



ANNUAL ATTRACTION

Say "flowers" and most people think "annuals." Of course there are all kinds of flowering plants for residential landscapes. Perennial, vines, shrubs, trees — they all have flowers. However, it is annuals that win everyone's heart.

Why do we love them? Let's count the ways: color, dependability, diversity, versatility and self-reliance.

Easy to Sow and Grow

Most annuals are easy to grow from seed right in the garden. Sown by early spring, they have plenty of time to mature and bloom by early summer. In fact, direct seeding outdoors is the preferred method for certain annuals that do not transplant well.

Direct seeding into the garden is a snap. Although seeds will grow in all kinds of unconventional situations, a properly prepared seedbed spares them hazards such as rain-compacted or sun-baked soil. When the soil has warmed and dried out from winter melt and springs rains, dig down 8 to 10 inches to loosen it, mixing in some organic matter to help hold moisture. While you are at it, also mix in some granular slow-acting general-purpose fertilizer. This will provide consistent nutrition over many weeks to help annuals sustain their riotous flowering. Rake the soil level and smooth.

Sowing Style

You may choose to sow your seeds onto the prepared seedbed in a natural, free-spirited way. Called broadcasting, this method creates an informal, natural look in a bed, a border along a wall or fence, or in a mini-meadow. Simply take a handful of seeds and gently sprinkle them

randomly over the prepared soil. Mix particularly tiny seeds, such as portulaca or petunia, with a bit of coarse sand or vermiculite so they are easier to cast evenly over the area. Toss larger seeds such as nasturtium freestyle and then poke them gently into the soil where they fall. If the package label says seeds must be covered with soil, sprinkle some



garden soil or light soilless potting medium over the seeds where they fall and moisten the seedbed.

Alternatively, sow annual seeds in more formal rows — the most efficient way for cutting or fitting them into a crowded bed. Use a stick or trowel tip to trace straight, shallow furrows in the prepared seedbed. While the rule of thumb says a furrow should be about twice as deep as the seed is thick, practically speaking most seeds are so small

that a 1/4 to 1/2-deep furrow is fine. Dribble a handful of seeds between your thumb and forefinger as evenly as possible, gradually moving down the furrow.

Poke larger seeds such as sweet peas into individual holes made with a pencil tip.

Most annual seeds need to be covered but some annuals such as flossflower (*Ageratum*) or snapdragon need light to germinate, so check the seed packet to see if you need to cover seeds with soil.

Annual Aftercare

Annual seeds can pretty well take care of themselves as long as they have enough moisture. Keep them moist once they are sown to assure good germination, then healthy development of the sprouts into seedlings. Initially shade the seedbed a bit during heat spells so the sun does not dry it out or shrivel the

See *Annuals*,
continued on
page 7, col. 2

In This Issue ...

Annual Attraction	1
Arkansas Select Plants	8
Calendar And Notes	2
Christmas Social	5
February Plots	3
Master Gardener Alert!	6
Meeting Photos	2 & 8
Trading Post	8
What Works	4



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

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. Call Beth for information.

9 Hot Springs Garden Show. Contact Garland County Extension Office at 501-623-6841.

10 Gourd Workshop, Parkin State Park 10 a.m. - noon. Gourds are not only useful but can be turned into beautiful works of art. Gourds and other materials and instruction will be provided. Phone 870-983-2890.

12 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting at noon in the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University.

16 Pine Bluff Lawn & Garden Show. Jefferson County Extension Office, 870-534-1033.

MARCH

1 Jonquil Festival, Old Washington Historic State Park. Phone 870-983-2660.

1-3 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show in Little Rock.

8-9 Camden Daffodil Festival.

8-10 Jonesboro Flower & Garden Show at the Convocation Center on the ASU Campus.

9 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Habitats of Arkansas. Theo Witsell, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, 3:00-4:30 p.m. lecture, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Rogers. 501-789-2754.

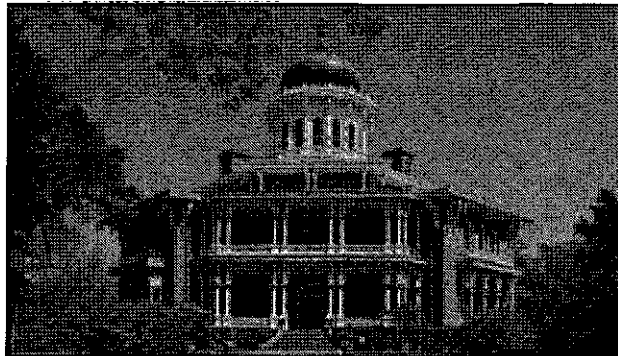
12 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting at noon in the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University.

13-14 Master Gardener Educator Program. Ferndale 4-H Center.

15-17 Spring Fling Bus Trip to Natchez for Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Watch the Alert! column for details.

15-17 Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Garden Show. Fort Smith Convention Center. Contact the Sebastian County Extension Office at 501-782-4947.

23 South Arkansas Garden Show, Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, Highway 7 between Camden and El Dorado. Contact 870-725-2877.



APRIL

6-13 Grand Opening of Garvan Gardens, 1-800-366-4664.

9 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting at noon in the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University.

13 Saline County Garden Show. Saline County Extension Office, 501-303-5672.

16 Prairie Protection & Restoration, Page Shurgar, The Nature Conservancy, 6:00-7:30 p.m. in Giffles Auditorium, U of A, Fayetteville. 501-789-2754.

19 Master Gardener Trip to Holland with Janet Carson.

27 Palette of Blooms. Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour of seven private home gardens. 501-663-7515.

MAY

5-7 Arkansas State Master Gardeners Meeting in Jonesboro.

18 Fifth Annual Spring Wildflowers Program. Carl Hunter. 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville. Includes a light hike in Bear Hollow. 501-789-2754.

20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference, North Carolina.



~ Both new and old 2002 Chairs and Co-chairs met in January to compare notes on what works best — and what doesn't work — for our projects.

Sandy Harrison and John Prather were among the PCMGs who attended the state leadership conference held last November.



MASTER GARDENERS' FEBRUARY PLOTS

By LIBBY THALHEIMER

A Time to Till

Put out asparagus crowns and strawberry plants as soon as the soil is workable. Outdoors, sow broccoli, cabbage, onion sets, English peas and seed potatoes. Place orders for seeds early to ensure availability.

Alas, Bugged

Use insecticidal soap to control aphids on cool season annuals and vegetable plants. Plant sunflowers to attract the natural enemies of the white fly. For borers, mites, aphids or scale, apply dormant oil spray such as "Sun Oil" to trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous, roses and the perennial border. The most effective spray of the year is before leaf buds start emerging. Check the label for optimum temperature 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.) Spraying plants before leaf buds open also avoids burning them.

Note: Do not use oil spray on sugar or Japanese maple, walnut, beech or magnolia trees.

The Berm

February is the best time to plant dogwoods. Pick an elevated site with soil on the acid side. Plant ball and burlap trees and shrubs and bare-root plant material 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 the soil to determine the proper amendments. For existing sites, amend the entire area with mulch, compost, etc.

Eats of Eden

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

Go Round Roses

Place orders for bare root roses. After the 15th of February is the best time to plant roses. Water in 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"-18", floribundas and multifloras) to maintain their size and vigor. Only prune everblooming climbers to invigorate older plants or to remove weak canes, not annually.

The Green File

Apply lime to lawns if not done in December or January. Fertilize trees with a high nitrogen fertilizer if not done in January. Apply preemergence herbicides on established lawns and shrub beds to control weeds. Kill spurweed and other winter weeds now, before they have time to set seeds. 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 6-8 inches santolina, lavender cotton and junipers. Apply preemergence herbicides on ground covers.

So Dig

Outdoors, sow candytuft, cornflowers, larkspur and phlox. In a coldframe, plant annual and perennial salvias, chrysanthemums, feverfew, lupine, nicotiana, scabiosa, snapdragon and verbena. Indoors at 65-75°, 6" under artificial light, sow annual flowers and vegetables. Keep the light on 10-12 hours a day, and keep the soil moist. It takes 6 to 8 weeks to grow a viable transplant.

Plant broad-leaved evergreens, such as magnolias and hollies. All newly planted or transplanted material should be watered in with a root stimulator.

Shoots

Prune back by 1/3 to 1/2, tropical bloomers that are overwintering indoors. Apply a slow-release fertilizer to annuals and overwintering tropical plants at the rate recommended on the label.

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.

Taming of the Shrubs

Cut back dwarf crape myrtles to within 6 inches of the ground. Only prune back larger crape myrtles 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. 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, not above a leaf bud. Do not prune forsythia or flowering quince until after bloom. Plant hardwood cuttings of shrubs (~8" with at least two buds underground) in a coldframe.

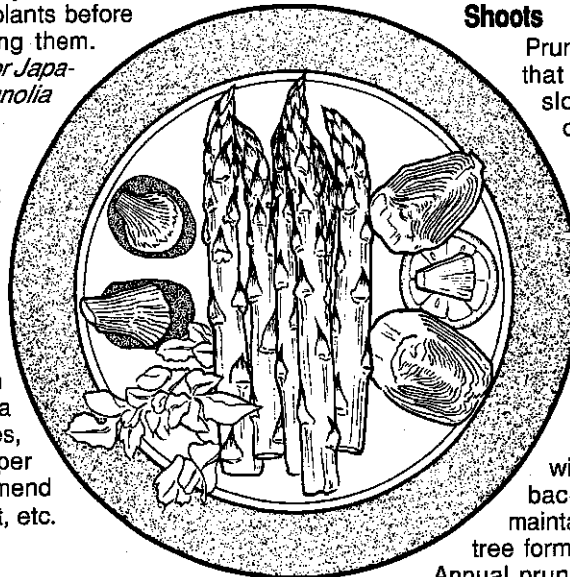
Catcher of my Eye

Make plans to go to the Arkansas Flower & Garden Show.

Clear and Present Garden

Flowering almond, anise Florida, arum, bridal veil, camellia, chionodoxa, crocus, daffodil, dogwood, forsythia, helleborus, hyacinth, iris (Stylosa and Reticulata), Carolina jasmine, kerria, loropetalum, Oriental magnolia, muscari, pansies, phlox, primrose, pussy willow, quince, redbud, scilla sibirica, snowdrops, spirea thunbergi, viola, and violet are in bloom this month.

Indoors: cyclamen, kalanchoe, orchids and pre-chilled bulbs (hyacinths, paper-whites and daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring flowering shrub (such as forsythia, fruit trees, Oriental magnolia or quince) into 1 gallon of warm water with 2 tablespoons of ammonia. Enclose the container and stems in a tightly closed bag until blooms open.





WHAT WORKS!



By LINDA MOYER

Are you looking for new catalogs? Try these web sites:

The *Horticulture* magazine's website (<http://www.hortmag.com/cs/free/>). They have a small list of seed companies that you can order catalogs from and three pages of companies that have online catalogs.

Try Cyndi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs (<http://qnet.com/~johnsonj/>). This is one site that I really like. Cyndi has over 1900 catalogs listed, with ratings for their quality of service, plants and price range. All are listed by category with name, addresses, telephone number, type, price range and quality of service. If they have a web site, their name is highlighted with a direct link to it.

Tips from www.gardenguides.com

Jackie Carroll gives these three tips on her Garden Guides site.

Using Wood Ash In The Garden

Wood ash is a valuable source of potash. If you were to buy it bagged as fertilizer, the bag would be marked 0-1-8. Remember that wood ash is very alkaline. Don't add it to soil used to grow acid-loving plants, and when using wood ash you do not need to add lime. About 10 pounds per 100 square feet is a good quantity. Work into the top 3 inches or so of soil. If storing wood ash for use in the garden, use a container so that rain will not leach away the potash. A metal trash can is a good choice — *never use a flammable container!*

Save Containers for Starting Seeds

Starting your plants from seed can save money, but seed starting equipment can be expensive. Start saving yogurt, pudding and other small cups to use as seed-starting pots. Larger containers that are at least two inches deep can be used as flats. You'll need to ensure good drainage by making holes in the bottoms of your containers. It won't be long before you'll need them!

Bat-Proof Your Attic

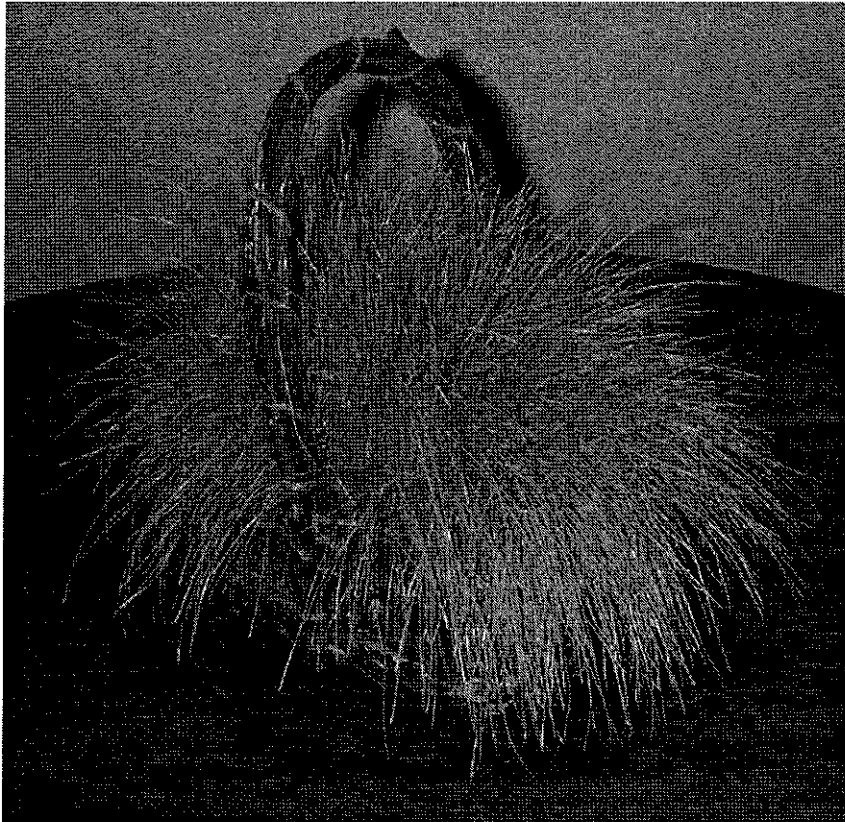
This time of year, bats are looking for a cave to settle down in for the winter. So that your attic won't be mistaken for a

cave, cover any holes and repair any ripped screens. They only need a hole the size of a quarter to enter your house. After the house is sealed up, consider placing a bathhouse nearby. Bats are wonderful natural insect predators and will consume mass quantities of mosquitoes and garden pests.

Indoor Greenery

If you need some fresh, green growing plants in your life right now, try Rebecca Kolls' tip on growing grass inside.

"Nothing beats the winter blues like a bit of indoor greenery. If you have indoor flowers and plants, perhaps what you're missing is a lawn. Grass grows just as well inside and out, and can be grown on its own, or even put in large pots with other plants. Take a container, a terra cotta or plastic saucer will work just fine, potting soil and seeds. I like using oats or winter rye rather than grass seed because they germinate rapidly and produce a lush, thick turf. You can find them at a garden center or co-op



store. First moisten your soil, then sow the seed, making sure to put enough seed so that it covers the surface of the soil. Press the seed into the soil firmly, then lightly water. It's important to keep the seed moist, so wrap it in plastic wrap. Once you begin to see green blades, uncover and put the container in a sunny place. Within a week you'll have a rich turf growing on your windowsill.

"Until next time, "I'm Rebecca Kolls — 'Keep those hands dirty!'"

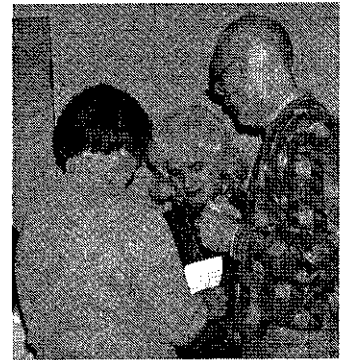
"*What Works!*" is a forum for gardening design, and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your own experience, magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can send your hints and ideas to Linda, 985-2454, lmoyer@netzero.net, mail to P.O. Box 902, Jacksonville, AR 72076; jot them down 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.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL 2001

UNIVERSITY PARK ADULT LEISURE CENTER ~ POTLUCK ~ DECEMBER 4, 2001, 7-9 P.M.



*JUST A FEW OF THE
MASTER GARDENERS
WHO ENJOYED AN
EVENING OF FOOD AND
FUN WITH SPOUSES
AND FRIENDS.*





MASTER GARDENER ALERT!



Thank You! Thank You!

A **great big thank you to the following businesses** for the poinsettia door prizes they gave to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners for the Christmas party.

Cantrill Gardens

Chenal Gardens

Hocott's Garden Center

Also, a **big thank you** to the Social Committee, *Susan Crisp* and *Debra Atencio*, co-chairs, and their committee members: *James Alberson, Bobbie Buchman, Linda Chakales, Wincie Hughes, Bernice Johnson, Jan King, Lynn Phelps, Dorothy Veirs* and *Martha Whitehurst*, for a wonderful Christmas Party.

Speakers For The Flower & Garden Show (March 1-3)

Friday

10:00 Composting — turning yard wastes into garden treasures; Suzanne Hirrel, Extension Natural Resource Specialist

11:30 The "Rules" of Gardening — a light look at trends in gardening; Gerald Klingaman, Professor and Extension Horticulture Specialist

1:00 Fabulous Foliage! A Collection Colorful, Architectural and Irresistible Garden Plants, Steve Owens, host of Oklahoma Gardening

2:30 A New Look at the Magnolia Family, Larry Lowman, native plant guru and owner of Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne

Saturday

10:00 Ornamental Grasses, James Cole, Horticulture Professor, UA-F

11:30 Integration of Antique Roses in the Garden, Jason Powell, owner of Petals from the Past Nursery

1:00 A Southern Nurseryman's Favorite Native Plants for the Landscape, Larry Lowman, native plant guru and owner of Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne

2:30 Grow This! Some Interesting Tender, Hardy, and Vining Plants, Sure to Invigorate Your Garden, Steve Owens, host of Oklahoma Gardening

Sunday

Youth Gardening

10:30 A Look at Youth Gardens, Jack Singleton, Project Green Coordinator

11:00 The Junior Master Gardener Program, Lisa Whittlesey, Texas A & M University

12:00 A panel discussion of youth gardener coordinators

Plant Labels

Metal label holders to identify plants and where they are planted are 3 for \$1. They will be available at the February MG meeting.

Dues

It's time to pay your 2002 Master Gardener dues. (New Master Gardeners are not required to pay the first year). Make your \$15 check payable to Pulaski County Master Gardeners and mail it to John Prather, 1000 North Cleveland St., Little

Rock, AR 72207. Or, you can pay your dues at the February meeting.

Catalog Caution

Caution to all Master Gardeners who use mail-order catalogs for their plants. Several companies have recently filed for bankruptcy, leaving customers with unfilled orders. If you have pending orders with a company and are unable to contact them, chances are they have filed bankruptcy, especially since September 11. You may call the Bankruptcy Court at 302-252-2900 to ask about the particular company and ask them to send you a claim form to file against the company if they are listed. Everyone using mail-order for plants should call the Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce in the particular area.

Some nurseries that are still very strong and reputable are Wayside Gardens, Forest Farm Nurseries and Jackson & Perkins.

Daylily Rust

Daylily rust has been found in Arkansas. It was identified in Florida in the fall of 1999. Daylily varieties differ in their susceptibility. The first symptoms are water soak spots, which are rarely noticed. As the infection progress, raised yellow-orange to rust brown lesions appear. They can be on the upper or lower side of the leaves. If you rub these lesions, the yellow-orange spores run off.

What do you do? Cut away the infected tissue, then spray with a fungicide — Banner, Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide or Immunox.

Mulch/Compost Availability

The City of Little Rock is now in the mulch/composting business on Ironton Cutoff Road at the landfill site. They have available a coarse, mixed-wood mulch. The cost is \$5 per yard.

The compost will be ready in the spring. The composting operation looks like it will yield a great and consistent product.

They are open weekdays during regular business hours and some Saturdays. The Saturday schedule is the Saturday following a holiday. If there is not a holiday in the month, then they are open half a day the last Saturday of the month. For more information, call 888-2208.

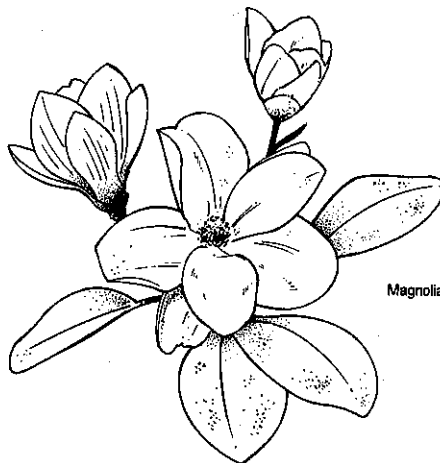
2002, Year of the Rose

Susan Barry of the Fort Smith Rose Society hopes Master Gardeners throughout Arkansas will participate in the Year of the Rose by having special programs on rose horticulture, arrangement and enjoying roses in the home.

Greenhouse News

Lois Corley says the spring sale will be held about April 10-15. There will soon be more details of what plants will be available. Also, there will be potting soil for sale at \$10 for approximately a 40 pound bag.

See Alert!, next page, column one



Last fall, the Greenhouse Committee grew 103 flats (36 plants/flat — do the math! That's more than 3,700 plugs) of violas and pansies, plus 226 flats of perennials and foxgloves for our MG projects. And these figures do not include the truckloads of plants that were sold.

The committee is currently forcing azaleas for the Flower & Garden Show and is starting seeds and plants for spring planting in our projects and for the spring sale.

Congratulations To The Pinnacle Mountain Project

The Pinnacle Mountain Committee recently received a certificate of appreciation for the hours of hard work they have put into the various gardens at Pinnacle Mountain State Park.

Project Time

Last year, MGs donated more than 10,162 hours to horticultural causes in Pulaski County. The CES values each hour of our time at \$14.20. That means our work in 2001 was worth more than \$144,300 (not to mention the increased value of the properties we care for!).

So, give yourself several pats on the back, and record every hour you donate in 2002. It all adds up!

3Ps, Please

Pulaski County has a new committee ready to serve both you and our community: the Publicity, Public Relations and Promotion Committee.

Has your project won an award? Is your project garden looking particularly shipshape? Are you planning an activity that the public can attend, such as the River Market Clinic? Let us know, and we'll tell the community-at-large.

(If you see an article about us in a local publication, please let Suellen Roberts, Cheryl Kennedy or Beth Phelps know about it, as we do not subscribe to a clipping service!).

This year, among other plans, the committee wants to be sure the word also gets out to all members about all activities, and we're working on a summary of our projects to post on the ua.ex website, as well as various news releases. ...

Meetings Have Added Bonuses In 2002

In January, we had a great turnout! More than 130 people came to the first meeting of the year. As the speaker of the month, Colleen Vollman, a 2001 MG graduate and an aerobics instructor at Westside Y, got everyone dancing in the aisles.

Wear your name tag to the February meeting for a Valentine's "kiss" — bring your timesheet and turn it in for a chance at other fun. And pick up your red ticket when you sign in. Last month, Dorothy Wilkes took home a rake, while George Simpson received one of those much coveted Master Gardener license plates.



Colleen Vollman

new seedlings. Drape shade cloth on top of the soil for temporary shade.

It will soon become obvious that the sprouts are too crowded in some spots, even in the most carefully planted rows. Thin them by gently pulling or pinching off the superfluous young sprouts at soil level so that the remaining ones are roughly spaced as prescribed by the seed packet. When the seedlings get a bit larger, spread a 2-inch layer of some type of organic mulch, such as chopped leaves on the bare soil between them to discourage weeds and retain soil moisture.

Supplement the granular slow-acting fertilizer mixed into the soil during preparation with an occasional dilute liquid fertilizer snack sprayed onto plant foliage to give them an energy boost.

The only other care they may need is occasional grooming. Pinch or prune off faded flowers and broken or leggy stems to keep plants neat and compact. Gardeners can select petunias such as the 'Wave' series or 'Fantasy' series that do not require pinching or pruning midsummer. Erect stakes for tall annuals such as *Cleome* (spider flower) and larkspur that tend to flop when exposed to high wind or heavy summer rainstorms.

Many annuals practically grow themselves. While all annuals inevitably die with the onset of cold and frost, some are relatively tougher. Called "hardy annuals" because they can handle some cold, the seeds that they release with careless abandon as they die withstand winter weather and germinate on their own the following spring — virtually assuring a repeat performance next summer. While not all hardy annuals self-sow reliably every year everywhere in the country, there are likely to be some hardy ones in your garden that will donate their seeds for next year's flowers.

To encourage self-sowing, stop deadheading faded flowers as the summer wanes. Soon they will develop seedheads. Allow the mature seeds to fall freely where the plants are growing as wind and weather dictate. You can also pick some stems with dried seed heads and shake the seeds loose over an area where you would like to have some of the flowers next season. (Wait until after a hard frost assures that winter is truly on the way before doing this.) To assure a good crop of seedlings, do not disturb the mulch in areas where self-sowers cast their seeds.

In their enthusiasm to scatter seeds, some annuals become nuisances. Their seedlings come up everywhere and threaten to monopolize areas designated for other plantings. They may even invade your neighbors' property. Watch for and identify these plants' seedlings early in the season. Pull them up while they are tender and the soil is moist. To discourage reseeding by a known offender, cut off its blossoms before they develop seeds. Then rake up mulch from the soil under them to capture any seeds that may have escaped.

Annuals Easiest To Grow From Seeds

Alyssum*, Amaranthus, Balsam, Beans — Scarlet Runner, Beans — Hyacinth Bean*, Calendula*, California Poppy*, Coreopsis*, Celosia, Centaurea (Bachelor Buttons), Cosmos*, Cleome*, Coleus, Gaillardia, Gomphrena (Globe Amaranth)*, Gypsophila (Baby's Breath)*, Kochia (Burning Bush), Larkspur*, Marigold Dwarf French or American, Marvel of Peru (Four O'Clocks)*, Morning Glory*, Nasturtium, Portulaca*, Rudbeckia hirta*, Sunflower, Sweet Peas, Thunbergia, Tithonia (Mexican Sunflower), Viola (Johnny Jump-Ups)*, and Zinnia — all types.

*May self-sow a second year.

Article by Liz Ball for *The National Garden Bureau Timely Tips on the Greening of America*, March 2001.

*I AM NOT FOND OF THE IDEA
OF MY SHRUBBERIES
BEING ALWAYS APPROACHABLE.*
— JANE AUSTEN, *Persuasion* (1818)

ARKANSAS SELECT PLANTS

Looking for new plants that will be successful in your Arkansas garden? Try these!

2002

Aquilegia 'Yellow Queen', columbine, perennial for shade.

Baptisia australis, false indigo, perennial for sun.

Lagerstroemia indica 'Dynamite', crapemyrtle, woody shrub for sun.

Pentas lanceolata 'Butterfly Series', butterfly penta, annual for sun.

Streptocarpella saxorum, streptocarpella, hanging basket (shade).

2001

Begonia 'Dragon Wing', begonia, annual.

Calibracoa hybrid 'Million Bells', annual.

Amsonia hubrichtii, Arkansas Blue Star, perennial.

Verbena 'Homestead Purple', verbena, perennial.

Styrax japonicus, Japanese snowbell, tree.

2000

Perovskia atriplicifolia, Russian Sage, perennial for full sun.

Gaura lindheimeri 'Siskyou Pink', pink wand flower, perennial for sun.

Lantana camara 'New Gold', lantana, annual for sun.

Torenia hybrida 'Summer Wave', wish-bone flower, hanging basket plant.

Itea virginiana 'Henry's Garnet' or 'Satumalia', Virginia sweetspire, deciduous shrub.

Hydrangea paniculata 'Pink Diamond', hydrangea, deciduous shrub.

1999

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus', purple coneflower, perennial for sun.

Polygonatum odoratum, variegated Solomon seal, perennial for shade.

Melampodium paludosum, Melampodium, summer annual.

Scaevola aemula, 'New Wonder', fan flower, hanging basket plant. *

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

Dawn Jackson, 224-8958, has lots of *Lychnis* (rose campion).

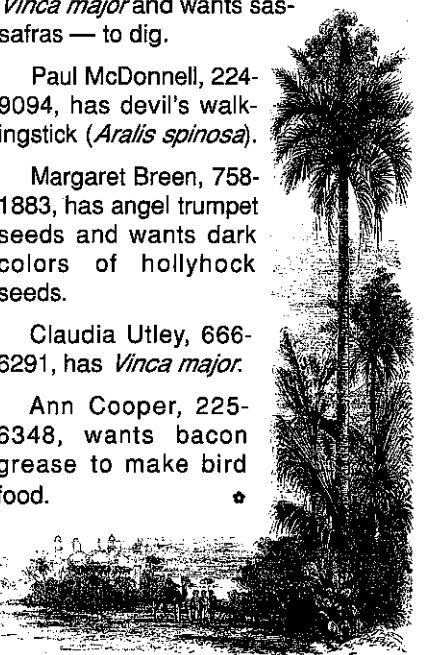
Kathleen Wesson, 663-9146, has *Vinca major* and wants sasfras — to dig.

Paul McDonnell, 224-9094, has devil's walkingstick (*Aralis spinosa*).

Margaret Breen, 758-1883, has angel trumpet seeds and wants dark colors of hollyhock seeds.

Claudia Utley, 666-6291, has *Vinca major*.

Ann Cooper, 225-6348, wants bacon grease to make bird food. *



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 at the meeting or by the 19th of the month to see your message in the next 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; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454 and mgpul@yahoo.com. 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.

This is the last newsletter Rose and Cheryl will produce. We have enjoyed our tenure tremendously, and your staunch support has meant more than we can say — thank you! We're sure Linda Moyer will do a fabulous job as editor in 2002. *

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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,162 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent — Agriculture

**TO GET THE BEST RESULTS,
YOU MUST TALK
TO YOUR VEGETABLES.**
— PRINCE CHARLES, *September 1986*

Master Minutes

March 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 2

Get To Know Your Officers

President - Jane Druff



Photo by Cheryl Kennedy

Jane Druff

After retiring, Jane took the Master Gardener class and graduated in 1996. She thinks the nicest thing about retirement is the ability to volunteer. She loves gardening although she admits that her best crops are weeds and rocks. Jane comes from a long line of gardeners. And fondly remembers picking violets in her mother's garden.

As president, she wants to make the regular meetings fun to attend. She is continuing the focus on making long-term plans for the Pulaski Master Gardeners. She hopes the "3 Peas in a Pod" committee will bring more attention to the Master Gardener's projects. As a member of the State Advisory Board, she is helping to develop a advanced Master Gardener program for those who have been Master Gardeners for a while and are interested in a higher level of certification.

1st Vice President - Lou Sanders

Lou joined his wife as a Master Gardener in 1997 when he took the Master Gardener class. He and his wife, Cathy, worked on the Pinnacle Mountain committee for years before deciding this year to change to the Art Center committee.

Lou says his biggest challenge and greatest joy is shade gardening. His passion is azaleas, any kind of azaleas. Of course, he also loves hostas, camellias and many other types of shade loving plants.

As the 1st Vice President, Lou is in charge of finding a chair for the projects. So of course, he would like to find a chair for the Contemplation Garden project. So, if you are interested, please give him a call.

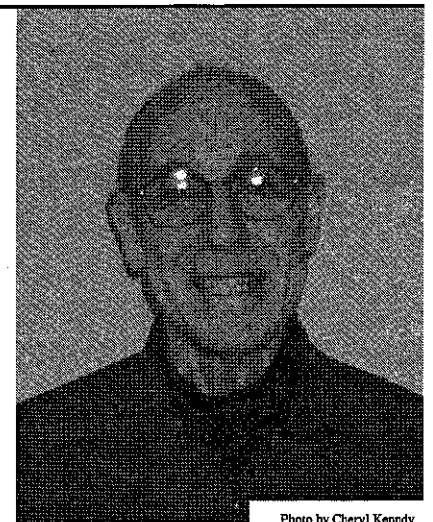


Photo by Cheryl Kennedy

Lou Sanders

March's Topic "Gardening Folklore"
by Michael Dougan, Professor of History, ASU in Jonesboro

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Board Minutes - January 8, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. at the State Extension Office Administration Building at 2301 South University. The meeting was called to order by the President Jane Druff. Board members present were Beth Phelps, Suellen Roberts, Lou Sanders, John Prather, Nancy Kirsch and Jean Moffett.

It was reported that Mary Evans was having surgery, and a card was signed by all.

The Minutes of the November 2001 meeting were accepted. The Minutes of the December 13 meeting were corrected to read in the next to last paragraph "...the association would pay expenses for a speaker doing a demonstration and also buy a door prize." The Minutes were then accepted as corrected.

The two door prizes for today were shown --- a Master Gardener license plate and a garden rake.

John presented a treasurer's report. He stated that expenses for December had been low. These included paying for the Christmas party and ordering 1,000 stake labels. For the year 2001, we are ahead \$1935.60. John has all the information ready to turn over to the audit committee. Ann Cooper will chair this committee; Don Thompson and George Harper will also be on the committee. Suellen moved that the treasurer's report be accepted; Lou seconded the motion, and it was passed. John will represent us on the advisory committee for state finances. Beth asked that he bring to the meeting the fact that Pulaski County Master Gardeners are paying to use our meeting facility through an anonymous donation; therefore, it is being paid for.

Beth stated that the blinds and bulletin board for the Master Gardener room at the county extension office had cost \$58.00. John will make a check to Betty Oliver, staff chair at the extension office, to pay for these items.

