, 758-5271, wants herbs — all kinds.

Helen Hronas, 228-5680, has althea, crepe myrtle, bee balm, obedient plant, liriopi, vinca minor, small-leaf ivy.

Adrian Williamson, Jr., 227-0495, has Stella daylilies.



## Advanced MG Training To Be Offered

By Jane Druff  
PCMG 1st Vice President

The Continuing Education Committee of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners has met to develop a program of study toward an Advanced Master Gardener status. They took the responses from last year's questionnaire of interests, plus areas of public concern and availability of instructors to plan training.

*Continued, next column*

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2301 South University  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:** <http://www.uaex.edu>

The first session will be Landscape Design offered for three Tuesday mornings, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., August 14, 21, 28, 2001 at the State Extension Office. The training will be for dues-paying members of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Association who have completed one full year of volunteer and education hours. There will be a nominal charge.

Master Gardeners who complete this first advanced training will receive a certificate for 12 hours of Landscape Design training toward an overall 40 hour program for Advanced Master Gardener certification.

Other courses will be offered as they become available in future months. Those who complete each phase of the training will be called on when we get requests for assistance in that subject area. Requests could be to visit one-on-one or consult with a church or school or to present a brief program to a group.

Applications for the training will be in the "Master Minutes" by June.



**GARDEN-WISE, IT WAS A BEAR MARKET.**

*RUTH LIVELEY, SPEAKING OF THE 2000 GROWING SEASON*

## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting April 10 to see your message in the May issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net.

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter.

### Master Minutes Staff — 2001

**Chair/Editor** Rose Hogan  
**Co-Chair/Layout** Cheryl Kennedy

**Staff**

- Tom Bruce
- Lois Clifton
- Jan O. Gauntt
- Carl Goodson
- Ann Green
- Helen Hronas
- Annette Hurley
- Virginia Johnson
- Ruth Jones
- Julia Loyall
- Linda Moyer
- Ellen Rouch
- Libby Thalheimer



Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteers are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



## American Native Azaleas Are Dramatic And Fragrant

By Tom Bruce

### Classification of Azaleas

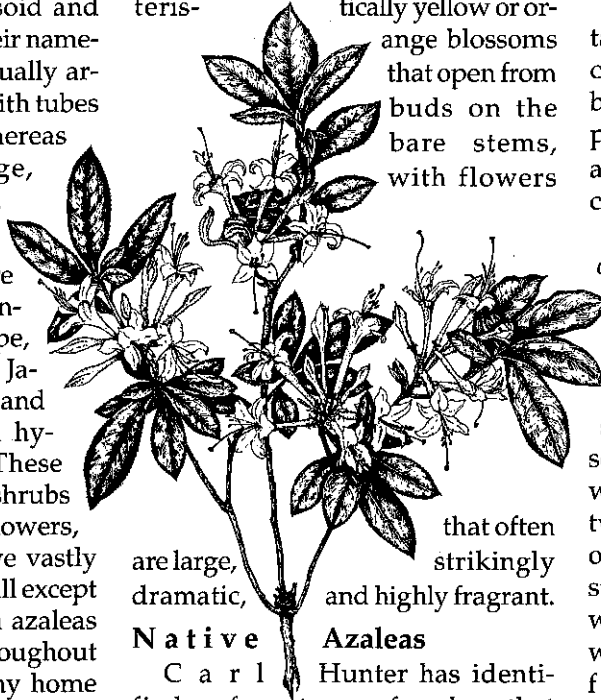
All azaleas belong to the rhododendron genus, woody plants of the heath family that are highly admired for their spring flowering habits. Azaleas can easily be distinguished from true rhododendrons because they have small ovate leaves, compared with the large ellipsoid and waxy evergreen leaves of their namesake. Azalea flowers are usually arranged in tubular whorls, with tubes that widen at the end, whereas rhododendrons have large, massed, bell-shaped flowers.

### Evergreen Azaleas

Most of the azaleas that are grown domestically in Arkansas are of the evergreen type, imported by and large from Japan during the 19th century and extensively cultivated and hybridized in this country. These tend to be low-spreading shrubs with red, mauve or white flowers, although new cultivars have vastly extended the color range to all except a true blue color. Evergreen azaleas are planted extensively throughout the South — including many home gardens in Central and Southern Arkansas — and, since the newer hybrids are becoming cold tolerant, they are being used increasingly across the entire country.

### Deciduous Azaleas

In contrast to the evergreen types, most native azaleas are deciduous, losing their leaves in winter. Several of the native azaleas grow quite tall and shrubby, dwarfing their evergreen cousins. Some of the most interesting native plants have characteristically yellow or orange blossoms that open from buds on the bare stems, with flowers



are large, dramatic, and highly fragrant.

### Native Azaleas

Carl Hunter has identified four types of azaleas that grow wild in Arkansas: all of these have pink or white tubular flowers, with blossom times that may extend well into the summer months.

*Arkansas Is Our Campus*

*Rhododendron canescens* (Hoary azalea, Piedmont azalea) is found in the southern part of the state along sandy or rocky creek beds. It has pink and white whorled flowers with long stamens, is nicely fragrant and blooms in late March or April. These natives grow up to about 8 feet tall.

*Rhododendron prinophyllum* (Mountain azalea) has bright pink or rose-color flowers, highly fragrant. It blooms in April or May on modest plants found throughout the Ozarks and Ouachitas.

*R. viscosum* (Texas azalea) grows in moist sandy soils in the western two-thirds of the state. It has white whorled flowers that bloom in April or

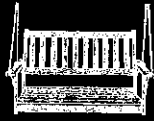
See Azaleas, continued on page 8

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**MASTER GARDENER**



# Calendar And Notes



By Ruth Jones

## May

**3** Household Chemical Recycling Collection at NLR High School East Campus. For information call 340-8790.

**2 & 16** Garvan Gardens, Hot Springs. Training to learn more about roses, 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Gardens. Call 800-366-4664 to reserve a space. A fee of \$15 per session or \$40 for 3 sessions for those who cannot serve as volunteers. For more information call Bob Byers at 501-262-2711.

**4 & 5** 13th Annual Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza. "Beneficial Plants, Bugs, & Butterflies." Lavish herbal dinner May 3. Featured speaker Pat Reppert. For information call Ozark Folk Center, 800-264-3655.

**5** Water Garden Basics taught by Mary Evans from 9-11 a.m. Call 666-0579 to register. \$20.

**5** Water Garden Construction. Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville. 501-789-2754. Cost is \$90.

**5 & 6** Wildflower Weekend, Old Davidson State Park. 870-892-4708.

**5 & 6** 3rd Annual Wildflower Weekend, Woolly Hollow State Park. 501-679-2098.

**8** Small Space Gardening, Mary Evans, 9-11 a.m. 666-0579. \$20 fee.

**8** MG Meeting, 11:30 a.m., State Extension Office.

**11-12** Spring Fling Wild Family Weekend, Ozark Natural Science Center. Family experience weekend.

Hike Bear Hollow, gather wild edible plants, learn about reptiles and amphibians. Black bear stories around the campfire. Members \$60 per person, \$70 non-members. Children under 10 half price. 501-789-2754.

**12** 4th Annual Spring Wildflowers Walk. Ozark Natural Science Center. Contact 501-789-2754.

**12** Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs. Free public tours 10 a.m.-noon. More information at 800-366-4664.

**12** Attracting Hummingbirds & Butterflies. Powhatan Courthouse State Park. J. J. Meals at 870-878-6794.

**15** Pulaski County Master Gardeners Tour of Memphis Botanical Gardens and a Japanese Garden and Trees by Touliatos Nursery. A one day bus trip. Cost \$30. Meet at 6 a.m. at 2nd Presbyterian Church. Bring picnic lunch. Paul McConnell for information at 224-9094.

**19** 3rd Annual Historic Homes & Garden Tour, Bentonville. Leah Whitehead at 501-273-9664.

**19** Spring Landscape & Garden Tour lead by Mary Evans from 9 a.m.-noon. Call 666-0579 to register. \$29 fee.

**24** Pulaski County Master Gardener Picnic, 6 p.m. at the Old Mill and Lakewood Pavilion. Catered by Corky's. \$7.50 for adults, \$3 for children.

**25-31** Garden Glory Days at Ozark Folk Center State Park, Mountain View. Tour the park's springtime Heritage Herb Gardens. 870-269-3851.

**29 and June 12 & 26** Garvan Gardens, Hot Springs. Training to learn more about general plant identification. All sessions are from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Gardens. Call 800-366-4664 to reserve a space. A fee of \$15 per session or \$40 for 3 sessions for those who cannot serve as volunteers. For information, Bob Byers, 501-262-2711.

**28 - June 1** International Master Gardener Conference in Orlando, Fla. Information: Beth at 340-6650.

## June

**5-19 & July 3** Garvan Gardens, Hot Springs. Training to learn more about the Woodland Walk. All sessions 8:30 to 11: a.m. at the Gardens. Call 800-366-4664 to reserve a space. \$15 per session or \$40 for 3 sessions fee for those who cannot serve as volunteers. For more information call Bob Byers at 501-262-2711.

**7** Made In The Shade taught by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m. Call 666-0579 to register. \$20 fee.

**7-Aug. 30** Farmers Market NLR — Lakewood Shopping Center every Thursday. Contact 758-3080.

**9** Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts focus on azaleas and wild-

flowers. Free tours on the hour 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Open to the public.

**9** Garvan Gardens, Hot Springs. Free public tours from 10 a.m.-noon. For information call 800-366-4664.

**12** Shade Gardening Workshop in Hot Springs, details to come.

**16** Four Seasons Gardening: Summer. 9-11 a.m. taught by Mary Evans. Call 666-0579 to register. Cost \$20.

**23-24** 5th Annual Mt. Magazine International Butterfly Festival, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.. 501-963-2244.

## August

**14, 21 and 28** Continuing education classes for Pulaski County Master Gardeners on Landscape Design.

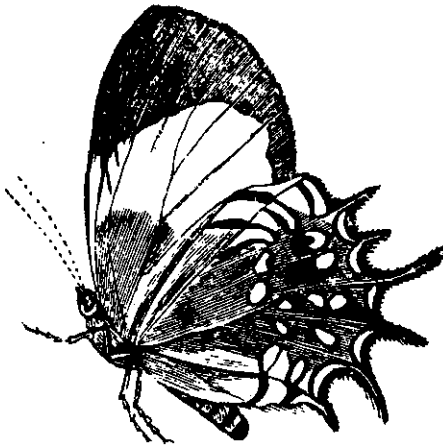
**22-26** Gardens of British Columbia tour, Janet Carson.

**26-29** Rocky Mountaineer Railtour optional addendum to above tour.

## September

Native Plant Workshop at the Ferndale 4-H Center.

**2002 — April 19-29** Holland Tour, host Janet Carson. Cost \$3,500. Call Poe Travel 376-417.



# Master Gardeners' May Checklist

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

Set out sun-loving annuals transplants: ageratum, sweet alyssum, begonia, celosia, barbatus and chinensis dianthus, African & French marigold, petunia and zinnia. Or for shade: browallia, coleus and impatiens.

## Bulbs

Plant caladiums, cannas and other summer bulbs. Fertilize spring bulbs.

## Fruits, Herbs And Vegetables

Begin planting green beans, lima beans, eggplant, cucumbers, melons, peppers, squash and tomatoes. Soak okra seeds overnight before planting on the north side of your vegetable garden (the tall stalks won't shade the other plants).

If slugs are a problem in strawberry plants, use diatomaceous earth, commercial baits or a container of beer near the plants (the rim should be at ground level).

Fertilize established blueberry plants this month with a formula for acid-loving plants and continue through the growing season.

Mulch to keep soil cooler, conserve moisture, contribute nutrients and to keep down weeds. Lawn clippings make good and readily available mulch. If you use manure, it must be thoroughly composted before using.

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

## Lawns And Shrubs

The first application of lawn fertilizer should be made this month. May is the best time to sow Bermuda grass seed. 2,4-D can be used as a post-emergent herbicide once the grass has turned green. Read the label of herbicides to be sure they are compatible with your grass!

Prune spring-flowering trees and shrubs after bloom. When you finish, no one should be able to tell the plant has been pruned. Kolkwitzia, quince, spirea, weigelia and wintersweet need occasional shaping but Japanese andromeda (*Pieris*), azaleas, loropetalum and rhododendron seldom need shaping.

Root forsythia and hydrangea by bending branches to the ground and covering with a rock.

Fertilize azaleas after they finish blooming.

Spray Red Top Photinia with Daconil (2-3 times for control). 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 10-day intervals may be necessary. Try spraying with 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).

Aphids cause distorted new growth and prevent flowering and fruiting. Kill aphids with insecticidal soap.

**Pesticide Caution:** Make sure what you buy is safe and effective for the plant(s) you will be spraying. Mix at recommended rates. Damage can be done by using too strong a solution, including killing your plants. Too weak a solution may not solve the problem. Be sure to spray the stems and undersides of leaves, too. Wear protective clothing, i.e., long sleeves, rubber gloves, boots, eye gear and approved mask.

## Perennials

Set out sun-loving perennials transplants: hardy ageratum, hardy begonia, chrysanthemum, dianthus, lemon & Mexican mint marigold, verbena, vinca and zinnia grandiflora. Or for shade: dahlia (Unwin and Coltness hybrid) and lobelia.

Divide dahlia tubers with a sharp knife. Be sure each sprout is attached to at least a piece of the tuber, as the sprouts make the new plant.

Pinch back asters, mums and phlox.

Remove seed pods from bulbs and bearded iris.

## Potted Plants

Set out container-grown trees and shrubs.

## Roses

Cut back to the ground some of the oldest canes on climbing roses immediately after blooming. Don't cut suckers that grow from beneath the graft on roses. Instead, push your trowel down beside the trunk so the 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.

Fertilize roses this month. Continue to spray roses every 7 to 10 days with a fungicide to prevent blackspot. Signs of thrips, especially on roses are discolored blotches on petals, failure of buds to open properly and deformed blooms. If suspected, cut affected flowers and pull apart or shake over white piece of paper. Thrips 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.





# What Works!



By Linda Moyer

## From Our Members

If you must move or set out plants in hot weather, shade them and flood them with lots of water for 3-4 days. (Courtesy of Carl Hunter)

Next spring will test whether this plant labeling really works — but it seems to be waterproof. Use craft sticks (available at Michael's @ 1000 for under \$2) plus Sanford's Ultra or Fine Point permanent marker. I mark "iris" on one side and name or description on other and then sharpen one end so that it will go easily into ground by the plant. This is an inexpensive way to record and, so far, more permanent than white plastic markers which "washed away" over the winter for me, despite "permanent" marking pens. (Courtesy of Ann Green)

Since Ann sent in this wonderful hint for markers, I thought I would tell you what I did with the metal markers that Master Gardeners are selling.

Using my computer and MS Word, I printed out the botanical name, common name and description of each plant on mailing labels. There were 30 labels per sheet. Nice number, considering you can buy 3 metal label holders for \$1 or 30 for \$10. Right? Then I put the labels on the metal tags and covered them with clear packing tape.

So far, most of them are going OK. But a few are getting blurry around the edges. Maybe I didn't get the tape sealed well enough. Only time will tell if the other ones stay clear. If you have a computer printer and any kind of program that will print labels, this can be easily done. (Courtesy of Linda Moyer)

## Control

To control slugs and snails, mount a piece of half-round plastic guttering around the area you want to protect. The gutter should be buried into the soil part way so the slugs can't go under it. Coat the upper edge with cooking oil. The slugs can't get a grip and should fall off.

Control your mint before it gets a chance to spread. Use a bucket, chimney flue or aluminum sheeting to contain the mint. Sink the bucket with the bottom removed, flue or sheeting at least 12 inches in the soil. Make sure that there are 2 to 3 inches sticking above the level of the soil. The mint will stay in bounds.

## Raising Fair Size Pumpkins

For bigger pumpkins, remove all of the young fruits except one or two. That way, the plant will put all of its time and energy into making bigger pumpkins. You lose quantity but gain size.

## Mulch

Use several layers of newspaper as mulch around your plants or in the middle of the rows to control weeds. Wet the newspaper with your garden hose. Hold the newspaper down with soil, rocks or mulch. The newspaper will smother the weeds and block the light so new weed seed can't germinate. (Editor's Note: Only use black and white copy. Also, do not use any layers around edibles, as paper may contain some aluminum, which can cause neurological problems, at least according to one recent study.)

Another idea for mulch is using old carpet. This works best between the rows of your garden. Put the backside of the carpet up. Then you will have a clean surface to walk on. At the end of the garden season, roll the carpet up and store for next year. It should last for several years.

## Cut Hose Repair

To repair a water hose, preheat the ends to be repaired in warm water. The repair parts will go on easier if the hose is soft and flexible.

## Be Prepared

Mix 1-3 tablespoons dishwashing soap with 1 gallon of warm water. Put in a spray bottle for a great insecticide soap. Spray plants at the first sign of bad insects.

## From The Internet

I received these tips from the monthly newsletter "Organic Gardening.com Monthly Almanac Newsletter — April 2001 Zone 7 monthly newsletter". (That title is a mouthful.) J. Frances Worthington of Greenville, S.C. writes the Zone 7 articles.

Frances says: Considering planting four o'clocks? In zone 7, their tuberous roots often overwinter, which makes them difficult to dislodge and they can easily take over more square feet than you may want to dedicate to them. On the other hand, hummingbirds and butterflies will be happy if you plant a few.

Frances also had these helpful hints.

Tall

domestic nandinas are at their ugliest now, sporting red berries that clash with azaleas and other spring flowers. Snip off the berries and, if you want to start some new plants, sow them in a prepared bed. It

takes them a long time to germinate, but not forever. If the nandina is awkward-looking or top-heavy, trim it by cutting off a few of the stems at ground level and a few in the middle. Leave the rest alone. This treatment coaxes the bush into growing into a graceful mound of foliage. (Now all I have to do is find someone with nandina berries to give away and I can try this hint. ~ Linda)

Insect control begins to be a challenge in late April with aphid and cabbage loopers high on the list. If you find green larvae on the underside of the leaves of cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, etc.), use *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* to control the loopers and cabbageworms.

A strong spray from your hose is often enough to send aphids on their way. If you don't already keep a journal (diary), start one now and make a note of when these pests show up so you'll know when to look for them in years to come. (This is a great hint. Remember Pulaski County Master Gardeners are now selling gardening journals! See MG Alert in this issue for details).

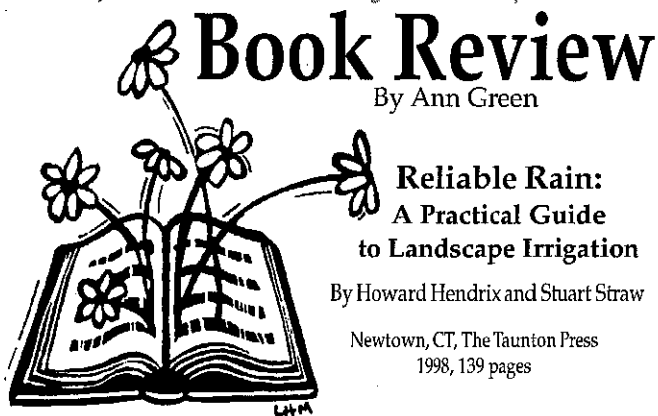
At the start of the month, thin carrots, turnips and other crowded crops. When carrots are 6 weeks old, spread an inch of fine compost on the bed. This will gently fertilize them and shade the root tops from the sun.

As soon as potato stems are 6 to 8 inches tall, hill soil around them so that only the top few leaves can be seen.

To learn more about Frances and her gardening experience, go to: [http://www.organicgardening.com/almanac/zone7\\_bio.html](http://www.organicgardening.com/almanac/zone7_bio.html). If you are interested in getting the monthly newsletter, you can subscribe to it at <http://www.OrganicGardening.com>.

"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. Send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, [lmoyer72076@yahoo.net](mailto:lmoyer72076@yahoo.net), or mail to PO Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72078; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting, or write "What Works" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit. Thanks to everyone who sent in hints for this month!





# Book Review

By Ann Green

## Reliable Rain: A Practical Guide to Landscape Irrigation

By Howard Hendrix and Stuart Straw

Newtown, CT, The Taunton Press  
1998, 139 pages

### Help Is Here

Is watering plants one of the more cumbersome and time-consuming chores of your garden? Does the only alternative seem to be calling in the "pros" to design and install a professional (expensive) irrigation system? If so, help is on the way. Written from a "do-it-yourself" perspective, this book empowers the reader with guidelines that help determine what type of irrigation system, if any, might be appropriate for one's yard and garden, together with step-by-step explanations of how to custom-design one all the way from the water main to the sprinkler head or emitter in the farthest corner of one's property.

And despite what, on the surface, appears to be chapters of "dry" reading (instructional photographs and text), this information will help the gardener to understand the newest technology, to choose the right parts and put them together correctly, to design a custom system to fit particular needs, to lay out and install the system and how to add other labor-saving devices to the basic system.

"As old as civilization but also as new as the latest computer chip," no field of gardening is undergoing as rapid or revolutionary change as plant irrigation today. Hendrix and Straw, both long-time gardening enthusiasts, hope to bridge the gap between the irrigation expert and the gardening enthusiast with this book.

### What To Take Into Consideration

Upfront is the authors' belief that global weather patterns are increasingly unstable and that not only is "the weather changing" but also "the weather is changing in its rate of change." Irrigation can help to dampen the effects of the wilder fluctuations — the drought that alternates with the flood. An overview of the history of irrigation shows our passage from inundation agriculture (natural flooding) to efforts to control timing and amount of water (canals, basins, border and furrow). Today's trend for the home gardener is toward autonomous "spot" watering of landscape zones.

The efficiency of an irrigation system, in addition to saving money and energy, frees up the gardener's time, allowing us to interact with our gardens at a higher level than dragging around hoses and buckets. Watering efficiency depends upon the basic type of irrigation selected.

Rated efficiency systems are: mobile sprinkler systems (center pivot, 70-85% and lateral-move line, 65-80%); stationary systems (fixed-head lawn sprinklers, 65-80% and water guns, 50-65%); low-energy precision application (LEPA) systems, 80-90%; and trickle or drip systems, almost 100%.

### Aspects Of Irrigation Systems

Before designing one's own system for "reliable rain," the reader is encouraged to consider three important aspects of any landscape irrigation system: invisibility, flow pressure and timing, so that attention is focused on healthy plants, not the irrigation system itself. An "invisibility" design should also eliminate wet, slippery concrete, washed wooden walls and fences, and wasted moving or pooled water. Emulating "gentle rain" necessitates low pressures and slow flow rates which ensure greater uptake of needed water by plants.

Much of the book is slanted toward new installation or retrofit of a landscape. Therefore, selection of plants looms as an important consideration, even if the gardener has already acquired some or many selections. The spectrum of plant drought tolerances range from Xeriscape (dry-climate plants that usually need little or no watering beyond that applied by nature) to drought-tolerant (plants adapted to infrequent dry weather that can survive on less than one inch of added water per week of a drought) or drought-intolerant (plants adapted to damp, wet climates that require one inch or more or applied water weekly).

### Simplicity Of Work

Gardeners do not need to be master plumbers, electricians or construction engineers to design, build and maintain irrigation systems. "A trench is not the Channel Tunnel, the electrical work is not much more challenging than changing a light bulb, and the plumbing only involves cutting, gluing and threading plastic pipes and connectors."

Once irrigation needs for climate, soil and types of plants have been determined, the book takes the gardener from the "command and control" center — the valve manifold — to and through the intricacies of both macro and micro systems. The final chapter outlines sample irrigation plans, described as "basically a matter of simple geometry — triangles, squares and circles; radii, diameters and arcs."

And perhaps one of the more important points made is "accepting imperfection" in any system. In the real, irregular world, the irrigation designer must finally be content with close approximation rather than absolute precision. The more complex the landscape, the more approximate its ultimate coverage. "That's why it's wise to section up your landscape mentally, designate areas to be watered, and assign control valves and stations before you dig your first shovelful of dirt or cut your first piece of pipe."

Project Highlights: Featuring a Pulaski County Master Garden

# State Extension Office Grounds

By Julia Loyall

## Background of the Project

The state office on South University Avenue is unique as a master gardener project because it currently has no specific chairman or committee. Instead, we are all on call when Beth Phelps needs a crew to pull weeds or plant annuals. Keeping the entrance beds full of color is the extent of our involvement at present, and it's fun to contribute to such a splendid landscape.

## History of Project Plantings

Planting of the grounds began in Fall 1995 and continued the following spring. Dr. Gerald Klingaman, Extension Specialist in Ornamental Horticulture, was the landscape architect. He chose plants, with planting and maintenance tips from Janet Carson and Dr. Jim Robbins. The ground include native and nonnative shrubs, trees



and perennials, some of which are underused in Arkansas home gardens.

Master Gardeners Judy Cass and Denise Rowland, originally in charge of the committee, thought they would need a giant committee when they first saw the grounds. Judy chaired and cochaired nearly four years, but, as the permanent plantings progressed, the annual beds did not provide enough work for a committee to earn required hours. She especially enjoyed mentoring a group of 4H teens from 9th and 10th grades as they did community service in the entrance garden.

## Site Layout

The monthly Master Gardener hike from your parking spot to the main building becomes increasingly interesting as the shrubs and trees mature. Plant Maintenance Supervisor Ken Leopard believes landscape plantings need two years to grow, two years for pruning and shaping, then in the fifth year they show the results of excellent planning and maintenance. 2001 is the fifth year for the state office landscape.

As you trudge from the UALR lot, on the right at the southeast corner of the grounds you see an area of trial gardens still under construction. There is a battery-

powered drip irrigation system of bendable black plastic pipe with an emitter for each plant, and several shrubs and trees installed.

To the left is the print/media and warehouse building, and next you pass the mechanical building. Shrubs and trees are planted around all three, and at least one of each variety is marked with the Latin and common names, thanks to Ken Leopard. Coleman Creek courses through the woody area on the south part of the State Office grounds.

There is an effort to have something blooming or showing color almost all year: winter jasmine, dogwoods, azaleas, snow mound spirea, lime mound spirea (flowers pink!), viburnums, Stella d'Oro daylilies, crape myrtles, miniature crape myrtles (later flowering), "Petite Plum" crape myrtles (around the mechanical building), dwarf barberries, hollies — and on and on. There are even two female Foster hollies next to two male Foster hollies, showing a difference in leaf width.

Beth is proud of the bald cypress trees in the long island in the parking lot, seven in all. Ken reports that watering the zoysia lawn gives the bald cypress trees what they need to prosper — cypress knees are beginning to appear.

There are so many hardy trees and shrubs that gardeners planning a landscape could find a visit valuable.

## Extension Service Trial Gardens

Dr. Jim Robbins is in charge of the trial gardens, which are being moved from Cammack Village project for the third year of a statewide plant evaluation program. There are three test sites: Fayetteville in zone 6; Little Rock in zone 7; and Hope in zone 8.

Each spring researchers at each site select 15 to 20 under-utilized trees, shrubs and perennials to study, using a minimum of three of each variety. They test trees and shrubs for five years, perennials for three. Focus of the research is to find winter-hardy plants for each area, especially broadleaf evergreens — the extension service would like to see more broadleaf evergreens planted throughout the state.

Researchers evaluate how plants grow, how fast, and the presence of disease or insects. True measure is made: no pruning except to limb up on trees in order to find the natural shape of the plant in the landscape. They monitor start and finish times of flowering, fruiting and appearance of fall color. They measure growth and weather data and file reports on the Internet. (They filed an interim report recently because Fayetteville lost many plants, but Little Rock didn't, during the ice storms.)

The Internet address for trial garden reports on the University of Arkansas Plant Evaluation Program is: <http://www.uark.edu/campus-resources/cotinus/arboretum.html/planteval.html>.

# Master Gardener Alert!

## Congratulations And Thanks

*Pulaski County Master Gardeners with 10 years active volunteer service are:*

Ann Bridgers  
 Lois Corley  
 Mary Evans  
 Carolyn Henslee  
 Sarah Henson  
 Catherine Hepinstall  
 Jay Hill  
 Virginia Johnson  
 Marie Jordan  
 Mary Lee McHenry  
 Jerry Quick  
 Lavon Spears  
 Dorothy Wilks  
 James Wilks  
 Frances Young

*Congratulations!*  
*Thank You!*  
*Congratulations!*  
*Thank You!*

*Those with five years active volunteer service are:*

Sue Anderson  
 Beverly Brown  
 Kathlene Cole  
 Julia Dame  
 Jane Druff  
 Charles Emerson  
 Mary Ann Francis  
 Jan Gauntt  
 Jim Gray  
 Catherine Johnson  
 Julia Loyall  
 Paul McDonnell  
 Janee Miller  
 Laurie Pierce  
 John Prather  
 Suellen Roberts  
 Billie Sanders  
 Brenda Veerhusen  
 Marilyn Wheeler  
 Joanna Willson

*Thank You!*  
*Congratulations!*  
*Thank You!*

## Internet Sites of Interest

Ketzel Levine has a weekly National Public Radio program and also a page on the NPR web site, [www.npr.org/programs/talkingplants/](http://www.npr.org/programs/talkingplants/). She has a lot of gardening information as well as naming her favorite internet sites. In March, under the heading "Houseplants", she spotlighted the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. In Ketzel's

opinion, the Extension Service has developed an exceptional indoor plant resource — detailed, comprehensive, and with plant-by-plant instructions. With this link, she feels in all confidence that you need never ask her anything about indoor plants again.

Linda Moyer has been checking internet resources and has checked out the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service site. She says a lot has been added since last year. Most of Janet Carson's articles are on line. There is a plant of the month. And it has more information about the Master Gardener program.

What was initially a master gardener only site has been incorporated into the Extension Service web site. The user name id and password are still required to get into the master gardener only pages. Some county master gardener newsletters are available on the site. You will need PDF software to read them. If you don't already have PDF, you can download Adobe Acrobat Reader (free).

The following are instructions for accessing this information.

1. Go to <http://www.uaex.edu>
2. On the opening page, click on the word Publications on the menu bar at the bottom of the page. There is a yellow button, on the right, with the words Adobe Acrobat Reader. Click on this button. The software can be downloaded to your computer. Make a note of the file name, for you will have to install it once it is stored on your computer.
3. Click the Home & Garden Icon on the UA opening page.
4. A menu appears on the left side of the page. Click on Master Gardener Only. This is where you will have to use the id and password.
5. Another menu appears on the left side of the Master Gardener page. Click on Newsletters Online. The listing of counties will appear. The ones underlined have the 2001 issues

available. Click on the county and then on the issue desired. The copy will automatically come onto the screen after a minute or so, depending on your modem speed.

Be prepared to spend time enjoying all this good stuff.

## Advisory Board Representative

Jane Druff has been appointed to represent the Master Gardeners in the southeast district. The State Advisory Board gives directions to the Master Gardener Program at the state level. They work on guidelines, policies and planning for the Master Gardener Program in Arkansas.

## Gardening Journals

Keeping a gardening journal (diary) is a way to remember your gardening triumphs — and setbacks. Record your planning and its results with each season. We still have journals for sale. Cost is \$25. Bring your money to the May 8 meeting.

## Metal Labels

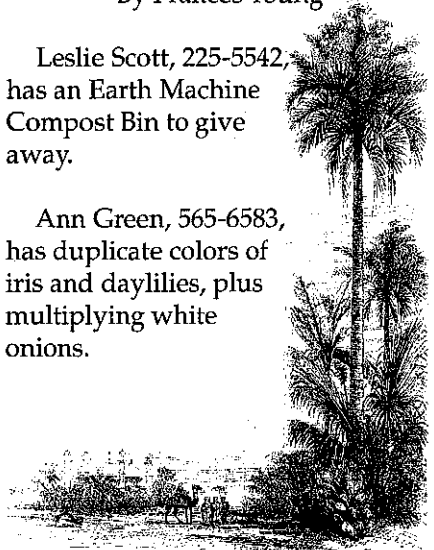
There are also some metal labels still available. The cost is \$1 for three labels. These also will be on the table at the May 8 meeting. \*

## Trading Post

By Frances Young

Leslie Scott, 225-5542, has an Earth Machine Compost Bin to give away.

Ann Green, 565-6583, has duplicate colors of iris and daylilies, plus multiplying white onions.



*Azaleas, continued from page 1*

May after the leaves have developed. The plants grow to about 5 feet tall.

*R. serrulatum* (Swamp azalea) has been identified only in Lafayette County in south Arkansas. It blooms like *R. viscosum* but grows quite tall (15 feet) and has hairy red-brown stems.

### Hybrids of Native Azaleas

There has been considerable interest in recent years in developing hybrids of native azaleas to increase their flowering characteristics and their hardiness. Some of the American native azaleas that are useful for Pulaski County gardeners are:

*R. arborescens* (Sweet azalea, Smooth azalea) from the Appalachian chain along stream banks and swamps, grows quite tall (12-15 feet) with white flowers that smell of honeysuckle. Blossoming occurs quite late, in July and August.

