

Master Minutes

February 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 14, Issue 1

HISTORIC ARKANSAS MUSEUM PROJECT

by Helen Hronas

The old Cherokee Rose climbing a trellis and cooling the west side of the print shop of the former Arkansas Territorial Restoration in downtown Little Rock owes its existence to the diligent efforts of our own Master Gardener, Trudy Goolsby. A chance conversation with fellow Ozark Society member, David Etchison, (groundskeeper at the museum) brought Trudy's creative hand to the rescue when the museum grounds had reached a low ebb back in 1996.

Dead shrubbery and flowerbeds overgrown with weeds and saplings greeted Trudy who set about to clean and rejuvenate them all. She designed and established new beds and suggested the trellis, which is covered with a profusion of white blooms in spring and healthy evergreen foliage year 'round. But Trudy cautions that the rose keeps growing and the large thorns get sharper each year! Arkansas settlers once used the Cherokee as a very effective living hedge.

Flowers mentioned in old documents, such as mullein pink, foxgloves, Canterbury Bells, tulips and marigolds, were planted to complement the restored buildings.

Four years ago the State allotted money to

enlarge the museum building for more exhibition space. The grounds stayed torn up for two years, but thankfully, most of the flowerbeds weren't affected. A new name was adopted, "Historic Arkansas Museum," to allow for inclusion of artifacts from time periods later than just when Arkansas was a territory.

Meantime, Trudy was campaigning to have the museum flowerbeds adopted as a Master Gardener project, and this finally happened in October 2002. Now she has two helpers: Juddie Wachtel and Mary Lou Arrington, new Master Gardeners. Besides developing some new beds more visible from Second Street, their plans for the Spring are to plant marigolds and zinnias as their annuals, and watch for the return of their dependable perennials: day lilies, daisies, Siberian iris, goldenrod, and an eye-catching and prolific lavender aster.

Louise Terzia, Director of Development for the museum, indicates that they have about 85,000 visitors each year, and of those, 15 to 20 thousand are schoolchildren. Trudy says that in spring the grounds are full of schoolchildren admiring the different flowers, especially the tulips. Once a small boy asked



Woodruff Print Shop
Courtesy of HAM



Brownlee House
Courtesy of HAM

(Continued on page 4)

February Speaker - Lisa Vest

will speak about Phytophotodermatitis _ big word, unique problem. A discussion on how certain kinds of plants and sunlight don't mix. We will be learning about how chemicals in certain plants, when exposed to sunlight, can cause a reaction on the skin similar to a sunburn.

Arkansas Is Our Campus

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER BOARD MEETING January 14, 2003

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Board met at the State Extension Office Building on January 14, 2003. President, Carolyn Newbern called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. In the absence of secretary, Pat Green, Rochelle Greenwood took minutes. Present were Carolyn Newbern, Jane Druff, Mary Freeman, Nancy Kirsch, Rochelle and Beth Phelps. Jennifer Gibson, an assistant for Janet Carson, attended as a guest.

John Prather was absent today but sent the treasurer's report. The ending bank balance for 12/31/02 was \$12,046.28. Jane moved that the report be accepted as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

Carolyn presented the color brochure outlining Master Gardener projects and other public gardens. She said that Rose Hogan had been instrumental in seeing that this project was done. These will be sent out with a letter going to project hosts. Beth and Carolyn will prepare a letter to go out with these to other community and state persons with an interest in our program.

Carolyn reported on a letter received from Peter Rausch regarding plaques for trees donated to Trees for Tomorrow. The trees will cost from \$100-\$150, depending on the type of tree, and the plaque will cost \$55. Rochelle and Mary will establish procedures to determine the wording on the plaques, acknowledgements, and type of trees to be selected. At this time, there is \$25 in memorial funds for Adrian Williamson. When other memorial funds are received and the total reaches \$175-\$200 a donation will be made to the Trees for Tomorrow program.

(Pat Green arrived and continued taking minutes.)

Minutes of the last meeting were mailed to members before today. The following corrections were made: Add Nancy Kirsch to the list of attendees and in the paragraph beginning "The retention committee ..." strike the word "sent" and replace with "used by committee making calls". Jane moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected. The motion carried.

The board discussed the \$15 annual membership dues. The question has been raised as to whether this fee can cover a couple or should each member pay the \$15 dues. Minutes of previous discussions on the matter are not clear. Beth suggested that the membership be given an opportunity to voice their opinions to board members before a final decision is made. It was agreed that Carolyn would make this announcement at today's general meeting and that a limited discussion by the membership will precede a vote at the February General Meeting.

Marian Berry has requested that volunteer hours by Master Gardeners working in the Junior Master Gardener Program at Pulaski Heights Elementary be accepted for credit towards certification. After discussion, Jane moved that Master Gardeners who have been active for at least one year

(Continued on page 4)

PULASKI COUNTY MASTER GARDENER MEETING January 14, 2003

The January 14, 2003 meeting of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners was held in the auditorium of the State Extension Service Building at 2301 South University in Little Rock, Arkansas with Carolyn Newbern presiding.

After calling the meeting to order at 12:00 noon, Carolyn welcomed the Master Gardeners in attendance and told us that as of this date, there are 321 certified Master Gardeners in Pulaski County.

The following announcements were made:

- Carolyn thanked Rose Hogan for her dedication to the brochure listing the Pulaski County Master Gardener projects. The completed colored brochure was on display today.
- A meeting of all new chairpersons will be held on February 6 at the Fletcher Library. Notices have been mailed along with a roster of volunteers for each project.
- Members are asked to turn in e-mail addresses to Beth to facilitate communication.
- Annual dues are due. Collection envelopes are being circulated today. The Board plans to discuss the issue of dues per member versus dues per couple. Those who wish to speak to the issue were asked to see one of the board members-at-large (Mary Freeman or Rochelle Greenwood) after the meeting today. After a limited discussion at the February meeting, the membership will vote.
- Horticulture entry forms for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show are available from Betty Henderson.
- Heifer Project International is offering a beekeeping workshop in four sessions beginning January 23.
- A fruit tree-pruning seminar will be offered by the Fruit Experiment Station on February 5.
- Baxter County Master Gardeners will host a gardening seminar in Mountain Home on February 22. Applications are available on-line.
- A Pulaski County Master Gardener Fund has been established, with the first contribution of \$25.00 in honor of Adrian Williamson. When this fund reaches \$175-200, the amount will be donated to the Trees for Tomorrow Program to place a tree in MacArthur Park with a plaque designating the gift in memory of Master Gardeners.
- The Master Gardeners "Stuff" committee announced that the checkered shirt is no longer available. Those who have ordered it may wish to select another item. Orders will be submitted quarterly.
- Libby Thalheimer will take over as the new editor of the Master Minutes on February 19. Until that time, Linda Moyer is the editor.

(Continued on page 4)

Our new Master Gardeners - Members-At-Large

Mary Freeman and Rochelle Greenwood have been elected Members-At-Large to the Pulaski County Master Gardener Board.

Master Gardeners are encouraged to let them know if they have ideas or concerns they would like them to bring before the Board.

If you e-mail please put Master Gardener in the subject line.

Mary Freeman - 961-1517 or summareal@aol.com

Rochelle Greenwood - 753-7853 or dfrcgreen@aol.com

Master Gardener Meeting January 14, 2003



(Continued from page 2, Board Minutes)

be allowed to count volunteer hours on official Junior Master Gardener projects towards volunteer work hours to remain an active Master Gardener. The motion was seconded by Rochelle and approved by voice vote.

Debbie Cummings has asked the board to reconsider its decision regarding the rehab program at St. Vincent's Hospital. Nancy moved that a review of current and prospective projects take place in August. Rochelle seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

Nancy reported that letters to project hosts are still being revised but will be mailed soon. Letters to project chairs were mailed 1/13/03 inviting them to the Chairman Orientation at the Fletcher Library on February 6. Project descriptions are being revised and will be available for the February 6 meeting. It was noted that notebooks are needed for the new standing committees and for the two new projects, Historic Arkansas Museum and Oak Forest Community Gardens. Carolyn presented written duties and guidelines of various officers and committees. Jane shared information regarding policies for Pulaski County Master Gardeners that is not included in other materials. The duties and policies will be included in the appropriate notebooks.

A discussion followed regarding the appropriate use of the \$100 project allotment. Jane moved that project funds be to be spent on garden related materials (e.g. edging, plants, fertilizer, mulch) only. The motion was seconded and carried.

Anita Chamberlin has a Magic Electric Box that she will give to the Master Gardeners for use as an educational tool.

Beth presented a list of Master Gardeners who have asked to be placed on an inactive list and those who have been dropped due to lack of completion of volunteer hours. The list will go to the Retention Committee who will contact these members to conduct a survey. She also reported that 2003 rosters will be mailed with February's Master Minutes.

Carolyn reported that information is being collected to send to the state Southeast District, to share with other Master Gardener programs at the April 12 district meeting in Dewitt.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

(Continued from page 2, Regular Meeting Minutes)

- Jennifer Gibson was introduced as Janet Carson's Assistant.
- Suellen Roberts thanked members who have volunteered to take pictures at MG events. The 3P's committee is now looking for a photo editor. They would also like a volunteer to come early to meetings to distribute candy.
- Susan Crisp and the social committee were thanked for the holiday party held in December.
- The Retention Committee, with Jane Gulley as Chair, will begin calling members who failed to recertify.
- The program committee is looking for suggestions for programs for this year.
- The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show applications were mailed with the last newsletter and are available on-line. Assignments will be made in early February. Beth stressed the need for awareness of the change effecting parking for the Show this year. Riverfront Park is now paid parking only. Volunteers may park at War Memorial Stadium and ride the free shuttle to and from the Convention Center.

Carleton McMullen presented the program today. He is an avid railroad buff who has had a lavish garden railroad installed in his own garden. His power point photos taken during the construction and of the completed project provided inspiration for Master Gardeners. His garden will be on the Garden Tour in April. Carleton is also a scheduled speaker for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.

Trudy Goolsby won the drawing for the license plate and Don Henderson won the drawing for the door prize – a book titled Practical Gardening.
The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 PM.

(Continued from page 1, Historic Arkansas Museum)

a delighted Trudy, "Did you make all these flowers?" With the opening of the Clinton Library in 2004, undoubtedly there will be even more visitors from all over the world, and they will have an opportunity to become familiar with Arkansas history as well as to learn about the lovely and varied flowers that grow well here.

The Historic Arkansas Museum expansion includes a spectacular atrium with large windows through which visitors view an ever changing, col-

orful flower display, courtesy of the Master Gardener program. Trudy's years of quiet, hard work has come to wonderful fruition. Ms. Terzia invites everyone to come and see the huge difference that the Master Gardener program has made there.



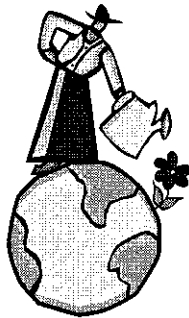
McVicar House
Courtesy of HAM

**Arkansas Unit
Herb Society of America**
presents
'Herb Gardens that Dance to the Music of Thyme'
by Caroline Holmes

Past President of the British Herb Society & author of 'Icons of Garden Design' & 'Monet of Giverny'
Saturday, March 8, 2003 at 2:00 PM
Byrne Hall
2417 North Tyler Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
Cost: \$30.00 or 2 tickets for \$40.00

Proceeds will benefit the three public herb gardens in the Little Rock area that were installed and are maintained by the AR Unit – Herb Society of America...The Garden of Exploration at the Arkansas School for the Blind; The Medicinal Garden at the Historic Arkansas Museum (formerly the Territorial Restoration); and The Mansion Herbarium at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion.

There will be some herb plants, books and booklets, available.



Trading Post

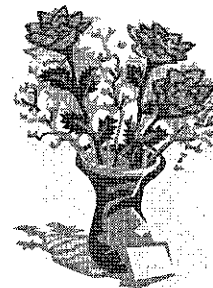
- Joan Humphries wants ajuga and vinca minor



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.

NOTICE

1. So our reception/hospitality people will not miss any of the meeting, no door prize tickets will be given out after the meeting starts, although you may still sign the attendance sheets after the meeting is over.
2. Reminder: ALL magazines are 50 cents - please help us fund our projects in this inexpensive manner. You can even recycle magazines by bringing them back to the next meeting and letting them be sold again.





Calendar And Notes

by Ruth Jones

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

- 7-10 Daffodil Days, Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs 1-800-366-4664
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 15-30 In Bloom at Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs: Daffodils, azaleas, dogwoods, Japanese Camellias & wild flowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 27-30 Tulipmania, Garvin Woodland Gardens, 1-800-366-4664

April

- 1-10 In Bloom at Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs: Azaleas, dogwoods, Tree Peonies, camellias & wild flowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 5-13 Spring Fest, Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs, 1-800-366-4664
- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting, noon, Tuesday, State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University
- 10-20 In Bloom at Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs: Tree Peonies, Southern indica, Glenn Davis azaleas, shrubs, & wild flowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 20-30 In Bloom at Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs: Rhododendrous, Glenn Davis azaleas, early rose, Tree Peonies, & wild flowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 26 Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour, 501-663-7515

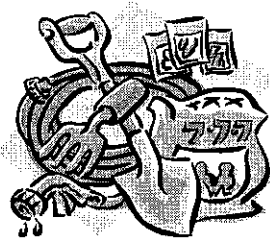
May

- 1-15 In Bloom at Garvin Gardens, Hot Springs: Roses, Azaleas, iris, Spring perennials, spring flowering shrubs, & wild flowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 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

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 ☆ **"Look for the Star"** ☆
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 ☆ **Remember** to "Look for the Star" on name ☆
 ☆ tags during the coming year - get to know our ☆
 ☆ new fellow Master Gardeners. ☆
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February Checklist by Rose Hogan

FEBRUARY PLOT

December and January weather have seemed more like spring than winter. The warm weather can speed up the spring flower display.

Keep a close eye on the forecast and your garden, and do what you can to protect your plants.

Don't be too quick about removing mulch from your perennial beds. Fluctuating temperatures can cause harm to your plants. Keep the mulch handy for late freezes when extra protection may be needed. Keep some extra mulch on hand, since milder than normal temperatures may cause some plants to begin growing prematurely. Young tender new growth is much more susceptible to a hard freeze.

A IS FOR AMARYLLIS

White Flower Farm offers these instructions to keep your holiday amaryllis bulb thriving. After flowering your bulb will be exhausted. If you want flowers next year you must allow the bulb to rebuild itself. After the last bloom fades, cut off the flower stalk 3-5 inches above the bulb, but leave the foliage intact. Put your plant in a sunny window (a south-facing one is best), water when the top inch of the potting mix is dry to the touch, and begin fertilizing with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer once a month. When the danger of frost has passed in spring, set the pot outdoors in full sun or knock the bulb out of its pot and plant it in the ground in a sunny location.

DREAMING OF FRESH VEGETABLES

The early spring garden can be planted now. Mulching will help to moderate soil temperature and black plastic mulch can help to warm the soil.

It is also the beginning of the asparagus season. If you don't have an asparagus planting, work up the soil and incorporate as much organic matter as possible. Plant one or two year old crowns in the bottom of the trench and then gradually cover the spears as they emerge. Do not harvest at all the first year of planting and only sparingly the second.

FERTILIZING YOUR GARDEN

Broadcast fertilizer at vegetable planting and then side-dress six to eight weeks later.

Asparagus plants are heavy feeders, and should be fertilized at least twice during the growing season.

Spring bulbs are up and growing - some even blooming. Fertilize the bulbs with a complete fertilizer as you see the flower stalk emerging. Then, fertilize again lightly after bloom

PRUNING PERENNIALS

A general rule of thumb, is that plants that bloom in the summer, set flower buds on their new, or current season, growth.

Summer flowering shrubs, except bigleaf hydrangeas and gardenias, should be pruned this month. Although not all plants need to be pruned every year, assess the plants and determine their pruning needs. Butterfly bush benefits from an annual pruning to make way for new growth. Abelia, althea, crape myrtle, summer spiraea, and vitex can be pruned as needed.

Perennial ornamental grasses, from monkey grass to pampas grass, need to be pruned now. Ornamental grasses need to be cut back yearly to keep looking attractive. Remove the old foliage to make way for the new. Be sure to check to see how tall the new growth is before cutting. A yearly haircut will produce a healthier and more attractive plant.

This is the month to prune roses. Hybrid tea rose bushes are always pruned the latter part of February. If mild weather continues, the plants may be actively growing by then, but still hold off on your pruning. These hybrid teas should be pruned hard every season - normally to within 8 - 18 inches from the ground. There are buds (or possibly sprouts) all along the stems. Prune slightly above an outward facing bud. Seal the cut edge with white glue to prevent insects from boring in the stems. Prune your climbers and shrub roses after spring bloom.

Fruit trees and grape vines need annual pruning. From the year you plant and then every succeeding year, these plants need pruning to get top production. Fruit trees and grape vines set way more flower and fruit buds than the tree can support. If you leave all the buds and branches, you will have lots of small, poor quality fruit, and you may have breaking limbs.

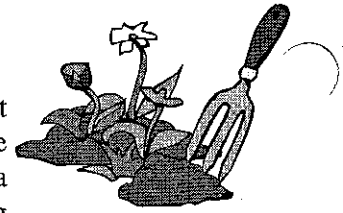
FEBRUARY STOCK

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

Indoors: cyclamen, kalanchoe, orchids and prechilled bulbs (hyacinths, paper-whites, and daffodils). Place cut branches of a spring flowering shrub (such as forsythia, fruit trees, Oriental magnolia or quince) into one gallon of warm water with two tablespoons of ammonia. Tightly enclose the container and stems in a bag, you should have spring blossoms weeks before they can flower outside.

What Works!

Rose Works by Rose Hogan



WATERING HANGING BASKETS

Hanging baskets can be a pain to water at the best of times. First of all they can be hard to get to, then when you have got some water in, they dry out within a few hours. If they have become really dry the soil or compost goes hard and all the water you manage to get in the basket flows out all over your feet.

Using one of those attachments on the end of your hose is one way if you like to pull out the hose every day and roll it back up. An alternative is to use a meat baster to water hanging plants.

If you are just too busy to bother to water your hanging basket, pots or window boxes, then put some ice cubes in a plastic bag, make some holes in it and put it in your basket, pot or window box. As the ice melts it slowly waters your plants and does not harm them.

To make your watering effective, slip a shower cap or Saran Quick Cover over the bottom of the basket before watering. The cap or cover will catch the drips and allow the water to soak back up to the basket. But don't over water as the cap or cover will slip off, full of water onto your feet.

FASTER GERMINATION

Place a heating mat under your seed trays and begin planting your seeds indoors now. Keeping the soil warm will assist with faster germination and plants will develop a stronger root system.

TAKING PLANT CUTTINGS

Taking cuttings and getting "free" plants from them is a long tradition in the gardening world. One plant that is regularly over wintered is the geranium (double flowered, rosebud, scented leaf, and ordinary varieties).

The first thing to do with geraniums at this time of year is to put them in places where they obtain as much sunlight as possible. They will start growing if fed at every watering regularly with regular strength plant food and soaking thoroughly. Allow the plant to dry to touch between waterings

When the new shoots are 3 inches long, they can be snapped or cut off the mother plant. Avoid taking the woody stems. The mother plant will continue to produce more new shoots and these can be collected and rooted.

Take these cuttings and put them in a jar of warm water. Keep the cuttings out of the direct sunlight but make sure they stay warm. Changing the water

regularly, every few days, will not hurt the rooting process. If you have English Ivy, or a short branch of a willow (Pussy Willow or Weeping Willow) you can insert this into the jar along with the cuttings. This will assist the rooting process.

As soon as the cuttings have roots that are 1 inch, pot them. Keep out of direct sunlight for a few days. After three days, increase light and watering, allowing the soil to dry to the touch. Start feeding with half strength fertilizer once a week and gradually increase the strength and frequency over a period of one month. Then full strength feeding can take place.

Full sunlight is required to produce a bushy plant. If less than full sunlight is available, once the plant is 6 inches tall and has 4 to 5 leaves, the growing point can be pinched out which forces the plant to develop side shoots and bush out. By the time the side shoots begin to elongate, it will be time to put the plant outdoors in the daytime for a hardening off process.

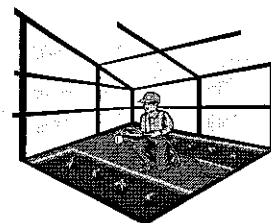
WOOD ASH IN THE GARDEN

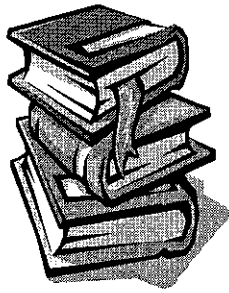
Don't throw out the ash if you've burned wood in the fireplace this winter. Save it and in the spring spread it in your gardens. Scatter it around carrots, radishes and onions to keep pests away. It will also improve the flavor of your potatoes. Wood ash is high in potassium, and will raise the pH level of your soil.

NATIVE PLANTS

Indigenous (native) plants can take a full year to become established but will always be the survivalist of the local landscape. They have adapted to climactic conditions of the area, not just weather extremes.

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

Passalong Plants

by Steve Bender and Felder Rushing \$19.95, 221 pages, 1993,
The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London

Suellen Roberts suggested I review 'Passalong Plants'. This referral made the read a predictable, humorous learning experience. I've had the pleasure of working under Suellen's auspices at the Arts Center. Effective humor is her modus operandi.

Passalongs are plants that have survived in gardens for decades by being handed from one person to another. Bender and Felder describe 117 botanical heirlooms such as harlequin glory bower, ginger lily, banana shrub, coral vine, montbretia, southern shield fern, sever sisters rose, and pearl bush. For each plant the common and botanical names, type of plant, size, hardiness, origin, light requirements, soil, and growth rates are listed. Then the fun begins. For each entry, 5-8 paragraphs of pure comic relief sing the praises with personal tales of the passalongs.

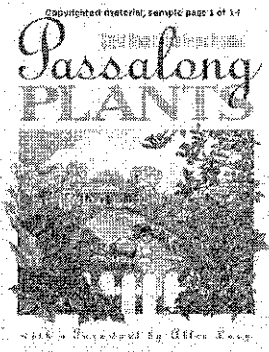
The humorous impact mounts as you read the chapter entitled 'Weirdisms, Oddities, and Conversation Pieces: Plants noted for certain strange features, like many of the people who own them'. Hardy orange, green rose, tater vine, worm tree, empress tree, and queen lily

are a few of the engaging monstrosities discussed.

Chapter 7 is an exploration of passalong gardeners' fascination with fine yard art including pink flamingos (limit yourself to a dozen), goose windmills, plastic flowers and the etiquette of their display, and milk of magnesia trees. There's a recipe for staining rather than painting rocks: a dash of liquid fertilizer and a handful of grass clippings in a water-filled plastic jug. Allow to ferment until algae forms. Mix with some buttermilk, dip rocks, and eventually lichens and moss will cover the rocks.

If you can't beg, borrow, or steal a piece of a passalong from a gardening friend, this book has a mail-order list of thirty-six sources.

This is currently my most favorite gardening book. It should be required reading.



Internet Sources

by Jan Gauntt

Try something new this year. Here are some possibilities.

Use a computer to learn more about gardening:

www.arhomeandgarden.org/landscape/ - click "Specialty Gardens" for an introduction.

Tend an orchid: <http://orchidweb.org/aboutorchids.html>

Grow potatoes: www.ronnigers.com - instructions on planting and growing

www.arhomeandgarden.org/vegetables/varieties/irish_potatoes.asp

Learn more about flower arranging: www.save-on-crafts.com/inonflordesa.html

www.thegardener.btinternet.co.uk/tips.html

Attend an International Master Gardener Conference:

<http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003> - information on the June conference in Covington, KY, and Cincinnati, OH.

Master Gardener Alert!

2003 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show
Statehouse Convention Center, downtown LR
February 28, March 1 & 2, 2003

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>

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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.

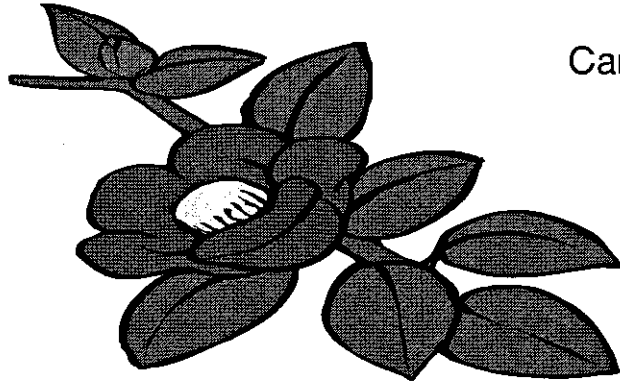
Elisabeth J. Phelps
 County Extension Agent- Agriculture

Pulaski County Master Minutes

March, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 14, Issue 2



Camellias in Central Arkansas By Lou Sanders

Central Arkansas is fortunate to be able to grow most camellias, the queen of winter flowers. I will concentrate on the ones that have done best for me in West L.R.

Camellias originated in China, and are closely related to the tea plant, a camellia with insignificant flowers. The Chinese forbade the removal of any camellias out of China for many years. In the late 18th century, they first appeared in the west.

Camellias have a widely varied growth habit, from dwarf bushes to small trees. Most will tolerate some sun, but they thrive in the shade. They tolerate wet soil poorly, needing a well drained location.

There are multitudes of varieties available, so it's best to buy them while they are blooming or you can look them up in one of the camellia books in the library. There are basically four major types that grow well in Central Arkansas:

1. *Camellia sasanqua*: many small flowers sub-divided into:
 - *camellia sasanqua hiemalis*: fall / early winter blooming.
 - *camellia sasanqua vernalis*: late winter / early spring blooming.
2. *Camellia japonica*: the classic camellia.
3. *Camellia reticulata*: the biggest and showiest flowers.
4. *Camellia oleifera*: larger shrub or small tree camellia.

The *camellia sasanqua hiemalis* start to bloom in early to mid September. My favorite is "Sparkling Burgundy". It blooms 2-3 months, often through Christmas. It is a loose open plant 5-10 ft. tall and provides color during a time when there is little else blooming. The flowers are pink-purple, small, and semi-double. Other *hiemalis* varieties that do well here are:

- "Cleopatra": single pink flowers on a full bush that is 5-8 ft high.
"Bonanza": fast grower with reddish purple semi-double blooms.
"Yuletide": bright red single petals with yellow stamens. Blooms in December.
"Chansonette": bright pink double blooms.
"Showa-no-saki": spreads but does not get tall; has light pink semi-double flowers.

"Pink Snow": abundant light pink semi-double blooms; as petals fall, the ground often looks like pink snow.

The *camellia sasanqua vernalis*, "Shishi-Gashira", is a low-growing, spreading, semi-double with bright purple pink blooms. *Camellia japonicas* are the classic camellias. My favorite is "Debutante". It starts blooming early in December. Flowers are double, peony formed, and can withstand temperatures to 28°. Below 25°, blooms will be burned and brown, but new buds will open with the next warm spell. It is extremely easy to root, often off of cut flowers. It is truly a beautiful bush.

My mother had two old varieties:

"Pink Perfection" or "Otoma": light pink formal double flowers.
"Purple Dawn" or "Mathotiana Purple King" or "Mathotiana Rubra": The flowers are formal, double dark reddish purple. It blooms from February to April and grows 6-12 ft. high. It is very easy to root by layering.

Other varieties commonly seen around Little Rock include:

"Betty Sheffield Supreme"
"Kramer Supreme"
"Nuccio's Gem" has pure white, formal double flowers.
"C.M. Hovey" a late blooming red double.
"Coquette" is a late blooming red.

Cultivation

Camellias can be purchased at any nursery, including the big-chain stores like Wal-Mart, Home Depot and Lowe's. If possible, buy while the plant is in bloom to know exactly what you are getting.

Cultivation is much like an azalea: don't plant too deep, loosen up the root ball, plant in a location that drains well, and mulch with pine needles. Give them plenty of water, especially in our hot summers. Any pruning should be done after blooming and before new growth starts. Camellias are relatively easy to transplant in your garden, preferably just after they finish blooming. Fertilize sparingly, as many commercial fertilizers are too strong. Diseases and pests are few. Some get azalea gall on the leaves, which can be easily removed without hurting the plant. Tea scale affects some plants but is controlled with a dormant oil spray.

Camellias for the most part are long-lived, easy to care for and are a source of beauty and winter flowers.

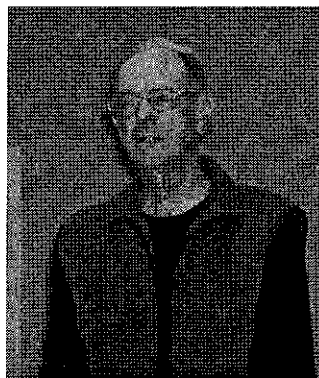
Lou Sanders is a guest writer for Master Minutes. A Master Gardener since 1997, he is currently on the Arkansas Arts Center Committee.

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.

Best in Show...