Suellen and Cheryl Kennedy will make up a new committee called "3 peas in a pod". These represent publicity, public relations and promotion. Suellen says it is hoped that Master Gardeners will get to know each other better and people will be more acknowledged. For those who turn in a time sheet each month,

there will be a drawing for a Master Gardener license plate. Nell Stevens will be a greeter and take care of attendance forms at each meeting. Suellen stated that we will encourage people to contribute to the plant table, we will still have old copies of the magazines to be sold at 50 cents each, our projects will get more publicity and Master Gardeners will get more public exposure.

We now have embossed Pulaski County Master Gardener note cards. We hope to get more embossed with just Master Gardener so they could be sold at the State Meeting. The State Advisory Commission will sell Master Gardener license plates at the State Meeting.

Nancy recommended having a skit at one of the monthly meetings as the skit at one of the last training sessions had been so much enjoyed.

Jane said she would bring up at the meeting today that applications for the educator program must be turned in to Beth by January 18.

Beth stated that we have additional garden stakes. Up to 50, or more as needed, will be supplied to each project.

Jan will tell the general meeting today that there would be \$100 provided for each project, plus more, if needed.

We will begin collecting dues today at the general meeting. Envelopes will be passed around for checks; cash to be given directly to John.

We were given copies of the Pulaski County Master Gardener Report for 2001. Under paragraph 2, Female was changed to read 217.

Beth said she had sent out letters to inform each member if he/she had completed the required time for projects, committee and continuing education to remain active. A new roster will be included in the next Master Minutes.

Sandy Harrison asked that it be reported that a Continuing Education meeting will be held on January 15 at 9:00 a.m. at Barnes and Noble.

Jane stated that the State Advisory Board is developing an advanced Master Gardener program which will include advanced training sessions to begin this summer. Jane is concerned if Pulaski County classes before that time will be counted. It is hoped that

(Continued on page 4)

General Meeting Minutes - January 8, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 8, 2002, at noon in the auditorium of the Administration Building, 2301 South University, Little Rock.

Jane opened the meeting with a welcome to members. She stated that our program would be the first thing on our agenda for the day, and Nancy Kirsch introduced the speaker, Colleen Vollman, who teaches aerobics at the Westside YMCA. Colleen is a 2001 graduate of the Master Gardener class. The title of her talk and demonstration was "How to Get in Shape to Garden". As part of her presentation, all members did some warm-up and stretching exercises.

Then began the business of the meeting. Jane stated that we had 135 members present today. She welcomed the 2001 graduates. She stated that Mary Evans was having surgery, and a card was sent around for all to sign. It was also stated that folders were going around for 2002 dues, which will be \$15.00. New members do not pay. Jane stated that although we do not have to pay rent this year for our meeting facility due to an anonymous donation, we have voted to "up" to \$100 money given to projects, and additional funds can be obtained by submitting a written request to the Board.

Jane said we have two New Year's Resolutions. One will be to always wear nametags to meetings and functions and to monthly report our hours. Today each member wearing a nametag was given a chocolate kiss. Jane stressed the importance of reporting all our hours. After a member acquires all the required hours, all additional need to be reported so that we can have an accurate count of just how much time is donated to the community.

Jane told about our new committee---Three Peas in a Pod. Committee members are Suellen Roberts and Cheryl Kennedy. Suellen said this stands for publicity, public relations and promotion. She said to encourage members to wear name tags, rewards would be passed out to those doing so; by wearing our tags, it is hoped members will get to better know each other. Through publicity, we can let the community and the extension office know what Master Gardeners do to

give us a nicer and more beautiful place to live. We will use a digital camera to put pictures on our website. Cheryl will work with public relations and the newspapers. We will continue selling old magazines at 50 cents each. Each month for those who turn in hours, there will be a drawing and a prize of a Master Gardener license plate. Also, there will be a drawing for a door prize; you must be present to win.

Jane reminded members of the educator program. This is to find members who are interested in teaching. All training will be provided. This year's areas to be taught are vegetables/herbs and perennials/annuals. January 18 is the deadline for getting applications in to Beth. We can submit four names from Pulaski County. The State will decide who will receive this training. It will be held March 14 and 15 at Ferndale.

Project workdays were given. Outgoing and incoming chair people will meet on January 17.

Paul McDonnell said that the Natchez trip will be March 15, 16 and 17.

Deadline to get information into the 19th of each month. Linda Moyer will chair this committee.

Beth showed a certificate of appreciation from Pinnacle State Park that was given to us. She showed new signs, which we now have for our projects. February 6 will be a fruit tree pruning workshop at the fruit experimental station in Clarksville.

If members have a new e-mail address, please let Beth know. There will be household recycle day (pesticides, paint, electronics) on January 26 at War Memorial. Tess at the horse farm has horse manure, if anyone is interested.

The State Master Gardener Meeting will be May 5, 6 and 7 in Jonesboro. All interested in attending should register as it fills up quickly.

We are selling garden stakes at 3/\$1.00. Meetings are now held at noon. The Flower and Garden Show will be held March 1, 2 and 3.

Beth thanked all members for the work they did last year. There were 10,162.5 hours given; 8,544 hours were on Master Gardener projects; 1,618.5 hours were on community outreach.

Prize drawings were done. Dorothy Wilks won

(Continued on page 4)

Internet Sources

By Rose Hogan

Not considered mainstream publications, E-zines contain their own flair and style and feature original articles. They often have space for chats with other gardeners, bulletin board space, questions answered, tips and techniques given, in addition to the articles.

Try some of these sites. Many have links to other sites.

- The Creative Gardener (www.creativegardener.com)
- Garden Center (www.suite101.com/gardencenter)
- The Garden Helper (www.thegardenhelper.com)
- Garden Web (www.gardenweb.com/)
- Gardens and Gardening - The Home and Garden Beat (<http://home.searchbeat.com/garden.htm>)
- City Gardening (www.citygardening.net)
- Garden Guides (www.gardenguides.com)
- Bonsai Web (www.bonsaiweb.com)

(Board Minutes Continued from page 2)

the Advisory Board will give credit toward advanced Master Gardener credit to our members who took training for the landscape class in 2001.

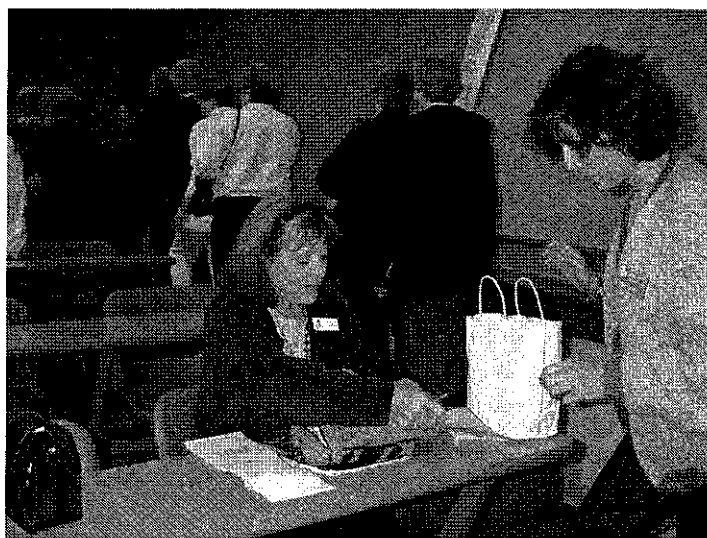
Beth said that those members with e-mail capability will soon be informed about the State Master Gardener meeting. Others will get this information through Master Minutes.

Nancy stated that there still is not a chairman for the coming year for the travel committee. There also is no chairman for the Contemplation Garden project. We also need to be sure that information regarding the monthly meeting speakers gets to the newsletter on time. Linda Moyer will chair this committee this year.

Colleen Vollman will be the speaker at the general meeting today.

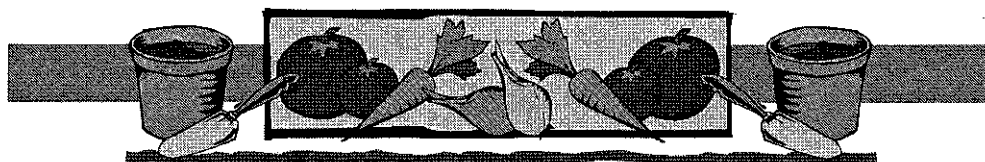
Monthly Board Meetings will, in the future, begin at 10:30 a.m. before the general meeting at noon.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



At Our Last Meeting

Vande Southerland spoke to the February regular meeting about her trip to New Orleans.





Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

March

- 1-3 **Arkansas Flower and Garden Show** in Little Rock. 1-800-459-SHOW.
- 8-9 Camden Daffodil Festival 870-836-0023.
- 8-10 Jonesboro Flower and Garden Show at the Convention Center on the ASU Campus.
- 9 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants and Habitats of Arkansas. Theo Witsell, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, 3:00-4:30pm lecture, Northwest Arkansas Community College, Rogers 501-789-2754
- 10 Trees – What Are They Good For? Roland (Pinnacle Mountain State Park) 2pm Discover special uses, past and present for over 30 species of trees. Randell Watts 501-868-5806
- 12 **Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting** at noon in the State Extension Office auditorium, 2301 South University
- 13-14 **Master Gardener Education Program**, Ferndale 4-H Center.
- 15-17 Natchez Trip Cancelled
- 15-17 Arkansas River Valley Town and Garden Show, Fort Smith Convention Center. Contact Sebastian County Extension Office 501-782-4947
- 16 Household Chemical Recycling Collection, Jacksonville Community Center 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Recycling Hotline 340-8790
- 16 Yesterday Flowers & Ornamentals 1800-1940 presented by Scott Kunst, Lead Gardener of “This Old House” Jones Center For Families in Springdale. Reservations for lunch necessary at a cash. Virginia Chester 501-750-0421
- 23 South Arkansas Garden Show, Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, Hwy 7 between Camden & Eldorado. Contact 870-725-2877
- 30-April 6 Grand Opening of Garvin Woodland Gardens, Suzzie Comlis 501-262-9300 Admission: \$7 (see page 8 for MGs)
- 31 Wild Flower Hike, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, 2 p.m. Meet at the Kingfisher Trail

head 501-868-5806 Admission: Free

APRIL

- 5-7 Wildflower Weekend, Lake Catherine State Park 501-844-4176
- 6-7 Wildflower Weekend, Petit Jean State Park 501-727-5441 Admission: Free
- 7 Petals at Pinnacle Wildflower Walk, 2 p.m. Kingfisher Trail 501-868-5806 Admission: Free
- 9 **Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting**, Noon, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 South University
- 13 Saline County Garden Show, Saline County Extension Office 501-303-5672

Trading Post



HAVE

- Lou Sanders has aucuba seedlings, call 221-9722
- Linda Moyer has four o'clock seeds, call 985-2454

WANT

- Dolores LeCompte wants Queen Anne's Lace, call 664-4795
- Pulaski County Extension Office Project needs Solomon's Seal, call 340-6650
- Jan King wants variegated Solomon's Seal and Queen Ann's Lace, call 758-3446
- James Alberson wants hosta, call 851-2085
- Lorraine Hensley wants hosta and any native plants, call 851-0962
- Patricia White wants hosta, call 223-3703
- Linda Moyer wants cuttings from Graham



March Checklist

by Libby Thalheimer

"A Time to Till"

- Plant alyssum, argula, year-old asparagus crowns, beets, broccoli, calendulas, carrots, cauliflower, clematis vines, collards, sweet corn, crape myrtles, dianthus, ferns, gladioli corms, horseradish crowns, kale, kohlrabi, leeks, lettuce, regal and zephyranthes lilies, lobelia, mustard greens, onions, pansies, parsnip, sweet peas, pansies, perennial seedlings, potatoes, radish, rhubarb roots, roses, snapdragons, tuberoses, and turnip seeds.
- To prevent thrips on gladioli, soak corms three hours in a solution of 1½ tablespoons of Lysol per gallon of water before planting.
- Water in new plantings and cover with mulch.
- In a hot house, cold frame, or bright window, sow brussel sprouts, chard, cucumber, nicotiana, peas, pepper, scabiosa, summer squash, tomatoes and verbena.
- Divide established perennials and replant at their proper depth in an enlarged area with organic matter and fertilizer.
- Plant balled and burlapped flowering cherry trees while dormant.
- Move shrubs with a ball of dirt; small plants bare-rooted.

"Atlas Shrubbed"

- Cut back beautyberry, butterfly bush and bush roses to 1 to 2 feet.
- Thin out one-third of the oldest canes of forsythia, hibiscus, hydrangea, nandina, flowering quince, and summer blooming spireas to the ground.
- Cut woody glossy abelia, acuba, euonymus, hollies, pittosporum, privet, and St. Johnswort, above a twig turning outward.

- Root cuttings from azaleas, camellias, carnations, chrysanthemums, shasta daisies, hollies, pinks, roses and other flowering shrubs (~8" with two buds underground) in a cold frame.
- Prune shrub althea, crape myrtle, and mimosa to desired form.
- Apply aluminum sulfate to gardenias, wood ashes to peonies, and final dormant oil spray to roses.
- For fungus on red tip photinia, remove mulch, apply fresh mulch, and spray with fungicide now and again in 2 weeks.

"The Green File"

- De-thatch Bermuda, Centipede, St. Augustine, and Zoysia.
- Mow Bermuda at 1 inch, the rest at 1.5 inches.
- Mow Bluegrass, Fescue, and Rye at 2 to 3 inches.
- Cut back ivy hard and clematis to 2 feet.
- Prune wisteria roots about 2 feet from main trunk.
- Pull or cut away sprouts of lilac and forsythia and transplant.

Greenhouse Plant Sale Coming Soon

Our annual spring plant sale will be around the middle of April. The date is not set but there will be more details in the next newsletter.

What Works! by Rose Hogan

Hanging Basket Liner

Sphagnum moss and peat moss are harvested by draining bogs and some wetlands. Grammy K, community-2.webtv.net, recommends that you consider coconut fiber as a substitute for sphagnum in a hanging basket.

Coconut fiber is lightweight, porous, and easy to reproduce. It can be formed or cut into any shape and used with or without soil. Sheets are inexpensive and reusable. At the end of the season, simply remove the plants, rinse the fiber mat off with water and allow to air dry. Store your mat in a well-ventilated area. Coconut fiber does not retain much moisture, so water often.

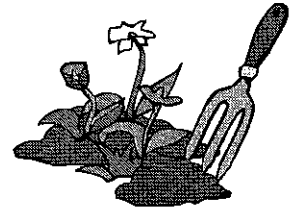
Compost is an excellent humus source to add to your baskets instead of peat moss. It will aerate the soil in the same manner. Use it in the same ratio as peat in your baskets, one-third compost in potting mix.

Uses For Vinegar

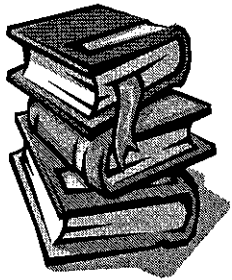
In www.angelfire.com/sd/BalancedWoman/garden.html six uses are listed for vinegar.

- Neutralizes garden lime. Rinse your hands liberally with vinegar after working with garden lime to avoid rough and flaking skin.

- Power up the propane. Soak new propane lantern wicks in vinegar for several hours. Let dry before using. Will burn longer and brighter.



- Increases soil acidity. In hard water areas, add a cup of vinegar to a gallon of tap water for watering acid loving plants like rhododendrons, gardenias, or azaleas. The vinegar will release iron in the soil for the plants to use.
- Deters ants. Spray vinegar around door and window frames, under appliances, and along other known ant trails.
- Kills weeds. Spray the full strength vinegar on tops of weeds. Reapply on any new growth until the plants are starved.
- Kills grass on walks and driveways. Pour full strength vinegar on unwanted grass.



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

Mrs. Whaley and Her Charleston Garden

by Emily Whaley in conversation with William Baldwin
Simon & Schuster, 1997, 233 pages, \$13.00

In her late eighties, Mrs. Ben Scott Whaley gives us a verbal tour of her 30' by 110' garden, one of the most visited private gardens in America, and spices the tour with her opinions and suggestions on family, marriage, competitions, preservation, entertaining, and self-esteem.

She considers her gardener, Junior Robinson, her enthusiasm, and joie de vivre her aces in the hole. Emily Whaley classifies herself a jack-of-all trades, dipping in and out of dozens of interests--gardening, sewing, cooking, piano playing, writing, painting, and bridge. Rosie, a wiley Jack Russell terrier, is her 24/7 devoted companion and official greeter to the Church Street, South Carolina garden.

I found myself bonding with this grand Southern matron thirty-five years my senior. Cheeka, her name of choice, is warm, funny, earthy, and opinionated. She gives us permission to dig up sick plants and to spend money on our gardens-even suggests financing possibilities. Her observations are endlessly quotable, the recipes are very good, and there is a wealth of excellent gardening tips.

Emily, more than a creator of an enchanted garden, is a storyteller of the highest order. When it's too wet or cold to garden or you've put in a long day gardening, this book is perfect reading to sit quietly and be reminded that all the work is worthwhile.

Master Gardener Alert!

Garvan Woodland Gardens Grand Opening

April 8 - 14

Master Gardener Day is Monday April 8th

Master Gardeners get in for ½ price. Wear your name tag. Regular admission is \$7.00, \$6.00 for seniors (over 55) The Gardens are open 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

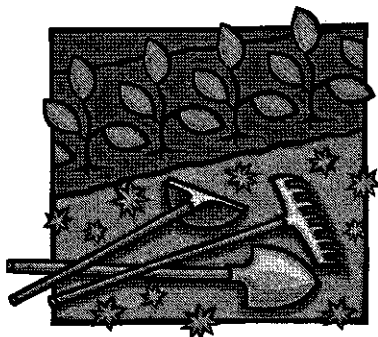
There will be events and speakers all day.
 10a.m. - Noon Planting for Birds
 1 -3 p.m. Carl Hunter Book Signing
 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Arranging Wild flowers

For more information call 1-800-



366-4664.

Master Gardener's Picnic,
 Thursday, May 9, Lakeside



Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Get to Know Your Officers	1
Monthly Features	
January Board Minutes	2
January Regular Meeting Minutes	3
Internet Sites	4
Calendar and Notes	5
Trading Post	5
March Checklist	6
What Works!	7
Book Review	7
Master Gardener Alert!	8



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpuaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
 County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

April 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 3

Greenhouse Plant Sale

The sale dates are April 13 and April 27. The sale is **open to the public**. So, tell everyone you know. A flyer, with a list of available plants, will be mailed before April 13.

The greenhouse provides plants for other Master Gardeners Projects. To cover the expenses, they have two annual sales that are open to the public, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Please come out and support our greenhouse.



Our greenhouse is loaded with plants.

Many different varieties of flower, vegetable, and water plants will be for sale. Prices will be from 50 cents to \$3.

Large Bag of Potting Soil will be available for \$10.

**Saturday, April 13 and 27,
8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon
7th and S. Palm, Little Rock**

**April's Topic
Information Unavailable at Press Time**

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Board Minutes - February 12, 2002

Present: Jane Druff, Nancy Kirsch, Suellen Roberts,
Lou Sanders, and Beth Phelps
Absent: Jean Moffett, John Prather

President Jane Druff presided. The minutes of the January meetings were approved. In the absence of treasurer of John Prather, Beth presented the treasurers report. She read a letter of thanks from the County Office for the mini-blinds we purchased for the County Office. More Master Gardener Project signs have been ordered – after the project chairmen's meeting, there was only one left. The ending balance in January was \$10,109.01. The treasurers report was accepted and approved.

Jane read a letter from the Audit Committee, consisting of Ann Cooper, George Harper, and

(Continued on page 4)

Board Minutes - March 12, 2002

Unavailable at Press Time



Photo by Steve Corley

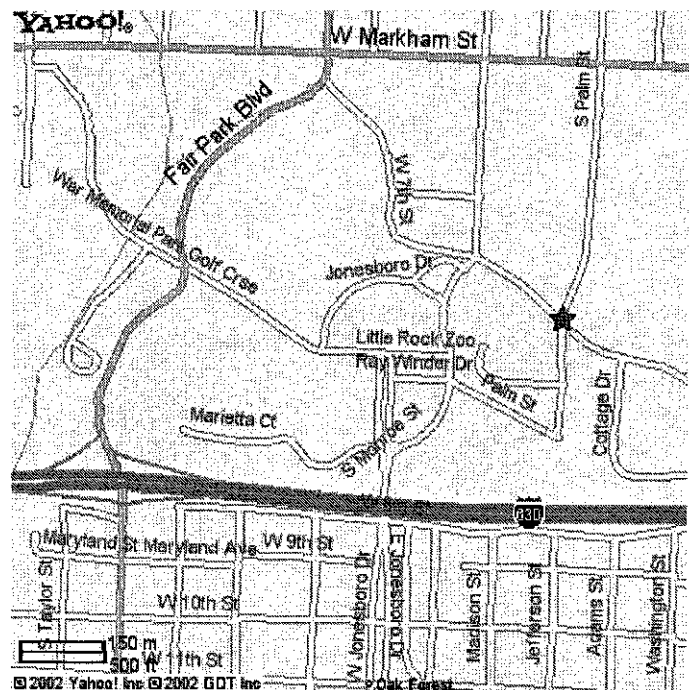
Basket of Petunias at the Greenhouse

Directions to Greenhouse -

The greenhouse is located on the State Hospital grounds. It is about 1/2 block EAST of S. Palm on West 7th.

From I-630, take the Fair Park exit North to Markham St. Turn East 1 block to Monroe St. The first left turn is 7th St. (you are in front of War Memorial Stadium). One and 1/2 blocks brings you to the greenhouse on the left.

Or from Markham and Fair Park, turn Easts 2 blocks, turn right on Palm. Go to stop sign, turn left 1/2 block to greenhouse.



General Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2002 in the Auditorium of the State Extension Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, with President Jane Druff presiding.

The following items were discussed:

- Master Gardener Web Site – www.uaex.edu
User name – *mastergardener* Password – *compost* There is a lot of good information on this site, including information about the state meeting in May, and Jane urged everyone to look at it.
- Audit Committee Report – No irregularities found.
- Letter of thanks from the County Extension Office for the mini-blinds we purchased for them.
- State Meeting – May 5,6,7 in Jonesboro – get reservations in quickly
- State Awards – The State Project of the Year last year was our Old State House Project. Nominations were taken for our candidate this year. These included the Butterfly House at the Flower and Garden Show, Jacksonville City Hall, The Old Mill, and Park Hill Waterworks. The membership voted, and the Old Mill was selected for our entry by a large margin.

Project Reports were given – mostly about organizational meetings.

Beth talked about the upcoming Flower and Garden Show. She has only a few openings for volunteers – call her. She urged members to take posters and flyers to distribute to advertise the show.

She needs a few volunteers to put together the MG notebooks for next years training class.

It was announced that Jane Druff was elected Chairperson of the State Master Gardeners Advisory Board.

(Continued on page 4)

General Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2002

The meeting was opened by President Jane Druff who introduced a new member, Lorraine Hensley, a transfer from Montgomery County. She mentioned a get well card was circulating for member Cecelia Buck. The minutes are now being published in the Master Minutes instead of being read at each meeting. The deadline for any information to go into the newsletter is the third Tuesday in each month – one week after our general meeting.

The State Meeting will be in Jonesboro May 5, 6, and 7th. We will sell note cards with the MG tree logo. They will be packaged by a group of volunteers probably the last week in April. Anyone interested in helping with this was asked to sign up on a sheet in the lobby after the meeting. Jane also mentioned that if anyone was registered for the state meeting and did not yet have a roommate, they could call the county extension office and leave their name or get the names of other singles.

The Master Gardener Educator program is scheduled to begin with a training session at the 4-H Center March 13 – 14. Jane congratulated the two representatives from Pulaski County who are Nancy McCowan in the area of Perennials and Annuals and Dick Blankenkemper in the area of Vegetables and Herbs.

Jane thanked all those who volunteered at this year's Flower and Garden Show – especially those who set up and worked the MG booth. Beth said there were over 10,000 attendees, a good attendance for a rainy year. Money earned will go to sponsor scholarships for students in horticulture in colleges in Arkansas.

Project reports were given. Many projects are already meeting. The Greenhouse is planning a spring sale, but was a bit late in planting seeds due to the space required by the Flower and Garden Show azaleas. They are hoping for an April 13 sale date and another two weeks later.

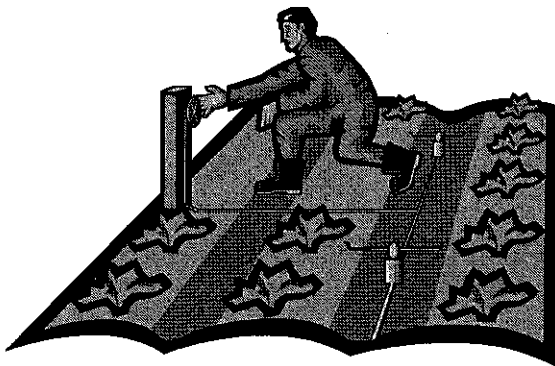
(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3 - February Meeting Minutes)

John Prather urged those who had not paid their dues to do so.

The program was on Historic Gardens of New Orleans, and was presented by Master Gardener Vande Southerland. A very interesting and informative video was shown.

Meeting was adjourned.



(Continued from page 3 - March Meeting Minutes)

Linda Chakales announced that the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs would conduct a tour of gardens again this year and would like to have master gardener volunteers to sign up to be on hand to answer questions at the gardens. She sent a sign up sheet around.

Beth made several announcements.

Nancy Kirsch introduced our speaker, Michael Dougan, Professor of History at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, who gave a delightful talk on "An Historical and Personal Look into the World of Victorian Gardening".

Door prizes were won by Dick Blankenbeker (a gardener's journal donated by member Margaret Fizer) and Shannon Lloyd (Master Gardener license plate).

Meeting was adjourned.

(Continued from page 2 - February Board Meeting)

John Thompson. They found the books to be in order, but suggested using an expenditure approval form in the future. This was felt by the Board to be unnecessary, and the suggestion was tabled.

Jane discussed the Financial Management Proposal from the State Advisory Committee. Everyone would get a Tax ID number (we already have one). Otherwise, there is little new, except that large donations or grants would go to an account under the state Cooperative Extension, who would reimburse the county chapter – turn around time is estimated to be about 2 weeks.

Jane discussed Liability issues – volunteers in general cannot be sued for their volunteer activities, but still have the usual liability such as car accidents, etc. She also reported that organizations that have funds of over \$25,000 per year will have to file a tax return, but felt that would not affect us.

Beth mentioned the Master Gardener Website – It has been much improved, and has much information. The address is www.uaex.edu/mastergardener - the password is compost. Beth said we would have note cards to sell at the State Meeting, but that there would not be much time to sell them – the schedule is very tight. We probably not have a table, but will sell them from baskets. Information on the state meeting is on the web site. Beth said we would need nominations for Project of the Year, and Master Gardener of the Year.

Jane Druff will be the State Advisory Board Chairperson for next year.

Debbie Cummings of the BRI project is working on a project at SVI, and wants Master Gardener participation in a workshop day. It was agreed that we need more information. Beth discussed plans for a booth at the Flower and Garden show. There was little interest in State MG participation, so the booth this year will be a Pulaski County Booth.

The meeting was adjourned.



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

April

- 6-13 Grand Opening of Garvin Gardens, 1-800-366-4664
 - 5-7 Wildflower Weekend, Lake Catherine State Park, 501-844-4176
 - 6 & 27 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, free guided tours of its gardens, 9am to 4pm 501-821-7275
 - 6-7 Wildflower Weekend, Petit Jean State Park, 501-727-5441. Free
 - 7 Petals at Pinnacle Wildflower Walk, 2pm. Kingfisher Trail, 501-868-5806
 - 9 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting, Noon, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
 - 13 Greenhouse Plant Sale, 7th & Palm
 - 13 Saline County Garden Show, Fair Grounds. 501-303-5672
 - 19 Annual Spring Dogwood Tour, Jasper, transportation provided. \$5 870-446-2240
 - 20 4th Annual Plant Sale Celebrating Herbs, River Market. 501-851-7005
 - 27 Palette of Blooms, Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour of seven private home gardens. 501-663-7515
 - 27 Greenhouse Plant Sale
- Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept is blooming new thru fall. Check Hwys 62, 63, 71, 7 167, 70 & 49.**

May

- 3-4 Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza, Ozark Folk Center State Park. 870-269-3851
- 5-7 Arkansas State Master Gardener Meeting in Jonesboro
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting, Noon, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 18 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, Free guided tours of its gardens from 9am to 4pm, 501-821-7275
- 18 Fifth Annual Spring Wildflower Program, Carl Hunter, 1-4pm, Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville. 501-789-2754
- 20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference, North Carolina

Plant Swap Starting in April

Bring any plants, divisions, etc. you want to swap. Get a colored slip of paper for each plant you bring. Pick up different plants at the end of the meeting. (If you don't want any plants, you are free to give your slips of paper away to fellow Master Gardeners.)

Please label with name and any special instructions on care, if needed.

Bring plants in clear bags, so we can keep our area clean.

If you spill any soil, please clean up after yourself.

! Congratulations !

to our
Pulaski County Master Gardeners
Educator Candidates

Dick Blankenkaker,
Vegetables & Herbs

Nancye McCowan,
Perennials & Annuals



April Checklist

by Libby Thalheimer

"A Time to Till"

- Sow annual and perennial seeds.
- Set out young transplants.
- Dig in bulbs.
- Start cuttings in a cold frame.
- Divide and replant perennials.
- Set out plants in containers on a porch or terrace.

"Eats of Eden"

- For berry producing plants, apply a small amount of Epsom salts.
- Apply a foliar feed fertilizer to cool season annuals and azaleas.
- Fertilize lawns with a complete fertilizer. If needed, apply iron sulfate granules or spray on liquid iron.

"Go Round Roses"

- Do not plant dormant roses after April 15th or potted roses after May 15th.

- Lightly feed roses with cottonseed meal, Milorganite, or commercial rose food.
- Begin chemical control of black spot and continue at 2-week intervals throughout the growing season.
- For specimen blooms, disbud roses and peonies.

"Clear and Present Danger"

- Inspect the buds and undersides of leaves for signs of aphids, white fly, and lacebugs.
- Mulch all new plants, shrubs or trees at the time of planting to reduce weeds and help retain moisture.
- If a late freeze is forecast, cover tomato plants to hold warmth. If you use plastic, do not let it touch any leaves. During the day, vent it to prevent overheating. Remove all covering as soon as the weather warms up again.
- Apply a post-emergent herbicide. Change chemicals to prevent pests from building up resistance. Also, chemicals lose potency over time.

Internet Sources

Master Gardener Website. Our Arkansas Master Gardener website keeps getting better. Be sure to check the up-to-date Calendar of Events. It now includes hyperlinks to other websites for some of the activities, such as for the Arkansas State Master Gardener Meeting and the Southeast Master Gardener Conference in North Carolina.

A new feature coming soon is a projects/events page, which will include lists and photos of our garden projects. Other information on our site includes our Speaker's Bureau ("Connect with Others") and reference materials of several kinds. To enter our Master Gardener site, go to the Extension website, www.ARhomeandgarden.org/

choose "Master Gardener Only," enter mastergardener as username and compost as password. Choose "Events" to see what activities and garden shows are coming up.

Southeast Regional Master Gardeners Conference in May (www.southeast-mastergardener.net)

Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs, AR (www.garvangardens.org)

What Works!

by Rose Hogan

A Tool For Every Task

Once the beds have been dug, the **long handled spading fork** is used to turn over and aerate the soil at the beginning of every season and to turn under any organic matter you may be adding in the spring or fall.

Probably the most frequently used and invaluable tool in any garden is a trusty **garden trowel**. It is used to make slots in the garden beds for young seedlings or transplants. If possible, get one that has a one-piece construction or you will probably lose the handle at some point. Some gardeners paint their trowels orange or tape the handles with brightly colored tape so they'll always be sure to see them and find them.

Many garden tasks would be inconceivable without a handy **shovel**, either the standard short, D-handled or a long-handled. The long-handled is good for a number of tasks such as digging a trench for a newly hardened off tomato seeding, shoveling a load of manure or compost from a garden cart, moving earth or gravel or various materials.

Plastic yard and **garden carts** can be found at most hardware stores or garden centers. They are practically indestructible and much easier to use than the basic wheelbarrow. Get one that isn't too deep so material can be easily shoveled or dumped from it. For hauling manure, compost, mulch materials, shredded leaves, pine needles, or cleaning up garden debris at the end of the season, a cart is one of the best pieces of equipment for the home garden.

For digging new beds use a **long-handled spade** for the task. This tool slices through sod and gives a nice straight edge to beds. The spade is great for neatening up the bound-

aries of the garden and for turning over the soil in spring.

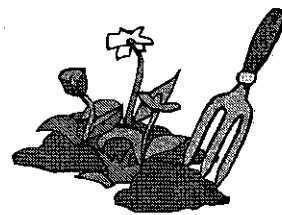
The **iron rake** is an indispensable tool for anyone who has or wants to have raised beds or likes to broadcast seeds over beds. In gardens with raised beds bordered with wood, rake them level with the top of the wood frame before sowing. It's also nice to be able to scratch lettuce or flower seeds into the soil with the teeth of the iron rake.

A **pitchfork** is an extremely useful tool for anyone considering a compost pile. The pitchfork makes turning the pile possible. The tines are thin and spread out so the person turning the compost pile can take as light a load as necessary in order to get the job done.

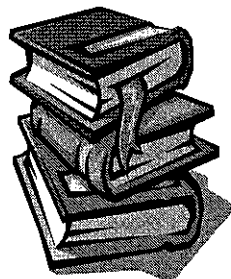
Flower snips are the perfect device for clipping fresh flowers for the table. They offer a clean cut and will handle light pruning tasks much better than kitchen scissors.