*R. prunifolium* (Plumleaf azalea) is the signature plant of the Calloway Gardens in Georgia. It has characteristic red-orange blooms in mid-summer, and grows to about 15 feet tall.

*R. oblongifolium* is another Texas native azalea, blooming white in late spring or early summer. It needs shade and good drainage.

*R. austrinum* (Florida azalea) has handsome early yellow and orange blossoms. Four of its cultivars are particularly noteworthy: 'Escatawpa' has large trusses of bright yellow flowers with a delightful fragrance; 'Millie Mac' has vivid yellow flowers bordered with a pure white margin; 'Hot Spur Yellow' has large yellow blossoms with an orange center, and 'Admiral Semmes' is an Exbury hybrid of *R. austrinum* that is particularly adapted to the hot South and carries large yellow, fragrant blooms in April.

*R. atlanticum* (Coastal azalea) is a low-growing stoloniferous species, ranging from 3-5 feet and with attractive blue-green foliage. The flowers, appearing in late May, are pure white or white flushed with pink, some with a distinct yellow blotch and a delicate, attractive fragrance.

A hybrid of *R. canescens*, 'Phlox

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2301 South University  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204  
671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:** <http://www.uaex.edu>

'Pink', is a deep pink, early-blooming variant of an Arkansas native. It has a robust honeysuckle fragrance and attains heights of 10-15 feet.

*Examples of all the above plants can be seen in the Richard C. Butler Arboretum at the Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, 20919 Denny Road, Little Rock.*

### Branch Out At Our Meetings



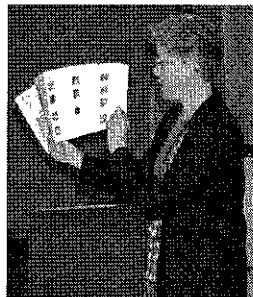
"Myrtle" invites you to the next meeting, Tuesday, May 8, 11:30 a.m. at the State Extension Office on University Avenue. In addition to keeping up with all the MG news, you'll learn more about the Gardens of Ireland,

presented by Bill Bradshaw, curator of the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock.

Also, plan to sign up May 8 for the annual picnic, to be held near the Old Mill, May 24, beginning at 6 p.m. Corky's is catering spaghetti and BBQ. Bring a plant for The Exchange and a lawn chair for yourself. A good time will be had by all.

In April, MG Kathleen Wesson led members on a virtual tour of the Denver Botanic Gardens and the U.S. National Arboretum, as well as some local,

private gardens. Thanks, Kathleen!



## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting May 8 to see your message in the June issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Rd., Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net.

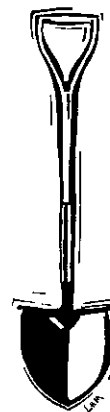
If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter.

### Master Minutes Staff — 2001

**Chair/Editor** Rose Hogan  
**Co-Chair/Layout** Cheryl Kennedy

**Staff**

Tom Bruce
Lois Clifton
Jan O. Gauntt
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Helen Hronas
Annette Hurley
Virginia Johnson
Ruth Jones
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer



Pulaski County Master Gardener Volunteers are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



## Pineapple Sage — *Salvia elegans (rutilans)*

By Linda Moyer

This was one of the most wonderful plants that I bought last year at the Flower and Garden Show. Although it is a member of the sage family, it has a wonderful fruity, pineapple aroma. It really smells like fresh pineapple. I decided this was one plant I had to have! So it was included in with the mints. And this little plant never disappointed me, even during our hot summer last year.

### Plant Care

It likes full sun and regular watering. It will wilt and eventually lose leaves during droughts, but when watering resumes, it usually comes back. The tubular flowers are bright scarlet to crimson, the stems are fuzzy, and the leaves are a dark green. Flowering occurs through late summer and autumn. Even without flowers, the pineapple sage makes a good backdrop for any border. But it is best to put it near doors and sidewalks, so people can smell the fragrance.

### Plant Uses

Both the leaves and the flowers can be used or dried. Use them in your cooking; teas, hot or cold; potpourri, etc. The scarlet flower spikes make a perfect garnish for fruit punches and teas. Pineapple sage also imparts exotic flavor to pork or chicken dishes and is a delightful addition to cream cheese and fruit salads. I especially

like the leaves in lemonade.

### History

There was little information about its history, except that it has been in cultivation since the 1870s under the name *Salvia rutilans*. It is a native of the central Mexican mountains at elevations ranging from 6,000 to 10,000



feet. It grows in the oak and pine scrub forests. In zones 9-11, it is a semi-woody subshrub, and an herbaceous perennial; in zones 8-9, it dies to the ground in winter but resprouts in spring. So it is not winter hardy here in Pulaski County and has to be grown as an annual, cuttings taken before frost, or the plant can be brought indoors until spring.

But don't we gardeners love a challenge! In the right spot and without a winter like the last one, it just

might come back the next year. Think I will try that.

(Co-editor's note: Linda, please do experiment! I have overwintered *S. elegans* for the past several years both with cuttings and by covering the plant with an unheated visquine and wood frame. Last winter, despite the ice, even *uncovered* plants came back from the roots. Furthermore, even if it has to come back from the roots, the plant grows much larger than from cuttings, in my experience.

And, the larger the bush, the more flowers, and thus the more hummers and butterflies it can support in late fall.)

### Propagation

Although my original plant was small, it had a small spike of red blooms.

See Sage, continued on page 8

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### Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# Calendar And Notes



By Ruth Jones

## June

**5, Master Gardener Tour of Master Gardener's Gardens.** 340-6650 for information, or see your May mailout sheet on the tour. Begins 9 a.m., Oakbrooke Elementary.

**5,12,19,26 & July 10 Perennial Border Gardens** taught by Mary Evans. Fee \$89. Call 666-0579 to register.

**5,19 & July 3 Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs.** Training to learn more about the Woodland Walk. All sessions are from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Gardens.

A fee of \$15 per session or \$40 for 3 sessions for those who cannot serve as volunteers. For information, call Bob Byers, 501-262-2711. Call 1-800-366-4664 to reserve a space.

**7 Made In the Shade** taught by Mary Evans from 6-8 p.m. Fee \$20. Call 666-0579 to register.

**7-Aug 30 Farmers' Market NLR** Lakewood Shopping Center every Thursday. Contact 758-3080.

**9 Wildwood Park** for the Performing Arts *focus on azaleas and wildflowers*. Free tours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the hour. Open to the public.

**8,9 Pink Tomato Festival, Warren** Court House Square. Contact 870-226-5225.

**9 Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs.** Free public tours from 10 a.m. until noon. Information 800-366-4664.

**12 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting, 11:30 a.m.** at the State Extension Office Building. "A Panel of Experts" will answer your questions — so have them ready!

**12 Shade Gardening Workshop** by Janet Carson in Hot Springs. Call 671-2000 for information.

**16 Four Seasons Gardening - Summer, 9-11 a.m.** Taught by Mary Evans, fee \$20. Call 666-0579 to register.

**23-24 Fifth Annual Mt. Magazine State Park International Butterfly Festival, 10a.m. to 6 p.m.** For information call 501-963-2244, Paris Chamber of Commerce.

## July

**19,20,21 Peach Festival** in Clarksville. Contact 501-754-9152.

## August

**9,10,11 Watermelon Festival** at Hope. Contact 870-777-3640.

**14-18 103rd Tontitown Grape Festival** on St. Joseph Church grounds. Contact 501-361-2615.

**14,21,28 Continuing education classes for Pulaski County Master Gardeners on Landscape Design.**

**22-26 Gardens of British Columbia tour, Janet Carson.**

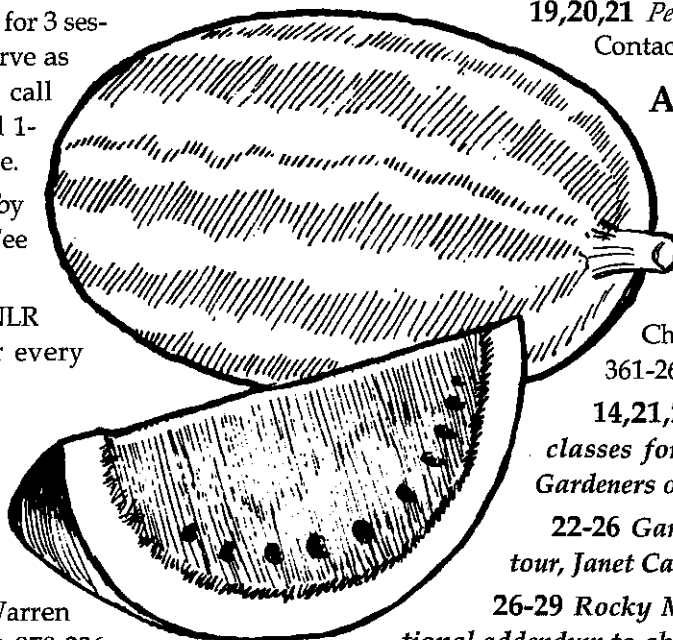
**26-29 Rocky Mountaineer Railtour optional addendum to above tour.**

## September

**11 Pulaski County Master Gardener monthly meeting, 11:30 a.m.,** at the State Extension Office Building.

## 2002

**April 19-29 Holland Tour, host Janet Carson.** Cost \$3,500. Call Poe Travel 376-4171.



Checklist, continued from page 3

balloon flowers, beauty-berry, blackberries, blackberry lily, buddleia, butterfly-weed, camellia, campsis, cannas, columbine, coreopsis, cornflowers, crinum, oxeye daisies, shasta daisies, daylilies, delphinium, dianthus, elderberry, erythrina crista-galli, blue fescue, feverfew, foxglove, gardenias, gaura, gladioli, ribbon grass, hollyhocks, hostas, hydrangeas, hyssop, Japanese iris, vesper

iris, lantana, ligularia, lilies, lychnis, magnolia, mimosa, mint, monarda, nandina, nicotiana, oregano, oxalis, petunia, phlox, English primrose, evening primrose, golden raintree, roses, rudbeckia, St. John's wort, salvia, sarracenia, scabiosa, sourwood, spirea, stachys, strawberries, sweet peas, sweet william, thyme, verbena, veronica, viola, vitex, yarrow and yucca.

# Master Gardeners' June Checklist

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

Deadhead leggy annuals, and fertilize with a teaspoon of 5-10-10 under each plant. Shear golden alyssum and hardy candytuft after bloom to keep compact and remove seedpod. Pinch back annual herbs. Thin basil. Quick-growing annuals such as balsam, marigolds, nasturtium, nicotiana, portulaca, and zinnia can be planted for a second crop.

## Bulbs

Wait until the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs turns yellow before cleaning up the bulb bed. You can still plant cannas, daylilies and gladioli.

## Fruits, Herbs And Vegetables

Remove all grass and weeds, and thin strawberry plants out to 6 inches apart in rows not more than 18 inches wide.

Add lime to the soil around tomatoes about once a month. Blossom end rot on tomatoes is not a disease; it's 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.

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 to prevent the corn ear-

worm.

Watch for chinch bugs and lawn fungi in your lawn.

Fireblight of fruit trees is a bacteria spread by bees and windblown rain, causing affected parts to blacken and die. Make pruning cuts several inches below obviously infected parts and sterilize instruments between cuts. Sprays, which include streptomycin, may be used during the bloom periods to reduce damage.

## Lawns And Shrubs

Lawns can be fertilized with a high nitrogen fertilizer now.

Fertilize peonies and camellias early in June. Apply a 3 inch layer of mulch around shrubs to keep down weeds.

Aphids and lacebugs are 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 that may be damaged by the insecticide with water about two hours after application.

Placing aluminum foil around the base of the toma-

atoes, 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).

Using insecticidal soap or strong water spray can control whitefly. Cutting strips of a bright yellow plastic bottle, coating them with petroleum jelly, and hanging them around the gardenia bushes, etc., can make a trap.

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 red-tipped photinias. Clean up and destroy any diseased foliage falling to the ground. Do not put it in the compost pile!

## Perennials

Iris should be left alone for 6 weeks after blooming, then lifted and divided. Cut iris foliage back to 3 inches.

Lift and replant *Lycoris squamigera* and *L. radiata* as foliage turns yellow.

Lycoris tends to get too deep as it multiplies and then will stop blooming. Continue to pinch back your chrysanthemums and asters repeatedly until

mid-July.

## Roses

Roses need to be fertilized regularly. Cut roses just over a five-leaf cluster to ensure more growth. Do not let roses die on the vine. Plant chives or garlic between roses to eliminate aphids. Continue to spray to control blackspot on roses.

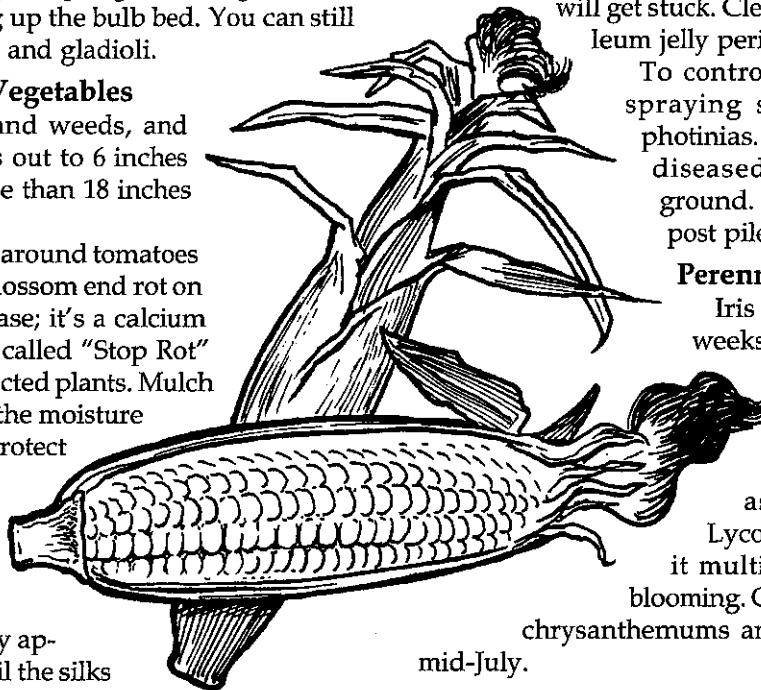
## Remember

If it doesn't rain, water! Lawns, ornamentals, fruits and vegetables need 1 to 1-1/2 inches of water per week. Don't water in heat of the day as too much is lost to evaporation. Don't water lightly or daily, as that only encourages shallow roots. Deep, periodic watering is the best and is best accomplished early in the morning (before 6 a.m. or after 7:30 a.m. as has been requested by the water company). Use soaker hoses where possible to conserve water and keep drops off foliage. Mulch thickly to retain moisture during the hot summer months.

## June Blooms

Alstroemeria, artemisia, asters, astilbe, azaleas,

See Checklist, continued bottom previous page





# What Works!

By Linda Moyer

## New Research On Mulches

At the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, Illinois, research chemist Randal L. Shogren coated brown kraft paper — like that used for grocery bags — with vegetable oils such as soybean and linseed. The oil retards the breakdown of the paper. Shogren says that just how long the coated paper mulch lasts in the field depends on the conditions, but in his trials it held up for 13 weeks. A U.S. patent for the technology has been approved and commercial partners are being sought for production of the paper mulch. Shogren anticipates that it will be commercially available within two years. In the meantime, home gardeners can easily make their own coated paper mulch. Shogren suggests purchasing three or four foot wide rolls of kraft paper and applying boiled linseed oil, available at hardware stores, with a paintbrush or roller. Allow the paper to dry in the sun and air for a few hours. After placing the paper mulch between rows, he suggests anchoring it by burying the edges. And by the time you finish harvesting your beans and tomatoes, the mulch will have nearly decomposed.

*(Taken from The American Gardener, May-June 2001)*

## From Our Members

To control powdery mildew, instead of buying expensive and dangerous sprays, you can make your own organic mixture. Use one tablespoon of baking soda, 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil, and add to 1 gallon of water. Mix thoroughly. Put in a spray bottle. Spray both the top and bottom of each leaf every 14 days. This mixture will help control powdery mildew but if you use it early in the season, it can prevent it. *(Unknown)*

A strong spray of water will knock off most aphids and they will die before they can crawl back up the plant. The spray of water also works on other kinds of insects. *(Unknown)*

To learn how much water you are using, put empty

tuna or cat food cans in your yard while you are watering. Your grass needs one inch of water every 10 days or so. *(Unknown)*

## From The Internet

Here are some tips from *GardenGuides.com*. Jackie Carroll mailto: [gardenguides@gardenguides.com](mailto:gardenguides@gardenguides.com). or <http://www.gardenguides.com/articles/grubs.htm>

**Fire Blight Disease** — If the new shoots on your pear, apple, pyracantha or hawthorn look like they are scorched, you may have fire blight disease. Fire blight is a bacterial disease that can eventually kill your trees. The best control is to prune off infected areas a few inches below the damage. Dip your pruners in a 10% bleach solution between cuts to keep from spreading the disease.

**Birds as Pests** — Birds are both friend and foe to the gardener because they help control insect populations in the garden, but they can also damage your crops. I don't begrudge birds an occasional nibble, but if they seriously damage your garden or spoil your harvest it's time to take action. Try some of these tips to help control your bird population:

### Scare Tactics

- Birds can sometimes be frightened off by plastic snakes, inflatable owls and other devices that resemble predators. Reposition them occasionally so that they appear to be moving around the garden.

- Unusual noises also frighten birds. Try humming lines, aluminum pie plates or portable radios.

- Your cats and dogs will help convince the birds to find another place to nest.

- Flashing lights work for some birds.

**Annoy The Birds** — Coat surfaces where birds like to sit with Bird Tanglefoot. This sticky coating will annoy the birds, and they will not be likely to light there again.

**Distract Them** — Plant alternative food sources to distract the birds from your vegetables or flowers.

**Eliminate Nesting Sites** — Birds like to nest in sheltered areas. Prune fruit trees so that the canopy is open and remove any potential ground nesting sites.

Story continued on next page



**Physical Controls** – When all else fails, cover your crops with netting or floating row covers.

**Deer In The Garden** – A few deer in your garden are a gentle nuisance, but during a hard winter, a large herd can pick your landscape clean of vegetation. If deer become a problem, try one or more of the following deterrents:

**Barriers** – If the deer are picking at a few choice plants, enclose them (the plants) in hardware cloth. Barriers should be 4 feet high and a couple of feet from the plant.

**Fences** – Electric fencing is the most effective way to keep the deer out of the garden, but this may not be practical for many home gardeners, especially if children play nearby. Conventional fencing should be 8 feet high to offer adequate protection. The fences least likely to be jumped are those made of a solid materials such as wood or stone. When a deer can't see what's on the other side of a solid barrier, it's not likely to make the jump.

**Repellents** – Several types of homemade repellents have been tried with varying success. Here are a few that show promise:

- Hang soap bars from the branches of trees or nail them to stakes driven into the ground 15 feet apart. The soap bars should be about 4 feet from the ground.
- Put handfuls of human hair in bags made of net, mesh or cheesecloth. Hang the bags 3 feet above the ground and 3 feet apart.
- Spray trees and crops with a mixture made of 5 quarts

of water and 5 eggs. This much solution should treat about 1/4 acre. Spray the plants thoroughly and repeat after a rain.

• Combinations of the following make effective repellents: blood meal, bone meal, exotic animal manure (consult your local zoo), hot sauce and garlic oil.

Dilute your mixture with water, experimenting to find the most effective strength. Soak rags in the mixture and hang them around areas that need protection. Alternatively, you can soak string in the mixture, then fence off the area with the saturated string. Change your mixture often so that the deer don't learn that the nasty smell can lead to a good meal.

There are several products on the market that effectively repel deer. Make sure the one you choose is safe around pets, children and food crops. It's a good idea to change products from time to time.

*"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, lmoyer72076@yahoo.net, or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72078; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write "What Works" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit. Thanks to everyone who send in hints for this month!*

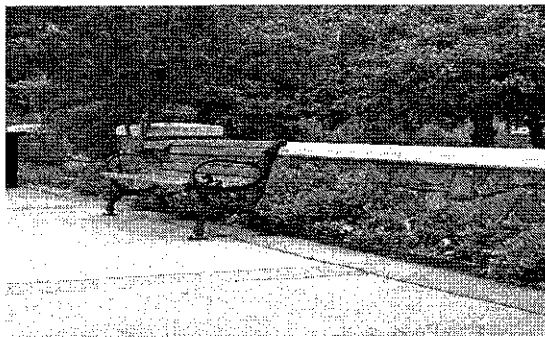
Project Highlights: Featuring A Pulaski County Master Garden

# War Memorial Park

By Linda Westergard

Out with the old – in with the new ... this is a familiar slogan with Master Gardeners during spring, and we have put it into action. The War Memorial Committee maintains a planting area which spans the southwest corner of Fair Park and Markham. This is a very high traffic location, and flowers beautify an otherwise lackluster intersection. The city has planted wonderful red maples to give structure to the design, and these needed pruning. We had our first work day of the new season April 18th with nine members at present, under the leadership of Bill Trimble plus a couple of hard working Jr. Gardeners who came with their Mom, Brenda Veerhusen.

We cleared out the pansies to make way for red salvia and yellow lantana. We shaped the red maples, which yielded tip cuttings for those who wanted to try propagation. Bill has scheduled us on a biweekly basis through the middle of June, so wave and honk your encouragement as you pass by.



The Walker Tennis Center blushes above its collar of Encore Azaleas – another Trimble endeavor. In mid May, the Committee met with LR Recreation & Parks Director Brian Day. We should soon have a new watering system on the southeast corner of our intersection, which will allow us to extend our project activities so that the two sides of the park entrance will match in beauty. This is a bit like giving birth to an identical twin following an exceptionally long gestation period. We look forward to having all of you admire our "children" in the near future.

It was such a pleasure to see the enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation as shown by Director Day in his interaction with the committee. Chairman Bill has been able to have a major part in designing the improvements we need from the city. We commend and thank Brian and his staff for responding so well to the needs of our committee, and for recognizing the value of our work in enhancing the beauty of War Memorial Park for all our citizens to enjoy.

# The Vegetable Garden In Rainless Times

By Carl Goodson

## Basic Water Need

The hottest part of the summer is usually the driest. Vegetable plants must have a steady drink of water to flourish and produce good crops. About an inch of water per week is needed to keep best growth continuing. Rain, of course, is the best water because it has very small amounts of trace elements that plants need. Snow provides small amounts of fixed nitrogen — but it seldom falls in the hot weather. Still, city main water with chemicals that have helped to clean and purify it may be used if nature does not let down enough of the life-giving stuff.

## Water Gauges

Measure the amount of precipitation. Plastic tubes with an open wide top, and marked in inches on the side are available from most garden supply stores. Placed in the garden away from trees that might distort their readings, they can be relied on to furnish near-accurate readings. They need to be read and emptied at least once a week. The reading should be recorded in order to calculate the amount of city water needed to make up the deficit. Remember the rule of thumb: one inch per week. More than that is money in the bank.

A substitute rain gauge can be made of a clean coffee can located also away from trees and buildings. Just don't forget to read and record its results.

More than one inch of rain may allow you to postpone the inevitable task of pouring on city water. A space dug into its maximum depth and overturned will show how deeply the water has penetrated the soil. Allowance must be made for low, poorly drained spots and also for high friable areas that let the water percolate into the subsoil.

## Ways To Irrigate

Having determined that a shortage exists, the artificial watering needs to begin. At the same time each week, plan to turn the water on.

There are several delivery systems to get the water to the roots of the plants: overhead spraying, ditch

irrigating, and on-the-surface dripper or weeper tubes.

There are several types of overhead sprayers: some constant, flow, some waving fans, some rotating and pulsing sprinklers. And there is also the hose with a hand held nozzle, but who would want to stand and hold a nozzle to deliver the required amount? All these have the disadvantages of watering the foliage as well as the ground. Water on plants encourages diseases and insects. Also, much water is wasted by evaporation.

Ditch irrigating is sometimes resorted to, to get the water near the plants. From a high point in the garden, dig small ditches with a hoe. Then the water flows by

gravity down the ditch to the lower part. High up the ditch, the water will penetrate the ground and, lower down, little will actually reach the plants.

Tubes of plastic or metal that weep or furnish small flows of water have many advantages. They are economical to purchase and usually, with care, last several seasons. They can be placed near the plants that need them. Some installations even admit permanent locations from season to season. You can depend upon these to provide constant, even moisture just where it is needed.

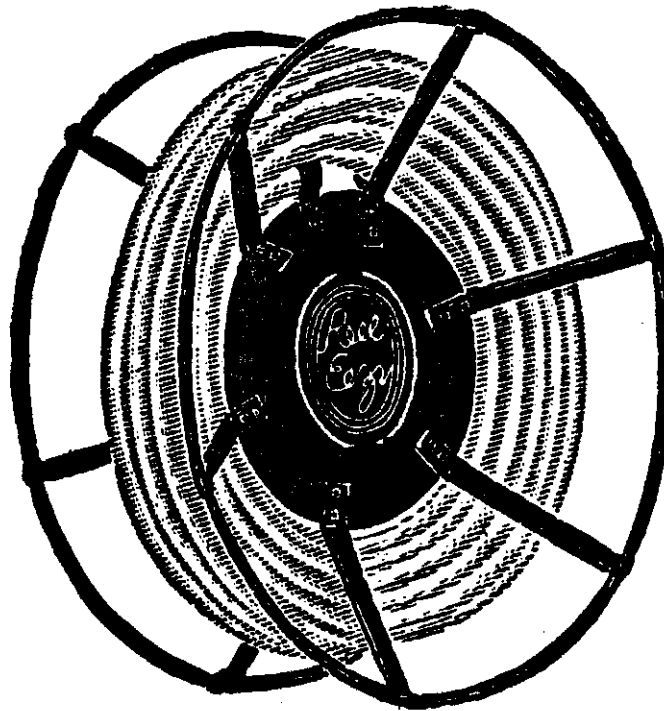
## How To Calculate Amount

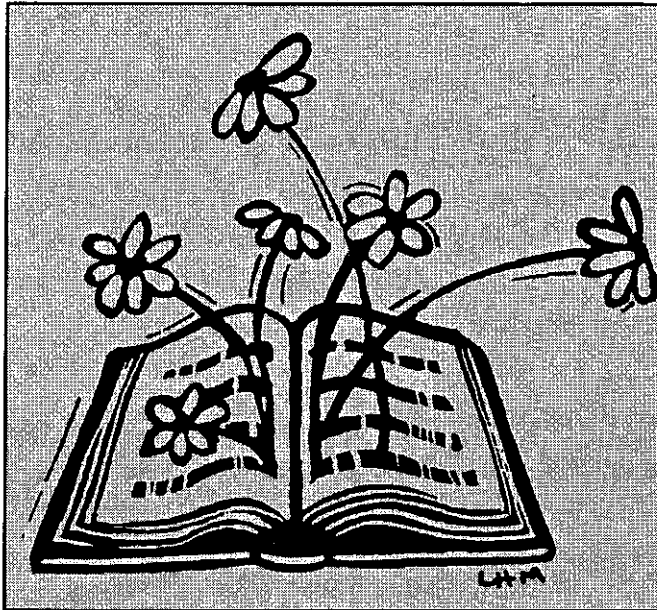
You'll need to make some calculations or guess about the amount. To get the one inch of

moisture, some means of measuring must be arranged. A meter at the water faucet will do. There are manually and electronically controlled meters; both do an adequate job of measuring the amount and shutting off automatically. They make it unnecessary to time the flow or go out to the garden to turn off the water.

With this last method of supplying water to individual plants, the gardener can also (with a simple device) introduce measured amounts of plant food to the garden site.

Most gardens burn up during the hot, dry days of summer. Adopt a method of providing an inch a week of much needed water and only those plants that have lived out their days will turn brown. Remove them and enjoy the full greenness of those plants saved by providing adequate moisture.





# Book Review

By Jan Gauntt

## Sunbelt Gardening: Success in Hot-Weather Climates

By Tom Peace

Golden, Colorado, Fulcrum Publishing, 2000,  
288 pages, Softcover \$29.95

Here's yet another book on gardening in hot-weather climates -- but this one is a real treat for the more advanced gardener looking for new ideas. The author is a garden designer and nurseryman who has designed gardens in many parts in the United States. His special strength is finding plants that do well in hot climates and which look attractive together. Many photos of gorgeous plant combinations accompany the text. The photos in themselves make the book delightful to thumb through. You'll find many plants and planting ideas you may not have considered to add interest to your gardens.

### Heat Considerations

The author discusses challenges of gardening in hot climates and includes information not usually covered. He tells how hardiness zones are based on low temperatures, heat zones are based on the number of days above 86°, but neither takes into consideration soil temperatures nor high nighttime air temperatures. In southern latitudes, relentless high heat and sun can raise both higher than in other areas with the same zone number. He explains that high nighttime temperatures don't allow some kinds of plants a needed chance to recuperate overnight. High soil temperatures support a hyperactive mix of bacteria and fungi which can become dangerously pathogenic and parasitic, especially in poorly drained soil. His discussions of drought tolerance in plants is especially helpful. He talks about striving to find plants for his garden "that can tolerate drought (once established), yet not surrender to drowning during the inevitable wet spells."

### Gardening In The Southern United States

Peace lives in south-central Texas, and in this book covers gardening in the entire southern United States: southeastern, south-central and southwestern. He himself lives just between the arid West and the humid East, and really appreciates the difference. He says that "some years the dry side prevails ... other years we feel more aligned with the Louisiana swamps to the east...." Thus

he arranged the book so that a third treats warm season gardening in the Southeast and a third in the Southwest. He gives different plant lists and instructions for the two regions. He says you can grow some of the southeastern plants in the west if you give them extra water, and you can grow some of the southwestern plants in the east if you provide perfect drainage. He creates many microclimates in his yard, providing good drainage and/or good moisture in various areas so he'll have attractive plantings to look at, no matter what weather the year brings.

### Southern Winter Gardening

An additional third of the book deals with winter gardening in the South, offering an extensive treatment of the topic. Peace gardens 12 months of the year. He enjoys having a sweet "Gertrude Jekyll" style garden during the cool season, in contrast to his dramatic summer jungle. He calls it "floral time-sharing" when his monster plants go dormant and his tidy 18" charmers sprout up in the fall. He discusses cool-season perennials, annuals, bulbs, foliage plants and other ornamentals in six chapters. Although many of the recommended plants are not winter-hardy in central Arkansas, there is an abundance of ideas to inspire and to try here.

The only shortcoming of the book is the absence of an appendix or table showing cultural information for the plants mentioned. I want more detail than "withstands hard frosts." Down to 25 degrees? to 10 degrees? I found it helpful to keep a plant encyclopedia at hand while reading *Sunbelt Gardening*.

Other than that, the book is a delight. The author is not only knowledgeable but exuberant about gardening and communicates his enthusiasm well. He succeeds in his goal of introducing or reintroducing many plants to readers for use in Sunbelt gardens and offers a lush smorgasbord of plant combinations to try in many garden styles.

Once home, I transplanted it into a larger pot and it grew. So of course, I took cuttings and rooted them. The original plant bloomed on and off again all summer. The cuttings, also, grew into beautiful bushes that bloomed in the fall. The hummingbirds and butterflies loved them. In fact, one hummingbird loved them so much, he would chase all the butterflies away, so they wouldn't get the nectar. He was very entertaining to watch in the evenings.

Although it can get 4 to 5 feet tall where it is hardy, my plants grew into beautiful bushes 3 foot by 3 foot with long gorgeous spikes of red blooms. Before frost, cuttings were taken and rooted in water. In January, they were planted in pots and put in the garden after frost this year. So far, they are doing fine. You could also overwinter the original plant inside or just buy new plants in the spring. They aren't hard to find. All of the nurseries have them. Although the plant I bought didn't have a name other than Pineapple sage, there are two cultivars available. 'Scarlet Pineapple' has more numerous and larger flowers than the wild species and is commonly available. 'Frieda Dixon' is a cultivar with pink flowers.

### Storage

Store fresh sage of any variety in bags at a temperature of 37-38°F (2-3° C), 90-95% humidity. If possible, keep away from drafts and ethylene-producing commodities, and store dry — do not sprinkle. Kept properly, fresh pineapple sage should last about a week.

### Pineapple Sage Tropical Cooler

- 1 1/4 cups water
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh pineapple sage leaves
- 1 1/2 cups fresh orange juice, chilled
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice, chilled
- 1 cup papaya nectar, chilled
- 1 cup guava nectar, chilled
- 17 oz. bottle sparkling mineral water

Sprigs for garnish

See *Salvia*, continued next column

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
 2901 West Roosevelt Road  
 Little Rock, AR 72204  
 340-6650  
 bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
 2301 South University  
 Little Rock, AR 72204  
 671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
 340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service**  
 Website: <http://www.uaex.edu>

## Master Gardener Alert!

Jack Singleton has announced the first edition of the *Arkansas School Garden Network Newsletter* edited by Sally Broadway. Sally is a Hendrix University graduate.