Congratulations to Pinnacle Mountain State Park Committee for their nomination by the PCMG to represent us at the state meeting. Your hard work shows. Thank you Lee Gershner, Hilda Boger, Warren Boop, Bonnie Cargile, Shannon Chamberlin, Jane Druff, Kelly DeBusk, Jim Dyer, Don Ford, George Harper, JoAnn Janssen, Ben Jordan, Marie Jordan, Fran Lopata, Paul McDonnell, Nancye McCowan, Mary Roark, Thelma Shank, Bonnie Wells, Martha Whitehurst, Chairman Nancy Kirsch, and Advisor Carl Hunter.



Carl Hunter speaks for the nomination of Pinnacle Mountain State Park at the meeting.

Two Pulaski County Master Gardener projects have been selected as finalists for the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award:

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office Garden, in the Government Category; and Pinnacle Mountain State Park, in the Community Involvement Category.

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission helps preserve the natural scenic beauty and quality environment of Arkansas through activities and programs for preventing litter, encouraging recycling and enhancing the state's scenic values by promoting beautification. Keep Arkansas Beautiful is a Division of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, and an Affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

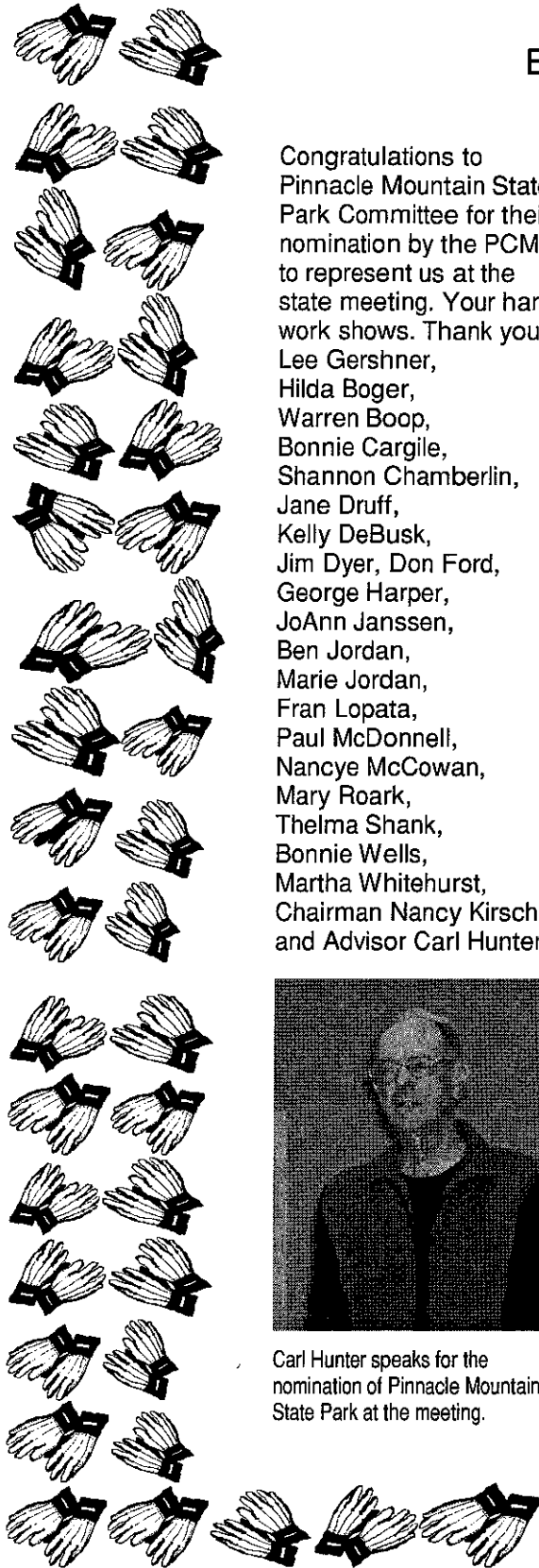
Keep Arkansas Beautiful has announced a press conference at the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office Garden on March 11, 2003, at 2:30pm. The Commission will also hold a press conference for Pinnacle Mountain State Park in the Wildflower Meadow, on March 13, 2003, at 1:00pm.

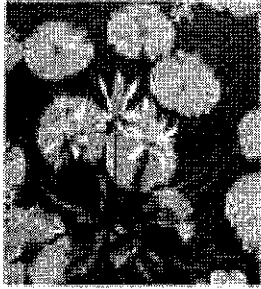
Pulaski County Extension Office Garden Committee has re-landscaped the grounds of the Extension Office with several perennial beds, a foundation planting, seasonal color beds, and a large lawn. According to Beth Phelps, the herb garden has been used with the County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences program for training Program Assistants to use herbs instead of salt to help reduce sodium in the diet. Jim Bowling, Ann Cooper, Marie Flickinger, MaryAnn Francis, Deborah Houck, Joan Humphries, Jenny Jackson, Julia Loyall, Cathy Martindill, Jane Miller, Jean Moffett, Betty Pagan, Kathy Phillips, Leslie Scott, Vande Southerland, Beth Stewart, Claudia Stallings, Amy Schuh, Carolyn Wilcox work on this committee. Cathy Muren and Bernice Johnson jointly chair the committee.

The Pinnacle Mountain State Park Wildflower Meadow is the newest Master Gardener collaboration with Pinnacle Mountain State Park. Master Gardeners also designed the park's wildflower and butterfly demonstration garden. MGs continue to plant and maintain the gardens, as well as keep plants labeled for the general public. Nancy Kirsch is the chairman of this committee.

Kudos to these two outstanding groups.

Information for these articles obtained from Beth Phelps and the 3 P's. Photo credit: Lynn Winningham



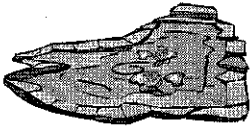


Bog Gardens By Rose Hogan

In nature the bog water is essentially standing and its level is fairly persistent. Vegetation is more conspicuous than the water surface.

It is an area having a wet, spongy, acidic substrate composed chiefly of sphagnum moss and peat in which characteristic shrubs and herbs and sometimes trees grow. It is an area of soft, naturally waterlogged ground. Although the bog is a type of water garden, it does not have the open water where water creatures such as fish can live.

In the acidic, low mineral content environment, limited types of plants will grow but the ones that do are unique. Ornamental bog gardens are low maintenance and environmentally sound, cheaper than water gardens and can produce lush plants and flowers that cannot be found in terrestrial gardens. Plants that grow in seeps and along streams in nature thrive in bog gardens. Ferns, hostas, azaleas, red cardinal flower, and rhododendrons will flourish in the moist edges. Even plants which you see in the terrestrial gardens, as impatiens, will thrive in bog gardens, sometimes to the extent that they will have to be weeded out because they become invasive. Some bog plants can be treated as perennials but some tender plants will have to be treated as annuals and replaced each spring.



SITE SELECTION

As with terrestrial gardens, you need to decide whether you want to have shade plants or sun loving plants

in deciding where to put your garden. There are plenty of moisture-loving plants for both conditions. If there is plenty of water some shade dwellers will do well in the sun. But shady areas are easier to keep moist throughout the year. If you select a sunny location, orient the garden on a north-south basis so that the large plants can be placed along the north side and won't shade the bog. The smaller plants can be closer to the south viewing area. As long as the smaller plants don't get too much shading, they can be placed among the taller ones.

SITE PREPARATION

For a bog you need a low place in your yard which remains damp most of the year - or a stream or a pond. The edge of the pond or stream can be used for bog type plants. The low spot and other areas of your lawn can be developed into a bog garden.

Bog gardens can be many shapes and sizes but they shouldn't be any deeper than 24" or wider than 2 arms. (You need to be able to weed it without wading into the wet soil). The soil should be removed down to 24" (can be even shallower at 12 - 18") and



set aside. A couple of inches of coarse sand or rocks form the base. If the soil is clay, the sand/rocks aren't needed. A liner of thick plastic is pressed into the pond pressing into the corners and up above the ground level. After the soil is added and has settled, the edges can be trimmed at the top. Some slits are made in the bottom to prevent the garden from becoming stagnant. A couple soaker hoses should be laid to maintain the moist environment.

Sometimes in the summer, turn on the hose and let the bog flood. This process should last for several months, depending on the location. Bog plants should never suffer from drought; the garden should be kept quite moist, but must not become stagnant. This is the reason that slight bottom drainage is introduced. The hole should be filled with a soil mix of 50% peat moss +25% compost + 25% heavy topsoil. A small amount of the soil removed to make the hole for the garden can be mixed in also. Top off with the sphagnum moss that will cover the top and extend out over the sides. Figure where you want to put your plants by moving them around the prepared bed. Put them in their final location and then flood the garden.



PLANT SELECTION



Some plants, such as orchids, lady's slipper, calla lily, pitcher plants, Louisiana iris, will only grow where their roots are wet. Other plants grow with little moisture but do better with a wet environment, such as Japanese iris, marsh marigold, cattails, rushes, lobelia, and mallows. All plants growing freely in shallow water may also be grown in the bog garden. Be careful not to overcrowd the plants, rather group together 3 to 5 plants of the same kind, leave a space, and again plant a clump of different color, type and height. This irregularity and variety will please the eye, which would tend to become overwhelmed by a mass of the same color, size and form. The actual marsh plants selected will depend upon the layout and size of the garden; the natural surroundings must also be very carefully considered. If the area is restricted, greater variety and beauty can be obtained by the use of small growing species, while among extensive surroundings full rein may be given to the free-growing plants, many of which are invaluable as a background where space permits. It is always necessary, however, to bear in mind the size to which the plants will grow in 2 to 3 years' time, and to arrange them accordingly.

Since the bog is a great place for weeds to grow, the garden should be mulched heavily. Sweet flag makes a weed-deterring ground cover. Once the bog is established it will become a mecca for butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, toads and frogs. Bog plants are shallow water specialty plants and are not usually stocked and sold by most nurseries. Many are rare, endangered, federally protected. **DO NOT GATHER IN THE WILD!** The best stock is available from specialty growers or by propagation from cuttings from friends. There are many organizations that share information and plants of each specialty.

Photo Credit:www.ourgardengang.tripod.com



Calendar by Ruth Jones



Speaker for the meeting on March 11, 2003 is Dr. Gerald Klingaman. His topic is 2003 Arkansas Selects.

March

- 7-10 Daffodil Days at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
1-800-366-4664
- 8 Arkansas Unit of the Herb Society of America
Saturday at 2:00pm, Byrne Hall, 2417 N. Tyler, Little Rock.
Cost \$30.00, or 2 for \$40.00. For tickets, phone 664-0559.
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting
Tuesday at noon at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 11 Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award Press Conference
Tuesday at 2:30pm at Pulaski County Extension Gardens
2901 W. Roosevelt Rd, Little Rock.
- 13 Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award Press Conference
Wednesday at 1:00pm at Pinnacle Mountain State Park
Wildflower Meadow.
- 13 Garden Makeovers – Spring with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 15-30 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Daffodils, azaleas, dogwoods, camellias & wildflowers.
- 27-30 Tulipmania at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
- 29 Little Rock Garden Council Plant Sale
Saturday from 9:00am to 2:30pm at the Garden Center
1501 Kavanaugh Blvd, Little Rock. For more information,
call 758-4202 or 663-7515.

April

- 1 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 1-10 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Azaleas, dogwoods, Tree Peonies, Camellias & wildflowers.
- 5 Garden Fair & Plant Sale Faulkner Co Master Gardeners
Conway High School West Campus, Horticulture Bldg.
2300 Prince St., Conway.
For registration, call Jennifer Hawkins at 501-329-8344
- 5-13 Spring Fest at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
1-800-366-4664
- 8 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting
Tuesday at noon at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 8 Orders for Master Gardener "Stuff" due.
Contact Nancy McCowan.
- 10-20 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Tree Peonies, Southern Indica, Glen Davis azaleas.
- 12 Patio & Container Gardens with Mary Evans.
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 15 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.

April continued

- 20-30 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Rhododendrons, Glen Davis azaleas, early rose,
Tree Peonies & wild flowers.
- 22 Earth Day at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Tree Identification from 10:00am – 12:00pm
1-800-366-4664
- 22 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 26 Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour
Saturday 10:00am – 3:00pm. Homes in West Little Rock.
Call 663-7515 for more information.
- 26 Earth Day at Little Rock Zoo
- 29 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.

May

- 1-15 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Roses, Azaleas, iris, spring perennials & flowering shrubs
& wildflowers. 1- 800-366-4664
- 6 Herb Garden Workshop with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 8 Water Garden Basics with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 13 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 15 Four Seasons Gardening with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 19-21 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom"
Harding Campus, Searcy, Arkansas

June

- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference,
Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
Registration Info - Mike Walton@ 1-740- 524-4123
fax 1-877-848-4123, email - mwalton@walcom.com
website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>

July

- 26 Iris rhizomes sale by the Iris Society.

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Highway Department, is blooming now through the fall. Check highways 7, 49, 62, 63, 70, 71, and 167.



MARCH CHECKLIST

By Rose Hogan

FEED THE BIRDS TIME

It's time to hang up your feeders. Feed hummingbirds a solution of one cup of sugar to 3 to 4 cups of water. Make sure to boil the water first so the sugar dissolves.

Finches will be hunting for the thistle seeds they love.

TRANSPLANT TIME

Now is a great time to transplant houseplants to a new pot. If your plants have been in the same pot for several years it's a good idea to give them fresh soil and a clean home.

BULB TIPS

Plant gladioli bulb in small groups. Set out at two week intervals for continuous summer bloom.

Plant Ranunculus tubers and lily bulbs now if soil is workable.

Weed and fertilize all your beds of bulbs, corms and tubers.

Remove all dead flower heads from bulbs that have finished flowering so that their energy does not go to producing seeds rather than bulb development.

FLOWER TIPS

Lift and divide large clumps of herbaceous plants. Remove the old woody stalks and add them to the compost.

Plant and display your containers and baskets in sheltered areas now.

Plant new lily-of-the-valley pips. Mulch well with compost to protect against unforeseen cold spells.

Plant dahlia tubers that have been stored over the winter.

Start fertilizing houseplants as soon as there are more hours of daylight than darkness. When buying houseplants avoid plants with roots coming out of drainage holes; as well as large plants in small pots, or small plants in large pots. Some plants can now be set out during the day. If it is mild you can leave them out.

Fertilize the soil around the base of lilacs and primroses in late February or early March.

Half hardy annuals must be planted densely. Raise plenty of plants by sowing seeds in February or March.

Sow summer blooming annuals in late March.

VEGETABLE TIPS

Dig vegetable plots if not completed. Use well decomposed garden compost. Sow onion, carrots, beets, broccoli, peas, radishes, spinach and broad bean seeds approximately a foot apart. Plant shorter vegetables south of taller ones to reduce shade problems.

Now is the time to set out your perennial vegetables such as asparagus.

Plant early potato crops a foot apart.

FRUIT TIPS

Weed strawberry patches carefully, remembering that they have shallow roots. Now is also the time to plant new strawberry plants. Cut back side branches of established blackberry plants to approximately one foot, for larger more abundant fruit.

Rake up leaves and husks from walnut trees to prevent fungal diseases.

Cut out dead, or weak blueberry canes. Prune back later season growth and feed with an acidic fertilizer after the first year.

Feed all deciduous fruit trees with a complete fertilizer. Add more to those that did not bear as much fruit last year. Prune dormant deciduous fruit trees before buds swell.

GENERAL YARD TIPS

Get rid of weeds and debris from your rock garden as soon as weather permits.

Add soil where winter rains have washed it away.

Speed up decomposition in your compost pile by turning it with a pitchfork every couple of weeks.

Dig in compost, manure and other amendments in planting areas when the soil is dry enough.

Make sure your trees and shrubs have no broken branches after any wind storms. Cut them off as close as possible to main branch.

Start hoeing or pulling weeds now to avoid a rush later. Pulling weeds is easier while the ground is wet.

LAWN AND GROUND COVER TIPS

Get ready for regular mowing. Your lawn will grow more rapidly in spring. Set the mower blades high for the first cutting, gradually reducing height with each mow. Rake up bare spots to expose the soil for reseeding.

Add compost into ground covers and feed lightly with a complete fertilizer to encourage the rooting of runner stems. Clip back established ground covers to encourage dense growth.

MARCH BLOOM

Anise Florida, azaleas, camellias, chionodoxa, crabapples, daffodils, forsythia, hyacinths, early iris, Carolina jessamine, kerria, magnolia stellata, maple, mertensia, muscari, myosotis, oxalis, pansies, flowering peach, pearl bush, phlox subulata, photina, English primrose, quince, redbud, spirea, tulips, Viburnum burkwoodi, violets, wisteria, and woodbine.

Rose Hogan writes a monthly column and feature articles for the Master Minutes. She is also active on the 3 P's Committee where her responsibilities include memory book, meeting handouts, and publicity.



What Works!

- If the need arises for powdered sevin, mix 50% flour with 50% sevin. This sticks on the leaves very well.

Bonnie Nicholas

- For a Round- up application, add a few drops of liquid dishwashing detergent to make it stick (like an insecticidal soap).

Becky Kennedy

- Large liquid detergent containers (100 fluid ounces), when cut above the handle; make wonderful garden pitchers, seed starters, and all around helpful tools. They also come in pretty colors.

Anonymous

Trading Post The Plant and Seed Exchange



- Joan Humphries (280-9023) wants:
Ajuga and vinca minor.
- Tracy Sims (834-0692) wants:
Pyracantha
- Lou Sanders has:
Acuba seedlings
- Helen Hronas (228-5680) has:
Althea, crepe myrtle seedlings, vinca minor, and lots of pass-along plants.
- Susie Gillihan has:
Mums

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. We want to share unique ideas from your gardening experience (the successful ones and the failures), tips from magazines, television, friends and neighbors. You can jot down your hints and ideas at the monthly meeting or write:
 What Works! C/o Beth Phelps
 Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 West Roosevelt
 Little Rock, AR 72204.
 Although not required, if you sign your name, we will give you all of the credit.

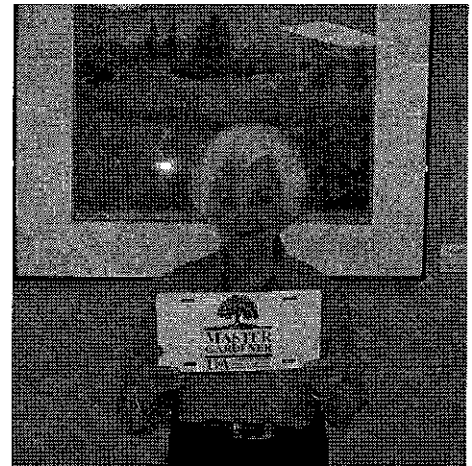
Feel free to bring your extra plants to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit your plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care instructions for the plant. If you want to guarantee a swap, however, please use the Trading Post.



Hilda Boger left the February meeting with her door prize, a Calla Lily grown by Greenhouse Co-Chair Ann Morgan. Stephanie Dyer was also a winner.

Remember to arrive early for the Master Gardeners meetings. Better parking and... no door prize tickets are given out after the meeting starts. If you do arrive late, you may still sign the attendance sheets after the meeting is over.

Photo credit:
Lynn Winningham



In the volunteer hours drawing, Nell Stephens won a Master Gardener license plate.

==== Internet Pipelines:

Websites for bog gardens in zone 7:

- <http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/bog>
- <http://ourgardengang.tripod.com/bog1.htm>
Creating and Maintaining Bog Gardens
- <http://ourgardengang.tripod.com/bog3.htm>
Plants for Sunny Bog Gardens
- http://www.pitcherplant.com/orchids_etc.html
Orchid, native plant, wildflowers, wild orchid
- http://www.waterloogardens.com/care_sheets/aquatic/cs_bog_hardy.htm Hardy Bog Plants
- http://www.waterloogardens.com/care_sheets/aquatic/cs_bog_trop.htm Tropical Bog Plants
- <http://www.nichegdn.com/catalogs/nichegdn/nichegdn.p27.xml> Niche Gardens

Websites for camellias:

- <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/plantanswers/trees/fanickazalea.html>
Fanick's List of Azaleas, Camellias, and Gardenias - ...
Avg. Ht. 6'. Southern Indica. Zone 7. ... Avg Ht. 1'-2'.
Satsuki. Zone 7. Pink Ruffles, A semi-double, pink-violet
hose in hose flower. Avg. Ht. 2'-4'. Rutherford. ...
- <http://www.usna.usda.gov/Newintro/camelli1.html>
Camellias ... 1980's, the camellia collection at the US
National Arboretum (Zone 7), primarily mature C. hiemalis
or C. sasanqua, and extend the reliability of camellias as
long ...
- <http://www.gardenguides.com/articles/camellias.htm>
Classic Camellias - ... older established gardens in Devon
and Cornwall and you'll see camellias of tree ... 15 Celsius
/ 5 Fahrenheit - tough enough to survive in sheltered Zone
7 gardens.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.



Book Review

By Bonnie Nicholas

Reader's Digest Garden Folklore that Works by Charlie Ryrice
176 pages, Quarto Publishing, London 2001 \$24.95

Delores LeCompte was thoughtful enough to loan me this book for our March review. Thank you!

Garden Folklore that Works is written with a strong organic basis. It is loaded with practical information and tips for endowing your plants with a whole new dimension of health, productivity, and beauty.

Garden Folklore that Works is best read from front to back so as not to miss any of the helpful techniques. However, since completion, I've opened and re-read at least fifty pages only to pick up a new concept each time.

The introduction contains eight historically (1300's - 1800's) significant paintings of garden activities. Each chapter has lovely pictures, informative illustrations; several tip 'boxes', and myth busters. The 'myth busting' boxes expose ineffective techniques and endorse successful practices from folklore applications. I especially enjoyed the sky watching, clouds, and bird chapters.

If you have interest in abelia, badgers, calendula ointment, decoctions, evil spirits, frogs, gophers, healing plants, infusions, aching joints, lightening plants, magic, nematodes, ointments, pheromones, quack grass, rowan, slugs, thunder plants, unlucky plants, vinegar, willow water, yams, or signs of zodiac, you must pick up this book.

In addition to writing a monthly column for Master Minutes, Bonnie Nicholas serves on the Arkansas Arts Center Committee.

Faulkner County Master Garden Fair and Plant Sale

April 5, 2003 from 8:00am - 12:00pm
2300 Prince, Conway

Conway High School West Campus, Horticulture Building

Feature Speakers:

Janet Carson @ 8:15am "Landscape Design"

Norman Winter @ 11:15am "Tough as Nails Flowers for the South". He will have books for sale.

Seminars by local Master Gardeners on:

"Soil: From Preparation to Planting"

"Vegetable Gardening for the Beginner"

"Water Gardening"

"Creative Living Wreaths"

Tickets are \$5.00 for the seminars. Optional lunch for \$7.00.

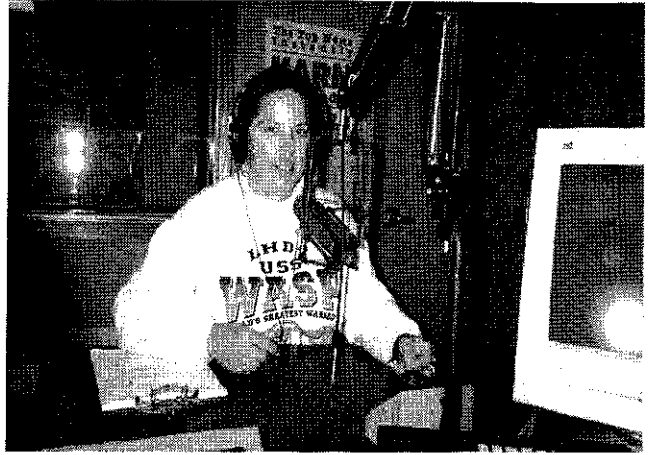
Two afternoon garden tours for \$5.00.

For more information contact: Jennifer Hawkins, County Extension Agent,
@ 501-329-8344.



Jane Gulley, of the Speakers' Bureau, and Beth Phelps were tagged "A Face Off, Pretty in Pink" in this photo of the February General Meeting, where Jane spoke on old roses. Jane chairs the Retention Committee.

Talk about dedicated Master Gardeners...



Mary Evans reports that Murphy's Law was definitely in effect one day in November, 2002, when she and Ann Ward arrived to fill in for Janet Carson on the Saturday morning talk show on KARN radio.

Right off they noticed that there was a live turkey caged in their room. Even though he was gobbling quietly, he scratched on the cage floor the whole time. Then the monitors didn't work, but they knew they could wing it. No headphones. The mikes didn't work. And everyone was running around wild while she and Ann were trying to act normal on the air. (Those of you who know Mary and Ann might see some irony here.)

But halfway through the second hour, the turkey messed up his whole cage, and they had to fight the flight urge. To no one's surprise, they managed to complete the show.

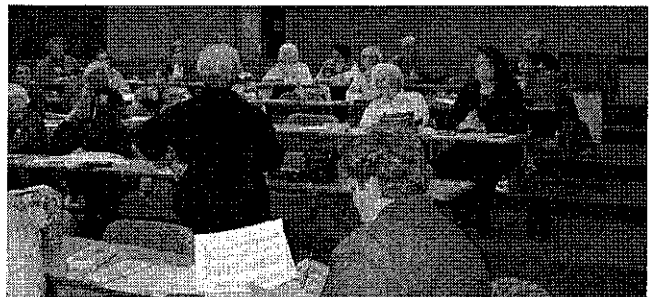


Jan King hawking "Stuff" for Master Gardeners. Jan is also on the Greenhouse, Social and Travel Committees. For the Speakers' Bureau, she speaks on herbs and scented geraniums.

Mary Evans is active in the Speakers' Bureau with her specialties on roses and perennials, and the Greenhouse Committee.



Carolyn Newbern, Presiding. Carolyn is chairman of the Curran Hall Committee, and is on the Continuing Education Committee.



Suellen Roberts addresses committee chairmen at their training session after the general meeting. In addition to co-chairing the 3 P's & Ark. Arts Center Committee, Suellen is on the Continuing Education Committee and the Speakers' Bureau for seasonal gardening.

Photo credits:
Lynn Winningham,
Cheryl Kennedy, 3 P's

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings Memo: February 11, 2003

The Arkansas State Extension Office Building was the meeting site of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners on February 11, 2003. The Board meeting was called to order by President Carolyn Newbern at 10:00 am. Minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved. John presented the treasurer's report.

Following a discussion, John moved that the Board recommend membership dues to continue at \$15 per member. It was seconded and passed. The Retention Committee will monitor members who have not paid dues or turned in hours by mid-year. Application to advanced training and attendance at state meetings require that members "be in good standing". The bank balance as of 1/31/03 was \$11,818.07. Jane made a motion to approve the report as presented. The motion was adopted.

Carolyn announced that Bob Bumgardner and Mary Lee McHenry have been asked to serve as auditors.

The Volunteer Guide is near completion with much appreciation to Jane, Carolyn, and Beth. Carolyn noted that the guidelines will be prepared before the March meeting. The board discussed the possibility of selling notebooks to the membership to use for the guidelines, Master Minutes, membership roster, etc. Beth and Jane will look into costs and determine if there is an interest.

Jane reported on the Pulaski County Master Gardener booth for the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. The theme will be "Backyard Art". The "Magic Box" will be available to provide an educational tool for those visiting the booth. Handouts containing information on the Master Gardener web-site and applications for Master Gardener training will also be available. Various examples of yard art will be used to decorate the booth along with a display board with information on the Master Gardener program.

Beth reported that Sharon Priest has asked the Master Gardeners to design container plantings for the downtown Little Rock area. Nancy moved to accept the proposal and it was adopted. Mary Freeman agreed to chair the design team and will recruit help.

The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs has asked Master Gardeners to act as "garden experts" during the garden tours, April 26. Volunteers may count the time spent as hours towards certification. Master Gardener Steve Lopato will coordinate.

April 26 is also the date of "Earth Day at the Zoo". The board discussed sponsoring a booth at the Zoo on that day. It was decided to present the idea to the membership and if there are enough volunteers to support this event Master Gardeners will also be allowed to count these volunteer hours.

The Arkansas Master Gardener State Meeting is to be held in Searcy on May 19-21. John moved to co-sponsor the event with a \$200 donation from the Pulaski County group. The motion was adopted.

Carolyn led a discussion on "Project of the Year" nominations for the state meeting. A decision was reached to ask for nominations from the membership at today's meeting and then to vote.

Silent auction items will be needed for the state meeting. Jane said that a number of items have already been received.

The Pulaski County Extension Office Project has been selected as a finalist for the Keep Arkansas Beautiful awards in the *Government* category. The Pinnacle Mountain State Park project has also been selected as a finalist for this award in the *Community Involvement* category.

Jane Gulley shared results from the Retention Committee's contact with members who left the program in 2002. "No one left disgruntled". Jane said that all had left because of situations in their personal lives. Much praise was given for the Pulaski County program. Beth and Mrs. McKinney were specifically mentioned as having created such a positive experience.