Last but not least for anyone with a large garden is the **garden hoe**. This tool is used primarily for breaking up clumps of soil in the spring as you are turning over the beds as well as acting as a weed slicer.

This information has been excerpted from an article on the internet a couple of weeks ago at www.mv.com/ipusers/erb/seedtime/tools.htm but has been unavailable since the first of March.



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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.



Book Review

by Bonnie Nicholas

Continuous Bloom

by Pam Duthie

Ball Publishing, 2000, a Benjamin Franklin Award Book, \$39.95

Duthie uses beautiful color photos to show 272 perennials arranged according to month of bloom to plan for color and texture from March through November with additional suggestions for winter interest. The handy reference for each perennial includes plant type, zone, flower and foliage description and picture, bloom length, height and width, light and soil requirements, care and propagation, uses and combinations in the garden, and tips that insure the success of the plant.

My gardening goal has always been to achieve a continuous bloom. I thought it appropriate

to see how user-friendly this book is by planning a partial shade garden bed 5 ft. x 40 ft. using 14 perennials from 6 inches to 3 feet, blooming from March to November in reds and whites. The list of mail-order catalogs made it easy to find a source for each plant. This activity took less than half-an-hour. It will, of course, take a season or so to evaluate the results.

This book has much to offer in its 328 pages, eleven chapters and Appendixes A-G. It's pretty enough to be a coffee table adornment.

Master Gardener Alert!

Central Arkansas Iris Society

is hosting the
Society for Louisiana Irises
Conference and Tour
May 3 thru May 5
666-7882



2002 Perennial Plant of the Year

Phlox 'David' has been named the 2002 Perennial Plant of the Year by the Perennial Plant Association. The Perennial Plant Association (PPA) is an educational and professional trade association.

'David' is a native from New York to Georgia and west to Arkansas and Illinois. It is an erect perennial 36-40" tall, with strong stems. The fragrant white flower panicles are 6-9" long and 6-8" wide with 1" florets.

www.perennialplant.org



Master Gardener's Picnic,
Thursday, May 9,
Lakeside Country Club, Little Rock

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Greenhouse Plant Sale 1

Monthly Features

February Board Minutes 2

Directions to Greenhouse 2

February & March Regular Meeting Minutes 3

Calendar and Notes 5

April Checklist 6

Internet Sources 6

What Works! 7

Book Review 7

Master Gardener Alert! 8



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mGPUASKI@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

May 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 4

Stevia -- Sweet Secret

by Julia Loyall

Guarani Indians of highland Paraguay sweetened mate with leaves of a native wildflower long before naturalist Antonio Bertoni named their secret *Stevia rebaudiana* in 1887. Those leaves were ten to fifteen times sweeter than table sugar. French chemists (1931) christened the plant's sweetener "stevioside" and found it non-toxic to lab animals.

United States Public Health Service concluded stevia could not compete with cheap synthetic sweeteners then considered perfectly safe.

Japan began raising stevia in greenhouses in 1954 and banned certain synthetic sweeteners. Stevia products are widely used there because of concerns about dental cavities and obesity. Stevia is almost non-caloric, does not cause cavities or raise blood sugar, and may slow dental plaque.

Dr. Tei-fu-chen in 1971 used alcohol to extract stevioside, eliminating bitter after-taste and green color.

Stevia is a major export for many countries, and is used extensively in food except in America. Our Food and Drug Administration blocked stevia imports when Illinois researchers produced cancerous changes in lab rats with concentrated steviol. Research methods were criticized, and (1995) FDA allowed stevia imports as food sup-

plements only, not as food additives. Like all herbal products, stevia product quality is not regulated by FDA.



Wild Oats has shelves of stevia items and cookbooks for dieters and the cavity-prone. Diabetics consult your doctor. Burpee has fifteen seeds for \$3.95 (1-800-888-1447). Local greenhouses have plants now.

Use a big pot, compost or organic fertilizers, little nitrogen, constantly moist soil.

Avoid wetting leaves. Pinch back for branching, shade in hot weather. Harvest branches before flowering or frost. Store dried leaves in glass. Winter plant indoors.

You'll enjoy this treat, but as with all foods, use with moderation.

Thanks for your help, Dorothy Veirs and Betty Pagan!

April's Topic

"Native Small Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Landscaping" by Carl Hunter

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Board Minutes March 12, 2002

Present: Jane Druff, Suellen Roberts, Lou Sanders,
John Prather, Nancy Kirsch, Beth Phelps
Absent: Jean Moffett

President Jane Druff presided. The Minutes of the February 2002 meeting were approved. John presented the February Treasurer's Report. The current bank balance is \$11,036.25. Major expenses for the month included \$511.21 for greenhouse expenditures. Major income included \$900 from the Old State House and \$555 for dues paid.

Jane led a discussion about potential additional Master Gardener projects. She was approached about assuming two new projects. In addition, there are several other requests that had been received earlier on which no action has been taken. It was decided to appoint a committee to study requests for new projects and the feasibility of adding new projects.

If the note cards are ready by the State Master Gardeners Meeting in May, we will plan to sell them at the meeting. It was agreed to ask for volunteers to wrap the cards prior to the meeting. The cards will be displayed in baskets and sold by individual members at appropriate times during the meeting.

Jane, John and Beth presented an update on the statewide initiative regarding the adoption new accounting principles and procedures. At a meeting held in February, it was agreed that each club will be asked to apply for a federal identification number. A steering committee will be established to make other recommendations. It was explained about the need for the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to dissolve its incorporated status so that the organization will come under the University of Arkansas umbrella for liability purposes. A motion, made by Lou and seconded by Suellen, passed to rescind the incorporation. Beth will submit the necessary form to the State. The action will require revising our current By-laws. Sandy Harrison will be asked to develop the proposed revisions.

After discussion on assuming partial reimbursement of fees and expenses for the Master Gardener Educators, the Board voted to pay one-half of the \$75 fee for the Master Gardener Educator course for our students.

Announcements to be made at the general meeting include the Flower and Garden Show results, the up-coming State meeting, the Master Gardener Educa-

(Continued on page 4)

Board Minutes April 9, 2002

Present: Jane Druff, Beth Phelps, Nancy Kirsch, Suellen Roberts, John Prather, Carolyn Newbern and Jean Moffett.

President Jane Druff presided. The Minutes of the March general meeting were approved. The Minutes of the March board meeting are on hold.

The treasurer's report was submitted by John Prather. As of March 1, 2002, our bank balance was \$11,036.26. John stated that we still do not have dues from all members. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Beth stated that the paper work is in to dissolve our corporation. It was necessary to get a Court Order. This has been done and has been filed with the Secretary of State. We are waiting for confirmation.

We have obtained a written resignation from Lou Sanders for First Vice President due to health problems. Our Bylaws state that the Master Gardener President can appoint someone to fill this position for the remainder of the year. Jane has appointed Carolyn Newbern.

Congratulations were extended to Beth in being named to Staff Chair Person for the Pulaski County Extension Service.

We discussed the spring picnic, which will be held May 9 at the Lakeside Resort Area. A motion was passed and accepted that the Treasury pay all expenses over the tickets, which will be \$10.00 per person.

We were told that the county extension office has lost one of their secretaries, and the spot will not be filled at present. Mrs. McKinney will, therefore, have more responsibilities. There is a possibility that those needing extra work hours will be able to help with some secretarial work.

It was stated that Beth will be reimbursed for her out-of-pocket expenses for the upcoming State Meeting.

A thank-you card from Nancye McGowan was read. The treasury paid one-half of her fee for the Master Gardener Educator training.

We will have our usual second Tuesday meeting in June. In addition, the tour of Master Gardener homes will be held on June 4.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett

General Meeting Minutes - April 9, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Extension Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, with President Jane Druff presiding.

At the beginning of the meeting, Nancy Kirsch introduced our speaker, Mary Evans, who gave a talk and showed slides on Yard Art.

The Business Meeting was then called to order by Jane. It was stated that project work-day dates would be posted outside the main auditorium. A door prize, a pin wheel, was won by James Alberson.

Jane told the group that our First Vice President, Lou Sanders, had resigned his Board position due to health problems. She stated that Carolyn Newbern had been appointed to fill the position for the remainder of the year. A card was sent around to be signed by all and would then be sent to Lou.

Congratulations were given to Beth Phelps for being named to the position of staff chairperson for the Pulaski County Extension Service. Beth stated that nothing would be changed as far as Master Gardeners was concerned.

Jane mentioned the monthly plant swap. Anyone bringing a plant could pick up another at the end of the meeting. No plants are allowed in the auditorium. Jane told the group about Garvan Woodland Gardens and recommended a visit.

Ida Newberry, chairperson for the travel committee, told about the up-coming trip to Holly Springs, Mississippi, on April 18 and 19. On May 15 at 6:15 pm, Good Earth Nursery will close its doors to all but Master Gardeners. There will be a wine and cheese party, with a \$3.00 donation. The nursery will give us a 20% discount on anything we buy at this event. On June 4, we will have our tour of Master Gardener homes and gardens.

Lynn Phelps, chairperson for the Social Committee, told about the spring picnic to be held at 6:00 pm May 9 at Lakeside Country Club. A flyer with all information will be coming out. A charge of \$10.00 per person must be in by April 29.

Lois Corley told that the greenhouse plant sale will be April 13 and again April 27 from 8:00

am to noon. Potting soil will be \$ 10.00 per bag.

Deadline for articles to go into our newsletter is the Tuesday after our monthly meeting.

The Central Library has a part-time opening for someone to work in their gardens.

When parking at the State Extension Office, use the regular parking area. If there is a red curb, it is a fire zone, and cars parking there will be fined \$95.00.

Beth told the group that the Pulaski County Master Gardener program has in the past been non-profit. Because of liability reasons, we have been advised that this is not wise. Therefore, we have dissolved and will now fall under the U of A "umbrella", so any liability will be covered through the University. There will be no other changes in our program.

It was stated that the county extension office has lost a secretary, and the position will not be filled at present. Therefore, Mrs. McKinney will have extra duties, and members might be able to pick up extra work hours by helping out in the office.

There will be an opportunity for continuing education for Master Gardeners who have been in the program for 3 or more years. The continuing education program will be on perennials and will be held May 21 and 22. Advance registration is required.

There will be no up-coming herb sale at the River Market.

There were drawings for 2 additional door prizes. A Master Gardener license plate was won by Billie Sanders and a bromeliad, donated by Lou Sanders, was won by Jean Moffett.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett



Monthly Plant Swap Has Started!!

Bring any plants, divisions, etc. you want to swap. Get a colored slip of paper for each plant you bring. Pick up different plants at the end of the meeting. (If you don't want any plants, you are free to give your slips of paper away to fellow Master Gardeners.)

Please label with name and any special instructions on care, if needed.

Bring plants in clear bags, so we can keep our area clean.
The swap area is outside the side entrance.

Congratulations to Our 5 and 10 year Master Gardeners

10 Years

Marian Berry
Hilda Boger
Bonnie Cargile
Wini Carter
Bettye Jane Daugherty
Margaret Fiser
Fred Henker
Dorothy Hobbs
Wincie Hughes
Sandy Miller
Leslie Scott
Mildred Walton

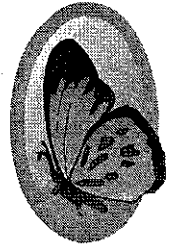
5 Years

Eddie Beasley
Margaret Breen
Jim Campbell
Judy Cass
Susan Crisp
Elisabeth Dillon
Peggy Gay
Betty Glasscock
Rochelle Greenwood
Rose Hogan
Paula Jennings
Jean Moffett
Ann Morgan
Betty Pagan
Lou Sanders
Pat Wallace

(Continued from page 2 - March Board Meeting)

tor Program, the Southeast Regional Master Gardeners Meeting and manure and recycling.
The meeting was adjourned.

Trading Post



HAVE

- Aleta Newell has Koch Campion, 666-0991
- Ann Green has 50+ Maxim strawberry plants (first year) 565-6583
- Nancy Wolford has Astilbe, 851-0443
- Joyce Bumgardner has red Monarda, 758-9074
- Dorothy Veirs has Feverfew, 225-2106
- Jan King has eupmachia - golden, oregano, Monarda, salvia, guaranitica argentine skys, 758-3446
- Linda Moyer has four o'clock seeds, call 985-2454

WANT

- Nancy Wolford wants daylillies and columbine, 851-0443
- Gena Norris wants bamboo - She will gladly dig it up. 835-5707
- Ruth Owing wants some Sassafrass roots for tea, 455-4344
- Bonnie Nicholas wants white Epimedium, white Astible, white Foamflowers and white Bleeding Hearts, 835-0077
- Linda Moyer wants cuttings from Graham Thomas rose/yellow/white antique roses, 985-2454
- Linda Moyer needs empty plastic pots - 1 quart to 5 gal. +, we take as many as you want to get rid of, 985-2454



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

May

- 3-4 Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza, Ozark Folk Center State Park. 870-269-3851
- 3-5 The Society for Louisiana Irises Meeting in Little Rock; Garden Tour May 3, \$20; Iris Show at the Library Downtown in River Market District is Friday. Info call, 666-7882
- 5-7 Arkansas State Master Gardener Meeting in Jonesboro
- 9 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Picnic, Lakeside Country Club
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting, Noon, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 16 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Day at Good Earth Nursery, 20% discount, 6:15pm, Wine & Cheese Party, \$3 donation
- 18 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, Free guided tours of its gardens from 9am to 4pm, 501-821-7275
- 18 Fifth Annual Spring Wildflower Program, Carl Hunter, 1-4pm, Ozark Natural Science Center, Huntsville. 501-789-2754
- 18 Household Chemical Recycling Collections, 8am to 1pm. NLR High School, East Campus 501-340-8790
- 20-21 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference, North Carolina
- 24- Jun 1 Garden Glory Days, Ozark Folk Center State Park, demonstrations & music. 870-269-3851

JUNE

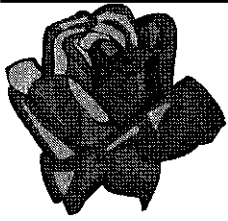
- 1 & 9 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts. Free guided tours of gardens from 9am to 1pm 501-821-7275
- 1 Sixth Annual "Through The Garden Gate" a tour of Northwest Arkansas gardens. Info 501-750-0421
- 4 Tour of Pulaski County Master Gardeners' gardens
- Jun 8 - Aug 18 Butterfly Worlds Exhibit, Museum of Discovery, LR, 501-396-7050
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon
- 21-23 Mount Magazine International Butterfly Festival

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwys 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.

Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

- Choosing fine, reliable ornamental plants for our gardens can be easier with some help from the Internet. One type of information is a list like our "Arkansas Select." Here are some web addresses showing plants, which have been highly recommended by state extension services and horticultural organizations. (Note: most but not all plants are suitable for our climate zone.)
- "Arkansas Select," 1998 – 2002 (www.ARhomeandgarden.org/landscape/ArkansasSelect/).
 - "Texas Superstar" (<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/cemap/frame.html>).
 - "Mississippi Medallion" (www.MSnl.org/mmw.htm).
 - "Oklahoma Proven!" mostly heat and drought tolerant plants (<http://oklahomaproven.OKState.edu/>).
 - "Plants of Merit," Missouri Botanical Garden (www.MoBot.org/hort/outreach/merit/).
 - "PHS Gold Medal Plants," woody plants for Z5-7 (www.PennsylvaniaHorticulturalSociety.org/gold/).
 - Gold Medal plants introduced by National Arboretum (www.usna.usda.gov/Newintro/awards).
 - Perennial Plant of the Year," Perennial Plant Assoc. (www.perennialplant.org/ppy/ppyindex.html).



Rose Potpourri 2002 - Year of the Rose

by Rose Hogan

By joint resolution of the Congress of the United States, 2002 is the Year of the Rose. The Year of the Rose is a world-wide, year long, grassroots event designed to promote the rose as a universal symbol of love, friendship, beauty and peace, a flower of unsurpassed importance in art, history, literature and music. It is the world's favorite flower, one that has provided inspiration to mankind since the beginning of time.

More information on the events being planned can be found listed on the American Rose Society web site, www.ars.org.

National Emblem

In 1986, the rose was designated and adopted as the floral emblem of the United States.

Little Rock

When Arkansas became a state, Little Rock, population approximately 600, was the only city. It had abundant shrubs and flowers, many of them roses. Hence Little Rock became the City of Roses.

'Arkansas' Roses

In 1880 Joseph W. Vestal established a nursery on the north side of the river in the Baring Cross area. The greenhouses, packing shed, cut flower building, and central office building were on River Road. In addition, there was a farm in Jacksonville. The retail store was in Little Rock on Broadway.

Over the years, planting guides and sales catalogs were produced which gave detailed information on the plants. This information was informative as well as amazing. The main botanical focus was on roses but numerous other plants were also offered. There were a tremendous number of varieties of roses. The pictures made the catalogs colorful documentation of the stock of the nursery.

Mr. Vestal favored naming his hybrid roses after his family as the climbing rose, 'Ruth Vestal,' or for Arkansas locations such as the yellow 'Petit Jean,' cherry red 'Dardanelle,' and the pink 'Little Rock.' A dark red rose was named 'Senator Joe T. Robinson,' and the Boy Hero of the Confederacy, David O. Dodd, was honored by a named crimson rose.

David O. Dodd Rose

In 1926, a new rose was registered and offered for sale by the Vestal Nursery. The 1936 catalog description is that it was a hybrid tea rose "with magnificent deep glowing crimson-scarlet flowers with regularly placed, overlapping petals forming a splendid, symmetrical center. A richly perfumed rose borne on strong stems for cutting. Plants have handsome glossy foliage and are vigorous and productive."

A Vestal advertisement in the Arkansas Gazette on June 15, 1936 offered for sale the "David O. Dodd Rose, The Aristocrat of Roses. The Arkansas State Centennial Commission, together with the Federation of Garden Clubs and other organizations has named our rose, The David O. Dodd, as the official Arkansas Centennial Rose. This great rose, which we introduced in 1926, is the finest red rose in the whole wide world. It has everything a rose should have - size, form, color, and fragrance. The deep crimson buds open very slowly to great big, glorious crimson flowers with plenty of velvety petals and the haunting fragrance of the Old Damask rose. For sale are two-year-old field-grown plants at 75 cents each or \$6/dozen. In quantities, they are 100 or more for 40 cents each."

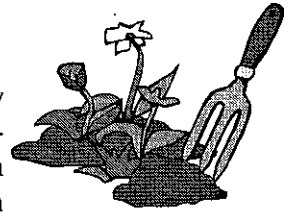
In preparation for the celebration of the 1986 Arkansas Sesquicentennial, Tom Dillard, President of the Arkansas Sesquicentennial Commission, reviewed the 1936 Centennial Celebration and found that the flower of the Centennial was the David O. Dodd rose. In October 1984 in the Arkansas Gazette, the Commission asked the public if anyone had a descendant of the original David O. Dodd Rose.

Ironically, a living blooming plant - later certified as a Dodd rose - was found in a garden only blocks from the former Vestal Nursery site. It was planted by a mother and daughter in 1936 and had bloomed for 50 years. The plant is still alive and I am to be called when it blooms so I can see it. Will it be around for the Arkansas Bicentennial in 2036?

Information on the Vestal roses was taken from the Arkansas Gazette archives, the Vestal catalogs in the CALS Butler Center and an article in the Pulaski County Historical Review, volume 49 (Fall 2001) by Tom Dillard on the history of the Vestal Nursery.

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Handy Hints

Laura Wilson has a great hint. Instead of sowing grass seeds, she pulls up the rye grass that comes up in her flower beds and puts them into flower pot bottoms for her cats. They love it!

A Pulaski County Master Gardener reminds us to take precautions when working in the yard. Plastic sleeves from newspapers and knee socks with the toes cut out for fingers can protect the arms from scratches and contact dermatitis.

Those pesky ants are already scurrying around on my kitchen countertops. Spraying windowsills and doorways with vinegar keeps them at bay.

Hillside Gardens

Getting plants to grow on a steep and rocky hillside can be a challenge. A creative way to solve this problem is pantyhose planting bags. To make these bags, cut the legs from old pantyhose and fill them with a mixture of peat moss, vermiculite, compost and topsoil. After making a funnel by cutting the bottom out of a 3-pound coffee can, filling the bags is a snap. Push the can into the leg and roll the hose down around it. As you fill, pull the can up until the leg is full of soil. Then tie a knot in the end.

The result is a soil bag about 4 feet long and 8 inches in diameter. Make enough bags to cover the planned area. Then pin them on the hillside with bent coat hangers and cut holes through the nylon for plants. For aesthetic reasons, cover the planting bags with a mulch of straw.

Eventually the roots grow through the bags into the hillside, holding everything in place.

(From www.gardenplans.com)

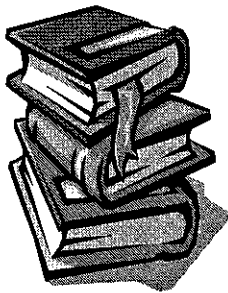
Soil Bag "Containers"

Do you have spots in your garden that seem to beg for color? Often these areas are the ones where nothing will grow because of competition from tree roots or bad soil - maybe they're even covered with concrete.

Buy a bag of potting soil and cut four to six slits on one side, then turn the bag over and make several more cuts in the shape of an X. Now it's ready to be used as a flat "container." Lay the container on the ground wherever you need quick color and plant the bags with colorful annuals. Mulching over the bags disguises them. As the plants grow, they cover the bags entirely.

Although the slits in the bottom of the bag provides good drainage, these plastic "containers" don't dry out as quickly as some of the more traditional containers. So another benefit is that they don't need to be watered as often. (From Garden Gate Issue 26).

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

The Inviting Garden: Gardening for the Senses, Mind, and Spirit

by Allen Lacy

Henry Hott & Company, 1998, 218 pages, \$40.00

Lacy leads the reader through the garden sensually, intellectually, and spiritually. He makes a compelling argument for the pleasures and attractions of gardening.

It is a philosopher's book, and one with focus on the enterprise of gardening. There are numerous thought-provoking topics - ones that justify the what, why, and how we gardeners function.

There is much more text than illustrations

with less than one hundred beautiful photographs by Cynthia Woodyard. Each one is worth careful study.

A select list is offered of twelve of Lacy's favorite mail-order nurseries from Canyon Creek Nurseries to Woodlanders. Two I plan to order are Heronswood Nursery and Andre Vietté Farm & Nursery catalogs.

Master Gardener Alert!

Enabling Garden Workshop

St. Vincent Rehabilitation Hospital
2201 Wildwood Avenue
Sherwood, AR

Wednesday, June 19th
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

Contact

Debbie Cummings, Master Gardener
Therapeutic Recreation
834-6649



Master Gardener's Picnic

Thursday, May 9,
Lakeside Country Club
2423 E. Woodson Lateral
Little Rock

5:30 - 6:00 P.M. Reception
6:00 - 7:30 P.M. Dinner

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Stevia — Sweet Secret 1

Monthly Features

March Board Minutes 2

April Board Minutes 2

April Regular Meeting Minutes 3

Trading Post 4

Calendar and Notes 5

Internet Sources 5

Rose Potpourri 6

What Works! 7

Book Review 7



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpuaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

June 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 5

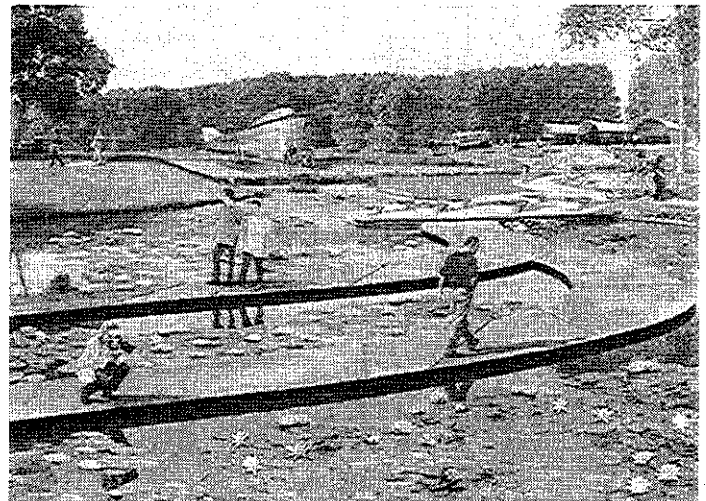
Tiptoe Through The Tulips

by Ellen Rouch

I was incredibly fortunate to be able to attend the Floriade tour with Janet Carson. There were 23 people on the tour. It was an incredible adventure. I went expecting to see fields of tulips everyday, but it was quite a bit into the trip before we saw the tulip fields.

We landed at Amsterdam and the airport is a distance from the city. Although we couldn't see any tulips as we were landing, you could tell you were not in an American city by the sight of the huge, modern windmills. Once we departed the plane, you could tell we were not in an American city by the sight of the small, narrow streets and the ever-present bicycle. Everywhere you looked, you saw people on bicycles. The bicycles were not fancy – they had no gears or front brakes.

Our first city was Amsterdam – a city on canals. We took a bus tour of the city and toured the Ann Frank house with our tour guide Trudy. We will always remember Trudy and her umbrella, which she used in an attempt to round us all up. That tour was an emotional highlight of the



trip. Unlike American museums, you could touch the walls and the exhibits. To actually touch the bookcase, which concealed the secret staircase to the hidden apartment, was awe-inspiring.

We boarded the boat on Saturday afternoon and immediately set sail. One of the first things that stood out was how few people were able to have gardens. So many people lived in apartments in Holland. On Sunday morning, we toured Rotterdam (a modern city which was rebuilt following

(Continued on page 8)

Are you interested in designing and planting a garden resembling one from yesterday?

What would an early Little Rock garden contain?

If you want to know, check out the Curran Hall list on page 4.

June's Topic "Panel of Experts"

Got Problems? Bring your questions to the June meeting and get answers from our experts.

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.

Board Minutes May 14, 2002

Present: Jane Druff, Suellen Roberts, Carolyn Newbern, John Prather, Nancy Kirsch, Beth Phelps. **Absent:** Jean Moffett

President Jane Druff presided. The Minutes of the April 2002 meeting were approved. John presented the April Treasurer's Report. The ending bank balance on April 30, 2002 was \$12,126.23. April revenue totaled \$2809.46. Expenditures totaled \$1908.41. The Treasurers report was accepted.

The state meeting was discussed. Jane reported the 2003 meeting will be held in Searcy and the 2004 meeting in Conway. The Searcy Master Gardeners requested ideas for program topics. Since Beth has not yet received the pins and certificates, it was decided that the five and ten-year members who were recognized at the state meeting will be presented with their pins and certificates in the June meeting.

It was reported that \$275 has been generated from the sale of Master Gardener note cards. \$245 was generated at the state meeting and another \$30 was generated at the MG picnic.

The following upcoming events and other items to be discussed at the general meeting were reviewed.

- The Junior Master Gardener Program was conducted today, May 14. The PCMG purchased a set of the program books for the MG library.
- MG help at Curran Hall on May 15 is needed in preparation for grand opening will on Saturday May 18 from 11:00 – 1:00.
- The MG Wine and Cheese Party at the Good Earth will be held at 6:15 on May 15. Good Earth will offer a 20% discount on all purchases. Those attending will be charged \$3.00 to cover the cost of the refreshments.
- A PCMG continuing education course on Perennials to be conducted on May 21 and 22. Nine vacant slots are still available to PCMGs.
- The PCMG annual tour of MG gardens will be held on June 4.
- St. Vincent Infirmary is sponsoring an Enabling Garden Workshop on June 19 from 8:30 – 12:30.

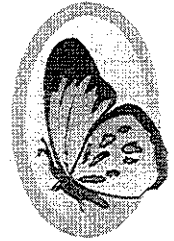
- A \$300 donation was received from the Little Rock Garden Clubs for assisting with the recent Garden Clubs tour.
- Information on the PCMG and each project is available on the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Website.

Jane and Carolyn reported that Carolyn will be doing a background analysis on current MG projects in preparation for considering new project requests. A questionnaire will be sent to each project chair to complete as part of the background analysis. Carolyn will also chair the Project Evaluation Committee, which will consider new project requests.

The Publicity Committee has begun development of a PCMG brochure, which will include information on each project. The Board voted to support the project.

The meeting was adjourned.

Trading Post



- erty has artemisia, Silver King, 221-2865
- Helen Hronos, has evening primroses, kerris, etc; wants hens & chicks (call her) 228-5680
 - Bonnie Nicholas wants iris - any color, 835-0077
 - Imelda Horne has Lumarea; 666-930d3
 - Kathleen Wesson has hardy begonia (after June 1st), 663-9146
 - Kelly DesBusk has stonecrop sedum, 868-8680
 - Bettye Jane Daugh-
 - Linda Hubbell wants small start of mock orange, 834-8680
 - Patsy Knodel has double orange daylily, wants oak-leaf hydrangea,
 - Linda Moyer wants empty plastic pots - 1 quart to 5 gal. +, we take as many as you want to get rid of, 985-2454

General Meeting Minutes - May 14, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Extension Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, with President Jane Druff presiding.

Jane first offered congratulations to the Social Committee for hosting the successful spring picnic, which was held at 6:00 p.m. May 9 at the Lakeside Country Club. In addition to good food and company, all attending were entertained by Perk Floyd, an expert on hummingbirds and bird banding.

About forty people responded to a request for a show of hands from those who attended the State Master Gardener Meeting in Jonesboro the previous weekend. (Points earned for attending the meeting include one point for each workshop/class, one point for each morning tour of Jonesboro gardens, and two points for the tour of the Adams Estate.) The state meeting will be in Searcy in 2003 and in Conway in 2004. Jane asked for suggestions for workshop topics to forward to the planners in Searcy.

Jane announced that five and ten year members would be recognized at the June meeting. Also, note cards, embossed with the Master Gardener logo, are being sold for \$5.00 for a packet of ten. The first statewide training session for the Junior Master Gardener Program was occurring as we met. She reminded us that our group has purchased a set of the Junior Master Gardener books for our library and that they are a good source for isolated projects for youth groups.

Announcements included the following: The Good Earth is hosting an open house for Master Gardeners only, with a 20% discount, at 6:15 May 15, 2002. The grand opening of Curran Hall is scheduled for May 18. Pulaski County Master Gardener Training on Perennials will be May 21-22; a few openings remain. St. Vincent Rehabilitation Hospital, Sherwood, is hosting an enabling garden workshop on June 19, 8:30 – 12:30. The State Advanced Master Gardener training session on herbs will be at Mt. Home in July, the first in a series of sessions to achieve Advanced Master Gardener certification. The tablet with workdays is in the lobby, for us to check as we leave. Project chairs will get a questionnaire, which will help the Board in analyzing current projects.

John Prather, treasurer, reported that 42 members have yet to pay dues. Beginning next month, a sticker will appear by the name on the mailing label of Master Minutes.

Beth Phelps congratulated five and ten-year members, reiterating that formal recognition will be at the June meeting. She reported that the Little Rock Garden Club Council had donated \$300 as thanks for Master Gardeners who served as guides at the recent Tour of Gardens. Beth asked that we send to Cheryl Kennedy information and photographs of our projects for use on the Pulaski County website. She read part of an article from *USA Today* about new homeowners who asked a Master Gardener neighbor for landscaping advice, what native plants to keep and how best to develop their new ranch; the homeowners were George and Laura Bush.

Lois Corley reported that the Greenhouse Committee had conducted two good sales and that it would be open after the meeting for final sales of plants and potting soil. Orders for next fall are due immediately.

Ila Newberry said that the Travel Committee would mail a survey, requesting ideas for future trips.

Jan King noted that the Herb Society of America would have a meeting Thursday, May 16, 11:30 at the Arkansas School for the Blind herb garden.

Nancy Hirsh introduced Carl Hunter, noted authority on native plants. Mr. Hunter called our attention to wildflower plantings on highway right-of-ways and at other public areas. He illustrated with slides a program on native shrubs, emphasizing their desirability and adaptability in our landscapes.

Door prizes were awarded to the following:

- Lady bug hat to ?
- Carl Hunter book on *Trees, Vines and Shrubs* to ?
- Master Gardener license plate to ?