Let her know if you want to receive the newsletter by e-mailing her at [Sallybway@aol.com](mailto:Sallybway@aol.com). You can also submit articles to her by e-mail.

## Trading Post

By Frances Young



Give Betty Glasscock a call at 666-2547 if you want Formosa azaleas.

*Salvia*, continued from previous column

Make the sage tea first by boiling the water, adding sage leaves and steeping 10 minutes. Strain the leaves. In a 2-quart pitcher combine sage tea with the rest of ingredients and chill. Garnish with sprigs of pineapple sage when serving. Experiment by substituting fruit sage, or orange or red bergamot to vary taste.

(Courtesy of [www.taoherbfarm.com/](http://www.taoherbfarm.com/))

## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting June 12 to see your message in the July issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, [bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu); Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, [rhogan@aristotle.net](mailto:rhogan@aristotle.net); or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and [fromthegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:fromthegarden@earthlink.net)

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter.

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

Chair/Editor	Rose Hogan
Co-Chair/Layout	Cheryl Kennedy
Staff	Tom Bruce Lois Clifton Jan O. Gauntt Carl Goodson Ann Green Helen Hronas Annette Hurley Virginia Johnson Ruth Jones Julia Loyall Linda Moyer Ellen Rouch Libby Thalheimer Linda Westergard



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
 County Extension Agent — Agriculture

# MASTER MINUTES

## Grow Southern Peas In The Warmest Weather

By Carl Goodson

In other parts of the world, the name "pea" refers to the vegetable that grows in early spring on lush vines. The peas themselves are produced in pods and usually have to be shucked out in preparation for cooking. There are edible pod varieties in this group that are cooked and eaten whole.

But here in Arkansas the name "pea" refers to the vegetable that is grown in warmest summer weather on bush-like plants and shelled out after the pods have completely grown and even begun drying. Referred to more accurately as "field peas" or "southern peas", they are actually of the bean family.

Plant them when the soil is thoroughly warm and at least 75 days before the earliest expected frost. To prepare a place in the garden for such peas, dedicate about 50 feet of row for each member of the family who will eat the abundance in the course of a year. Select well drained, moderately fertile rows, allowing 18 inches on each side to accommodate the plants. Do not add fertilizer, or you will grow large plants with few peas.

Peas come in several varieties with only very subtle differences in taste. General varieties are blackeye, crowder, purple hull and creme. Purchase a named variety mentioned

later that is resistant to fusarium wilt.

Make a trench with a hoe and sow the peas thickly about 2 inches apart. Cover the seeds about an inch deep and water in. When the seeds have germinated and have set on the first true leaves, thin the plants to 6 or 8 inches apart. Keep down weeds by cultivation or by mulching with an



organic material that will not break down before the season ends.

Plant diseases that attack peas are fusarium wilt and tobacco mosaic. So plant fusarium-resistant varieties such as Mississippi Silver or Arkansas varieties named Pink Eye, Elite, Erect Set or Epoch.

Take further precautions by rotation of varieties (that is, planting

where beans and peas have not grown recently) and by keeping tobacco products and plants with mosaic out of the garden.

Insect problems can be generated by aphids or by earworms. Treat invasions promptly with chemicals specifically labeled for them or with insect-eating insects. If the soil is infested with nematodes, the only effective way to reduce them is by solarization (covering the ground

with clear plastic) for a summer season.

Watering is usually not a problem. Peas need considerably less water than other vegetables. So water only if the moisture has dropped below the level of the root system.

See Peas,  
continued on  
page 7

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**MASTER  
GARDENER**

*Arkansas Is Our Campus*



# Calendar And Notes

By Ruth Jones

## July

10 No Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting this month.

19, 20, & 21 Peach Festival, Clarksville. Contact 501-754-9152.

21 Deadline to register for continuing education classes for Pulaski County Master Gardeners on Landscape Design. See application in this mailing. Contact Beth at 340-6650.

## August

9, 10, & 11 Watermelon Festival at Hope. Contact 870-777-3640.

14 No Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting this month.

14-18 103rd Tontitown Grape Festival on St. Joseph Church grounds. Contact 501-361-2615.

14, 21, & 28 Continuing education classes for Pulaski County Master Gardeners on Landscape Design. Deadline to register is July 21.

22-26 Gardens of British Columbia tour, Janet Carson.

26-29 Rocky Mountain Railtour optional addendum to British Columbia tour.

## September

11 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting at 11.30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Building.

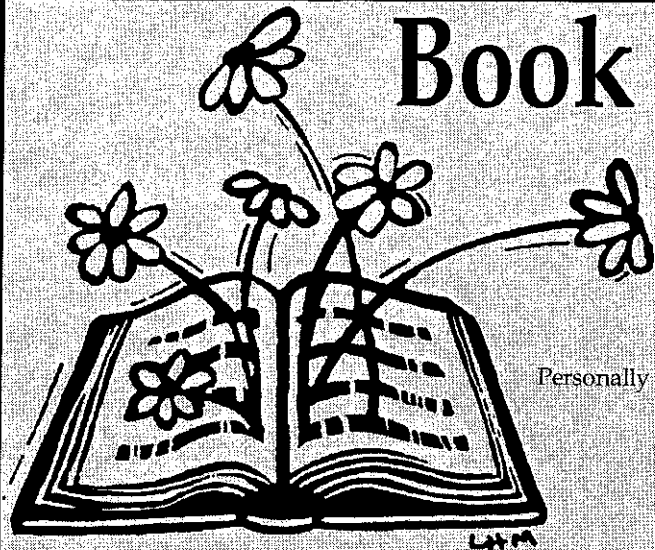
18 Native Plant Workshop, Ferndale 4-H Center.

## 2002

April 19-29 Holland Tour. Janet Carson host. Cost \$3,500. Call Poe Travel 376-4171.

## 2003

International Master Gardener Conference, Cincinnati.



## Book Review

By Thomas A. Bruce

### Wild Orchids of Arkansas

By Carl R. Slaughter, M.D.

Personally printed and distributed at bookstores, 1993, 100 pages, \$19.95

This gem of a book is a personal tribute to the dedication and knowledge of Dr. Carl Slaughter, a retired obstetrician-gynecologist who practiced in Kansas City and now is retired on Petit Jean Mountain. At its best, this is a picture book — a gorgeous picture book — truly a visual orgy of one of America's most treasured plants. Forty Arkansas native orchids are shown, a sizeable fraction of the 210 species or varieties that have been identified in North America.

All Arkansas orchids grow in the ground (terrestrials), as opposed to the more tropical species that grow in air (epiphytes).

Each variety has its own preferred setting, most usually in moist fertile areas in the mountains or near bogs or swamps. Slaughter describes the common sites for each variety, plus identifying characteristics and the common

months when blooms can be found.

Many have colorful common names: Putty Root, Grass Pink, Coral Root, Lady-Slipper, Ladies' Tresses, Showy Orchis, Rattlesnake Plantain, Pogonia, Twayblade, Adder's Mouth, Orange Plume, Wood Orchid, Ragged Orchid, Snowy Orchid, Water Spider Orchid and Crane-Fly Orchid. Color photos are shown for each plant.

Most native orchids that are sold commercially are dug from nature, not grown from seeds in a greenhouse. Since reproduction is often quite difficult, Slaughter makes a strong plea to enjoy them but avoid the graverobber syndrome so that these lovelies can continue to be found in their natural state.

Books can be found in most bookstores, or they can be ordered direct from the author at 54 Gristmill Road, Morrilton AR 72110, phone 501-727-5700.



# Master Gardeners' July Checklist

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

Water annuals with a salt-free club soda (fresh or stale) to brighten and intensify their colors. Transplant petunia and zinnia seedlings into your beds. Deadhead spent blooms to prevent seed production and to have continued blooming.

## Fruits, Herbs & Vegetables

Later in the month, plant broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, Irish potatoes, pumpkins, summer squash, southern peas, sweet corn, tomatoes and other fall vegetables.

Pinch back and thin annual herbs and fruit and vegetable vines.

Keep tomatoes supplied with mulch, lime, calcium and ample water. Blossom drop is a problem as daytime temperature hits the upper 90s and night temperature does 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. Even moisture will help prevent catfacing and fruit cracking.

Place mothballs around the base of cucurbits, which are susceptible to vine borers; the adult is a moth.

Harvest garlic as tops begin to dry. Store garlic bulbs in a cool, dry location.

Harvest fruits and vegetables as they ripen. Leaving overripe fruit on leads to insects and diseases.

Decrease watering on cantaloupes when they are half their mature size. Place them on coffee cans or mulch to prevent rotting on the bottom.

## Lawns & Shrubs

Apply a 3-inch layer of mulch around shrubs and in the garden to keep down weeds and to retain moisture. Water deeply about once a week to combat drought-stress. Early morning is the best time to water. Use soaker hoses to conserve water and to avoid watering foliage. Wet foliage can encourage diseases.

Fertilize all in the garden except acid-loving plants and iris. The last application of fertilizer for camellias should be by July 1.

Set your mower height at least at 2-1/2 inches for the summer. Longer grass blades with deeper roots are more drought and stress tolerant. Longer grass also interferes with weed seed germination. Aerate compacted soil to combat weeds. Consider moss as an alternative to grass for those shady spots with acidic, compacted soil

and thin turf. (Moss will also grow on alkaline soil.)

Control crabgrass and other grassy weeds in bermuda and zoysia by spraying with MSMA. Be sure to water well before application.

Pick off and dispose of bagworms on arborvitae and junipers.

Continue to check azalea, boxwood, and camellia for lacebugs and spider mites, and check evergreens for scale.

Use insecticidal soap or Malathion for aphids, cutworms, corn borers, Mexican bean beetles, spotted cucumber beetles, whiteflies, lacebugs, bagworms, black vine weevils, chinch bugs, fungus, Japanese beetles, leaf miners and slugs. Or use a garlic/pepper tea, an organic insecticide, to control aphids, whiteflies and other destructive insects.

Use diatomaceous earth or pyrethrum to control slugs, fleas, ticks, cinch bugs, roaches, crickets and fire ants.

By controlling the aphids, you will control mold. Mold grows on the honeydew secreted by the aphids.

## Perennials

Plant seeds of canterbury bells, foxglove and sweet william in a cold frame. Corn earworms on cannas can be controlled with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Prune wisteria to keep it under control. Divide irises this month.

## Roses

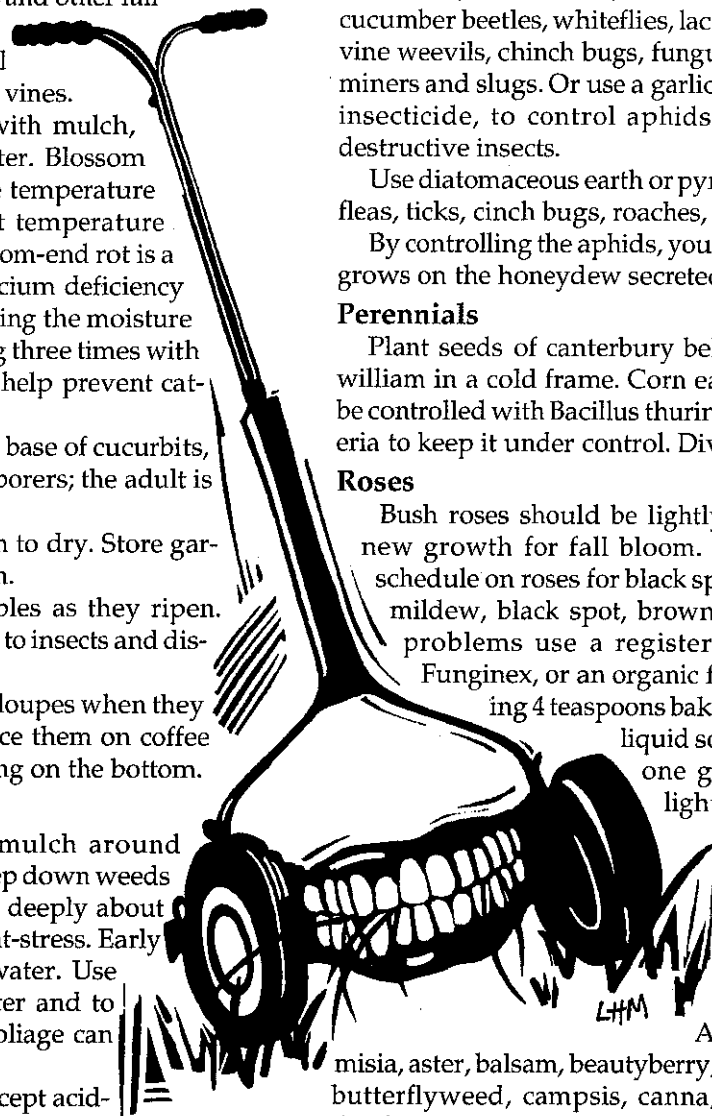
Bush roses should be lightly pruned to encourage new growth for fall bloom. Keep up the spraying schedule on roses for black spot. To control powdery mildew, black spot, brown patch or other fungal problems use a registered fungicide such as Funginex, or an organic fungicide made by mixing 4 teaspoons baking soda and 1 teaspoon

liquid soap or vegetable oil into one gallon of water. Spray lightly on affected foliage; try not to spray the soil.

## July Plot

Rabbiteye blueberries, blackberries and peaches are in season.

Althea, anise mint, artemisia, aster, balsam, beautyberry, belamcanda, buddleia, butterflyweed, campsis, canna, chive, cleome, clerodendrum, coneflower, coreopsis, crape myrtle, crinum, dahlia, daisies, echeveria, suphorbia, feverfew, garlic, gaura, gladioli, hemerocallis, hibiscus, hosta, hydrangea, hyssop, ironweed, kerria, lantana, liatris, lily, lythrum, lycoris, marigold, marjoram, miscanthus, mullein, nicotiana, oregano, oxalis, petunia, phlox, portulaca, rose, rudbeckia, sage, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, tansy, thyme, tuberosa, verbena, veronica, zebra grass, zinnia.



# What Works!

By Linda Moyer

## Frugal Gardener's Alert: 10 Uses for Milk Jugs

Every organic gardener places their faith in recycling. But for some (and you know who you are), recycling and reusing becomes a religion. Sondra Francoeur of Independence, Kansas, is one of you. She offered to share her "Ten Uses for Milk Jugs Around the Garden (not including the ever-with-us cloche)".

1. Cut the sides lengthwise into long triangles and mark with a waterproof pen for plant markers.

2. For more detail, cut a double-length rectangle as wide as a seed packet. Fold this over a seed packet for protection and staple to a triangle from above to use as a marker.

3. Fill jugs with water and place these around plants in a ring or square. Slip a bag over these at night to radiate heat. When the need for cold protection passes, use the warmed water to give your plants a drink.

4. To make these jugs of water do dual duty, put a small amount of liquid fish fertilizer or compost in each one. When you are ready to use them to water, you will have some ready-made plant food or compost tea.

5. You can also use water-filled jugs to secure plastic, netting or fabric over beds.

6. Cut a hole out of the corner opposite the handle to use for a harvest basket. Holes punched in the bottom will allow water to drain so you can use also as a basket to wash the produce.

7. Make a cut three-quarters of the way around about an inch up from the bottom. Use a small nail to melt 5 one inch holes in the lid. Slightly bury and invert this beside a plant for its own personal drip irrigator.

8. A larger hole melted into the lid allows you to use the jug to sprinkle soil amendments evenly and precisely.

9. Cut the bottoms entirely off about 2" up to use for toad and bird watering holes.

10. Cut a strip out of the side opposite the handle. Fill with birdseed to attract birds to your organic garden.

## Containing Mint

P. Allen Smith says, "You shouldn't let the fact that it is such a vigorous grower scare you away because here's a way to keep it contained. Rather than planting the mint directly into your beds, cut the bottom out of a large plastic nursery container and bury it in the soil. Then plant the mint within the container. This will keep it from

spreading and taking over, at least for a while."

## Watering Strawberry Jars

Smith also says of strawberry jars, "All of the water seems to run out of the upper holes and it never reaches the plants planted in the bottom. They just suffer and die. But I've discovered a way to keep all of the plants in a strawberry jar watered from top to bottom.

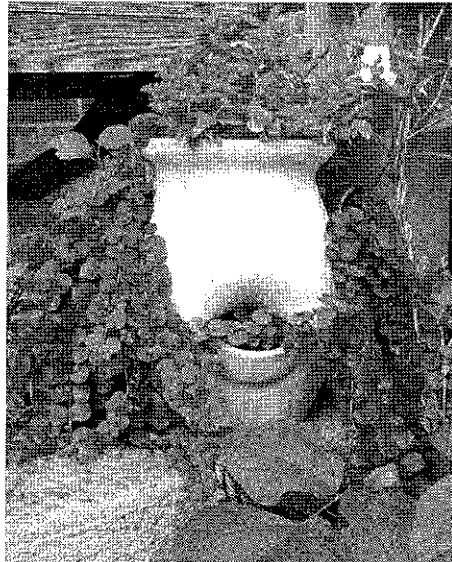
"It starts with a piece of PVC pipe. Get one that is 2 inches in diameter and just drill a series of holes along the side of the pipe using a quarter inch bit.

"The way this works is the pipe, which is cut a few inches shorter than the interior height of the container, is placed in the center of the container. Now I'll just pour the water into the pipe and it will distribute the water evenly through the soil.

"Just place a few pieces of a broken clay container over the drainage hole of the jar and set the pipe on them. Add about 3 inches of gravel around the pipe and about 4 to 5 inches in the pipe itself. This will help stabilize it as you add the potting soil. Lay the soil evenly until you have covered the bottom row of the pouches. Plant your plants in these pouches. Continue in this way until you have planted in all the pouches up the jar."

"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want

to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, [lmoyer72076@yahoo.net](mailto:lmoyer72076@yahoo.net), or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write "What Works!" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit. \*



## Looking For Beneficial Bugs?

Worm's Way, 7850 North Highway 37, Bloomington, IN 47404, 1-800-274-9676, [www.wormsway.com](http://www.wormsway.com), offers ladybugs, whitefly parasites, beneficial nematodes, green lacewings and predator mites. Order before noon Monday-Thursday, and your bugs arrive the next day. (Most insects are always available but there may occasionally be temporary shortages. Even then, usually you can obtain bugs within a week.)

## Project Highlights: Featuring A Pulaski County Master Garden

# Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project

By Julia Loyall

The Master Gardeners on the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project know they are blest with a beautiful place to work. To see it, go north on University Avenue past Kavanaugh, turn left on Hawthorn, and enter through the tall wrought iron gates. The circular drive leads to the modern brick administration building and eventually to the two-story brick residence of Dr. Alan B. Suggs, President of the University of Arkansas System. Park under the trees by the log cabin, and you will see the fruit demonstration garden across the lawn to the right.

That log cabin is key to this new university campus. A freed black slave, Cass Madlock, obtained the surrounding land as a homesteader in January 1867. He built a two-room cabin frontier style, with a "dog trot" passageway between the rooms. A double-sided stone fireplace provided heat and outdoor cooking as well. In 1901, Judge John Blackwood bought the property, enlarged the cabin and enclosed the fireplace. Prosperous real-estate developer Wyley Dan Cammack bought the land and cabin for his wife in 1921. After World War II Cammack sold 180 acres to the north for a Federal Housing Administration project which later became the tiny municipality of Cammack Village. He named the remaining 40 acres "Pine Border" and the cabin grew again. The family lived there quite simply until Wyley died in 1948.

A metal plaque on the fireplace tells us that in August 1957, Kate Gaines Broadus Cammack deeded the 40 acres to the University of Arkansas for one dollar, with the stipulation that the land was to be used for Arkansas cultural education. After her death (1959), the cabin was to be maintained with its valuable furnishings "as long as practicable" and was not to be used as a permanent residence or for commercial purposes.

Carrying out her wishes, the university plans a visitor center in the cabin and is painstakingly restoring the structure, which was damaged by a leaking roof and neglect. The furnishings are stored for later use.

The university's future plans for cultural education include an arboretum with a nature trail, homes for visiting professors, three buildings housing classrooms, lecture halls and a 300-seat auditorium, plus a new maintenance building.



The university's research to find the best plants and best methods for Arkansas farms and homes is a vital part of its educational effort. Ann Ward chaired the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project for the first three years. Dr. John Clark, then UA fruit specialist, planned the garden and showed the committee how to care for and prune the plants.

It's a colorful garden with a north border of annuals including dusty miller, white zinnias, and rose-colored salvia. The double pink poppies are sensational. The south border has perennial buddleia and forsythia. East and west sides have a Bon-fire Dwarf flowering peach tree each. A sprinkler system protects the plants, and hardwood mulch keeps down weeds. In a raised bed, there are Early Glow, Cardinal, Delmarvel, and Late Glow strawberries. In rows there are Ozark Blue, Tif-Blue, and Climax blueberries, thornless

Navajo and Arapaho blackberries and Ison and Sweet Jenny muscadines.

Ruth Owings, current chair, and her committee follow strict schedules for fertilization and pruning of fruit and flowers. She has soil samples done for each type of fruit and follows the recommendations exactly. Dr. Striegler, current university fruit specialist, has helped with a pruning demonstration. Ruth and committee member Ann Green recently found the Clarksville trip most informative. This is the fifth year of the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project. Committee members so far feel that the muscadine, blueberry, and blackberry varieties they work with and their care schedules are excellent. Fruit is large and delicious, although they are disappointed with the strawberries this year.

There are trial gardens on the campus and interesting landscape features — an island of ornamental grasses, a knot garden in Dr. Suggs' driveway, native azaleas, Encore azaleas, magnolias, a little creek, a red-tailed hawk which guards the patio ... so much to see. Thank you, Ruth, Lynn and Mike (site supervisor) for taking time out to share it all!

If you didn't get to Clarksville and are interested in the best fruit for Little Rock gardens, call Chairman Ruth Owings or Co-Chair Lynn Phelps about helping to weed some Thursday morning soon..

# Web Page Of Missouri Botanic Gardens

www.mobot.org

By Virginia Johnson

For those of us who were fortunate enough to go with the Master Gardeners to St. Louis in May 1997, the Missouri Botanical Gardens was a spectacular part of our trip. If you haven't been to the gardens, you can still experience some of what they have to offer through the web site.

Visitors to the site are greeted by a homepage that explains about the founder, Henry Shaw, a little about the gardens, and its 140-year-old history. Information for visiting the gardens in person includes the address and telephone numbers, admission rates and hours of operation. There is a calendar of special events organized by month.

Maps of the gardens are provided, as well as a brief description of the many structures and gardens that comprise Missouri Botanical Gardens. These include the Ridgway Center, the Linnean House, the Victorian Area, the Japanese Garden, the Kemper Center and the Home Demonstration Gardens, the Climatron and the Monsanto Center. One link thoroughly describes various educational programs available at the gardens themselves and on-line botanical and ecological information for children.

There is also a rather comprehensive link, "Gardening Help", which includes a "Plant Finder". By clicking on "Plant Finder", one gets to a page with a list of all the gardens within the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Click on a garden of interest, and a list of plants growing in that garden appears, listed as botanical name first, then common name. By clicking on the botanical name, background and horticultural information are provided on that particular

plant.

"Gardening Help" also includes a "Hotline". This gives information on gardening techniques, including Soil Management, Plant Culture, Specialty Gardens and Landscaping, General Pests and Prevention, Recycling, and Controlling Nuisance Wildlife. There is also information on Lawn Care, Ornamental Trees and Shrubs, Vines, Grasses and Ground Covers. A section on Flowers is divided into perennials, annuals, bulbs, etc. In addition, there are sections covering Fruits and Nuts, Vegetables and Herbs, and Indoor Plants.

The final section, "Gardening Help", is IPM-Integrated Pest Management. By clicking on this one gets a list of pests. Clicking on the pest of interest gives information on that pest.

Missouri Botanical Gardens has rather extensive reference material, some of which is available through the web site. A "Search the Database" (find a plant) link is for submitting the botanical name and family of a plant, and obtaining information as to whether or not that plant is growing at the gardens and is available for collection.

There is a library, materials which can be accessed through your local library through interlibrary loan. There is a charge for the service. They have a rare book digitalization project, and pages of the old books can be viewed directly from the site. There are links to other organizations of botanical or horticultural interest and information on research at the gardens. W3 TROPICOS is a Nomenclature DataBase. By typing in a botanical name, one can get the taxonomic information of that plant. In person or on-line, Missouri Botanical Gardens is a great place to visit!



## Jan's Ever-Popular Rosemary Punch Recipe

### For Infusion:

- 1 46 oz. can pineapple juice (not from concentrate)
- Rosemary sprigs — a fistful, each about 6 inches long

### For Punch:

- 2 cups pineapple/rosemary infusion
- 1 46 oz. cans pineapple juice (not from concentrate)
- 1 12 oz. frozen lemonade made according to can directions
- 1 to 2 2-litre (67.6 oz.) bottles Canada Dry Ginger Ale
- 2 gallon container

### Directions for Infusion:

Make an infusion of one can pineapple juice and the rosemary. If you are using your own rosemary, pick it in the morning after the dew dries, but before the sun evaporates the essential oils of the rosemary. Rinse the rosemary in cold water to clean and shake off excess water.

In a stainless steel pan, bring the pineapple juice and the rosemary to just before the boil, then remove from the heat and let it steep until cool. If I have time, I place the mixture in the refrigerator overnight to steep even longer for extra flavor. Strain the infusion through a small strainer — this gets out some of the pineapple 'sauce' and the rosemary and should yield about 5 to 5 1/2 cups of infusion. You will use 2 cups of

the infusion in the punch and can freeze the rest in a 2 cup and a 1 cup portion.

*Tip:* I like to make a double batch of infusion so I can freeze 3 2-cup portions to use throughout the summer. It only takes a little longer to strain out a second batch at the same time and then is so much easier to make up the punch later.

### Punch:

You will need a large container to mix the punch in — 1-1/2 gallon container when using only one bottle of gingerale or a 2 gallon container if using 2 bottles.

In a large container, add 2 cups infusion, one can pineapple juice (strained or not), thawed frozen lemonade and water per directions on can, and gingerale (one or two bottles). Shake or mix well, chill and serve over ice. It is a "summer guzzler" and so refreshing on a hot summer day.

*Notes:* You can mix the punch up the day before...the gingerale tastes just as good flat in this recipe. The punch you had at my house was made the night before and I prefer it flat. It keeps well in the refrig for 5 or 6 days, but will usually not last that long. You saw how fast it went at lunch on the tour. Enjoy!!!

*Credits:* I originally got a version of this recipe from Pat and Kathy at White Wagon Farm who may have gotten her version from Madeline Hill? Elizabeth Warner at the Folk Center in Mountain View makes a similar punch using the Crystal Light lemonade mix. For other great recipes using fresh herbs, check out *Southern Herb Growing* by Madeline Hill and Gwen Barclay.

# This 'N That ...

## From Beth Phelps:

Thanks to Hines Nursery for donating new hydrangea varieties to the Old Mill Project. Frau Reiko is a pink lacecap with very distinct white edges on the blossom. The edging on flower petals it called 'picotee'. Frau Taiko is a blue mophead with white edges on the petals but the picotee is not as distinct as it is in Frau Reiko. They will grow to be 4 to 5 feet tall and wide and make a great addition to The Old Mill. Thanks, Hines! Hines is a wholesale nursery and distributes through The Good Earth, Horticare and Home Depot. Judy says she know Home Depot does not have these varieties yet.

Thanks to the Master Gardeners who shared their projects and gardens with us on the Tour of Master Gardener Gardens. Everyone who participated had a wonderful time and took ideas back to their own landscapes. We visited Jack Singleton's project with the Oakbrooke Elementary School Green Team, the Park Hill Water Works project (which looked great after looks of hard work), Artie Halford, Cecelia Buck and Jan King's gardens. Thanks to Jan King for organizing the tour. If you would be willing to share your garden or would like to suggest another Master Gardener's garden to be on the tour in future years, tell Beth Phelps or Jan King. It is always fun and educational to see what others are doing.

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners received a thank you note and \$300 donation from the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs for our participation as garden experts and answering questions during their garden tour. This was a good educational outreach and recruiting activity for the Master Gardeners.

## From Jan King:

**Plant ID** — I got the variegated plant in my garden at White Wagon Farm three or four years ago. It's Polygonum (po-lyg-o-num) 'Speckled Bamboo' and isn't really a bamboo. It seems to do well in shade and sun. It provides a bright spot in a garden, especially in the late afternoon or early evening. It spreads very slowly.

**Error of Omission** — On the MG Tour Schedule I should have said we were visiting the garden of Bob and Joyce Bumgardner. I think he is probably the muscle in the garden, and he is a Master Gardener. Sorry, Bob!

**Thank You!** — A great big thank you goes out to all the Master Gardeners, Junior Master Gardeners, the Parkhill Project Master Gardeners, and our two non-Master Gardener gardeners who shared their gardens with us on the June 5th Master Gardener Tour of Master Gardeners' Gardens (I love that title). Boy, is that a lot of MGs or what??? I know it took a lot of work to get your gardens ready for us to breeze through, but we thoroughly enjoyed our visits to each and every one. They are all fantastic!!! Thank you so much for sharing with us. And for those who missed the tour, you missed a big treat.

We try to visit a different area each year, so if you are interested in sharing your garden in the future or know of a neat Master Gardener's garden that we would enjoy visiting, please, give me a call so we can start a list.

Happy gardening!

# Trading Post

By Frances Young

Marilyn Wheeler, 835-9649, wants any wildflowers or native plants for sun.

Kelly DeBusk, 868-5180, has purple ruffled basil and sedum.

Jack Singleton, 753-1325, wants *Asclepias tuberosa*.

Lena Holland, 758-7107, wants seed for prairie smoke.

Thalia Etter, 791-0937, has impatiens, red salvia and black-eyed susans.

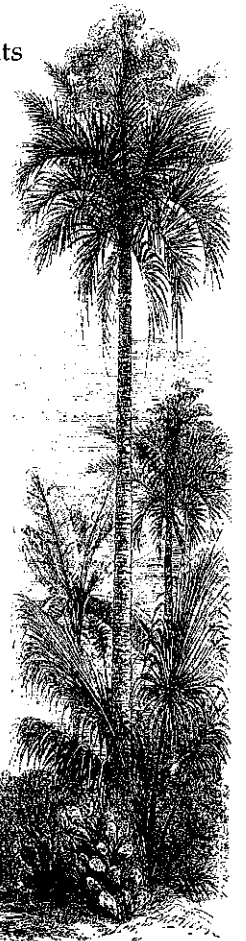
Ann Morgan, 666-8769, wants a Don Juan rose cutting.

Nancye K. McCowan, 868-1335, wants Mexican bush sage. She has some Kew Gardens Collection seeds and Valerie Finnis artemisia she will trade for the sage.

Carolyn Newbern, 663-1222, has vinca minor.

Jackie Wright, 225-9478, wants wood poppy.

Linda Moyer, 985-2454, wants cuttings from evergreen hedges. ♦



Peas, continued from page 1

Too much water will encourage the plants to grow, with less production of peas.

The crop usually ripens all at once. Some growers prefer to harvest while the peas are still green. To preserve the peas at this stage, put them in the freezer. The main harvest is gathered when the pods are thoroughly ripe and are beginning to dry. Shell the peas and allow them to completely dry. Some feed-and-seed stores have pea-shelling machines that take much of the work out of the process. Then store your harvest in dark, dry containers until it's needed in the kitchen.

Some think that the flavor of the southern pea is an acquired or inherited taste. And some folk say that to eat these peas at New Years guarantees good luck. In any event, cooking 'til the peas are thoroughly soft in bacon or ham bits enhances their flavor, and, whatever the purpose, raising these prolific peas is very satisfying. ♦



## Master Gardener Alert!

### Thanks To The Panel



Thanks to our Master Gardener experts (Breck Campbell, Mary Evans, Jane Gulley, Jan King and Beth Phelps) for participating in the question-and-answer panel at the June meeting. Sharing what we know and learning from others is what Master Gardening is all about.

Our next meeting will be September 11 at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension auditorium on University. Enjoy your summer vacation!

### Butterfly ID Decks

The two butterfly identification decks, Butterflies I (Sp273) and Butterflies II (Sp274), which Beth brought back from the International Master Gardener Conference in Florida, are \$10 each plus shipping and handling. If you use Visa or MasterCard, you can call 1-800-226-1764 to place an order.

If you don't use either credit card, after calling the 800 number or 352-392-1764 for the cost, you can send a check to IFAS Publications, P.O. Box 110011, Gainesville, FL 32611-0011.



Beth Phelps presents the first annual "Friend of the Master Gardener" awards to Marilyn Mason and Joe Scerbo.

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**  
2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service**  
Website: <http://www.uaex.edu>

### Friend of MG Award

The first "Friend of the Master Gardener Award" was presented to Marilyn Mason, Bryan Day and Joe Scerbo in the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department Horticultural Division. They raise and furnish the plants (and provide manpower and mulch) for the Arkansas Arts Center, the Contemplation Garden and War Memorial Park projects.