Jane Gulley is working with a small committee of the state organization in developing ideas for a Master Gardener Sustainer program. She presented some of the issues that have been raised. Jane Druff suggested the title, *Master Gardener Emeritus*. After a discussion, Nancy moved that the Pulaski County Board approve the concept of a new program. The motion carried.

Beth asked the board to provide feedback on any parking problems today. She has just learned that UALR is planning to build on the site now being used as parking. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.

The General Meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by President Carolyn Newbern. Announcements of the board meeting were made.

Nominations for Project of the Year for an award at the state meeting were: The Arkansas Flower and Garden Show, The Pulaski County Extension Office and Pinnacle Mountain State Park. After a brief discussion, Pinnacle won the nomination.

Members were encouraged to enter a bid for: The Funny Bone Award at the state meeting.

Beth gave a personal note of appreciation to the members for their condolences.

An update was given on The Arkansas Flower and Show.

The Master Gardener "Stuff" Committee announced the arrival of items ordered and new items.

Lois Corley reported on the illness of her sister and greenhouse co-chair, Ann Morgan. She thanked members for their calls and prayers.

Orientation for Committee Chairs was postponed due to inclement weather last week but will be held immediately following today's general meeting.

Jane Gulley presented the program today on Heritage Roses. Nell Stephens won the license plate in the drawing of the Volunteer Form today.

Hilda Boger and Stephanie Dyer won door prizes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Classifieds

Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs
 Spring Garden Tours: April 26, 2003.
 Steve Lopato, Chairman, needs volunteer garden experts for the tour. Gardens are closer together this year to allow volunteers to work and tour as well. Volunteer hours will count toward certification.
 Contact Steve @ 223-8099.

Earth Day at the Zoo is also on April 26. Volunteers and a chair are needed for the Master Gardeners to host a booth.
 Contact Carolyn Newbern @ 663-1222, or Beth Phelps @ 340-6650.

Applications for The State Master Gardener Meeting, May 19-21, 2003 in Searcy, are available on line.

Applications for The International Master Gardener Meeting in the Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky area in June, 2003 are also available online.

The checked shirt is back! Check out other new items on the "Stuff" order form, a rain slicker and a tote bag.

Donate items for the Silent Auction to the State Master Gardener Meeting.

Roster Corrections:

Peggy Leopoulos
 3401 Lilac Terrace
 Little Rock, Ark. 72202

Gena Norris
 612-0715

Gail Roberson:
 3516 Ridge Road
 North Little Rock, Ark. 72116

Bill Trimble
 707 Pleasant Valley Dr.
 Little Rock, Ark. 72227

Patricia White
 224-5736

Corrections or updates should be e-mailed to Beth.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

Master Gardener Website: www.uaex.edu
 Username: mastergardener,
 password: compost

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
 2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
 Little Rock, Ark. 72204
 340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Look for the star...

Remember to look for the star on name tags at meetings and functions during the year. The star identifies our newest class of Master Gardeners.



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural – related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
 Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to:
 Libby Thalheimer
 5005 Crestwood
 Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
 663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
 Pulaski County CES
 2901 W. Roosevelt Road
 Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
 340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
 Lois Clifton
 Sharon Davis
 Carl Goodson
 Ann Green
 Rose Hogan
 Helen Hronas
 Kandy Jones
 Ruth Jones
 Cheryl Kennedy
 Julia Loyall
 Linda Moyer
 Ellen Rouch
 Lee Wilson

Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
 Lou Sanders

Pulaski County Master Minutes

April, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 14, Issue 3

Our Mrs. McKinney By Pulaski County Master Gardeners



“...I didn't think that I would last...”
Mrs. Ethelyn McKinney, at her post.

Mrs. Ethelyn McKinney has retired from her job at the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office effective March 31, 2003. She reports that, while she is sad to leave the Extension Office and her many Master Gardener friends, the time has come for her to retire. She feels honored to have worked with the Master Gardeners over the years.

According to Beth Phelps, Mrs. McKinney has worked closely with every new class of Master Gardeners since the inception of the Extension program in Pulaski County in 1988. Her genuine interest in our comings and goings evidenced that Mrs. McKinney had adopted us as her own.

Many Master Gardeners have responded to the news of her retirement with equal sadness. It's hard to imagine a replacement for “our Mrs. McKinney”. As the receptionist, her cheerful and calming demeanor greeted our every call to the Extension Office. Photo courtesy of Beth Phelps.

Everyone was treated with the utmost respect and concern, endearing her to our community.

As our “Secretary Extraordinaire”, she had the ability to help us find the answers to our never-ending questions, regardless of the question. Mrs. McKinney was often the rock in the storm, whether helping a frustrated new member answer questions during their telephone time in the Extension office, or helping a harried committee meet a deadline. Undoubtedly, she deserves the reward of retirement after all her years of service.

When asked whether her retirement might allow her to join the Master Gardeners officially after all of the years of being a part unofficially, Mrs. McKinney just laughed. She doubts that she will go through the training, explaining she is not a gardener at heart. In fact, when she started her new job as Janet Carson's secretary nineteen years ago, she could only identify two flowers by name: roses and tulips. Since Janet was already renowned as a gardening guru, Mrs. McKinney thought she would never last in her new job at the County Cooperative Extension Service Office. Ironically, she has worked the entire nineteen years in the Horticulture/ Agriculture section of the Extension Service Office.

Janet Carson gave some insight into this paradox. While Mrs. McKinney didn't know very much about Horticulture/ Agriculture when she started her new job, she listened religiously to Janet's radio show. The personal commitment she made to her job was remarkable.

First and foremost, after her retirement, Mrs. McKinney plans to work to restore her good health. Then to keep her health, she plans to incorporate walking into her regular routine. As for her free time, she may finally get back to playing the organ. And from time to time, she hopes to drop in and visit with some of her best friends, the Master Gardeners, at the Master Gardener meetings.

All the Pulaski County Master Gardeners wish her the best in her new adventures, but we will surely miss her.

Mrs. McKinney resides at 9 Westmont Circle, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72209 with her husband, John.

Mr. Carroll Guffey, jr. will present 'Fire Wise Landscaping, reducing the threat of wildfire near your home', at the April meeting.

Mr. Guffey has worked for UA Cooperative Extension Service for four years as an Extension Specialist in Forestry. He is Coordinator of the Forestry Continuing Education Program at AR Forest Resources Center. Prior to working for the UA CES. Mr. Guffey worked for the AR Forestry Commission for 17 years. In 1981, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry at UA Monticello. He is completing course work for his M.S. in Forest Policy at UA Monticello.

Currently, Mr. Guffey serves as President of the AR Association of LeadAR Alumni and on the Board of Directors for the AR Urban Forestry Council. He has been a member of the Society of American Foresters for 10 years where he is the Continuing Forestry Education contact for the Ouachita Division of SAF. He is a Registered Forester, a Certified Forester, and a Certified Arborist.

His interests include wildfire and prescribe burning, Non-Industrial Private Forest landowner issues and Urban Forestry.

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.



Best in Show...



2003 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show

All indications are that the 2003 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show was an overwhelming success. Over 600 more tickets were sold this year over last year. Vendors' reported increased sales. There were more than 250 volunteers participating in this year's event. Even the initial comments on the shuttle bus service from War Memorial Stadium were favorable. Congratulations to all who worked so diligently to provide this excellent show.

Congratulations also to Breck Campbell who received a blue ribbon and a Horticulture Excellence Award for his horticulture entry in the show.

Photo courtesy of 3Ps.

Keep Arkansas Beautiful Award

Mary Ann Francis and Julia Loyall accept the award on behalf of the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service Office Garden.



Master Gardener Spring Sale at the Greenhouse, corner of Palm & 7th

Saturday, April 12, 2003, 8:00am until noon; Saturday, April 26, 2003, 8:00am until noon

Some plants will not be ready for the first sale. Unfortunately, some plants may be sold out by the second sale two weeks later. So plan to come both weekends and bring your friends and neighbors!

Annuals from seeds:

Ageratum, 'Blue Danube'
Cleome, Spider Flower 'Sparkler Blush'
Cucurbita pepo, Squash: yellow and zucchini
Datura, Angel's trumpet- Mixed
Gomphrena globosa, Mixed
Ipomoea x multifida, Cardinal vine
Lablab, Hyacinth Bean
Lilium formosanum, Formosa lily
Lobularia maritime, Alyssum 'Carpet of snow'
Nicotiana langsdorffii, Flowering Tobacco - Lime
Nicotiana sylvestrii, Flowering Tobacco - White
Ocimum basilicum, Sweet Basil
Petunia 'Dreams Mix'
Salpiglossis, Painted Tongue - Mixed color
Salvia coccinea, Sage 'Lady in Red'
Salvia farinacea, Sage 'Victoria'
Solanum melongena, Eggplant
Tagetes erecta, Marigold 'Pineapple Crush'
 Tomatoes
 Zinnia 'Profusion White'
 Zinnia *elegans*, 'Peter Pan' Mix

Perennials from seeds:

Agastache foeniculum, Anise Hyssop - white
Agastache, Korean Mint
Caryopteris incana, 'Blue Beard'
Cassia Senna alata, Candle stick tree
Centaurea monatana, Cornflower 'Mountain Bluet'
Chrysanthemum maximum, Shasta Daisy 'Crazy Daisy'
Helianthus maximiliani, Sunflower 'Maximilian'
Hyssopus, Hyssop
Kniphofia, Red Hot Poker
Marrubium, Horehound
Monarda didyma, Bee Balm 'Lambada'
Monarda fistulosa, Wild Bergamot
Monarda, Red shades
Nepeta cataria, Catmint
Platycodon, Balloon Flower
Rudbeckia maxima
Rudbeckia, Coneflower 'Indian Summer'
Salvia x sylvestris, Sage 'Blue Queen'
Thymus, Thyme
Verbena bonariensis, Verbena

Plants from cuttings:

Brugmansia, pastels
Begonia coccinea, Dragon Wing
Impatiens
Rosmarinus, Rosemary
Rosa, Roses
 Sage-flowing
Eichhornia, Water Hyacinth

War Memorial Bus Stop Garden

Pulaski County Master Gardeners design, plant, and maintain a large flowerbed with color year-round in one of our most well known collaborative efforts with the city of Little Rock, the corner of Fair Park and Markham Streets. Visitors to War Memorial Stadium, Walker Tennis Center, War Memorial Golf Course, and the Little Rock Zoo, as well as daily commuter traffic enjoy this attractive garden.

There are two major workdays to rework the beds and replant with seasonal annuals. The committee also prunes and cares for the Japanese maples and dwarf nandinas that provide the bones of the garden. Otherwise the committee handles all weeding,

watering and clean-up of the Bus Stop Garden by working in pairs throughout the year. Unfortunately, since it is in a high traffic area, with pedestrians and vehicles, clean-up duties are necessary all year.

If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity this year where you can really make an impact, join the War Memorial Bus Stop Garden Committee. This small committee works hard to maintain its Best in Show status year after year.

Kevin Allis and Dick & Wini Carter Co-Chairs.
 Lisa Jackson, Bonnie Peek, Debby Sanderson, and Bill Trimble.

From Our 'House' to Yours... The Greenhouse Committee



Photos courtesy of Steve Corley

We propagate plants from seeds, seedlings, and cuttings to sell to Master Gardeners and to provide plants for the State Hospital, Mt. Holly, NLR Waterworks, Curran Hall, Extension Offices, and Heritage Arkansas Museum.

Our first job each year is to force the 128 azaleas needed for the Flower & Garden Show. As soon as we deliver these, we plant annuals and perennials, for sun and shade, to be planted in the spring. We take the summer months off before planting 14,000 pansy & viola plugs and seeds for a variety of perennials. (Last fall we had only 24 plants left after the sale.)

Come meet us April 12 and April 26 for the spring plant sales and see the fruits of our labor.

Your patronage helps us raise funds to support MG projects.

Lois Corley, Ch.
 Ann Morgan, Co-Ch.
 Dick Blankenkoper
 Joyce Bumgardner
 Breck Campbell
 Charles Emerson
 Mary Evans
 Betty Glasscock
 Catherine Hepinstall
 Nancy Holmes
 Joan Humphries
 Ruth Jones
 Janet Jordan
 Jan King
 Laura Lasiter
 Peggy Leopoulos
 Fran Lopata
 Suzanne O'Donoghue
 Olivia Patterson
 Billie Sanders
 Libby Thalheimer
 Dorothy & Jim Wilks



Volunteer hours are flexible at the Greenhouse. Workdays are early Tuesdays & Thursdays. Sale days are all morning on Saturdays. Watering is everyday at your preferred time. Working at the Greenhouse is a great way to learn!



Calendar by Ruth Jones April

- 1 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 1-10 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs.
Azaleas, dogwoods, Tree Peonies, Camellias & wildflowers.
- 5 Garden Fair & Plant Sale Faulkner Co Master Gardeners
Conway High School West Campus, Horticulture Bldg.
2300 Prince St., Conway. For registration, call Jennifer
Hawkins at 501-329-8344
- 5 Gourd Gardening, Toltec State Park. Cost \$5. Call
Robin Gabe for information. 501-961-9442.
- 5-6 Wildflower wanderings, DeGray Lake Resort State Park.
Call 501-865-2801 for information.
- 5-6 Wildflower Weekend, Petit Jean State Park. 501-727-5441.
- 5-13 Spring Fest at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
1-800-366-4664
- 8 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans, call 666-0759.
- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting
Tuesday at noon at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 8 Orders for Master Gardener "Stuff" due: Nancye McCowan.
- 10-13 The wonder of wildflowers, Village Creek State Park. Call
870-238-9406 for information.
- 10-20 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Tree Peonies, Southern Indica, Glen Davis azaleas.
- 12 Patio & Container Gardens with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 12 Wildflower Saturday, Millwood State Park. Call
870-898-2800 for information.
- 12-13 Wildflower Weekend, Devils' Den State Park. 479-761-3325..
- 15 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 18 Annual Spring Dogwood Tour, County Courthouse Gazebo,
Jasper. Tours by school bus. Reservations taken until
April 16. Cost \$5. Contact 870-446-5122.
- 20-30 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Rhododendrons, Glen Davis azaleas, early rose,
Tree Peonies & wild flowers.
- 22 Earth Day at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Tree Identification from 10:00am - 12:00pm
1-800-366-4664
- 22 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 26 Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm. Homes in West Little Rock.
Call 663-7515 for more information.
- 26 Earth Day at Little Rock Zoo
- 29 Perennial Border Gardens with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.

May

- 2-3 15th Annual Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza, Ozark
Folk Center. 2003 is the year of the Basil! 870-269-3851.
- 2-4 Woolly Hollow Wildflower Weekend, Woolly Hollow State
Park. Contact 501-679-2098.



Speaker for the meeting on April 8, 2003, is Carroll Guffey, jr. His topic is Wild Fire Landscaping.

May continued

- 3-4 Birders Weekend, Devils' Den State Park. 479-761-3325.
- 4 Central Arkansas Iris Society Show, Darraugh Center,
Main Library, Little Rock. Free admission.
- 1-15 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs
Roses, Azaleas, iris, spring perennials & flowering shrubs
& wildflowers. 1- 800-366-4664
- 6 Herb Garden Workshop with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 8 Water Garden Basics with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 13 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 15 Master Gardener Picnic, new ballroom at the
Governor's Mansion.
- 15 Bluebird Clinic. Mammoth Springs State Park. 870-625-7364.
- 15 Four Season Gardening with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 17 Historic Home & Garden Tour, Bentonville, Peel Mansion
Museum. Cost \$10. 479-273-9664.
- 19-21 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom".
Harding Campus, Searcy, Arkansas.

June

- 7 7th Annual "Through the Garden Gate Tour", Fayetteville.
Cost \$10. 479-444-6170.
- 7 Wildflower Wanderings, Lake Charles State Park.
870-878-6595.
- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium
2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference,
Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
Registration Info - Mike Walton@ 1-740- 524-4123
fax 1-877-848-4123, email - mwalton@walcom.com
website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>
- 19 Wildflower & Butterfly Seminar at Garvin Woodland Gardens.
10:00 a.m. 800-366-4664.
- 21-22 Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival, Mount Magazine State
Park. 479-963-8502.

July

- 26 Iris rhizome sale by Central Arkansas Iris Society, 8:00 a.m.
Little Rock Garden Center, 1501 Kavanaugh.

Operation Wildflower, sponsored by the Arkansas Highway Department, is blooming now through the fall. Check highways 7, 49, 62, 63, 70, 71, and 167.



APRIL CHECKLIST

By Rose Hogan

TAKING CARE OF BULBS

- _Apply bone meal to crocus as flowers fade. Don't tie the greenery back as the flowers fade for it will weaken the bulbs. Allow the leaves to remain for six weeks.
- _Watch out for thrips on your daffodils. If you find infestation, remove and destroy the infested part.
- _Plant new lily-of-the-valley pips. Mulch well with compost to protect against cold spells.

FLOWER TIPS

- _Harden off summer bedding plants. Slowly acclimate to outside conditions.
- _Plant water plants now.
- _Plant snapdragons, violas and dianthus now.
- _After spring blooming plants bloom, prune as needed. These include forsythia, camellias, azaleas, spring blooming spireas, and dogwoods. This includes roses that bloom only in the spring.
- _Summer blooming plants (roses, crape myrtle and buddleias) should be pruned now. If you don't, they will be large plants with fewer and smaller blooms.
- _Probably you are shopping the garden centers for young perennial plants this time of the year. Look for the ones that have the fullest, sturdiest growth and the best foliage color. You will find either divisions or spring-sown seedlings. The divisions may be more expensive but they do produce larger plants the first year.

TIME TO PLANT VEGETABLES

- _Plant warm season vegetables (tomatoes and peppers) inside until the chance of frost has passed.
- _Rotate vegetable crops to help control pests.
- Combining flower plants with vegetables helps deter most insects. Examples are henbit, geranium, asters, calendula, and chrysanthemums.
- _You can still plant cool season vegetables (lettuce, broccoli, cabbage, radishes and spinach)



GENERAL YARD CARE

- _Check trellis and support wires on climbers before the plants are fully developed. During the winter these supports often become dislodged.
- _Check the brackets used for hanging baskets to ensure they will support the baskets full of moist soil.
- _Dig in compost, manure and other amendments in planting areas when the soil is dry enough.
- _If you have planted cover crops for the winter, turn them under now.
- _Water new plants and early blooming plants regularly.

FRUIT TREE CARE

- _Keep a close eye on fruit trees for aphids this time of year.

- _Prune stone fruit trees such as peach and nectarines as soon as buds begin to develop. Do not prune these in the winter when they are dormant.



LAWN AND GROUND COVER TIPS

- _Clip back established ground cover. Repair dead patches in ground cover by tearing them out. Add compost and peat moss into the soil then replant bare areas with divisions taken from outer edges.
- _If you plan on starting a new lawn from seed prepare the soil now. Rake the surface level and add a general fertilizer. Let the entire lawn green up before fertilizing. Aerate and feed lawns with a high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for greener grass. Use a spreader to ensure fertilizer is spread evenly.
- _Water lawns regularly when the rains don't do it for you.



APRIL BLOOMS

- _Ajuga, golden alyssum, anemone, anise Florida, azaleas, red-leaved barberry, bellis, beauty bush, bleeding heart, red buckeye, calycanthus, candytuft, clematis, columbine, coral bells, daffodils, English daisies, daylilies, deutzia, dianthus, dogwood, epimedium, foam flower, forget-me-nots, fringe tree, fritillaria, grass pinks, heather, bearded iris, yellow jessamine, kerria, leopard's bane, lilacs, lily-of-the-valley, lunaria, lungwort, maple, meadow rue, mertensia, mock orange, moneywort, muscari, oxalis, pansies, peonies, phlox, polemonium, primroses, ranunculus, rosemary, roses, sage, St. John's Wort, scilla campanulata, Scotch broom, shooting star, snowflake, Solomon's seal, spireas, styrax japonica, tamarisk, thrift, Tradescantia, trillium, tulips, viburnum carlesii, viburnum opulus sterile, viburnum tomentosum, vinca, violas, wild violets, weigela, and sweet William.

Master Gardener Discount Program

Three local nurseries will give a 10% discount to Pulaski County Master Gardeners during 2003. The nurseries request that we show some identification verifying our Master Gardener membership to receive the discount.



The Good Earth (15601 Cantrell Rd, LR) and Lakewood Gardens (3101 North Hills Blvd, NLR) will continue to discount 10% this year.

River Valley Horticulture will begin the discount program this year (21701 Lawson Road, LR and in the old HQ building at the McCain and Hwy 67-167 intersection in NLR).



What Works!

The thin latex gloves you can buy in bulk are great for garden work for those who usually pull off heavy garden gloves because they are clumsy.

Anonymous

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. Spread the dirt from your garden, share tips from magazines, television, and friends. You can jot down your hints at the monthly meeting or send them to Beth Phelps at the Extension Office. Although not a requirement, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Trading Post

The Plant and
Seed Exchange



- Bonnie Nicholas wants *Vigna Caracalla*, Shell vine (835-0077)
- Ann Green wants *Vigna Caracalla*, Shell vine (565-6583)
- Margaret Breen has *Echinacea purpurea*, Coneflower seeds (912-9658 or 758-1883) Will bring them to April meeting.
- Betty Glasscock has *Clematis dioscoreifolia*, Sweet Autumn Clematis; and Missouri Primrose. Betty also has a Bio-filter pump for a water garden for sale. (666-2547)
- Nancy Wolford wants Strawberry Begonia. (851-0443)
- Ann Cooper has a Flowtron electric leaf mulcher, string type. Good for the compost pile. (225-6348)
- Dena Dixon wants bamboo.

Feel free to bring your extra plants to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit your plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care instructions for the plant. If you want to guarantee a swap, however, please use the Trading Post.

A Different Train of Thought

By Carl Goodson



The problem of the Garden Railroad is the fact that none of the standard plants of the vegetable or the flower garden are in scale to the scale of the railroad. Consequently, the train builder is going to have to be satisfied with train traveling through a choice of outsized plants, or of landscaping with some herbs selected segments of the layout. The local station area can be planted with plants that resemble in miniature real live plants. Plantings of artificial plants do not weather well.

For trees the gardener might use *Rosmarinus officinalis*, Rosemary 'Huntington Carpet', *Buxus microphylla*, or Boxwood 'Compacta'. Both would need to be trimmed about twice a year to keep them in scale and shaped as mature trees would. Bonsai would also serve, but they would have to be kept in bonsai pots and treated to regular root trimming or wiring to keep them looking like miniature trees.

Shrubs in miniature can be *Teucrium chamaedrys*, Germander a slow growing plant that must also be kept trimmed to scale. Planted in a row to simulate a foundation planting or a hedge row germander would do quite nicely.

To simulate Bamboo plantings ordinary Chives might serve. They would have to be trimmed once a year or thinned to resemble the bamboo that grows tall and invasively.

For ground cover on banks and other slopes use the herb *Thymus praecox arcticus*, Thyme in any of its several creeping cultivars. It too would need a once or twice a year trimming.

Grasses appear in some garden plantings. A perennial variety that does not multiply very rapidly would be desirable.

The pictures of garden railroads on the internet do not seem to have been planned with scale sized plants. What has been mentioned above are all perennial, most of them useful in cooking, and might serve the purpose of scale sized plants.

A few other plants might be named which would have to be either dug up in the fall or planted in pots that can be lifted and brought in for the winter. Ornamental peppers in the variety *Capsicum baccatum* grow small enough and can be shaped to resemble a Christmas tree. They have small round fruits in a succession of green, yellow, orange and red that would resemble ornaments. *Aloe vera* might serve as scale sized yucca. And *Laurus nobilis*, Bay could be kept in size to resemble magnolias. By using imagination other plants might do.

Carl Goodson writes feature articles for the Master Minutes. He's particularly interested in vegetable gardening.



Book Review by Bonnie Nicholas

The Essential Earthman:

Henry Mitchell on Gardening by Henry Mitchell

Indiana University Press	\$16.95
iuporder@indiana.edu	244 pages
	1981

Tom Dillard is conducting an eight-part series for the Central Arkansas Iris Society during the monthly meetings entitled, "Back to Basics." During his first lecture, he recommended this book. It was the most soul-satisfying gardening book I've read.

Henry Mitchell grew up in Memphis. Prior to 1970, he was a reporter for the Memphis Commercial Appeal and editor of the Delta Review. He published two other books: Any Day, 1977, and One Man's Garden, 1992. I'll be reading these soon. Henry Mitchell died in 1993.

Mitchell tells us that leisure, slowness, and contemplation may underlie the greatest joys of gardening, and of life. Our proudest boast is to say, "I'm a gardener of sorts."

There are chapters discussing each season, vines, bad trees, good trees, gardening design, 'minor' bulbs, marigold madness, tulips, iris, roses, toads and bronze dogs, dahlias, daffodil-irious, fragrance, and shrubs. The last chapter, Earthman's Earthly Paradise, is well worth re-reading for his garden account book. He justifies spending for the garden as so many of us do. He grew roses for his wife; therefore, rose spray fell out of garden expense and moved to the category of taking his wife to dinner. Replacement blades for bow-saws were considered a preventive medicine expense. And, it just gets more hilarious with each paragraph.

Mitchell's favorite roses are 'Sutter's Gold', "Helen Traubel", 'Mojave', "Tiffany", and 'Eiffel Tower'. He suggests 'Cheerfulness', 'February Gold', 'Little Gem' and 'Little Beauty', 'Le Beau' and 'Beryl' for your daffodils.

He encourages light feedings of a teaspoon of 5-10-5 chemical fertilizer on March 20, April 23, July 10, and August 3 for each iris clump of seven fans of leaves. He refers to iris as "the unchallenged princess of the vegetable kingdom". If you need a cheap thrill, grow Japanese iris from seed.

Mitchell has tried and failed, persevered and triumphed. He is pure joy to read blending practical advice, encouragement, philosophic consolation and endless wit. This should be your next gardening book to read.

===== Internet Pipelines:

International Master Gardener Conference 2003
Ohio River Valley; web site:
<http://hcs.osu.edu/mg/imgc2003/>

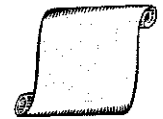
To review the Arkansas Select Flowers presented by Dr. Gerald Klingaman at the March meeting:
www.arhomeandgarden.org/landscape/ArkansasSelect

National Arbor Day Foundation:
www.arborday.org

USDA Forest Service Fire & Aviation Management:
www.fs.fed.us/fire/prev_ed/

A community information page on trees:
www.isa-arbor.com

Junior Master Gardener Workshop



The Master Gardener program in Arkansas is now branching out to include the youth. The second annual Junior Master Gardener (JMG) Workshop will take place May 9, 2003 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale, Arkansas, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Cost for the workshop is \$30, which includes all meals and materials for the day. You may also order some of the books affiliated with the JMG program, at a reduced rate, since they are ordered in bulk. The costs are listed on the registration form. Registration is limited, so please get your applications in as soon as you can. They will be taken on a first come, first serve basis. The deadline (if we don't fill up sooner) is April 25, 2003.

The Junior Master Gardener® (JMG®) Program is an international youth gardening program of the Cooperative Extension network. JMG engages children in novel, "hands-on" group and individual learning experiences that promote a love of gardening, develop an appreciation for the environment, and cultivate the mind. JMG inspires youths to be of service to others through service learning and leadership development projects and rewards them with certification.

The JMG workshop format will be a mixture of classroom lecture, "hands-on" activities featured in the JMG curriculum materials and question/answer sessions. This format will allow participants to have a broad overview of the JMG program, find out how they can become involved with the JMG program, learn how JMG is helping children both academically and socially, plus have lots of fun experiencing all of the many group and individual "hands-on" learning activities from the JMG program that you can integrate into your classroom or educational program.

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

Faulkner County Master Garden Fair and Plant Sale

April 5, 2003 from 8:00am – 12:00pm
2300 Prince, Conway High School West Campus, Horticulture Building
Feature Speakers:

Janet Carson @ 8:15am "Landscape Design"

Norman Winter @ 11:15am "Tough as Nails Flowers for the South".

Seminars by local Master Gardeners on:

"Soil: From Preparation to Planting"

"Vegetable Gardening for the Beginner"

"Water Gardening"

"Creative Living Wreaths"

Tickets are \$5.00 for the seminars, lunch for \$7.00, two afternoon garden tours for \$5.00. For information contact: Jennifer Hawkins: 501-329-8344.

Arkansas River Valley Lawn & Garden Show

Ft. Smith Convention Center. Admission: \$3.00. Ticket covers all 3 days.

Features: Gardens, vendors, children's area, seminars, mini-demonstrations, floral competition, flower show

For information, call: 1-479-484-7737

Seminar Schedule:

Friday: April 4, 3PM till 8 PM

6:00 Gerald Klingaman - Creating Garden Rooms

Saturday, April 5, 9 AM till 8 PM

10:30 Jim Robbins, - Plant Propagation

noon - Gene Lichliter - Hostas

1:30 - Berni Kurz - Master Gardening

2:00 - Leonard Miller - Azaleas and Rhododendrons

4:30 - Jack Singleton - Gardening for Butterflies

Sunday, April 6, 10 AM till 5 PM

2:00 Janet Carson - Shade Perennials

3:30 Steve Owens - Colorful Theme Gardens

Gesneriads Club

(African Violets, Gloxinia, etc.)