After the meeting, members who brought plants to share, were asked to choose another plant to take home.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,
Carolyn Newbern



CURRAN HALL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

Prepared by Bill Worthen, Arkansas Territorial Restoration

Crepe Myrtle *Lagerstroemia Indica* (pink) planted in 1950's from rootstock of Gill residence, Capitol Ave. and from Woodruff residence
Crepe Myrtle *Lagerstroemias Indica* (purple) from Woodruff & Field/Weaver' residences
(red) from Pauline Hoetzel residence
(white) Spanish Dagger
Yucca Gloriosa from 1880 planting
'Seven Sisters' rose *Rosa Multiflora* Plataphylla (pink) from Heath/Jennings residence Capitol Ave (white) same as above (red)
'American Pillar' rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1902) from Heath/Jennings residence
1950 'Climbing Crimson' China Rose *Rosa Chinensis Semperflorens* from Mr. Tate's grandmother's Oklahoma garden (also pink) from Mary Woodruff Bell
'Silver Moon' Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1910)
Cherokee Rose *Rosa Laevisata* from Woodruff residence
'Dr. Van Fleet' Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1910)
'Dr. Van Fleet x Mary Wallace' Rose *Rosa Hybrida*
'Thousand Beauties Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1906, pink) from Gill residence
Rugosa Rose *Rosa Rugosa*
Orange Portland Rose *Rosa Species* from a Hwy. 10 residence
'Mary Wallace' Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1924)
'Dorothy Perkins' Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1902)
Cabbage Rose *Rosa Centiflora*
Thornless multiflora rose *Rosa Multiflora Simplex* (1862)
Chinquapin Rose *Rosa Roxburghii*
'Maidens Blush' Rose *Rosa Alba*
'Tuscany' Rose *Rosa Gallica*
'Lady Banks' Rose *Rosa Banksiae* (pink, yellow)
'Etoile de Hollande' Rose *Rosa Hybrida* (1919)
'Betty Pryor' Rose *Rosa Floribunda*
'American Beauty' Rose *Rosa Hybrida*
Honey Locust *Gleditsia Triacantho* 1947 planted by Tate children
White Oak *Quercus Alba* sprout from original "virgin" struck by lightning 1969
Willow Oak *Quercus Phellos*
Walnut *Juglans Nigra*
Crabapple *Malus Angustifolia*
Lilac *Syringa Persica*
Elderberry *Sambucus Canadensis* planted 1970
Quince *Chaenomeles Speciosa* (??or *Cydonia oblonga*?)
Krume Azalea *Rhododendron Oetusum* planted 1960-70 (red, white, pink)
Cedar *Juniperus Virginiana*

Sumac *Rhus Copallina* planted 1950
Bridal Wreath Spirea *Spiraea Prunifolia*
Baby's Breath Spirea *Spiraea Thunbergii* from Woodruff
Trifoliate Orange *Poncirus Trifoliata*
Guernsey Lily *Nerine Sarniensis*
Sasanqua *Camellia Camellia Sasanqua* (red, white, pink)
Camellia *Camellia Japonica*
Southern Magnolia *Magnolia Grandiflora* planted 1950
Saucer Magnolia *Magnolia Soulanguiana*
Native Iris *Iris Louisiana*
Bearded Iris *Iris Germanica*
Showdrops *Galanthus Nivalis*
Narcissus *Narcissis Species*
Calycanthus *Calycanthus Floridus* from Clark house, Van Buren, 1940
Royal Paulownia *Paulownia Tomentosa*
Blue Buddleia *Buddleia Alternifolia*
Winter Honeysuckle *Lonicera Fragrantissima*
Forsythia *Forsythia Intermedia* from Woodruff
Nandina *Nandina Domestica* 1950
Hydrangea *Hydrangea Paniculata*
Eleagnus *Eleagnus Pungens*
Mock Orange *Philadelphus Coronarius*
Delaware Grape *Vitis Species*
Niagra Grape *Vitis Species*
Concord Grape *Vitis Species*
Rose of Sharon *Althea Rosea* from Woodruff
Golden Rain Tree *Koelreuteria Paniculata*
Willow *Salix Nigra*
Winter Jasmine *Jasmine Nudiflorum*
Cluster Mahonia *Mahonia Pinnata*
American Holly *Ilex Opaca*
Chinese Holly *Ilex Cornuta*
Flowering Almond *Prunus Glandulosa*
Pink Amaryllis *Amaryllis Sprcies*
Pomegranate *Punica Granatum*
Shortleaf Pine *Pinus Echinata*
Snowball *Viburnum Plicatum*
Dwarf Pear *Pyrus Communis Nana*
Gardenia *Gardenia Jasminoides*
Hackberry *Celtis Occidentalis*
Redbud *Cercis Canadensis*
Fig *Ficus Carica*
Tree of Heaven *Ailanthus Altissima*
Monkey Grass *Liriope*





Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

JUNE

- 1 & 9 Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts. Free guided tours of gardens from 9am to 1pm 501-821-7275
- 1 Sixth Annual "Through The Garden Gate" a tour of Northwest Arkansas gardens. Info 501-750-0421
- 4 Tour of Pulaski County Master Gardeners' gardens, met prior to 9:30am, 2nd Presbyterian Church, Cantrell & Pleasant Valley, bring sack lunch & sit-upon (chair, etc.)
- Jun 8 - Aug 18 Butterfly Worlds Exhibit, Museum of Discovery, LR, 501-396-7050
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Monday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 19 Enabling Garden Workshop, Contact Debbie Cummings, 834-6649
- 21-23 Mount Magazine International Butterfly Festival

July

- 6 Butterfly Count, Queen Wilkelwina State Park, 501-394-2862
- 9 No Master Gardener meeting in July or August
- 27 Advanced Master Gardener Training on Herbs Mountain Home MG website -

August

- 13 No Master Gardener meeting in July or August

September

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Monday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University



Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwy's 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.



Pulaski County Master Gardener's Greenhouse Sale, April 27, 2002



June Checklist

by Libby Thalheimer

"A Time to Till"

- Plant cannas, daylilies, and gladioli, and a second crop of balsam, marigolds, nasturtium, nicotiana, portulaca, and zinnia.

"Eats of Eden"

- Fertilize lawns, annuals, peonies and camellias early in June. Add lime to soil around tomatoes monthly.
- Most gardens need one to one and one-half inches per week. Deep, periodic (not daily) watering, early in the morning, is the best way. Use soaker hoses to conserve water and keep drops off foliage.

"Go Round Roses"

- Fertilize roses regularly. Cut roses above a five-leaf cluster to encourage growth. Plant chives or garlic between roses to eliminate aphids. Continue spraying for Blackspot on roses.

"Clear and Present Danger"

- Mulch plants to keep moisture constant and protect against weeds and soil borne diseases.
- Blossom end rot on tomatoes, caused by calcium deficiency, can be treated with "Stop Rot".
- Dust corn with sevin or use mineral oil on the silks to prevent the corn earworm.
- Watch for chinch bugs and lawn fungi in your lawn.
- Fireblight is a bacteria spread by bees and rain. Prune below infected parts. Streptomycin sprays will reduce damage.
- Use insecticidal soap or Malathion to control aphids, whiteflies, and lacebugs. Cut strips of bright yellow plastic, coat with petroleum jelly, and hang to make a trap for whiteflies. Use aluminum foil around tomatoes, peppers and eggplants to reflect more light and confuse aphids. (Unfortunately, flea beetles thrive in bright, hot spots.)
- To control Blackspot, continue spraying red-tipped Photinias. Clean up and destroy any diseased foliage. Do not compost!

"Shoots"

- Deadhead leggy annuals. Shear golden alyssum and hardy candytuft after bloom to keep compact and remove seedpods. Pinch back annual herbs, chrysanthemums and asters until mid- July. Thin basil and strawberry plants.
- Wait until the foliage of spring-flowering bulbs turns yellow before removing. Lift and replant Lycoris as foliage yellows. This prevents it from getting too deep as it multiplies. Iris should be left alone for 6 weeks after blooming. Then lift and divide, and cut back foliage to 3 inches.

JUNE BLOOMS: astroemeria, artemesia, asters, astilbe, azaleas, 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.

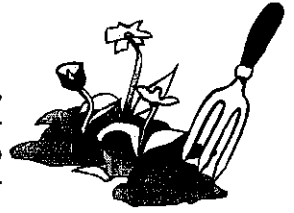


Pomegranate *Punica*

Photo by Rebecca Camp

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Master Gardeners Sharing

This came from Jane Gulley, who got the information from Ellen Kane who learned it from Betty Pagan. When you get a huge, 3 cu. ft., bag of pine bark mulch grab it in the middle and let it flop over. Cut the bag in the middle and you have 2 bags of one and a half cu. ft. each.

Jane also shares a hint she got in Jonesboro. Use crushed coke cans in the bottom of pots to help with drainage.

Jackie Wright has found if you have black spot on the red tip photinias, limb them up before you cut them down. The black spot on hers went away and she decided to keep them.

Shade Gardens

If you have bought a home in an old established neighborhood, one of the attractions was the old big trees. If you built a new house a number of years ago, you now have trees that have grown taller than the house. Both share a common challenge: a shady garden. Although sunlight is the most important consideration for plant life, excess light may be harmful. The exposure categories are dappled shade (intermittent, moving pattern of light and shade), open shade (good, bright light but not direct), medium shade (little or no direct light), and dense shade (even constant shade without reflected light).

Most cultural practices for shade areas are the same as for sunny gardens. Drainage is important, as evaporation is not as great as in the sun.

Mulch to conserve dampness because trees siphon soil moisture. Loosen heavy soil with sand and organic matter. Special considerations are to delay spring-cleaning because many shade/deciduous plants make late appearances. Areas protected by overhead foliage canopies or other shelters seldom have an early frost. These areas do get cool earlier in the season and warm later in the spring. Plants that are happy with their locations will self-seed and colonize. Grey-green foliage indicates a plant's preference for full sun and dryness. Expect no masses of bright blossoms. Do not replace failures with the same plants.

For information on which plants to use (annuals, perennials, bulbs, trees, shrubs, vines and tropicals), go to the web site <http://birding.about.com>.

Shady Garden for Hummingbirds

With a little planning, even the shadiest yards and gardens can draw in hummingbirds. All they need is food, water and a place to rest. Hummingbirds are quite fussy about flower colors and shapes, so make sure you select ones they like. They favor red and pink blooms, simply because they see

these colors best. For flower shape, tubular blooms are best. Hummingbirds easily reach the nectar deep inside these blooms with their beaks. There are exceptions however. Begonias are great hummingbird plants, yet the blooms are not tubular. And they are often seen feeding from ginger lily blooms that are white.

A few basics include: First using mostly perennials and annuals. Second, use the plants 'en masse'. Third, aim for a garden where something is always blooming. Plan to use annuals that flower continuously, select perennials with varying peak bloom times, or do both.

Initially you may need help attracting hummers, so hang a few feeders. To keep bees away, avoid any feeders with yellow parts which bees are highly attracted to. Tie a few red ribbons to the feeder to really get the bird's attention, fill and hang.

Provide the birds with fresh water for drinking and bathing; a shallow birdbath works well or add rocks to your current birdbath if it is too deep.

Finally, give the little birds somewhere to rest, be it a nearby tree or shrub. A suggested shady garden plan for hummingbirds is a large oval, 12 feet long and 6 feet across. On each of the smaller ends, plant 18 wax begonias. On one side of the widest area, plant 7 fringed bleeding hearts. Inside the oval next to the wax begonias plant 3 Petite Delight bee balm in one area and in another plant 5 native columbine. On the other end next to the wax begonias, plant 3 cardinal flowers in one spot and 6 coral-bells in another. In the center of the oval at the top plant 3 perennial foxglove.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.

(Continued from *Tiptoe Through The Tulips* page 1)

its earlier destruction in WWII) and Delft. We hardly saw any people moving about at all. In Delft, some of our group toured the Delft factory and some of us were "lost" taking pictures. That afternoon we went to Dordrecht. It was a delightful town to walk around in, but all of the stores were closed.

On Monday, we were able to see Middle-berg and an optional tour of the large dike system in Zeeland. On Tuesday, we crossed a large body of water (as opposed to a canal) and arrived in Belgium. We stopped in Ghent and took a bus tour to Brugge. Brugge was one of the most picturesque cities we saw. It had a lot of old buildings and churches on canals. There was an abundance of swans throughout the town. Our tour guide suggested we try "waterzooie." It was an excellent dish, which would remind you of chicken soup. During an afternoon tour, I discovered that grocery stores are a good place to buy souvenirs. Janet Carson and I saw an actual guillotine at a local castle.

Next day was a fly by night tour of Brussels. In contrast to Amsterdam, Brussels was a busy, dirty city. We saw more cars than bicycles. The Belgium chocolates were wonderful. The boat stayed in Antwerp, a large city which is a focus of the diamond trade. The canals in Antwerp had been filled in. Antwerp was not really a tourist town.

By Thursday, we were quite anxious to see flowers and we were finally rewarded. We arrived at Maastricht, a medieval walking town, and were treated to tours of two private gardens. We also had a tour of a private wine cellar, which seemed to stretch for several city blocks.

We sailed back to Amsterdam and were ready for to see the flower shows. On Friday, it was Keukenhof and a tour of a rose grower's nursery. Unfortunately, this was our first rainy day. The colors of the tulips, at Keukenhof, were intense. We were treated to several acres of exquisitely designed tulip and crocus fields. You could go climb an actual windmill and observe tulip fields (finally.) The fields were brightly colored and stretched out for as far as your eye could see.

On Saturday, we went to Floriade. Janet

wrote about Floriade in this week's Democrat Gazette. The article did not state that it was extremely windy and rainy the day we visited. Fortunately, by the afternoon, the weather had slightly improved. Sunday was our last day in Amsterdam. We ended our tour with a meal in a restaurant in a leaning building built in the early 1600s. Then we had the very long airplane ride back home.



Pulaski County Greenhouse Sale, April 13, 2002

Tiramisu

Serves 12

- 1-cup espresso
- 12 Tblsp. Sugar
- 1-cup liquor (brandy)
- 3 eggs
- 2 8 oz. Pkgs. Softened cream cheese
- 1-pound ladyfingers
- 1-pint heavy cream, whipped
- Cocoa powder

Mix espresso, 5 Tblsp. of the sugar & liquor. Sprinkle over ladyfingers. Beat eggs until frothy. Add remaining sugar & cream cheese. Blend until smooth.

Place half the ladyfingers in pan and cover with half of the cheese mixture. Place the rest of the ladyfingers in pan and cover with remaining cheese mixture.

Whip cream adding sugar to taste and spread over top. Sprinkle cocoa. Refrigerate.

Recipe courtesy of Bonnie Nicholas)



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

Garden Ornaments: A Stylish Guide to Decorating Your Garden

by Martha Baker
208 pages, \$40.00

Photographs by Chuck Baker

This is a gorgeous book with much useful information and how-to advice – a wealth of inspiration guaranteed to delight and instruct any gardener. This is a book to be cherished.

Each chapter focuses on a popular garden style – Classical, Waterside, Urban, Romantic, Rustic, Gallery, and Whimsical. Key pieces are shown that create these spaces. Mrs. Baker has guides for choosing the perfect furniture and ornaments for your own special garden. She shows simple urns, folding bistro chairs, and candle lanterns to more grandiose gestures like steel topiary, wrought-iron chandeliers, and a trellis strung with lights. An extensive section lists garden centers, stores, and outlets that sell the best garden accessories available, both reproduction and antique sources.

Martha Baker's philosophy of garden design is that a garden should "intimately reflect the lines and character of a home and become an extension of it". She traces these ideas as far back as the third millennium B.C. when the Egyptians and other hor-

tical enthusiasts began planting gardens within the walled enclosures surrounding their homes. Their purpose was to define the space within. Not so unlike our garden goal of today, I would say.



The how-to sections include making an obelisk, building a stone wall, aging a stone planter, building a trellis and a walkway, and choosing statuary.

This book gives one the opportunity to travel around the world and peek into both grand and simple gardens. Even if your property isn't estate-sized and your art budget isn't in the Fortune 500 class, there are hundreds of ideas to be incorporated in your own special garden space.

Internet Sources by Jan Gauntt

Do you have spots on your tomato leaves or bugs eating your asters? Many state university Extension Services offer information on the Web about diagnosing plant problems.

Especially helpful for tomato and cucurbit problems is a Texas A&M site for Master Gardeners at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/mastergd/problemsolvers.html>. Detailed photos of plants with diseases, insects, or other problems are shown, and recommended actions given. The pictures are valuable for diagnosing similar problems on other kinds of plants as well.

The Texas Extension Service also offers an Integrated Pest Management site where images of pests are shown for home vegetable crops (<http://vegipm.tamu.edu>) and for commercial horticulture (<http://hortipm.tamu.edu>).

The University of North Carolina offers a guide for some woody plant problems at <http://cabarrus.ces.state.nc.us/staff/dgoforth/mgdgwor.html>.

The University of Maryland Extension Service is developing an extensive set of plant diagnostics, some of which are online now (www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hgic/diagn/home.html).

Clemson University (<http://hgic.clemson.edu/links.htm>) offers links to still more information and to other state Extension Services.

Master Gardener Alert!

Did you attend the 2001 Statewide Master Gardener Conference in Ft. Smith?

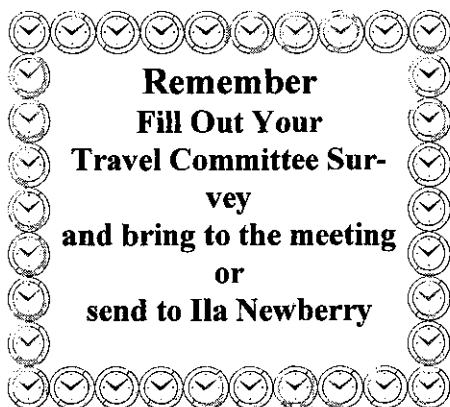
Janet Carson would like to know if your plant made it through the winter. Would you recommend it to others? You can email Beth, bphelps@uaex.edu or drop a note in the mail - 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204.

2002 Statewide Master Gardener Conference in Joneboro

The plant that everyone received to test this year was lamium, *Lamium maculatum* 'Beedham's White'. Lamium makes a wonderful ground cover to edging, plant in a partial to heavy shade. Keep track of how well your does and let Beth know.

Household Chemical Recycling Collection Saturday, 8am - 1pm

- June 22 War Memorial Stadium
 July 20 Maumelle United Methodist Church
 Aug 17 7225 Hwy 107, Parking Lot-
 Sept. 21 Jacksonville Recycling Center, 1300 Marshall Rd



**Remember
 Fill Out Your
 Travel Committee Survey
 and bring to the meeting
 or
 send to Ila Newberry**

Little Rock Garden Club 2002 Bulb Sale

Sale proceeds benefit public gardens in Little Rock supported by LRGC: Pulaski County Rose Garden, Dunbar Garden, AAC Decorative Arts Museum grounds and butterfly garden. For more information call Tricia Fowler, 666-7123

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Tiptoe Through The Tulips 1

Monthly Features

May Board Minutes 2

Trading Post 2

May Regular Meeting Minutes 3

Curran Hall Plant Inventory List 4

Calendar and Notes 5

June Checklist 6

What Works! 7

Book Review 9

Internet Sources 9



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer

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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
 County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

July 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 6

Of Birds and Old Climbing Roses

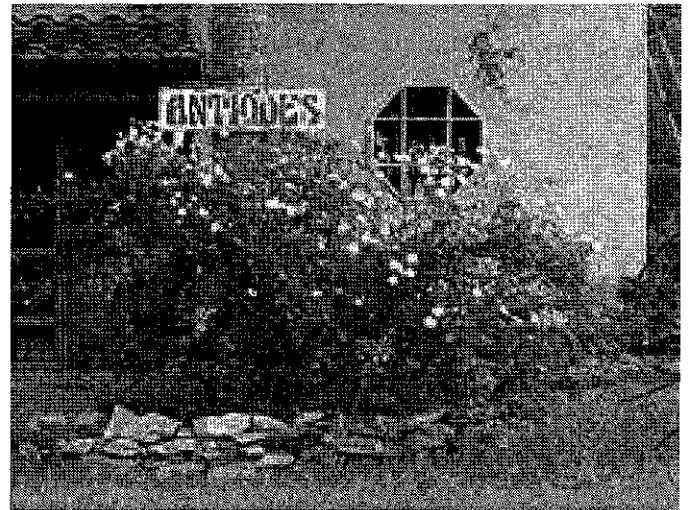
by Virginia Johnson

"Can you see them, Stephen?" I asked as my 6-year-old son teetered precariously on a stool in an effort to look into a bird nest. There they were, lying helplessly in the bottom of the nest. Naked, pink and appearing little like the brilliant red cardinals they would grow up to be, the baby birds were resting in the nest built just outside the bay window in the 'Mermaid' climbing rose. "Ew! What are they?" came Stephen's reply.

Mama and Papa cardinal had chosen a veritable fortress of shrubbery for their home. 'Mermaid' displayed 15 foot-long canes just in its first season of growth, and this was its second year to smother the northwest corner of the house. With its truly wicked thorns, any would-be predator, such as the next-door neighbor's pastel calico Sylvie would probably think twice before braving 'Mermaid's' ample canes. Large-leaved and large-flowered, the nest was well hidden also. The nest was only visible from the inside of the window. When late-spring thunderstorms buffeted the landscape, the flowers of 'Mermaid' acted as umbrellas and not a drop of rain dampened the nest.

Everyday we checked on the progress of the baby birds, always being sure to do so when the mother bird was not around, although I believe she caught us a time or two. We watched in amazement as the helpless little naked beings sprouted feathers and ravenous appetites. One day, helpless no more, they were ready to leave the nest. One baby bird had already left the nest by the time I came home from work, and the other was sitting on the edge, waiting her turn. I so hoped they would make it.

Alas, the next day, my neighbor informed me



that indeed, Sylvie had brought in a fledgling cardinal the night before. So, she got one of them. Did she get both?

During the weeks following the baby cardinals' emergence from the nest, I often wondered if the second baby bird escaped Sylvie's hunting. I didn't think so, as I didn't see any young cardinals at the feeder.

One day in mid-autumn, however, as I was walking down the sidewalk beside my house, I was nearly hit in the head by a bird, it flew so low above me. It landed on a low branch of a tulip magnolia. I looked up to see that the bird was a young female cardinal, intently staring at me.

Human and bird studied each other, each seemingly aware that they were not strangers to one another. They had stared at each other before. Was this the

(Continued on page 8)

No Meetings in July or August

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Board Minutes June 11, 2002

Present: Beth Phelps, Carolyn Newbern, Nancy Kirsch, John Prather, Suellen Roberts and Jean Moffett

In the absence of Jane Druff, the meeting was presided over by Carolyn Newbern. There were no additions or corrections to the May Minutes of the Board Meeting and the General Meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was submitted by John Prather. The ending bank balance as of May 31, 2002, was \$13,069.36. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

It was reported that 45 members still have not paid their 2002 dues. On the next Master Minutes, there will be a 'dot' beside the names of these members as a reminder. We discussed the possibility of forming a committee to contact the members whose dues have not been paid.

Beth stated that she had talked with Dr. Jim Robins with the Extension Office about the possibility of a greenhouse being constructed on the grounds of the State Extension Office. It would probably start out as being a greenhouse/propagating house. It was decided that Master Gardeners would support the concept, commit to the idea of involvement, and might financially contribute.

It was reported that Jane Druff will appoint a nominating committee which will meet this summer regarding officers for the coming year. Suellen, as last year's president, will serve as chairperson.

Sandy Harrison is working on some minor changes of our By Laws. These are necessitated because of our being dissolved as a corporation.

Today's door prizes are a hibiscus plant, donated by Hines Nursery through Judy Bradsher, a body cooling neck wrap given by an anonymous donor, and a Master Gardener license plate.

Beth stated that the 100th birthday of 4-H is coming up this fall. Counties are conducting a food drive, and cans of food collected, will be donated to the Arkansas Food Network through 4-H. Our Master Gardeners will be asked to bring a can of food to the September meeting.

Carolyn said that extra help is needed at Curran Hall since it is a new project; this can be done on Saturday as well as a weekday. It would be another way for members to earn work hours.

Beth will send a thank-you note to members of the Continuing Education Committee for the recent perennial workshop.

The Pulaski County web site is pu-

laski.uaex.edu. There is no www at the beginning.

No further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett

'Year of the Vinca'

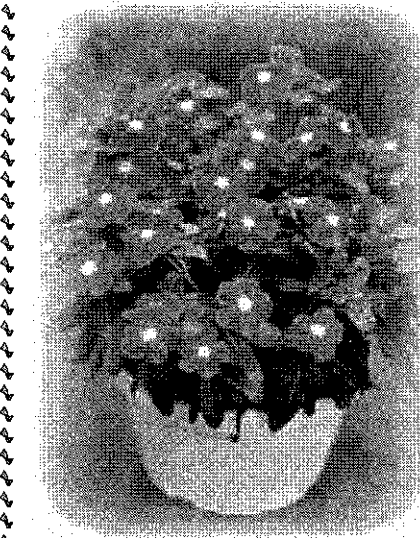
By Libby Thalheimer

Want sun-loving annuals that bloom from late spring continuously until frost? Need dogbanes 8 to 18 inches tall with a one-foot spread? Longing for plants that work equally well as edging, ground-cover, or in containers? Willing to have plants that shed their own spent flowers? What about drought-tolerant plants? Have other plants for rabbits and deer since they do not like this one? If so, plant Vinca rosea.

Rather have shade-loving perennials with dark evergreen foliage and flowers in the spring? Prefer dogbanes that mound up to 2 feet high and will root wherever their arching stems touch the ground? Got to have ground or bank cover? Willing to water plants moderately? If so, try Vinca major or minor.

For centuries, these vinca cousins have provided remedies for coughs, sore throats, lung and eye infections, and diabetes. Researchers have found vincas contain dozens of alkaloids, some of which actually lower blood sugar levels and blood pressure, and two of which are the source of anti-cancer drugs.

The National Garden Bureau, the source of information for this article, designated 2002 as the "Year of the Vinca" to honor the Vinca rosea. For more information, visit the NGB website: www.ngb.org. Or write: National Garden Bureau, 1311 Butterfield Rd, Suite 310, Downers Grove, IL. 60515-5605.



General Meeting Minutes - June 11, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Extension Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, with Carolyn Newbern presiding in the absence of Jane Druff.

The chair people of the various work projects were thanked for returning their information forms. It was requested that those who had not done so, please return the forms as soon as possible.

The nominating committee regarding officers for next year will be chaired by Suellen Roberts, last year's president. Anyone interested in serving as an officer or nominating another member should contact Jane Druff, Beth Phelps or Suellen.

Sandy Harrison is working on some minor changes of our By Laws. These are necessitated because of our being dissolved as a corporation.

Anyone who needs 'work-hours', contact either Beth or Mrs. McKinney. Debbie Cummings told that there will be a workshop June 19 at the St. Vincent Rehab in Sherwood, and continuing education hours can be earned. It will be a how-to-build workshop, including lectures on landscape design, building a fountain, a contained garden, an herbal garden, a nature watch area, assembling lawn furniture, building a retaining wall, raised bed garden and wheelchair gardening. The hours will be 8:30 to 11:30, with lunch from 11:30 to 12:30. The fee, which includes lunch, is \$25.00. It is requested that anyone desiring to attend pre-register.

Ila Newberry, travel committee, spoke about the travel-information forms, which were sent to members and requested that they be left at the desk in order that the committee could be informed on travel requests.

Jan King reported on the tour of Master Gardener gardens that was conducted on June 4. She thanked the members who opened their gardens to our group.

Lois Corley said the greenhouse will have many pansies, including yellow violas, which have been requested. These plants should be delivered to the greenhouse and be ready to transplant between September 5 and 7. Anyone desiring to help should contact Lois.

Sally Sanderson said that volunteers are needed to deadhead roses at Mt. Holly.

Susan Crisp told the group that the social committee needs ideas about locations in North Little Rock

to hold the winter holiday dinner.

Beth presented certificates and pins to members who have been Master Gardeners for five and ten years. Names were listed in the Master Minutes.

Beth told the group that at the meeting today there was a posting of all members and their recorded work hours and continuing education hours. She requested that each member's hours be reported on a regular basis. She reminded us that phone hours count as work hours.

Beth stated that a thank-you would be sent to the continuing education committee for the advanced perennial training.

She stated that for those who ordered nametags, she now has received them.

She said that a 'dot' will be placed in the next Master Minutes by the name of those who have not paid their 2002 dues.

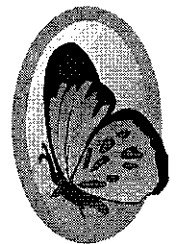
Nancy Hirsch introduced the Master Gardeners who made up the panel to answer gardening questions. They presented the program for the meeting. They were Mary Evans (perennials and annuals), Breck Campbell (vegetables), Jane Gulley (roses) and Beth Phelps (turf and trees). Many questions were asked and answered, and much good information was given to the members.

Door prizes were awarded. Nancy Walford received the body cooling neck wrap given by an anonymous donor, Leslie Scott received the hibiscus plant given by Hines Nursery through Judy Bradsher, and Cheryl Wilson won the Master Gardener license plate.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett

Trading Post



- Kim Cartwright wants watermelon seeds for baby ducks. 758-7587
- Ann Green has bicolor orange daylilies to give away. 565-6583

Thank You!!!

A special thanks to everyone who gave me their unwanted plastic pots!!

Linda

MG Project Governor's Mansion Vegetable Garden

by Julia Loyall

Chair: Elisabeth Dillon

Site Contact: Don Bingham

Workday: Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. (two days soon) Committee met with Beth mid-February and went to the garden for orientation. Behind the mansion, they found a charming, forty-foot square wooden fence around wide vegetable beds, a grassy area, and then a central rectangular bed.

Site Preparation: Two loads of donated compost were tilled in.

Supplies: Don Bingham

Seeds: County Office, MG greenhouse.

Sunshine: Was improved by tornado tree loss.

Watering: Oscillating sprinkler with timer.

Growing now: Irish potatoes, Lois's Celebrity tomatoes, peppers, six rows of okra, beets, yellow squash, carrots, lima beans, kohlrabi, lettuce (always).

Harvested so far: Spinach, garlic, yellow onions, four bags of Contender bush beans, small broccoli, white onions soon. All produce goes to the mansion.

Seeds going in: Winter squash, southern peas.

Later: Spinach, garlic, rape, collards, mustard, etc.

Last Harvest, 2001: December thirteenth.

Chief Transplanter: Dr. Henke.

Insect Control: Few, maybe insecticides soap. Nematode problem seems improved with beneficial nematodes.

Compost bed: David Walker's circular wire frame



over a soggy spot.

Breaks: A tree-shaded table and chairs are available.

Distractions: Is the mansion's addition work. Mrs. Huckabee chats as she enters her office. She likes spinach and tomatoes.

Wonderful help: Mr. Dillon.

On this project, Master Gardeners, you'll really learn vegetable gardening.

Mint Syrup

- 1 ½ cup chopped fresh mint
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups water

Tie mint in a cheesecloth bag and place in saucepan. Add sugar and water and bring to a boil. Cook and stir until sugar dissolves. Discard cheesecloth bag and cool.

Makes about 2 ¾ cups and may be frozen in ice cube trays or will remain soft enough to be used by the spoonful as needed. Wonderful in iced teas.

(Recipe courtesy of Dolores LeCompte)



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

July

- 6 Butterfly Count, Queen Wilkelwina State Park, 501-394-2862
- 9 No Master Gardener meeting in July or August
- 27 Advanced Master Gardener Training on Herbs, Mountain Home, MG website - www.arhomeandgarden.org click on Master Gardeners Only or call Beth 340-6650

August

- 13 No Master Gardener meeting in July or August

September

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Monday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 12 Fall Gardening with MG Mary Evans, 664-7863
- 22 AARP Day at Garvin Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. Show your AARP card & receive entry for \$5.
- 5,12, 19 & 26 Ikebana Flower Arranging, Nan Mitchell offers Japanese artistry in flowers, Beginning class 1:30 to 3:30 in gardens, \$25 per lesson 501-262-0942

June 2003

- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

Home Grown Market
Saturdays at 2nd Presbyterian Church & Tuesdays at the YMCA on 12th St.
All summer. Go early!!

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwys 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.

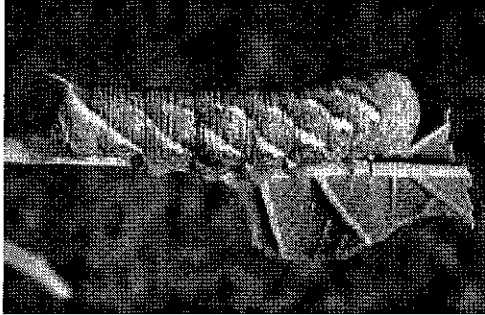


Pulaski County Master Gardeners Picnic,
Lakeside Country Club, May 9, 2002



Pulaski County Master Gardeners Day at Good Earth Nursery, May 16, 2002

Garden Pests



Tomato Hornworms

The four-inch larvae are stem green with seven or eight diagonal white stripes down their sides. Each stripe is shadowed by a row of black dots, and punctuated with a huge false eyespot and black tail. They feed in the daytime, nibbling at fruit and consuming tremendous quantities of leaves. Little souvenirs similar in appearance to rabbit pellets are sometimes left behind. Target plants include tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, eggplant and dill.

Adult hornworms are huge grayish brown moths with wingspans of up to five inches. They are also known as hawk or hummingbird moths, and they are sometimes mistaken for hummingbirds as they hover in front of flowers feeding on the nectar at dusk. Wings are ornamented with a wavy line pattern and the body is marked with orange spots.

Pupae hibernate underground in hard, two-inch cases shaped like spindles. Fall tilling helps to destroy the pupae.

Controls

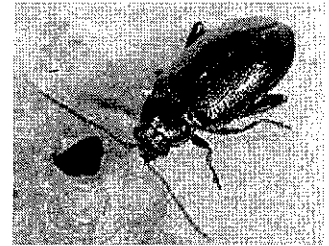
Deterrent plants include borage, opal basil and marigolds. Dill makes an excellent trap crop. The huge worms are easy to spot on dill plants, and can then be handpicked. Handpicking is the preferred method of control. Although they are huge, they usually aren't numerous. A blast of cold water from the hose will cause them to thrash about and make handpicking easier.

If you can't bear to handpick the worms (even with gloves on) spray susceptible plants with Bt.

Trichogramma are parasitic insects that feed off the eggs laid by tomato hornworms. They are harmless to humans and pets.

Flea Beetles

These tiny jumping insects are less than 1/10 inch long. The color varies.



Deterrents:

- Keep the garden clean and free of debris.
- Wormwood Spray and Red Pepper Spray are effective remedies.

Stinkbugs

These hard backed gray bugs exude a stinking fluid when touched. Younger bugs are brown.



Deterrent:

- They drop off plants when disturbed. Try knocking them into a can with a stick.
- Lizards will eliminate them.