### Bylaws Changes

The changes in the Bylaws passed. A copy of the bylaws with the new wording is enclosed in this mailing.

### How Is Your Verbena Doing?

If you went to the State Meeting in Fort Smith and took home one of the little plants, Beth wants to know how it's doing. You can send your success or failure story to her by phone (340-6650), mail (2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204) or email (bphelps@uaex.edu).

### Vancouver Trip Is On

Janet says that the Vancouver trip scheduled for August is a definite go. There are some spaces left, but you need to call asap, if you are interested in going. Call Kruger Travel at 501-224-8747 or email Nancy Hicks at [nancyquilts@aristotle.net](mailto:nancyquilts@aristotle.net).

## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by mid July to see your message in the August issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. \*

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

<b>Chair/Editor</b>	Rose Hogan
<b>Co-Chair/Layout</b>	Cheryl Kennedy
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	Carl Goodson
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	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Julia Loyall
	Linda Moyer
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer
	Linda Westergard



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture

## Daylilies Can Brighten Your Garden For Decades

By Julia Loyall

Greg Jones of Gilbert H. Wild and Son, grower and hybridizer, assures us, "Daylilies will easily outlive the gardener who plants them." But, you say, *Hemerocallis* means "beauty for a day". Well, that applies only to the individual flower. Each stem, or scape, holds many buds, each of which represents beauty for one day. But these are tough, hardy (zones 3-9) plants which will faithfully brighten your garden for decades to come, and with minimal care.

Use them as ground covers, for erosion control, to hide fading spring bulb foliage, to color a drab stone wall, or to attract hummingbirds and butterflies with their "hot" colors. These *Liliaceae* family members have trumpet-shaped flowers and strap-like leaves growing in fans. They may be 1 to 4 feet high and spread 1-1/2 feet. Some are evergreen here.

Plant them in fall in groups of three or in drifts, in soil well-drained and rich in humus. Soil pH of 6.9 - 7.2 is ideal. Plant crowns should be set at soil level. Full sun is best for most plants, but pastels and reds will escape fading in partial shade. They will need about an inch (one gallon) of water a week in hot weather.

Fertilize in spring when growth begins with 10-10-10 fertilizer. Repeat-blooming (called remontan-

daylilies like 'Stella de Oro' need both a spring granular and summer liquid feeding with extra water. If foliage in rebloomers looks poor after first bloom, probably division is needed.

Daily deadheading of spent



blossoms to the stem greatly improves plant appearance, and prompt removal of seed pods and spent stems (scapes) encourages reblooming.

Late in the season, if most of a plant's foliage is dying back and it is not a rebloomer, shear the whole plant back to basal growth. Water as needed and top dress with compost or organic fertilizer to produce a mound of foliage attractive through frost.

For better bloom, division of  
*Arkansas Is Our Campus*

crowded plants is done in September. Lift the clump. Use two spading forks back to back to pry it apart in the center. Use a sharp knife to make small divisions as desired and replant them with appropriate spacing. Older varieties seldom need division, but divide hybrids after 4 or 5 years, and repeat bloomers about every 2 years.

Hybridizers have worked wonders with the species orange roadside daylily, *H. fulva*, which is too aggressive and large for home gardens. Shoppers have wide choices of size, color, style and bloom period. Miniature varieties with smaller self-clearing flowers are

See Daylilies,  
continued on  
page 2

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# Calendar And Notes

By Ruth Jones

## August

**9, 10, 11** Watermelon Festival at Hope. Contact 870-777-3640.

**14** No Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting this month.

**14-18** 103rd Tontitown Grape Festival on St. Joseph Church grounds. Contact 501-361-2615.

**14, 21, & 28** Continuing education classes for Pulaski County Master Gardeners on Landscape Design. These will be held 8:30-4:30 in the State Extension Service auditorium, 2301 South University. Registration closed July 21.

**22-26** Gardens of British Columbia tour led by Janet Carson.

**26-29** Rocky Mountain Railtour optional addendum to British Columbia tour.

## September

**9** Garvan Woodland Gardens will be open Wednesday through Mondays from 10 to 6. Adults \$7, seniors \$6 and children \$3 admission. For more information call 800-366-4664.

**11** Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Building, 2301 South University.

**18** Native Plant Workshop at Ferndale 4-H Center. See "MG Alert!" for details.

## October

**3** New Master Gardener training begins. See "MG Alert!" for details

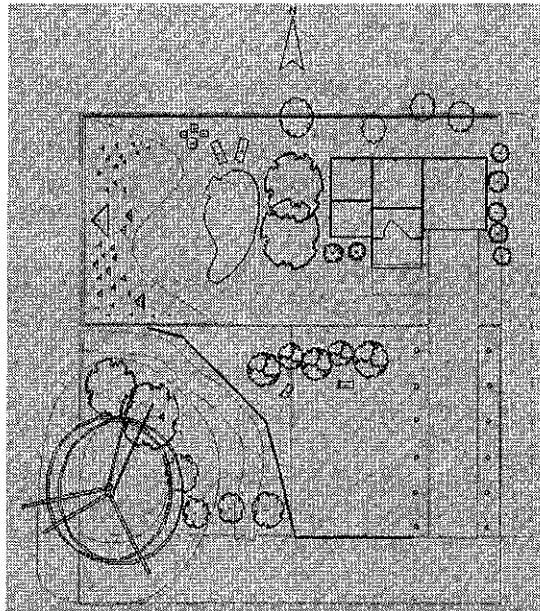
**5** Apple Festival at Lincoln.

**6** Osage Pumpkin Festival

**7** Arkansas Rose Society rose

show at University Mall, Little Rock.

**9** Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Building, 2301 South University. \*



*Daylilies. continued from page 1*

available. The dwarf rebloomer 'Stella de Oro' (1977) has sparked wide interest in all daylilies. There are early, midseason and late varieties. Careful choices can give you daylily bloom from June until fall, and rebloomers will flower at least twice, usually in June and in August.

When shopping for daylilies, try to buy locally from our growers and hybridizers. Daylily performance varies with climate and the gardener's care. Local growers will sell you plants that do well here.

The Arkansas Daylily Society welcomes non-members to its state garden tour and meeting in June, and to the plant sale and auction in October, where plants donated by members can be obtained at excellent savings. Grower Joel Stout is president of the new Central Arkansas Daylily Society, which plans to meet four or five times a year in Little Rock. Contact him in Conway at 501-327-7520.

Joel recommended rebloomers of varied colors and sizes, some fragrant. He also suggests exploring the American Daylily web site, especially its 17 pages of answers to frequently-asked questions. See [www.daylilies.org](http://www.daylilies.org).

Use those organically grown daylily buds and flow-

ers in the kitchen for their chestnut flavor. Steam them until just wilted, and toss with a little butter and grated Parmesan cheese. Or try Bernice Johnson's Daylily Rice recipe:

### Daylily Rice

- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1 cup rice
- 1/2 cup sliced mushrooms
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. slivered almonds
- 4 or 5 green onions, chopped
- 8 to 10 daylily buds and 4 blooms, chopped
- 1 tbsp. fresh dill, chopped
- 1 tsp. parsley, lemon thyme (or verbena), and marjoram, chopped
- Daylily blossoms for garnish

Combine broth, water, rice and salt.

Bring to boil, cover and simmer 25 to 30 minutes.

Saute the other ingredients, except herbs, until just heated through. Add rice and herbs. Serve on platter, garnished with daylily blossoms. \*

# Master Gardeners' August Checklist

By Libby Thalheimer

## Annuals

To brighten and intensify the colors of annuals, water with a salt-free club soda (fresh or stale). Cut back leggy annuals and fertilize. Shear browallia, torenia and verbena for rebloom. Deadhead spent annual blooms to prevent seed production. This will cause flowers to continue blooming. Take cuttings of geraniums and begonias and plant or pot them. Plant a second crop of cosmos, marigolds, melampodium, sanvitalia, zinnias and *Zinnia linearis*. Plant calendula, pansies, sweet william and violas in a cold frame.

## Fruits, Herbs And Vegetables

Cut back and divide chives, sweet marjoram, mint and oregano. Pot them and place in a sunny window for a winter supply.

Cut red raspberry canes to the ground when they have finished fruiting.

For the fall garden, plant broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower plants. Sow seeds of dwarf basil and parsley directly into pots so you can have an indoor herb garden this winter. Cool-season vegetables that can be planted now are: bush and lima beans, beets, chinese cabbage, carrots, swiss chard, collards, cucumbers, kale, mustard, southern peas, summer squash and turnips.

## Lawns And Shrubs

Let your lawn grow about 2-1/2 inches tall 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.

Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now because they are forming flower buds for next spring's displays.

If it becomes dry, water an inch or two once a week. Regular watering keeps plants from overheating and from dehydrating. Insufficient watering can lead to even established plants' slow death. Mulching plants at least 3 inches helps to retain moisture and to keep down weeds.

You may begin to notice the webs of webworms on the limbs of pecan, cherry, persimmon and sycamore trees. Recommended treatment is to remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) spray to worm-eaten leaves.

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 insecti-

cidal soap or Malathion, according to directions. When using any kind of fungicide, herbicide or insecticide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. If there is not enough moisture in the plants, too much of the chemical may be absorbed, possibly damaging the plants.

Check container plants daily and water as needed.

Give spring flowering ornamentals and warm-season grasses a light application of fertilizer.

## Perennials

Disbud chrysanthemums and dahlias for specimen blooms.

Take cuttings of penstemons.

If your daylilies, iris or Virginia bluebells didn't bloom well the last few years, divide them now through September.

Dig up the entire clump and remove soil from the roots to expose the crown.

Pull plants apart by hand, or split with a sharp knife. Replant the new divisions 12 to 18 inches apart.

Plant oriental poppies and leave them undisturbed.

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

Plant columbine, daisies and forget-me-nots in the cold frame.

Cut back perennials and peonies as they decline.

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.

August is a good time to use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds, as well as poison ivy and honeysuckle. Be sure to follow label directions! Since poison ivy and honeysuckle are perennials, applying Roundup now can keep them from storing up nutrients for winter and reduce the chance of their surviving until spring.

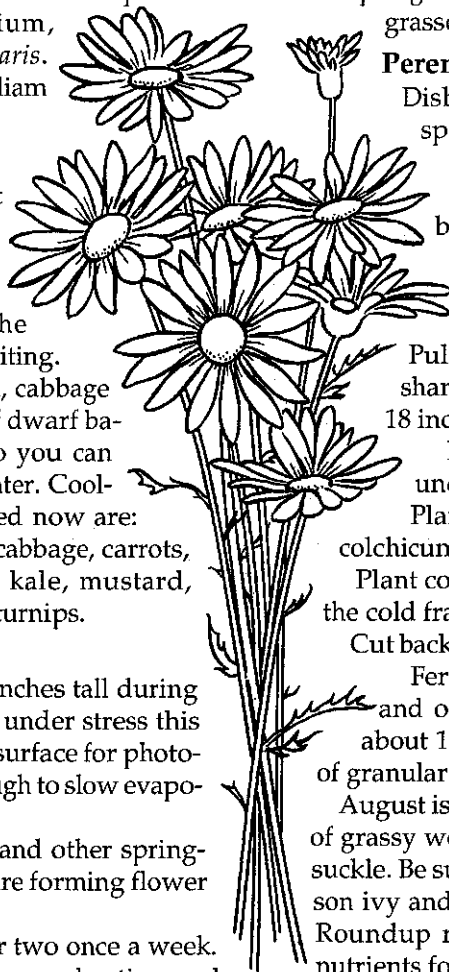
## Roses

Prune shrub roses to remove errant branches and direct new growth; do not prune climbers at this time. Fertilize roses with granular rose food or liquid formulations, as recommended on the label. 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.

## August Blooms

Ageratum, althea, anise mint, asclepias, asters, balsam, bellamcanda, browallia, buddleia, callicarpi, campsis, canna, celosia, clematis, cleome, clerodendron, clethra

See August Checklist, continued on page 8



# What Works!

By Linda Moyer

Despite the drought and heat, weeds thrive. From the *Organic Gardening* web site, here are some easy, nontoxic ways to actually get rid of weeds.

## Mulch

A thick layer of mulch keeps light from reaching weeds. "Without adequate light, the plants don't produce enough chlorophyll to enable further growth. Most of these plants sicken and die before you even notice them," writes Miranda Smith in *Rodale's Chemical Free Yard & Garden*. "The few plants that do manage to stick their leaves into the light will be shallowly rooted and very easy to pull."

Organic mulches — straw, grass clippings, leaves, shredded bark — nourish the soil as they decompose. They are fairly effective weed barriers.

For even better weed protection, use several sheets of newspaper, kraft paper (the paper used to make grocery bags) or cardboard under these mulches. In a 1992-93 study at the University of Vermont, a 6-inch layer of shredded newspaper applied at the beginning of one season allowed no more than 8 weeds per square yard to sprout for two summers. Without renewing the mulch layer, the newspaper controlled weeds for two seasons. Kraft paper and cardboard allow even less light to reach weeds and are even more impenetrable.

## Hoe

Annual weeds die when you sever the stems from the roots just below the soil surface. With a sharp hoe, you cut the weeds easily. Forget about the square-headed traditional garden hoe for this job — go for an oscillating or swan neck hoe instead.

To hoe your garden without cultivating a backache, hold the hoe as you would a broom — that is, with your thumbs pointing up. Skim the sharp sides of the hoe blade through the top inch of the soil.

## Solarize

You can let the sun help you get rid of persistent weeds if you're willing to leave the bed fallow for 6 weeks in the summer. Get started in late spring or early summer by pulling, hoeing or raking out as many weeds as you can from the garden bed. Then, moisten the soil and cover it with clear plastic, weighing down or burying the edges. Leave the plastic in place for 6 weeks. When you remove the plastic, the sun will have cooked weeds that would otherwise have sprouted.

## Hand Pull

Here's the trick to comfortable, quick weed-pulling: Put your hands in front of you, thumbs up and palms facing your body, one hand in front of the other. Now roll your hands, like kids do when singing "This old man goes rolling home."

Pinch your forefinger and thumb together as you reach the outermost edge of the imaginary circle your hands are tracing and move your arms to the side as you roll your hands.

With practice, you will be surprised by how quickly you clean up a row in the garden with this movement.

## Persevere

This is your most important, long-range weapon against weeds. Mulch well, pull what you can, hoe where

you have to and use a handy tool or two for a few minutes whenever you visit your garden. Do these things consistently for a few seasons, and you will slowly but surely expel the invaders for good.

## Weeding Aids

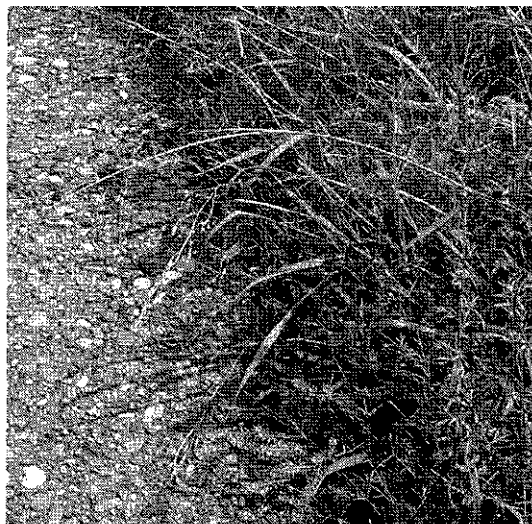
Hoes come in many shapes and sizes. Look for one that lets you work upright and comfortably, and that has a blade you can keep sharp. Oscillating hoes, also called stirrup hoes, slice weeds with a rocking movement. You pull a swan neck hoe toward you

and its sharp blade cuts through weeds.

A wheel hoe has an oscillating or stationary hoe blade mounted on a wheel with two long handles. To use a wheel hoe effectively, set the blade so it rests about 1 inch below the soil surface. Then rock the blade back and forth through the soil, letting the blade rather than your strength push through the weeds.

Many gardeners find a wheel hoe as easy to use — and much more pleasant — than a tiller for routine cultivation. Tillers chop up weeds easily. But, when used too frequently, they can break down the texture of the soil and may harm earthworms and other soil dwellers. Use a tiller for major weeding removal jobs, rather than for routine weed control.

A flame weeder is a small propane torch used to get weeds where other tools do not work, such as along walls or between cracks in the patio. A flame weeder is not for burning weeds — merely holding the torch close to the



See *What Works!*, continued on page 8

# Master Gardener Alert!

## MG Training

All sessions will be on Wednesdays at the State Extension Office on South University.

September 26 *Tour of Master Gardener Projects*

October 3 *The Basics — Plant Science, Soils, Fire Ants*

October 10 *Ornamentals*

*Shrubs, Perennials and Annuals for Arkansas*, Janet Carson  
*Trees for Arkansas Landscapes*, Cecelia Buck

October 17 *Fruit Crops*, Dr. Keith Strigler, U of A  
*Wildlife in the Landscape*, Jane Gulley

October 24 *Vegetable Crops for the Home Garden*, Dr. Craig Anderson, U of A

October 31 *Bugs and Their Control*

*Plant Pathology*, Dr. Steve Vann, Disease Diagnostic Lab., Lonoke

*Pruning*

November 7 *Lawn Care and Weed Control*, Dr.

John Boyd, Extension Specialist

Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the training sessions. If you plan to attend, please call Mrs. McKinney or Beth, 340-6650, so that enough hand-outs for the sessions will be available for you. If you want to eat lunch, call by noon on the Monday before the Wednesday you'll be attending. Lunch is \$6.50.

## Native Plant Workshop

Native plants are becoming a hot commodity in Arkansas gardens. Come learn more about them at the Wild Gardening Workshop. The 5th Annual Native Plant Workshop will be held Tuesday, September 18, 2001 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale.

*Break-out session I (9 - 10 a.m.) and Break-out session III (1:30 - 2:30 p.m.):*

*Underused native trees in the home landscape*, Tamara Walkingstick

*Aquatic natives in the landscape*, David Heikes

*The creation of a woodland garden*, Bob Byers

*Using the milkweed family in the native garden*, Dr. Kim Pittcock

*Heirloom vegetables of the 18th century*, Jack & Shirley Pratt

*Break-out and Break-out session II (10:15-11:15 a.m.) and Break-out session IV (2:45 -3:45 p.m.):*  
*Native woody landscape plants*, Jon Lindstrom

*How native is your native?*, Tom Foti

*Propagating woody natives*, Gerald Klingaman

*Attracting wildlife to your yard*, Becky McPeake

*Nature photography*, Carl Hunter

The morning break-out sessions will be repeated in the afternoon. On the registration form, you are requested to rank your order of preference for 1st to 5th so you will have four different topics over the day. Every attempt will be made to give each registrant their first choice.

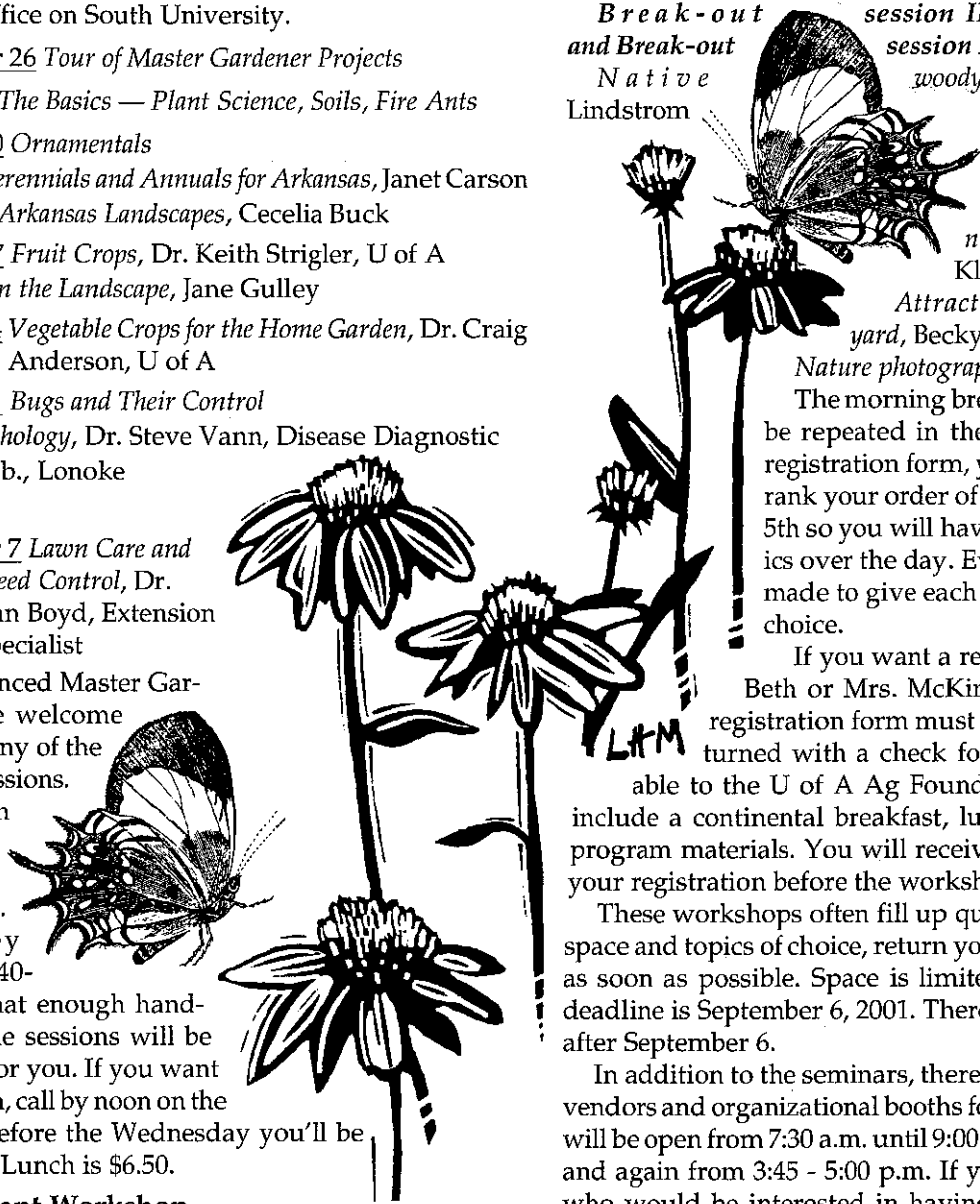
If you want a registration form, call Beth or Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650. The registration form must be filled out and returned with a check for \$25.00 made payable to the U of A Ag Foundation. This fee will include a continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and all program materials. You will receive a confirmation of your registration before the workshop.

These workshops often fill up quickly, so to insure a space and topics of choice, return your registration form as soon as possible. Space is limited. The registration deadline is September 6, 2001. There will be no refunds after September 6.

In addition to the seminars, there will be native plant vendors and organizational booths for you to visit. These will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., during breaks, and again from 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. If you know of anyone who would be interested in having an exhibit, please have them call Janet at 501-671-2174 or email her at jcarson@uaex.edu.

## Butterfly Checklist

A June issue of *Arkansas Times* announced that entomologist Lori Spencer and Mount Magazine Park Interpreter Don Simons have collaborated in putting together the list of 120 species of butterflies that have been seen (or ought to be) in Arkansas. The checklist will make it easier to use your butterfly field guide by narrowing down the possibilities to just Arkansas lepidoptera. The checklist details what part of the state the butterflies can



# Parsley, A "Rock" In The Garden

By Carl Goodson

Parsley, or *Petroselinum crispum*, is probably the most basic of herbs. It is grown for its leaves, its seeds and its roots. The botanical name, *Petroselinum*, derives from the classical word for rock and an old form of the name of celery. The *crispum* part of the name suggests that earlier uses of the plant were for adding crispness or sharpness or flavor to other vegetables or to meats.

There are three basic kinds of parsley: One, the most common and most handsome, is the moss curled-leaf kind. It shows up sometimes on the plate with a main dish or an entree. Most diners set it aside, but it can be nibbled after the meal as a breath freshener.

Two, the broad-leafed, or Italian parsley, has a stronger taste and may be used as a principal ingredient in a tossed salad. It is not as handsome as the curly leafed variety, either on a plate or growing in the garden. But it can be used as garnish or as flavoring as well as in other usage to be given later.

Three, the Hamburg or *tuberosum* parsley, is grown for its larger root.

However the roots of the other varieties will do as well. They just do not get as large.

Nutritionally all three kinds contain significant amounts of vitamins A and C and epigenin, an antioxidant.

Place can be found for parsley in almost any part of the garden. It is at home among vegetables and other herbs. Is handsome enough to be grown as an edging plant or among annual and perennial flowers. A pot on a sunny windowsill will carry a plant through the winter and provide cuttings for garnish conveniently.

Parsley is propagated from seed. Either seed from a packet or seed saved from last year's growth will do. Seed is slow to germinate. An overnight soaking in warm water will help speed the process. Seeds must be kept moist and warm through germination. Even then, it will take three to six weeks for tiny seedlings to appear. Germination is dependable if growing conditions are met. So patience is needed to wait for the plants to appear.

After the plants have put on about three true leaves, the plants are easily transplanted to where the gardener wants them to grow. In soil that is neutral or

slightly alkaline the plants will be happy. A spot with full sun or partial shade will do. Continue to water and to weed or mulch as the plants grow.

The parsleys are biennials. They use a season of burgeoning growth to store energy in the roots. They do not grow in winter, of course. Depending on the severity of the winter, they will either die back to the ground or continue to offer deep green cuttings all season.

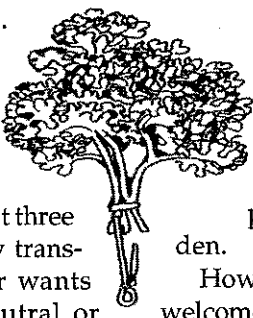
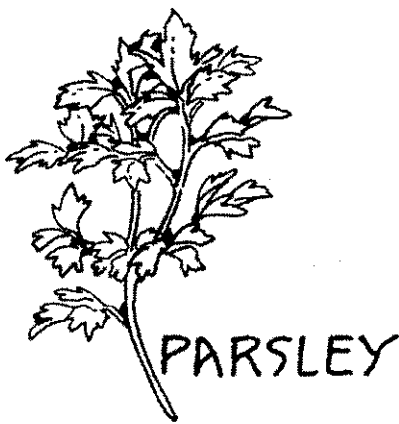
As the spring advances and the soil warms up, the parsley will resume growth. This second season, though, is for the biennial plant to produce seed stalks. They shoot up and open up like little umbrellas. This demonstrates that they are *umbelliferae* like Queen-Anne's-Lace (wild carrot), dill, anise and other such herbs. This feature can be taken advantage of by allowing the seed heads to grow to maturity, dry and drop their seeds. Just before drying, the gardener can cut the heads, completely dry them, and shake out the seeds into a clean, dry container. Parsley plants may sometimes be fooled into continuing to grow another season by cutting out the seed stalk as low as possible. But it is better to start new plants every year.

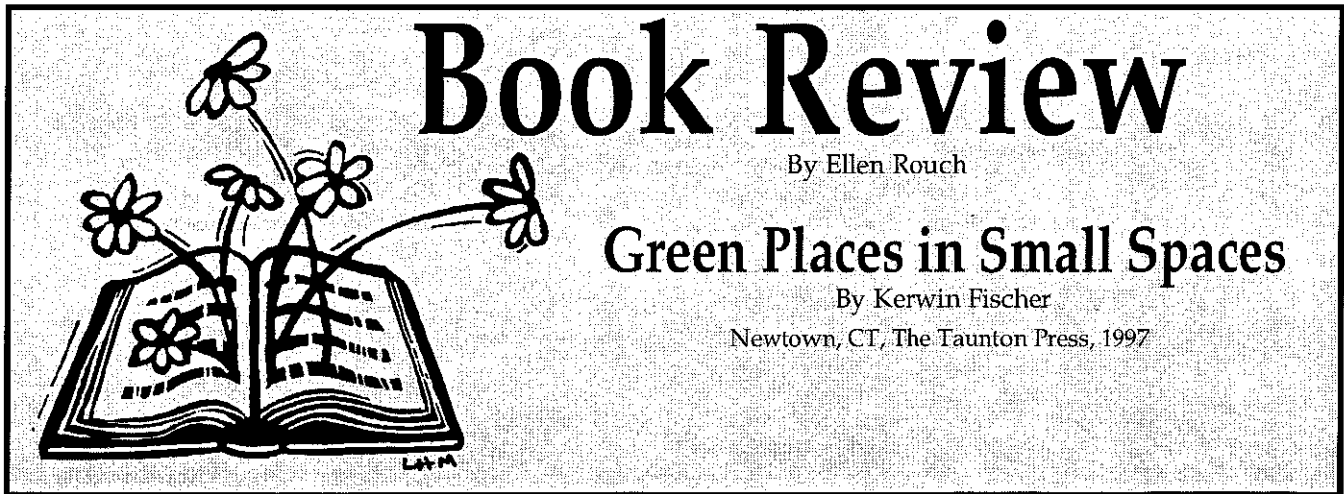
The crop of seeds can be used as a flavor enhancer for salads and cooking. They can also be for plant starters early in the next season. Such seed is almost fool-proof. However, if the gardener discovers that the seeds are not reliable for vigorous plants, it would be better to get new seed. If space is no problem, it is good to plant seed of more than one strain to strengthen the genetic health of the next year's plants.

Depending on the space allotted for parsley, a few plants will supply cuttings during the growing season, and dried, ground leaves during the off-season. Roots can also be minced, dried and used for flavoring. There are also medicinal uses of parsley. However, the essential oils of parsley are poisonous in large quantities. It is best to use care in the medicinal uses of any herb.

Vigor and desirability have earned parsley the designation of a rock. In fact parsley will enhance any rock garden.

However few the plants, fresh sprigs are welcome year round.





# Book Review

By Ellen Rouch

## Green Places in Small Spaces

By Kerwin Fischer

Newtown, CT, The Taunton Press, 1997

This is a simply delightful book written by a man who maintains a church garden in a large city on a very small plot of land. He claims that his book is intended to provide gardening advice and pointers for people who only have a small place for a garden. However, I believe that the book could be geared towards a much larger target audience. He actually presents basic gardening and landscape principles. Only a small percentage of the book is only applicable towards gardening in small spaces. For instance, in his church garden, he must be acutely aware of the lighting restrictions at different times of the day in the various seasons as his garden is surrounded by tall buildings. Additionally, he must guard against human intruders.

Initially, Mr. Fischer spends some time explaining his philosophy about the personal statements made by small gardens. In the next few chapters, he gives basic background into soil and soil amendments, mulches and gardening tools. Next, he goes into an abbreviated chapter on compost and design principles.

The heart of the book is focused on different possibilities of flowers and bulbs for each season.

1) Spring openers (March through April) — This section contains a good primer on bulbs and includes container gardening ideas for spring.

2) Second spring showing (late April through May) — The emphasis for this season is on tall-growing bulbs and columbine with a backdrop of peonies, true geraniums and rhododendron. For the shady garden, he emphasizes ferns, caladiums, and begonias.

3) Early summer (June through mid-July) — Here he provides a laundry list of summer staples: species and butterfly lilies, brodiacea, Canterbury bells, asiatic lilies, tiger lilies and foxgloves. As to be expected, this section is the most expansive. He includes sections on tall growers and other summer flowers.

4) High summer (July, August and early September) — He entitles this section the main course and includes information on hostas, sedum, short daylilies, black-eyed Susans, cleome, monkshood, liatris and phlox. He warns against aggressive plants which can entirely overtake your garden: English ivy, oriental bittersweet, heavenly bamboo — all plants sold in catalogues.

5) The last hurrah (late September and October) includes a section on fall bloomers and ornamental grasses. He recommends fall blooming crocuses and Japanese toad lily.

6) The book concludes with a section, "putting the garden to bed", and describes cutting back, mulching and dividing plants.

I found the book to be an enjoyable read. There are many full-color photographs which can help to explain the author's vision. The author has a lot of good ideas as to possible plant combinations for each season (except his belief that there is never an appropriate time nor place for pink ornamental cabbage). All of the plants are chosen for plant hardiness zone 6.

The book would make a great present for a city or apartment dweller. Mr. Fischer includes some charming photographs of both rooftop and terrace gardens. ✧

## TECHNIQUES FOR DIVIDING PERENNIALS

Timing and technique are important when dividing perennials, and while many perennials can be divided in either early spring or early fall, some are very picky. Plants divided only in fall and the technique to use are:

### Divide these plants by hand

Moss Pink (*Phlox subulata*)

Sweet woodruff (*Galium odoratum*)

### Divide these plants with a spade or pitchfork

Poppies (*Papaver spp.*)

Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*)

### Slice apart woody crowns with a handsaw

Foxtail lilies (*Eremurus spp.*)

Peonies (*Paeonia cvs.*)

### Cut up rhizomes and tubers with a knife

Arum (*Arum italicum*)

Iris (*Iris spp.*)

### These perennials are best not divided

Alyssums (*Alyssum spp.*)

Candytuft (*Iberis sempervirens*)

Carnation (*Dianthus caryophyllus*)

Delphinium (*Delphinium X elatum*)

Euphorbia (*Euphorbia characias ssp. wulfenii*)

Foxgloves (*Digitalis spp.*)

Garden sage (*Salvia officinalis*)

Geraniums (*Pelargonium spp.*)

See Techniques, continued on page 8

*What Works!*, continued from page 4

weed dessicates and kills it.