NWAGGS club meeting on April 5, 2003

Jones Center for Families, Room 153,

922 East Emma Avenue, Springdale, Ar.

Special guest speaker: Susan Grose, Overland Park Kansas

"All About Gesneriads seeds" ...planting, growing and harvesting.

Jones Center number: (479)756-8090.

For information, write plantman@ipa.net.

Call Beth Phelps (340-6650) to follow her in to the meeting.

Arkansas County Home & Garden

April 11 & April 12, 2003

Arkansas County Fair Grounds, DeWitt. Admission: \$2.00.

Friday, April 11

Trade show, 4:00 to 6:00.

"Dinner with Janet Carson" at 6:30

Master Gardener recipes from The Cream of the Crop.

Dinner tickets are \$15.00. Contact the Extension office 870-946-3231.

Saturday, April 12

Trade show, 9:00 to 3:00.

Vendors will be selling home and garden products including iron works, pottery, bird houses, perennials, annuals, shrubs, garden benches, garden books, and home decorations. Master Gardeners will conduct a plant sale.

Educational seminars will be held throughout the day.

Southeast District Master Gardener meeting in the seminar area at noon.

Food will be available, so plan to come and spend the entire day.



Winners of door prizes at the March meeting were:
Garden art from the Decor Store – Juddie Wachtel
Spring wreath – Mickey Elmore
Volunteer hours drawing (license plate) - Joanna Wilson
Greenhouse's New Dawn Rose – Betty Glasscock

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings Memo: March 11, 2003

Carolyn Newbern called the March meetings of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to order. The minutes of the February meetings and the treasurer's report, ending bank balance 2/28/03 of \$12,532.97, were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The report of the audit committee found the organization's books and records were in order. The board adopted a policy allowing the president of the organization to be added to the bank's records as an alternate check signer.

A report was given on the orientation meeting for new project chairs.

Peter Rousch has been consulted about the memorial trees to be placed at MacArthur Park.

A notebook of plants for specific conditions, plant combinations and an outline of the care of those plants from the design team's plan for the metro containers will be sent to Sharon Priest. The board approved having Master Gardeners help with the initial planting. A date for this has not yet been set, but is expected in April.

The Volunteer Guide is at the printers and is to be mailed within the next two weeks. Guidelines and policies are completed and also to be sent out soon.

The Pulaski County Master Gardeners received a "Friend of Extension Award" at the awards banquet of Epsilon Sigma Phi, the organization of extension professionals, at DeGray State Park recently.

A press conference for the "Keep Arkansas Beautiful" award for the project at the Pulaski County Extension office and another one for Pinnacle Mountain State Park project was announced. The board will purchase a table of 10 tickets for the "Keep Arkansas Beautiful" awards luncheon on April 30.

Master Gardeners who have served at least seven years may obtain sustainer status. Janet Carson will send details on the program to the county agents and information will come from them.

A suggestion has been made to have a contest with the project notebooks as a motivator for accurate record keeping.

Nominations for "Friend of Master Gardeners" were taken at the general meeting. Nominees were: Ed Garrettson with Arkansas Old State House; Pete Rousch, Urban Forester for Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department; Chris Olson, a nurseryman; and the Pulaski County Prisoners who help at the greenhouse. The prisoners won the vote by a show of hands. Lois Corley will write a report for the nomination.

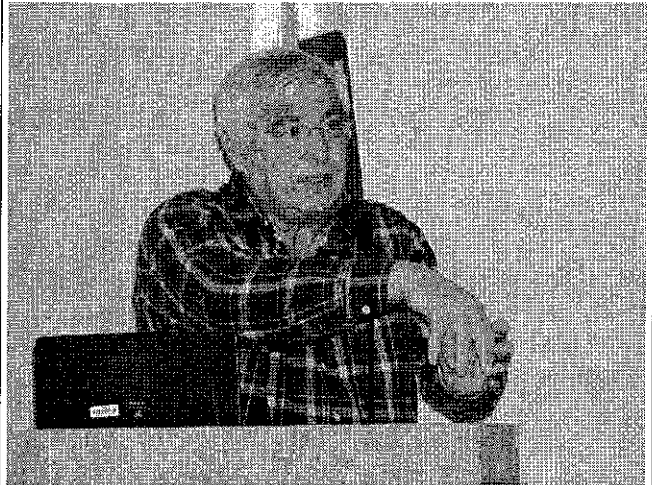
The 3P's committee will send photographers to special project events. Committee chairpersons are encouraged to photograph their project activities.

The travel committee has planned a trip to Larry Lowman's Ridgecrest Nursery and Gardens for March 18. They also announced a trip to the Dallas Arboretum for April 9-11. Camp Aldersgate has requested that they be considered for an official project site for next year. Carolyn reported that the board is working on finding a new location due to the continuing parking problems.

Members want to know what products and services others in the organization have to offer, but displaying business cards or pamphlets on the tables prior to meetings presents problems of liability. Therefore, the board decided that the general membership will be allowed to present "ads" for a Master Minutes insert to be produced once a year for current Pulaski County Master Gardeners only.

The "Stuff" committee showed the tote bags and rain slickers to be offered from Personal Touch Embroidery in Cabot.

Dr. Gerald Klingaman was the speaker for the meeting. He presented slides and information on the 2003 Arkansas Select plants as well as a review of previous select plants.



Dr. Gerald Klingaman presenting the 2003 Arkansas Select Plants at the meeting.

2003 Arkansas Select Plants are:

Dianthus 'Bouquet Purple'
Heuchera sanguinea, Coral Belles
Clethra alnifolia, Summer Sweet
Calamagrostis acutiflora, Feather Reed Grass 'Stricta'
Magnolia grandiflora 'Little Gem'

Information for this article was provided by Pat Green. Pat is the Secretary of the PCMG, Chairman of the Speakers' Bureau, and on the Retention Committee. Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale. Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

Name Tags

A star on a name tag designates our newest Master Gardeners. Please be sure to welcome them at our meetings and functions. To order a new name tag, please send a check made out to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to:
 Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 W. Roosevelt Road
 Little Rock, AR 72204.
 Name tags are \$5.00 for pin back and \$7.00 for magnetic backs.

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for April:
 Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except 5th Thursday of the month)
 Curran Hall: Mondays & Saturdays @ 9:00am
 Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 9:00am
 Greenhouse: April 1, 3, 8, & 10 @ 8:30am
 Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am
 Pinnacle: April 1st & April 17th @ 9:00am
 PC County Extension: April 17 @ 9:00am
 State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Volunteer speakers are needed for the Speakers Bureau. Call Pat Green, chair to volunteer.

Applications for The State Master Gardener Meeting, May 19-21, 2003 in Searcy, and for The International Master Gardener Meeting in the Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky area in June, 2003 are available online.

"Stuff" order form due April 8, 2003.

Master Gardener Travelers are going to the Dallas Arboretum April 9-11, 2003. The cost is \$199/ person and includes two nights lodging, bus and driver, admission to the Arboretum and a box lunch there. Contact the Travel Committee for more information.

"Sunshine Board" If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair.

Address corrections and changes:
 June Ownes
 34 El Dorado Drive, LR, AR. 72212
 Kristin Huddle (spelling correction)
 Gail Roberson: new number: 753-0054

And welcome back -
 Mackie Hamilton: 664-0862
 4822 Country Club Blvd., LR, AR 72207
 Mackie will be on the Pinnacle Committee.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

Master Gardener Website: www.uaex.edu
 Username: mastergardener,
 password: compost

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
 2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
 Little Rock, Ark. 72204
 340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural - related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
 Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to:
 Libby Thalheimer
 5005 Crestwood
 Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
 663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
 Pulaski County CES
 2901 W. Roosevelt Road
 Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bp Phelps@uaex.edu
 340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
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 Sharon Davis
 Carl Goodson
 Ann Green
 Rose Hogan
 Helen Hronas
 Kandy Jones
 Ruth Jones
 Cheryl Kennedy
 Julia Loyall
 Linda Moyer
 Bonnie Nicholas
 Ellen Rouch
 Lee Wilson
 Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
 Lou Sanders

Pulaski County Master Minutes

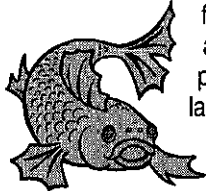
May, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Volume 14, Issue 4

Choosing the Right Fish for Your Pond: Comets, Lionheads, or Koi? By Shannon Chamberlin

What a disaster! Every plant in my pond had been tipped over. All the lava rock had slid out of the pots and settled into a heap on the pond floor, the water was clouded with dirt, and the plants were floating around with their bare roots trailing. I was chewing out the raccoon that was my prime suspect for being responsible for this mess as I fished out the empty pots and bedraggled plants. After using a sieve to clear the dirt from the water, I collected lava rock from the pond bottom with a long handled gripper. Finally I repotted the plants and began to reposition them in the pond. As I put the second pot in place, the true culprit



flipped her tail, dumping the first pot over again, spilling all the contents back into the pond. The raccoon was innocent. Golda, the largest of my fish, the beautiful red koi, was the one vandalizing my pond!

When I bought Golda, she was the size of a common fishbowl goldfish. How was I to know she would grow to be 18" long, and strong enough to tip over flower pots with a flip of her tail? It was heartbreaking for me when I gave her away to someone with a larger pond, even though I knew it was necessary. She was more of a pet than most fish are. She came to me when I called her by name, and she ate out of my hand. If only I had learned more about various kinds of fish and the conditions they require before buying any, I could have saved myself this kind of trouble and heartache. Koi, comet goldfish, and lionhead goldfish all make good pond fish, but they vary according to 1) how much they cost, 2) how hardy they are, 3) how long they live, 4) how large they get, 5) what size and type of pond they require, and 6) how friendly they are to people. As a new pond owner, you can avoid making the same unfortunate mistakes I did. Instead, by learning more about these three types of fish, you will be able to choose a type of fish that is just right for your pond and will provide you with years of pleasure.

1) Cost -- In selecting the type of fish that will be best suited to your pond, cost may be the first factor for you to consider. Initially, the purchase price per fish can vary greatly. For instance, small comet goldfish begin at about \$2, with the price going up for larger, older fish. Of the types of fish discussed here, the next most expensive are lionhead goldfish, with babies beginning at around \$4, and the average cost of older fish running about \$30. Koi, on the other hand, begin at about \$10 for young, common-looking fish, but can go as high as \$500 or \$600 for older fish with interesting markings, or even into thousands of dollars for unusual varieties of koi or rare specimens. If predators like neighborhood cats or raccoons might be a problem in your pond, rare varieties of koi are obviously not your fish of choice!

2) Hardiness -- In addition to the purchase price of the fish, there are other costs to think about related to care of the fish over time. Some kinds of fish are hardier than others and life expectancy varies greatly from species to species, so that the commitment of time, effort, and money required can vary greatly over the lifetime of a fish, depending on the type of fish selected. Comets are the easiest of the three fish to care for, since they tolerate a wider range of water pH and temperature than lionhead and koi, and they rarely get sick. Koi are fairly tolerant and hardy, although less so than comets. Lionhead goldfish are the most delicate of the three types of fish; they require stable water conditions and are prone to illnesses like air bladder disorders and fungal infections. Treating these ailments requires special medicated food that is more expensive than standard fish food. Often treatment also includes netting the sick fish and dipping it into a concentrated salt bath for a few minutes before returning it to the pond. Not everyone feels comfortable performing this sort of task or has the time to do it.

.....Continued on page 3

Kenneth L. Smith, from Audubon Arkansas, will be our speaker at the May 13, 2003, meeting.

Ken Smith joined Audubon Arkansas as its first Executive Director and Vice President in March 2001. Prior to working with Audubon, he served as Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Deputy Chief of Staff to President Bill Clinton and Secretary Bruce Babbitt in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), starting in 1993. As Assistant Secretary at DOI, Ken was responsible for developing policy and directing staff of the National Park Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. While at DOI, Ken was instrumental in establishing several new national wildlife refuges including Pond Creek Bottoms National Wildlife Refuge, in southwest Arkansas. Ken resigned from DOI in July 1997, and returned to Arkansas as Executive Director of the Ozark Natural Science Center for one year. He made several improvements in the science center facilities and added new educational programs before returning to the Department of the Interior in August 1998.

From 1989 to 1993, Ken served Governor Clinton and Governor Jim Guy Tucker as Assistant for Natural and Cultural Resources, advising the governors on environmental issues, serving as their liaison to state and federal agencies, and coordinating legislative sessions on all issues relating to natural and cultural resources, pollution control and ecology. Earlier in Ken's career, he established the first office of The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas as Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Natural Heritage Program.

Ken has coauthored one book and has written several scientific articles on birds, fishes, and cave ecosystems. Ken holds a B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry and a MS degree in Biology. His thesis was an ecological study of an Ozark cave system.

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.



Best in Show



Congratulations to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners to be awarded 5, 10 and 15 year pins at the 2003 Statewide Master Gardener Meeting.

5 Year Pins

Shirley Acchione - Stewart Bell - Rose Bradley - Lois Clifton - Rose Crane - Lee Gershner - Carl Goodson - Ann Green - Sandy Harrison
Coy Hively - Joan Humphries - Lisa Jackson - Ben Jordan - Nancy Kirsch - Nan Matthews - Gena Norris - Sylvia Orton - Tammy Pope
Carolyn Prickett - Frances Searcy - Beth Sheilds - Claudia Stallings - J. William Trimble - Cheryl Wilson - Laura Anne Wilson

10 Year Pins

Jim Bowling - Joyce Bumgardner - David Dodson - Linda Holbert - Barbara Johnson - Laura Lasiter - Maxine Ramage - Kathy Scheibner

15 Year Pins

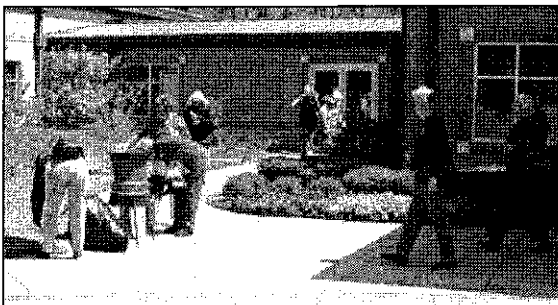
Nancy Wade - Ann Ward



Door prize winners at the April meeting:
Jane Druff - Brugmansia from the Greenhouse
Mary Ann Francis - "The Heirloom Gardener"
First issue of this new magazine
Mary Roark - License Plate for Volunteer Hours



Susie Gillihan - Plant Stand provided by the
Décor Store, 10900 Maumelle Blvd, Maumelle



Master Gardeners taking advantage of the Trading Post
and member exchange at the April meeting.

Lonoke County Garden Tour

Sponsored by:
General Federation of Women's Clubs

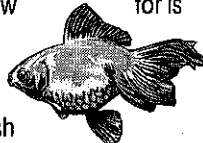
Parade of Gardens, England, Arkansas.
May 18, 2003. 2 - 4 p.m. \$10.00
Tickets and maps available on the day of the tour
at the Gazebo of City Park in the center of town
(on Highway 165).

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

Comets, Lionheads, or Koi? Continued from page 1

3) Longevity -- Besides the relative likelihood of medical care being required for the fish, pond owners need to take into account how long each sort of fish is likely to live. Both comets and lionheads have life expectancies of around 5-6 years under good conditions, or 10 years at most, even under optimum conditions. Koi, on the other hand, have an average life expectancy of 15-20 years, or up to 50-70 years with great care. One female koi, cared for by several generations of the same Japanese family, lived for 226 years! Purchasing a koi represents a major commitment, possibly even extending beyond the owner's own lifetime.

4) Size -- Another major factor to allow for is the one we wish we had known more about before we bought Golda – size at maturity. The general rule is that a pond can accommodate about 1-3" of fish per square foot of pond surface. Since lionheads are about 5-6" long when full-grown and comets are 8-10" long when mature, a pond can hold more of either of them than it can the larger koi, which grow to be 18-24" in length. Lionheads and comets, in fact, will limit their size to fit the volume of water in which they live. In small containers or ponds, they remain smaller than they do in larger containers or ponds. Koi, unfortunately, do not have this characteristic, as Golda taught us. They grow to full size wherever they are, whether they continue to fit or not.



5) Pond Requirements -- Besides surface dimensions of the water, other features of the pond need to be considered in selecting appropriate fish. If the fish are to spend the winter outdoors in the pond, the water needs to be at least 18" deep for any of these fish. They winter over at the bottom of the pond, in a torpid state that resembles hibernation. Water remains warm enough at that depth to prevent freezing and allow them to survive. This depth should be considered a minimum requirement for koi, since fishes' tails extend down into the water when they poke their heads up to the surface to feed. An adult koi would be 18" long or longer, and would feel cramped trying to position itself to eat. Since they are very playful fish and like to flip around a lot, koi do better in ponds that are 4' x 6' or larger in diameter at the surface and at least 30-36" deep.



How precious the plants in your pond are to you is another factor to consider in your choice of fish. Although comets and lionheads also nibble on pond plants, they are not nearly as destructive as koi. Since koi love to eat fresh greens and do not discriminate between plants intended for their use and ornamental plants, koi should not be introduced into water gardens with plants one wants to keep for other purposes. Replacing plants often or repotting them daily due to koi antics is expensive and time-consuming, as we found out.

Unlike comets or lionheads, koi require one other special pond feature that unfortunately we learned about only after Golda moved to my friend's larger pond. Although Golda had plenty of room to swim and play in the large pond and seemed to enjoy swimming with the other fish, one night she leapt from the pond

and was found dead on the flagstones bordering the pond in the morning. Since then we have learned that ponds housing koi need to have steep banks that extend above the water about 18" so that exuberant fish will not accidentally pitch themselves out onto the ground during playtime.

6) Beauty and Friendliness -- If by now you have begun to think, "Forget the fish. They're just not worth the trouble," think again. Once you have seen a pond with fish swimming around in it, the pond will seem empty without them. They add beauty and movement, and even personality, to a pond. Fish bring the pond to life. Their beauty is obvious, but it may come as a surprise to you that some fish have personality, too. Comets, lionheads, and koi vary somewhat in terms of how attractive they are and how much they like to interact with people. Comets, like any fish, are interesting to watch as they jockey each other over food pellets floating in the water. Some of them have beautiful orange and white markings, which add color to the pond. Other than flocking to the food when you toss it on the water, though, comets are not particularly friendly and do not interact much with people.

Lionheads, on the other hand, have gorgeous fantails that spread out gracefully in the water behind them like silk scarves billowing in the wind, they can be trained to eat out of your hand, and they will even rub against your hand to get you to pet them gently on the head. (Whenever my son was trying to catch our two tropical plecostomus to bring them indoors for the winter, the lionheads always got in the way, swimming purposefully into his cupped hands.) Koi also can be quite beautiful, depending on their markings. Some rare varieties have flowing fins and tails like the lionheads do. In contrast to lionheads, koi are not interested in being touched by hand, but they can be taught to come when called by name, to eat out of your hand, to kiss you on the lips, and to do other tricks like going through hoops. Since koi are so long-lived, there is plenty of time to train them and enjoy their performances.

So, which should you choose for your pond: comets, lionheads, or koi? If your pond is brand new, some comets might be your best bet. They are the easiest to care for and are the least expensive. Later, once the pond has stabilized, if you have room for more fish you might enjoy taking on a few lionheads. Even though lionheads require more attention, they are quite beautiful and are more interesting to watch. They also reward your attentions by interacting with you, more like a pet cat or bird does. If your pond is large with tall steep sides, you want a fish that can learn tricks, and you are ready for long-term commitment, then you may want to try some koi. Whichever fish you choose, making an informed choice instead of an impulsive one will help you enjoy your fish and your pond for many years to come.



In addition to contributing feature articles for Master Minutes, Shannon Chamberlin is on the Pinnacle Mountain Committee.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

"The Heirloom Gardener"

By Linda Moyer

May

- 2-3 15th Annual Heritage Herb Spring Extravaganza, Ozark Folk Center. 2003 is the year of the Basil! 870-269-3851.
- 2-4 Woolly Hollow Wildflower Weekend, Woolly Hollow State Park. Contact 501-679-2098.
- 3-4 Birders Weekend, Devils' Den State Park. 479-761-3325.
- 4 Central Arkansas Iris Society Show, Darraugh Center, Main Library, Little Rock. Free admission.
- 1-15 In Bloom at Garvin Woodland Gardens, Hot Springs Roses, Azaleas, iris, spring perennials & flowering shrubs & wildflowers. 1-800-366-4664
- 6 Herb Garden Workshop with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 8 Water Garden Basics with Mary Evans
Call 666-0759 for more information.
- 13 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 14 Pulaski County Day, River Market, 11:00am-1:30pm.
- 15 Master Gardener Picnic, new ballroom at the Governor's Mansion.
- 15 Bluebird Clinic. Mammoth Springs State Park.
870-625-7364.
- 15 Four Season Gardening with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 17 Historic Home & Garden Tour, Bentonville, Peel Mansion Museum. Cost \$10. 479-273-9664.
- 19-21 2003 State Master Gardener Meeting, "Fruit of the Bloom".
Harding Campus, Searcy, Arkansas.

June

- 7 7th Annual "Through the Garden Gate Tour", Fayetteville.
Cost \$10. 479-444-6170.
- 7 Wildflower Wanderings, Lake Charles State Park.
870-878-6595.
- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference,
Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
Registration Info - Mike Walton@ 1-740- 524-4123
fax 1-877-848-4123, email - mwalton@walcom.com
website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>
- 19 Wildflower & Butterfly Seminar at Garvin Woodland Gardens.
10:00 a.m. 800-366-4664.
- 21-24 Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival, Mount Magazine State
Park. 479-963-8502.

July

- 26 Iris rhizome sale by Central Arkansas Iris Society, 8:00 a.m.
Little Rock Garden Center, 1501 Kavanaugh.



Are you interested in heirloom vegetables and flowers? The Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds Company is owned by Jere Gettle and has been in business for years. It is a mail order seed source for heirloom varieties from around the world. They have one of the largest selections of Asian and European heirlooms in the USA, along with many old standard

American varieties.

After receiving many requests for a magazine devoted to heirloom varieties, they have started "The Heirloom Gardener". The first issue, with 52 pages, was published this spring. Copies are still available. Contents of future issues will include:

- Learn the art of seed saving.
- How to grow produce the heirloom way.
- The history of heirlooms.
- Learn about seed collecting trips.
- Profiles of Americas best gardeners & growers.
- How to market your produce like the experts.
- The latest news on Frankenfood and saving safe food.

It cover's Vegetables, Flowers, Fruit & Herbs.
Find the sources for all your gardening needs.
Learn about upcoming shows and festivals.
Learn how to make old-time foods and crafts.
And more in "The Heirloom Gardener" magazine.

This magazine will be published quarterly, Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year (for four issues).

For more information contact:
The Heirloom Gardener
PO Box 70
Mansfield, MO 65704
417-924-1222.
<http://www.rareseeds.com/>

Linda Moyer, editor of Master Minutes for 2002, is currently a staff writer for Master Minutes. She donated a copy of this new magazine for a door prize at the April, 2003 meeting.



Speaker for the meeting on May 13, 2003, is Ken Smith with Audubon Arkansas.



MAY CHECKLIST By Rose Hogan

GENERAL YARD TIPS

Many gardeners plant useful vegetable gardens OR beautiful fragrant flower gardens. Try combining the two by planting nasturtium and marigold in with your vegetables or herbs around your flower garden. Plant lily-of-the valley or other flowering bulbs around the trunks of your trees to enhance the yard's natural beauty. Plant corn with strawflower for a colorful border and instead of building a fence.

FRUIT TIPS

Long grass around fruit trees will slow the establishment of young trees. Keep it well trimmed.

Remove runners from strawberries for more fruit production or use this growth method. Plant new strawberries on top of old ones. Allow the runners to cover the beds as thick as they can get. Later in the fall cover them with about two or three inches of soil. The following spring you will be surprised at the strong production of foliage. The first year may be less productive than years to come.

LAWN AND GROUND COVER TIPS



If your soil is well prepared, it is still not too late to lay turf or sow lawn seed. Feed lawn with high nitrogen fertilizer from April to September for really green grass. Make sure you use a spreader to ensure the fertilizer is spread

evenly.

De-thatch, edge and weed as needed.

If you have pine trees on or near your lawn, make sure that you rake the needles regularly. Pine needles will kill anything underneath them. They pack so tight that light is unable to get through. This also makes them an excellent mulch and natural weed killer under trees and shrubs.

If you wish to use weed killers you should do so now while the grass is growing rapidly. Do not use a weed killer if your soil is too wet, too dry or if you have a young lawn. Do not mow your lawn for at least a week after an application. Never add your cuttings to the compost after a treatment.

When mowing your lawn make sure you use a mower with a sharp blade. If the blade is dull it will tear the young seedlings from the soil.

Add gentle curves to your lawn for the appearance of a larger area. Gentle curves are also easier to mow than sharp curves or corners.

FLOWER TIPS

For better blooms next year, resist the temptation to cut back your daffodils until they have almost completely died back.

The soil around stargazer lilies and daffodils should be kept moist and mulched during the growing period.



Later, throughout the summer a thorough drying will do them good. They will not do as well if you keep the bed watered to suit the needs of other plants.

If you aren't planning on making wine from your dandelions this year, why not EAT them? They contain more vitamin A than carrots and twice as much as spinach.

Purchase some annuals without flowers so that you can enjoy the blooms longer. Choose shorter bushy plants because the larger ones are more established already and may not transplant as well. A dark green color is generally a good indicator of a strong healthy plant (Make sure that they are not light colored or yellowing. Nor should they have brown patches.) When planting your annuals if you loosen up the roots a bit before planting it will stimulate stronger growth.

Now that all danger of frost has past (hopefully) you can move your Easter lily plants out into a sunny spot in your garden. Once Easter lilies are established in your garden they will bloom in mid-summer, rather than spring.

Continue to prune spring flowering shrubs after flowers fade.

VEGETABLE TIPS

Remember to rotate vegetable crops to help control pests, disease and keep the soil in good shape.



MAY BLOOMERS

Abelia, allium, azalea, Canterbury bells, chives, clematis, columbine, coreopsis, cornflowers, late daffodils, early daisies, daylilies, deutzia, blue fescue, forget-me-not, foxglove, gaura, golden rain tree, heather, French hollyhock, honeysuckle, hydrangea, wild indigo, bearded iris, Siberian iris, flag iris, kerria, lamium, Asiatic lilies, Peruvian lilies, mock orange, milk weed, money plant, nicotiana, nierembergia, oregano, oxalis, pansies, peonies, phlox, pinks, poppies, English primrose, evening primrose, roses, rosemary, culinary sage, salvias, sedum acre, Japanese snowball, Solomon's seal, spiderwort, spirea, strawberries, hybrid teas, thyme, sweet William, veronica, viola and yarrow.

Master Gardeners are invited to visit TLC Nursery, Inc., located in South Pulaski County, at 1701 Bracy Road. Take 530 south to Pratt Road (exit #7), yield to the right on to Pratt Road, take your first left on to Ironton Road, follow Ironton 2.5 miles to Bracy Road. Turn right on Bracy and TLC is 1/4 mile down on the left. There are signs at each turn once you exit onto Pratt Road. TLC Nursery offers a 10% discount to all Master Gardeners who present their Master Gardeners' name tag.

Gardening Giggles By Garage Sale Queen

Ok, now I'm a master gardener. Aren't I supposed to be brilliant? No question unresolved? Why don't I know those little seedlings popping in my flowerbed were wild violets not my anxiously awaited zinnias? Hmm? My first question, my first phone call, volunteering at the extension office was "How do I get squirrels out of my attic?" Auggghhh! Beth, we didn't cover that in the last master gardener class!

This was to be my season of propagation, learning gardening for the long haul, not instant gratification. Take my time on MY garden! Work with the experienced master gardeners and "learn". I've also been working on my own small business start up. It's been steady but real slow, which hasn't helped the household income. (I use to get those "regular" paychecks!) Propagation and learning seemed to be the answer to my inability to go to Lakewood Gardens and drop way too much money on several truckloads of flowers. Besides, this is the third year for my flower garden. Surely a bunch of those perennials are coming back!

Then there's the water garden/ patio area. The last major project we're undertaking (maybe?). I am using hypertufa to create the waterfall and a patio of "fake rock" surrounding the waterfall and a 50 year old, gorgeous dogwood! This was going to be a slow but satisfying project: lots of shade, a new challenge. (Of course I've listened to everything Janet has had to say about shade gardening.) I was "mentally" ready.

My "niece" stopped by. She had received her engagement ring from the love of her life on Valentine's. They were planning a spring 2004 wedding under this dogwood. (It would be the 3rd wedding we've had in our backyard and "Her dream" for 3 years.) No problem, I had over a year and a lot of learning and *working* to do!