Red Pepper Spray Concentrate:

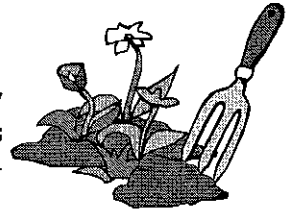
- 1 unpeeled onion
- 1 unpeeled head of garlic
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 3 pints water

Chop onion and garlic and combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Simmer 20 minutes. Cool and store in jars in the refrigerator for 6 weeks. Strain and store in jars.

To use, dilute 1 tablespoons of concentrate with 1 pint of water. Add a little Ivory snow. Red pepper spray is a good general insect spray and is effective against caterpillars.

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Master Gardeners Sharing

Julia Loyall says that plastic mesh bags you get with bulk oranges and grapefruit, make a good shield to keep off bunnies and squirrels that like to eat lily buds.

Billie Sanders has a hint for keeping pests at bay. A dryer sheet helps keep mesquites from biting while working in the yard late in the day. Put it in your pocket and rub your arms and neck with it. A dot of glycerin on a suction cup (clear, i.e. sun catchers, bird feeders) will hold a lot of weight during all weather extremes.

Bonnie Nicholas offered this helpful information.

Preplanting Care

If you buy bedding plants but can't plant them the same day, water packs or flats thoroughly and put them in shade to prevent excessive wilting. Evenings or cloudy days are the best times to plant. If you have to

plant during the heat of the day or on sunny days be sure plants are watered thoroughly immediately after planting.

After Planting Care

To promote bushy vigorous growth and more continuous blossoming, pinch out the central buds of annuals such as tall snapdragons, zinnias and marigolds. The tops of plants that tend to vine, as petunias, should be cut back to 3 to 4 inches when they are too tall. Fertilize every 3 to 4 weeks.

VACATION TIP: Cut plants back so when you return home they will be fresh, thriving and vigorous.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.

Cranberry-Raspberry Herb Punch (from MG tour)

- 1- 64 oz. bottle cranberry-raspberry juice
- 1- 46 oz. can pineapple juice
- 2- 2 liter bottles of Canada Dry ginger ale or champagne, or sparkling wine
- a large handful of the herb of your choice (spearmint, orange mint, etc., lemon verbena, lemon balm, or pineapple sage)
- 2 gallon container and a pitcher

Collect your herb of choice (I used old fashioned spearmint in one and Lemon verbena in the other), rinse in cool water and shake out excess water. Scrunch up the leaves and put them in the pitcher. Fill the pitcher with half cranberry-raspberry juice and half pineapple juice, cover and steep in the refrigerator at least overnight. This is called an herbal infusion. Pour the rest of the cran-rasp and pineapple juice into your 2 gallon container. Also add the 2 ginger ales at this time. Refrigerate this, too.

(I know it will be flat, but the container everyone liked the best had the ginger ale added the night before. I also add the ginger ale to my rosemary punch, which we all love, the night before...go figure! But it makes a difference.) After your herbs have steeped a sufficient amount of time and you are ready to make your punch, just strain your infusion into the big container, shake or stir, and there you go. Enjoy over ice with a

fresh sprig of the herb you chose!

Tip: If you aren't sure how different herbs will taste in a punch, you can make mini batches. Take several small jars, put a different herb in each one (maybe, one with spearmint, one with orange mint or lemon balm or rosemary) and fill jars about half full of pineapple juice. Cover the jars and refrigerate for 8 -16 hours. Strain out the herb (but label the jar), add an equal amount of lemonade or cranberry-raspberry juice to the pineapple infusion. Now, whatever amount you have, add an equal amount of ginger ale. (O.K. 1 part pineapple infusion to 1 part lemonade or cranberry-raspberry juice to 2 parts of ginger ale.) At any rate, this lets you try out different herbs without making up a whole batch. It also lets you try different combinations by pouring a little of, maybe, the lemon balm in with an equal part of orange mint or spearmint.

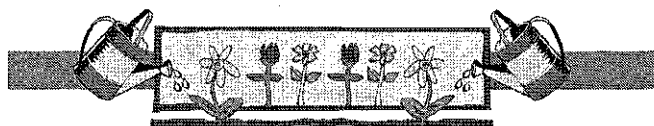
You can also try out the different herbal flavors in small batches of Cream cheese or butter...chop up the herb or herbal combination and mix it into a TBS. of softened cream cheese or butter, wrap in waxed-paper, and refrigerate overnight. Try on toast or French bread or crackers ...something without competing flavors. Then you can experiment further by combining two different batches of herbed cheese or butter together...and all this is done in small batches. If you don't like it you can toss it and don't waste too much. Happy experimenting!

(Recipe courtesy of Jan King)

(Continued from *Of Birds and Old Climbing Roses* page 1)

second baby bird from the nest?

Almost as if the bird could read my mind, she again nearly hit me in the head as she flew to the 'Mermaid' rose. She landed just inches from the nest where I felt certain she had begun her life just a few months before. 'Mermaid' had served not only as a shrub of great beauty, but also as security for the house, and the birthplace of cardinals.



Culture of Old Climbing Roses

by Virginia Johnson

Culture of climbing roses is basically the same as it is for all roses. Roses almost universally require rich, well-drained soil, good air circulation, 6-8 hours of direct sun daily, and adequate moisture. Climbing roses have the added needs of lots of space and some sort of support structure, be it a post, fence, trellis, or wall.

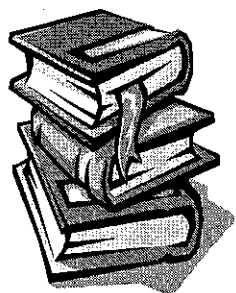
Organic matter should be incorporated into the soil during bed preparation several months in advance of planting, and planting is best done in late fall, so that the plant has the cool weather to concentrate on root development. Follow the guidelines when planting any woody plant, and avoid rich soil amendments. Container grown plants should be planted at the exact same depth they are growing in the container--no deeper. Apply about 3 inches of mulch on the soil around the plant, but leave a mulch-free circle right next to the canes for air circulation. Don't allow the mulch to come into direct contact with the canes. As with all shrubs, less frequent deep watering is preferable to frequent light watering. This encourages the roots to grow deeper into the soil.

As with all shrubs, fertilizing should not be done until the shrub has been in the ground for several months and its root system has had time to be established. Fertilizing should be done at the beginning of the growing season about 2 weeks before the last frost date and again about every 4-6 weeks until about 6 weeks before the earliest frost date. There are many commercial formulations specifically for use on roses. Just remember that less is sometimes better. Compost, composted manure, fish emulsion, etc. are excellent slow release fertilizers.

Antique roses are generally disease resistant, but this does not mean they are immune. Sometimes they will get blackspot or powdery mildew, but it usually isn't much of a problem unless they are planted in too much shade or are overcrowded and air doesn't circulate between the bushes. Even if the rose gets a disease, they will continue to grow and bloom. If you must, a mild fungicide such as Funginex or Daconil could be applied on a "as needed" basis, unlike Hybrid Teas, which need a preventative weekly spraying program.

Aphids will be the most common insect pest, and a mild insecticide such as insecticidal soap, Malathion, or Orthene control them readily. Alternatively, forego the chemical control and use a biological one, such as ladybugs or praying mantises. Another problem in our area is defoliation from night-feeding caterpillars. Dipel dust or Orthene control these. Going out at 1 AM with a flashlight and handpicking works too. Sometimes spider mites can be a problem, especially when the weather is hot and dry. Although repeatedly wetting the foliage can encourage disease development, mites thoroughly dislike a wet environment, and a couple of strong blasts of water can go a long way in removing them. If that fails, use a mild miticide. As with all chemicals, follow the label instructions.

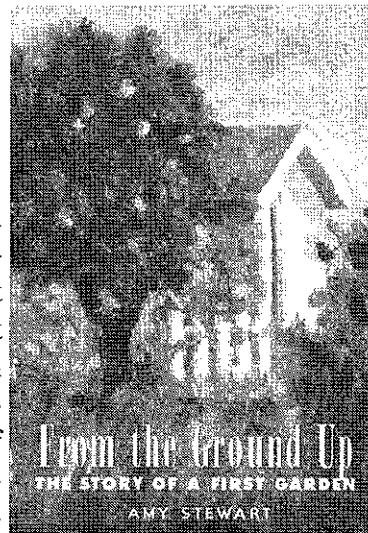
Pruning is the area of climbing rose culture that diverges from general rose culture. Old Garden Roses in general should not be pruned as modern Hybrid Teas are. As with all roses, avoid mid-summer and late fall pruning, because the new growth encouraged by the pruning is more likely to burn or freeze, depending on the season. Once bloomers should be pruned immediately after they bloom, as they bloom on the previous year's wood. Repeat bloomers can be lightly pruned several times a year as they bloom on new growth. It is the method by which climbing roses are pruned that differs. Any climber can be turned into a shrub by pruning it to be a shrub. To keep those long, graceful canes and the magnificent size of a climbing rose, selectively remove entire canes. Remove any dead canes. Any older cane larger than 1 1/2" in diameter should be removed as well, to let the younger, more vigorous canes have room to grow. This will improve flower production.



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

From the Ground Up: The Story of a First Garden

by Amy Stewart
263 pages, \$12.95



Making a garden is a grand passion and takes much determination to create that garden in which the specimens struggle to live up to the gardener's picture-perfect vision. Reveling in triumphs and confessing to many gardening sins, Amy Stewart gives the reader tips, laughs, hope and a story for all to enjoy. It is a chronicle of the seedlings and weeds, cats and compost, worms and watering that transformed a twelve-hundred-square-foot patch of earth into a glorious garden.

Stewart's topics are varied and include how to avoid cultivating weeds, appropriate comments for neighbors' gardens, the friendly art of propagating, heirloom seeds, the war on snails, gophers, aphids and an awesome account of the monarch butterfly migration. From her toil and observation she compiled a list of plants that attract good bugs like aphid-eating thrips, bees, beneficial wasps and ladybugs which include dill, cilantro, parsley, oregano, catnip, catmint, tansy, culinary sage, feverfew, Queen Anne's lace and yarrow.

The reader will find recipes for a gardener's bath, compost tea, weed salad, sheet compost, a cat garden and dilly green tomatoes. She writes of tomato trouble with solutions from Gary Ibsen. If one is blessed with too much basil, Mrs. Stewart gives a recipe for pesto by hand.

I raced through this book until the final approach of the last fifty pages. Because I wanted this book to 'last', I only allowed myself ten pages each day. The last chapter was a letter she wrote and left for the next occupant. Oh, how sweet it was. I recommend this book for the long, hot days when it will be healthier (and cooler) to read than to garden. Enjoy!

Internet Sources by Jan Gauntt

When people find out I'm a Master Gardener, they often ask me to identify plants springing up in their yards. Usually the plants in question are considered weeds. To put names to plants, I like to use the U of A Extension Service booklet "Weeds of Arkansas." I've also found several internet sites that are helpful.

My favorite sites for high-quality photos are the "N.J. Agricultural Weed Gallery" and the "N.J. Harmful Plants Gallery" Listed at www.rce.rutgers.edu/garden/default.asp.

"Weed Finder" at www.ortho.com shows drawings of some of the most common weeds.

When plants are first emerging in the garden, it can be puzzling. To decide which sprouts are wanted and which are baby weeds. Iowa State shows weed seedlings (www.weeds.iastate.edu/weed-id/weedid.htm) and a link to more at Michigan State.

For still more information, the Weed Science Society of America displays images of over 200 weeds, herbs, and other plants at several stages of growth. Click on the "Photo Herbarium" at www.wssa.net.

Rounding out this discussion, Cornell University offers tips and tactics to thwart weeds (www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/weedsgarden/index.html).

Master Gardener Alert!

Pulaski County CES Website

Pulaski County CES now has a website. It's pulaski.uaex.edu (no www, and no passwords are necessary). Click on the Master Gardener link, and it goes to our web page describing our projects. If you want to see all the photos at one time rather than having to click on each project, then click the printer friendly version (a .pdf), which is located in the upper right corner of the first page. It takes a minute or two to load the .pdf.

2003 International Master Gardener Conference Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky June 18-22, 2003!

The web site is up and running. All Master Gardeners are encouraged to visit often (as it is evolving with more information regularly). Be sure to bookmark it. The address is: <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>. (Some have reported difficulty in getting to it, probably since it is NOT a www address. If necessary, you can type in mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003 and your browser will take you there.)

Wormwood Spray:

8 ounces wormwood leaves
3 pints water
1 teaspoon Ivory Snow
2 cups hot water

Simmer wormwood leaves in 3 pints of water for 30 minutes. Stir, strain, and leave to cool. Dissolve ivory snow in 2 cups of hot water. Add to wormwood water.

This spray is best used against caterpillars.

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Of Birds and Old Climbing Roses	1
Monthly Features	
June Board Minutes	2
Year of the Vinca	2
June Regular Meeting Minutes	3
Trading Post	3
MG Project, Governor's Mansion	4
Calendar and Notes	5
Recipes	4,7
Garden Pests	6
What Works!	7
Culture of Old Climbing Roses	8
Book Review	9
Internet Sources	9



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

August 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 7

TO BE OR NOT TO BE IN MY GARDEN

by Ann Green

To begin this article, a disclaimer seems to be in order. "One gardener's invasive, pesty plant is another gardener's invited and precious cultivar." Therefore, the reader's indulgence is sought if this article includes a plant that you love.

Meanwhile I've chosen to begin with a particularly offensive pest, which came from my mother who found the colorful leaves absolutely charming: the chameleon plant, variously sold in catalogs under a variety of names that doesn't include my own coined descriptive name for it (which is used only during personal conversations with the plant itself). However, if you want a plant that, when one thinks it has all been dug up, finds that it has the ability to grow underground, even underneath edging meant to be a barrier, and pop back up perhaps a foot away from the original planting, then this is the one for you. As for me, I have fought it now for a number of years, am

offended by the odor it emits upon touch, want to cover my garden with a variety of plants as opposed to one massive ground cover, and am finally going to see if I can "round it up" and drive it away from my grounds.

On the other hand, Japanese anemones are currently one of my favorite white fall-flowering plants and I am still willing to make the effort to keep them in reasonable bounds because they begin to bloom when the rest of my garden tends to look rather tacky in the fall and will continue blooming until frost. It does indeed take considerable constant effort because they will march (underground, of course) right up to an iris, for instance, and try their best to take over, meaning that I work at pulling up unwanted new plants all spring and summer long, keeping just enough to enjoy in the fall. I keep telling them, "It's location, location, location."

Approximately **4,000** species of exotic plants (Kartesz and Morse 1997) and **500** exotic animals (Office of Technology Assessment 1993) have established free-living populations in the United States. Nearly **seven hundred** are known to cause severe harm to agriculture at a cost of billions of dollars annually. **Four hundred** exotic plant species have been identified as a threat to our native flora and fauna as a result of their aggressive, invasive characteristics.

(Taken from the Plant Conservation Alliance website: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>)

What is a Invasive Plant? Page 2

What is the Problem with Invasive Plants? Page 2

How Can You Help? Page 3

List of Alien Plants Page 3

No Meetings in July or August

Arkansas Is Our Campus

What is a Invasive Plant?

What is an invasive plant? Many people have different versions.

Non-Native - Organisms are considered *non-native* (alien, exotic, foreign, introduced, non-indigenous) when they occur artificially in locations beyond their known historical natural ranges. Non-native can refer to species brought in from other continents, regions, ecosystems and even other habitats. Species exotic to the U.S. include those transported from Europe, Asia, Africa, South America, Australia and other parts of the world. It also includes any species moved by people from one locality in the U.S. to a new one. For example, black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) is native to the southern Appalachian region of the eastern U.S. Because of its rapid growth and hardiness, it was planted all around the U.S. during this century for living fences, erosion control, wind breaks and other purposes. Even though it is native to the U.S., black locust is considered exotic anywhere it occurs outside its known historical natural range of southern Appalachia.

Growth Habit - Invasiveness. The most important aspect of an alien plant is how it responds to a new environment. An *invasive* species is one that displays rapid growth and spread, allowing it to establish over large areas. Free from the vast and complex array of natural controls present in their native lands, including herbivores, parasites, and diseases, exotic plants may experience rapid and unrestricted growth in new environments. Invasiveness is enhanced by features such as strong vegetative growth, abundant seed production, high seed germination rate, long-lived seeds, and rapid maturation to a sexually reproductive (seed-producing) stage. Invasive plants reproduce rapidly, either vegetatively or by seed. Their phenomenal growth allows them to overwhelm and displace existing vegetation and form dense one-species stands.

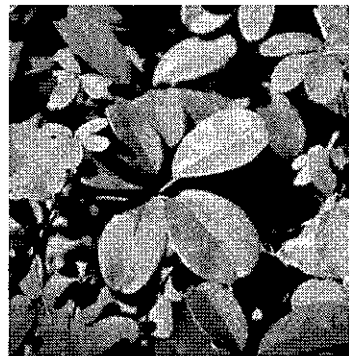
Not all exotic species are considered harmful. For example, a small number of non-invasive alien plants (e.g., corn, wheat, oats) form the basis of our agricultural industry and pose little to no threat to our natural ecosystems. However, each alien plant is one less native host plant for our native insects, vertebrates and other organisms that are dependent upon them.

(Taken from the Plant Conservation Alliance website: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>)

What is the Problem with Invasive Alien Plants?

Impacts of Invasive Alien Plants. Invasive non-native organisms are one of the greatest threats to the natural ecosystems of the U.S. and are destroying America's natural history and identity. These unwelcome plants, insects and other organisms are disrupting the ecology of natural ecosystems, displacing native plant and animal species, and degrading our nation's unique and diverse biological resources. Aggressive invaders reduce the amount of light, water, nutrients and space available to native species, alter hydrological patterns, soil chemistry, moisture-holding capacity, and erodibility, and change fire regimes (Randall 1996). Some exotics are capable of hybridizing with native plant relatives, resulting in unnatural changes to a plant's genetic makeup; others have been found to harbor plant pathogens, such as bacterial leaf scorch (*Xylella fastidiosa*) that can affect both native and non-native plants, including ornamentals (McElrone, et al., 1999). Still others contain toxins that may be lethal to certain animals. For example, garlic mustard has been found to contain compounds that are lethal to a native butterfly species.

Impacts to Native Fauna. Our native fauna, including insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, fish and other animals, is dependent on native plants for food and shelter. While some animals have a varied diet and can feed on a wide number of plant species, others are highly specialized and may be restricted to feeding on several or a single plant species. For example, caterpillars of the monarch butterfly have evolved to feed primarily on plants in the genus *Asclepias* (milkweeds) that contain special chemicals. The term *host plant* is generally used to describe a plant species that is required food for at least one stage of an insect or other animal. As exotic plants replace our native flora, fewer host plants are available to provide the necessary nutrition for our native wildlife.



Fiveleaf Akebia (Akebia quinata)

(Taken from the Plant Conservation Alliance website:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>)

How Can You Help?

In order to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive alien plants into natural areas, and to help restore our native flora and fauna, you can:

- Avoid disturbance to natural areas, including clearing of native vegetation, planting of non-native plants and dumping of yard wastes.
- Do not purchase or use invasive exotic species in your landscaping or for land restoration or erosion control projects.
- For landscaping, use plants that are native to your local region as much as possible or those that are not known to be invasive.
- Know your plants. If you are unsure of the identification of a plant, take a sample to a university, arboretum, department of agriculture office, local nature center, or native plant society for assistance. Find out if it is known or thought to have invasive tendencies. If the exotic plant is closely related to an invasive species, it is likely to have similar tendencies. To be on the safe side, if you don't know it, don't grow it.
- Control exotic invasive plants in your landscape either by removing them entirely or by managing them to prevent their spread outside your property. This may include pruning to prevent flowering and seed dispersal or cutting, mowing or herbicide use to prevent vegetative spread.
- Discuss your concerns about invasive exotic plants with nurseries and garden shops and ask them not to sell these species. Provide them with printed material (such as this) explaining the problem to read later. Ask for non-invading alternatives instead.
- Notify land managers of invasive exotic plant occurrences.
- Offer to assist in exotic plant removal projects.
- Work with your local government to encourage the use of native plants in their urban and suburban landscapes. Provide

them with lists of attractive, non-invasive locally native alternatives that are naturally more hardy, pest-resistant, and provide more nutritious food for wildlife than cultivated plants.

*(Taken from the Plant Conservation Alliance website:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>)*

Some Alien Plant Invaders That Are Or Could Become Problems

- **Tree-of-heaven** (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- **Fiveleaf Akebia** (*Akebia quinata*)
- **Silk tree or Mimosa** (*Albizia julibrissin*)
- **Garlic mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- **Porcelainberry** (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)
- **Giant reed** (*Arundo donax*)
- **Musk thistle** (*Carduus nutans*)
- **Asiatic sand sedge** (*Carex kobomugi*)
- **Australian pine** (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)
- **Oriental bittersweet** (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
- **Canada thistle** (*Cirsium arvense*)
- **Asiatic colubrine** (*Colubrina asiatica*)
- **Carrotwood** (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*)
- **Russian-olive** (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- **Climbing euonymus** (*Euonymus fortunei*)
- **Leafy spurge** (*Euphorbia esula*)
- **English Ivy** (*Hedera helix*)
- **Cogon grass** (*Imperata cylindrica*)
- **Chinese lespedeza** (*Lespedeza cuneata*)
- **Bush honeysuckles, exotic** *Lonicera cultivars and species*)
- **Purple loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*)
- **Melaleuca** (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*)
- **Velvet tree** (*Miconia calvescens*)
- **Japanese stilt grass** (*Microstegium vimineum*)
- **Fire tree** (*Myrica faya*)

List courtesy of PCA

MG Project

THE BUZZ AT THE STATE HOSPITAL GARDEN

by Helen Hronas

Although butterflies flitter about rather than “buzzing,” things are “abuzz” at the State Hospital butterfly garden project this year! Master Gardeners taking the tour on June 4th seemed amazed at the transformation that has taken place, and, even those of us who have been closely involved are still pleasantly surprised each time we view the results of all our hard work

Just a bit of history – the State Hospital garden is one of the older MG projects, created through a trade-off arrangement Janet Carson made in 1991. The deal was that if MG’s would take care of the garden at the front entrance to the Arkansas State Hospital, we would have the use of their greenhouse. In the beginning, most of our volunteers worked at both the greenhouse and the garden, later separating into two projects. Planting began that Fall with daffodils and pansies, and the following Spring, we watched while marigolds raised in the greenhouse wilted under the sweltering sun for lack of water. It seemed that the water had not been turned on for the summer (it wasn’t time...) and there was no way to moisten our marigolds! The following year was more successful, but watering was always a problem because the hilltop is hot and dry, and water also had to be carried down the hill to the corner plots and to the small brick plot at the UAMS sign on West Markham. Our other “painful” problem was the Japanese holly that curved around the four sections of the original garden, making our bending about miserable, to say the least. It took us until just last year to get these monsters totally removed by State Hospital crews.

The microclimate dictated that we stick to hardy, drought-resistant plants. By 1994 and 1995, we had copperleaf, lantana, artemesia, gomphrena, gaillardia, poker plants, salvia, and portulaca that weathered the summers, and in fall, there were always the bright pansies to enjoy. By 2000, we were ready for something different, and began planting to attract butterflies. Both host and nectar plants included milkweed, butterfly bushes, coneflowers, liatrice, pentas, rudbeckia, zinnias, monarda, lantana, verbena, and salvia. By the following spring, the perennials had become well established and more annuals were added.

An imaginative, updated landscape plan was approved for the garden in Fall 2001, and included rock paths that meander to a garden bench, bird bath and

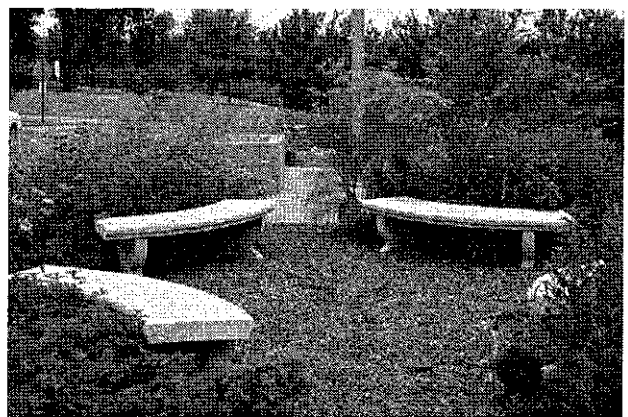
butterfly houses. We now had just the two large gardens on each side of the flagpole and the small strip behind it. Fifty dwarf boxwoods, a rock bench, concrete bird-bath, and stepping-stones were donated. Carl Hunter, Arkansas’ favorite wildflower expert, gave us seeds, and made himself available as our “mentor.”

Garden benches were moved in, we cleaned up and moved existing plants to new locations. Later our new trellis was installed by the maintenance crew and we planted Carl Hunter’s seeds: soapwort, ox-eye daisy, Formosa lily, blackberry lily, Mexican hat, tick-seed, narrow leaf sunflower, corn cockle, cardinal flower, Queen Anne’s lace, and coreopsis. Bags and bags of mulch have been added, and we finally are getting the watering system functioning (we think!).

We are so pleased with the great help and cooperation we have received from Dr. Larry Miller, Administrator of the Hospital. In April, we received a neat “Certificate of Appreciation” from the Arkansas State Hospital Office of Volunteers with a special verse presented to the “Shining Stars of Master Gardeners.”

. Thanks to all of the MG’s and hospital staff who’ve put their hearts and sore muscles into the project over the years, it has developed into a great garden!

Special thanks to Ruth Owings for historical data on the project, and to Carol Mendel for her delightful “Buzz” notes that keep our committee members updated on happenings at the butterfly garden. Carol and Merilyn Tilley are co-chairs for the State Hospital project; their positive attitude is a real plus!



Benches donated by the State Hospital.



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

August

- 3 Gourd Workshop, Scott, Toltec Mounds State Park, Contact Park Interpreter, 501-961-9442; Learn how gourds were used by Native Americans, how to grow gourds, the basic types of gourds, how to construct dippers, bowls, and canteens. Take home a gourd craft. Materials provided. Reservations required, space is limited.
- 8-11 26th Annual Hope Watermelon Festival, Hope; Contact Mark Keith, 870-777-3640; www.hopemelonfest.com
- 10 3rd Annual Bat House Workshop, Pochontas, Old Davidson State Park, 9am Explore the fascinating world of bats. Bring a hammer and interest in fighting the war on mosquitoes by inviting the creatures of the night to your home! Registration required. Contact Kimberly Divine, 870-892-4708. FREE
- 10 3rd Annual Critter Craze, Mt. Nebo State Park, Dardanelle; Arkansas Native Plant and Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will present the feature program. Call the park for info - 501-229-3655
- 12-13 Fall Foliage Mountain Bike Tours and Hikes, Mt Nebo State Park, Saturday - biking begins at 9am; Sunday hiking begins at 9am; Contact the park - 501-229-3655
- 13 No Master Gardener meeting in July or August

September

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Monday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 12 Fall Gardening with MG Mary Evans, 664-7863
- 22 AARP Day at Garvin Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. Show your AARP card & receive entry for \$5.
- 5,12,1 Ikebana Flower Arranging, Nan Mitchell offers Japanese artistry in flowers, Beginning class 1:30 to 3:30 in gardens, \$25 per lesson 501-262-0942

June 2003

- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

Home Grown Market
 Saturdays at 2nd Presbyterian Church &
 Tuesdays at the YMCA on 12th St.
All summer. Go early!!

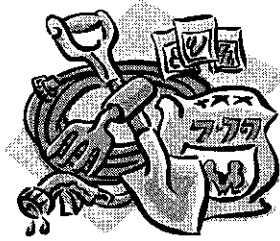
Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwys 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.



State Hospital Project, Little Rock, AR

Black-eyed Susans at State Hospital Project, Little Rock, AR





August Checklist by Libby Thalheimer

"Go Round Roses" Prune shrub roses now and fertilize. Continue spraying for leaf diseases.

"The Green File" Water annuals with a salt-free club soda.

Check container plants daily and water as needed. Water an inch or two every week to prevent even established plants' slow death. Mulch plants at least three inches to retain moisture and to keep down weeds. Fertilize spring-flowering ornamentals, fall blooming plants, and warm-season grasses now. Set mower height at 2 1/2 inches.

"So Dig" Plant a second crop of summer annuals. Plant fall blooming bulbs, fall annuals, perennials, and cool season vegetables in a cold frame. Sow seeds directly into pots for an indoor herb garden this winter.

"Shoots" Cutback leggy annuals and perennials. Deadhead spent blooms to prevent seed production. Disbud chrysanthemums and dahlias for specimen blooms. Divide and replant herbs and perennials. Take cuttings and pot them. Cut red raspberry canes to the ground when they have finished fruiting.

"At last, Shrubbled" Avoid pruning azaleas, forsythia and other spring-flowering shrubs now. They are forming flower

buds for next spring.

"Clear and Present Danger" For webworms on trees, remove and destroy webs and apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) to the leaves. To control lacebugs, spray with insecticidal soap or malathion. When using any fungicide, herbicide or insecticide, be sure plants to be treated contain plenty of moisture. Otherwise, too much of the chemical may be absorbed and damage the plants. August is a good time to use herbicides to get rid of grassy weeds, poison ivy and honeysuckle.

"Catcher of my Eye" *Ageratum*, *althea*, anise mint, *asclepias*, *asters*, *balsam*, *bellamcanda*, *browallia*, *buddleia*, *calli-carpi*, *campsis*, *cannas*, *celosia*, *clematis*, *cleome*, *clerodendron*, *clethra alnifolia*, *crape myrtle*, *crotalaria*, *dahlias*, *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 squamigera*, *marigolds*, *marjoram*, *miscanthus*, *mints*, *monarda*, *mondo grass*, *montbretia*, *nicotiana*, *oxalis*, *pennisetums*, *phlox*, *physostegia*, *portulaca*, *roses*, *rosemary*, *rudbeckia*, *salvias*, *snow-on-the-mountain*, *spirea*, *tamarisk*, *tansy*, *thyme*, *torenia*, *tuberose*, *turtleheads*, *veronicas*, *vinca*, *pink zephyranthes lilies*, and *zinnias*.

Alien Plant - Profile

Courtesy of Plant Conservation Alliance

Porcelainberry

Ampelopsis brevipedunculata (Maxim.) Trautv.

NATIVE RANGE: China, Korea, Japan, Russian Far East

ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Porcelainberry is a vigorous vine which is slow to establish but grows and spreads quickly in open areas of the urban landscape. The seeds of porcelainberry are similar in size to those of native pioneers, and like the native, they will germinate readily in the prepared soil bed left behind after natural or human disturbance. Once established, the vine quickly overwhelms and destroys native vegetation by shading out smaller plants and outcompeting native vegetation for water and nutrients. Urban parks, with extensive wooded borders neighboring landscaped residential and private property, are especially vulnerable to invasion by porcelainberry.

Background: Porcelainberry was originally cultivated as a bedding and landscape plant. In spite of its aggressiveness in some areas, it is still used in the horticultural trade (for example, the ornamental *A. brevipedunculata* 'Elegans' is often recommended as a landscape plant

with a cautionary note that "care must be taken to keep it from overtaking and shading out small plants"). The characteristics that make porcelainberry a desirable plant for the garden -- its colorful berries, good ground coverage, trellis-climbing vines, pest-resistance, and tolerance of adverse conditions -- are also responsible for its presence in the United States as an undesirable invader.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE PLANTS: *In states where porcelainberry has become a serious threat to the native vegetation, native plant societies have suggested the following vines as alternates: trumpet honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens), with red or yellow flowers and berries that can be eaten by birds; native wisteria* (Wisteria frutescens), a woody vine with abundant clusters of purple flowers; Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), which can be aggressive but offers extraordinary fall color; trumpet creeper (Campsis radicans) and goldflame honeysuckle (Lonicera heckrottii), both attractive to hummingbirds; and jackman clematis (Clematis jackmanii), a hardy climber with showy purple flowers.*



What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan

Coffee Filters with Potted Plants

When potting plants, place a coffee filter in the bottom of the pot. This will allow the water to drain but keep the soil from leaching out. By the time the coffee filter dissolves, the plant's root system should have developed enough to retain the soil.

Allergy-Free Trees

If you suffer from allergies, plant female trees in your landscape. Female trees will trap airborne pollen from males of their own species. Avoid "seedless," or "male" varieties of trees and shrubs.

Removing Aphids from Roses

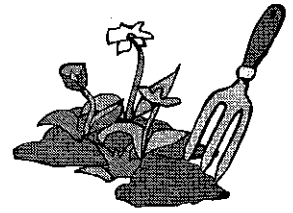
To remove aphids from roses, simply give them a blast of water from the hose. This should be done every morning. Don't spray during the day because salts in the water can burn the leaves. Spraying in late afternoon promotes fungal diseases. This method also works well to remove spider mites.

What Works With Tomatoes

Select the Extension recommended varieties of tomato transplants. Look for plants that appear healthy, dark green in color and do not have any spots or holes in the leaves. The ideal tomato transplant should be just about as wide as it is tall. Avoid tall, spindly plants.

Instead of allowing tomatoes to become full ripe and red on the vine before harvesting, yields will be increased by harvesting the fruit at first blush or pink instead of leaving them on the plant to ripen fully. A tomato picked at first sign of color and ripened at room temperature will be just as tasty as one left to fully mature on the vine.

Never refrigerate tomatoes picked immature. Place them in a single layer at room temperature and allow them to develop full color. When they are fully ripe, place them in the refrigerator several hours before eating. Those handled in this manner will be of high quality and full flavor.