Hand weeders come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, in styles old and new. The traditional forked dandelion digger remains an effective tool for popping dandelions and other weeds with long taproots out of the ground. The ball weeder has a large round center to give you even more leverage. The circle hoe skims beneath the surface of the soil, severing the roots.

### Never Till or Hoe These Weeds

- Comfrey
- Jerusalem artichoke
- Quackgrass

These weeds will reproduce from tiny bits of root left in the soil. Chopping them with a hoe or tilling them will break the roots into pieces that will resprout, leaving you with even more of these weeds. Instead, pull them by hand and mulch heavily to keep light from reaching any of the root you miss.

### Additional Control Methods

The *Southern Living* web site gives these hints for control of weeds: When preparing a nonselective herbicide such as Roundup, add a tablespoon of liquid hand soap to the mixture. It allows the herbicide to stick to the weeds better.

If you have a path or patio with a few weeds creeping in, reach for your teakettle. A nice dousing with boiling water will take care of most intruders.

*"What Works!"* is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, [lmoyer72076@yahoo.net](mailto:lmoyer72076@yahoo.net), or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write *"What Works!"* c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit. ✪

## Dig In Here ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

### Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
[bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)

### Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

### Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

### University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website: <http://www.uaex.edu>

*August Checklist*, continued from page 3

ainifolia, crape myrtle, crotalaria, dahlia, datura, echevera, echinacea, eupatorium, feverfew, four-o'clocks, funkia, garlic, gaura, gladioli, fountain grasses, hibiscus, hosta, hydrangea, hyssop, ironweed, kerria, lantana, liatris, linaria, lobelia, lycoris squamiger, marigolds, marjoram, miscanthus, mints, monarda, mondo grass, montbretia, nicotiana, oxalis, pennisetum, phlox, physostegia, portulaca, roses, rosemary, rudbeckia, salvia, snow-on-the-mountain, spirea, tamarisk, tansy, thyme, torenia, tuberosa, turtlehead, veronica, vinca, pink zephyranthes lily, and zinnia. ✪

*Techniques*, continued from page 7

### Lavender cotton (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*)

- Lavenders (*Lavandula* spp.)
- Rose campion (*Lychnis coronaria*)
- Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*)
- Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*)
- Silvermound (*Artemisia Schmidiana*)
- Sweet pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*)
- Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)

(Excerpted from *Fine Gardening* April 2000) ✪

*MG Alert!*, continued from page 5

be found in, whether they are common or not and lists butterfly behaviors — does it soar or flit? — to help you figure out what you're looking at. You can pick up a checklist at your closest state park. ✪

## Spread The News!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by August 18 to see your message in the September issue of the newsletter.

You may send your information via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, [bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu); Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, [rhogan@aristotle.net](mailto:rhogan@aristotle.net); or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and [fromthegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:fromthegarden@earthlink.net)

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. ✪

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

**Chair/Editor** Rose Hogan

**Co-Chair/Layout** Cheryl Kennedy

**Staff**

- Tom Bruce
- Lois Clifton
- Jan O. Gauntt
- Carl Goodson
- Ann Green
- Helen Hronas
- Annette Hurley
- Virginia Johnson
- Ruth Jones
- Julia Loyall
- Linda Moyer
- Ellen Rouch
- Libby Thalheimer
- Linda Westergard



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

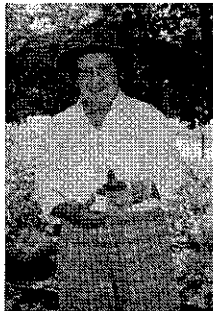
Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



# COUNTY OFFICE HERB GARDEN EXPANDS

STORY AND DRAWING BY JULIA LOYALL

The Pulaski County Extension Office Project Committee is proud of the newly expanded demonstration herb garden. This year, the herb garden's size has doubled and reaches far closer to the street, with a figure-of-eight design of interlocking ovals. Betty Pagan, who planned and began the first section of the garden in early 1998, planned the addition; Ellen Kane helped plant, and the Master Gardener team maintains it.



Betty's site preparation was labor-intensive but educational. She marked the new garden's outline with her sod cutter. Jim Alberson took over for hours of grinding deep-rooted Bermuda grass out of the soil with his tiller. Jim and the team raked, Jim tilled, more raking, more tilling, until not a shred of grass could be seen. The team was ready for planting to begin, but Betty waited, sure there were Bermuda roots lurking down below. Rain came, and green fingers of crabgrass appeared, but no Bermuda. When

that was eliminated, the steel edging went in, then 10 bags each of Pioneer Southern top soil from Kaufman Lumber (contains some sand, which herbs like), compost and manure. More tilling, raking smooth and waiting.

Betty and Ellen were so organized that 108 plants were installed according to

added to conserve moisture and discourage weeds. The sprinkler system covers the entire garden.

Layout of both sections of the garden follows the traditional open knot garden concept. Outer borders are low-growing plants which eventually form a hedge. Paths make the garden open for the visitor to enjoy and the gardener to harvest.



the design, and growing happily in one very busy morning. The only plants lost that hot week were seven of the eight lavender plants chosen as border accents. They will be replaced when it's cooler.

An all-hardwood shredded mulch was

Hedges and paths form an attractive overall design, and  
*See Garden, continued on page 7*

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## Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

# CALENDAR AND NOTES

## SEPTEMBER

By RUTH JONES

National Garden Association Youth Gardening Grants now available. Information at [www.kidsgardening.com/grantsasp](http://www.kidsgardening.com/grantsasp).

**1-October 28** *Butterfly Cornfield Maze & Flower Farm. The Flower Farm* on Wye Mt. Thurs. - Sat. 8 a.m. til dusk. Sunday 1 p.m. til dusk. Contact Beth Eggers at 501-330-1906.

**8** *Mushroom Mania, Woolly Hollow* State Park. Contact Nick Murray at 501-679-2098.

**8** *Fall Colors — An Information Seminar.* Choosing plants for fall color in the landscape & chrysanthemums. Arkansas State University, Agri Bldg., Jonesboro. Contact Craighead County Extension Office at 870-933-4565.

**9** *Grandparents in the Garden.* Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. Contact Suzi Combs 1-800-366-4664. Admission \$7 adults, \$6 seniors and \$3 children.

**11** *Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting* at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Bldg., 2301 S. University.

**16** *Arkansas Orchid Society Annual Orchid Auction,* 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., NLR Community Center, 2700 North Willow. For more info, call 753-7407.

**18** *Native Plant Workshop* at Ferndale 4-H Center. Call Beth Phelps or Mrs. McKinney at 340-6650.

**26** *Tour of Master Gardener Projects* for new MGs.

**29** *Migrating Monarch Butterflies* on Mt. Magazine State Park. Contact Don Simons at 501-963-8502.

## OCTOBER

**3** *New Master Gardener Training* begins, State Extension Office on S. University. The Basics — Plant Science, Soils, Fire Ants. All experienced MGs are welcome, please call Mrs. McKinney or Beth at 340-6650 if you plan to attend. Call by Monday if you want lunch (\$6.50).

**5-7** *26th Annual Apple Festival* at Lincoln. Contact Luedell Kley at 501-824-3738.

**5-6** *13th Herb Fall Festival* in Mountain View at the Ozark Folk Center State Park. Contact Tina Marie Wilcox at 870-269-3851.

**7** *Arkansas Rose Society Show* at University Mall in Little Rock.

**9** *Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting* at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Bldg., 2301 S. University.

**10** *New Master Gardener Training continues.* Ornaments, Shrubs, and Perennials & Annuals — Janet Carson; Trees for Arkansas Landscapes — Cecelia Buck. All experienced Master Gardeners are invited. Just call

Beth or Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650, so there will be enough copies of handouts and to order lunch (\$6.50).

**11** *North American Association for Environmental Education* is meeting in Little Rock. Contact Suzanne Herrel at 671-2288.

**11-20** *Harvest Tours,* Lake Village. Witness the cotton harvest. John Morrow at 870-265-5480. Registration required.

**17** *New Master Gardener Training continues* at the State Extension Office on S. University. Fruit Crops — Dr. Keith Strigler; Wildlife in the Landscape — Jane Gulley. All experienced Master Gardeners are welcome. Please call Beth or Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650, to ensure there will be enough copies of handouts and to order lunch (\$6.50).

**19** *41st Annual Fall Foliage Tour* begins at Jasper. Tour is 80 miles, transportation provided. Contact is Colleen Breedlove at 870-446-5122 to register.

**19-21** *Fall Color Weekend* at Woolly Hollow State Park. Contact Nick Murray 501-679-2098.

**24** *New Master Gardeners Training continues* at State Extension Office on S. University. Vegetable Crops for the Home Garden — Dr. Craig Anderson, U of A. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome. Just call Beth or Mrs. McKinney (340-6650) to ensure there will be enough copies of handouts and to order lunch (\$6.50).

**27** *Fall Color Hike,* Pinnacle Mt. State Park. 501-868-5806.

**31** *New Master Gardener Training* at the State Extension Office on S. University. Bugs & Their Control; Plant Pathology — Dr. Steve Vann, Disease Diagnostic Lab, Lonoke; Pruning. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome. Call Beth or Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650, to ensure that there will be enough copies of handouts and to order lunch (\$6.50).

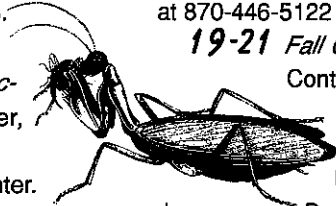
## NOVEMBER

**7** *New Master Gardener Training continues.* Lawn Care & Weed Control — Dr. John Boyd, Extension Specialist. Experienced MGs are welcome. Call Beth or Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650, to ensure there are enough copies of handouts and to order lunch (\$6.50).

**10** *Mushroom Mania* at Pinnacle Mt. State Park. Contact 501-868-5806 to register.

**13** *Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting* at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Bldg., 2301 S. University.

**18** *Welcome to the Garvan Gardens,* Hot Springs. Opening and dedication of the Welcome Center of Garvan Woodland Gardens. 1-800-366-4664. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$3 children. ★





# MASTER GARDENERS' SEPTEMBER CHECKLIST



By LIBBY THALHEIMER

## Annuals

Sow annual *Schizanthus pinnatus* (butterfly flower) indoors in sunny pots now for March bloom.

When it's cooler, rejuvenate tired annuals by cutting back leggy stems, removing faded flowers, and feeding plants with liquid 20-20-20 fertilizer. If annuals are too far gone, pull them out and replace with new fall choices.

If you have taken your tropical houseplants outdoors for the summer, bring them in when temperatures are predicted to drop below 55 degrees. Check for "pests" beforehand.

## Fruits, Herbs & Vegetables

The first half of September is the ideal time to plant perennial herbs and fall vegetables. Plant lemon balm, cloves of garlic, oregano, sage, thyme, winter savory, witch hazel, cress, kale, lettuce, mustard, radishes, spinach and turnips. Cress matures in two to three weeks, leaf lettuce and spinach in six weeks, mustard in four to five weeks, and radishes three to four weeks. Bring in a pot of chives, marjoram, rosemary or thyme, for the winter.

When harvesting carrots, parsnips, turnips, radishes, etc., remove the green tops and leave on top of the soil to make fresh green manure, or add to the compost heap.

## Lawns And Shrubs

Don't prune your spring-blooming plants at this time. Avoid heavy pruning of others, also, or they may not have time to harden off before frost. Light pruning (heading off) of evergreens can be done at any time.

Divide and replant peonies in mid-September through October. Herbaceous crowns are set 1 to 2 inches below soil level; tree peonies 4 to 7 inches deep. Extra care taken to ensure correct planting depth will result in better bloom performance. Mulch is also important the first winter after division to prevent peonies from heaving out of the ground.

To prevent burning up the living organisms in your soil by using chemicals alone, add humus to your garden when using chemical fertilizers. Compost is one of the most effective fertilizers and soil conditioners. If you haven't already done so, make plans to add composting to your list of gardening chores. Ideally, you should add a spadeful of compost to each square yard of garden surface every two weeks, from spring to fall.

Whether it's organic, or combined organic and chemical, St. Augustine, Bermuda, and Zoysia need one more application in early September of 3-1-2 fertilizer to be healthy and cold tolerant during the winter. Cool season grasses, i.e. Fescue, need a complete fertilizer (1-1-1, or 1-2-1) in mid-September.

Apply Roundup now to reduce the chances of poison ivy, poison oak or poison sumac surviving until spring. The alternative is to cover yourself carefully from head to toe before pulling out the noxious plants by the root. The oil from the poison ivy plant or its roots causes the problem. And the oil can be transferred from you to your gardening tools. So wash up everything thoroughly. Once exposed, you have four hours to wash it off your skin before it causes the allergic reaction.

Use Poast over the top for grassy weeds.

Benlate can be used to control powdery mildew on crape myrtles, roses, squash and lilacs. Apply Malathion two or three times, spaced a week or 10 days apart to control aphids and lacebugs. **Note:** Before using any kind of pesticide, whether fungicide, insecticide, or herbicide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture.

## Perennials

Plant mum and aster varieties that bloom at different times during the season.

Set out fall-flowering bulbs immediately: colchicums, crocuses, baby cyclamen and white swamp lilies.

For a fragrant surprise in late autumn, plant paperwhite narcissus outdoors now. For the best selection, buy spring flowering bulbs by mid-month. Select firm bulbs with no signs of mold. Store in a cool, dry location until ready to plant in late September through November.

Cuttings of perennials, such as phlox and Shasta daisies, may be rooted at this time.

Deadhead buddleias, perennials and zinnias. Continue disbudding dahlias and large-flowered chrysanthemums.

Cut back poinsettias to the desired height, leaving three or four leaves per stem, and fertilize through December 1.

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 coneflowers, daffodils, daylilies, lamb's ear, lilacs, madonna lilies, phlox, pinks, yarrow and many other spreading or clumping perennials. Carefully dig and lift clumps and break apart. After replanting divided perennials, apply fertilizer such as 5-10-5.

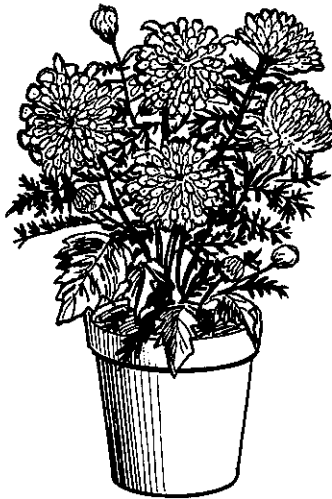
Collect seeds from perennials and store in the refrigerator. Transplant hollyhocks. Carry over any late planted columbine and sweet William in the cold frame through the winter to have sturdy plants for the garden later.

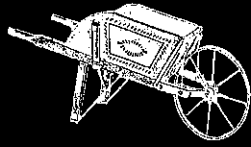
## Roses

Funginex, Phaltan, Topsin-M, and Benlate are all effective in controlling black spot on roses.

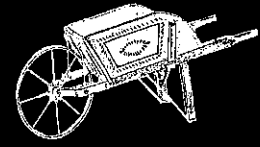
## Blooming Schedule

Ageratum, althea, asters, hardy begonia, buddleia, calicarpus, campsis, cannas, caryopteris, celosia, chrysanthemum, clerodendron, coral vine, crape myrtle, crotalaria, dahlia, desmodium, dianthus, echevera, eupatorium, gaura, ginger lily, gladioli, gordonia alata, hibiscus, ironweed, jacobinia, kerria, linaria, liriopse, lantana, lycoris radiata, marigold, blue morning glory, mountain fleecy, nierembergia, ornamental grasses, oregano, oxalis, petunia, phlox, physostegia, rose pink polygonum, rosemary, rose, sage, salvias, sedum, solidago, spirea, tansy, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, veronica, vinca, viola, vitex, yucca, white zephyranthes and zinnia.





# WHAT WORKS!



By LINDA MOYER

## Wind In The Willows?

If you broke a pot this year, don't throw it away, bury the pot broken side down into the soil and use it as a toad house.

## Seeds

Use film containers to store seeds that you are saving this year. Just be sure that seeds are completely dry before you put them in. If you are not sure, put a little powdered milk on a cloth or paper towel and add to the container.

*For more tips on saving seeds from your garden, check out:*

Saving Seeds in a Small Way by Thomas T. Watson,

<http://www.gardenguides.com/articles/savingseeds.htm>

Seeds of Change eNewsletter #13 ><http://store.yahoo.com/seedsofchange/newunconnoty.html><

My garden, Saving Seeds, <http://www.mybackyard.com/current/60p1.htm>

*Do you want to exchange seeds over the Internet? Try:*

><http://www.mybackyard.com/cgi-bin/classifieds/classifieds.cgi>< and

<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~merlyn/seedsaving.html><

## Unusual Mulch

Mulch with living lettuce — Gardeners everywhere are sold on mulch. There's no denying its benefit as a weed discourager, soil conditioner and moisture holder. Most of us think of mulch as dead stuff — decaying organic matter that will gradually return to earth. But living plants can serve as mulches too, performing all of the protective functions of more usual mulch materials. Lettuce makes a great living mulch. It's quick to sprout, fast to fill in, and best of all, you can eat it too!

Try pretty red-tinged oakleaf lettuce around perennials, or use bright spring green leaf lettuce to punch up a bed of purple-leaved heucheras and other deep colors. The nutrients used by the lettuce won't cause a drain on other plants' needs if your soil is of average fertility or better. When the lettuce begins to push up taller flowering stems, simply mulch over it with compost or other materials. It will quickly decompose and

feed the soil a dose of nitrogen.

~ *Rebecca's Garden* — <http://rebeccasgarden.com/home.html>

## Allergic?

If you suffer from allergies, you can still enjoy gardening and landscaping with a little planning and careful preparation.

Plan gardening and landscape activities when the pollen count is low. If possible, do your work on cool, cloudy, humid, windless days or just after a steady rain.

Some people may want to take an antihistamine or use a nasal spray prior to outside activities.

Wear gloves, goggles and a respiratory mask to help reduce pollen exposure.

Keep your hands away from your face and eyes while you are working.

Keep the grounds around your home well-maintained and free of flowering weeds, molds and mildew.

Water soil regularly to keep dust and mold from rising.

Choose less allergenic plants. Use plants that rely on insect pollination. Use ground covers in place of grass. Select female plants.

Spread out the number and type of plants.

Use black plastic mulch instead of straw.

Keep the grass mowed as short as possible to decrease pollen production.

Remove your clothing and put it in the wash, then shower and wash your hair, as soon as you're finished working.

*Gardening and Landscaping Tips from <http://allergies.about.com/>*

*"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, [lmoyer72076@yahoo.com](mailto:lmoyer72076@yahoo.com), or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write "What Works!" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit.* ♦

# LOOK WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

IN OUR ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER LANDSCAPE DESIGN CLASS ~ AUGUST 14, 21 AND 28TH



CHRIS OLSEN, HORTICULTURE,  
TAUGHT DESIGN PRINCIPLES  
AUGUST 21ST

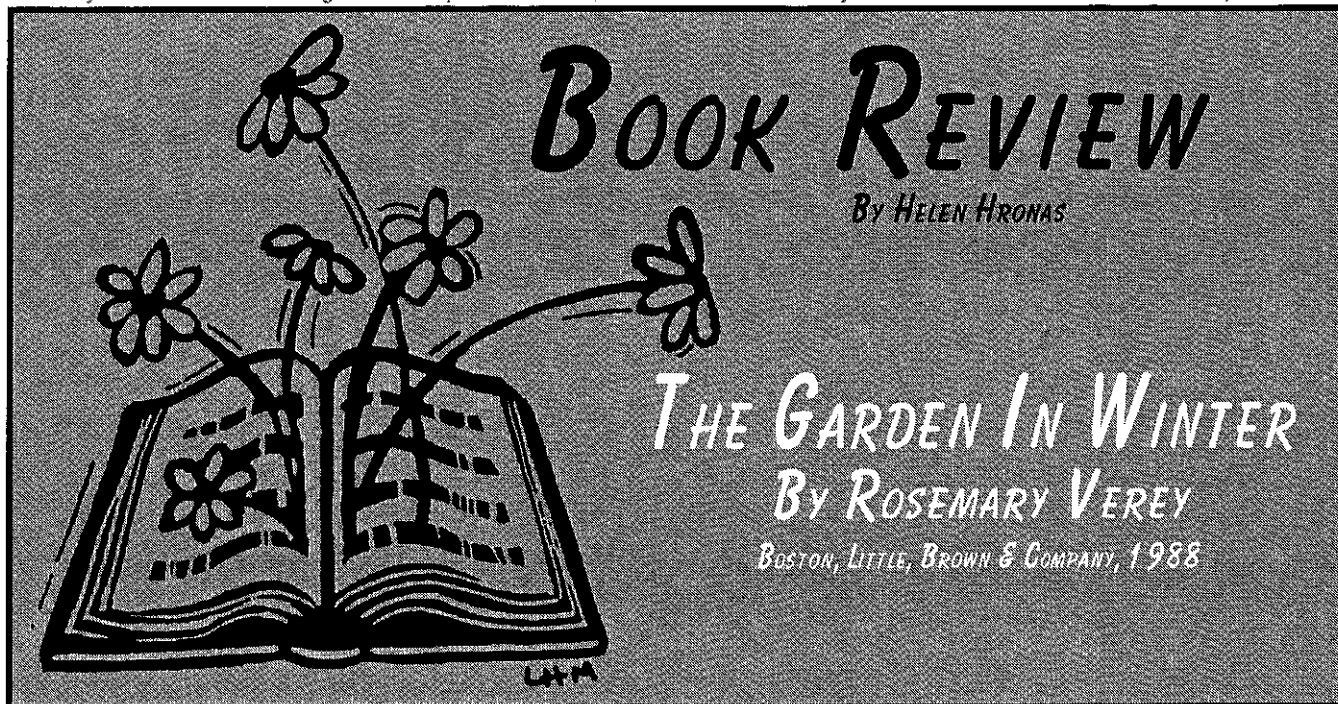
MGS LISTEN ATTENTIVELY  
DURING MORNING CLASSES



GERALD KLINGAMAN, UA, TAUGHT MGS  
HOW TO GET STARTED ON A LANDSCAPE DESIGN  
AUGUST 14TH



BETH PHELPS GETS THINGS  
STARTED EACH WEEK  
AND KEEPS THEM RUNNING SMOOTHLY!



Since by this time of year, Arkansas gardens are usually a bit tired looking, wouldn't it be refreshing now to dream about our cool winter landscapes to come?

Rosemary Verey, one of England's foremost gardening writers, manages to make the stark English countryside in winter into a wonderland with her word-pictures. The plentiful color photographs are exquisite, with the silhouettes of conifers, topiaries, and statuary, the still blooming plants lightly touched by first frost.

"A garden in winter is the absolute test of the true gardener," Verey states, and later adds, "How precious are the flowers of midwinter — the genuine toughs that for some reason elect to display themselves out-of-doors this time of year. A single flower in winter is worth any number in summer. Plant as many as you can."

Though much of the book deals with the more formal English gardens, Verey's suggestions are practical for any kind of landscape. (I did find it amusing, though, when she stated that morning glories were "delicate"!)

Surprisingly, many of her plant suggestions (or similar ones) will work in our climate. Her choices are described in detail in the "Plant Portraits" list in the back of the book, which gives the USDA plant hardiness zones but unfortunately not heat tolerance. (We can, however, refer to *Heat-Zone Gardening: How To Choose Plants That Thrive In Your Region's Warmest Weather*, by Cathey and Bellamy, or similar publications for this vital information.)

The best parts of the book are Verey's dry comments throughout, such as: "...there are many summer scents, but in winter they come not in battalions, but in single file."

Common advice is to place fragrant winter bloomers near doorways, but she reminds us that many of these plants have

coarse, uninteresting foliage and that the last thing you want is having a prominent place by a doorway or border occupied by such a plant when summer comes. So we need to be aware of how all our trees, shrubs, and flowers look year-round. Verey provides details of how to plan your landscape so that it looks great all year, not just in spring and summer.

"Look at each shrub and tree as one thread in a twelve-month tapestry," she suggests. "... I much prefer a handsome, if more ordinary, specimen to a struggling shrub chosen for its snob value."

"... If the distant view is great, then don't plant anything to hide it. If it is not, then concentrate on creating interest in the foreground. Create a path to entice you on. If the ground slopes away, you will look at the tops of your shrubs and your trees will appear shorter. If the land rises, the opposite will happen."

Her descriptions of the texture and color of tree trunks, winning leaf combinations and patterns made by walkways and beds that all appear much bolder in winter after the summer's blooms have disappeared really are eye-openers.

More of her commonsense gardening: one should check the views from various windows of the home (especially the kitchen where we spend so much time), the deck or patio, etc., before installing larger trees and shrubs. Decide first if you wish to block an unattractive vista, or emphasize a really good point in your garden. There also is a great discussion of garden "rooms" and how to use pots and tubs to great advantage.

It was interesting to learn that *Cotoneaster horizontalis* can be espaliered, which shows off the colorful red berries to better advantage in winter, rather than having it only as ground cover.

I found this a very interesting book, full of common sense and usable ideas, a real pleasure to read. ♦



# MESCLUN FOR SALAD VARIETY AND ZEST

By CARL GOODSON

Mesclun is a product from the garden that is getting lots of attention from those who want more taste in a tossed salad than just plain lettuce will provide. European Mesclun has not found its way into many dictionaries yet, but it is on its way. Mesclun is a mixture of the fresh new growth of small greens grown specifically for salads. (It is, of course, not to be confused with the drug mescaline, which is derived from the Mexican cactus mes-cal.)

Some grocers offer mesclun ready-cut, washed and packaged in plastic. That the product is a mixture is observable. However, the purchaser is not guaranteed the freshest leaves possible. These are available only to the gardener who has just brought in newly cut plants from the garden.

Mesclun is easily grown. Seed catalogs offer different varieties in containers that have instructions for growing. The alternative is to select seeds of fresh greens preferred by the gardener/consumer — more about varieties later.

Successive plantings about a week apart of five-foot rows will make the mesclun available in all growing seasons. Begin as early as the ground warms up. Continue successive sowings on into the fall, stopping only about a month before first predicted frost.

Prepare a drill for the sowing. Dig, cultivate and smooth the row with a light dressing of all purpose balanced fertilizer. Make a very shallow indentation about 5 feet long. Plant the mixture of your choice very thickly in the drill. Cover with about a fourth inch of soil. In extreme weather conditions, cover with wet newspapers until the plants begin to sprout. Then remove the newspapers, continue to moisten and watch all kinds of seedlings grow. Do not thin the row. Weeds are usually not a problem because the individual plants are so closely spaced that there is not room for weeds.

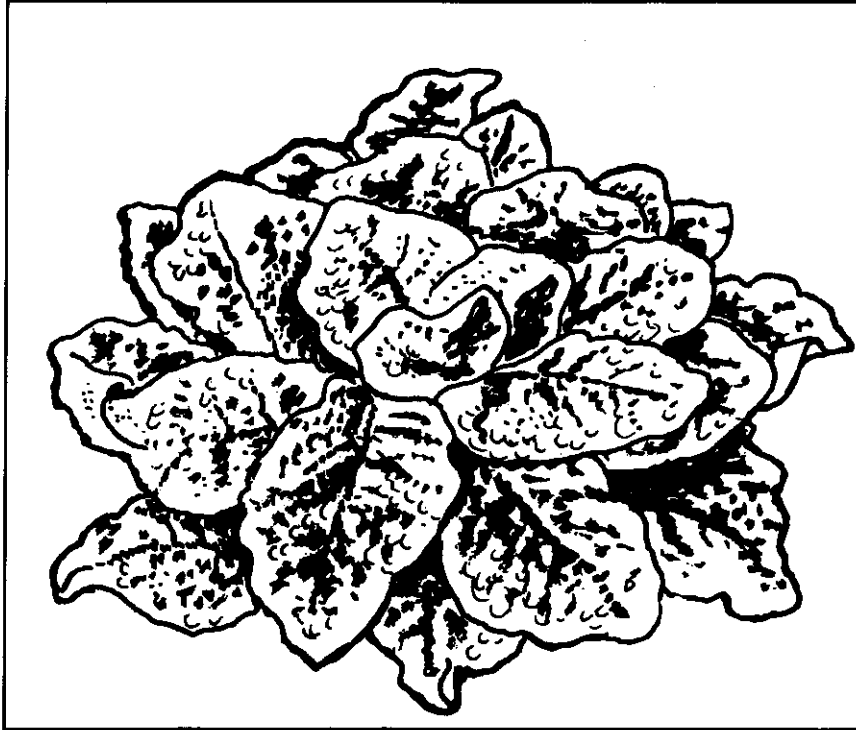
When the various plants have reached an average height of about 5 inches, harvest. It is a simple matter with scissors to cut bunches of the plants off at the ground. Continue until there is a handful of the pleasant smelling plants. Wash, cut in small segments with a sharp knife, and incorporate into the salad.

Seedsmen usually offer two varieties of seed for mesclun:

mild and tangy. As you taste the mesclun, you'll choose your favorite.

About 700 to 1,000 seeds are packed in the commercial mix, plenty for several plantings. So plant the seeds thickly.

The mild mixtures may include such greens and herbs as chervil (*Anthriscus cerefolium*), various mustards, purslane (*Portulaca oleracia*), orache (*Atriplex*



*rubra*), and several varieties and colors of lettuce.

The sassier mixtures may include arugula (*Eruca vesicaria*), chicory (*Cichorium intybus*), cress (*Cardamine pratensis*), endive (*Cichorium endiva*), and other savory herbs to one's liking.

The experimental gardener would do well to throw into the mix whatever small-seeded vegetables were left over from the last season. Their rate of germination may be reduced, but nothing is lost.

So, try mesclun. A favorite mixture after taste-testing several may become a regular feature of a productive garden.

## TRADING POST

Dorothy Veirs, 225-2106, wants lemon lily and other lilies for the herb garden at the Governor's Mansion. \*



create compartments which help keep fast-growing herbs in bounds. The north oval addition contains mostly culinary herbs. There are traditional germander plants on the west border, and gray and green santolina on the east border.

The focal point at the center is a round wooden tub of upright and creeping rosemary, surrounded by a ring of colorful varieties of sage. Rectangular stepping stones divide the oval into quadrants holding the various herbs.

The overlap of the north and south oval gardens makes an east-west oval at the "waist" of the figure eight design. Silvery 'Powis Castle' artemisia, garlic chives and lemon thyme fill this section.

Emphasis in the older, south section of the garden will be on fragrant and ornamental herbs. Creeping thyme borders this oval, with 'China Doll' roses marking the west and east ends of the round stepping-stone path across the bed. Two graceful lemon grass plants mark the center of the bed. Low-growing 'Minimum' thyme surrounds the stepping stones and bears traffic well.

Vigorous flowering herbs like 'Indigo Spires' salvia, 'Magnus'

purple coneflower, pineapple sage and rue flourish there. (Don't handle the rue!)

At the south tip of the garden is another small east-west oval with bouncy violas, plus a small maple tree which provides a spot of shade for tired gardeners.

In her talks to various groups, Betty advocates use of flavorful culinary herbs to reduce the need to add extra salt and sugar to food.

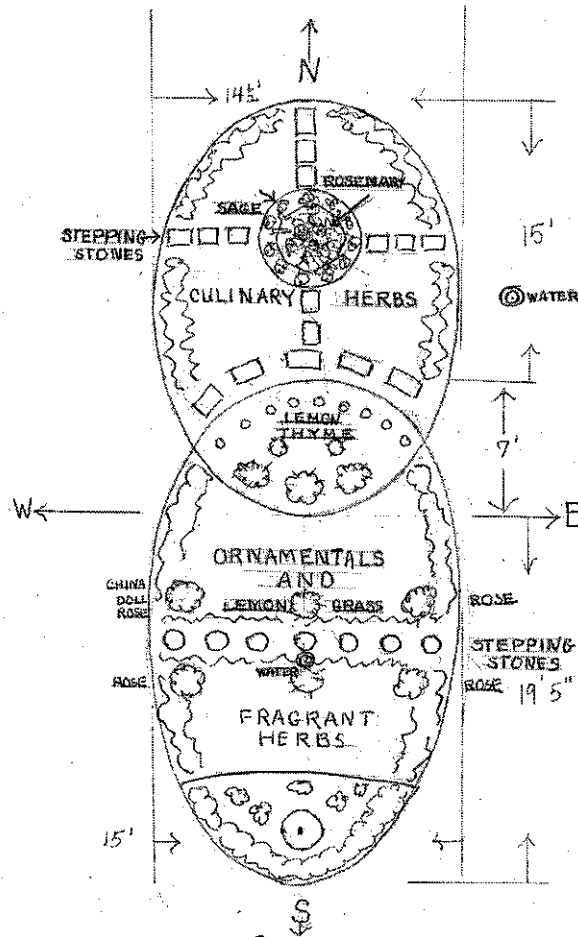
If you add salt at the table, substituting herbal salt (half crushed herbs, half salt) can reduce salt by 50%.