Her finance's grandmother doesn't "have long," and they wanted to move the wedding up to this June. That wouldn't be a problem, would it? OF COURSE NOT! I'm the Garage Sale Queen. (Self-proclaimed for an incredible ability to find "great deals".) Surely, I can meet the challenge. And I AM a master gardener. I can figure this out! I sat down next to the stacks of stone and took deep breaths. I looked at the large "construction zone" waterfall / patio area full of rocks. No flowerbeds. No wonderful plants around the wonderful, antique dogwood. I looked at several large holes and vacant spots in the lawn. Houston, our golden retriever, had his own "construction zones" for his rest periods, included my new bulb planting areas. Squashed daffodils galore! I thought about "my plans" for the summer and how they had just been altered severely. I thought about my lack of money, right now. My niece smiled, talked about how beautiful she knew the yard would be, hugged my neck and left.

The next morning, my panic had subsided and I walked around my yard. I remembered how beautiful my wedding was 2 years ago. Romance was in the air. Here we go! I COULD imagine how beautiful it could be and how beautiful she would be. Divide those hostas, NOW! Plant anything that blooms. (Thank goodness she wants lots of color in her flowers!). Pray for no rain and all seeds to grow! Spend my weekdays dividing and planting and making rocks. Spend Saturdays at plant sales and garage sales. My business can wait. There's gonna be a June Bride. And maybe,

just maybe, some of the master gardeners may have stuff they want to thin out? This Garage Sale Queen / new master gardener is in the dirt. She needs instant gratification (again) and the Bride needs a beautiful backyard! What a great gardening soap opera! Can the rookie mg do it on a virtually non-existent budget? More to come!

And squirrels in the attic? We put a cat door in the entrance to our attic. Whatever works!



What Works! By Sharon Davis

Dig a 6-8 inch trough around your rose bushes and bury banana peels in it. Rose bushes love it. (Another contributor suggested cutting the banana peels into 1" strips before burying them). Dolores LeCompte

Spray Pam on a cut flower to use as a decorative piece on a platter. Bonnie Peek

Spread wood ashes in your garden as a substitute for lime. (Be careful: wood ashes are high in salts). Bonnie Peek

If getting up and down is a problem when putting out new plants in your garden, use post-hole diggers to dig the holes. It is a great way to dig holes standing up and makes a nice soft hole for your plants. (They are also an excellent support for helping me get back to my feet.) Sharon Davis

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. Spread the dirt from your garden, share tips from magazines, television, and friends. You can jot down your hints at the monthly meeting or send them to Beth Phelps at the Extension Office. Although not a requirement, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Feel free to bring your extra plants to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit your plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care instructions for the plant. If you want to guarantee a swap, however, please use the Trading Post.

Trading Post: The Plant and Seed Exchange By Sharon Davis



- Betty Glasscock has Shasta Daisy and Missouri Primrose. (666-2547)
- Ann Green has duplicate colors of Iris to give away. She wants a climbing shell plant (vigna caracella). (565-6583)
- Bonnie Wells has golden creeping Jenny. (228-0802)
- Mary Vancura has Garlic Chives. (666-5988)
- Mary Lou Arrington has Lambs Ear.



Book Review By Ann Green

=== Internet Pipelines: By Kandy Jones

The Garden Planner: Over a million ways to mix and match perfect beds and borders

by John Walker with Consultant Editor Graham Strong
 \$24.95. 194 pages, 2000.
 Time-Life Books, Alexandria, VA

www.seedman.com
 Jim Johnson
 Gautier, MS

Because of its construction, the major Mix-and-Match section of this spiral-bound book is actually cut into four horizontal sections of 320 color-photographs of plants, arranged by height from tallest to shortest in descending order on each "page," which are suitable for beds or borders. Each section will lie flat next to three other selections, thus creating a wide array of possible combinations based first on color and habit.

Each plant has a rather complete description on the section which faces it. Included are bullet points of specific characteristics, growing information and good companion plants. Also shown are clear line drawings of typical shape and habit of each plant with average height and spread measurement for the mature plant. A season indicator notes the main season of interest and symbols denote key growing instructions regarding sun, location, water, zones and soil.

Although the authors understand that most readers will dive in and experiment with the mix-and-match section first, "before and aft" sections give useful information on types of beds and borders, choosing plants by height, shape, texture and color while not overplanting or underplanting the available space. Basics are at the back: choosing a suitable site, soil considerations, planning before planting, selecting and buying plants, and plant maintenance. Four final pages, titled "Plant Selector" and color-coded by height, group plants according to 31 common characteristics such as scented flowers or suitability for growing on sloping ground.

A no-nonsense book, ready to put the gardener to work.

[Reviewer's note: A perfect companion book was reviewed by Lois Clifton in the May 1999 *Master Minutes* issue: Beds and Borders: A Garden Project Workbook by Richard Bird (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, New York, 1998). This book (also spiral-bound) shows full-page beds and borders rather than individual plants and its full-color pages fold out to show design details such as locator plant identification, spacing, alternative plantings, and maintenance.]

Ann Green is a staff writer for the Master Minutes, as well as Co-Chairman of Cammack Fruit Demonstration Garden.

Sharon Davis is also a staff writer for Master Minutes. She also serves on the 3-Ps Committee and the Speakers' Bureau where her areas of interests are Houseplants, Vegetables and Nutrition, and Annuals.

- Great "tips & hints" pages with reprints from Auburn University
- Buy hard to find and unusual seeds
- Great links to other sources
- Unusual gardening accessories

<http://www.noble.org/>
 Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
 Ardmore OK

- Basic plant biology research and agricultural research.
- Plant Image Gallery is designed to assist botanists, ecologists, and natural resource managers with the identification of plants. An ongoing project which currently includes over 600 species of vascular plants

<http://gardens.si.edu/index.htm>
 Smithsonian Institute

- Smithsonian Institute's gardens and horticulture pages
- Check out their traveling horticultural exhibits before summer vacation. There might be one near your destination
- Beautiful pictures from the Smithsonian's gardens

[http://www.ilovegardens.com/Virtual Garden Tours/virtual garden_tours.htm](http://www.ilovegardens.com/Virtual_Garden_Tours/virtual_garden_tours.htm)
 I Love Gardens. com

- Virtual tours of glorious public and private gardens

=====

<http://hcs.osu.edu/mg/imgc2003/>

- For information about the International Master Gardener Conference in June, 2003, in the Ohio River Valley

www.mossacres.com

- Tom Mertens at PC CES office suggests checking out this website to learn all you need to know about growing moss in your yard.



Aquatic Plants By Kandy Jones

Okay, now that you have your beautiful fish in a pond, you also need aquatic plants. There are several types of aquatic plants:

Deep Water Plants -- These plants bloom profusely if they are adequately fertilized. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Examples are Lotus and Water Lillies.

Bog Plants -- grow in the constantly moist, but not totally submerged area around the rim of the pond. Examples are sweet flag, marsh-marigold, cattails, and arrowhead.

Oxygenating Plants -- grow totally submerged. They compete with algae for nutrients and provide cover and spawning grounds for pond fish. They obtain nutrient directly through their stems and leaves. Common submerged plants include: anacharis, arrowhead, eelgrass and water milfoil.

Floating Plants -- provide fast shade and cover for the pond surface. Additionally, they absorb dissolved nutrients and help to suppress the algae. Other reasons to add floating plants are to prevent Koi sunburn, lower pond temperature, lower the day-night temperature differential, make it harder for predatory birds to see Koi, and catch some floating foods.

Now Koi will tend to eat plants, especially the water lilies. There are two possible solutions to this problem. One is to put the aquatic plants in an area remote from the fish, such as a small separate pond between the waterfall and the main pond. A second alternative is to put the plants in baskets or in plastic planting pots.

There are established rules of thumb for how many plants you should add to your pond. For each square meter of surface (or 10 square feet), add 2 bunches of oxygenating pond plants, 1 water lily, and 1 bog plant.

There are some plants which are toxic to koi. A list of plants which are toxic to koi can be found on this website:

www.pondepot.com/plants/toxic_plants.html

As a final note, be aware of buying exotic plants on the Internet as they may be illegal.

Kandy Jones, also known as 'Garage Sale Queen', is a staff writer for Master Minutes. She also volunteers on the 3-P's, Social Committee, and Speakers Bureau, where her areas of interests are Annuals, Perennials and Herbs.

Dreaming By Carolyn Newbern

How did your PCMG project garden look last week? What was blooming? Did it look good enough to impress 300 national and international visitors?

Between March 24 and 29, 2004, the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau will host the National Tour Association's spring meeting. The goal is to sell Little Rock and Central Arkansas as a travel destination, with plenty of scenic, cultural and historic attractions to satisfy varieties of tourists. Many of our PCMG project gardens enhance important tourist attractions—the Arkansas Arts Center and MacArthur Park, Historic Arkansas Museum, Mount Holly Cemetery, the Old State House, Pinnacle Mountain State Park, the Old Mill, the Visitor Information Center at Curran Hall, and War Memorial Park.

Last week I was privileged to accompany a LRCVB group to Victoria, British Columbia, for the N.T.A. 2003 spring meeting. Landscaping around the harbor and in Butchart Gardens was alive with flowering shrubs and trees, bulbs, and early flowers. Victoria is a hard act to follow, but we Master Gardeners can help showcase Pulaski County. We need to help make a favorable impression on the people responsible for developing and promoting tours. Please evaluate your garden, noting what survived the winter and was blooming in late March. Envision what could be planted next fall to make an even better display in March 2004.

Please let Nancy Kirsch or Carolyn Newbern know your "dream list." With advance planning, we might bring some dreams to reality.

The Hot Springs Daylily Society is planning a trip on Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1 to Center, TX and Nacogdoches, TX to visit two daylily hybridizers. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see as well as buy named daylilies as well as the newest seedlings. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in making the trip. Yvonne Becker, 19 Jabali Way, Hot Springs Village, AR 71909
(501) 922-3296 E-mail: ylbecker@ipa.net

Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham.



Barbara Koros and Shirley Gunnels were at the desk for their phone duty at the Extension Office, but the caller just wanted Beth Phelps' answer.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings Memo: April 8, 2003

The meetings were called to order by President Carolyn Newbern. March Minutes and Treasurer's report were approved.

Carolyn announced the Volunteer Manual had been released. It contains history, information about Extension, specifics about Pulaski County, etc., and will be a great reference. Also, a master copy of the guidelines and policies for officers and committee chairs will be kept at the state office.

Pete Rausch, LR Forester, reported for the Memorial Fund that one Lace Bark Elm, one Service Berry, one Washington Hawthorne have been selected.

Sustainer status for Master Gardeners is being considered at the State level. A decision by the Advisory Board will be made by April 28-29.

Regarding Metro District Containers, Mary Freeman reported that planting will be sometime soon, on a weekday.

The Keep Arkansas Beautiful luncheon is April 30. There are two MG projects that are finalists.

Breck Campbell and Howard Stephens have met with community members about Oak Forest Community Center, a new project. Master Gardeners will assist two Saturday mornings per month.

Any changes to roster of membership, project committees, etc. should go to Beth. One new change is the deletion of the Saturday roving crew. Saturday folks will be assigned to specific projects.

The Board is considering a "MG Classified" announcement. It would be a once a year notification to allow MG's only to advertise gardening related items they want to sell.

Mrs. McKinney retired March 31. The Board voted to make her an Honorary Lifetime Master Gardener. She will be a guest of honor at the May picnic where she will be presented with a card and a monetary gift from the members.

Carolyn Newbern and Jane Druff will go to the Southeast District MG Meeting in DeWitt, Saturday, April 12 at noon. Members are encouraged to attend.

The National Tour Association will have their 2004 convention in Little Rock, March 24 - 29, 2004. Start planning now to ensure our MG Projects will look great at that time. A good impression on these tour directors, who have the authority to book tours, could lead to more tours to Little Rock.

Camp Aldersgate has asked us to support a one day project. Nancy Kirsh will get more information from Camp Aldersgate. Volunteer hours will be counted as community outreach. Camp Aldersgate will also submit an application to become a project for the August review.

Friend of Master Gardener Nomination for the state meeting is almost complete. Jane Druff and Carolyn Newbern will re-work the last paragraph.

Discounts for MG at local nurseries were discussed. Local nurseries that provide this benefit need to contact Beth Phelps. An announcement of participating nurseries will be made in the Master Minutes.

Name Tags: A star on a name tag designates a new Master Gardener. Please be sure to welcome them at our meetings and functions.

Education hours were discussed. The rule is that 20 learning hours are required each year, even for new Master Gardeners.

Summer Board meetings will be held in July and August on the second Tuesday. August will be the project review meeting.

The magazine, "Active Years", has indicated they want to feature Master Gardener projects and MG personal gardens in their publication. Give any suggestions to Beth Phelps.

War Memorial project needs some help or more committee members. Currently, there are only three members on that committee. Tell Beth Phelps if you are interested in helping.

Wednesday, May 14, from 11 am until 1:30 pm, will be Pulaski County Days at the River Market. The theme is Volunteerism. Many county officials will be visiting the River Market throughout the day. They are responsible for budgeting the Extension Office. The PCMG will have a table with brochures and membership applications.

Future programs include Audubon Society in May, Zoo in June, West Nile Virus in Sept.

Social committee Susan Crisp announced the May picnic will be at the new ballroom at the Governor's mansion May 15 at 6 pm. There will be linen tablecloths and special dishes cooked by the chef. Dress is dressy casual. Cost is \$20 per person. After dinner is a tour of the grounds.

Anyone looking for a roommate for the state meeting, call Beth.

Dick Blankenbecker introduced our speaker, Caroll Guffey, Jr., a Forester with Extension at the U of A in Monticello. The topic was Firewise Landscaping. He gave many useful tips and information about landscaping around homes that border on woodlands. Handouts showed planting in zones and provided suggested trees and plant material.

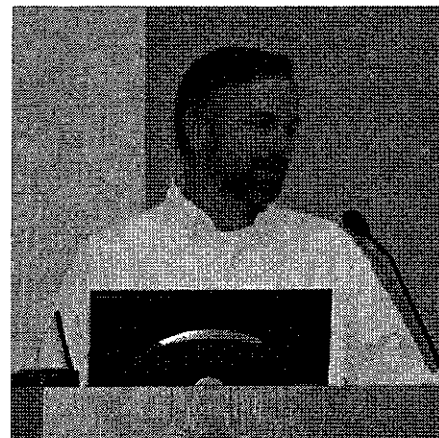


Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham

If you need a new name tag, please send a check to Pulaski County Master Gardeners to:

Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204.

Name tags are \$5.00 for pin back and \$7.00 for magnetic backs.

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for May:

Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except 5th Thursday of the month)

Curran Hall: Mondays & Saturdays @ 9:00am

Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 9:00am

Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am

PC County Extension: May 19 @ 9:00am

State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Arkansas Gardener

To list your gardening activities in the Calendar of Events section of the Arkansas Gardener magazine, send all information at least two months before the event to: theteam@cox-internet.com. Be sure to include the date, time, place, and a contact person (with a phone number & e-mail address).

If you are interested in writing opportunities or have an idea of a garden to be featured in Arkansas Gardener, contact:

Alex Kent, Associate Editor at:
318-255-3149.

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair.

Applications for The State Master Gardener Meeting, May 19-21, 2003 in Searcy, and for The International Master Gardener Meeting in the Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky area in June, 2003 are available online.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

Master Gardener Website: www.uaex.edu

Username: mastergardener,
password: compost

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural - related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to:
Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Lois Clifton
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Lee Wilson
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
Lou Sanders

Pulaski County Master Minutes

June, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 14, Issue 5



The Versatile Begonia By Sharon Davis

Begonias are an incredible family of plants with an infinite variety of good looks, habits and uses. They are known for their foliage and large volume of blooms with colors ranging from white

through all shades of pink to orange and red, with the occasional yellow. Many are known for their continuous flowering while others have flowering periods of up to six months or more. There are over 2475 different species and cultivars of the genus grown worldwide. Begonias are the most diverse of all the plant families and will grow in your home, garden, greenhouse, container pot or terrarium.

A few basic facts concerning begonias:

1. Begonias are succulent perennials, shallow rooted and thus do not interfere with other garden plants. Because they are succulents they need less frequent watering than many other plants. They are able to hold moisture for long periods. They do not like wet feet doing well in dry conditions.
2. They are so diverse in type, form and habit that there is a begonia for just about every application—full sun to full shade. They are a remarkably hardy plant (not winter but Arkansas hardy) and will adapt to a wide range of conditions.
3. They prefer slightly acid soil; therefore, make an excellent plant for azalea beds.
4. They carry both male and female flowers on the one plant but the sexes flower at different times. Begonia leaves are always asymmetrical (out of balance) and the leaves are as beautiful as the flowers.
5. Begonias do not like being over-potted, so pot selection is important. Choose a pot that comfortably accepts the root ball or tuber.

There are so many begonias, and they are so very diverse in appearance and habit, that they have been classified into eight (8) distinct groups: Semperflorens, Cane-like, Shrub-like, Trailing/scandent (climbing), Rhizomatous, Rex, Tuberous, and the rare Thick-stemmed begonias.

In the South, we are most familiar with the first four groups of begonias:

1. Semperflorens begonias—often referred to as the bedding begonia or the wax plant. They are much used in public and home gardens as bedding plants and are at their best when mass planted. They will grow in full sun (those with bronze leaves) to full shade in a full range of temperatures—but may

need some protection from the afternoon sun. In too deep shade they will grow leggy seeking the light. They are prone to powdery mildew so should be watered in the morning for the leaves to be dry by night. They benefit from tip pruning as well as hard pruning (1 inch above ground) followed by a fertilizer application. New growth will appear in a few weeks and they will be as good as new.

2. Cane-like begonias—also known as tree or “angel wing begonias,” grow upright and do not branch readily. Available in many varieties from low growing to quite tall these begonias are one of the best plants for garden use. Characterized by their beautiful flowers and foliage, these plants have bamboo-like stems that have swollen nodes and long internodes. They are happiest out of doors needing a high light level and direct sunlight till noon for best flowering results. Cane-like begonias are deep-rooted plants and if grown in containers they must be deep enough for roots and new growth. They must be taken into the house (or garage) for Arkansas winters where growth ceases in the cold weather and fertilizers should be withheld. Prune in late winter or early spring. Remarkably disease free.



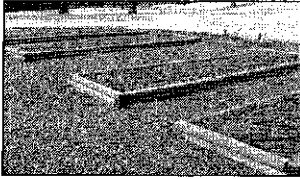
3. Shrub-like begonia—grows into a shrub-like plant and may be pruned to shape quite readily. They are characterized by their beautiful flowers and foliage and are an ideal garden or hanging basket plant. There are shrub-like begonias, which grow well in heavy shade, the strong light of dappled sunshine, and in morning sun. They make good indoor plants but need a well-lighted position. To avoid wet feet, they need well-drained garden soil or shallow squat pots if grown for patio or the house. Pinch pruning should be carried out at all stages of growth in order to produce a pleasing and compact plant.

.....Continued on page 6.....

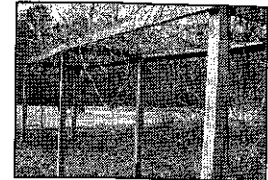
Photos of Begonias sold at the Greenhouse Sale in April, 2003, and Begonias used for the cuttings this spring at the Greenhouse courtesy of Steve Corley.

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.



Best in Show



CAMMACK FRUIT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The local showcase for fruits developed by the University of Arkansas By Ann Green

[Author's note: For a detailed history of the land upon which the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project is located, read Julia Loyall's article in the July 2001 issue of *Master Minutes*.]

To reprise that article somewhat, this Master Gardener project sits on acreage that is rich in history, first inhabited by a freed slave in 1867 as a homesteader for 34 years, then passing through the hands of a Judge from 1901 to 1921 when it was purchased by Wyley Dan Cammack for his wife. Cammack was a real-estate developer who sold the property that became Cammack Village, an FHA housing development, and which remains an incorporated entity within Little Rock proper.

What began as a two-room cabin with a dog-trot passageway between the rooms, the air conditioning of that day, and a double-sided stone fireplace, a means of heating inside and cooking outside, was enlarged by each succeeding property holder until it can no longer be called a "log cabin" but rather a "log home," ending up with even a ballroom and double staircase with overlooking balustrade.

These remaining 40 acres were a generous donation (deeded over to the University of Arkansas for \$1) by Kate Gaines Broadus Cammack in 1957, to be used for Arkansas cultural education. At that time, the land was heavily wooded and the log house was quite hidden from view as one drove up North University Avenue.

Nowadays, the Cammack Family would be hard put to recognize their land. Much of it has been cleared; a two-story brick residence sits in the northeast corner of the property and is the home of Dr. B. Alan Sugg, President of the University of Arkansas System, and his wife. A handsome brick administration building and separate offices for the groundskeepers have been completed. Smack dab in the middle of all this is the Cammack Fruit Demonstration Project.

Begun as a Master Gardener project in 1997, fruits which have been developed by the University of Arkansas are featured. Fruit cultivars developed or co-developed by James N. Moore at the University of Arkansas are numerous. Included in our Cammack project are his thornless blackberries, Navaho in 1989 and Arapaho in 1992. He also developed the Pink Cascade Weeping peach, a 1993 umbrella-shaped ornamental which is showcased in this garden along with a Bonfire Dwarf peach. Four strawberry beds have berries that overlap in bearing, thereby extending the fresh strawberry crop: Earliglow, Cardinal, Delmarvel and Lateglow. Two muscadines, Isom and Sweet Jenny, have been trained to cover an arbor. Two types of blueberries are grown: the Southern Highbush (Ozarkblue and Summit) and Rabbiteye (Tifblue and Climax). Dr. Moore's work was carried on by Dr. John Clark who has been succeeded by current UA fruit specialist, Dr. Keith Striegler. All of the fruit originally planted by the University of Arkansas in 1997 was under the supervision of Dr. Clark. Various catalogs offer some Arkansas-developed fruits; for example, Stark Brothers has recently offered the Ozarkblue blueberry.

Ann Ward (who receives her 15-year Master Gardener pin this

year) was original committee chairman and has either chaired or co-chaired Cammack yearly until 2003. Her recollections of the garden's beginnings and her description - "like a different world" - included the freedom of the committee to plan and execute flower border design ideas while being caretakers of the fruits. When the committee first began digging the areas for the flower borders, they discovered that the site had been a dumping ground sometime in the past before anyone had regular waste disposal services. At that time, households would pick a spot a little distance from the house, preferably hidden in a wooded area, to discard items no longer usable. Various "artifacts" were dug up, including bedsprings and bits of glass and crockery.

Master Gardeners, still active, who have been part of the Cammack Committee include: Stewart Bell (00), Rose Crane (00), Susan Crisp (99-00), David Dodson (98), Charles Emerson (97-98), Jim Gray (97-00), Ann Green (99-03), Joan Humphries (99), Dawn Jackson (98), Delores LeCompte (01-02), Ruth Owings (98-03), Lynn Phelps (01-02), Billie Sanders (97-00), Don Smith (02), Ann Ward (97-02), and Kathleen Wesson (00). [If a Master Gardener who is still active has been omitted, please call either Ann or Ruth because we want our records to be as complete as possible.] Currently, Ann Green and Ruth Owings are co-chairs and new Master Gardeners on the Committee are Fran Ables, Phyllis Colclasure, Sharl Hill, Gay McDaniel, Adrienne Reece and Mary Vancura, all "Class of 03."



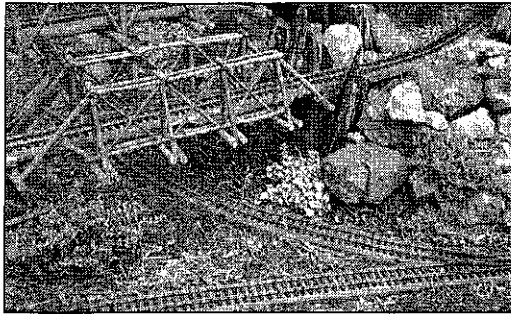
We have had colorful mixtures of annuals and perennials in flower borders both north and south of the fruits each year. Current plans are to begin to include as many Arkansas Select plants as possible in the future. We usually have two to four big workdays per year. Early spring finds us pruning the fruits, followed by digging up end-of-season annuals and setting out new plants, and most of the garden needs a new blanket of mulch each year. Other workdays concentrate on weeding, especially the strawberry beds, and around the edged perimeter.

While this project may be off the beaten path, so to speak, because it is not seen by the general public, if any of you Master Gardeners come and visit, we think you will find it delightfully serene and serendipitous.

Landscape Makeover with a Plan By Helen Hronas

Photos of 2003 Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs Spring Tour Homes By Lynn Winningham

It takes a plan...



When we downsized into our cozy little ranch style home seven years ago, the landscape

consisted of five trees, one exhausted azalea, a huge expanse of sloped, pie-shaped lawn, and a row of square lollipop shaped foundation shrubs marching across the front of the house and completely obscuring the entrance. The setting held promise, but where to begin for a couple who dislike mowing and yearn for a welcoming, colorful, but easy care cottage style profusion? (Assess what you have; outline your goals.)

We had to begin with the "bones," and over these past seven years, our landscape plan evolved (and is still evolving) into our dream. We drew a detailed, to-scale landscape plan. We eliminated two thirds of the lawn by the establishment of large, softly curved beds encompassing all the trees and the most sloped (hard to mow) parts of the yard. Round Up and black lawn fabric eliminated the lawn within the beds and the two beds in the front yard were outlined in liriope and filled with tons of mulch. Luckily, a friend in the tree removal business was happy to use our driveway as a dump for his chopped trees, and our neighborhood park compost corner yielded more free mulch. These plots were left in a natural state while we gradually added plantings to fill in. One spring we planted 21 tiny Fashion azaleas beneath the pine and oak trees where they now have completely filled in. The coral pink azalea color looks beautiful with our antique brick home.

That first spring we cut back the foundation hollies to about 1-1-1/2 foot in height and let them start all over. In no time they had rounded, natural shapes that softened the front of the house. Thereafter, we clipped them slightly slanted so sun could reach the lower limbs and avoid the leggy look. The tiny concrete front entrance porch was doubled in size, covered in brick, with semi-circular brick steps leading to the curved brick sidewalk which ends at the driveway's edge. Dwarf Yaupon hollies flank the steps and call attention to the newly visible expanded entrance.



Zemann Garden

In another of the large beds, an old concrete birdbath was placed beneath two pines, flanked by rhododendrons and a

delicate Japanese maple. Ground covers of tiny ivy and vinca minor cover most of this large bed, with two of the corners devoted to flowering perennials. Purple Homestead verbena is a prolific and colorful, dependable friend and is used for continuity in various spots around the garden. Shady areas abound with different varieties of hostas, impatiens, toad lily, Japanese anemone, and blue pulmonaria. The ground covers, mulch, and other plantings leave little room for weeds to pop up. Pots of seasonal annuals accent the beds and give the opportunity to easily change things when the beds get that tired look.

Few plans develop without a boo-boo or two, and our plan was no exception. Before we knew of the problems associated with Bradford pears, we installed four of them, never realizing how large they would become in so short a time! (Do your research on each plant before you buy them! Eventual size, longevity, health and insect problems, drainage/sunlight requirements, color, etc.) Even so, they are lovely trees and so far have not suffered the broken limbs they are so prone to have. A smaller mishap has been the belated discovery that obedient plant was very invasive, and in frustration, it has been dubbed "disobedient" plant!

Since I've met very few plants that I don't like, I have profusion in the back yard, and at some point must decide to remove something before adding anything new! (However, I haven't gotten to that point yet!) Our main problem in the back yard was the perfectly serviceable storage building in the far corner which could only be described as UGLY. Unfortunately, it was the focal point from our sunroom windows, so something had to be done. First we built a large wooden trellis across one side and installed a prolific red Dortmund climbing rose, which quickly covered the side of the building as well as going up over the roof. An old fashioned single climber with white centers, its only drawback is its enormous thorns. Loropetulum, autumn joy sedum, iris, common phlox, and other



perennials serve as foundation plantings. _____ Leggett Garden

A garage sale find of an old basement window inspired the idea of making the building more cottage-like. I painted white, ruffled curtains on the back side of the panes, filling in the background in a deep brown, giving it depth, and attached it to the front of the windowless building. An old metal basket became a window planter, and is filled with pansies in winter or sweet potato vine in summer. The featureless white door needed help. I measured and penciled the outline of a panel door, then faux painted and shaded the panels with an arched window at the top using acrylic paint in a butter pecan color which I had also used for the window frame. The door was sealed with a clear spray paint to preserve it which has held up for four to five years, so far.