Picking tomatoes before they turn red reduces damage from birds. Bird damage is common no matter where you live. One control method that works quite well is to take old nylon stockings and cut them into pieces 10 to 12 inches long. Tie a knot in one end of the stocking and slip the open end over the entire cluster of tomatoes. Secure the end above the tomato cluster with a rubber band or twist-tie. Birds will not be able to peck through the nylon. Slip the stocking off the cluster, and harvest the ripe fruit and replace it to protect later ripening fruit. Also, birds damage fully mature fruit more readily than green or pink fruit. Gardeners have tried many ways to reduce bird damage, scarecrows, aluminum strips, tin foil plates and noisemakers. These work until the local birds become accustomed to seeing or hearing them. Fabric covering materials can also be used as a barrier mechanism.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.

Water Wisely

(From Rebecca Kolls Newsletter)

With the heat of the summer, often come water bans and the need for conservation. Here are some of my favorite tips for watering wisely:

- * Drip irrigation, a system of hoses and emitters that deliver water right to the roots of plants, prevents water from being lost to evaporation.
- * Soaker hoses, which have tiny holes punched along their length, are great, too.
- * If you use sprinklers, be sure to aim them carefully, and measure their output so that you water deeply and less frequently.

* Light daily sprinklings encourage shallow roots that are dependent on frequent irrigation, instead of deep roots that fend for themselves.

* Set out cleaned tuna or cat food cans within the spray of your sprinkler; a one-inch watering every ten days should do the trick.

~ Rebecca Kolls
"Keep those hands dirty!"



Gladiolus – Perennial Corm – Treated as an Annual

by Lois Clifton

Commonly called Sword Lily, Gladiolus is a member of the Libiaceate family and one of the most popular summer-flowering bulbs. With spikes of large silky flowers, it is popular in vases and displays. With about 300 original species, it is difficult to identify all of them because they hybridize so easily. However, since they are easy to hybridize, new plants appear every year.

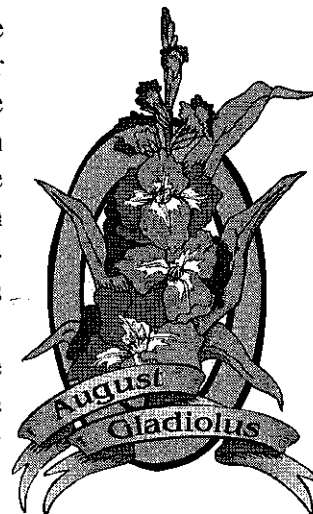
The flowers are of many different colors, through all the shades of red and orange to white. There is even a blue gladiolus, which comes mainly from South Africa. These flowers are grown in Europe as well as America. The tube-shaped flowers grow above one another in long clusters along one side of the stem. The lower blossom opens first. If a spike of gladiolus is cut when the lower flowers are the only ones in bloom, the buds above them will open one after another. They will keep fresh for a week to ten days. Greenhouse cultivation makes it possible to have the flowers available all year.

The gladiolus is suitable for tall upright arrangements and is often used in churches and at

festivals. However, the leaves may be pressed for dried arrangements and the seed heads are dried in an upright position. While their spikiness makes them popular with flower arrangers, it also makes them difficult to handle.

Gladiolus are grown from a corm type bulb which form new corms above the old ones. They should be planted in moist fertile, well-drained soil at a depth of four inches with five inches between bulbs. They will take full morning sun but it is best to shade them in the afternoon. The bed can be raised if it does not drain well. They may be planted in early spring from January to late summer. To ensure a longer flowering period you can stagger the planting dates every two weeks.

Since the corms must be dug up and stored indoors in the fall, most gardeners handle it as an annual and plant them new each year.



Alien Plant - Profile

Courtesy of Plant Conservation Alliance

Tree of Heaven

Ailanthus altissima (Mill.) Swingle

NATIVE RANGE: Central China

DESCRIPTION: Tree-of-heaven, also known as ailanthus, Chinese sumac, and stinking shumac, is a rapidly growing, deciduous tree in the mostly tropical quassia family (Simaroubaceae).

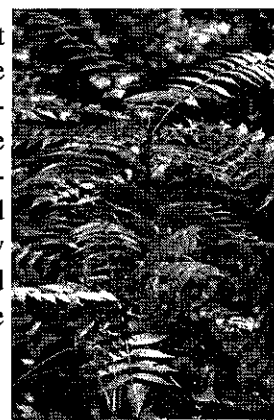
ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Tree-of-heaven is a prolific seed producer, grows rapidly, and can overrun native vegetation. Once established, it can quickly take over a site and form an impenetrable thicket. Ailanthus trees also produce toxins that prevent the establishment of other plant species. The root system is aggressive enough to cause damage to sewers and foundations.

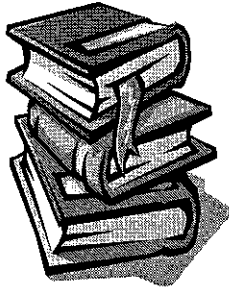
BACKGROUND: Tree-of-heaven was first introduced to America by a gardener in Philadelphia, PA, in 1784, and by 1840 was commonly available from nurseries.

The species was also brought into California mainly by the Chinese who came to California during the goldrush in the mid-1800s. Today it is frequently found in abandoned mining sites there. The history of ailanthus in China is as old as the written language of the country.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE

PLANTS: Many lovely native trees and shrubs make excellent substitutes for Ailanthus and are readily available. Some examples for the eastern United States include deciduous shrubs such as staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*), smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*), box elder (*Acer nigrum*), fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), ash (*Fraxinus* spp.), and black walnut (*Juglans nigra*). Because U.S. native plants can become invasive outside their natural, historical ranges, be sure to use plant species native to the ecological region you live in. Check with your local native plant society for recommendations of species and sources of native plants.





Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

Ortho's All About Vines and Climbers

by R. William Thomas

96 pages, 1999 Meredith Books, Des Moines, Iowa \$11.95

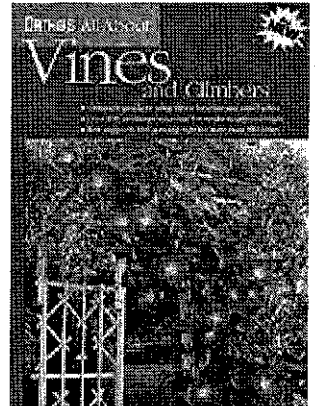
As a result of reading this book, I have twenty varieties of vines and climbers in my yard ... and yearning for more. They serve so many purposes; dynamic color; multifarious textures; sun, wind, and sound screens; air fresheners; erosion prevention; attract birds and good insects; add height; screen out poor views; product fruit; and contribute to winter interest.

There are forty helpful lists such as vines with long-lasting interest, vines for drought, six easy vines/six challenging vines, and best times to prune thirty-three flowering vines. The guide lists sixty garden-worthy vines that are readily available. Under each section you'll find an easy-to-browse summary for key features, growth rate and climbing habit, and hardiness. The summaries are followed by descriptions of the plants, their uses, and tips for

supports, placement, and care. Pictures are plentiful. Recommended cultivars and species are also described.

Most selections for my garden came from local nurseries and generous gardener friends (i.e. Dotty Heckenbach, Linda Moyer, Dorothy Hobbs, Jan King, Ann Green – MANY THANKS!). I located Dutchman's pipe from one of the ten mail order sources listed. The index is thorough and easy to use.

If your plans are leaning to the vertical, this is a must-have book.



Internet Sources by Jan Gauntt

When we plan our gardens in the cool of winter, sometimes we fail to fully take into account the heat and drought of August. To help design next year's gardens to better withstand summer conditions, here are some web resources on water-thrifty gardening.

- www.ces.uga.edu/pubcd/b1073.htm - developing a water-wise landscape(Georgia).
- www.cnn.com/interactive/specials/0006/drought.tolerance/download.html - drought-tolerant plants for the Southeast.
- www.pineridgegardens.com/xeriscape.htm - xeriscaping with Arkansas native plants.
- www.arhomeandgarden.org/landscape/homelandscaping/irrigation/ - watering tips.
- www.h2ouse.org/tour/landscaping.cfm - water conservation in the landscape; includes irrigation systems, turf, rain harvest systems, xeriscaping.
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/drought.html> - several related topics.
- www.ces.uga.edu/agriculture/horticulture/drought.html - coping with watering restrictions.

Master Gardener Alert!

Change of Location Jacksonville Mulch

The Jacksonville Recycling Center has moved and with it the free mulch. It is now located on Cloverdale Road at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. You can get mulch anytime between 8am and sundown, 7 days a week. They lock the gate at sundown.

From Jacksonville, take Hwy 161 South turn right onto Cloverdale Road.

From Little Rock, take I-40 West to Hwy 161 exit (Prothro Junction), turn left and go north onto Hwy 161, (go pass the North Hills Memorial Gardens Cemetery) turn left onto Cloverdale Road.

From Sherwood, take Hwy 67, 167 North to Jacksonville, take Redmond exit, turn right onto Redmond Road (turns into Trickey Lane), got to red-light (Hwy 161), turn right onto Hwy 161, follow until you get to Cloverdale Road, turn right onto Cloverdale Road.

!!Attention All Master Gardeners!!

Photos of Master Gardener's events (MG meetings, the picnic, and etc.) will be posted on our website. If you do not want your photo published, please call Beth (340-6650) or Cheryl Kennedy (753-8192) and tell one of them. Otherwise, all photos will be posted.

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

To Be Or Not To Be	1
What is a Invasive Plant?	2
What is the problem with Invasive Alien Plants?	2
How Can You Help?	3
List of Potential Invasive Plants	3
MG Project, State Hospital	4
Calendar and Notes	5
August Checklist	6
Profile-Porcelainberry	6
What Works!	7
Gladiolus	8
Profile - Tree of Heaven	8
Book Review	9
Internet Sources	9



Get Your News Printed!

⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.

⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

September 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 8

Then and Now

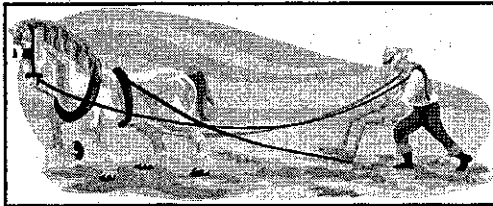
by Earl Goodson

In the midst of the vegetable garden season, memories of how it used to be come flooding back. This old coot, who has been gardening for more than seventy-five years, has been asked to share thoughts about how it was when he began gardening, in contrast to how it is now. Though his memory has not retained everything, here are some things that he remembers have changed through the years.

A garden may start with a perusal of seed catalogs. Then, one waited til it was just about time to plant and a catalog might reach you. It was a rather drab looking thing. Color illustrations

were few. Prices were low. Packets were filled with ample amounts of seed. Seed packets were available from some stores. Now, in the catalogs that come before Christmas without asking, the colored illustrations in the catalogs and on the packets are much more attractive. The prices are high for just a few seeds, just enough to be a sample planting. Bulk seeds were available for lower prices then, as they still are at the hardware and farm stores.

Preparing the soil has changed. The old gardener usually spaded the patch with a spading fork. A large patch was usually plowed with a mule and a turning blade. A hoe did the harrowing



then. Now a garden tractor is used to turn soil over and to break up the clods.

The few plants of few varieties were available from green houses or farm stores. Tomatoes and those of the cabbage family were about the only ones offered. Now many varieties are available in six packs for those who want to get a running start on the season.

Plant varieties available then were few. Now they are called "heritage" varieties. They were grown in isolation and depended on being pollinated by helpful insects. Now there are many varieties

of hybridized vegetables and some that have been genetically altered for better productivity. Some are produced to repel or kill insects or plant diseases.

Insecticides were few. Sulfur, Bordeaux blue, and Rotenone were all that can be remembered. Now there are specifics, some so powerful that they can't be sold to ordinary practitioners, for almost every predator and disease.

Fertilizers were natural wastes from barnyards. Now there are dry pelleted and bagged fertilizers, and some slow-release kinds that are usually applied once a season. If composting was done

(Continued on page 2)

September Speaker will be

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting August 2, 2002

(Continued from page 1, Then and Now)

then, it was done only by a few advanced gardeners. Repellants for deer, for squirrels, for moles are not remembered.

The vertical garden was achieved mainly by staking then. Now there are tomato cages. There are also expanding bean and vine poles, some in teepee form. Much better end-row uprights will allow wires strung under tension and yards of non-rotting netting to support other vine growth. Then peas were supported by brush saved from last year's pruning. Now there are self-supporting and miniature varieties, that do not need staking.

Tools are much improved over the ones of old. In hand powered tools, there are better shaped hoe heads than the old-fashioned kinds. The 'claw' cultivator, which buries itself in the ground and pulls up weeds and clods was unknown.

Power tools were almost unknown. With the development of smaller gas-powered and electric motors, efficient cultivation, pruning, and harvesting can be accomplished. Perhaps the most helpful tool is the roto-tiller that can prepare the soil and remove weeds from between rows.

Bending over the vegetables to plant, cultivate, weed, and harvest used to be the rule. Now there are rolling stools, which can allow the aging gardener to scoot seated in comfort over a compartment where hand tools are stored.

Water was then usually delivered by clouds. Individual plants were watered from a sprinkling can carried from the source. A hose and a nozzle were possible only if a city water line was not far from the garden. The hose is now supplemented with soaker hoses, irrigation heads, and sprinklers that deliver the water to where it is needed. Permanent sprinkler systems can be installed in the garden and operated by timers, which do not require the presence of the gardener.

Memory has probably failed to recall all of the changes. However, the basic process, the miracle of seeds and starts growing into larger, productive plants still goes on. The best part that has not changed is the better flavor of vegetables harvested from the garden just moments before they are prepared for the table.

Present: Beth Phelps, Jane Druff, Carolyn Newbern, Nancy Kirsch, John Prather, Suellen Roberts, Sandy Harrison and Jean Moffett.

The meeting was called to order.

Beth said that Ila Newberry, chairman for the travel committee, had said that a fall foliage trip to Eureka Springs was being planned for October 22-24. The Travel Committee had asked about the possibility of the bus part of the trip being subsidized through the Master Gardener treasury. This was discussed by Board members. A motion was made and seconded that this not be done, and the motion was passed.

Beth stated that there have been inquiries about the possibility of Master Gardener husband/wife couples paying only one dues per year since they receive only one newsletter. This was discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and voted upon, and it was decided that we would stay consistent with our policy of each Master Gardener member paying the \$15.00 yearly membership fee.

John gave a treasurer's report. He stated that there has been little financial activity during the last two months. The ending bank balance as of July 31 was \$12,584.92

Carolyn spoke of an up-coming survey of Master Gardener projects, old and new. This will be discussed at a Board Meeting on August 27 at 9:30 am at the County Extension Office.

A Board meeting concerning changes in the By-Laws is set for August 20 at 9:30 am at the County Extension Office.

The volunteer applications for fall training 2002 were looked at, and each Board member was given approximately 14 names to call and interview.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting August 20, 2002

Present were Beth Phelps, Jane Druff, Carolyn Newbern John Prather, Suellen Roberts, Sandy Harrison and Jean Moffett.

The meeting was called to order.

Beth told us that the parking rules have changed at the State Extension Office Building. The back door will now be locked, and all employees will park in the back of the building and use that door. Therefore, there will be more parking spaces in the front. Master Gardeners are asked to wear their name tags for security reasons.

Master Gardeners will be asked to each bring a can of food to the September meeting. This is a part of the '4 H Can Make a Difference' program. These cans will go to the Arkansas Food Bank.

Members of the Board discussed revisions to the current By Laws. Each Master Gardener member will receive a copy of the revised By Laws.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Moffett

Whitewashing Agriculture

Originally published in the November 2000 issue of *Agricultural Research* magazine. Only part of article is printed here.

It All Began . . .

About 8 years ago, while looking for a way to reduce the use of synthetic chemicals in orchards, Glenn conceived of using kaolin particles as a physical barrier that would repel insects and prevent disease organisms from digging in.

Among its many uses, kaolin gives paper its whiteness and is used in paint, pottery, and cosmetics. And it's safe to ingest. A tiny bit of kaolin is already in aspirin and some other tablets. (See "Particle Films: A New Kind of Plant Protectant," *Agricultural Research*, November 1998, pp. 16-19.)

That started what may prove to be one of the most versatile agricultural products ever to hit the market. Surround Crop Protectant went commercial in 1999. This year it was upgraded to a wettable powder formulation called Surround WP Crop Protectant.

Glenn stresses that "specially formulated kaolin has the potential to greatly reduce pesticide use on conventionally grown crops. *The Organic Materials Review Institute has listed Surround WP for organic food production.*"

The Versatile Horticultural Coating: Proven and Potential Uses:

Field tests show that kaolin can:

- control insect pests.
- prevent sunburn on fruit and nuts.
- prevent heat stress, thereby increasing yields.
- increase photosynthesis.

Some potential uses for kaolin in early stages of testing:

- control fungal diseases.
- prevent frost damage.
- serve as a delivery system, allowing growers to reduce the amount of chemicals applied.

**'Surround At Home Crop Protectant'
is now available to consumers!
Check your local garden center or
mail order catalogs**

Heirloom Vegetables

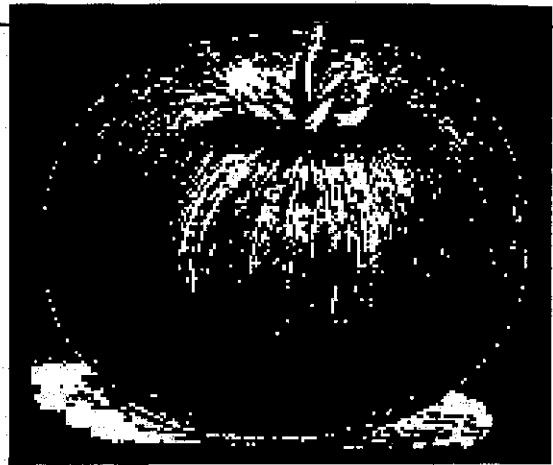
by Ellen Rouch

I confess I had never heard of heirloom vegetables when I received this assignment. It appears I'm not alone as there are several web sites, which discuss how heirloom vegetables are becoming popular. Basically, they are old, open pollinated varieties of vegetables which capture so much of the flavor of the past. In order to grow heirloom vegetables, you have to become a seed-saver.

Most seeds that you purchase from catalogues today are hybrids. These seeds will generally only take on the characteristics of one of their parents. Hybrids seeds are produced to offer a more consistent yield and to grow in a variety of climates. Heirloom seeds will grow true to type from their seeds and offer a tastier vegetable. Heirlooms protect the genetic make-up of the specific plant.

Additionally, heirlooms varieties should be able to be traced back 50 years or longer. Many heirlooms have histories dating back to their European or South American counterparts. These histories can be quite interesting.

Many seed companies are now carrying heirloom varieties. Here is a sample of some types of heirloom vegetables.

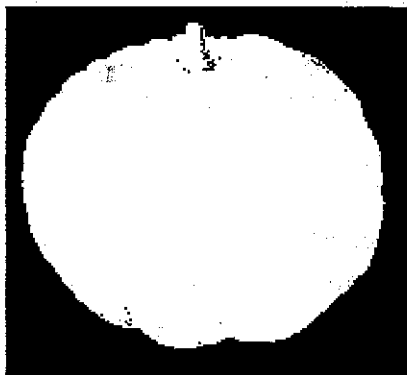


This is the Brandywine Tomato. It has been around for more than 100 years. The fruit is likely to be ribbed rather than smooth. It is a potato-leaved tomato with big, two-fisted tomatoes and lots of flavor.

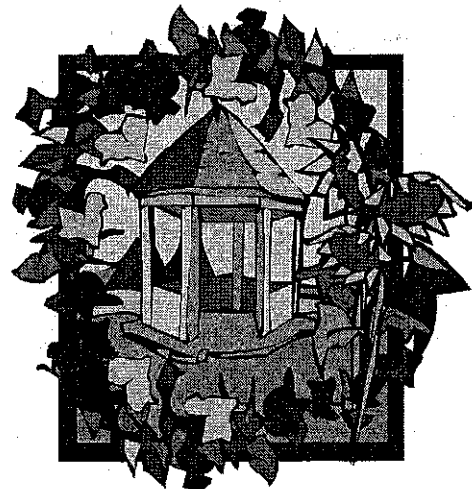


This is an improved long green cucumber which has been around for more than 125 years. It is firm and crisp, growing from 12 to 20 inches long. It is easy to grow and is a good pickler.

This is a Jenny Lend melon. It is a smallish melon.



It has sweet, green flesh and it is too delicate to ship. The vines are disease resistant. It is considered of moderate taste.





Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

September

- 5 Japanese artistry in flowers. Beginner class, 8 weeks, Thursday 1:30-3:30pm in the gardens, Nan Mitchell \$25 per lesson 501-262-0942
- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 12 Fall Gardening with MG Mary Evans, 664-7863
- 22 AARP Day at Garvin Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs. Show your AARP card & receive entry for \$5.
- 25 New Master Gardener Training will begin with a tour of the projects.

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwy's 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.

Home Grown Market

Saturdays at 2nd Presbyterian Church & Tuesdays at the YMCA on 12th St.
All summer. Go early!!

October

- 2,9, 16,23, & 30 New Master Gardener Training, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University Avenue (ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)
- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 9 Wine & Cheese Party, \$3.00, Horticulture Nursery, 6:30pm, 20% discount
- 28-30 Eureka Springs-Fayetteville Road Trip, \$150, contact Ila Newberry 227-4395
- 3,10,17, & 24 Ikebana Flower Arranging, Nan Mitchell Beginner class 1:30 to 3:30 in gardens, \$25 per lesson 501-262-0942

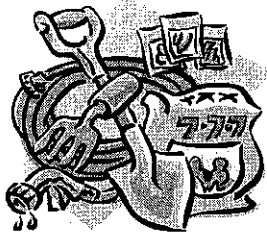
June 2003

- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

Master Gardeners who received their 5 and 10 year Certificates at the June 2002 meeting.



Left to right: Fred Henker (10 year), Wincie Hughes (10 year), Bonnie Cargile (10 year), Betty Jane Daugherty (10 year), Leslie Scott (10 year), Rose Hogan (5 year), Dorothy Hobbs (10 year), Rochelle Greenwood (5 year) and Susan Crisp (5 year).



September Checklist by Libby Thalheimer

“A Time to Till”

• Plant perennial herbs, fall vegetables, mums and asters.

• Set out fall flowering bulbs immediately.

• Plant spring flowering bulbs in late September through November.

“The Green File”

- Bring tropical houseplants in before temperatures drop below 55 degrees.
- Bring in a pot of chives, marjoram, rosemary, or thyme, for the winter.
- Collect seeds from perennials and store in the refrigerator.

“Shoots”

- Divide and replant peonies, iris, and spreading or clumping perennials. Carefully dig clumps and break apart. Replant and fertilize divided perennials.
- Cuttings of perennials may be rooted at this time. Deadhead annuals and perennials.

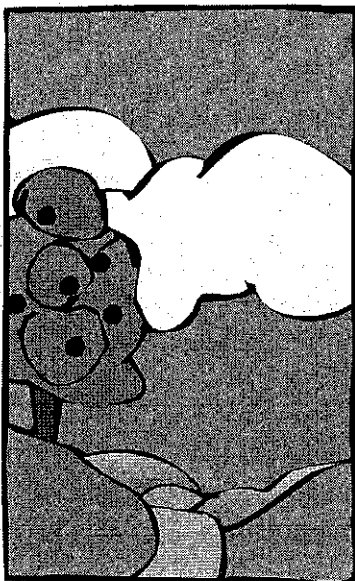
“Taming of the Shrub”

- Avoid heavy pruning or shrubs may not harden off before frost. Heading off of evergreens can be done at any time.

“Clear and Present Danger”

- When using chemical fertilizers, add humus to prevent burning up the living organisms in your garden. Compost is one of the most effective fertilizers and soil conditioners in existence.
- Apply fertilizer to grasses in September.
- Apply Roundup now to poison ivy, poison oak, or poison sumac.
- Use Poast over the top for grassy weeds; Benlate for powdery mildew; Malathion for aphids and lacebugs; and Funginex, Phaltan, Topsin-M, or Benlate for black spot on roses.

“Catcher of my Eye” Ageratum, althea, asters, hardy begonia, buddleia, calicarpus, campsis, cannas, caryopteris, celosia, chrysanthemums, clerodendron, coral vine, crape myrtle, crotalaria, dahlias, desmodium, dianthus, echeveria, eupatorium, gaura, ginger lily, gladioli, gordonia alatamaha, hibiscus, ironweed, jacobinia, kerria, linaria, lirioppe, lantana, lycoris radiata, marigolds, blue morning glory, mountain fleecce, nierembergia, ornamental grasses, oregano, oxalis, petunias, phlox, physostegia, rose pink polygonum, rosemary, roses, sage, salvias, sedum, solidago, spirea, tansy, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, veronica, vinca, viola, vitex, yucca, white zephyranthes, and zinnias.



Trading Post

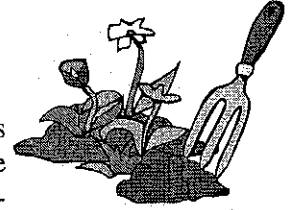


- Lila Lampkin has hardy begonias for anyone that wants some. Her number is 666-7048.
- Laura Lasiter, 374-6595, has goldfish to give to a good home.

(If you have extra plants/items/goldfish/etc. to give away OR are looking for items/etc. , please send your information to Beth or Linda. Thanks.)

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Avoiding Biting Mosquitoes

The best way to avoid bugs is to stay indoors. Mosquito biting activity is usually dusk to dawn. When outdoor activity is desired stay away from calm, shaded and humid areas. You can often protect yourself by wearing long pants and a long-sleeved shirt.

Repelling Mosquitoes

The most effective insect repellent is DEET. There are at least 40 products on the market that contain 5% to 95% DEET. What product do you choose and why? In tests done by the Army, repellents with 30-40% DEET worked twice as well as repellents with 75% DEET. Products with 6%-25% DEET are usually sufficient for 2 to 6 hours of protection. Use the lowest concentration that is effective for you and reapply as needed.

Side Effects of DEET

While DEET is the most effective repellent, many people are sensitive or allergic to DEET. READ THE ENTIRE LABEL AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS.

What Then

There are many topical repellents that do not contain DEET. Most non-DEET products need to be reapplied frequently. All these products are less effective than DEET-based repellents of equal concentration. Various herbs have been used for centuries to help keep mosquitoes from landing on skin and biting. AGAIN THESE SHOULD BE TESTED ON A SMALL SPOT OF SKIN BEFORE APPLYING TO A LARGE AREA.

OILS: Lavender essential oils (spike lavender is more effective than French lavender), catnip essential oil, citronella oil, tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, and cedarwood oil can be purchased in health food stores.

Grow Your Own

- CATNIP: The leaves of the catnip plant can be crushed and rubbed on the exposed skin.
- LEMON GRASS: Peel off the outer leaves and snap the stalks of lemon grass, which contain citronella., off at the base. Bend the stem between your fingers, loosing it, then rub it vigorously between your palms so that it fractures into a kind of fibrous juicy mass, and rub this mess over all exposed skin, covering thoroughly at least once. Oriental food markets have harvested lemon grass.
- ONION & GARLIC: You will not only repel the mosquitoes, but friends and family also.

Lemon grass and scented geranium plants at strategic location such as near doors and windows ward off bugs.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.

Future Events from the Travel Committee

by Marilyn Tilley

Here is the latest from the Travel Committee.

- Oct. 9, 2002 6:30p.m. Wine and Cheese Party at Horticare Nursery \$3.00 per person. 20% off that night only.
- Oct. 28 - Oct 30, 2002 Eureka Springs-Fayetteville Road Trip.

We will travel by bus, spend two nights in Eureka Springs, tour a few private gardens as well as some public ones. After leaving Eureka Springs

Wednesday morning, we will travel to Fayetteville, make several stops there and visit a nursery in Hindsville before returning to Little Rock.

We plan to depart at 9:00a.m. from Second Presbyterian Church Monday and return early evening on Wednesday. The *estimated cost is \$150.00* and we are *limited to 43 people*.

Please be ready to sign up and pay at the September Master Gardener meeting. If you can any questions please call Ila Newberry 227-4395.

PCMG featured on Good Morning Arkansas

by Janie Ballard

On July 22, 2002, KATV 7 featured Beth Phelps, County Extension Agent — Staff Chair, along with Patty Wingfield, chair of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners Committee at the Old State House.

Reporter Jason Harper held two live interviews with Beth and Patty in the front gardens of the historic

structure during KATV's "Good Morning Arkansas" show. Beth explained the purposes, goals and achievements of the Master Gardener program, and the Old State House MG crew served as backup while she demonstrated deadheading to Jason and Arkansas viewers.

The experience was great fun, even on a hot summer day, for members of this Pulaski County Master Gardener project.



Right to Left: Linda Rafferty, Janie Ballard, Beverly Brown, Nancy Wolford, Becky Kennedy, Pat Boggess, Patty

Reducing Personal and Community Risk from West Nile Virus

Taken from: http://www.uaex.edu/biosecurity/cross_referenced_west_nile_virus.asp

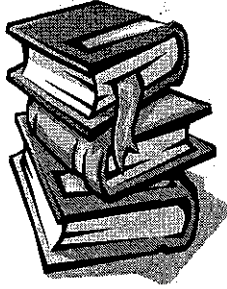
"Mosquito hygiene" includes source reduction of mosquito breeding sites and avoidance of biting mosquitoes--Both are key to reducing risk from WNV. Eliminating mosquito breeding sites is also key to reducing risk of pesticide exposure--because most communities will not consider applying mosquito adulticides unless WNV is detected in local bird or mosquito populations!

Mosquitoes breed in wet areas, and Culex are found particularly where there is decaying organic matter (e.g., leaves, grass clippings, animal wastes). There does not have to be much water and the water does not have to be left standing for very long--Some species can reproduce within a week! Thus, throughout the mosquito breeding season in your area (and especially after each rainstorm, drizzle, watering of the garden or washing the car):

1. Eliminate or empty the "artificial water-collecting containers" that are prime breeding spots for the mosquito species implicated in transmission of West

Nile Virus

2. Clean out rain gutters
3. Aerate swimming pools and ponds (and perhaps stock with mosquito-eating fish)
4. Empty unused buckets, water troughs, etc.
5. Keep unused tires under cover so they do not collect water
6. Drill drainage holes in tires and other containers used in construction sites, farms, gardens and play areas
7. Clean bird baths and animal water bowls at least once a week
8. Avoid mosquito bites by wearing long clothes and/or by using insect repellent when out after dusk or in shaded areas (such as woods) during the daytime. This is when and where most vector species are more likely to bite. People should be especially careful when in "mass gatherings" where the CO₂ given off by the crowd attracts more mosquitoes from greater distance.



Book Review

by Bonnie Nicholas

Iris the Classic Bearded Varieties

by Claire Austin, photography by Clay Perry
104 pages, 2001 Viking Studio, NY \$19.95

This book is gloriously illustrated with stunning photography of seventy varieties. The beauty captured within each picture will take your breath.

The iris has a long, varied, and romantic history. It was grown commercially in the fifteenth century for its rhizomes which, when dried, produce orris, a substance used in the production of powders and perfumes. The city of Florence depicted the iris on its coins. In medieval times, the iris appeared in stylized fleur-de-lis on the royal coat of arms of France and England. Minoans painted irises on murals. The ancient Egyptian temples featured paintings of irises. In addition, the walls around the Taj Mahal have carved iris flowers. Monet was an enthusiastic grower and painter of irises.

The book has a chapter devoted to tall bearded irises, and one committed to the medium

iris. There is a 'WOW' chapter (especially pages 96-97) picturing the bearded irises in the garden. Each of the seventy varieties has a descriptive text, breeder, year of introduction, flowering height, flowering period, and a list of similar varieties. If properly planned, one can enjoy three months of the global, flamboyant plant.

There is a reference for iris suppliers in Australia, France, UK, and the USA. Also listed are addresses of three iris societies. I plan to stop by the Cape Iris Gardens in Cap Girardeau, MO the last week of August. Maybe I'll find some more pinks.

There is a small book with a big bang. I recommend it for specialists and new enthusiasts alike.

Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

A little book available now has the appealing title "A Garden from a Hundred Packets of Seeds." Whether you grow a few or a gardenful of plants from seeds, you might like to view some less expensive sources of seeds online.

Several gardening forums that sponsor free seed swaps with other home gardeners are:

- GardenWeb (<http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/exchind/>)
- National Gardening (www.nationalgardening.com/seedswap/)
- Old Farmers Almanac (www.almanac.com/swap/index.html)
- Organic Gardener (<http://forums.rodale.com/og/index.jsp?forum=2>).

Of these, GardenWeb has the most offerings. All four are searchable by plant name. For more sources of trades, search on "seed swap" at www.google.com.

Another source of seeds is plant societies. However, you may need to pay a membership fee to participate. Some, such as The Herb Society of America (www.herbsociety.org/seedex.htm) and The Native Plant Society (www.nanps.org/seeds/), carry extensive lists of donated seeds that are available for a modest cost. Such groups may offer seeds and plants that are difficult to find elsewhere at any cost.

An Adobe Acrobat file at www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/PM1357.pdf gives a ten-page list of special-interest plant organizations.

Master Gardener Alert!

Parking Has Changed At State Extension Office Building

The parking rules have changed at the State Extension Office Building. The back door will now be locked, and all employees will park in the back of the building and use that door. Therefore, there will be more parking spaces in the front. Master Gardeners are asked to wear their name tags for security reasons.

Food Drive Collecting Food for 4H

Please bring a can of food to the September meeting. This is a part of the '4 H Can Make a Difference' program. These cans will go to the Arkansas Food Bank.



Please Bring a Can/s of Food to September Meeting

Arkansas Orchid Society's

annual auction is on Sunday, September 15 from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. at the Jacksonville Community Center (Main Street Exit off Hwy 67/167 then west to Municipal Drive).