Since herbs need constant clipping, the clippings can be sprinkled on salads or vegetables, or thoroughly dried on paper towels and then stored in plastic bags for later use in making herbal salt or potpourri.

Fresh clippings also make favored vinegars you may enjoy as much as high-calorie dressings on salad or greens.

Betty assures us that the herb garden does not need fertilizer. It needs only the kind of thorough site preparation she required, with

careful choice of plants appropriate to our area for years of trouble-free growth — we might add soil amendments from time to time.



Herb Garden 2001

## PLANTS IN THE COUNTY EXTENSION HERB GARDEN

Artemisia — *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle'  
 Basil, common — *Ocimum basilicum*  
     purple — *Ocimum basilicum* 'Purple Ruffles'  
 Burnet, salad — *Potentilla sanguisorba*  
 Chives, onion — *Allium schoenoprasum*  
 Garlic — *Allium tuberosum*  
 Coneflower, purple — *Echinacea purpurea* 'Magnus'  
 Fennel, common — *Foeniculum vulgare*  
     bronze  
 Germander — *Teucrium chamaedrys*  
 Lamb's ears — *Stachys byzantina*  
 Lavender — *Lavandula angustifolia*  
     French — *Lavandula dentata* 'Provence'  
 Lemon balm — *Melissa officinalis*  
 Lemon grass — *Cymbopogon citratus*  
 Mint — *Mentha* 'Kentucky Colonel'  
 Mint marigold, Mexican — *Tagetes lucida*  
 Oregano, common — *Organum majoricum*  
     Greek — *Organum heracleoticum*

Parsley, curly — *Petroselinum crispum*  
 Rosemary — *Rosmarinus officinalis*  
     creeping — *Rosmarinus prostratus* 'Irene'  
 Rue — *Ruta graveolens* (ornamental only)  
 Sage, garden — *Salvia officinalis*  
     Berggarten  
     pineapple — *Salvia elegans*  
     purple  
     tricolor  
 Santolina, gray — *Santolina chamaecyparissus* 'Lavender Cotton'  
     green — *Santolina virens*  
 Savory, summer — *Satureja hortensis*  
     winter — *Satureja montana*  
 Sorrel, French — *Rumex acetosa*  
 Tarragon, French — *Artemisia dracunculoides*  
 Thyme, common — *Thymus vulgaris*  
     creeping — *Thymus Minimum*  
     lemon *Thymus citriodorus*

## MASTER GARDENER ALERT!

### Master Gardeners In The News

The August issue of *Active Years*, a slick magazine with local features, had three articles about MGs. Craighead County Master Gardener Penny Yarbrough's Jonesboro garden is described with the color and variety that you will see if you ever get the chance to visit her. The story of our own Jack Singleton and his Oakbrooke Elementary School project article shows how the gardens of the student Green Team have become a wonderful, cooperative effort. And, lastly, the historical foundation of the MG program in the United States is explained so that individuals unaware of the volunteer work of the Master Gardeners will become acquainted with it.

*Active Years* appears monthly at various locations around Little Rock. It is snatched up quickly. To ensure that you get a copy, you can subscribe by mailing \$15 to Active Years Subscriptions, 910 West Second, Suite 200, Little Rock, AR 72201.

### Mentors Needed

The 2001 training class starts the last week in September. Mentors are needed for the trainees. Each mentor will have one to three trainees to call once before the training begins and periodically throughout the training. In January, the mentor will invite the trainees to the January meeting. Each trainee will put in 20 hours of phone time, and the mentor will go at least to their first phone session.

If you are interested, give Beth or Mrs. McKinney a call at 340-6650.

### Nominating Committee Report

The committee, made up of Martha Jones, Chair; Hilda Boger and David Dodson, offers the following slate of officers to be considered at the September meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. New officers will assume their duties at the October meeting.

*President*— Jane Druff

*1st Vice President*— Lou Sanders (The 1st Vice President works to get project chairmen.)

*2nd Vice President*— Nancy Kirsch (The 2nd Vice President serves as program chair and works to get chairmen

## DIG IN HERE ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

### Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

### Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

### Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

### University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:

<http://www.uaex.edu>

for the social, travel and newsletter committees.)

*Secretary*— Jean Moffett

*Treasurer*— John Prather

### Time Reports Needed

A printout of the reported project time as of 7/17/01 was sent to you with the August "Master Minutes". Please check what you have reported and, if needed, bring it up to date. An accurate and complete accounting of the hours that the Pulaski County Master Gardeners volunteer is an eye-opener to some administrators who need hard figures to present when accounting for projects which receive materials and funds.

### What Works?

One of our members lives in an older house in a neighborhood with lots of big trees. She has had bats take up residence with her family. A call for help to remove (and not harm) a mother bat with her young was sent out 3:15 a.m. so Critter Ridders, Animal Control and Animal Rescue were not available. She was concerned about bats carrying rabies. If you have information on how to carefully remove bats, please send your tried and true method to one of the addresses at the end of the monthly "What Works!" column.

## SPREAD THE NEWS!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting September 11 to see your message in the October issue of the newsletter. You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net. If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter.

## MASTER MINUTES STAFF — 2001

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**Co-Chair/Layout** Cheryl Kennedy

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Virginia Johnson  
Ruth Jones  
Julia Loyall  
Linda Moyer  
Ellen Rouch  
Libby Thalheimer  
Linda Westergard



**Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.**

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent—Agriculture

# MASTER MINUTES

## BULBS WITH A PAST

By VIRGINIA JOHNSON

It's that time of year again, when we finish thumbing through the bulb catalogs and circle the offerings that we believe will make our gardens look like theirs — filled with huge, perfect flowers on top of perfect foliage rising from a perfectly manicured bed without even so much as a hint of insect damage or weeds. We like to dream that we, too, can have the perfect garden. We total up the purchase amount of what we've selected, and reality hits us. We have to whittle down our choices so as not to necessitate a second mortgage to cover our bulb habit. After all, the local garden centers will soon be carrying bulbs as well, and we won't be able to walk out without buying few there, too.

While you're planning, try to save room in the garden and in your budget for some forgotten treasures — antiques that graced our ancestors' gardens, and unusual species that add more variety and interest to your garden.

We are rapidly losing our horticultural heritage, especially when it comes to bulbous plants. Bulb catalogs used to offer hundreds more cultivars than they do today and some of the best are "commercially extinct". Such fabulous cultivars as the dark maroon hyacinth 'Distinction', the pewter hyacinth 'Perle Brillante', and nu-

merous others have gone commercially extinct in recent years. Purchasing and growing old bulbs is the only way to save



others from a similar fate.

Bulbs that are just too good to allow extinction to happen to them include:

### Narcissus

'Butter and Eggs' — a large two-toned soft yellow double without green streaking which opens reliably even when other doubles tend to "blast".

'Campnelle' — there is not a finer narcissus to be had. The color is a true yellow, with a precise scalloping to the

cup. Even though the flower is small, it is sturdy and fragrant.

'Laurens Koster' — If you are looking for production, this is it. One of the poetazes, this narcissus is a prolific bloomer of a creamy perianth and little yellowish-orange cups. It is possible to get as many as 15 flowers per bulb. It is also fragrant.

'Twink' — a medium size two-tone double of soft primrose yellow with ribbons of striking reddish orange woven throughout. Imagine a spirited sister of 'Irene Copeland'.

'Verger' — this is best described as a poeticus, even though the cup is larger than average. The  
*See Bulbs, continued on page 6*

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### Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# CALENDAR AND NOTES



By RUTH JONES

## OCTOBER

**3 New Master Gardener Training** begins. State Extension Office on South University. All experienced MGs are welcome. See "MG Alert!" (page 7) for details.

**5-7 26th Annual Apple Festival** at Lincoln. Contact Luedell Kley at 501-824-3738.

**5-6 13th Herb Fall Festival** in Mountain View at the Ozark Folk Center State Park. Contact Tina Marie Wilcox at 870-269-3851.

**7 Arkansas Rose Society Show** at University Mall in Little Rock.

**9 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting** at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office auditorium, 2301 S. University.

**10 New Master Gardener Training** continues. All experienced Master Gardeners are invited. See "MG Alert!" (page 7) for details.

**11 North American Association for Environmental Education's meeting** in Little Rock. Contact Suzanne Smith Hirrel at 671-2288.

**11-20 Harvest Tours**, Lake Village. Witness the cotton harvest. John Morrow at 870-265-5480. Registration required.

**17 New Master Gardener Training** continues at the State Extension Office on South University. All experienced Master Gardeners are welcome. See "MG Alert!", page 7, for details.

**20 Horticare Pumpkin Fest.** Lots of activities for the whole family and animals from the zoo. 10 a.m. No charge but reservations should be made at 501-407-2727. Rain date is Oct 27.

**24 New Master Gardener Training** at the State Extension Office will have a new topic — Water Gardens. See "MG Alert!" (page 7) for details. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to attend.

**27 PCMG Fall Color Hike** at Pinnacle Arboretum Trail from 10-12 a.m. Details on where to meet will be available at the next Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting.

**31 New Master Gardener Training** at the State Extension Office on South University. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome. See "MG Alert!" (page 7) for details.

## NOVEMBER

**7 New Master Gardener Training** continues. Experienced MGs are welcome. See "MG Alert!" (page 7) for details.

**10 Mushroom Mania** at Pinnacle Mt. State Park. Contact 501-868-5806 to register.

**13 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting** at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office auditorium, 2301 South University.

**18 Welcome to Garvan Gardens**, Hot Springs. Opening and dedication of the Welcome Center of Garvan Woodland Gardens. 1-800-366-4664. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$3 children.

## DECEMBER

**4 PCMG Christmas Party**, 7-9 p.m., at the Adult Living Center on 12th St. Mark your calendar. Details later.

## 2002

**MARCH 1-3 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show**, Little Rock.

**EARLY APRIL Spring Fling Bus trip to Natchez** for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Details later.

**MAY 5-7 Arkansas State Master Gardener meeting** in Jonesboro.

**MAY 20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference** at the Jane S. McKimmon Center of NC State University. Details after the first of the year.



## TRADING POST

By Frances Yimm

...the level 226 68 ...  
...Gardens 27 ...  
...College ...  
...Hills ...  
...Green ...  
...Suzanne ...

...22 ...  
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# MASTER GARDENERS' OCTOBER CHECKLIST

By LIBBY THALHEIMER

## Annuals

Mix cornflower and larkspur seed with sand and broadcast where they are to bloom.

## 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 in old potato or onion sacks. Dust the caladiums and gladioli with Captan.

Plant *belamcanada*, *chionodoxa*, *colchicum*, *crocus*, *daffodils*, *eremurus*, *galanthus*, *hyacinths*, *iris*, *lilies*, *leucojum*, *muscaria*, *oxalis*, *scilla*, *Spanish bluebells*, *star flower*, *Virginia bluebells*, *windflower*, *winter aconite* and *zephyranthes*. Remember: the larger the bulb, the bigger the plant. If you must store your bulbs before planting, keep them in the refrigerator, away from fruits and vegetables.

## Fruits, Herbs And Vegetables

Dig up tender fennel bulbs and store for the winter. Tarragon should be divided yearly, chives and sweet woodruff every three to four years.

Sow beets, carrots, chard, cilantro (coriander seed), collards, garden cress, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lemon balm, mustard greens, radishes, spinach, turnips and winter peas.

Transplant broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, garlic, kale and shallot bulbs. Place 1 teaspoon of a slow-release fertilizer around each plant.

To keep soils from drying out or washing away during winter, plant hairy vetch, crimson or sweet clover now in unused parts of the vegetable or cut-flower garden. Legumes trap nitrogen from the air. When you turn under the cover crop, the nitrogen becomes available for crops.

Check broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and collards for cabbage loopers. These green caterpillars can be easily controlled using any *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) product. As temperatures cool, horticultural oil should be sprayed to control scale on fruit trees. Treat fruit trees again with dormant oil after fall leaf drop. Control white peach scale with oil such as Volck.

## Lawns And Shrubs

To prevent fungal diseases next spring, remove old mulch before adding new mulch. Wait until after hard freezes are forecast to mulch for the winter.

Sow rye grass early in the month for winter lawn.

If you have been fertilizing your lawn this year, you do not need to fertilize with a winterizer (which is one with no nitrogen, only phosphorus and potash). You do need to fertilize if

your lawn is severely damaged or stressed this year, if you have not been fertilizing regularly, or if you have new sod.

Keep the leaves raked off the grass. Turfgrass needs sunlight as growth slows before dormancy.

Fall is a good time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. Plant camellias, both *Sasanqua* and *Japonica* varieties, and other broadleaf evergreens. Soil amendments added to the backfill for individual planting holes has been shown to be of no benefit and may actually be detrimental to the establishment of ornamentals. If you are planting in a bed, it is a good idea to amend the soil in the whole bed.

Insects can build up a resistance to a particular chemical, so rotate the insecticide you use. Since insecticides lose their effectiveness over time, it is easy to rotate your chemicals by buying different ones each year.

Control fall webworms with Malathion, Diazinon or Cygon. The worms look unsightly but do little damage to trees. Treat camellias or other ornamental shrubs with Cygon to control scale. Spray azaleas for lacebugs with Isotox, Cygon or Malathion. Early fall is the worst time for infestation.

## Perennials

Transplant Canterbury bells, English daisies, shasta daisies, daylilies, forget-me-nots, foxglove, lupines, pansies, peonies, phlox and snapdragons. Place 1 teaspoon of a slow-release fertilizer around each plant.

Every three or four years, divide black-eyed Susan, coneflowers, coreopsis, shasta daisies, hemerocallis, Siberian iris, peonies, phlox and yarrow to restore vigor to old and crowded plants.

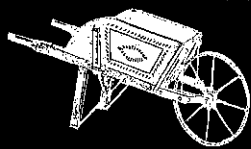
Bring indoors a pot of lily of the valley pips for indoor blooms.

Take hardwood cuttings of woody plants.

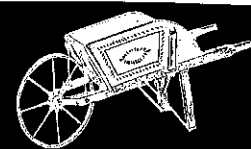
## Blooming Schedule

Abelia, ageratum, sweet alysum, aster, barberry, beautyberry, bittersweet vine, buddleia, ornamental cabbage, calendula, camellia, canna, celosia, chelone, Chinese pistache, chrysanthemum, clerodendron, crape myrtle, dahlia, dianthus, dogwood, *Elaeagnus pungens*, euonymus, eupatorium, four o'clock, guara, ornamental grasses, gum, hibiscus, kale, kerria, lantana, larkspur, lobelia, maple, marigold, Mexican sage, nierembergia, sweet pea, petunia, poppy, rose, rosehips, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, solidago, stock, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, viburnum, viola, Virginia creeper, wisteria and zinnia. \*





# WHAT WORKS!



By LINDA MOYER

## What Works With Bats

Virginia Johnson sent in the following experience and information concerning bats:

"I have a bat toy, but that's not it," said Michael. Everyone gathered to see the little dark brown creature I held in my hand that I had begun to suspect was not a toy at all, but rather an actual dead bat. It was a beautiful creature and a marvel of engineering, from its substantial wings to its amazingly delicate ears and toes. How did it get in the house? More importantly, how did it die? Did the cats have anything to do with it? Had we all now been exposed to rabies?

A quick trip to the Arkansas Department of Health confirmed that the bat was negative for rabies. Flying into the rapidly spinning blades of the ceiling fan was probably what sent the little bat to its eternal rest among the toys on the floor in the boys' room. The crisis was over, or so I thought.

Imagine my worry when a couple of days later, the usual entourage of felines was not there to greet me at the bedroom door when I got up in the morning for work. Sure enough, Katie and Charlie, my two soft and cuddly blue-eyed predators had something cornered on the kitchen floor. (The other three cats won't hunt.) To my dismay, it wasn't just a bat, but two — a mother and baby. They were lying motionless just under the edge of the cabinet.

I rolled a paper towel into a tube and touched the mother bat with it to see if she was alive. She immediately lifted her head and turned to face me, making a sound like a dot-matrix printer and opening her little red mouth to reveal an ample supply of sharp little teeth. How could I get her and the baby out of the house without anyone getting injured?

Donning my heaviest leather gardening gloves, I got my fish net and a towel. I placed the towel on the floor and gently placed the net over the bats to move them onto the towel. Luckily, the mother bat clung to the net, so it was easy to do. Once the bats were safely on the towel, I folded the towel over the net and picked up the entire rig and moved it to the porch outside.

Once outside, I lifted the net off the towel, gently shaking the net to remove the bats. With my gloved hands, I tried to tell if she or the baby were injured. The baby bat wriggled slightly when I touched it, oblivious to the danger it had been in. The mother bat lay calmly as I inspected the pair for signs of cat bites or scratches. Finding none, I let her go to see if she would fly. I was horrified to watch her simply crawl and flap her wings against the porch floor and slide into a one-inch space under a pot. Was she injured internally? Of course, the sun was up by then, so maybe she just didn't want to fly in the sunlight.

What if the mother died? How does one raise a baby bat? I couldn't just let it starve to death. Worrying all day as to what to do, I was assured that it was probably best to "let Nature take its course" and just leave the pair alone.

*What to do if there are bats flying around inside your house:*

On its website, The Organization for Bat Conservation ([www.batconservation.org](http://www.batconservation.org)) recommends that you remain calm

and remember that the bat is just trying "to find a way out. Turn on some lights in the house so that you can easily see the bat and the bat can see also. (Bats are not blind.) Next, close the doors to adjoining rooms, open the doors and windows in the room the bat is flying around in, and if possible, turn on a light outside so the bat can readily see the exit. You may want to be more direct and use a small mesh net or pillowcase to gently catch the bat in flight. If the bat lands and does not fly again, put on a pair of thick leather work gloves and find a small cardboard box or coffee can. Slowly walk up to the bat and put the container over the bat, slip a piece of cardboard or book behind it and take it outside and let it go." If there is no reasonable possibility of contact with anyone, simply open a door or window and let the bat fly out." Of course, if the bat has come into contact with someone in the house, then "safely capture the animal with a butterfly net, box, thick towel or leather work gloves. Put the bat in a secure container and ... have it tested immediately for rabies. If the test comes back positive, medical attention is needed."

(Unfortunately, the only way to get it tested here is to kill it, as they test the brain tissue at the Arkansas Department of Health. As the dead one was negative, and this mother and baby looked too healthy, I didn't want to do that).

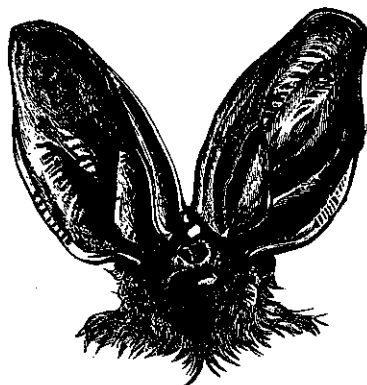
Bat Conservation International ([www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)) offers similar advice on its website, going on to say, "Like most mammals, an occasional bat may contract rabies, but even those that do are typically non-aggressive, biting only in self-defense if handled. According to the U. S. Center for Communicable Disease guidelines, a rabies exposure requires a bite or contact with an open wound or mucous membranes

with a rabid animal's saliva or nervous tissue. Thus the odds of being harmed by a bat are extremely remote for those who simply do not handle them. If bitten, a safe and painless vaccine is available."

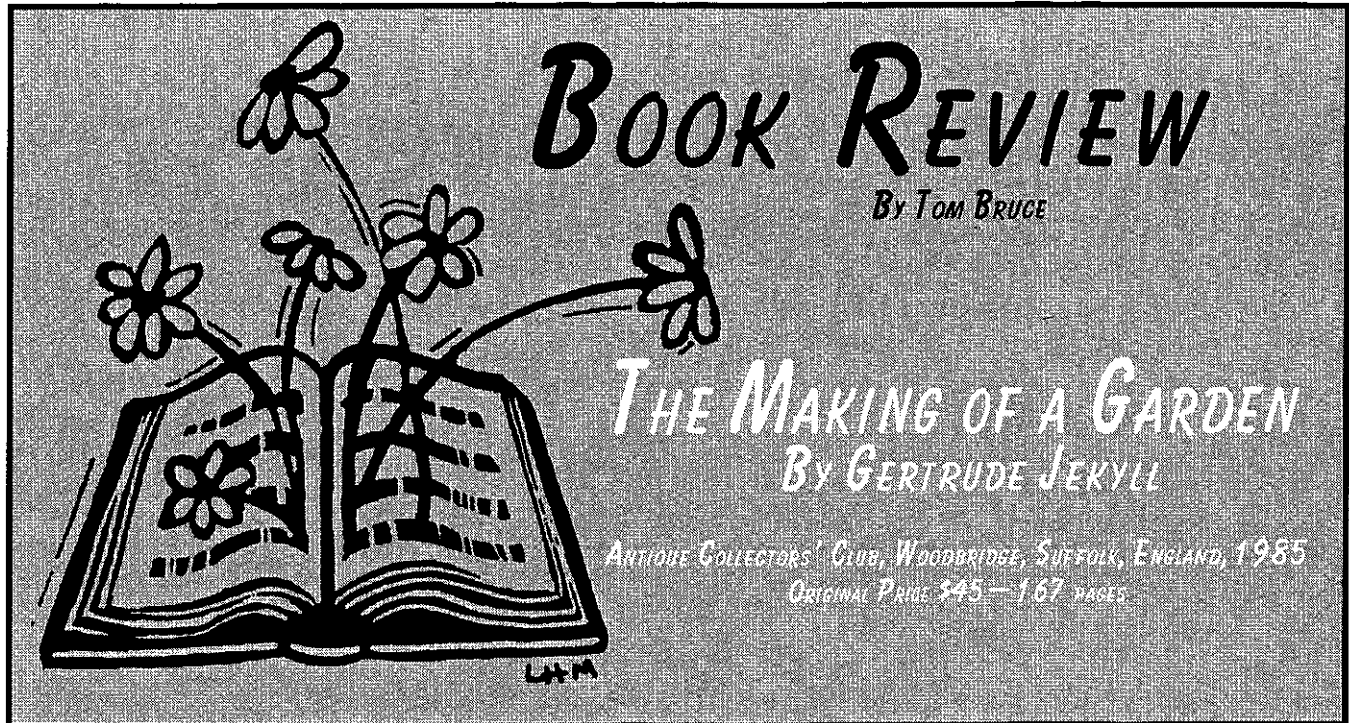
As the sun went down that day, I looked under the pot and saw that the bats were still there. After another half-hour or so, I went to check again, and arrived just in time to watch one wing and then the other slip out from under the pot. The mother bat then gracefully took flight and silently disappeared into the gathering darkness. However, she had left the baby behind. Happily, by the next morning, mother and baby were both gone, none of us worse for the experience, and perhaps all a bit wiser.

We did find a possible entryway in the floor of one of the rooms, plugged it up, and haven't had any bats since. (Bats need a space only 3/4 inches wide to gain access.)

*"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, [lmoyer72076@yahoo.com](mailto:lmoyer72076@yahoo.com), or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write "What Works!" c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit.*







ANTIQUE COLLECTORS' CLUB, WOODBRIDGE, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND, 1955  
ORIGINAL PRICE \$45 — 167 PAGES

English gardens have for a century been the rage and envy of most Americans, and there is no name better known in English garden design than that of Gertrude Jekyll. *The Making of a Garden* is not a new book but is reviewed here as a classic contribution that remains timeless and a source of continuing inspiration. The volume is actually an anthology of Jekyll's writings, illustrated with her own photographs and drawings, but edited and compiled by Cherry Lewis. Lewis has suffused the book with large numbers of handsome watercolors of garden scenes by contemporary artists.

Gertrude Jekyll was trained as an artist and was known for her great skill and imagination until poor eyesight forced her to abandon close work. Her gardening career thus began quite late in life, when she turned an abundant energy to the creation of gardens and writing about her experiences. Her strong views on plantings and color schemes helped people around the world develop their own gardens and their own approaches. Today she is respected as much for her practical comments as for the sense of 'renaissance' that she brings to gardening.

The anthology takes the reader through the making and management of gardens, and of the disasters and delights encountered along the way. Some of the quotations in the book give a flavor of her unique approach:

Many people who love flowers and wish to do some practical gardening are at their wit's end to know what to do and how to begin. ... The real way is to try and learn a little from everybody and from every place. ... It is no use asking me or any one else how to dig ... better to watch a man digging, and then take a spade and try to do it, and go on trying till it comes, and you gain the knack that is to be learnt with all tools of doubling the power and halving the effort; and meanwhile you will be learning other things, about your own arms and legs and back, and perhaps a little robin will come and give you moral support.

There is frequent complaint among horticultural amateurs to the effect that they cannot keep borders of hardy flowers well furnished with bloom throughout the summer. But in an ordinary garden it is quite unreasonable to expect that this can be done — acceptance of the fact would save much fruitless effort and inevitable disappointment. ... If a really good display is desired, it can only be conveniently done by restricting the season to a certain number of weeks ... and even then some dropping in of pot plants will be needed.

Many years ago I came to the conclusion that ... it is better to plant in long rather than block-shaped patches. It not only has a more pictorial effect, but a thin long planting does not leave an unsightly empty space when the flowers are done and the leaves have perhaps died down. The word "drift" conveniently describes the shape I have in mind, and I commonly use it in speaking of these long-shaped plantings.

To plant and maintain a flower border with a good scheme for colour is by no means the easy thing that is commonly supposed ... it seems to me that the duty we owe to bettering our gardens is to use the plants so that they shall form beautiful pictures ... [in] the way it is done lies the whole difference between commonplace gardening and gardening as a fine art. ... Every year as I gain more experience I find myself tending towards broader and simpler effects, both of grouping and colour ... in practice I always find more satisfaction and facility in treating the warm colours (reds and yellows) in graduated harmonies, culminating into gorgeousness, and the cool ones in contrasts — especially in the case of blue which I like to use either in distinct but not garish contrasts, as of full blue with pale yellow, or in separate cloud-like harmonies of lilac and pale purple with grey foliage. I am never so much inclined to treat the blues, purples, and lillacs as gradations together as I am the reds and yellows.

In the case of a wild forest pool ... it would be an ill deed to mar its perfection by any meddling gardening. The most one could do in such a place, where deer may come down to drink and the dragonfly flashes in the broken mid-summer light would be to plant in the upper ground some native wildflower that would be in harmony with the place ... but nothing that would recall the garden. Here is pure forest, and garden should not intrude. Above all, the water-margin should be left as it is... There are many [such] places that call for judicious planting.

perianth consists of the softest ivory petals and the cup is flattened and orange, but an indescribable dusty jewel tone. The stamens are cream-colored and fluffy, and center the flower in a perfect triangle.

### **Hyacinths**

'Chestnut Flower' — a pale dawn-pink double, each floret resembling a pink starburst.

'General Kohler' — a bluish-lavender double, each floret a floret within a floret. This hyacinth's color softens with age to a wonderful pastel hue.

'Madame Sophie' — a true white double.

'Menelik' — a purple so dark it is almost black, and after a day or two, it is black.

'Prins Hendrik' — a soft wonderful yellow.

### **Tulips**

'Philippe de Comines' — a brownish red-purple that repeats well in a Zone 8 garden.

'Zomerschoon' — a red and cream "Rembrandt" type that also repeats well.

*T. clusiana* — red and white striped, they multiply rapidly in warmer zones.

Unusual offerings for the garden include:

'Jacob's ladder' *Gladiolus byzantinus* — hardy to Zone 6, this gladiolus has flowers of the richest magenta that dangle bell-fashion along the stalk.

'Oxblood Lily' *Rhodophiala bifida* — a fall bloomer with strap-like foliage resembling that of spider lilies, this flower consists of radiating florets of a true blood red color. It is stunning, although it needs a year or two to get established before it blooms.

'Pineapple Lilies' *Eucomis bicolor* — are supposedly hardy only Zone 9 and below, but I have had two for about 10 years now, and they come back stronger each year. The foliage is bright green and strap-like, with purple speckles toward the base. The flower stalk is about 18" tall with waxy greenish-rose florets on pedicels. The stalk terminates in a rosette of leaves and looks just like a pineapple.

'Quamash' *Camassia leichtlinii* — 2 foot tall flower stalks with florets of the most intense purplish-blue. Looks fabulous planted in front of a yellow 'Lady Banks' rose, as they bloom about the same time.

'Star of Persia' *Allium christophii* — Produces large spheres of silvery lavender starry florets, airy and graceful. It is a wonderful companion to 'Mutabilis' rose.

"Swamp Lilies" *Crinum sp.* — Mid to late summer blooming, the large 2 to three foot, waxy foliage alone is enough to add interest to the garden, but the bloom stalk that seemingly appears out of nowhere overnight is what makes this bulb so spectacular. The bloom stalk has up to a dozen trumpets radiating from a central stem. Colors range from stark white to deep rose pink, some with stripes. 'Bradley' is a deep rose red with a white throat. 'Milk and Wine Lily' is an ivory white with a wine colored stripe running through the midribs. Hardy to Zone 7 with protection.

### **Miniatures**

Small gardens aren't left out of the bulb category. There are a lot of wonderful miniatures from which to choose.

'Hawera' is a triandrus narcissus that is only about 6 inches tall. Its pale silvery yellow flowers with recurved perianths are three to a stem and pendulous, like cathedral bells for fairies.

'Little Gem' is a perfectly shaped miniature yellow trumpet narcissus.

'Rip Van Winkle' is a little yellow sunburst or pompom, being a miniature double narcissus. It does have a tendency to "blast", though.

'W.P. Milner' blooms out pale yellow, then softens to a silvery white. It has nodding trumpets.

*Iris reticulata* are 4 to 6 inches tall and bloom in early spring. Colors range in various shades of blue and purple. Cultivars include 'Cantab', 'Harmony', 'Purple Gem' and 'J.S. Dijt'.

*Iris cristata* are only about 3 to 4 inches tall and are various shades of blue. They prefer some shade.

*Tulip batalinii* are only about 5 to 6 inches tall and have wonderful coarse bluish-green foliage with a brown edge. Colors include yellow, oranges, and reds. Cultivars include 'Apricot Jewel', 'Bright Gem', 'Bronze Charm' and 'Red Jewel'. They not only bloom reliably every year, but they also increase.

Be adventuresome with your bulb planting this fall. You will be rewarded this spring and for many years to come. ✨





# ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

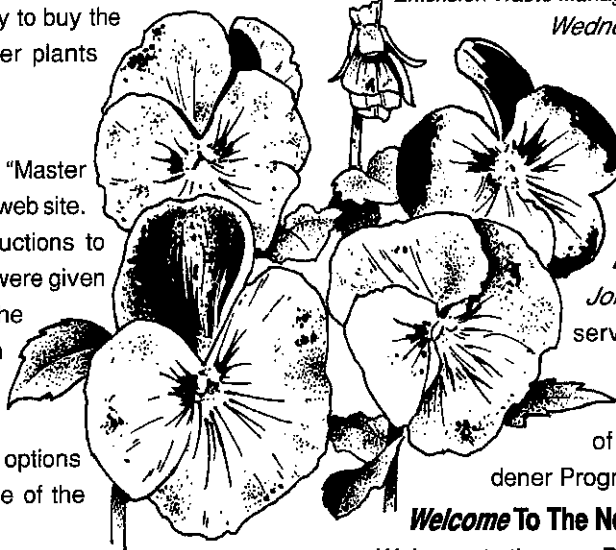


## Thanks For Greenhouse Committee Assistance

Lois Corley and the Greenhouse Committee were assisted the Friday after Labor Day by *Steve Corley* (Lois' son) and Master Gardeners *Stewart Bell, Irene Davis, Jane Druff, Carolyn Goettsch, Mac Huffman, Vande Southerland, Wayne Starnes and Nell Stephens*. In addition, there were five enthusiastic and energetic young men from the Department of Community Correction. Lois said if they had not been there, the Committee would still be working with the plants which will be for sale at the Fall Greenhouse Sale. You will get an announcement about time and date. Bring your money to buy the 10,000 pansies and many other plants which were handled that day.

## Color "Master Minutes"

The September issue of the "Master Minutes" is in color on the "uaex" web site. Here are some additional instructions to see it. Use the directions which were given in the May "MG Alert!" Select the September issue. Then click on the magnifying glass in the tool bar at the bottom of the screen, which gives several percentage options to increase or decrease the size of the text.