Back yard fencing was another headache, as neighbors had already installed yards and yards of ubiquitous chain-link and there was no screening for privacy or unsightly views. Our only



Calendar By Ruth Jones



Introducing Mike Blakely
By Dick Blankenbeker

June

- 3 Tour of 5 Master Gardeners' gardens + bonus gardens.
- 6& 7 Hot Spring Daylily Society, 2003 Arkansas State Garden Tour
Garvin Woodland Gardens 1-800-366-4664.
- 7 Wildwood for the Performing Arts Garden Series,
Wildflower Gardening by Carl Hunter. 10:00am. Information
@ 821-7275.
- 7 7th Annual "Through the Garden Gate Tour", Fayetteville.
Cost \$10. 479-444-6170.
- 7 Wildflower Wanderings, Lake Charles State Park.
870-878-6595.
- 10 Pulaski County Master Gardeners Meeting,
Tuesday at 12:00pm at the State Extension Office
Auditorium, 2301 S. University, Little Rock.
- 14 Wildwood for the Performing Arts Garden Series,
Designing Your Garden. 10:00am. Information @ 821-7275.
- 18-22 International Master Gardener Conference,
Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky
Registration Info - Mike Walton@ 1-740- 524-4123
fax 1-877-848-4123, email - mwalton@walcom.com
website - <http://mastergardener.osu.edu/imgc2003>
- 19 Wildflower & Butterfly Seminar at Garvin Woodland Gardens.
10:00 a.m. 800-366-4664.
- 21 Wildwood for the Performing Arts Garden Series,
Maintaining your Garden. 10:00am. Information @ 821-7275.
- 21-24 Mount Magazine Butterfly Festival, Mount Magazine State
Park. 479-963-8502.
- 28 Wildwood for the Performing Arts Garden Series,
Summer Bloom. 10:00am. Information @ 821-7275.

July

- 8 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting Tuesday
at 12 noon. at the State Extension Office Auditorium,
2301 S. University
- 26 Iris rhizome sale by Central Arkansas Iris Society,
8:00 a.m. Little Rock Garden Center, 1501 Kavanaugh.

Master Gardener Advanced Training class
Myths and Methods of Disease and Pest Management
River Valley Master Gardeners
June 23, 2003, in Fort Smith
Cost is \$20 per person.
Registration information: Master Gardener Only website @
Advanced Training
Or call the Sebastian Co. Extension Office at (479-484-7737)

The Arkansas Highway Department encourages you to check out "Operation Wildflower" on highways 7, 49, 62, 70, 71, and 167.

Mike Blakely, Little Rock Zoo Director, since September 1999, will be our guest speaker at the June 10, 2003 Master Gardener meeting. Prior to coming to Little Rock, he was the Executive Director of Wildlife Safari, a 600 acre drive-through game park in southern Oregon, for four years. Mike has also worked at the Portland Zoo for three years, the Oklahoma City Zoo for ten years and the Kansas City Zoo for fifteen years. His thirty-six year career offers extensive experience in both municipal and private settings.

Regaining the Little Rock Zoo's accreditation with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association was one of the top priorities on Mike's list when he arrived in Little Rock. "It was necessary to regain credibility in the industry and the community" Mike said. "If we are going to reach corporate partners, the Zoo must be both a professional, accredited zoological institution and a successful tourist attraction". Having been a member of two accreditation inspection teams, Mike's experiences proved to be invaluable as the Little Rock Zoo sought to regain its accreditation. All of this became a reality when the LR Zoo was accredited by the AZA in September 2001. "This gives the LRZ a dynamic potential", Mike said. "We are certainly on the verge of a renaissance here at the LRZ".

Mike also was an integral part of Kansas City Zoo's \$76 million expansion. With this background, he was a valuable asset in the creation of the Little Rock Zoo's new master plan. This plan, completed last fall, provides the direction the Zoo needs to build a "state of the art" facility, a zoo all of Arkansas can be proud of.

The Zoo's current project is the "African Veldt", a naturalistic exhibit depicting the grasslands of that region of the world. It is Mike's hope that this new display will give the people of Little Rock and Arkansas a vision of the future of the Little Rock Zoo, a zoo that will be world-class and will contribute greatly to the future of Arkansas.

Mike has been married to Nancy for the past twenty years. They have two children, Beth who is 14 years old, and Tom who is 10 years old.

In addition to serving as 2nd Vice President of the Master Gardener Board, Dick Blankenbeker is an active member of the Greenhouse and Old Mill Committees.

"Arkansas Home Grown Market"
April through October 6:30am
Tuesdays - YWCA 12th and Cleveland
Thursdays - Lakewood Village
Saturdays - Second Presbyterian Church



JUNE CHECKLIST By Rose Hogan

WEED PREVENTION TIPS

Prevention begins with learning to identify your weeds. Learn to hoe and hand weed effectively. Do frequent "weed checks" in your garden. Mulch exposed soil and pathways early to stop weeds before they start.

Weed around all your plants. If this presents physical problems, space the work out. Do one or two areas a day and then rest. Keep the weeds under control and remove before they flower. Setting seed is a major way that weeds stick around and cause more work for the gardener.

Annual weeds produce thousands of seeds. They are carried in the wind, by people and animals and each seed develops into more weeds. To break this cycle, don't ever allow annual weeds to go to seed. Get rid of them when they first begin sprouting (usually after a rain).

Perennial weeds need to be dug up by the root. If you don't get the entire root, the weed will grow back. They grow on reserve energy until the new shoots reach sunlight. If you can continue to catch these before they get too high they will use up all their reserve energy and will eventually die.

WATERING TIPS

Watering is a pretty simple concept: ensure the garden has enough moisture to grow to its full potential. There are, however, a couple of things you need to think about. Water before plants start to wilt, by the time the plants show signs of dehydration their growth has slowed and the plants may even be damaged. Try to ensure the garden has a continuous water supply throughout dry periods. Pay particular attention to greenhouses, baskets, tubs and pots. When watering ensure the moisture gets deep into the soil not just onto the surface.

GENERAL YARD CARE

Pick up all leaves and faded flowers and add them to the compost. These are a favorite hiding spot for slugs and snails. Turn and dampen your compost often. Flies will breed in the grass clippings if you do not turn it regularly.

TIPS FOR BULBS

In early June divide narcissus bulb clumps. If you decide to store bulbs rather than leaving them in the ground, remember to replant in late summer or early fall.

Divide grape hyacinth bulbs to increase next year's production. These bulbs increase rapidly. Squirrels consider these bulbs a delicacy. If they are planted with daffodils the squirrels will leave them alone.

Plant gladioli in early June. These bulbs will flower in about three months. To deter thrips, soak the bulbs in a mixture of two tablespoons of disinfectant to a gallon of water for 3 hours before planting them.

TIPS FOR FLOWERS

Watering and feeding is of utmost importance. Do not forget the

plants when you are suffering from a heat wave or low humidity. It is amazing how much water can be pulled up from the ground in a very short time. Check your beds daily, watering in the early morning so that they are fresh under the hot afternoon sun.

Pick the faded flowers off fuchsia as they start to wilt. This will force more blooms. Control aphids by washing with the water hose.

Feed roses with a complete fertilizer in June. Weed well. Remove faded blooms and sucker shoots as they come. Watch for aphids, mildew and blackspot. Deadhead and lightly prune roses regularly throughout the summer. Prune a small amount off the stem after each flower has finished to encourage more blooms. When pruning always remember to cut above a stem with five leaves.

TIPS FOR FRUIT

Make sure that grass around your fruit trees is kept short. Grass deprives the trees of nitrogen.

Pick strawberries as soon as they ripen for the fullest flavor.

Don't be alarmed if immature apple trees lose some of their fruit. This is known as "June drop". Thin the fruit out even more when it is a little smaller than the size of golf ball. Leave one apple from each cluster and you'll get a better quality crop.

TIPS FOR VEGETABLES

Harvest your lettuce, peas, carrots, radishes and onions now.

The time of day vegetables are harvested can make a difference in the taste and texture. For sweetness, pick peas and corn late in the day. That's when they contain the most sugar. Other vegetables, such as lettuce and cucumbers, are crisper and tastier if you harvest them early in the morning before the day's heat has a chance to wilt and shrivel them.

Plant other quick maturing vegetables or plant more of these varieties for continuous growth.

Continue to thin out your lettuce plants. They should be about a foot apart.

Lift early potatoes now. To avoid damaging them use a fork.

TIPS FOR Lawns

Water lawns regularly. Deep water lawns, trees and shrubs to encourage deep rooting and avoid heat stress. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

Set your lawnmower at a higher level. Taller grass will shade the roots from heat. Don't forget to save your clippings for the compost pile. Never add your cuttings after a weed treatment. Install new edging around borders and beds and check existing edging after storms. Don't install edging after long periods of rain because the ground will swell and once it dries the edging will move.

.....Continued on page 7.....



What Works! By Sharon Davis The Versatile Begonia By Sharon Davis

Continued from page 1....

An all natural pest control is Diatomaceous Earth. Just sprinkle around your house and yard and it will keep unwanted pests away. It takes a little while to take effect. You can buy a large amount from the Home Depot for under \$10. Use twice a year.

Paul McDonnell

White vinegar will kill weeds in driveways, sidewalks, and bricks. So will household bleach.

Anonymous

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. Spread the dirt from your garden, share tips from magazines, television, and friends. You can jot down your hints at the monthly meeting or send them to Beth Phelps at the Extension Office. Although not a requirement, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Trading Post: The Plant and Seed Exchange By Sharon Davis



- Wincie Hughes wants *Rosa laevigata*, Cherokee Rose. (758-5271)
- Kim Cartwright wants *Impatiens*, Touch-me-not, seed. (758-7587)
- Marie Hickinger has *Vinca Minor*, Common Periwinkle. (758-4202)
- Mary Vancura wants 'toads.'
- Dorothy Veirs has iris.
- Paul McDonnell has *Aralis Spinosa*, Devil's Walking Stick
- Kandy Jones wants any shade plants!!
- Suzanne O'Donoghue has Bearded Iris.
- Betty Glascock has water garden equipment used for three months. Performance Pro Artesian Pump- 4000 gallon per hour. Oase Bio Clear 5 Filter. Vacuum Bottom Drain. (666-2547)

Feel free to bring your extra plants to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit your plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care instructions for your plant. However, if you want to guarantee a swap, please use the Trading Post.

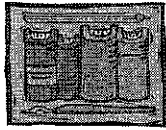
4. Trailing/scandent (climbing) begonias—make wonderful hanging baskets, can be used as climbers to cover fences and archways, and are effective as ground cover in shaded locations. Filtered sunlight seems to be best for most of this group. Choose hanging baskets with a reasonable depth to allow for an ample root system, free draining, with a slow release fertilizer. They seem to dry out much more rapidly and need more frequent watering due to the large leaf areas of the adult plant. Put two or more plants in the one container and tip prune to encourage branching. After flowering the plant should be pruned quite hard to encourage thicker growth for next season. The "Cucumber Begonia" (B. Convolvulacea) a sprawling plant with large lime green irregularly shaped leaves and tiny white blooms makes a marvelous hanging basket

The following three groups are seen often in Arkansas but need cooler weather and must be brought into the house during the hottest part of the summer and during winter months.

1. Rhizomatous begonias—the primary feature being a rhizome, which is a swollen stem, from which leaves and flowers arise directly. These begonias are hardy, do not tolerate direct sunlight, need well-drained soil, prefer a shallow or squat pot or basket if grown in a container. They do well in the garden in cooler climates but would make better houseplants in Arkansas. The "Beefsteak begonia" is commonly seen in Arkansas homes.
2. Rex begonias—are rhizomatous in habit but have distinctive beautifully patterned and colored leaves. They are happiest when used as indoor plants in a well-lit area (fluorescent lights, strong indirect sun or both) for they do not like dark places. A range of temperatures will suite them, the rule of thumb being that if you are comfortable then so will your rexes be. They need high humidity and air conditions and artificial heat must be offset with a source of humidity.
3. Tuberous begonias—have huge fabulous flowers. They are generally regarded as potted plants but may be grown in open gardens under shade trees in cooler climates. They make a beautiful addition to container pots. They do well in a well-lit area and do not like wet feet. Most are purchased as tubers or as plants. Tubers must be cleaned and stored for the winter in a cool dry place.

NOTE: The shrub-like Dragon Wing Begonia has been selected as an "Arkansas Select Plant" for hardiness in Arkansas weather. It is a prolific bloomer with beautiful green foliage in even the largest containers. It blooms all summer on cascading heat-resistant plants that grow 12 to 15 inches tall and 15 to 18 inches wide. It grows in full sun to light shade. Pinch prune for thicker bushier plants. Pruned pieces root easily by sticking them in damp soil. Outstanding plant for containers or beds. Both red and pink blooming plants are available.

Sharp, Peter G. Growing Begonias. Australia: Kangaroo Press, 1998. Peter Sharp wrote a very informational and practical book on the growing, care and propagation of all eight groups of begonias. He included pictures and suggested plant selections from each group.



Book Review By Bonnie Nicholas

= = = Internet Pipelines

The Master Book of the Water Garden

The ultimate guide to designing and maintaining water gardens
By Philip Swindells \$29.95
2002
Little, Brown and Company 320 pages

I wish to become an aquaholic. This book has given me the greatest range of options. With all the rules to follow, Swindells interprets them as widely as possible.

The chapters include Water Garden Design, Building a Pool, Waterfalls and Streams, Container Water Features, Special Features (fountains, walkways, islands, lighting), Stocking the Pool (plant and fish directory), Water Garden Care, and ending with a general index, plant index, and credits. The book is full of beautiful color photographs and useful drawings.

There are problem-solving sections for each chapter. Swindells breaks down water feature care by seasons. At a glance, one understands the simple demands for spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Water gardening involves both the science and art of gardening. The basic principles to insure success are planning ahead, understanding what goes on in a pool, and knowledge of what is needed to make everything flourish. I encourage you to read this book and hire a professional. I plan to begin with a miniature waterscape and/or a self-contained fountain to learn the basics and see if my understanding is thorough enough to advance to the more grandiose.

This book includes an array of design options for every aesthetic, space, and budget in a practical and inspirational manner. This book gave me immeasurable pleasure. Enjoy!

The Hot Springs Daylily Society
2003 Arkansas State Garden Tour
June 6 & 7, 2003
Four member garden tours
Entrance to Garvan Woodland Gardens
Friday evening program featuring Luke Senior, Jr.
President of the American Hemerocallis Society
Questions or more information:
Bob Byers, 501-262-9611 rbyers@hsnp.com
or Kay Shearer 501-262-5789, kncshearer@hotmail.com

- American Begonia Society
<http://www.begonias.org/>
- The Little Rock Zoo Official Webpage
<http://www.littlerockzoo.com/>
- American Hemerocallis Society Official Webpage
<http://www.daylilies.org/daylilies.html>
- National Audubon Society
<http://www.audubon.org/>

June Checklist.....Continued from page 5

JUNE BLOOMS

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In addition to writing feature articles for the Master Minutes, Helen Hronas serves on the State Hospital Committee. Cheryl Kennedy volunteers for the Mater Minutes Staff and 3-Ps.



Book Review By Bonnie Nicholas

= = = Internet Pipelines

The Master Book of the Water Garden

The ultimate guide to designing and maintaining water gardens
By Philip Swindells \$29.95
2002
Little, Brown and Company 320 pages

I wish to become an aquaholic. This book has given me the greatest range of options. With all the rules to follow, Swindells interprets them as widely as possible.

The chapters include Water Garden Design, Building a Pool, Waterfalls and Streams, Container Water Features, Special Features (fountains, walkways, islands, lighting), Stocking the Pool (plant and fish directory), Water Garden Care, and ending with a general index, plant index, and credits. The book is full of beautiful color photographs and useful drawings.

There are problem-solving sections for each chapter. Swindells breaks down water feature care by seasons. At a glance, one understands the simple demands for spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

Water gardening involves both the science and art of gardening. The basic principles to insure success are planning ahead, understanding what goes on in a pool, and knowledge of what is needed to make everything flourish. I encourage you to read this book and hire a professional. I plan to begin with a miniature waterscape and/or a self-contained fountain to learn the basics and see if my understanding is thorough enough to advance to the more grandiose.

This book includes an array of design options for every aesthetic, space, and budget in a practical and inspirational manner. This book gave me immeasurable pleasure. Enjoy!

The Hot Springs Daylily Society
2003 Arkansas State Garden Tour
June 6 & 7, 2003
Four member garden tours
Entrance to Garvan Woodland Gardens
Friday evening program featuring Luke Senior, Jr.
President of the American Hemerocallis Society
Questions or more information:
Bob Byers, 501-262-9611 rbyers@hsnp.com
or Kay Shearer 501-262-5789, kncshearer@hotmail.com

- American Begonia Society
<http://www.begonias.org/>
- The Little Rock Zoo Official Webpage
<http://www.littlerockzoo.com/>
- American Hemerocallis Society Official Webpage
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Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights: May 13, 2003, By Pat Green

Highlights of the May Meeting of the Board*

- q Minutes of the April meeting and the treasurer's report were approved.
- q Pulaski County Master Gardeners completed four large containers as examples for shade and sun plantings for the Metro area of Little Rock. City workers will use the examples and information provided for other containers.
- q The Pulaski County Extension project received an award from the Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission in the category of ornamentals. The award included a trophy and a cash prize of \$500 to be used at the project site.
- q Memorial trees are in place at MacArthur Park. Memorial plaques are to be added.
- q A 4-H group in Little Rock has requested assistance with funds to purchase a set of curriculum for the Junior Master Gardener Program. The board granted the \$100 request.

Highlights of the General Meeting of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners*

- q (See highlights of board meeting.)
- q Ann Ivey of the Little Rock City Beautiful Commission asked for our help in the Adopt-A-Street program and for nominations for colorful private gardens (visible to the public) to be recognized by the commission.
- q An Advanced Master Gardener course, Myths and Methods of Pest Management, will be offered in Ft. Smith on June 23rd.
- q Central Arkansas Water asked that we help spread the word on "Avoid The Peak" – avoid unnecessary water usage between 5 AM and 7 AM.
- q Ellen Fennell, Interim Director of Development for Audubon Arkansas, gave the program.

*Complete minutes and treasurer's report will be available on the display board at the June meeting.

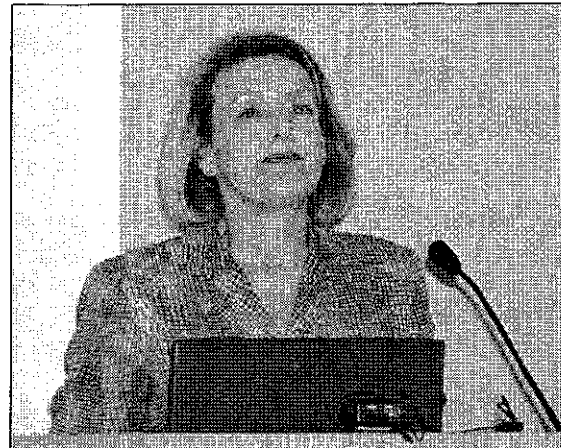


Lynn Winningham, a new Master Gardener, contributes photographs like the ones on this page regularly to Master Minutes. Officially, she serves on the 3-Ps and Old Mill Committees. The staff of the Master Minutes greatly appreciates her help.



Door prize winners at the May, 2003 meeting:

- Carolyn Morton – metal yard art
- Lois Corley – spring wreath
- Joann Janssen – *Poems & Pieces* by Carl Hunter
- Pat McDonald – 7 sisters rose from the Greenhouse
- Don Davis – License plate for volunteer hours drawing



Dick Blankenbeker introduced today's guest speaker, Ellen Fennell, Interim Director of Development for Audubon Arkansas. She was standing in for Ken Smith, Executive Director of Audubon Arkansas, who is recuperating from a heart attack.

Ms. Fennell, a Stuttgart native, has headed her own consulting firm and served in directorial positions for Heifer International, Winrock International, and The Nature Conservancy during a nineteen year career working for international non-profit organizations in the areas of agriculture and the environment. She earned a B.A. in English from Rhodes College in Memphis. She is also the daughter of Beverly Fennell, a former Master Gardener. Ms. Fennell reported on Audubon Arkansas' efforts to preserve wildlife areas in central Arkansas.

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for June:

Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except 5th Thursday of the month)

Curran Hall: Mondays & Saturdays @ 9:00am

Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 9:00am

Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am

PC County Extension: June 19 @ 9:00am

State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

Applications for The International Master Gardener Meeting in the Cincinnati, Ohio/Kentucky area in June, 2003 are available online.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

Thank you message from Ethelyn McKinney:

What a wonderful surprise to make our dinner picnic at the Governor's Mansion Banquet Room so memorable. The food was great, the decorations were beautiful, and everyone made me feel so loved. Thanks so much for the nice big card, the flowers and the money! I love and miss you all.

Ethelyn McKinney

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural - related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to: Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bp Phelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Lois Clifton
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

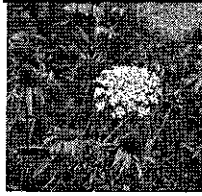
Pat Green
Lou Sanders

Pulaski County Master Minutes

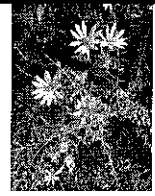
August, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 14, Issue 7



“Some Like it Hot: Plants That Take the Heat” Workshop presented by Garvan Woodland Gardens July 15, 2003 By Sharon Davis



With good directions, a friend and I ventured to Hot Springs to the one-day workshop presented by Garvan Woodland Gardens. The schedule began with a garden stroll and registration. The gardens were pleasant at eight in the morning and the “Flowering Border” was a rewarding introduction to the day of plant discussions ahead. Bob Byers, Garden Director, started the workshop off with “Designing for Summer Color in the Home Garden.” Using a handout of definitions and color slides to illustrate each of the landscape styles and components, he made the subject of garden design very understandable. He also did a simple demonstration of combining form, color, and texture in landscape design. By using plants placed on the tables for each participant, the audience selected plants to design a simple planting arrangement with Bob critiquing the work. One of the interesting outcomes of the demonstration was that participants seated to the right of the speaker liked the design while those to the left were dissatisfied with the results—demonstrating the importance of “view of the beholder.”

After a brief break, Shane Reynolds, Co-Owner, Reynolds Greenhouses, Hot Springs gave a presentation on “What’s In The Garden?” He outlined the best of garden flowers for this time of year using his years of experience growing plants. Plants were evaluated on the basis of their heat and drought tolerance, as well as, disease and pest resistance. Information included his favorite or star flowers, popular flowers for the area, new varieties, potential problems, and tips for keeping each of the plants doing their best. He provided a wealth of information that probably could/should be reviewed once a year for any gardener.

Lunch was provided by Café 1217 in a flowerpot and consists of a sandwich, potato salad, and the best brownie that you have ever put into your mouth. (We went to Café 1217 to purchase additional brownies to eat on the way home.)

The afternoon session began with Janet Carson, Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service giving a presentation on “Heat Loving Perennials.” Janet has a laid back method of presentation with a keen sense of humor that gives each plant a personality and brings gardening alive. She answered questions

and provided information on sunny and shady plants as well as plants that prefer moist or dry environments. The wet, cool spring and early summer was discussed along with its impact on plants. Again using slides to illustrate her points and plants, the presentation was a great compliment to the presentation by Shane.

At the end of the day Jeb Leggett, Owner, Custom Landscape, Mt. Vernon, Arkansas, gave a presentation on “Woody Plants for Summer Interest.” He provided a great deal of information on traditional and “new” trees such as height, shape, heat and drought tolerance, blooming characteristics, and fall foliage. Of special interests was the information on “new” trees that are being introduced into the area from other parts of the country. Many of these trees are not only heat and drought tolerant but can also tolerate the space and growing conditions imposed on them by “city life.” Jeb encouraged us to think “outside the traditional box” when selecting and planting trees.

This workshop was the brainchild of Bob Byers, Janet Carson and Robin Stergler, Group Sales Coordinator for Garvan Gardens and has been in the making since March of this year. They are currently planning to have two or three workshops or seminars per year with the next one scheduled for November 6 on “Japanese Maples and Fall Flowers.” Reservations are required and limited to 50 people so be sure and get you reservations for the fall seminar in early. (I have it on good authority that there were an additional 30 people on the waiting list for Tuesday July 15.)

Garvan Woodland Gardens is also planning their “First Annual Plant Sale for October 17 and 18, 2003. There will be a member’s only preview of plants on Friday the 17th and the sale will be open to the public on Saturday the 18th. The sale will feature many of the unusual or hard to get varieties of plants featured in the gardens.

For further information about Garvan Woodland Gardens, you may contact them at 1-800-366-4664, 501-262-9300, or at their e-mail address: info@garvangardens.org
Coneflowers and Queen Anne’s Lace at Pinnacle, Golden Glow Sunflowers in her garden courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

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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 Minutes

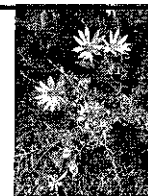
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Best in Show



The River Market Committee By Ellen Rouch

The River Market Committee is the perfect opportunity for Master Gardeners who work during the week. The committee meets every other Saturday from May until September. Committee members choose which Saturdays they wish to work. The hours of the project are from 9 until 12. There will normally be between four to six committee members working each Saturday. The Committee is shared by Claudia Barone and Laura Ann Wilson.

Typically, the Committee sets up a table in the area between the two covered pavilions at the River Market. Usually we are right by the dogs, the CARE is putting up for adoption. You have to be careful or the dogs will stare at you with their penetrating deep brown eyes and beg that you take them home with you. Additionally, we are often serenaded by young performing artists.

The Greenhouse Committee provides flowers that we try to give away. Some times the flowers are gone quickly, other times we have to plead with passersby to take the plants home. People have a hard time believing that we are giving the plants away for free.

Besides giving away plants, we provide advice to people who stop and ask questions. Sometimes the questions are quite simple, sometimes the committee members must consult on an answer, and sometimes we have to tell them to contact Beth.

Over the last couple of years, we have had a number of vegetable questions. Unfortunately, most of the committee members specialize in ornamental gardens. We can always use new volunteers with any level of experience on any topic.

Finally one of the most enjoyable parts being at the River Market is watching the crowds of people. Particularly we always enjoy talking to fellow Master Gardeners. So stop by and tell us "hello" the next time you are in the area.

Ellen Rouch is a staff writer for the Master Minutes in addition to serving on the River Market Clinic Committee.

Shannon Chamberlin will be reporting on the International Master Gardener Conference in a later issue this year. If you have information or pictures to share from Cincinnati, please contact Shannon: chamberl@cei.net by e-mail or 224-4904 by phone.

Curran Hall By Carolyn Newbern

Recently, Janet Carson brought her videographer to Curran Hall to film the gardens! She and I walked from front to back, talking about the reclamation and design process and about plant stock. She was particularly interested in filming the Clethera (summer sweet or sweet pepperbush), a new Arkansas Select plant which is in full bloom at the outside north corners of the front shrub borders. (Do go by to check them out--quite fragrant with lots of bees swarming around them.) She kept saying how mature the garden looks after just one year.

The video will be edited down to 8 - 10 minutes, to be aired anytime during the next year! They will give us advance notice, which I will pass on to you all. They also will provide a copy of the video (I'll try to get two, one for Master Gardeners and one for Curran Hall.)

After talking with Lloyd Mobley and Cathy Cerrato and viewing the interior of the facility, Janet said she will consider writing about Curran Hall for her monthly Democrat-Gazette article. No promises but what a great idea!

Thanks to all of you who have labored so hard to get the gardens in shape. They are showing off for you!

Carolyn Newbern

International Master Gardener Conference



Pulaski County Master Gardeners attend the conference in Cincinnati, Ohio in June, 2003.

Master Gardener Nominations for 2004

We will hold the election of officers for 2003 -2004 at our September 9th Meeting. New officers will take office at the October Master Gardener Meeting. The following is the slate of officers recommend by the nominating committee:

President: Nancy Kirsch
 First Vice President: Dick Blankenkemper
 Second Vice President: Sylvia Orton
 Secretary: Susan Crisp
 Treasurer: Mary Freeman
 Member-at-Large: Ila Newberry
 Member-at-Large: George Harper

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jane Druff, Paul McDonnell, and Marilyn Tilley

Pulaski County Regional Solid Waste District HHC Collection Facilities - beginning July 12:

Little Rock: 3403 W 33 St (off Roosevelt onto Brown St. to W. 33rd, across from the Pulaski Co Sanitation Dept.)
 Open Thursday 7 to 9:30 am and 4 to 6:30 pm and
 2nd Saturday of each month 7 am to noon.

North Little Rock, 12th & Willow Street (located just inside NLR Public Works Compound)
 Open Tuesday 7 to 9:30 am and 4 to 6:30 pm and
 3rd Saturday of each month 7 am to noon.

Jacksonville, 1300 Marshall Road (located at the Jacksonville Recycling Center)
 Open Wednesday 7 to 9:30 am and 4 to 6:30 pm and
 4th Saturday of each month 7 am to noon.

For questions call 340-8790 or visit www.pulaskiswdistrict.org

These items will be accepted:
 latex & oil based paints, paint solvents
 motor oil, gasoline & antifreeze
 common household cleaners - ammonia, bleach, disinfectants,
 cleansers, degreasers, oven & drain cleaners
 household & car batteries
 pesticides, herbicides, insecticides

Items should be in the original container & labeled. Only household quantities will be accepted. Only 20 (twenty) 1-gallon cans of paint and 5 (five) 5-gallon containers of any material will be accepted. No trailers will be accepted.