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

pulaski.uaex.edu

Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University
Little Rock, AR 72204 671-2000

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Then and Now	1
August 2 Board Meeting	2
August 20 Board Meeting	3
Heirloom Vegetables	4
Calendar and Notes	5
September Checklist	6
Trading Post	6
What Works!	7
Travel Committee	7
West Nile Virus	8
Good Morning Arkansas	8
Book Review	9
Internet Sources	9



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

October 2002

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 9

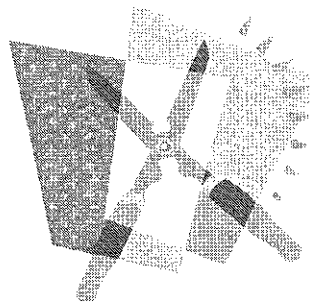
2002-2003 Master Gardener Officers

by Julia Loyall



Carolyn Newbern – President

Carolyn hopes this year we can emphasize the Master Gardeners long range goal of maximum educational outreach to the general public, The historic gardens of Curran Hall Little Rock, Visitor Information Center, the wildflowers at Pinnacle Mountain, and the Baptist Rehabilitation Horticulture Therapy Program are fine examples of projects which educate many.



Nancy Kirsch - 1st Vice President

Nancy, now almost completely retired, from her health policy analyst position, will have more time for Master Gardening. She will be recruiting and helping enthusiastic chairs.

September Speaker

Judge Villines with the Quorum Court will talk to us about a proposed sales tax increase.

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.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting September 10, 2002

Present were Beth Phelps, Jane Druff, Carolyn Newbern, John Prather, Suellen Roberts, Nancy Kirsch and Jean Moffett.

The meeting was called to order.

The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as presented. John gave the Treasurer's Report. The ending bank balance as of August 31, 2002, was \$11,725.00.

Beth gave us an updated report on parking for our monthly meetings. Now that UALR is in session, they do not have space for Extension employees to use their lot, so some will again have to park in the front lot. Suggestions were offered for Master Gardeners to carpool or to find a new meeting place. This will be taken up at a later date.

The question of couples having to pay two yearly dues has again been brought up. This will be discussed when the new Board takes office.

We talked about the Keep Arkansas Beautiful awards. Any Master Gardener project can apply.

The Old Mill project has been asked to be on the next Little Rock Garden Club Tour. This will be decided at a later date.

We are now in the process of discussing current work projects and adding new ones. Carolyn has met with a representative of the Historic Art Museum regarding a project there. The Museum has plans to renovate their grounds and add new projects relating to gardening.

A Board meeting has been set for September 23 to discuss current and possible future work projects.

Mary Ann Francis with the County Extension Office has requested extra funding to take out the privet hedge along the handicap ramp and replace it with another type hedge or bush. She has been asked to submit a firm cost, and this project will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Beth told us that she has received a request from the City of Little Rock regarding the celebration of Arbor Day on November 6, 2002. Various 'stations' will be set up to explain to 5th graders all phases of trees from the seed through the growth to the recycling at the end of the tree life. We have

been asked to have one 'station'. We would need a chairman and a committee.

We have received information on a supplemental accidental insurance that would cover Master Gardeners while volunteering on a project. We will try to get more details on this.

Jane told us that at our October Master Gardener meeting, Judge Villines with the Quorum Court will talk to us about a proposed sales tax increase. More information will be in our newsletter.

Jane will introduce the new By Laws at meeting today. Voting will be at the October meeting.

Suellen spoke about the Three Peas in a Pod Committee. Someone in Little Rock and in North Little Rock is needed regarding photos and news for press releases. More will be in the newsletter. The membership will be asked if we want to continue door prizes, plant swap, 50-cent magazines and candy to those who wear their name tags.

Our group will need someone who will be in charge of the Master Gardener tee shirts and other merchandise that we might want to sell. Time spent will be considered as volunteer time.

Beth still needs mentors for the upcoming class. If we do not have enough volunteers, we will not be able to have this mentor program.

Benton County Master Gardeners say they would like to make contact with other Master Gardeners around the state. We will obtain more information on this.

Carolyn spoke of having a committee to investigate why people drop out of Master Gardeners.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Moffett



Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting September 10, 2002

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2002, in the Auditorium of the State Extension Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, with Jane Druff presiding.

A travel committee report was given by Ben Jordan regarding the up-coming trip to Eureka Springs and Fayetteville on October 28-30.

We had election of the new officers for the 2002-2003 year. Nominees considered were President - Carolyn Newbern, 1st Vice President - Nancy Kirsch, 2nd Vice President - Dick Blankenkemper, Secretary - Pat Green, Treasurer - John Prather. There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was accepted by acclamation.

Beth spoke briefly about ordering tee and sweat shirts and our 2 styles of caps.

Jane spoke of the new By Laws. Each member is encouraged to read these. A vote will be taken at the October meeting.

The advanced Master Gardener training will be held October 22. Members can sign up. An application was in the newsletter.

The new Master Gardener training will begin September 25 and will meet every Wednesday except the last week, when they will meet on Tuesday. Any current member may attend. If lunch is desired, a call to Mrs. McKinney must be made by the previous Monday. Mentors are still needed.

Any group interested in entering their project for the Keep Arkansas Beautiful award may do so. Beth has applications.

The Board is in the process of reviewing current projects and also considering new ones.

Lois Corley told us that the tentative date for the first greenhouse sale is October 10-12 from 8:00 am until noon. Project chairmen must get the plants they want for next year before the sale starts. Also, Lois needs to know what each project wants for next year by October 20, or plants will not be ordered.

Beth told that a Master Wildlife Program is

being organized in Arkansas. Ask her for further information, if interested.

Beth told that we are still having parking difficulties for our monthly meetings. Now that UALR is in session, Extension employees cannot use their lot. Therefore, some are having to park in the front parking lot. If any member has ideas on parking, please talk with Beth.

Jane told that Master Gardeners have been asked to participate in an Arbor Day program in Little Rock on November 6. We have been asked to set up a 'station' giving information on seed germination. 5th graders will be taken through various 'stations' describing the life of a tree. Anyone interested in participating should talk with Beth.

We now have three volunteers to work on a merchandising committee for tee shirts, caps and other merchandise we might want to sell. Nancye McCowan, Jan King and Nan Matthews.

Beth reminded us that we are near the end of the year and we should stay current in reporting our various hours.

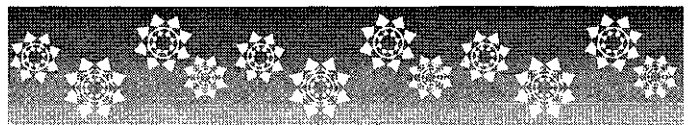
Nancy Kirsch introduced our speaker, Pete Rausch, who is the Urban Forester with the Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department. We were informed that Little Rock has, in the last year, become a Tree City USA. Mr. Rausch told of various tree projects now under way in our city.

Door prizes were a book, Trees of North America, a Master Gardener license plate and three garden decorations donated by the Decore Store in Maumelle. Winners were Bonnie Cargile, Pat Wallace, Lynn Phelps, Ann Morgan and Carolyn Prickett.

Our meeting was closed with all standing for the Pledge of Allegiance.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Moffett





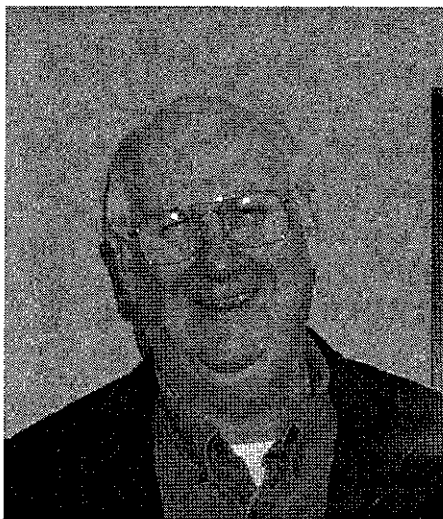
Dick Blankenkemper - 2nd Vice President

Dick, Master Gardener '95, a forester by training, is a retired Koppers plant manager. He has served on Greenhouse and Old Mill committees, and has always been very helpful with Flower and Garden Shows.



Pat Green – Secretary

With Janet's original Master Gardener class ('89), Pat helped make the first Flower and Garden Show successful. She has served as its treasurer and as chair of us 'worker ants' whose volunteering provides horticulture scholarships.



John Prather – Treasurer

John, Master Gardener since 1996, worked on the Old State House Committee, and is retired from the Internal Revenue Service. He will be serving his fourth year as our very efficient treasurer.



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

October

- 2,9, 16,23, & 30 New Master Gardener Training, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University Avenue (ALL MASTER GARDENERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)
- 3,10,17, & 24 Custom Border Gardens with Mary Evans \$89, 666-0759
- 4-5 Herb Harvest Fall Festival, Mountain View, Tina Marie Wilcox, 870-269-3851
- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 9 Wine & Cheese Party, \$3.00, Horticare Nursery, 6:30pm, 20% discount
- 15-17 Fall Senior American Special, Petit Jean State Park, Intended for seniors but everyone welcome, Steve Dunlap 727-5441
- 16 Annual Fall Colors Four, Jasper, 80 miles Colleen Breedlove, 870-446-2240 \$5
- 19-20 Festival of Flowers & Rose Show, Fort Smith Convention Center, Ken Kupchick, 479-785-6000

November

- 1-2 Fall Foliage Weedend, village Creed State Park, Vickie Trimble, 870-238-9406
- 6 Arbor Day, Little Rock,
- 12 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 12 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans, \$24, 666-0759

June 2003

- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Hwy Dept. is blooming now through fall. Check hwys 62, 63, 71, 7, 167, 70 & 49.

Toll-Free Fall Color Update
beginning September 26 from the
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.

Monthly Plant Swap Has Started!!

Bring any plants, divisions, etc. you want to swap. Get a colored slip of paper for each plant you bring. Pick up different plants at the end of the meeting. (If you don't want any plants, you are free to give your slips of paper away to fellow Master Gardeners.)

Please label with name and any special instructions on care, if needed.

Bring plants in clear bags, so we can keep our area clean. The swap area is outside the side entrance.

!! Thank You, Thank You !!

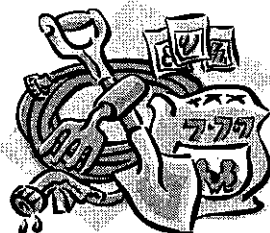
A great big 'Thank you' is send to all of the wonderful people who helped plant pansies last month!

Carolyn Goettsch
Ann Green
Vandy Sutherland
Stewart Bell
Delores Le Compte
Carolyn Newbern
Thelma Shank

And three (3) very helpful young men with the CDC. They did a lot of the heavy work for us both days. Also they loaned us a huge fan that was most appreciated.

Without the help of these people our pansies would have suffered, as there is no way the committee people could have transplanted them in two days

The Greenhouse Committee



October Checklist by Libby Thalheimer

"A Time to Till"

- Mix flower seeds with sand and broadcast where they are to bloom. Sow vegetable and rye grass seeds. Transplant fall vegetables.

"The Green File"

- Plant cover crops in unused parts of the vegetable or cut flower garden. To prevent fungal diseases next spring, after a hard freeze remove old mulch then add new mulch.
- Fertilize with a winterizer if your lawn was severely stressed this year, if you have not fertilized regularly, or if you have new sod. Turfgrass needs sunlight as growth slows before dormancy. Keep leaves raked.
- Fall is a good time to plant or transplant trees and shrubs. If you are planting in a bed, amend the soil in the whole bed not just the backfill.

"Shoots"

- Dig tender bulbs, removing any soil, dust with Captan and dry. Store in a cool, dark, well-ventilated area. Divide perennials to restore vigor to old and crowded plants. Take hardwood cuttings of woody plants.
- Plant spring bulbs. The larger the bulb, the


bigger the plant. If storing before planting, keep them in the refrigerator away from fruits and vegetables.

"Clear and Present Danger"

- Control cabbage loopers on vegetables with *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt). Spray horticultural oil to control scale on fruit trees. Treat fruit trees again with dormant oil after fall leaf drop.
- Insects build up resistance to chemicals, so rotate the insecticide you use. Control fall webworms, scale and lacebugs. Early fall is the worst time for infestation.

"Catcher of my Eye"

Abelia, ageratum, sweet alyssum, asters, barberry, beautyberry, bittersweet vine, buddleia, ornamental cabbage, calendula, camellias, cannas, celosia, chelone, Chinese pistache, chrysanthemums, clerodendron, crape myrtle, dahlias, dianthus, dogwood, elaeagnus pungens, euonymous, eupatorium, 4:00, gaura, ornamental grasses, gums, hibiscus, kale, kerria, lantana, larkspur, lobelia, maples, marigolds, Mexican sage, nierembergia, sweet peas, petunias, poppies, roses, rosehips, salvia, scabiosa, snapdragon, solidago, stock, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, viburnums, viola, Virginia creeper, wisteria, and zinnias.



The 2003 International Master Gardener and Trade show

 will be held at the:

Northern Kentucky Convention Center

 Rivercenter Boulevard

 Covington, Kentucky

<http://www.nkycvb.com/>


Official Conference Hotels

 Cincinnati Marriott at Rivercenter Covington, Ky.

www.marriotthotels.com

 Embassy Suites at Rivercenter Covington, Ky.

www.embasysuites.com



Official Campground Site
 Big Bone Lick State Park
www.state.ky.us/agencies/parks/bigbone.htm

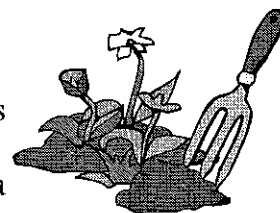
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (WORK-IN-PROGRESS)
Wednesday, June 18 Pre-conference

- Pre-conference Tours Visit The Ohio State University or the University of Kentucky and surrounding areas. Tours highlight horticultural sites, research projects, and area attractions.
- Master Gardener "DO" Project

(Continued on page 7)

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Member Hints

Shirley Acchione solves giving a plant a slow drip of water by filling a leaky watering can and placing it next to the thirsty plant.

To kill slugs, Nan Matthews suggests turning a terra cotta saucer Upside down under the hosta. The slugs will collect in the saucer and can be easily killed.

September 15 - November 30 is the main time to plant perennials from seeds or plants. Carl Hunter says most wildflowers are perennials or strong reseeder.

Fall Is Here Sign

On a recent trip east of Little Rock, the fact that it is late summer was evident by the infestation of bagworms. Many shrubs and trees are covered by the white bags. Bagworms feed on many trees including maple, sycamore, willow, black locust, elm, poplar, oak, apple, wild cherry, sassafras, persimmon and pecan as well as conifers. They damage plants by defoliating them. There are four stages in their life cycle: egg, larva, pupa and adult.

Larva hatch from overwintering eggs. Pupa stage occurs in late summer, becoming an adult in 7 - 10 days. The males leave their bags to fly and search out bags containing females. After mating, the

female lays 500 - 1,000 eggs in her bag and dies.

The larva each spin a silken case that it carries about while it feeds. As it grows, the larva enlarges the bag and keeps adding bits of foliage as camouflage. To rest, a larva attaches its bag to a twig with silk.

An effective control is to pick the bags off the host plant in winter or early spring. The bags and eggs can then be destroyed.

Several parasitic wasps feed on bagworms. Birds eat them and the worms can be killed by low winter temperatures. Young larva are sensitive to the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, commercially available under the trade name Dipel. Insecticides, such as Sevin, are effective when applied in April, May or June when the worms are small and relatively sensitive. Pyrethroids provide late season control.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.

• Evening Reception for Speakers and Master Gardeners Coordinators

Thursday, June 19 Conference begins

- Keynote speaker- Holly Shimizu (photo & biography), Director of US Botanical Garden (www.usbg.gov)
- Concurrent sessions
- Evening Reception at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. (www.cincyzo.org)

Friday, June 20

- Keynote Speaker - Tracy Disabato-Aust horticulturist and author. (photo & biography)
- Luncheon speaker Dr. Lonnie Thompson, OSU Glaciologist www.acs.ohio-state.edu/features/iceman

- Ohio Master Gardener Awards Program
- Free evening at the Newport on the Levee (www.newportonthelevee.com)

Saturday, June 21

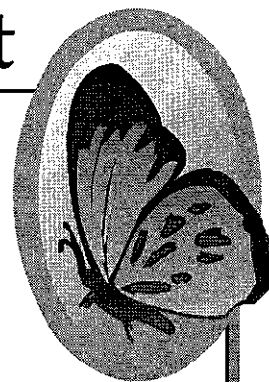
- Hands-on Workshops and Garden Tours
- Conference concludes with a nostalgic Ohio River Boat Cruise (www.bbriverboats.com)

Sunday, June 22 Post-Conference

- Optional local self-guided tours



Trading Post



- Lois Corley wants cuttings of *Don Juan rose*, 666-2498
- Leslie Scott wants roof iris and Celadine (Woodland) Poppies, 225-5542
- Pat Green has *variegated Solomen's Seal*, 835-6215
- Margaret Breen has *coneflower seed* (pink) and wants *Pampas Grass*, 758-1883
- Joan Humphries has *Iris bulbs* and wants *Ajuga/Vinca minor ground cover*, 280-9023
- has *Japanese Iris* (purple) 663-9146
- Linda Moyer wants seeds from Cucumber, Umbrella, and Sweet Bay Magnolias, 985-2454

(If you have extra plants/items/goldfish/etc. to give away OR are looking for items/etc. , please send your information to Beth or Linda. Thanks.)

Generations



Gardener's Swap Meet



Evelyn Richardson 897-4840
Vickie Minick 897-5189
Gina Welch 847-6014

Rommel Park
Lindsey Road at I-440 by the airport

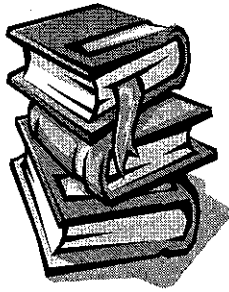
Fall 2002

Saturday - October 12 - Noon til 2

Bring your surplus plants, seeds, bulbs, catalogs, magazines, and knowledge. We share information and experiences & just generally have a good time. If you have nothing to swap, come anyway.....

Chances are you will go home with something and be back next spring to share with others. This is a great resource for beginners.

Drop by and bring a friend!



Book Review

by Bonnie Nicholas

Courtyard Gardens

by Toby Musgrave

160 pages, 2000 Country Living Gardener, Hearst Books, NY \$30.00

If you dream of transforming a small area in your garden, courtyard, patio or deck into a personal haven, Toby Musgrave's book will give you a wealth of design and planting ideas. There are one hundred eighty-five color photographs and eighteen three-dimensional garden plans shown.

Over four hundred plants used in designs on pages 16-93 were selected because they are appropriate for small gardens and courtyards. For the less common species or cultivars, plants of similar type and color are suggested as alternatives at the end of the plant description.

The styles illustrated are Classical, Islamic, Medieval, Renaissance, Japanese, Southern Colonial, Arts and Crafts, Latin, Modernist and Futuristic. If that's not enough to stimulate your visuals, the next chapter shows endless options such as xeriscapes,

Mediterranean living, tropical paradise even for a temperate climate, easy-care options, romantic senses, edible bounty, entertaining and spa treatments.

This book tackles both species and varieties and the larger issues – the mass, structure, and scale of floor-to-ceiling garden rooms and their décor: posts, pedestals, finials, pots, furniture

It's a reference you'll turn to often, whether you're anchoring an outdoor space or adding the flourishes and frills. If the highest purpose of a garden book is to give a gardener ideas to take home, this volume succeeds admirably. You'll close the covers and walk away wanting pillars and putti among the perennials resulting in a personal, stylish outdoor room.

Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

At our September meeting, Urban Forester Peter Rausch told us that Little Rock will celebrate Arbor Day on November 6th. To join in the spirit by planting a tree, first choose which kind of tree might be best for your site. Here are some Internet addresses with information on trees.

- <http://fletcher.ces.state.nc.us/programs/nursery/ncutep/> The North Carolina Urban Tree Evaluation Program; topics include trees for particular situations, such as "Recommended Trees for Urban Landscapes: Proven Performers for Difficult Sites."
- www.conservation.state.mo.us/forest/urban/urbantr/index.shtml#table Missouri Urban Trees; a good collection of articles on choosing and planting trees in cities.
- www.forestry.state.ar.us/community/guide.html "Tree Selecting Guide" by Arkansas Forestry Commission; native and naturalized trees that grow well in Arkansas.
- www.aragriculture.org/commhort/ACN/Plant_List.asp Extension Service list of 75 trees generally available in Arkansas nurseries or in the landscape, with some comments on each.
- www.utextension.utk.edu/spfiles/SP512.pdf "Trees to Reconsider Before Planting"
- <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/trees/> Detailed factsheets on 680 varieties of trees (51 kinds of maples). Multi-page printouts for each discuss culture, resistance to limb breakage, and other advantages and potential problems. Especially helpful when choosing among several trees.

Master Gardener Alert!

MG Training Schedule

Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to come to any of the trainings. If they would like to join us for lunch, they need to call by noon on the Monday before the Wed they plan to eat and let Mrs. McKinney know. The Cost of Lunch is \$6.00.

All the days are Wednesdays except the last, which is a Tuesday.

- Oct. 2 - Basic Plant Science, Soil and Plant Propagation
- Oct. 9 - Fruit Crops and Composting, Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs
- Oct. 16 - Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs
- Oct. 23 - Fire Ants Herbs, Vegetables
- Oct. 30 - Plant Pathology, Weed Control, Turfgrass and Attracting Wildlife
- Tuesday, Nov. 5 - Insects and Control, Fertilizer and Fertilization - Graduation.



Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

pulaski.uaex.edu

Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University
Little Rock, AR 72204 671-2000

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

2002-2003 Officers	1&4
Sept. 10 Board Minutes	2
Sept. 10 Meeting Minutes	3
Calendar and Notes	5
October Checklist	6
What Works!	7
Trading Post	8
Book Review	9
Internet Sources	9



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer

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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

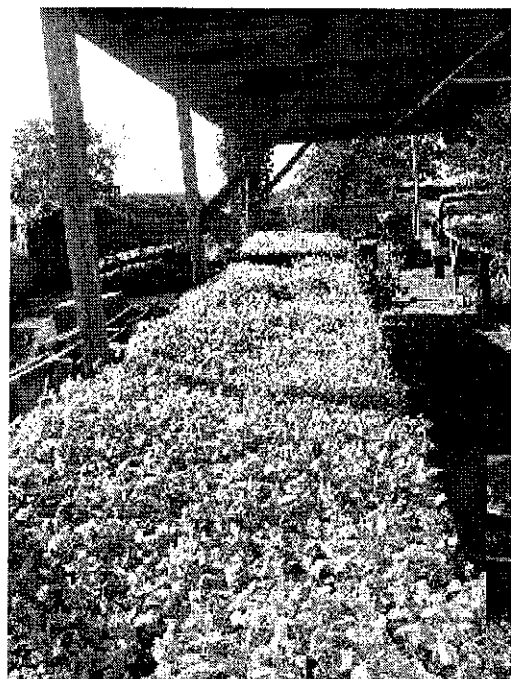
Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

November 2002

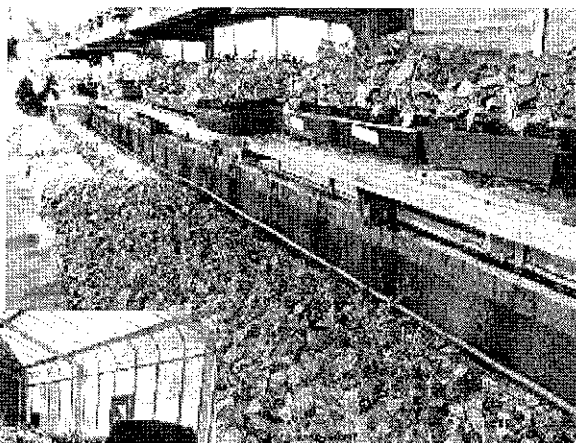
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 10



Photos of the Master Gardener's Greenhouse, LR

Photos by Steve Corley



The 2002 Master Gardener's class has graduated!

*A reception will be held at the November meeting for the new Master Gardeners.
Please come and welcome our new members.*

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.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting October 8, 2002

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MEETING

October 8, 2002

Summarized

Judge Buddy Villines spoke to the group regarding the 1- penny county sales tax increase proposal that will appear on the ballot in the upcoming election. A portion of this tax will support the UALR system, Public Transportation, the Jail and Infrastructure. Pulaski County funding is an important part of the funding of the Extension Service and therefore the results of the elections will have an impact the Master Gardener program.

Jane Druff presented the revised by-laws as discussed at the September meeting. "Two board members-at-large" has been added to the Board of Directors, creating a quorum of five. The nominating committee will meet to select the members-at-large. Any members wishing to serve should contact Carolyn.

Two new projects were presented for approval. They include the Historic Arkansas Museum (formerly known as The Arkansas Territorial Restoration) and the Oak Forest Community Garden. Motions were made to accept these two projects and both motions passed.

A board recommendation to donate a tree of \$100 value to MacArthur Park was approved. This recommendation came in response to interest in providing a greater variety of trees in that community as outlined by last month's speaker, Pete Rousch with the Urban Forestry Commission.

A brochure outlining the Pulaski County Master Gardener projects and notable landscaped gardens in the area has been developed for handout at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, Curran Hall, Visitor's Information Center and other possible locations.

The Greenhouse will hold a plant sale this Saturday. Project chairs must turn in request for spring plants by October 20.

A Wine and Cheese Party is to be held at Horticare Nursery on October 9. There are still seven spaces available for the Fayetteville/Eureka Springs Trip scheduled for October 28-30. Contact Ila Newberry if interested.

Volunteers are needed to participate in an Arbor Day celebration at MacArthur Park on November 6. Contact Ila Newberry for information.

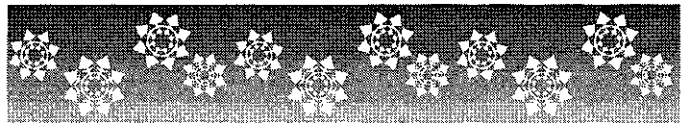
The November meeting will include a reception for the new Master Gardeners. Current members are asked to sign-up to bring finger foods for this event.

A holiday party is planned for December 12 at Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock. Details are to be announced at the November Meeting.

Beth urged members to turn in their hours by December 1. Hours may be added during December and will be counted for this year. Those wishing to change projects for the upcoming year need to make that request by November.

Lisa Ferris presented a program on her travels with Janet Carson and other Master Gardeners to the Netherlands in April.

Pat Green
Secretary





Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

November

- 1-2 Fall Foliage Weedend, Village Creed State Park, Vickie Trimble, 870-238-9406
- 6 Arbor Day, MacArthur Park, Little Rock; volunteers are needed, call Ila Newberry for information,
- 12 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 12 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans, \$24, 666-0759

December

This is no Master Gardener meeting in December, instead there is a holiday party.

- 12 Holiday Party, Pulaski County Master Gardeners, Park Hill Christian Church, NLR

January

- 10-11 Eagle Awareness 2003, Bull Shoals, White River State Park. Contact Stewart Carlton, 870-431-5521. Free except for lake tours \$5 adult \$2.75 children
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 18 Eagles on the Lake, Lake Catherine State Park, Reservations required. Contact: Glynda Pryor, 501-844-4176. Free
- 18-19 Eagle Awareness Days, Petit Jean State Park at Mather Lodge, Contact Steve Dunlap, 501-727-5441
- 24-26 24th Annual Eagles Et Cetra Weekend, DeGray Lake Resort State Park. A weekend of programs & field trips. Contact Kelly Farrell, 501-865-2801
- 24-26 10th Annual Eagle Watch Weekend, Rocky Branch Marina, Rogers. Cruises depart at 10 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm. Expert guides on each cruise. Owl Prowl at 8:30 pm. All seats for cruises are reserved & must be pre-paid. Adults \$14, children \$7. Contact Mary Arme Veator 800-552-3802.

February

- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 28-Mar 2 12th Annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, Little Rock State Convention Center

March

- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University

April

- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University

May

- 13 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 19-21 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom", Harding Campus, Searcy

June

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

Toll-Free Fall Color Update
beginning September 26 from the
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism.
800-



November Checklist by Libby Thalheimer

“The Berm”

Clean out old mulch and debris to prevent fungal diseases next spring. Destroy infested material and add the rest to your compost heap.

post heap.

Wait until after the first hard freeze to apply a 3” layer of mulch to help keep the soil an even temperature, preventing alternate thawing and freezing. Half-rotted hardwood leaves make good mulch for acid loving plants.

“Eats of Eden”

Divide herbs and perennials to restore vigor to old and crowded plants.

Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of mulch to early vegetables to prolong harvesting.

Protect the grafts of tender fruit trees by wrapping with towels or newspapers 10 sheets thick. Control scale with oil such as Volck. Treat fruit trees again with dormant oil after fall leaf drop.

“Go Round Roses”

Plant rose cuttings now, but don’t move existing roses before 12/1.

To get rid of borers, cut roses below damaged stems.

“The Green File”

Top-dress the overall garden now with 0-20-20 and throughout the winter months with a sprinkling of wood ashes.

Apply Atrazine or Simazine to warm-season grasses for pre-emergence and/or post-emergence control.

If thatch exceeds one-quarter inch, use a vertical mower to remove it. Control thatch by top-dressing with a one-quarter inch layer of topsoil.

Instead of raking/blowing leaves, use your mower with a mulching blade to add organic matter to your lawn. Remove fallen leaves to allow the sunlight plants need as growth slows before dormancy.

The preferred length for grass in winter is 1.75”.

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.

“So Dig”

Transplant and fertilize fall annuals. Plant spring bulbs.

In the cold frame, plant winter vegetables.

“Shoots”

When deadheading annuals, cast annual and perennial seeds wherever you want them to bloom.

Take 6-10” cuttings to root in water on a sunny windowsill.

Remove all soil when digging tender bulbs to aid drying. Dust bulbs with Captan and store in a cool, dark, well-ventilated area.

Check for pests before moving tropical plants indoors.

“Taming of the Crew”

Clean, oil, and sharpen your tools.

Disconnect the spark plug; drain gasoline and oil; add new oil and air filter; and sharpen the blade on your mower.

Check condition of spraying equipment, hose attachments or pressure sprayers.

Make an inventory of flats, stakes, and labels and replenish if necessary.

Make necessary repairs to cold frames.

“Clear and Present Danger”

Cover cold-sensitive plants with a box, blanket, burlap, or even a sheet for protection from a freeze. If you use plastic, don’t let it touch the plants.

Fall webworms look unsightly, but do little damage to trees. Control with Malathion, Diazinon, or Cygon.

As the temperatures cool, spray dormant or horticultural oil to control pests on ornamental shrubs.

“At last, Shrubbed”

Winter is a good time to remove unhealthy shrubbery or trees and to prepare the ground for replacements. Whether in a new or an existing bed, the soil will benefit from the addition of compost, manure, or other organic matter to the entire bed, not just to a planting hole.

Plant broad leaf evergreens.

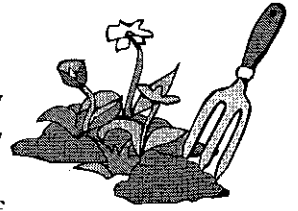
“Catcher of my Eye”

Asters, ornamental cabbage, camellias, chrysanthemums, clerodendron, dahlias, English daisies, dianthus, dogwood, euonymus, eupatorium, gaura, ginkgo, ornamental grasses, gums, oakleaf hydrangea, kale, larkspur, maples, poppies, roses, rosehips, snapdragon, solidago, sourwood, stock, torenia, tricyrtis, verbena, viburnums, viola, Virginia creeper, wallflowers, and witch hazel.



What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



Member Hints

Carl Hunter says that the best way to cover tiny seeds is to sift the dirt between your hands onto them until they just disappear.

With fall here, Bonnie Nichols gives us a way to get a large pile of leaves from the ground into the lawn and leaf bag. Take two dustpans and scoop the raked leaves into the bags. The task goes quickly with this method.

Jan King reminds us that any one with a picnic/patio table can create a "greenhouse" to overwinter plants in. Cover the table with big heavy-duty sheets of plastic, weighted down with 4 x 4s and heated on really cold nights with an automotive hanging light with a 100-w bulb. Keep the east side rolled up (open) during the day unless freezing and really cold. Milk jugs filled with water around the south and west sides can add additional heat. Results in a mini greenhouse.

Two Anonymous Hints

Now is the time to winterize iris beds.

What works or who works? The Greenhouse Committee!!!

Do You Really Want Bamboo?

Ketzel Levine on NPR says there is no such thing as a bad bamboo. You have got to understand its awesome ability to grow and wander. Once you've accepted the responsibility of a running bamboo here are tips about growing running bamboo.

1. Use a high-density plastic barrier, available through specialty bamboo nurseries, to contain its spread. Metal is far less of a sure thing. Determined rhizomes can and will exert enough pressure to cause overlapped sheets of metal to separate. Also, metal sucks cold into the ground, which can damage your plant.

2. If you have sandy soil, don't bother with any barrier. It won't work.

3. It also won't work if you think you can control spread by keeping the plant in its pot when you put it in the ground. The rhizomes will find their way out the little holes on the sides.

4. If you are resolutely responsible, steadfastly vigilant and consider barriers beneath you, give your bamboo every possible reason to send out its rhizomes near the surface of the soil. This will make it infinitely easier to root prune (i.e. spading out unwanted growth), which is your alternative defense.

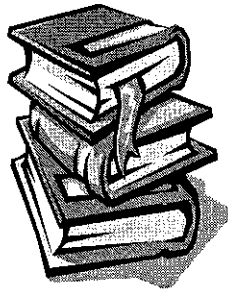
How to keep it from going underground? Keep reading.