## MG Training Schedule

Experienced Master Gardeners are invited to attend any of the new Master Gardener training sessions. Please let Mrs. McKinney or Beth know, 340-6650, so that enough handouts can be prepared. Also, call on the Monday before the session if you plan to eat lunch (\$6.50). Following is the schedule:

### Wednesday, October 3

- 9:45— Basic Plant Science — *Beth Phelps*
- 12:45— Soils — *Keith Perkins*
- 2:30— Fire Ants and their Control — *Allan Beuerman*

### Wednesday, October 10

- 8:45— Trees for the Arkansas Landscape — *Cecelia Buck*
- 10:30— Shrubs, Vines and Ground Covers for the Arkansas Landscape — *Janet Carson*
- 12:45— Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs — *Janet Carson*
- 2:45— Selection and Care of Houseplants — *Lynn McMahon*

### Wednesday, October 17

- 8:45— Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs — *Beth Phelps*
- 10:15— The Home Orchard — *Dr. Keith Striegler, Fruit Specialist, UA CES*
- 1:00— Homeowner Small Fruit Production — *Dr. Keith Striegler*
- 2:30— Attractin And /Living with Wildlife — *Jane Gulley*

### Wednesday, October 24

- 8:45— Herbs — *Beth Phelps*
- 9:30— Water Gardens — *David Heikes, Extension Fisheries*

### Specialist, UAPB Aquiculture Center

2:00— Vegetable Gardening in Arkansas — *Dr. Craig Andersen, Extension Horticulture Specialist - Vegetable Crops*

### Wednesday, October 31

- 8:45— Basic Plant Pathology — *Dr. Stephen Vann, Plant Diagnostic Lab - Lonoke, UA CES*
- 10:30— Weed Control in the Lawn and Landscape — *Dr. John Boyd, Extension Weed Scientist, UA CES*
- 11:30— Planting and Establishment, Remember the Root System — *Beth Phelps*

### 1:00— Lawn Care 101 — *Beth Phelps*

2:30— Nature Recycles — Composting — *Suzanne Smith Hirrel, Extension Waste Management Specialist, UA CES*

### Wednesday, November 7

- 8:45— Insect and Disease Control — Tradition and Alternative — *Beth Phelps*
- 10:30— Fertilizers and Fertilization — *Beth Phelps*

## Thanks

Thanks to *Suellen Roberts, Jane Druff, Lou Sanders, Sandy Harrison, John Prather and Martha Thompson* for serving on the Pulaski County Master Gardener Board over the past year. We all appreciate their commitment of time and service to the Master Gardener Program.

## Welcome To The New Board

Welcome to the new Pulaski County MG Board:

- President* — Jane Druff
- 1st Vice President* — Lou Sanders (The 1st Vice President serves when the President is absent and makes the contacts necessary to secure project chairmen).
- 2nd Vice President* — Nancy Kirsch (The 2nd Vice President serves as the program chairman and makes the contacts necessary to secure the committee chairmen.)
- Secretary* — Jean Moffett
- Treasurer* — John Prather
- Past President* — Suellen Roberts

## Household Chemical & Electronics Recycling

Collection dates and locations are scheduled for the Pulaski County Regional Solid Waste Management District: October 6, collection will be at War Memorial Stadium and October 20 at NLR High School East Campus. These items will be accepted: latex & oil based paints, paint solvents, motor oil, gasoline & antifreeze, common household cleaners — ammonia, bleach, disinfectants, cleansers, degreasers, oven & drain cleaners, household & car batteries, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and televisions, VCRs, printers and computer components. Items should be in the original container and labeled. Only household quantities will be accepted. Also available at the collection events is a Reuse Opportunity items turned in that are still usable will be given away. So if you need some paint and don't care what color, go visit the trailer and see if you can find what you need — for **free**!

For information, contact 340-8790 or [www.pulaskiwdistrict.org](http://www.pulaskiwdistrict.org).

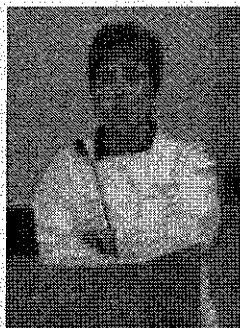
## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ADVANCED TRAINING GRADS!

Congratulations to the following Pulaski County Master Gardeners who completed the Advanced Training in Landscape Design in August:

*Martha Allen, Sue Anderson, Cecelia Buck, Dick Carter, Kathlene Cole, Lois Corley, Susan Crisp, Elisabeth Dillon, David Dodson, Mary Evans, Janet Fox, Meg Fox, Mary Ann Francis, Betty Freeze, Ann Green, Pat Green, Rochelle Greenwood, Jane Gulley, Lynda Harkenreader, Sandy Harrison, Dorothy Hobbs, Linda Holbert, Lena Holland, Helen Hronas, Ellen Kane, Cheryl Kennedy, Dolores LeCompte, Margery Long, Julia Loyall, Nan Matthews, Mary Lou May, Tom Mertens, Deborah Moore, Ann Morgan, Carolyn Prickett, Suellen Roberts, Ellen Rouch, Myra Runyon, Billie Sanders, Lou Sanders, Ray Sarmiento, Dorothy Veirs, Ann Ward, Kathleen Wesson, and Patty Wingfield.*

These Master Gardeners have completed at least one full calendar year of membership and fulfilled all requirements.

Because they've taken this training they'll be asked to share their knowledge with others either by working one on one with a representative of a civic organization, church group, school or by making a presentation to a group. \*



**AFTER CECILIA BUCK'S LECTURE  
DURING THE LAST CLASS, STUDENTS  
STROLLED THE STATE CES GROUNDS  
TO GET A CLOSER VIEW  
OF SPECIFIC CULTIVARS THAT GROW  
WELL IN CENTRAL ARKANSAS.**

**THE FIRST PULASKI COUNTY ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER CLASS  
COMPLETED ITS STUDIES AUGUST 28, 2001.**

## DIG IN HERE ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

### **Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

### **Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**

2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

### **Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**

340-6660

### **University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service**

**Website:** <http://www.uaex.edu>

## SPREAD THE NEWS!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting October 9 to see your message in the November issue of the newsletter. You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net. If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. \*

## MASTER MINUTES STAFF — 2001

**Chair/Editor** Rose Hogan

**Co-Chair/Layout** Cheryl Kennedy

**Staff**

- Tom Bruce
- Lois Clifton
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- Ellen Rouch
- Libby Thalheimer
- Linda Westergard



**Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.**

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



# PUMPKINS FOR FOOD AND FUN

By Carl Goodson

Fall's bright blue weather is the time of ingathering for many fall crops, especially pumpkins. These versatile fruits are usually available in grocery stores, roadside markets, and farms that let you pick your own right out of the pumpkin patch.

Unless you had the foresight some 90 to 150 days ago to plant your own, you are dependent on this year's growers to supply you with just the pumpkin you want for this year's food or fun.

## Food

Pumpkins, as food, come to the table in pies, breads, soups or squash-like vegetable dishes. The timing is perfect for the traditional pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving or Christmas. There are delectable recipes for several kinds of breads. Pumpkins cooked soft and pureed are a delightful addition to soup stocks of meat or vegetables flavored to taste with butter, onions or leeks, carrots, salt and other favorite spices. The seeds are good snack food when they have been roasted, shelled and salted.

For food, choose the thick flesh traditional pumpkin. A moderate size is best for ease in handling. Larger pumpkins are all right too, but they may yield more of the basic stuff than you want to have on hand. What is needed is obtained by cutting the pumpkin open, removing the seeds (setting them aside for roasting), cutting off the rind, cubing and boiling in lightly salted water. Puree and measure out what you need for the recipe at hand. Then store the rest, covered, in the refrigerator or freezer.

Cookbooks will yield a number of ways for preparing the dishes that you want — often there are traditional dishes that have been handed down from previous generations, and magazines at this time of year usually have new ideas for the use of the pumpkin pulp.



## Fun

The fun of pumpkins is usually provided in fall or harvest decorator ideas. Here the kinds of pumpkins vary. The very large pumpkins, perched on bales of hay, make a good porch or yard display.

The jack-o-lantern is fun to make and furnishes a window or table display. Choose the pumpkin for its size and how well it has been cured in the patch. Be sure that about three inches of stem have

been left on. Cut a circular hole in the top around the stem, lift the plug and lay it aside. Remove the seeds and lay them aside for roasting or discard them. For a standard jack-o-lantern, cut out eyes, a nose and a toothy mouth, discarding the pieces. Put a light inside (preferably not a candle, because the heat will cook the insides of the pumpkin), return the top plug, and place the pumpkin where it can be seen and enjoyed.

Whole pumpkins can be part of a cornucopia. Here the newer small pumpkins

are more desirable. They come in all sizes and colors: orange, white and green. Combined with other fall fruits such as apples, squash, pears and gourds, they make a nice display.

## Grow Your Own

To grow your own pumpkins next year, it is necessary to

See Pumpkins, continued on page 7

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## Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# NOVEMBER CALENDAR AND NOTES

## NOVEMBER

By RUTH JONES

**7 New Master Gardener Training** continues: 8:45 a.m. Insect and Disease Control, Traditional and Alternative — Beth Phelps. 10:30 Fertilizers and Fertilization — Beth Phelps. Experienced MGs welcome; call Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650.

**10 Mushroom Mania** at Pinnacle State Park. Contact 501-868-5806.

**10 Japanese Maple Day** at Garvan Woodland Gardens 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1-800-366-4664.

**13 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting** (last meeting of the year!) at 11:30 a.m. in the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University. **Reception for new Master Gardeners — welcome them to our group!**

**18** Welcome to Garvan Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs. **Opening and dedication of the Welcome Center**, 2 p.m. 1-800-366-4664. \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, and \$3 children.

**18 Arkansas Orchid Society meeting**, 1:30 p.m., 6th & Scott Streets, Christ Episcopal Church in Little Rock.

## DECEMBER

**1, 2, & 23 Birdfeeder Workshop** at Pinnacle Mountain State

Park. \$10/feeder. Phone 501-868-5806.

**4 Pulaski County Master Gardener Christmas Party**, 7-9 p.m. at the Adult Living Center on 12th Street, Little Rock.

## 2002

**FEBRUARY 6 Fruit Pruning Workshop at the Fruit Experiment Station in Clarksville**, rain date Feb 13. Get hands-on experience pruning fruit trees, blackberries, grapes and blueberries. Registration information will be available later.

**MARCH 1-3 Arkansas Flower & Garden Show** in Little Rock.

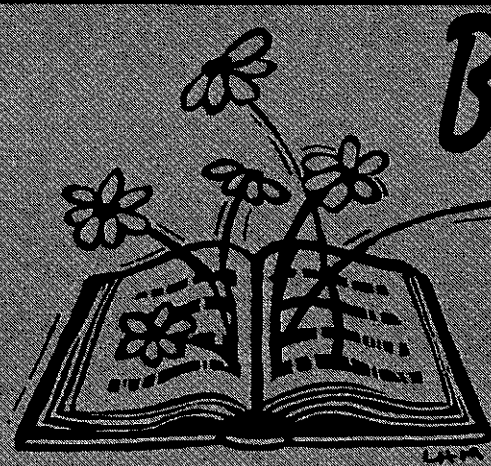
**MARCH 15, 16, 17 Spring Fling Bus Trip to Natchez for Pulaski County Master Gardeners**. May be \$125 per person.

**APRIL 19 Master Gardener trip to Holland**. Janet Carson.

**APRIL 27 Palette of Blooms**. The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour of seven private home gardens. 501-663-7515.

**MAY 5-7 Arkansas Master Gardener meeting** in Jonesboro.

**MAY 20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference** in North Carolina. ✦



**BOOK REVIEW**  
By HELEN HRONAS  
**LEE BAILEY'S COUNTRY FLOWERS**  
GARDENING AND BOUQUETS FROM SPRING TO FALL  
CLARKSON N. POTTER, INC., 1985

Because I am a fan of informal gardens, this personal gardening diary of well-known cookbook author Lee Bailey was a most enjoyable read. Set up as a weekly diary covering the six months from April through September (apparently the viable gardening months on Long Island where Bailey has gardened for 20 years), the book is about creating simple but lovely flower gardens. The book is written in a casual, folksy style that is relaxing and funny.

His tips are great for novices and experienced gardeners alike — though obviously one must keep in mind that in Arkansas everything begins much earlier in spring and the blooming season lasts much past September! Not all, but most of his favorite flowers also grow well in our climate. The abundant photography is exquisite, done by Bailey himself, and his simple bouquets are an inspiration.

Bailey suggests, "... September is a good month to take

stock of your garden and to decide what you do and don't like about the way it worked out this season. Were you satisfied with the placement of plants? Did the heights work out? How were the color combinations? Did you go through too long a period without color in a spot that needed it?"

This review process is followed by a plan of action. And Lee believes in really keeping a weekly diary so that you have a basis to use for your planning.

There is also information on drying flowers and how to add fragrance to the garden, as well as a brief list of Bailey's favorite seed catalogs.

This is a beautiful book and would make a great stocking stuffer for anyone who loves country! It's not just a book of pretty flowers — it also has lots of creative, useful gardening info. ✦



# NOVEMBER CHECKLIST

By LIBBY THALHEIMER

## Annuals

Cast any annual seeds from deadheaded flowers where you want them to bloom. Transplant bachelor buttons, ornamental cabbage, kale, rocket larkspur, nasturtium, pansies, snapdragons and stock. Remember to fertilize pansies regularly all season during any warm spell.

Take 6-10" cuttings of wax begonias, coleus and sweet potato vines to put in a jar of water on your windowsill.

## Bulbs

Plant chionodoxa, colchicum, crocus, daffodils, eremurus, galanthus, hyacinth, iris, lilies, leucojum, muscari, oxalis, scilla, Spanish bluebell, star flower, tulip (not before 11/15), Virginia bluebell, windflower, winter aconite and zephyranthes. Remember: the larger the bulb, the bigger the plant. If you must store your bulbs before planting, keep them in the refrigerator, away from fruits and vegetables. Most bulbs will benefit from the overall garden fertilizing with 0-20-20 and a sprinkling of wood ashes throughout the winter months.

Dig tender bulbs such as caladium, canna, dahlia, gladiolus, ismene and tuberose. Gently remove any soil clinging to the bulb. After drying the bulbs, store in a cool, dark, well-ventilated area. Dust the caladiums and gladioli with Captan. Old potato or onion sacks work well as a storage container.

## Fruit, Herbs & Vegetables

In the cold frame, plant lettuce and spinach.

Plant garlic, flowering onion, parsley, and shallots.

Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of leaves, pine needles or hay to beets, broccoli, carrots, kale, parsnips, radishes, spinach and turnips so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

Potatoes and sweet potatoes must be harvested right after the first frost or they will rot in the ground. Protect the grafts of tender young fruit trees by wrapping with towels or with newspaper about 10 sheets thick.

Tarragon should be divided yearly. Chives and sweet woodruff need to be divided every three to four years. Dig tender fennel bulbs and store for the winter.

Cabbage loopers, green caterpillars, can be easily controlled on broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and collards using any Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) product.

Control white peach scale with oil such as Volck. Treat fruit trees again with dormant oil after fall leaf drop.

## Garden Clean Up

This is a good time to take inventory of your tools and to clean, oil and sharpen.

Disconnect the spark plug, drain all gasoline and oil, add new oil and an air filter, and sharpen the blade on your mower.

Check the condition of spraying equipment, hose attachments or pressure sprayers.

Make an inventory of flats, stakes and labels and replenish your supply if necessary.

Make necessary repairs to cold frames.

## Houseplants

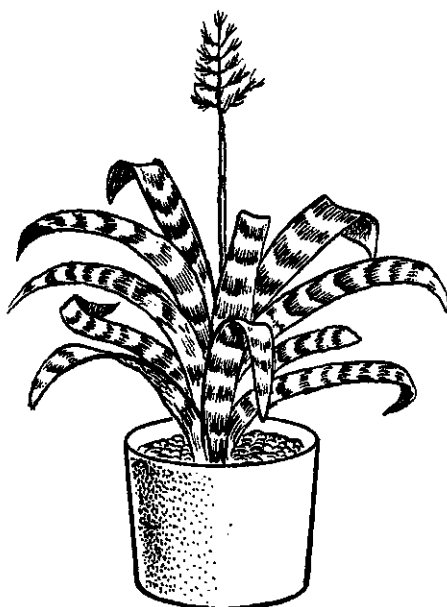
Check for pests before moving tropical plants indoors (before nighttime temperatures reach 45°). Rotate plants to sunny locations to keep them in good condition through winter. Avoid placing them near vents, as dry heated air will damage the leaves. Check plants weekly to ensure the soil is moist.

Bromeliads thrive indoors with minimum care. Just place room-temperature tap water in their cup about every two weeks and refill when the cup is nearly empty. Keep soil moist but not soggy.

## Lawns And Shrubs

If you have been fertilizing your lawn this year, you do not need to use a winterize fertilizer (one with no nitrogen, only phosphorus and potash). Use a winterizer only if your lawn is severely stressed, or if your sod is new, or if your grass is fescue.

Apply Atrazine or Simazine to warm-season grasses for preemergence and/or post-emergence control of annual bluegrass and selected winter annual broadleaf weeds from November through February. If thatch exceeds 1/4 inch use a vertical mower to remove it. Thatch is most effectively controlled by top-dressing the soil with a 1/4 inch layer of topsoil. Instead of raking/blowing leaves, use your mower with a mulching blade to add organic matter to your lawn. Keeping the leaves raked allows grass needed



sunlight as growth slows before dormancy. The preferred length for grass in winter is 1.75 inches.

Lay tall fescue sod rather than seeding it. The weather needs to be warm for fescue seeds to germinate. Some seeds won't germinate until next spring, making it hard for the new grass to survive next summer.

Dead flower stalks and seed heads provide interest in the winter landscape and food for wildlife, but may provide a choice location for insects and diseases to overwinter. Clean out old mulch and debris to prevent fungal diseases next spring. Destroy any infested material. Add the rest to your compost heap.

Wait until after the first hard freeze to apply a 3-inch layer of mulch. The mulch will keep the soil an even temperature, and prevent alternate thawing and freezing. Half-rotted hardwood leaves make good mulch for acid-loving plants like azaleas and camellias.

To protect cold-sensitive plants from a freeze, cover them with a box, blanket, burlap or even a sheet. If you use plastic, don't let it touch the plants.

Winter is a good time to remove unhealthy shrubbery or trees and prepare the ground for replacements.

See Checklist, continued on next page

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS: FEATURING A PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDEN

# JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL

STORY AND PHOTO BY JULIA LOYALL

As Chair Kathlene Cole showed me around the Jacksonville City Hall project, the size of it, the variety of the plant materials, and the beauty of the wide bermuda lawn surprised me. When you drive by on the access road heading south to Highway 67-167, you see only the stately row of pines and a long oval garden.

To reach City Hall, you travel from the highway to Municipal Drive, turn left, and then left again to enter the imposing City Hall grounds. A long divided drive with a line of dwarf crape myrtles ends in a grassy circle with flags, a curved parking lot for visitors, and a series of wide steps leading into the building. Sturdy concrete planters with yellow chrysanthemums brighten the front courtyard. Well-kept shrubs surround the building — the weeping yaupons are especially beautiful.

Mayor Tommy Swaim is delighted with the project and is most cooperative with his Master Gardeners.

### History of the Project

This property held military facilities during the war years. James Reed, the previous mayor, wanted fast-growing Jacksonville to have a larger city hall appropriate to its increasing size. When the government offered the land for sale, he urged the city to purchase it. A bond issue paid for clearing and building without burdening delighted taxpayers.

At the time, the director of City Beautification was Ophelia Blasingame, an accomplished gardener who designed the landscape. It was she who obtained the massive rocks which anchor the entrance beds and add interest and textural contrast around the lawn. She enlisted the aid of interested high school boys who were eligible for work-release program afternoons. They certainly received a half-day real-life work experience doing the tasks which preparing this lot required. Ophelia was a gifted teacher as well and trained these young men to be knowledgeable gardeners.

Following Ophelia's design, the city constructed three oblong raised beds with low brick walls along West Main Road (north), and two kidney-shaped berms, one each at the outer corners of the entrance road (west). Joan Zumwalt designed the row of pines and long oval berm along the freeway access road (east).

At first, Master Gardeners Joan Zumwalt and Dotty Heckenbach worked as volunteers on the gardens. Joan particularly pushed for it to become a Master Gardener project, which was approved in April 1993.

One of Ophelia's trainees, James Oakley, Master Gardener class of 1998, is now Director of Parks and Recreation for

Jacksonville, and he works closely with the project committee. The city provides plant material and supplies the committee requests, maintains the lawn (not one weed!), does the hand watering and heavier pruning, digging and planting jobs.

### Plant Material

As you would expect, the landscape has mostly trees (large and small), shrubs and perennials. Joan Zumwalt chose the shrubs around City Hall and the adjoining community center. The steel-edged berms and the access road berm have permanent plantings and a low border of annuals which changes with the seasons. The entrance corner berms have small trees, crape myrtles, shrubbery, colorful perennials, a low-growing groundcover and a few seasonal annuals. However, along West Main Road there are crape myrtles and mostly annuals. This year those berms had vinca, celosia, marigolds, zinnias and wave petunias with hardy (we hope) rose verbena groundcover and pink chrysanthemums. Dotty pinches back the mums and makes the cannas behave — ask her how!

### The Committee Year

Summer and fall annuals are being thinned now and will soon be removed so the gardens can be prepared for any winter annuals (if the committee feels they are needed) and for the planting of the beautiful tulip display the city provides each year. At their planning meetings, they must choose the tulip colors, which annuals will replace the tulips, and if fall plants are needed. Also there has been winter and drought damage to the entrance berm wax myrtles and to the line of dwarf crape myrtles, which are in full sun and open to the elements. The committee must decide whether to replace the wax myrtles and what can be done for the crape myrtles.

For years Jacksonville held a fall "Mums, Music and Muscadines" festival, and the City Hall gardens featured the chrysanthemums. This year, as the festival has become a musical happening, the chrysanthemums are no longer appropriate. Nonetheless, those lovely hardy pink mums are still flowering for visitors to enjoy.

### Looking Ahead

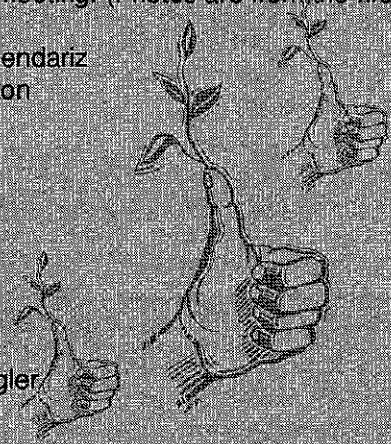
As often happens, the Jacksonville City Hall project has been "maintained by a faithful few", to quote Dotty Heckenbach. The committee hopes for lots of help and inspiration from new members and Mike Moyer, who will serve as chairman and implement his ideas for improvement of the project in 2002. ♠



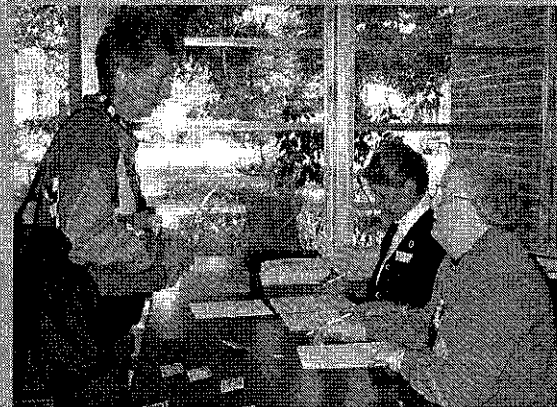
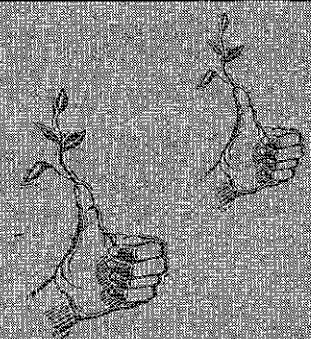
# Congratulations To The 2001 Master Gardener Class!

Congratulations (and thumbs up!) to the following members of the current class. Graduation is Wednesday November 7 and we will visit with them at the reception November 13 following the Pulaski County Master Gardeners meeting. (Photos are from the first class/registration.)

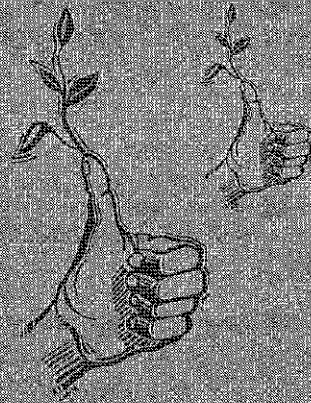
AnnaLouiza Armendariz  
 Mary Lou Arrington  
 Martha Basinger  
 Kathleen Brown  
 Bridgette Caples  
 Kim Cartwright  
 June Chandler  
 Thomas Craig  
 Rita Davison  
 Sue Dean  
 Mary Bonnie Degler  
 Cathy DuPont



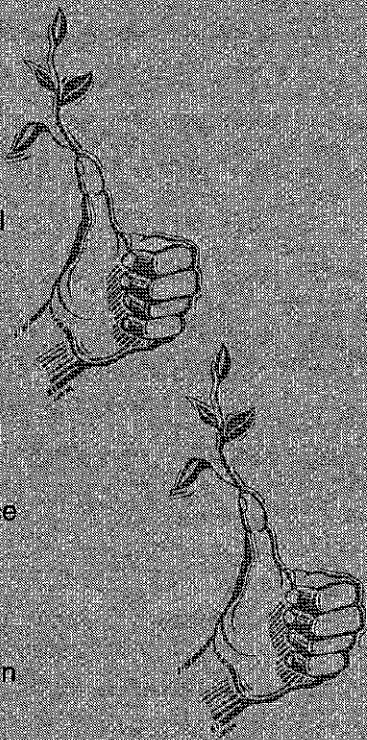
Cathy Muren  
 Bonnie Nicholas  
 Linda Norton  
 Kathy Phillips  
 Paula Phillips  
 Debbie Porter  
 William Rogers  
 Eugene Seavers, Jr.  
 Melinda Selby  
 Thelma Shank



James Smith  
 Shirley Smith  
 Michael Strobel  
 Debbie Stults  
 Carla Tunnell  
 Claudia Utley  
 Colleen Vollman  
 Juddie Wachtel  
 Nancy Jacobi White  
 Patricia White  
 Carolyn Wilcox  
 Nancy Wolford



Mary Freeman  
 Susan Garner  
 John Gill  
 Marjem Gill  
 Susie Gillihan  
 Stacy Grundfest  
 Dana Downes-Hall  
 Ann Hocutt  
 Nancy Holmes  
 Deborah Houck  
 Virginia Jackson  
 Deborah Johnson  
 Becky Kennedy  
 Patsy Knodel  
 Bruce Lawrence  
 Nora Ann Lawrence  
 Frances Lopata  
 Steve Lopata  
 Sandie Lubin  
 Sandy Magness  
 Edwina Walls Mann  
 Cathy Martindill





# Master Gardener Alert!

## Like Petunias? — Try These

Beth says the following petunia varieties which were distributed at the Statewide Master Gardener Conference in Fort Smith flower beautifully from spring through fall: Rambling Burgundy Chrome, Avalanche Lavender, Explorer Coral, Pink Wave Improved and Tidal Wave Silver. Each county was given a plant of each variety to use in a Master Gardener Project. Pulaski County's were planted in the Extension Office Garden and did wonderfully.

## New Books in MG Library

*A-Z Garden Plants* published by the American Horticulture Society.

*Wildflowers of Arkansas* by Carl Hunter.

## New PCMG Meeting Time

**In 2002, the monthly meeting will begin at noon rather than 11:30.** Meetings are held January through June and September through November.

## Dues Increase

At the October PCMG meeting, the membership voted to increase the dues to \$15 per year. New Master Gardeners do



*Pumpkins, continued from page 1*

not pay dues the first year. plan carefully because most cucurbits (the family to which all pumpkins belong) take lots of room. Plan to plant the pumpkins in hills at least six feet apart. Train the plants in one direction or let them take over the space vacated by the early garden when it has gone by.

Select the seed of the varieties that you want. Because of the tendency of cross pollination from other cucurbits, it usually is not wise to save seed. Seed from heirloom varieties need to be carefully isolated from other cucurbits.

Dig a hole at the place you want the plant to spread out from about a foot deep and a foot across. In the bottom of the hole work in plant nutrients. Fill the hole with compost and soil. With more compost and soil build a mound above. Push about six seeds into the upper part of the mound. Water carefully so as not to wash away the top part of the mound.

As soon as the seeds have germinated, cover the mound with a cloche or with spun bond light fabric. This will fend off most of the insect pests that affect cucurbits, especially squash vine bores. It is well, when the vines are about five inches long, to remove all but the three best plants.

Continue to water through hot summer months, the equivalent of one inch of rain per week. When the plants start to bloom, the first blooms will be female identified by a small potential fruit at the base of the bloom. When the male blossoms begin to show, remove the plant covers. Then the bees will get to work transferring pollen from the male to the female blooms.

Pumpkins are very prolific — when they are ripe, harvest them and allow them to thoroughly cure on a dry, shady pad. Then enjoy. ♣

not pay dues the first year.

## Holiday Dinner

**Mark December 4 on your calendar to attend the holiday dinner** which will be held at the Adult Leisure Center from 7-9 p.m. It will be potluck. There will not be a charge. More details later.

## Welcome New Master Gardeners

**The November 13 meeting will be a welcome reception for the new master gardeners.** Wear your name tag.

## Natchez in the Spring

The Travel Committee is planning a spring trip, March 15-17 to Natchez. The cost will include 2 nights, food and bus. Start saving your money!

## 2002 Committee Membership

In the past, Beth has sent members a form to see what committees they were interested in serving on. **There will not be a form sent this year. If you want to change committee membership, call Beth or Mrs. McKinney.** ♣

## MGs BOUGHT GREAT PLANTS AT THE OCTOBER GREENHOUSE SALE



**THERE WERE PLENTY OF LARGE, HEALTHY PLANTS TO BE HAD AT THE RECENT SALE AT THE GREENHOUSE. PEOPLE SHOWED UP EARLY TO CHOOSE FROM THE WIDE VARIETY OF WINTER PLANTS AND PERENNIALS — AND SOME GARDENERS EVEN HAULED THEM AWAY BY THE "TRUCK" LOAD! DON'T MISS THE NEXT SALE ...**

**MASTER GARDENER ADVISORY BOARD**  
**BULLETIN**

*The purpose of the Bulletin is to open communications from the Arkansas Master Gardener Advisory Board across the state via all county contacts and agents. Information will center around Advisory Board meetings, activities, programs, and progress.*

**State Advisory Board Updates**

The quarterly meeting was held July 16-17 in Perryville at the Heifer Project. Janet told the board that the Arkansas delegation to the international meeting in Orlando was the third largest in attendance. *The next international meeting* will be held in two years (2003) in Ohio/Kentucky.

*The Arkansas State MG Meeting* will be held beginning May 5, 2002, in Jonesboro. The Advisory Board is continuing to fine-tune the Sunday night social and awards events. Roundtable discussions regarding new programs will cap off the evening. Please make plans to attend.

Janet introduced her new assistant, Sallie Robert, at the meeting. Please welcome her to our world of Master Gardeners!

Plans are almost complete for Leadership Training II, which will be held at the 4-H Center in Ferndale December 4 - 5, 2001. Up to five Master Gardeners from each county may attend. Please be aware that, due to increased costs and more counties with the program, a charge of \$5 per participant will be levied. County programs are strongly encouraged to pay all fees incurred by their members who attend the Leadership Training II conference, if funds are available in your MG treasuries. Lodging is available at the 4-H Center; call for rates. The Advisory Board is researching other ways to defray costs of this and other MG meetings. Remember that each conference is a networking extravaganza. Counties who participate reap the benefits of an "informed" membership. More information will be coming soon.

The Advisory Board is working to get the "bugs" out of the Volunteer and Program Management Guides. A statewide uniform set of bylaws is also being researched. More information about these initiatives will be available at the LT II conference.

Advanced Training and MG Educator Programs are being discussed and evaluated. Look for more information on these and other programs at LT II.

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2001. Contact your district representative with concerns which you wish considered at the state level. Find a complete listing of the Advisory Board on the MG web site at >www.uaex.edu<. ✪

**DIG IN HERE ...**

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

**Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office**

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
bphelps@uaex.edu

**Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office**

2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

**Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline**  
340-6660

**University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:** <http://www.uaex.edu>

**TRADING POST**

By FRANCES YOUNG

Lou Sanders, 221-9722, has 8-foot date palm — too big for me.

Joan Humphries, 280-9023, has coreopsis and wants witch hazel.

Pat Green, 835-6215, wants hostas.