Waste from businesses, ammunition or other explosives will not be accepted.

Also available at the collection site is a Reuse Opportunity. Items turned in that are still usable will be given away. So if you need some paint & don't care what color - go visit & see if you can find what you need - for FREE!

Master Gardener Fall Trip

Missouri Botanical Gardens
 St. Louis Zoo
 Union Station

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Travel Committee has put together a fall trip to St. Lois. This time of the year the foliage in Northern Arkansas will be beautiful! The trip is open to friends and other Master Gardeners. Please note that because we have to make deposits no refunds will be made after August 21st.

WHEN: October 22-October 24.
 Depart: Second Presbyterian Church at 8:00A.M.
 Return: October 24, 5 P.M.
 Deadline to register is August 21, 2003.

The first evening we will go to Union Station. It is full of entertainment and lots of restaurant choices, including a cafe built around a lake. You may view actual trains which traveled through this station and browse the many shops.

The next morning we will go to the beautiful gardens. We will begin with a ride around the gardens on a tram and then you will be free to view at your own pace. There are Japanese Gardens, Chinese Gardens, Domed Tropical Gardens and "real gardens" planted to show what you may do with your own garden. Admission fee is included with your registration.

The bus will be available at 1:00 p.m. to take you to the Zoo, Motel or any other point of interest in the area. For those who wish to stay longer, there will be a late pick up at 4:00 p.m.

A very nice group dinner has been planned for our last night. Some may prefer a baseball game or other points of interest. If we have 40 people attend your dinner will be included. With less than 40 travelers, dinner will not be included. (With fewer people the bus cost per person is more.)

This is a real bargain at \$239 so register early so you will not be left out. We are inviting Master Gardeners from around the state to join us. Make your check payable to: Pulaski County Master Gardeners and mailed to Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Office, 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204. Questions? Call Ila Newberry at 227 4395.

Mea culpa!



Congratulations to Nancy Wade and Ann Ward for receiving their 15 year pins. Ann Ward was erroneously identified as Ann Cooper in last month's Master Minutes. My sincere apologies.
 Libby Thalheimer



Calendar By Ruth Jones

Continuing Education Opportunities

August

- 6 PLT/WET/WILD. Yell County Conservation District, Danville. Contact sharon.underwood@ar.usda.gov, 479-495-2441
- 12 Pulaski County Master Gardener Board meeting only. There is no general meeting in August.
- 21 Arkansas Unit Herb Society of America program. 6:00p.m. "Helping Mediterranean Plants Feel More at Home in Captivity" at the Garden Clubs Center of LR.

September

- 9 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University.
- 24 Tour of Projects by Pulaski County Master Gardeners class of 2003.

October

- 1 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 2 Fall Gardening with Mary Evans. Info:666-0759
- 2 Master Gardener Advanced Training, "growing Roses" Independence County Master Gardeners.
- 2-6 Gardens of Savannah with Janet Carson
- 8 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 12 Central Arkansas Rose Society annual Rose Show, University Mall.
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.
- 15 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 22 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 29 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training

November

- 5 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 6 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans. Info: 6660759
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.

Ruth Jones compiles the calendar for the Master Minutes each month. She also volunteers on the Greenhouse Committee.

The Arkansas Highway Department encourages you to check out "Operation Wildflower" on highways 7, 49, 62, 70, 71, and 167.

Arkansas Home Grown Markets
 April through October 6:30am
 Tuesdays - YWCA 12th and Cleveland
 Thursdays - Lakewood Village
 Saturdays - Second Presbyterian Church

Arkansas Unit Herb Society of America DATE CORRECTION

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, August 21, 2003**, at 6:00p.m. to hear Tina Marie Wilcox present her program "Helping Mediterranean Plants Feel More at Home in Captivity" for the Arkansas Unit Herb Society of America. Tina is Head Gardener & Herbalist at the Ozark Folk Center and we are thrilled to have her. This will be a special evening meeting and will be held at the Garden Clubs Center of Little Rock at 1501 Kavanaugh, as usual.

This is an evening opportunity for Master Gardeners who need educational points. There is no charge, but seating is limited so you will need to RSVP.

RSVP 224-8134

Environmental Education Training Opportunities

- 1. PLT/WET/WILD Combined workshops. August 6, Yell County Conservation District, Danville. Contact sharon.underwood@ar.usda.gov, 479-495-2441

Master Gardener Advanced Training "Growing Roses"

Independence County Master Gardeners
Batesville, Arkansas
October 2, 2003

Optional 1/2 day of garden tours & evening program on October 1.

*Directions to the event will be sent to all MGs who register for this event.
 Cost: \$25 per person
 Program:
 Old Garden Roses and History - Gail Harley, Master Gardener Showing and Judging Roses, Paula Adlong, Certified Rose Judge
 Propagating Roses - Paul Adlong
 Growing Hybrid Tea Roses - Lynn Schmidt, Award winning rose grower
 English roses (David Austin) - Marie Fowler, Master Gardener
 Creative Ways with Roses - Verna Love, Master Gardener
 Optional day: touring local rose gardens. That evening a Dutch treat dinner with "Rose Mythology" presented by Marie Fowler
 Registration is limited, so get registrations in early.
 Send registration with your check to:

Independence County Master Gardeners
1770 Myers Street
Batesville, AR 72501



AUGUST CHECKLIST By Rose Hogan

I am tempted to refer you back to the July Checklist. I fear much of this list will be redundant but there will be some differences besides water, water, water.

GENERAL YARD TIPS

Water plants in the early morning to prevent mildew. Water according to the weather. Pay close attention to raised beds and container plants. Don't forget to moisten your compost regularly to prevent flies from breeding in it.

Continue to watch for and get rid of weeds before they go to seed. Hoe between rows and plants regularly.

TIPS FOR FRUIT

Remove suckers and old canes from blackberries as they appear.

Remove all but two runners on strawberry plants.

Water blueberries often during hot weather.

Continue to keep the grass short around your fruit trees. Grass deprives the trees of nitrogen.

Throw away any fruit you find that has been affected by fungus.

LAWN TIPS

Now is the time to feed lawns with a slow-acting fertilizer and to water in adequately. Cut your lawn and trim the edges regularly. After watering, lawn care in August is primarily mowing. Set your mower so you don't remove more than one third of the leaf blade at a time. Watch out for yellow patches, leaf curl or poor growth. Increase watering if you notice any of these signs.

FLOWER TIPS

To prepare a bed for wildflowers begin to prepare the soil now.

Remove the debris and weeds and mix in compost.

Sow seeds in October for spring flowers.

Lay the finished flower stalks of foxglove on the ground where you want new plants to grow or sprinkle the seeds from the dried pods.

Continue to keep the soil around your shasta daisies and ferns moist but not wet.

Also continue to water container plants daily, as needed. Make sure you have provided adequate drainage. Feed every two weeks.

Pick sweet peas regularly to encourage more blooms.

Early blooming perennials begin to decline in August. Many have completed their life cycles and are becoming dormant - not dying. Clean up the dead and dying leaves.

Do not prune spring blooming shrubs as azaleas and forsythia for they are now forming flower buds for next spring.



Now is the time to divide daylilies and iris by digging up the entire clump and removing the soil from the roots. Pull the crowns apart by hand or split with a knife. Replant the divisions 12 to 18 inches apart.

Iris at The Greenhouse by Steve Corley.

To encourage continual blooming, deadhead annuals, browallia, torenia, and verbena.

HERB TIPS

Gather herbs for drying as they mature. Harvest about once a week. Use sharp scissors or a garden knife when harvesting your herbs. If you're collecting leaves, cut the whole stem before stripping away the foliage. With small-leaved perennials, like rosemary and thyme, save only the leaves and discard the stems - or use them for potpourris. When harvesting herbs that spread from a central growing point, like parsley and sorrel, harvest the outer-stems or leaves first. If you're collecting leaves or flowers from bushy plants, do so from the top of the plant; new growth will come from below.

TIPS FOR VEGETABLES

Harvest cucumbers as they mature.

Seed winter vegetables now.

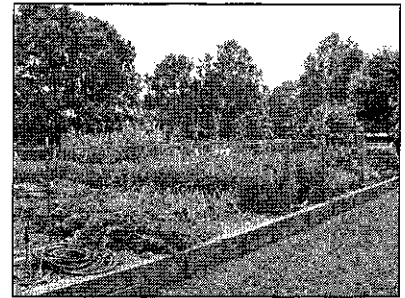


Photo courtesy of Linda Moyer from the state convention in Searcy.

AUGUST BLOOMS

Agastache, hyssop; *Ageratum*; *Alcea rosea*, althea; *Allium tuberosum*, garlic; anise mint; *Asclepias tuberosa*, butterfly weed; *Asters*; balsam; *Belamcanda chinensis*, blackberry lily; *Browallia*, bush violet; *Buddleja davidii*, buddleia; *Callicarpa*, beauty-berry; *Campsis*, trumpet creeper; *Cannas*; *Celosia*, cockscomb; *Chelone*, turtleheads; *Clematis*; *Cleome*, spider flower; *Clerodendron*; *Clethra alnifolia*, sweet pepperbush; *Crococsmia*, montbretia; *Crotalaria*; *Dahlias*; *Datura*, angel's trumpet; *Echeveria*; *Echinacea*, coneflower; *Eupatorium*; *Chrysanthemum parthenium*, feverfew; funkia; *Gaura*; *Gladioli*; *Hibiscus*; *Hosta*; *Hydrangea*; *Kerria*, Japanese rose; *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape (or crepe) myrtle; *Lantana*; *Liatris*, blazing star; *Linaria*, toadflax; *Lobelia*; *Lycoris squamigera*, spider lily; marigolds; *Mirabilis jalapa*, four-o'clocks; *Miscanthus*; *Mentha*, mint; *Monarda*, bergamot; *Ophiopogon*, mondo grass; *Nicotiana*, flowering tobacco; *Origanum*, marjoram; *Oxalis*, wood sorrel; *Pennisetum*, fountain grasses; *Phlox*; *Physostegia*, false dragon head; *Portulaca*, rose moss; *Rosa*, roses; *Rosmarinus*, rosemary; *Rudbeckia*, coneflower; *Salvias*, sage; *Euphorbia marginata*, snow-on-the-mountain; *Spirea*; *Tamarix*, tamarisk; *Tanacetum vulgare*, tansy; *Thymus*, thyme; *Torenia*, wishbone flower; *Polianthes tuberosa*, tuberose; *Veronica*, ironweed; *Veronicas*, speedwell; *Vinca*, periwinkle; *Zaphranthes grandiflora*, pink storm lilies; and *Zinnias*.



What Works! By Sharon Davis

Large self-watering boxes work very well in gardening. I have used two for several years for tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, parsley, and some other herbs and vegetables. They grow much better in these containers than in the ground and take up little space. These containers may be purchased. Two brand names include "Earth Box" and "Garden Way".

Jan Gauntt

If you install a Koi or goldfish pond, make only a small area 3 feet deep for your pump and fish safety. Make the remaining area shallower so you can easily step in and clean it.

Danny Murdaugh

If you install a Koi or goldfish pond, consider creating a shallow "beach" area. The butterflies (and other winged insects) can drink. Tadpoles like shallow areas to escape large fish. Very rewarding area.

Mary Evans

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. Spread the dirt from your garden, share tips from magazines, television, and friends. You can jot down your hints at the monthly meeting or send them to Beth Phelps at the Extension Office. Although not a requirement, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Arkansas State Horticulture Society Wiederkehr Vineyard and Winery Tour Day August 23, 2003

~ Guided bus tour of the Altus area vineyards and wineries to learn grape growing from the pros. Tour the wineries and see the grape processing techniques.

~ See winemaking in progress.

~ Taste the wines.

~ Limited to 55 people. Sign up as soon as possible.

Tour Price includes lunch at the Weingarten Restaurant.:

Horticulture Society Members: \$40. Nonmembers: \$50.

Horticulture Society Membership: \$20.00. Join now and save.

Note: Each society member may purchase two tickets at member price.

Tour starts at 9:00 a.m. Meet in the parking area at Wiederkehr Winery and board the bus.

Mail to: Arkansas State Horticulture Society
1749 State Hwy. 818
Clarksville, AR 72830

If you need more information, call 479-754-2406 or 479-468-1444.

Trading Post: The Plant and Seed Exchange By Sharon Davis



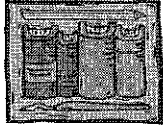
- Fran Lopata has extra Butterfly bushes ("Davida", "Nana Blue" and "Pink Delight") to give away. (501-223-8099)
- Ruth Jones has "Woodland Poppies" and "Jewel of Oprah" to give away. (501-664-8977)
- Lou Sanders has small Acuba, Liriope, Monkey Grass, and Japanese Roof Iris to give away. (501-221-9722)
- Dorothy Veirs has Chocolate and Orange Mint and Liriope to give away. (501-225-2106)
- Julia Loyall has "Mock Orange" cuttings to give away but they would do much better if you wait until cooler weather. (501-835-6810)
- Jan King has "Clary Sage," "Sweet Annie", and "Salvia Guianitica" to give away (501-758-3446)
- Aleta Newell wants hardy perennial plants or seeds for landscaping Camp Paron. There are beds in the full sun and in the shade, so whatever you have could probably find a good home here. Sharon Sloan of Camp Paron says they are particularly interested in herbs for their dining hall bed. Contact Aleta at 666-0991, or Sharon Sloan at 501-594-5257 to arrange a pickup.

Feel free to bring your extra plants to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit your plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care instructions for your plant. However, if you want to guarantee a swap, please use the Trading Post.

Hello Master Gardeners,

I hope everyone is having a great summer! We are trying to compile a CD that contains all of the handouts from the 2003 Arkansas State Master Gardener Meeting to send out to all counties. We would also like to add any photos you or someone from your county might have taken. If you have any digital photos of the state meeting that you would like to share, please email them to me! These photos will also be used as a promotional tool in various brochures and posters.

We appreciate your help! Thanks,
Jennifer Gibson
UA Cooperative Extension Service
Horticulture Assistant Specialist
Phone: (501)671-2231
Fax: (501)671-2303
jgibson@uaex.edu



Book Review By Bonnie Nicholas Dirt The lowdown on Growing a Garden with Style

By Dianne Benson

1994, 2000 ISBN: 0-595-00491-1
An Authors' Guild Backinprint.Com edition 377 pages
For information address: iUniverse.com, Inc.
620 North 48th St, Suite #201, Lincoln, Ne 68504-3467
www.iuniverse.com

Dirt was recommended by Pat Stover for me to review. It took six months to find the book. Recently back in print, you can get it from the Central Arkansas Library System (#37653 009 86 0688) or order it from any bookstore in the area.

Designer, writer, and once-owner of four highly innovative fashion stores called Dianne B.; Dianne Benson has been described as "A woman of fashion, a fabulous purveyor of words, stance, and attitude." She took up gardening with fervor twelve years ago at the East Hampton home (zone 7) she shares with her husband and their dogs.

With a unique style, Dirt digs with humor and depth into the fine art of gardening. It qualifies as a vivid, memorable gardening primer with everything you need to know from what to plant to what to wear.

Benson's favorite weeders and diggers are the fishtail weeder, weed slicer (Smith & Hawken), Cape Cod weeder, and the claw weeder (Walt Nicke's Original Magic Weeder). Her pruners include thinning shears (Smith & Hawken) and Felco No. 2, No. 7, and a Felco lopper. Felco because it is the Hermes of pruners.

She uses the Paw Paw's metal markers with a carbon pencil (some assembly required) to define plantings and serve as a reference for what's already in the ground. She also uses the markers to envision the next seasonal cycle.

Benson thinks plug-in drills (and extension cords) like the Super-Auger from Lagenback catalog makes planting thousands of bulbs effortless. Gloves like the French Gardening Glove from Gardeners' Eden at \$17.00 are a must. Pick a cart wisely – a two-wheeled yard cart with spoked pneumatic tires, but not too big. Then you'll need the Great Adjustable Rake from Walt Nike and Co. and a whisk broom.

Benson admires Carolus Linnaeus who dreamed up the sensible system for classifying and naming all our plants and trees. For nearly 250 years, the entire world has embraced his system because it works so well. The three-name description is truly universal and well worth our study. This book houses eight wonderful chapters. Benson covers topics like proper attire, never disregarding glamour; garden bones; gardening by theme and color; weeds and other pestilences; a year in the garden; catalogs; and what to plant. She completes the book with three appendices: Sources and Catalogs for Tools, Equipment, and Clothes; Sources for Specialized Situations and Good Garden Bones; and Where to Get What to Plant. A Glossary and Index are included.

This book was inspirational- a pure delight to read.

= = = Internet Pipelines

- The mission of Garvan Woodland Gardens is to be a botanical garden that is a resource center for those desiring to improve their aesthetic, cultural and scientific knowledge of plants, gardening, landscape architecture, and architecture within a Ouachita (Wash-uh-taw) Mountain woodland environment. Learn more at the website:
<http://www.garvangardens.org/>
- The Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers South Regional will be meeting in Fayetteville at the UA Plant Science Bldg. Auditorium Saturday afternoon, August 9, with a tour of Dripping Springs Garden on Sunday a.m., August 10. The event is open to the public and should be of interest to anyone who grows specialty cut flowers for market, or is thinking about this as a potential enterprise. The brochure and registration form are at the website
<http://www.ascfg.org>
- Carolyn Newbern was surfing the net and found a web page listing gardens, arboreta, nature sites all over US & Canada. To get information before traveling:
<http://www.botanique.com>
- Additional sites to check before traveling:
<http://www.gardenweb.com/>
<http://www.aabga.com/>

Avoid the Peak!

In case you haven't already noted, Central Arkansas Water has asked all citizens to avoid the peak morning hours when watering our yards, between 5:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on weekday mornings. This time is also household rush hour, when we are busy getting ready for the day.

Please re-set your water sprinkler time to:

- 3:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m., or
- 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

and Avoid the Peak!

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for August:
Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except
5th Thursday of the month)
Curran Hall: Mondays & Saturdays @
9:00am
Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 9:00am
Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am
PC County Extension: Aug 21 @ 9:00am
State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @
9:00am

There will be no general meeting in
August.

There are incentives to get Master
Gardeners to be timely, so remember for
the September meeting:

- Arrive early for the Master Gardener Meeting. When you are early, there are better parking possibilities and you are eligible for a door prize ticket. Although you may still sign in for education credit, no door prize tickets are given out after the meeting begins.
- Remember also to turn in your volunteer hours report at the meeting to qualify for the monthly drawing for the Master Gardener license plate. Reports may be mailed, but don't qualify for the drawing.
- If you wear your name tag to the meeting, you will be rewarded with treats.

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. Reselling the magazines helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service
Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative
Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural – related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter. Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to: Libby Thalheimer 5005 Crestwood Little Rock, Ark. 72207 Smell34@aol.com Or call her at 663-1151.

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bp Phelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
Lou Sanders

Pulaski County Master Minutes

September, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 14, Issue 8



Lessons from Loveland by Shannon Chamberlin

Greetings from Loveland, Colorado! Due to a false alarm in mid-July, my husband and I arrived here a couple weeks early for the arrival of our first grandchild. While we were waiting for the Big Event, we explored the city parks, finding two that might be models for new projects in Pulaski County. Both the Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Demonstration Garden and the Benson Sculpture Garden are worth noting.

Lesson One: Xeriscape Garden

Near the Loveland Civic Center, which includes City Hall, a Senior Citizens' center, the Public Library, a recreation center, a playground, and a delightful free-form man-made lagoon (with outdoor stage and concrete risers built into one end of it), is the **Jeff Peterson Xeriscape Garden**. Mostly native and naturalized plants chosen for hardiness and ease of care are attractively arranged along a curving concrete path. Large easily read signs identify the plant species and educate the public about the benefits of xeriscaping to conserve water and energy. In addition to informative permanent signage, there are colorful illustrated brochures that visitors can take home, to help them select appropriate plants for their own yards.

A few patches of several kinds of grasses illustrate the different situations for which each type of grass is suited. Kentucky bluegrass, for example, is fine for high traffic areas here, but it requires a lot of water. Buffalo grass is recommended for residential lawns because it requires less water. A set of tall panels near the grass plots explains the needs of each variety and the type of situation where each is suitable.

On one of my strolls along the path, I encountered the Park Gardener trimming back some branches that were spreading out into the pedestrian path. She told me the Xeriscape Garden had been severely tested recently by local drought. "What you see here," she said, "are the survivors. We weren't allowed to water anything."

Xeriscaping is a good idea for lots of places, but I think a demonstration xeriscape garden would be especially appropriate near the Clinton Library. Many visitors will come to this site from all around the world. What a wonderful opportunity to spread the word about xeriscaping to people everywhere!

Like Loveland, we could provide informative signs as well as brochures about general principles of xeriscaping for visitors from other climates, and brochures with specific suggestions and plant recommendations for local visitors. Instead of being merely ornamental, a demonstration xeriscape garden could be a tourist attraction in its own right and an educational conservation project as well. Just think of the ripple effect our educational efforts

would set off, and how many gallons of water might be saved around the world as a result!

Lesson Two: Sculpture Garden

Across the street from Lake Loveland is the renowned **Benson Sculpture Garden**. During the second weekend in August, crowds fill the park for the "Sculpture in the Park" show and sale. Other times the park is serene, with only a scattering of walkers and meanderers flowing along the curved paths enjoying the dozens of sculptures, mostly in bronze, that inhabit the park.

A bronze man lounges on a park bench with one arm stretched invitingly along the back of the bench; two teenage girls photograph one another sitting in his embrace. A young bronze goatherd watches his flock, and keeps an eye on the wolf pack across the sidewalk, all of whom are looking hungrily back over their shoulders at the goats. Beneath an empty bronze saddle, a dusty bare spot in the turf suggests many children have made their way up into the seat; the horn is worn shiny by their hands. A bronze boy balances on one foot on a big bronze ball. Other sculptures are less realistic and some are made of other metals. A satisfying variety of materials and mood surround the visitor. The trees and other plantings in the landscape become part of the exhibit. Some of the sculptures have been "adopted" by individuals or families and are surrounded by well-tended flowerbeds.

My favorite sculpture within the park is in the Children's Garden. In "Ring of Peace," young children of varying ethnic origins are caught mid-step dancing in a circle. At one spot in the ring there's a one-person gap, inviting the observer to join the game.

Loveland's commitment to public art is impressive. In 1985, Loveland passed an Art in Public Places Ordinance. One percent of the city's capital construction projects (of \$50,000 or more) goes for the purchase of public art. A seven-member volunteer citizens' committee oversees the city's art acquisitions, donations, and placements. Additional funds come from the annual sculpture show and other fund-raising events.



Wouldn't such a sculpture garden be a wonderful spot for Arkansas residents and visitors to stroll around and renew their spirits? Can you imagine such a garden out at Wildwood, or the Art Center? Or perhaps the Oasis Renewal Center would be interested. If little Loveland can support such a gem, surely Little Rock could support a similar project.

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham are of Pinnacle's wildflowers; and the Zemanni's sculpture on the April tour of Homes.

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.



Best in Show: Oak Forest Community Garden By Helen Hronas



The new Oak Forest Community Garden project has a purpose somewhat different from other Master Gardener efforts in Pulaski County, in that rather than actually planning and laboring in flower beds for beautification of our surroundings, it is an educational project to help community residents raise food for their own tables. Master Gardener Howard Stephens has spent a rewarding year or so as an advisor to the resident gardeners. (Breck Campbell had also been helping early on until his recent illness.)

Located east of UALR, Curran-Conway Park, 25th and Monroe Streets, is a small, not too well known city park with a baseball field and a fenced garden area of raised beds which are rented to area residents for \$5 a plot. For an additional \$5, one may take advantage of the spacious greenhouse to get an early start on spring planting. The city furnishes water and brings in a huge load of city compost each year. Donated seeds are also available. There are 58 plots where approximately 50 families grow produce to supplement their diets each year. There is a pavilion giving shade from the bright sun and picnic tables and benches where Howard fields informal question and answer sessions from residents. A nice shed provides storage for tools, and each participant has a key to the gate and the greenhouse.

Remarkably, Howard says there has never been any theft of produce from the garden plots. Mostly, he works with the gardeners one-on-one to help them improve their production. Even this late in the season, some of the well tended plots are full of healthy tomatoes, eggplants, squash, peas and beans. Howard wished we could have seen the plots earlier in the year when they were bursting with produce and activity. A small orchard consists of several varieties of fig trees, apples, pomegranates, black walnuts, and a collection of unusual, shiny leaved Japanese hybrid persimmons which were just loaded with huge fruit. Amazingly, the foliage is similar to the smaller varieties of magnolia, a really nice specimen plant. Wondered if the fruit would make good preserves? Some of the residents grow flowers along with their veggies, and there is a profusion of sunflowers and cannas.

In the spring, two busloads of Bale Elementary students appear to prepare several plots where they plant seeds. Later they return to weed and watch their seeds germinate. It's a delightful learning experience for city kids. Of course, after the

school year ends, the beds are not tended, and all that remains in mid-August is the hardy oregano, peeping up among the weeds!

Howard advises the predominately older gardeners on what grows well, how to plant seeds and tend to seedlings, insect identification and control. And they seem to appreciate his tactful advice, especially when they are confronted by having all their tomatoes ripen in a two-week period! He then explains about determinate and indeterminate varieties so they will be able to have a more constant supply of ripe tomatoes throughout most of the summer.

A big vegetable gardener himself, Howard has enthusiastic plans for next spring, planning to use the greenhouse for an early start on a plot of his own! And he obviously finds great satisfaction in being able to assist the mostly low-income residents in increasing their food production.

== Internet Pipelines

Want to know what's going on, not just in Master Gardeners, but with other garden clubs and organizations in Arkansas?

Check out: www.cherylsyardparty.com.

The web site, which premiered in August, includes a diary of items pertaining to gardening, a Gardener of the Month, a Garden of the Month, events calendar, links to Internet garden sites, and contacts for clubs and organizations.

(...and it's creator is our own Cheryl Kennedy.)

Fall Greenhouse Sale

Plan to come to the fall Greenhouse sale in early October to buy potting soil, winter annuals, and perennials. These perennials should be planted in the fall for better blooming next year. The Greenhouse will be selling:

LC-1 potting soil

Pansies and Violas

Digitalis, Foxglove

Aquilegia hybrids 'McKana' mix, Columbine

Dianthus deltoids 'Zing Rose', Pinks

Echinacea 'Primadonna', Coneflowers

Monarda 'Red Shades', Bee Balm

Antirrhinum majus 'Liberty' mix, Snapdragons

Fall Landscape Color by Rose Hogan

In the fall landscape, Arkansas has color to rival that of New England. The hardwood forests become kaleidoscopes of yellows, oranges, and reds. This is a time for hikers to take day trips or to backpack into these wonderlands of splendor. Occasionally you will come across an abandoned homestead in overgrown clearings. Small trees that have volunteered in these open spaces are colorful and have small fruits that attract the birds and wildlife.

American Persimmons

The native persimmon tree is usually in fields that have been allowed to go back to nature and along roadsides. It is usually less than 40 feet in height with an irregular shape because of the self-pruning which occurs because of the heavy fruit. It thrives in almost any type of soil from sandy to shale and mud bottomlands. Soil moisture extremes resulting from poor drainage or drought can cause serious fruit drop. Transplanting of trees is a difficult matter because of the long taproot that requires careful digging. Planting can be done with seeds that have been stratified immediately after gathering and soaked 2-3 days before planting. Root cuttings and older twigs can be rooted in sand. Grafting as done with other fruit trees also is employed to establish trees in new locations.

Oriental Persimmons

Although you can purchase native persimmons from nurseries, also available now are a number of oriental persimmons that produce larger fruit. The oriental persimmon was introduced into the United States in the late 1800's from China and Japan. It is native to and has been an important fruit crop in each of these countries for hundreds of years. Oriental persimmon trees rate high as ornamentals. Brilliant fall color is their chief attraction but they also have interesting branch structure and bark.

Propagation

You can plant a persimmon tree in early spring or in fall, depending on your climate. Most mail-order trees are bare root harvested December or January and shipped December through March. These should be planted as soon as they are received. Since bare-root trees shock easily when transplanted, it's important to keep the roots moist. Transplanting containerized plants is usually more successful. Both oriental and native persimmons grow best in well drained and slightly acidic soil. Locate trees in full sun and space them 20 to 25 feet apart or 12 feet from a structure. Native persimmons will tolerate a little shade and a wider variety of soil types than their oriental relatives will. Roots are slow growing so keep the tree well watered all season. A typical tree should begin bearing regular crops of persimmons at three to five years of age.