5. Give your running bamboo nicely amended soil, a four inch mulch of organic matter (yes bury it right up to its neck), a high-nitrogen fertilizer through spring and early summer (no food though after the Fourth of July), and regular water. If you really loved it, you'd be sure to plant it in soil that's loose and loamy - just the first couple inches, that is. Hardpack underneath will help keep its growth shallow.

6. Grow it as a container plant rather than in the ground. Just be sure to use appropriate potting soil, keep it from drying out, and be prepared to repot within two years, depending on your species' rate of growth.

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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.



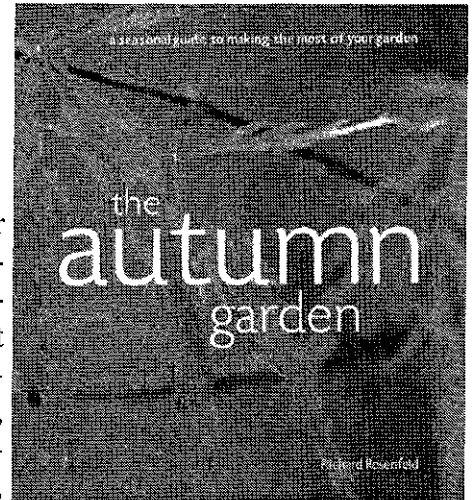


Book Review

by Bonnie Nicholas

The Autumn Garden

by Richard Rosenfeld
64 pages, 2002, Lorenz Books, \$12.99



As summer fades, the gardener looks forward to the fiery foliage of autumn mixed with the deep-colored flowers, ethereal seed heads and bright berries. There are dozens of plants at their peak now soon to be set off by the elaborate leaf colors of our deciduous trees and shrubs. This book illustrates the right choice of plants for brilliant displays.

The first chapter includes bulbs, perennials, grasses, shrubs, climbers, trees and conifers. The key is to start by planting a few in each category. Each year evaluate and fill in the gaps. You can gradually build a beautiful autumn display. The plants suggested in this book are fully described with flowering heights and hardiness information.

The second chapter is devoted to autumn displays of foliage color, autumn berries, seed heads and bark. There are many useful suggestions for borders, topiary and containers.

The last chapter centers around early, mid and late-autumn tasks. Each time frame has a list of

plants at their best. For example: in late autumn plants at their best include Acer, berberis, cotoneaster, fothergilla,

gaultheria, iris foetidissima, liriopis muscari, verine bowdenii, pyracantha, and schizostylis coccinea.

Following the last chapter is a notebook for recording the type, variety, planted time, flowering time, pruning time, and tip for next year. This is a great way to record your planting successes and failures.

I consider this to be a worthy reference source to enhance my autumn garden.

Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

Gardeners who grow fruit may be interested to read about NAFEX (North American Fruit Explorers) at www.nafex.org. NAFEX is a volunteer organization of amateur and professional fruit growers. Membership is \$10.00 a year and includes a subscription to POMONA, a quarterly journal of articles written by members on diverse aspects of fruit culture.

The web site includes a list of suppliers for fruit and nut trees.

Better Homes and Gardens magazine offers several features on gardening at www.bhg.com/bhg/gardening/. Their "27 Garden Plans" shows drawings, diagrams, and plant lists for various types of gardens. Information such as zone and height is given for each plant, and alternate plants are suggested. Other features at bhg.com include an online garden design program (plan-a-garden) which allows you to save and print your designs.

Master Gardener Alert!

2003 State Master Gardener Meeting "Fruit of the Bloom" May 19-21, 2003 Searcy

Please mark your calendars for the 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, which will be held at the Harding Campus in Searcy, Arkansas. The White County Master Gardeners are hard at work planning the 2003 "Fruit of the Bloom" State meeting. Registration information will be send out after the first of the year.

Turn in Your Hours

Beth wants all members to turn in their hours by December 1. Hours may be added during December and will be counted for this year.

Those wishing to change projects for the upcoming year need to make that request by November.



Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

pulaski.uaex.edu

Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University
Little Rock, AR 72204 671-2000

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Greenhouse Sale	1
Oct. 8 Board Minutes	2
Oct. 8 Meeting Minutes	3
Calendar and Notes	4
November Checklist	5
What Works!	6
Trading Post	2
Book Review	7
Internet Sources	7



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer

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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Master Minutes

December 2002/January 2003

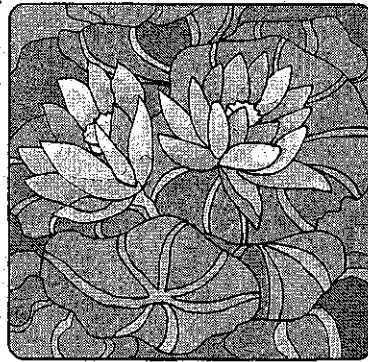
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 13, Issue 11

Pitfalls of Water Gardening by Virginia Johnson

Every afternoon met with a new heartache. The orandas and shubunkins that had learned to eat out of my hand were dying, one by one. Their once sparkling bodies showed a myriad of symptoms, ranging from open wounds to white fuzzy spots. Something had gone horribly wrong in my little established pond, despite a highly recommended pump, particle filter and biological filtration system. It was the second year in a row that I had problems with the pond, and I set out to discover what went wrong.

The pond was established in 1998 for my older son, who loves watching fish. A hole was dug and shaped to fit a pre-formed hard black plastic pond liner. At 125 gallons, a pump was selected to provide a complete water change every 40 minutes. The water went through a submerged particle filter first, and then it went through a submerged biological filter. Every week or so, the pump and particle filter had to be pulled up off the bottom of the pond and cleaned. The biological filter was left undisturbed. "Big Spots" and "Little Spots" were the only two fish in the pond at the time—two speckled goldfish called shubunkins. Marginal plants like Louisiana iris and miniature lotus sat on the pre-formed shelves. A couple of water lilies were on the bottom. Water hyacinths and water lettuce floated about, their root systems also helping keep the pond clean. The water was clear, *Azolla* grew freely across



the water surface, and bloodworms writhed in the filter. The pond was healthy.

In the spring of 1999, I was thrilled to discover at least a dozen baby fish in the pond. I had to pull the water clover out of the pond, as it is a terribly invasive plant and was choking out everything else and covering the water surface.

That summer was a hot and dry one though. Starting in August, everyday the water level was down about a third of the total pond volume. After about a week I decided the liner must have been leaking, so I caught all the fish I could find and took them out of the pond. I drained the pond and discovered an 8-inch long crack in the liner almost halfway down. The soil surrounding the liner was hard red clay, and the excessive heat and drought had caused the clay to shrink, applying so much pressure to the liner that it had cracked. By the time I had discovered the problem, most of the baby fish had become trapped in the potted plants when the water level fell and had died.

I took everything out of the pond and relined it with a thick black plastic liner, then set about establishing the pond again. Being careful to follow the rule of 2-3" of fish per square foot of water surface area, I added a couple of orandas to the pond—a bright orange one named "Sunny" and a calico one named "Callie". Sunny and Callie promptly ate all the *Azolla* growing on the water surface. The shubunkins weren't interested in eating it until the orandas came along.

January Speaker

Carleton E. McMullin on
"Garden Railroads"

Arkansas Is Our Campus

Pulaski County Master Gardener
Board Meeting
November 12, 2002
Summary

Attending were Jane Druff, John Prather, Dick Blankenbeker, Carolyn Newbern, Beth Phelps and Pat Green.

Minutes of the previous meeting were corrected. Jane questioned the use of summarized minutes for the newsletter as opposed to a full report being sent as an enclosure with the newsletter mailing. It was suggested that the minutes be posted at the general meeting but continue using summaries to save space in the Master Minutes. Dick moved that the question be referred to the newsletter staff. The motion was passed.

John Prather gave the Treasurer's report.

10/01/02 Balance \$8750.10

11/01/02 Balance \$16,978.01

The travel committee has raised a question regarding refunds to members who cancel after paying for a trip sponsored. A motion was made by Jane to establish a policy that allows the travel committee to set a deadline for payment of trip costs. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the committee may cancel the trip and return any funds received. If someone cancels before the deadline, a full refund shall be made. If someone cancels after the deadline, a refund may be made at the discretion of the Master Gardener Board. The motion was approved.

John moved to post the complete Treasurer's report at the general meeting and have the board meeting minutes show the beginning and ending bank balance. The motion was approved.

A report was received from the Continuing Education Committee. Of the approximate \$600 in excess funds, the committee recommends donating \$100 to the State Master Gardener Educator Program; using some funds to purchase supplies and the remainder set-aside for future training events.

A motion was made to accept a bid from Shepherd's Printing for the brochure outlining the Master Gardener projects.

The name "Master Gardener Stuff" was chosen for the new committee in charge of clothing (other than the t-shirts). They showed the board several new embroidered articles to be made available to members.

The nominating committee has presented two names for "members-at-large" to serve on the board. They are Rochelle Greenwood and Mary Freeman. The board approved.

The following is a list of chairs of standing committees who have agreed to serve in 2003:

Master Minutes-----	Linda Moyer
Promotion, Public Relations---	Cheryl Kennedy
And Publicity	Suellen Roberts
	Rose Hogan
Social committee -----	Susan Crisp
Speakers Bureau -----	Pat Green

(Continued on page 4)

Pulaski County Master Gardener
Board Meeting
November 12, 2002
Summary

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Meeting was held Tuesday, November 12, 2002 in the Auditorium of the State Extension Service Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, Arkansas with Carolyn Newbern presiding.

Carolyn welcomed everyone with special greetings to the 54 new Master Gardeners who had just completed their training the previous week. These new members had a star on their name badges.

Carolyn introduced the Promotion, Public Relations, and Publicity (The 3 P's in a Pod) Committee and thanked them for their work on the brochure outlining the Master Gardener projects. She then asked for a motion to fund the printing of the brochure by Shepherd Printing at a cost of \$920. Breck Campbell made the motion and it was carried without dissent.

The Nominating Committee named the two "members-at-large" to serve on the board. They are Rochelle Greenwood and Mary Freeman. No nominations were presented from the floor. James Campbell moved to accept the nominees presented by the committee. All votes were in favor.

Thank you cards were received from Mrs. McKinney for flowers and gifts received during her recent recovery and from Bryan Day, with Little Rock Parks and Recreation for the gift of \$100 for a tree to be placed in MacArthur Park.

Ila Newberry reported that the Northwest Arkansas trip was successful and enjoyed by all that participated.

June Chandler said that about 300 fifth graders participated in the Arbor Day event in MacArthur Park.

Lois Corley said the Greenhouse sale had been a success and that monies earned would help to provide more tables for the greenhouse. She displayed a Confederate Rose. Lois hopes to propagate the rose and offer it for sale at the greenhouse.

The Retention Committee plans to meet today following the general meeting.

Sandy Harrison reported that the Advanced Master Gardener course had 115 students. Forty-four members were from Pulaski County.

Leadership training was held November 6th and 7th at the Ferndale 4-H center for officers and other Master Gardener leaders.

The International Master Gardener Conference will be held June 18-21 in Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area. Applications are available on the web-site.

Suellen Roberts reported for the 3 P's in a Pod Committee. There have been problems with the plant exchange on meeting days. That will be dropped. If you have plants to share please contact the newsletter staff or sign up on the plant exchange that is circulated at each meeting.

The new "Master Gardener Stuff" committee provided a fashion show with the new embroidered shirts, hats,

(Continued on page 4)

Congratulations and Welcome to the new Master Gardeners



Frances M. Ables, Carlee Adams, Bruce E. Allen, Mickey Barsocchi, Warren Boop, Bob Bray, Wanda Bray, Shannon Chamberlin, Phyllis Colclasure, Jet Cuffman, Don R. Davis, Sharon H. Davis, Dena Dixon, Jim Dyer, Stephanie Dyer, William Edom, Elizabeth Ann Edwards, Mickey Elmore, Donald Ford, Margie France, Shirley C. Gunnels, Betty Henderson, Donald Henderson, Jo Carol Jones, Kandy Jones, Janet Jordan, Alf Koros, Barbara Koros, Gay McDaniel, Debbie M. Mickel, Cindy Modisette, Melanie Mortimore, Carolyn Morton, Nancy O'Brien, June Owens, Bonnie B. Peek, Barbara Powell, Gina Praszka, Adrienne Reece, Debby Sanderson, Amy Schuh, Tracy Dean Sims, Janette Smith, Anne Speed, Judy Spencer, Connie Staley, Beth Stewart, Jim Tyler, Mary Vancura, Bonnie Wells, Lisa Vest, Bruce Wesson, Lee Wilson, Lynn Winningham

Master Gardeners Christmas Party December 12, 2002



Photos by Lynn Winningham

(Continued from page 2, Board Minutes)

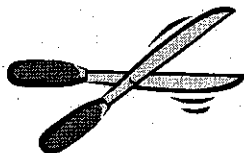
Sunshine -----Linda Dantzler
Travel Committee -----Ila Newberry
Retention Committee -----Jane Gulley
Continuing Education -----Meg Fox
Master Garden Stuff - Nancye McCowan

The board decided to reserve a booth at the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show and ask The State Advisory Council if they would like to share it. Volunteers will be sought from the membership to develop a booth display.

The Master Gardener Holiday Party is December 12 at the Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock. There will not be another general meeting in December. The board will meet on December 10, however, at 10AM at the home of Carolyn Newbern.

The International Master Gardener Meeting will be in Cincinnati/ Covington KY June 18-21, 2003.

Pat Green
Secretary



(Continued from page 2, Regular Meeting Minutes)

and aprons. Forms are available today and items should be ready by the Holiday Party in December.

Beth said that Jack Singleton, a Master Gardener, who is now working with the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, would like for us to propose our projects for awards. Contact Jack for more information.

Fresh holiday wreaths are available for \$25 from Adopt-A-Park. Forms are available today.

Winners of today's door-prizes were Catherine Johnson and Anne Jarrard. Edwina Mann won the license plate.

Susan Crisp, dressed as a Christmas tree reminded us that the Holiday Party would be held December 12 at the Park Hill Christian Church in North Little Rock at 6:30 PM. An envelope is being passed today for those wishing to pay the \$5- fee now. The deadline for sending in your money is December 5. There will be no other meeting of the membership this year.

Beth presented ten-year pins to Hilda Boger, Margaret Fiser and Marian Berry. Five-year pins went to Pat Wallace, Margaret Breen and Betty Glasscock.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned so that members could visit at a reception held in honor of the new members.

Pat Green
Secretary

(Continued from page 1, Pitfalls of Water Gardening)

During the early months of 2000, I purchased a new pump that would provide almost 2 complete water changes per hour, and a filtration system that set outside the pond, eliminating the need to pull everything off the bottom once a week. With the rate that some of the plants were growing in the pond, pulling the filtration system out of it had really become a hassle.

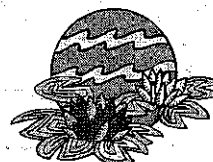
I began to notice signs that at least one of the neighborhood raccoons had visited the pond, but so far had been unsuccessful in catching anyone. Having a rock overhang around the edge and thick, tall plants on the corners helped, but I covered the pond with a predator net for added safety. The main problem with the predator net was that it was ugly, but I wanted to protect the fish.

December of 2000 brought the terrible ice storms. A thick layer of ice covered the pond and shrubs fell over in it, but the fish seemed to make it through unscathed. As the weather started warming up in the spring of 2001, though, the fish seemed to not be doing so well. They weren't active or eating. I cleaned the particle filter several times over the course of a couple of weeks and tried adding "sludge removing" bacteria but the particle filter still clogged frequently and the fish ap-

peared lethargic.

I tried various treatments to the water, but I lost all the fish. I realized too late what had possibly happened: when I switched from a submerged filtration system to an above ground one, and the ice storms hit, the biological filter very likely froze, killing the beneficial microbes in it, so it was no longer working. Also, all the plantings surrounding the pond had left a lot of debris in it when the ice storms knocked them down into it. The ammonia and nitrite levels increased, while the oxygen level decreased. In addition, the pond was designed in such a way with the preformed liner that there wasn't as much water surface area, as the walls of the liner were vertical and had virtually no slope. Plants filled up some of the would-be surface area.

We all enjoyed the pond so much; we have decided to try again. Hopefully we have already made most of the mistakes and can avoid the pitfalls of water gardening this time.





Eureka Springs Trip, October 28-30, 2002

Thirty Pulaski County Master Gardeners have just returned from a glorious trip to Eureka Springs. L to R (Back Row) Marilyn Tilley, Susanne O'Donoghue, Jane Druff, Betty Heck, Ila Newberry, Dotty Heckenbach, Elizebeth Dillon, Margaret Breen, ?, Nancy Kirsch, Hilda Boger, Carolyn Henslee, Jim Boger, (in front of Jim) Marie Jordan, Lynn Phelps, Ben Jordan, Bus Driver – Forrest

L to R (Front Row) Ruth Owings, Linda Moyer, Dolores LeCompte, Nan Matthews, Fran Lopata, Ann Cooper, Peggy Works, Shirley Acchione, Norma Parker, Anita Chamberlin

L to R (Down In Front) Carolyn Mendel, Kathleen Wesson

(Your Travel Committee is busy planning the next outing to Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne, Arkansas for mid March 2003. This location received the most votes on the Travel Committee Survey for day trips to in-state nurseries. Dolores LeCompte)

Photos by (l to r) Frits Druff and Steve Lopata



Formosa Lily *Lilium formosum*

At the November meeting, Carl Hunter gave out seeds for the Formosa lily. Since he wasn't able to talk to everyone who got a pack, the planting instructions follow.

You can plant the seeds now or store in the refrigerator until April. You plant the seeds ¼" deep. Seeds are sown directly into your beds. It is better to plant them in April because they won't start growing until spring anyway. They prefer being in the sun. And will reseed themselves.

The Formosa lily is a stately plant often reaching 4 to 6 feet with lots of fragrant, white flowers. The flowers look like Easter lilies. The plants don't need staking.

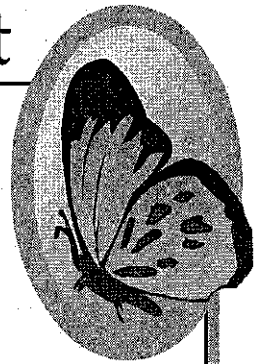
They are strong enough to stand on their own.

Although they are not native, they are a great addition to your garden.



Trading Post

- Fran Lopata has Lirope (you dig up) 223-8099
- Kandy Jones has Purple Coneflowers and Morning Glory (red, blue & white) seeds, 375-0068
- Shirley Acchione has Liriope and wants vinca minor ground cover, 666-8533
- Joan Humphries wants ajuge, vinca minor, 280-9023
- Marie Flickinger has vinca minor, 753-1141
- Laura Lasiter has 5 - 4-inch goldfish that need a good home, 374-6595
- Jim Dyer has Turk's Cap, Heliopsis, 666-7934
- Trudy Goolsby has blue Siberian iris, 835-5068
- Paul McDonnell has Arillas Spinson (Devils Walking Stick), 224-9094



Feel free to bring extra plants to leave outside at the meetings, with a short card listing the name and care instructions for your plant. If you want to guarantee a swap, however, please use our Trading Post.



Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

December

This is no Master Gardener meeting in December, instead there is a holiday party.

- 12 Holiday Party, 6:30-8:30pm, Pulaski County Master Gardeners, Park Hill Christian Church, NLR

January

- 10-11 Eagle Awareness 2003, Bull Shoals, White River State Park. Contact Stewart Carlton, 870-431-5521. Free except for lake tours \$5 adult \$2.75 children
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 18 Eagles on the Lake, Lake Catherine State Park, Reservations required. Contact: Glynda Pryor, 501-844-4176. Free
- 18-19 Eagle Awareness Days, Petit Jean State Park at Mather Lodge, Contact Steve Dunlap, 501-727-5441
- 24-26 24th Annual Eagles Et Cetra Weekend, DeGray Lake Resort State Park. A weekend of programs & field trips. Contact Kelly Farrell, 501-865-2801
- 24-26 10th Annual Eagle Watch Weekend, Rocky Branch Marina, Rogers. Cruises at 10 am, 1 pm, & 3 pm. Owl Prowl at 8:30 pm. All seats for cruises are reserved & must be pre-paid. Adults \$14, children \$7. Contact Mary Arme Veator 800-552-3802.

February

- 1-2 Winter Wings Weekend, Lake Chicot State Park, Wintering bird species. Contact John Morrow 1-800-265-5480
- 1-28 Eagles Over Harbor, Mountain Harbor Resort. Barge tours each Saturday & Sunday in February. Contact Dick Antoine, 1-870-867-1212
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 28- Mar 2 12th Annual Arkansas Flower & Garden Show, Little Rock State Convention Center

March

- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University

April

- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University

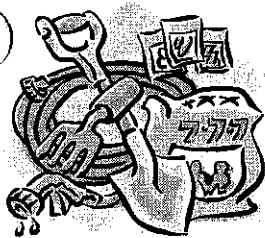
May

- 13 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 19-21 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom", Harding Campus, Searcy

June

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 18-22 **International Master Gardener Conference**, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>
Registration Info - Mike Walton, 1-740-524-4123, fax 1-877-848-4123, email - mwalton@walcom.com

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆
 ☆ **"Look for the Star"** ☆
 ☆
 ☆ **Remember** to "Look for the Star" on name ☆
 ☆ tags during the coming year - get to know our ☆
 ☆ new fellow Master Gardeners. ☆
 ☆
 ☆
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



December-January Checklist

by Libby Thalheimer

"A Time to Till"

Start vegetable seeds indoors in January for transplanting in 6-8 weeks.

In late January, plant poppies and sweet peas.

Turn cover crops into the soil with a fork or tiller during January to give the green materials time to break down before planting time. Prepare soil for new beds by adding compost, manure, or other organic matter.

"The Berm"

After the first hard freeze, apply mulch to prevent alternate thawing and freezing.

Mulch lilies with well-rotted or dehydrated manure. Although growth of leafy greens will stop in cold weather, if plants are mulched, it will resume in spring and produce greens into May.

Add a 6 to 8 inch layer of mulch to root crops so the vegetables can be harvested as needed.

"The Green File"

Apply lime to lawn in December or January. In mid-January, fertilize trees. Fertilize winter annuals regularly all season during any warm spell. Water regularly, especially before a heavy freeze.

"So Dig"

Plant tulips early in December.

Move trees, shrubs, and perennials in late January, whenever soil is friable enough.

"Shoots"

Remove dead stalks and other debris, destroying infested material and adding the rest to compost. Cut back frost-nipped perennials now, leaving 2-3 inch stalks to help locate dormant crowns when planting in early spring.

Remove fallen leaves that may smother grass and plants.

"Taming of the Shrub"

Remove plants that aren't thriving in their current locations. Try to ascertain the reason for the lack of success. Often it's a matter of planting depth, or

an over-accumulation of mulch, or a diseased root system.

"Clear and Present Danger"

Protect cold-sensitive plants from a freeze with a box, blanket, burlap, or a sheet. If you use plastic, support it to prevent contact with the plant.

Wrap the grafts of tender young fruit trees with towels or with about ten sheets of newspaper.

Use pre-emergents to control winter annual broadleaf weeds.

Remove thatch with a vertical mower. Control thatch by top-dressing turf with a one-quarter inch layer of topsoil.

Spray broad-leaved evergreens infested with scale with dormant oil just before bud break.

"Catcher of my Eye"

Camellias, dogwood, heather, helleborus, hollies, winter honeysuckle and jasmine, mahonia, nandina, osmanthus aquifolium, possum haw, flowering quince, rosehips, tea plant, viburnums, violas, and witch hazel.



Photos by Lynn Winningham

A reception was held after the regular November meeting in honor of our new Master Gardener members.

What Works!

Member Hints

Bonnie Nicholas says after you fill the lawn and leaf bags with leaves, Wet the leaves, and add a can of beer and a cup of ammonia. Close. Within a few months, you'll have compost.

Wendell Redmond recommends using Contractor Bags for garden waste, leaves, etc. They are super strong, hard to tear, and can be stuffed without busting. They are available at Home Depot. They cost more, but are worth it.

If you rake leaves when they are wet, they won't aggravate your allergies as much. The bags may be just a little heavier. This suggestion came from *Mary Evans*.

Carl Hunter relates that a modest amount of wilt doesn't hurt plants. Get to know your plants. And they will tell you when to water. The most common causes of lost of houseplants is over watering. Some can be watered as little as two weeks.

Storing Summer Flowering Bulbs

Well-known summer flowering bulbs are Dahlias, Begonias, Caladium, Lilies, Gladiolas and Canna. Summer flowering bulbs are planted late spring. A couple of months later they will bloom. Summer flowering bulbs will bloom in most climates but many of them are not winter hardy.

For storage, temperature and moisture conditions vary for each bulb species. For some flower bulbs, the precise storage conditions are known, while for others the precise conditions are unknown. Whenever the climate is mild enough for the particular bulbs, it is advisable to keep the bulbs in the garden and cover them well before the winter starts. In many cases, the plant will bloom better the next year. In addition, when grown in containers, it is usually best to keep the bulbs in the pot and place it under proper growing storage conditions in the home or in storage.

In storing *tender bulbs* through the winter, it is important to keep several things in mind. Store only disease-free, healthy, sound bulbs. Many gardeners use small trays and cover the bottoms with screen for storing small bulbs, corms, and tubers. Perforated plastic bags may be used to store bulbs that have a tendency to shrivel. The relative humidity in storage area should be about 50%. Check all bulbs monthly for dehydration, excess moisture, disease and sprouting.

Tuberous Begonias: Bulbs can be saved from year to year. Remove stems after frost has killed tops. Let tubers dry for one week then store cleaned tubers in peat moss or sawdust at 50 degrees F. Do not allow

Rose Works by Rose Hogan

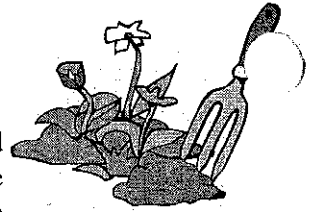
tubers to freeze.

Canna: Once frost has killed the canna tops in fall, cut off the dead tops and dig rhizomes. Use care in digging. Hose soil off rhizomes and store inside at 45 to 50 degrees F. Do not allow rhizomes to freeze.

Caladium: In fall, dig tubers and store at 65 to 70 degrees F in peat moss. Bulbs will not tolerate cooler storage temperatures.

Dahlia: Harvest the flowers, leaving a minimum of four leaves on the plant, to restore the corm. Harvest the corms in late fall. Remove the soil and old subcorm. Air dry and store in mesh bags at 35 to 40 degrees F.

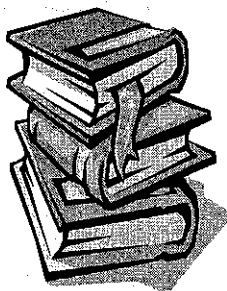
Gladiolus: Corms are ready to dig in four to six weeks after blooms are finished or when the tops die off. They can be dug anytime before a hard freeze. Healthy plants should be left in the soil as long as possible so there is ample time for maximum development of the corm. Corms should be stored during the winter at a temperature of 35 to 45 degrees F in a well-ventilated area. Airy containers such as loose-weave baskets, mesh bags or old nylon stockings make good containers that may be hung out of the way. Dust corms before storage with an all-purpose garden fungicide to Ensure against insect and disease damage while in storage.



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 jot your hints and ideas down at the monthly 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 and we will give you credit.



Old Mill Fish Fry, October 17, at Martha Baseinger



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

A Garden of Fragrance: Creating Glorious Scented Gardens

by Suzy Bales

167 pages, 2000, Regan Books, \$17.95

Take your garden to yet another level - a fragrant approach with the guidance of Suzy Bales. She'll rope you in quickly with her thorough, but easy style.

Bales gardens in a Zone 7 and explores the aromatic character of the world of our own favorite plants. Seductresses are heavily perfumed flowers such as roses, gardenias, hyacinths, lilacs, and lilies. Come-closers including snowdrops, pinks, and violets, are more subtle and share their fragrance only when held close. Moonlighters dispense their perfume from early dusk into the night. Moonflowers, honeysuckle, and petunias are a few of the garden's night owls. Shaggy dogs hide aromas in their leaves. Line a path with herbs and grasses, and you'll be rewarded as you brush by them. Bales' last group, the eccentric rogues, include the love'em or hate'em varieties like paperwhites and mayflowers; the pungent nose twisters - wormwood and feverfew; the dual personalities such as angel's trumpets and starflowers; and the stinkers - chameleon and privet.

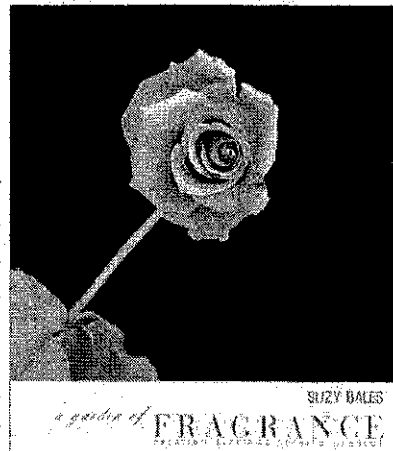
Chapter 7, Scented Rooms, is loaded with flower

trivia and helpful tips. The heavily sweet-scented datura flower lasts one night in the garden, but if picked as soon as it opens and before it's pollinated, it will stay in bloom for several days indoors. Did you know that it takes 60,000

rose blossoms to produce one ounce of rose oil?

There are three extensive appendixes; essential oils and their properties, lists of fragrant plants, and mail order sources. The index is user friendly.

This book will guide you in a worthwhile effort to design, plant, and maintain a scent-filled garden that smells as good as it looks. Enthusiastically, I recommend this book.



Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

Having a list of Web sites on gardening is helpful. Knowing how to search the Web for information is even more valuable. *Tom Mertens* is a Master Gardener who does a lot of research on gardening questions in the Extension office. He offers some suggestions for tracking down information on the Internet.

A good starting point for research is www.reeusda.gov. Clicking on "State Partners," then on the map of the U.S., sends you to any Cooperative Extension Service location in America. Tom suggests exploring their agricultural sections as well as the home gardening sections. Still more information can be found at state forestry commissions.

Search engines provide access to immense amounts of data. Tom's favorite search engine can be found at www.mamma.com. When someone wanted to know what kind of snake was in the backyard, Tom put identify snake in Mamma's search field. A fine snake identification program emerged from the University of South Carolina. To answer another question, search words identify mushroom led to www.mykoweb.com in California. If you're new to surfing the Internet, remember to bookmark items that you may want to visit again. For a detailed plant identification program (especially good for trees) Tom bookmarked <http://okplantid.okstate.edu> at the Oklahoma Extension Service. He reminds us that search engines are a quick way to locate companies as well.

Thanks for the tips, Tom. For another example, last March the rose 'Knockout' was sold out across much of the country. By using a Google search, I unearthed a fine bush to order from a Wisconsin nursery.

Of course, entering a simple search can return thousands of links. It takes time to sift through all the responses. If you refine the search entry in specific ways, then the item you're looking for is more likely to appear in the first page or two of results. For advice, try visiting the address www.learnthenet.com/english/html/31wsearc.htm. It offers an Interactive Search Engine Tutorial and a lesson on Advanced Search Techniques. Honing Internet research skills brings a world of gardening information right to our green thumbs and fingertips.

Master Gardener Alert!

Fruit Pruning Workshop
February 5, 2003
 UA Fruit Substation
 1749 State Hwy. 818
 Clarksville, AR 72830

This will be a "hands-on" opportunity to learn about fruit pruning. Cost is \$10.00. Registration is due by January 31. For more information, call 479-754-2406.

2003 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show
 Statehouse Convention Center,
 downtown LR
February 28, March 1 & 2, 2003

Be a part of the show. This year's show will feature 7 Landscaped Gardens and 90 exhibitors, a full line up of speakers, a Flower Show, Florist Competition. This year's highlight will be a garden gauge railroad in a landscaped garden.

The Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Your volunteer name badge will get you in free all 3 days of the Show. To volunteer, fill out the form enclosed with newsletter and return by Feb. 1, 2003.

Master Gardener Logo Items

Starting in 2003, orders for Master Gardener Logo items will be sent in quarterly. The first order will be sent in after the regular Master Gardener meeting in January. Order form enclosed with newsletter.

Additional Gardening Information

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

Pulaski County Master Gardeners

pulaski.uaex.edu

Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Office

2301 South University
 Little Rock, AR 72204 671-2000

Pulaski County Horticultural Hotline

340-6660

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

In This Issue

Pitfalls of Water Gardening	1
Nov. 12 Board Minutes	2
Nov. 12 Meeting Minutes	2
New Master Gardeners	3
Trading Post	5
Eureka Springs Trip	5
Formosa Lily	5
Calendar and Notes	6
December-January Checklist	7
What Works!	8
Book Review	9
Internet Sources	9



Get Your News Printed!

- ⇒ Everyone is encouraged to submit information of interest, a newsworthy photo, information about your committee, etc to the newsletter. Bring to the meeting or send it via: Beth Phelps, Pulaski County CES Office, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204, 340-6650, bphelps@uaex.edu; Mrs. McKinney, 340-6650; or Linda Moyer, 985-2454, mgpulaski@yahoo.com.
- ⇒ 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.

Deadline is the Tuesday after the last regular meeting.

Master Minutes Staff — 2002

Chair	Linda Moyer
Staff	Lois Clilton
	Jan Gauntt
	Carl Goodson
	Ann Green
	Rose Hogan
	Helen Hronas
	Virginia Johnson
	Ruth Jones
	Cheryl Kennedy
	Julia Loyall
	Bonnie Nicholas
	Ellen Rouch
	Libby Thalheimer



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 2001, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps
 County Extension Agent- Agriculture