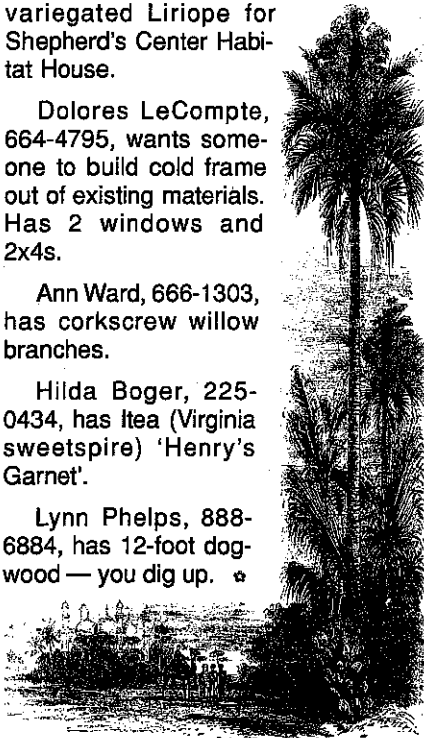
Joyce Bumgardner, 758-9074, wants 'Stella D'Oro' daylilies and variegated Liriope for Shepherd's Center Habitat House.

Dolores LeCompte, 664-4795, wants someone to build cold frame out of existing materials. Has 2 windows and 2x4s.

Ann Ward, 666-1303, has corkscrew willow branches.

Hilda Boger, 225-0434, has Itea (Virginia sweetspire) 'Henry's Garnet'.

Lynn Phelps, 888-6884, has 12-foot dogwood — you dig up. ✪



**SPREAD THE NEWS!**

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting November 13 to see your message in the December/January issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, rhogan@aristotle.net; or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and fromthegarden@earthlink.net

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. ✪

**Master Minutes Staff — 2001**

<b>Chair/Editor</b>	Rose Hogan
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Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture



# DATA ON DATURA

By ANN GREEN

One of the new plants I acquired by mail this spring was so magnificent in bloom that I set out to learn more about the Spring Hill-labeled "Purple Horn of Plenty" with the botanical name of *Datura meteloides* 'Cornucopaea'.

To my surprise, there seems to be a scarcity of data concerning this particular "branch" of the nightshade (Solanaceae) family.

Although a relative of tomatoes, potatoes and eggplants, what we commonly call "angel trumpet" is toxic and should be grown with care around small children or animals, as Anita Stamper pointed out in her article entitled "Heavenly Garden: Growing Angel Trumpets" (September 2001 issue of *Arkansas Gardener*.) A special caution, I believe, is needful about the seed pods which the plant develops. The pods are round with a bumpy surface and could be mistaken for a fruit by a small child. With small children around, I would be inclined to grow this plant under a fencing cage or other barrier.

I had been searching since May for information on these plants which were bearing enormous double and triple blooms (deep purple on the outside and white on the inside of each ruffled petal, which is set one within another), and Stamper's article shed some light on the confusion. There appear to be two basic divisions on the *Datura* family tree: *D. arborea* (*Brugmansia* — native to South America) is what most people think of as "angel trumpet": a tree-like plant with hanging trumpet-shaped blooms. The

genus *Datura*, according to Stamper, has approximately 25 species throughout the world, many with other common names as jimsonweed/thorn apple (*D. stramonium*, which, by the way, is the source of an important drug with narcotic, anodyne and antispasmodic properties). According to various references, *Datura* is said



to be native both to the Southwestern United States and Mexico, as well as China and India.

The *Datura* of our focus, *D. meteloides* 'Cornucopaea', has characteristics in common with *Brugmansia*. The *New Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening* by Greystone Press, my 1967 edition, mentions annual types of *Datura* as *D. metel*, blush white; *D. metel rubra*, red; and *D. meteloides*, fragrant white blooms tinged with pink or lilac. It would seem that *D. meteloides*, with its dark purple stems an additional attraction, has been further developed into a state-of-the-art cultivar.

My experience with the "Purple Horn of Plenty" is that, as a container plant, it can grow within two or three months to a sprawling height and width of two to three feet. And, unlike *Brugmansia* or angel trumpet, *Datura* blooms in an upright habit with the flowers looking up, not down.

I set two of three potted *Daturas* near my back door (part sun) so I could watch and water them regularly. I placed the third plant in my garden in full sun, to experiment with location, and it was watered only when it rained or when our vegetables and herbs really needed watering. One morning, I counted 11 blooms on this particular plant, so it appears that they do not need as much attention as I gave the other two — which did flower but not

See *Datura*, continued on next page

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## Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# CALENDAR AND NOTES

By RUTH JONES

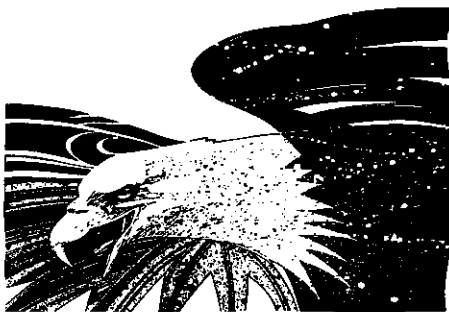
## DECEMBER

**1, 2 & 23 Birdfeeder Workshop** at Pinnacle Mountain State Park. \$10 a feeder. Phone 501-868-5806.

**1 Winter Bird Workshop**, Dardanelle, Mt. Nebo State Park. Build a nesting box and home-made bird feeders. Contact 501-229-3655.

**4 Pulaski County Master Gardener Christmas Party**, 7-9 p.m. at the Adult Living Center on 12th Street, Little Rock. Potluck; see last issue for instructions.

**15-16 Lake Ouachita Eagle** weekend. Celebrates the arrival of the bald eagles to Lake Ouachita. Lake tours, demonstrations and talks. Contact 501-767-9367.



## 2002

**JANUARY 11 & 12 Annual Eagle Awareness Weekend**. Bull Shoals State Park. Eagle cruises on the lake, guided bird walks, guest ornithologist. Lake tours \$5.50. Contact 870-431-5521.

**JANUARY 25-27 23rd Annual Eagles Et Cetera**, DeGray Lake Resort State Park. Lake tours, bird walks, owl prowls and more. Phone 501-865-2801.

*Datura*, continued from page 1

nearly as profusely as did the one I did not see daily. (I've brought "#11" indoors to see if it will winter over.) *Datura's* drought-tolerance and its ability to thrive in a wide variety of well-drained soils has been noted; however, it is most impressive when grown in rich, well-manured loams.

Each seed pod contains hundreds of seeds that are similar in appearance to tomato seed. Seed started indoors in March and transplanted when it is safe to set out tomato plants, will be blooming by midsummer. Deadheading will extend the bloom season, but leaving a few seed pods will ensure next year's plants. In hardiness zones 8 and 9, *Datura* roots survive winter underground but in Arkansas zones, another way to continue the life-cycle of *Datura* is by root division in the fall, storing indoors until spring.

With all proper precautions in place, *Datura* can provide a summer-long experience of unique blooms that will be ended only by the first fall frost.

An acknowledgment with appreciation is due to Ruth Owings and Shannon Lloyd, Master Gardeners who are also part of the Cammack Project and who helped locate information via the Internet concerning *Datura*.

**FEBRUARY 6 Fruit Pruning Workshop** at the Fruit Experiment Station in Clarksville, **rain date February 13**. Get hands-on experience pruning fruit trees, blackberries, grapes and blueberries. Registration information later.

**FEBRUARY 10 Gourd Workshop**, Parkin, Parkin Archeological State Park 10 a.m.-noon. Gourds are not only useful but can be turned into beautiful work of art. Gourds, other materials and instructions provided. Phone 870-983-2890.

**MARCH 1 Jonquil Festival**, Old Washington Historic State Park. Phone 870-983-2660.

**MARCH 1-3 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show** in Little Rock.

**MARCH 15, 16, & 17 Spring Fling**

**Bus Trip** to Natchez for Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

**APRIL 19 Master Gardener Trip to Holland** with Janet Carson.

**APRIL 27 Palette of Blooms**. The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour of seven private home gardens. 501-663-7515.

**MAY 5-7 Arkansas Master Gardener meeting** in Jonesboro.

**MAY 20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference** in North Carolina.

## STATE EXTENSION SERVICE PLANTING DAY



**BETH ASKED PCMGs TO HELP PLANT THE STATE EXTENSION SERVICE OFFICE BEDS THANKSGIVING WEEK. THERE WAS A GREAT TURNOUT — THIS IS JUST PART OF THE GROUP! — AND THEY FINISHED PLANTING IN ABOUT AN HOUR.**



**IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY — THE FIRST REALLY COLD DAY THIS FALL BUT NOT A FREEZE YET. THE BEGONIAS WERE STILL IN GREAT SHAPE WHEN THEY WERE REPLACED WITH KALE, FOXGLOVES AND PANSIES.**

# DECEMBER/JANUARY CHECKLIST

By Libby Thalheimer

## Bulbs

After Christmas, stock up on amaryllis bulbs as the price plunges. Put the potted bulbs in a warm, sunny spot and water sparingly until growth starts; then keep moist. The timing will be just right for a show of blooms on Valentine's Day.

## Cold Protection

To protect cold-sensitive plants from a freeze, cover them with a box or blanket, burlap or even a sheet. You can also use plastic but only if it is supported and doesn't come in contact with the leaves. Protect the grafts of tender young fruit trees by wrapping with towels or with newspaper about 10 sheets thick.

## 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.

## 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. Keep leaves off the lawn.

This is a good time to take inventory of tools and to clean, oil and sharpen them. Check the condition of spraying equipment, hose attachments or pressure sprayers. Make an inventory of flats, stakes and labels and replenish your supply if necessary. Make necessary repairs to cold frames.

## 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, as dry heated air will damage the leaves. Check plants weekly to ensure the soil is moist.

## Lawns

Apply Atrazine or Simazine to warm-season turf grass for preemergence and/or postemergence control of annual bluegrass and selected winter annual broadleaf weeds from November through February.

If thatch exceeds 1/4 inch, use a vertical mower to remove it. Thatch is most effectively controlled by top-dressing soil with a 1/4-inch layer of topsoil.

## Ornamentals

In mid-January, fertilize trees. Trees and shrubs may be moved in late January any time the soil is friable.

Spray broadleaf evergreens (hollies, photinia and euonymus), if infested with scale, with a dormant oil just before bud break.

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 them — they just need to be moist.

## Perennials

Cut off dead foliage after frost.

Remove fallen leaves that may smother mat-forming plants such as pinks and thyme.

Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, but leave 2- to 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 to keep the soil an even temperature and to prevent alternate thawing and freezing.

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 the soil is crumbly.

## Vegetables

Add a 6- to 8-inch layer of leaves, pine needles or hay to beets, turnips, radishes, parsnips and other root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

Kale and spinach also overwinter in most areas (mulch with pine straw). Although growth will stop in cold weather, it will resume in spring and produce greens into May.

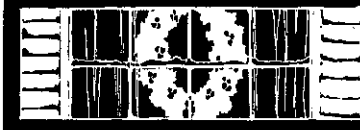
If you are growing cover crops, consider turning them into the soil with a fork or tiller during the middle of January. This will give the green materials time to break down and enrich the soil before planting time.

Start broccoli and cabbage seeds indoors in January for transplanting 6 to 8 weeks later.

## Planning

If you can't garden now, you can plan for next season. 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. Winter is good time to prepare the soil for new beds or to add amendments. Whether your soil is clay or sand, it will benefit from the addition of compost, manure or other organic matter. Order seed for early planting.





# WHAT WORKS!



By LINDA MOYER

## Tips for Storing the Harvest

Don't have a root cellar? Have you run out of room in the freezer or canning jars? A lot of produce can be stored over the winter in any cool spot in your house or garage, such as a closet. It only takes a cardboard box and a good supply of the newspaper. (Only use the black-and-white sections; the inks in the color section could contain harmful chemicals.)

## The Basic Guidelines

Use only firm and unblemished items. (Any bruised fruit or vegetable will quickly spoil.)

Place in ventilated cardboard boxes or on shelves lined with newspaper. Newspapers can be placed loosely over the tops to keep them in the dark. Place the cardboard box in a cool, dark area that doesn't get below freezing.

Check once a week and remove any that have ripened or are turning bad.

## Apples

Apples must be wrapped separately. Most apples will keep for several months. The best apples to store are those with thick skins, like 'Arkansas Blacks'. 'Red Delicious' has thin skins and will not store as well. Never store apples near potatoes.

## Root Vegetables

Carrots, beets, turnips, rutabagas and parsnips — these vegetables can be left in the ground and covered with mulch to keep them from freezing. Almost any vegetable grown in the ground will keep this way. They can be harvested at any time.

## Onions

Onions can be hung from the ceiling in mesh bags.

## Potatoes

They can be stored on shelves, one layer. They need more moisture than most of the other vegetables; store them closer to the floor. They must be kept in a dark, cool area or they will turn green. If you have any that turn green, store them for several weeks in a cool, dark area and the green will go away. Then they can be used. But *never* use green potatoes!

## Tomatoes

Only store green tomatoes. Wrap them separately. Remove them from the box when they start turning red. The best place to let them ripen is the kitchen countertop. Don't place them in direct sunlight.

## Harvesting Winter Squash

For the best flavor and texture, winter squash should be allowed to ripen fully on the vine. Once the vines begin to die back and the shells are hard, the squash is ready to harvest. A light frost improves the flavor by changing some of the starches to sugars, but it will also shorten the shelf life. It's best to pick most of the crop before the first frost is expected, then allow a few to remain on the vine until after a frost. If your crop isn't

quite ripe before frost threatens, you can cover the vines with blankets or a heavy mulch to buy a little more time. Pumpkins and winter squash can be stored on shelves.

## Harvesting Sweet Potatoes

You can begin harvesting your sweet potatoes as soon as the leaves start to yellow, but keep in mind that the longer they are left in the ground, the more vitamins they will have. After a frost, the vines will turn dark. At this point, the tubers should be harvested as soon as possible to prevent rot.

On a sunny day when the soil is dry, use a spading fork to dig sweet potatoes. Take care not to nick the tubers because this will encourage spoilage. The tubers can be grown out as much as a foot from the plants. Dry your harvest in the sun for a few hours, then bring them indoors and continue drying in a warm, humid place for a couple of weeks. An open area of the kitchen is a perfect spot for drying them. As the tubers cure, the starches are converted to sugars.

Properly cured sweet potatoes will last for several months. For long storage, wrap individual tubers in newspaper and store them in a 45-55° basement.

## Baked Sweet Potatoes

4 good-size sweet potatoes, washed and cleaned

- 3/4 cup low-fat sour cream
- 1/3 cup maple syrup
- 1/2 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1/2 tablespoon ground nutmeg
- salt and pepper to taste
- butter

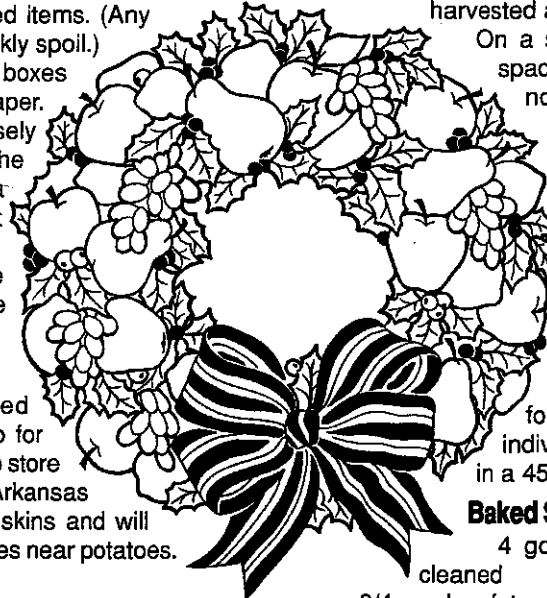
1. Preheat the oven to 400°. Slice each potato carefully in perfect halves and bake them for about 40-50 minutes until they are tender. Remove from oven and lower it to 350°.

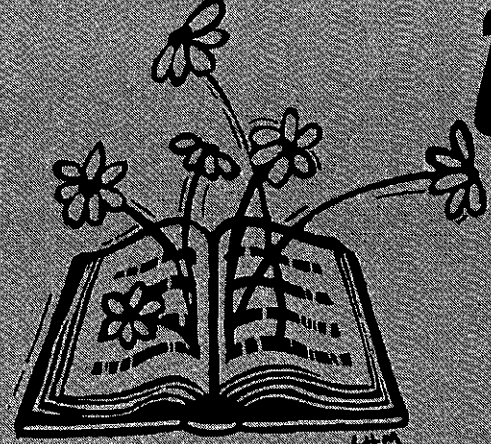
2. With a spoon, carefully scoop out the pulp or insides of the potatoes and put the pulp into a large bowl. Make sure the skins of the sweet potatoes remain intact. Mash the pulp with the help of a masher; add the sour cream, maple syrup, ginger, nutmeg and salt and pepper, and mix this well.

3. Fill the sweet potato shells evenly with the pulp mixture. Put the potatoes in a buttered, flat baking dish, and dot each half with a bit of butter. Place them in the oven and bake for about 25-30 minutes. (The potatoes are done when they turn brown on the top.)

Note: This is a delightful and appetizing accompaniment to meat, fish or egg dishes, especially during the fall or winter.

*"What Works!" is a forum for gardening, design, and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends, and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, l-moyer@netzero.net, or mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down at the monthly Master Gardener meeting or write What Works! c/o Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Although you don't have to, sign your name so we can give you credit.*





# BOOK REVIEW

By JAN GAUNTT

## TIME-TESTED PLANTS

### THIRTY YEARS IN A FOUR-SEASON GARDEN

By PAMELA J. HARPER

PORTLAND, OREGON, TIMBER PRESS, 2000. 351 PAGES, \$39.95

Here is a treasure for us warm-climate gardeners. Pam Harper is not only an expert gardener but an award-winning writer as well. Her book is wonderfully readable and is a mother lode of information and inspiration about ornamental plants. It is particularly a treat for more knowledgeable gardeners.

Pam Harper moved to the U.S. from England in 1968, and eventually settled along the coastal plain of Virginia. She learned to adapt her gardening skills to the American climate there, in Hardiness Zone 7 and Heat Zone 8. She has delighted in experimenting and learning about plants, trying out immense numbers of perennials, trees, shrubs, vines and bulbs on her two-acre property. As the many sumptuous photographs show, she has created lovely landscaping and gardens there.

Her theme for the book is to talk about the plants that she can especially recommend — plants that “have amply repaid a loving investment of care and patience ... that have earned her trust and affection for a decade or more — plants that have stood the test of time.” She emphasizes plants which reward with a lot of beauty and aren’t fussy about maintenance. She likes to site plants well — for instance, placing azaleas into enough shade so that they are less bothered by spider mites. The number of plants she’s tried on her property is large, and her learning experiences offer much of value. She discusses

the fraction of her plants that have proven their long-term worth, plus a few closely-related newcomers that are especially attractive.

A very interesting and worthwhile aspect of the book for me is that she also discusses frankly some of her failures — things she planted which didn’t thrive, even though they might do well in other parts of the country. She talks about what went wrong with a plant, when success came when she moved it to a different microclimate or soil type and when a different variety or species worked better in its place. She’s observant about describing the specialized niches that some plants need. I felt like I was learning side-by-side with her in her 30 years of creating her gardens. In fact, reading the book feels like strolling through beautiful gardens talking with a very good friend who happens to be immensely knowledgeable and passionate about plants.

Harper offers many years’ worth of planting ideas to try. Her writing is zestful, enthusiastic, charming, sensible and joyous. Allen Lacy comments, “This book is destined to become a classic in the grand tradition of Elizabeth Lawrence’s *A Southern Garden*.” If you like ornamental gardening, I strongly recommend to you Pamela Harper’s *Time-Tested Plants*. ★

## INTERNET HERB TIPS

By LINDA MOYER

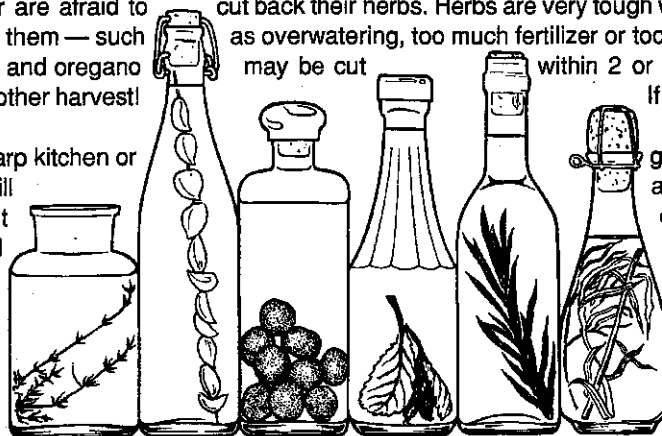
Here are some tips from Brenda at Seeds of Knowledge.com, >[www.seedsofknowledge.com](http://www.seedsofknowledge.com)<.

Brenda does not pretend to know the proper technique for every herb out there — there are far too many! But, over the years she has gathered many harvest and storage tips that have worked for her and many other gardeners. Her first tip is to be brave! So many people who write her are afraid to what you least expect that hurts them — such as overwatering, too much fertilizer or too rich a soil. Many herbs, such as lemon balm, mint, chives, sage and oregano may be cut back by half, to be cautious.

Gather your herbs, using sharp kitchen or after the dew has dried. You will harvest just *before* flowering, but harvesting if you have missed flowers for wreaths and arrange-cooking. If you live in a zone that herbs a month and a half or so before the first frost.

Check her web site for freezing, drying and

cut back their herbs. Herbs are very tough with the right conditions. It’s often as overwatering, too much fertilizer or too rich a soil. Many herbs, such as may be cut within 2 or 3 inches of the ground and will If you are in doubt, you can cut



gardening shears, in the morning also catch the peak flavor if you don’t let this deter you from that time frame. You can dry the ments and use the leaves for freezes, be sure to allow your to grow after you harvest and

storage techniques, including microwaving. ★

# CLEANING UP THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

By CARL GOODSON

Before the worst weather of winter, it is well to use a bright day to clean up the vegetable garden. By doing so, you will be taking the first step toward preparing the patch for next year's planting.

Remove all the dead plants. Destroy all those infested in any way with disease or insects. Do not put diseased plants on the compost pile. If you have learned how to "cook" the pile with successive layers of manure, and the temperature of the pile is hot enough, diseases and insects will be killed. Otherwise don't take the chance. Send diseased plants through trash collectors to the city dump.

Root crops can be left in place. Cover the whole garden with chopped up leaves as a winter mulch. Noting carefully where the roots of carrots, turnips and parsnips lie buried, it is a simple practice to move the mulch aside and pull up what is needed for the kitchen.

Now would be a good time to make a soil test because fewer samples are going to the laboratory. From various places in the garden take soil samples. A soil sample tool will assist by bringing up a core of loam from 6 to 12 inches deep. Mix all your samples in a clean bucket. Then measure out a full pint of the mixture. Take it to the Extension Service office, where it will be placed in a specimen box and labeled with all necessary information. In a few weeks you will receive a detailed

printout of what your soil needs to bring it to best fertility.

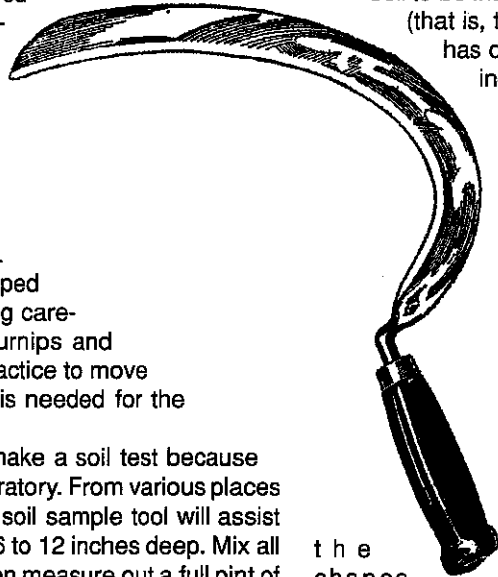
Mulch the whole garden with about 6 inches of biodegradable material. This not only prevents the washing away of valuable top soil, but, under the mulch, earthworms and other organisms will break down the mulch into rich compost.

About two weeks before you plant your earliest vegetables, spade or plow the mulch under. All of the mulch will help your soil to be friable and productive. If the clods are too moist (that is, they form a hard ball), wait until the moisture has drained away. A ball that readily breaks apart indicates that the soil can be spaded or plowed without forming hard clods that will be a problem for the whole growing season.

If you have established permanent beds and paths, it may not even be necessary to spade the patch. Instead, simply rake the mulch off to one side, hoe the soil, make a drill and plant early vegetables. English peas, spinach and other greens and potatoes can usually be planted in mid February. When the seeds have sprouted and attained a little height, bring the mulch back to cover bare soil. This way, weeds will not have a chance to grow and hinder the crop.

the chance

For the energetic gardener, winter is the time to get the vegetable patch in shape for the oncoming growing season. ♦



## NOVEMBER RECEPTION WELCOMES NEW MGS INTO THE GARDEN ...

VETERAN MGS WELCOMED NEWLY GRADUATED MGS AT A RECEPTION HELD AFTER THE NOVEMBER MEETING, AT THE STATE EXTENSION OFFICE. ENTHUSIASTIC GARDENERS PACKED THE ROOM, ENJOYING THE FESTIVE FOOD AND DECORATIONS, AS WELL AS YET ANOTHER CHANCE TO TALK 'PLANTS'.



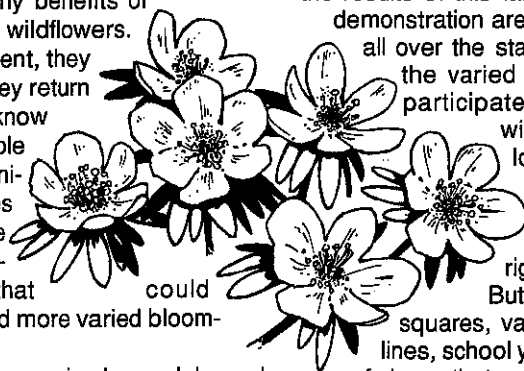


# KEEP ARKANSAS BEAUTIFUL SAYS, "WILDFLOWERS FOREVER!"

By LINDA WESTERGARD, CHAIR, KARB COMMISSION

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful (KArB) Commission has just completed the "Wildflowers Forever Handbook." This KArB program is making a difference already ... and there is much more to come. As background, let me tell you a few things about why we are sponsoring this effort, with partnership from the Arkansas Highway & Transportation Department (AHTD).

Most of you know about the many benefits of landscaping with native plants and wildflowers. They are well suited to our environment, they require minimal maintenance, and they return to beauty year after year. But do you know that they can also play a significant role in financially benefiting our communities? For instance, Texas generates about \$20 million in tourism revenue from their two-month bluebonnet season. Think of the potential dollars that could be generated by our much longer and more varied blooming season!



Years ago, tourists visited Arkansas in June, July and August. Once we began to let folks know about our wonderful fall colors, they began to extend their visits into this season, resulting in many millions of dollars for communities all over the state.

Now we are hoping to push the envelope even further ... this time backward into the spring, all the way through to the current fall season. We can take advantage of the current interest in environmental tourism by showcasing what makes us "The Natural State". At the same time, we can make our communities more attractive to new business development and enhance the quality of life for all our residents.

To this end, the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission has secured a \$10,000 grant from the Natural and Cultural Resources Council. This was matched by the KArB Foundation and Deltic Timber Corporation. The resulting \$20,000 was used to purchase wildflower seed. AHTD then planted these seeds in nine interchanges around Little Rock. Many of you noticed the results of this last spring. These plantings will serve as demonstration areas for what can be done along highways all over the state. AHTD can supply information about the varied ways that individuals and groups can participate in the planting and maintenance of wildflowers beside state highways and local roadways too. They are actively spreading the word ... and the seeds. They have also instituted a wildflower-friendly schedule for mowing along our right-of-ways all over the state.

But this is only one venue for plantings. Town squares, vacant lots and fields, areas under power lines, school yards and our own yards are all examples of places that would benefit from wildflowers. We ask that Master Gardener groups plan to use more native plants and wildflowers in their public planting project locations and that they urge others to do the same.

To this end, we are proud to announce the participation of Carl Hunter in the production of our new "Wildflowers Forever Handbook". By the time you read this, it should be available from our office (682-3507). This beautifully illustrated folder provides both information and inspiration. It would make a super Christmas or birthday card enclosure for those whom you wish to honor with more than just a card. We hope you will use it in conjunction with the AHTD Wildflower Map to spread beauty all over your world!

## ... NOVEMBER RECEPTION WELCOMES NEW MGS INTO THE GARDEN





## MASTER GARDENER ALERT!

### Thanks to Anonymous MG Friend

Our sincere appreciation to the anonymous friend who paid the fee to use the State Extension Office auditorium for the Pulaski County Master Gardener meetings in 2002.

### 2002 Meeting Time

Beginning January 9, the monthly Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings will start at noon. The board meeting will be in the conference room across the hall at 11.

### Dues are Due

The 2002 dues are due for Master Gardeners other than the new (2001) class. Make out your check for \$15 this year, as voted at the October meeting. Mail it to the county office or bring it to the January meeting.

### Hummingbird Information

*Texas Bird Watcher* has an extensive website for hummingbird information at >[www.geocities.com/heartland/ranch/6745/hummingbird.html](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/ranch/6745/hummingbird.html)<.

### State Society/Association Directory

A directory of state horticulture/biology societies and associations, such as Arkansas Mycological Society, has been in the "Master Minutes" in the past. We are going to update this in the February.

If you know of any that were not included in the past, please let Rose know at [rhogan@aristotle.net](mailto:rhogan@aristotle.net). Include the name and phone number of a contact person, please.

### Report Your Hours

**Take five minutes right now and let Beth know the number of hours you've worked on your project and attended continuing education. You can call 340-6650 and leave a message for her, or you can e-mail her at [bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu).**

### Committee Assignment

If you want to change project committee work, you need to let Beth know. *You will not be receiving a form to fill out this year.* Contact her at the number or e-mail address given in the above item. ✪

## Happy Holidays ...

... to all Master Gardeners and their families from the "Master Minutes" Committee.

## DIG IN HERE ...

Does a gardening/horticultural problem have you stumped? These resources can help you solve nearly any gardening dilemma:

### Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office

2901 West Roosevelt Road  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
340-6650  
[bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu)

### Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University  
Little Rock, AR 72204  
671-2000

### Pul. Co. Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

### University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Website: <http://www.uaex.edu>

## TRADING POST

By FRANCES YOUNG

Lou Sanders, 221-9722, has Japanese roof iris.

Imelda Horne, 666-9303, has *Lunaria annua*, money plant seeds.

Anita Chamberlin, 758-1959, has moonflower seeds.

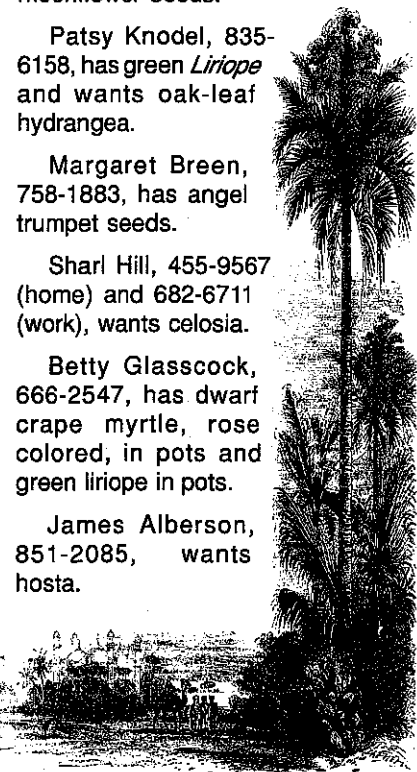
Patsy Knodel, 835-6158, has green *Liriope* and wants oak-leaf hydrangea.

Margaret Breen, 758-1883, has angel trumpet seeds.

Sharl Hill, 455-9567 (home) and 682-6711 (work), wants celosia.

Betty Glasscock, 666-2547, has dwarf crape myrtle, rose colored, in pots and green liriope in pots.

James Alberson, 851-2085, wants hosta.



## SPREAD THE NEWS!

If you have an item of interest or a newsworthy photo, or need to tell the general membership something about your committee, this newsletter is your opportunity to reach all Pulaski County Master Gardeners.

Please provide your information to us by the meeting January 8 to see your message in the February 2002 issue of the newsletter.

You may bring your information to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, [bphelps@uaex.edu](mailto:bphelps@uaex.edu); Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; Rose Hogan, 374-9429, [rhogan@aristotle.net](mailto:rhogan@aristotle.net); or Cheryl Kennedy, 753-8192, fax 753-6305, and [fromthegarden@earthlink.net](mailto:fromthegarden@earthlink.net)

If you have late-breaking news unavailable by the closing date, Beth may be able to add it to her letter that is mailed with the newsletter. ✪

## Master Minutes Staff — 2001

Chair/Editor	Rose Hogan
Co-Chair/Layout	Cheryl Kennedy
Staff	Tom Bruce Lois Clifton Jan O. Gauntt Carl Goodson Ann Green Helen Hronas Annette Hurley Virginia Johnson Ruth Jones Julia Loyall Linda Moyer Ellen Rouch Libby Thalheimer Linda Westergard



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticulture-related information to the residents of the county. In 2000, these volunteers gave more than 8,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps  
County Extension Agent — Agriculture