Fruit Production

Native persimmons are usually dioecious, that is trees produce either male or female flowers. Rarely are they self-pollinating. Thus both female and male trees are usually necessary to produce a full crop. On oriental persimmons, female, male and/or perfect flowers can be produced on the same tree. Sometimes they produce fruit from unfertilized flowers and the fruit have no seed. Heavier and more consistent crops usually result from pollination.

Astringent versus Non-astringent

There are two different kinds of persimmon fruit. Some persimmons are astringent and some are non-astringent. The native persimmon is always astringent before it ripens. It is ripe when the leaves have fallen from the tree and after frost. Even then it can be mouth puckering. Some people recommend only eating the fruit that has fallen from the tree. The oriental persimmons can be either astringent or not. The ones that are astringent are good for cooking when they are ripe. The non-astringent can be eaten like an apple when they turn red.

Diseases

Native persimmons may be attacked by a number of insects such as scale, persimmon psyllid, leaf rolling and defoliating caterpillars, and persimmon borer. Oriental persimmons are relatively free of serious insect problems.

What will grow here?

The native persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*, is hardy to temperatures of 20-25 degrees F below zero. The oriental persimmon may be injured or killed below 10 degrees F.

One astringent oriental persimmon that grows in zones 7-9 is the Tanenaski. It has seedless, medium-sized round-conical fruits that are sweet, plump, seedless and very flavorful. This unusual fruit ranges from yellow to deep red-orange. It is moderately productive. Tanenashi, an excellent landscape ornamental, are vigorous and moderately productive.

Uses

Besides being used as an ornamental landscape tree, the fruit attract birds and wildlife and are used in many recipes; breads, cookies, puddings, jams, and fresh on salads. Folklore has it that all parts of the plant have many medicinal uses. In the past the most famous use was the production of golf clubs from the hard wood.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

Continuing Education Opportunities

September

- 9 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S. University.
- 24 Tour of Projects by Pulaski County Master Gardeners class of 2003.

October

- 1 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 2 Fall Gardening with Mary Evans. Info:666-0759
- 2 Master Gardener Advanced Training, "growing Roses" Independence County Master Gardeners.
- 2-6 Gardens of Savannah with Janet Carson
- 8 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 10 White County M G trip to Memphis. Contact Sherri Wesson 501-268-5394.
- 12 Central Arkansas Rose Society annual Rose Show, University Mall.
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.
- 15 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 17-19 Garvan Gardens plant sale and Mumfest. Call for info: 1-800-366-4664.
- 21 MG trip to St. Louis. Contact Ila Newberry 227-4395.
- 22 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 29 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training

November

- 5 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 6 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans. Info: 6660759
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.

2004 Gardens of Virginia

2005 Italy

Arkansas Home Grown Markets
 April through October 6:30am
 Tuesdays - YWCA 12th and Cleveland
 Thursdays - Lakewood Village
 Saturdays - Second Presbyterian Church

The Arkansas Highway Department encourages you to enjoy "Operation Wildflower" on highways 7, 49, 62, 70, 71, and 167.

Master Gardener Advanced Training "Growing Roses"

Independence County Master Gardeners
 Batesville, Arkansas
 October 2, 2003

Optional ½ day of garden tours & evening program on October 1.
 Directions to the event will be sent to all registrants.

Cost: \$25 per person

Program:

Old Garden Roses and History - Gail Harley, Master Gardener
 Showing and Judging Roses - Paula Adlong, Certified Rose Judge
 Propagating Roses - Paul Adlong
 Growing Hybrid Tea Roses - Lynn Schmidt, Award winning rose grower
 English roses (David Austin) - Marie Fowler, Master Gardener
 Creative Ways with Roses - Verna Love, Master Gardener
 Optional day: touring local rose gardens. That evening a Dutch treat dinner with "Rose Mythology" presented by Marie Fowler
 Registration is limited, so get registrations in early.

Send registration with your check to:

Independence County Master Gardeners
 1770 Myers Street
 Batesville, AR 72501

White County Master Gardeners Tour of public gardens and a secret arboretum of Memphis.

Friday, October 10

7:30 a.m. Depart from Searcy.

10:00 a.m. Dabney Nursery - 150 acres with thousands of perennials, 90 varieties of hostas, field grown tree, pottery, fountains, and many native and rare plants (Note: 10% discount).

12:30 p.m. Trees by Touliatos- the largest arboretum in the Mid-South. Catered lunch and seminar "Trees of the Mid-South" by Plato Touliatos. This is a private seminar and tour of the grounds held especially for our group.

4:00 p.m. Depart for Comfort Inn in Downtown Memphis.

6:00 p.m. Dinner at The Butcher Shop.

After dinner the motor coach will drop those who would like to visit Beale Street for time on your own.

Saturday, October 11

9:00 a.m. Memphis Botanical Garden - After a continental breakfast, enjoy 96 acres of sweeping vistas, lakes, woodlands, and 23 display gardens.

Noon Lunch at Dixie Café - Depart for Searcy after lunch.

2:30 p.m. Ridgecrest Nursery in Wynne - we will spend 2 ½ hours at this splendid nursery. We will have plenty of room on the bus to carry back your goodies.

6:30 p.m. Arrive in Searcy.

Cost: \$241/person single occupancy; \$192/ person double; \$176/person triple; \$166/ quad occupancy.

Deposit - \$75.00 non-refundable due at booking.

Final payment - will be due by September 24, 2003.

Contact Sherri Wesson, White County Extension, (501) 268-5394.
 You may bring guests with you (18 years or older please).



September Checklist By Rose Hogan

Now is the time that many perennials can be divided. Some bulbs when they become overcrowded should be carefully dug and the clumps lifted out and broken apart. Replant in a well-prepared bed. Mulch is important the first winter after division to prevent the plants from heaving out of the ground. Take extra care to insure correct planting depth as it greatly affects bloom performance. Iris after being dug can be divided into 2-4 inch divisions making



sure each division contains a part of the rhizome, some roots and foliage. The foliage should be cut back to about six inches. Each division should be replanted not more than two inches deep.

Photo courtesy of the Greenhouse Steve Corley.

Mid-September through October is the ideal time to divide peonies. Herbaceous crowns are set 1-2 inches below soil level; tree peonies planted at 4-7 inches deep.

Tips for Flowers

Continue to weed flower beds and don't forget to remove faded blooms as they appear. Marigolds, petunias and snapdragons will continue to bloom with regular food and watering. Sprinkle the seeds from the dried pods for earlier blooms next year. Also sow bachelor's buttons, forget-me-nots and sweet alyssum now and set out your perennials for earlier blooms next year.

Stake those chrysanthemums that have heavy flowers to prevent them from breaking in the wind and rain.

Pinch out the center leaf buds of camellias to force them to branch out.

Continue to enjoy roses. Fertilize them now for a longer blooming period. Prune and untie rambler roses from supports.

Dig up your begonias now and bring them indoors as a houseplant. They will bloom all winter so you can use the cuttings outdoors next spring. Feed your houseplants less frequently as the days get shorter.



Photo courtesy of the Greenhouse, Steve Corley.

Tips for Fruit

If your raspberries are not "everbearing", cut them back to the ground. Everbearing raspberries should only be cut on the parts that produced berries.

Gather fallen hickory nuts. Remove the husks and dry thoroughly in a well ventilated area.

Pick your pears and apples when they are easily removed.

Muscadines and table grapes are ripe now. Pick the muscadines one at a time. Pick grapes by the bunch.

Tips for General Yard Care

Shred leaves as they fall and add to compost bin. Add compost to beds for spring and winter planting. Cover open compost heaps with plastic when there are signs of heavy rain.

Continue to destroy weeds before they go to seed.

Destroy all disease infected refuse from the garden.

Keep new plantings well watered. Water your lawns, trees and shrubs according to weather.

Tips for Lawns

Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham.



Aerate your lawn in late September or October. A garden fork works well for this. Rake compost and sand into your lawn.

Feed lawns a last time with slow-acting fertilizer.

Plant groundcover in September. Flat or gently sloped areas are best.

Tips for Vegetables

Asparagus can be planted from root divisions now.

Pumpkins and winter squash need to be picked when they show the signs of maturity - solid color and a hard rind. Leave a short piece of the stem attached.

If you want fresh herbs all winter, pot cuttings or divisions now.

There's still time to do a late planting of lettuce, spinach, radishes, and greens.

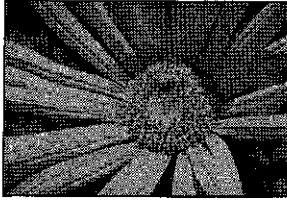
August Blooms

Ageratum; *Alcea rosea*, althea; *Antigonon leptopus*, coral vine; *Asters*; *Begonia grandis*, hardy begonia; *Buddleja davidii*, buddleia; *Callicarpa*, beauty-berry; *Campsis*, trumpet creeper; *Cannas*; *Caryopteris*, bluebeard; *Celosia*, cockscomb; *Chrysanthemum*; *Clerodendron*; *Crotalaria*; *Dahlias*; *Desmodium*, beggar weed; *Dianthus*, pinks; *Echeveria*; *Eupatorium*, Joe Pye weed; *Gaura*; *Gladioli*; *Gordonia alata*, hardy begonia; *Hedychium*, ginger lily; *Hibiscus*; *Ipomoea*, morning glory; *Kerria*, *Justicia*, jacobinia; Japanese rose; *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape (or crepe) myrtle; *Lantana*; *Linaria*, toadflax; *Liriope*, monkey grass; *Lycoris radiata*, spider lily; marigolds; *Mirabilis jalapa*, four-o'clocks; *Miscanthus*; *Nierembergia*, cupflower; *Ophiopogon*, mondo grass; *Origanum*, oregano; *Oxalis*, wood sorrel; *Pennisetum*, fountain grasses; *Persicaria amplexicaulis*, mountain fleecy or polygonum; *Petunias*; *Phlox*; *Physostegia*, false dragon head; *Rosa*, roses; *Rosmarinus*, rosemary; *Salvias*, sage; *Sedum*; *Solidago*, goldenrod; *Spirea*; *Tanacetum vulgare*, tansy; *Torenia*, wishbone flower; *Tricyrtis*, toad lilies; *Verbena*; *Veronica*, ironweed; *Veronicas*, speedwell; *Vinca*, periwinkle; *Viola*; *Vitex*, chaste tree; *Yucca*; *Zephyranthes grandiflora*, pink storm lilies; and *Zinnias*.



Drought resistant plants for Arkansas by Jane Druff and Dorothy Veirs

Below are plants known to survive our dry Arkansas summers. These, and others growing along roadways and fields in central Arkansas, have proven they can withstand the climate in Pulaski County. Research to discover individual plant characteristics such as the type of soil and sunlight needed; and the degree of drought tolerance a plant has. When researching, keep in mind that the term "dry" means something different to western gardeners than to those in other areas of the country. In central Arkansas we usually have adequate water in winter and spring but we suffer more from drought in summer and early autumn. Experience and experimentation will reveal those plants that will work the best for you.



Annual flowers

Cleome, Cosmos,
Globe Amaranth,
Gloriosa Daisy,
Hybrid Purslane,
Lantana,
Lantana "New Gold",
Marigolds, Moss Rose, Periwinkle, Snapdragon

Grasses

Bermuda, Bluestem, Buffalo, Fountain, Love,
Pampas, Miscanthus, Ravenna, Reed, Ribbon
Grass

Groundcovers

Carolina Yellow Jessamine, Creeping St. John's
Wort, Creeping Thyme, Ivy, Japanese
Honeysuckle, Junipers (creeping, dwarf, shore),
Liriope, Nandinas (dwarf), Sedums,
Showy Evening Primrose, Yaupons (dwarf)

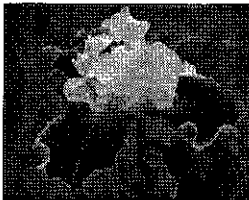
Herbs

Artemesia, Bee Balm, Coneflowers, Dill, Fennel,
Garlic, Hyssop, Lavender,
Mayweed, Oregano,
Ox-eye Daisy, Rosemary,
Sage, Santalinas, Savory,
Sweet Marjoram, Tansy,
Teucrium, Thyme, Verbena
Canadensis, Veronica,
Wild Aster, Wild Mints



Perennial flowers

Artemesia, Baby's Breath, Bearded Iris,
Candytuft, Daffodils,
Daylilies, Dianthus,
Gaura "Siskiyou Pink",
German Statice, Lamb's
Ear, Penstemon, Phlox –
Downy, Russian Sage,
Sedum, Snow in



Summer, Stoke's Aster, Torch Lily, Yarrow

Shrubs

Beauty Berry, Beautybush,
Blue Rug Juniper, Burford Holly,
Chinese Juniper,
Crimson Pygmy Barberry, Dwarf
Crapemyrtle, Dwarf Arborvitae,
Flowering Quince, Forsythia, Gray Santolina,
Green Santolina, Groundsel,
Hydrangea Peegee, Huckleberry,
Japanese Garden Juniper, Mugo Pine, Nandina,
Red Chokeberry, Redleaf Barberry,
Shore Juniper, Spicebush, Spirea,
Thorny Elaeagnus, Variegated Privet, Yaupon
Holly, Yucca

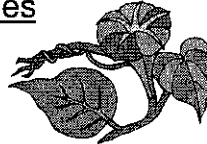


Trees

Arborvitae, Arizona Cypress, Bradford Pear,
Chaste Tree (Vitex), Crapemyrtle, Eastern Red
Cedar, Ginkgo, Golden Raintree, Hawthorne,
Honeylocust, Pin Oak, Redbud, Russian Olive,
Shortleaf Pine, Shumard Oak, Smoketree,
Smooth Sumac, Southern Red Oak

Vines

American Bittersweet,
Cypress Vine,
Hyacinth Bean,
Japanese Honeysuckle,
Morning Glory, Silver Lace, Yellow Jessamine



Wildflowers

Bee Balm, Bird Foot's Violet,
Black Eyed Susan,
Butterfly Weed, Coreopsis,
Evening Primrose, False Indigo,
Gaillardia, Hardy Ageratum,
Joe Pye Weed, Liatris,
Ox-eye Daisy, Purple Coneflower,
Queen Anne's Lace, Sundrop Verbena, Yarrow

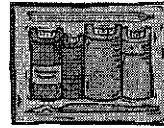


Photos and clip art by Microsoft Works.

Remember to Avoid the Peak! for Central Arkansas Water



Xeriscaping



Books & = = = Internet Pipelines

By Jane Druff

"Xeriscaping", from the Greek work 'xeros' for 'dry, means water conserving landscaping by using less water, or water wise landscaping by using minimal water and energy. It is accomplished by using drought tolerant plants and horticultural techniques to use water efficiently. The principle concepts of xeriscaping are:

- Group all plants with similar water needs together. Use the natural design of the property; for instance, use low areas for plants requiring more moisture; high areas for those requiring less.
- Limit the amount of lawn, choosing grass varieties that require less water. Consider ground covers, native grasses, or hardscaping (i.e. mulch material under children's play areas; brick, stone, or mulch pathways; wooden or concrete patios) as an alternative to lawns. Cut grass high, using a sharp blade to reduce stress on the grass; leave clippings in place for mulch; keep weeds out; water deeply every week or two.
- Amend soil with compost, peat moss, rotted cow manure, sawdust or hay to help the soil hold water.
- Use mulches such as pine needles, shredded bark, chopped leaves, cottonseed hulls, etc. reduce water demand by as much as 40%. Build berms or basins around new plants to direct water to roots.
- Irrigate efficiently with irrigation equipment in good repair. Consider drip or trickle systems. Water lawns with overhead sprinklers. Check the volume of water delivered in various areas of the yard. Water no more than needed. Timers can help prevent wasted water.
- Consider the wide variety of native plants that have adapted well to our area. Choose drought tolerant plants whenever possible. Plant early in the season when weather is cooler. Damper for good plant establishment before dry conditions are extreme.
- Maintain your landscape by weeding and pruning carefully. Fertilize sparingly to prevent over stimulating plants. Happy stress free plants require less water.

If you have an existing landscape, consider phasing these suggestions into your garden over several years. Start with a long range plan for conversion to a xeriscape garden. Create a landscape that is pleasant and fulfilling and that helps the environment at the same time.

Selected books about xeriscaping:

- Cathey, Dr. H. Marc, *Heat Zone Gardening*, Time Life Books, 1998.
- Chaplin, Lois Trigg, *The Southern Gardener's Book of Lists*, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1994.
- *Gardening in Dry Climates*, Ortho Books, Cedric Crocker, Editor, 1989.
- Hunter, Carl, *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines of Arkansas*, Ozark Society Foundation, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1989.
- Hunter, Carl, *Wildflowers of Arkansas*, Ozark Society Foundation, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1984.
- *Rodale's Illustrated Encyclopedia of Herbs* - Claire Kowalchik & Wm. H. Hylton, Editors, Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA, 1987.
- Springer, Lauren, *Waterwise Gardening*, New York: Prentiss Hall Gardening, 1994.
- *Taylor's Guide to Ornamental Grasses* - Roger Holmes, Editor, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. NY, 1997.
- Wasowski, Sally, with Andy Wasowski, *Gardening With Native Plants of the South*, Taylor Publishing Co., Dallas, Texas, 1994.
- *Waterwise Gardening*. Sunset Books, Menlo Park: Lane Publishing Co., 1989.

A few interesting internet locations:

- www.xeriscape.org
- www.waterinfo.org/outcnsrv.html
- www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/mg/WaterCons.html
- www.dwr.ehnr.state.nc.us/wsas/conserves/wc_xeri.html
- www.earthshare.org



Enabling Gardens by Lorraine Hensley

A gardener who enjoys gardening the hard way is a new concept for me. Gardeners I know are thrilled when they can share tips for an easier way to do just about anything pertaining to gardening. This kind of learning and sharing in order to find an easier, more enjoyable way to achieve the same results has been around since man used sticks to garden with. Someone figured out how to use that stick to form a hoe, which made the whole process a good bit easier. In effect, the thought process of transforming stick to hoe gave life to the enabling garden. That concept is still alive and thriving in the 21st century.

An enabling garden "enables" those unable to garden for various reasons to do so. Stroke and accident victims, those recovering from major surgeries and those of us with less energy than we used to enjoy can still garden. These gardens are wherever the gardener needs special tools or bed placement to gain access to their garden area. Consider these options available to you with an enabling garden: fewer aching backs, complaining knees and leg cramps. Just remember: access is the magic word, for access is the key.

Home generally defines our gardening area and enabling garden concepts allow us to individualize that space to compensate for physical limitations of the gardener. Take a few minutes and really look at your garden area and do some long range planning. Be honest in identifying what you want in your landscape and how you can more easily achieve those goals. I have yet to meet a gardener who really enjoys doing things the hard way.



We can garden in raised beds, containers, walls and trellises. Whatever your individual choices may be remember the important thing is access for you or someone you love. Raised beds large enough to grow various

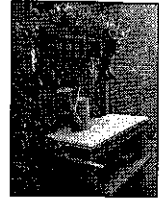
plants and small enough for the gardener to reach every area are useful. Bring your imagination into play where materials are concerned. Just remember items on that material list must also fit both your specific needs and your budget. In order to be accessible on all four sides, a raised bed should be no more than sixty inches wide and two feet high to accommodate a seated gardener. Those in wheelchairs need raised beds high enough to provide the additional height necessary, and width will depend on the gardener's reach.

Container gardening requires attention to the variables of container stability, size and weight. Physical limitations of the gardener should be high on your list of things to consider when planning the container garden. Some kind of seating may also necessary and doesn't need to be elaborate. A ledge along a walkway or deck so gardener and plants can enjoy the process is fine. Containers may also be placed on shelves or windowsills. A quick survey of your planting area will identify many more suitable places for



containers. Placed in raised beds or on an easy up and down pulley they are readily available to the gardener.

The simple act of placing a potting bench against a wall or fence further stabilizes the bench for the gardener. While you're at it make sure the bench is high enough for a seated gardener to also enjoy container gardening. Do use your fences and trellises for planting purposes. Fences seem ready made for plants. Trellises simply need to be fastened to the fence or a load bearing wall to provide ample planting room. Vertical gardens take many forms but first on my list is the vertical garden that grows plants perpendicular to the ground. A wonderful source for "how to" information is the Chicago Botanic Garden's Web site (<http://www.Chicago-botanic-org/>).



Generally the tools of choice for gardeners are those that "feel right"; that also works in the choice of adaptive gardening tools. Lightweight quality children's tools and those with smaller heads are generally comfortable for the gardener to use. Lightweight long-handled tools can also be used to extend the gardener's reach. Check out your local gardening centers, hardware stores or a hospital rehabilitation center for ideas. The Chicago Botanic Garden's web site is also a wonderful place to browse for tools.

Because access is extremely pertinent for the enabling garden, a variety of walkways or paths is an important component to consider when individualizing your landscaping efforts. Plan for ease of maneuverability. If the gardener uses a wheelchair, pay particular attention to the surfacing materials used. If you can afford a hard surface, go for it. Whatever the surface, make sure the walkways and paths are relatively level and free of garden hoses and tools. If the gardener can't roll over it or walk on it, move it. Plan your walkways for a turning radius of about 60 inches so the gardener can turn around and reverse direction as needed.

The 21st century is indeed a perfect time slot to review the enabling garden concept. It certainly has been around long enough to prove its worth to those who enjoy playing in the dirt. We also like to participate in creating beauty with our gardening efforts. For most of us don't seriously garden for our food but to feel in touch with the earth. Enabling garden concepts of creativity which provide additional accessibility give a simpler more enjoyable way to maintain that contact. You may want to put a chair in your garden area then sit down and look at your garden space. Take your time and "see" what you are looking at. Use your imagination in your long term planning and go for it!

Lorraine Hensley is a guest writer for the Master Minutes. She serves on the Old Mill Committee.

The first picture is of Cathy Martindill's garden, courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy. The second and third pictures are from the International Meeting, courtesy of Jane Druff.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights: by Pat Green

July 30, 2003

August 15, 2003

- § A report was received from the Meeting Facility Committee. The board will consider options and report its decision at the September General Membership meeting.
- § The Nominating Committee has met and will present their report in the Master Minutes.
- § The Master Gardeners and the Extension Service will have an education center (as opposed to individual booths) at the 2004 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show.
- § Minutes of the June meeting and the treasurer's report were approved.
- § The Continuing Education committee is planning a seminar on heirloom gardening to be held March 18 at Ferndale.
- § Current Master Gardener projects were reviewed. Due to drainage problems at the entrance of the Arkansas Arts Center the scope of MG involvement will include the courtyards and the south entrance.
- § Applications for new Master Gardener projects will be discussed at the August 15 board meeting.
- § Jane Druff reported on plans for the International Master Gardener Conference to be held in Little Rock in May of 2007.
- § Applications for the PCMG Training Class of 2003 were reviewed and divided among board members for telephone interviews.
- § The Leadership Conference for newly elected officers of county Master Gardener organizations will be held October 7 & 8 at Ferndale.
- § In 2004, monthly meetings will take place in a new location.
- § The board discussed the value of a membership survey of interests, gifts and talents in order to better facilitate committee appointments.
- § Twenty-eight persons have volunteered to serve as mentors for new class members.
- § The tour of Master Gardener projects will take place for new trainees on September 24.
- § Three project proposals were received for consideration. After careful consideration and much discussion the board agreed to recommend all three to the general membership for approval with the following stipulations:

Patrick Henry Hayes Senior Citizen Center – Take on the two entrance beds and mentor non-Master Gardener volunteers in gardening activities with a committee limited to 15 members

Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts – Support for gardening related educational activities with a committee of no more that 8 members

Amy Sanders Library – Support continuing efforts in progress to enhance and maintain beds with a committee limited to 15 members.

Nominating Committee presents slate of officers for consideration at the September 9, 2003 meeting of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Their term of office will be from October 2003 through September 2004.

President: Nancy Kirsch
 First Vice President: Dick Blankenkober
 Second Vice President: Sylvia Orton
 Secretary: Susan Crisp
 Treasurer: Mary Freeman
 At Large: George Harper & Ila Newberry

Beth Phelps reports on the July Board Meeting:

*The committee to find a new meeting location submitted a lengthy report, detailing criteria and results of site visits. Site must have easy access, availability of parking, space and technology available at no cost.

*PCMG will help fund the meal for the Pulaski County Quorum Interpretive Event, which will provide Quorum Court members with an update of Extension Services' activities. The Quorum Court funds an important part of the Pulaski County Extension Service budget.

*The 3 P's Committee is preparing inserts on several PCMG projects to include with the brochure on Pulaski County gardens.

**Speaker for the September 9, 2003
 general meeting will be Lewis Hyatt.**

Lew Hyatt has a B.S. degree in biology from Arkansas A & M College (now the University of Arkansas at Monticello). He has been with the Ark. Dept. of Health for over 31 years. He has served as a county sanitarian in Baxter County, as field operations supervisor and sanitarian supervisor in the Division of Vector Control, as sanitarian supervisor in Area VIII (Pulaski, Lonoke, and Prairie Counties), and is currently an environmental health specialist in the Health Dept.'s Central Region. He is stationed at the Pulaski County Central Health Unit in Little Rock.

Due to the spread of West Nile Virus (WNV) across the country in just 4 years, his position and job duties have changed. He currently works almost full-time in WNV surveillance. This includes educational activities for the public, training environmental health specialists in mosquito surveillance techniques, coordinating mosquito trapping efforts state-wide, identifying and sorting mosquitoes and preparing them for virology testing.

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for September:
Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except
5th Thursday of the month)

Curran Hall: Mondays @ 8:00am

Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 8:30am

Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am

PC County Extension: Monday, September
15 @ 9:00am.

State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @
9:00am

Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings
for better parking and door prize tickets.
Tickets are not given out after the meeting
begins. However, you may still sign in for
credit.

The 2007 International Master Gardener
Conference will be held in Little Rock!
Planning is just beginning. There will be
several committees and lots of opportunity
to be involved. Right now Janet is looking
for a theme. Please send in any ideas, so
that we can get things started. Please
send your ideas to Jennifer Gibson at
jgibson@uaex.edu.

Thanks,
Beth Phelps

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master
Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This
helps fund our projects. Consider recycling
your magazines by bringing them to the
next meeting for our resale.

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master
Gardener members who have concerns to
be shared please contact the Retention
Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

Trading Post

Betsy Worley (851-3751)
has water hyacinth to give away.

Horticare Nursery is hosting a
Fall Fest Wine and Cheese for Master
Gardeners on Thursday, October 16, at
6:30 p.m. RSVP 407-2729.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural
problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service
Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative
Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained
volunteers working with the University of
Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski
County Government to provide demonstration
gardens and horticultural - related information
to the residents of the county. In 2002, these
volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of
service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps __ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to
submit interesting
information, committee
reports, newsworthy
photos, etc. to the
newsletter.

Bring your information to
the Master Gardener
meeting, or send it to:
Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
663-1151

The deadline is the third
Tuesday of each month.
For late breaking news
after the deadline, send
information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
Jane Druff
Dorothy Veirs
Lorraine Hensley

Pulaski County Master Minutes

October, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

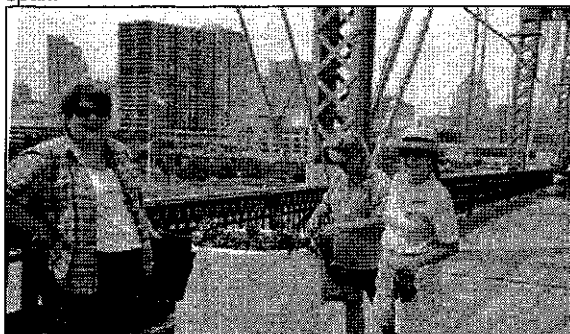
Volume 14, Issue 6

Some Highlights from the International Master Gardener Conference June, 2003

By Shannon Chamberlin

When we checked into the Embassy Suites in Covington, Kentucky, we overheard the man at the desk tell a caller "There aren't any vacancies anywhere in the area, because of the big gardening conference going on this week." So we knew IMGC 2003 was going to be big, but we didn't realize it would turn out to be the biggest International Master Gardener Conference ever.

"Over 950 gardeners have registered," Sue Sturgeon, the Event Coordinator, said, "representing every one of the 50 United States and almost every province in Canada. One man, who wants to start a Master Gardener program in his country, is from Ghana." Over 200 volunteers helped at the event. IMGC 2003 was also the most organically oriented International MG conference ever, and the first to put attendees to work on a local service project—the newly painted South Bank-Newport Pedestrian Bridge, dubbed the "Purple People Bridge" by locals, for reasons that became obvious when we saw the bright lavender span.



Master Gardeners from five counties in Ohio and Kentucky adopted the Purple People Bridge as their signature project, as a symbol of cooperation between their two states. On Wednesday afternoon these Master Gardeners invited everyone at the conference to help them put 1400 plants into planters—one 200-foot bed at the approach to the bridge, and 28 smaller planters spaced out across the bridge itself. Bags of potting soil donated by Scott's and flats of plants donated by local nurseries were stacked next to each planter. Local volunteers helped direct the planting effort.

Photos courtesy of Mary Evans.



Not everyone went to the bridge to work, because there were several all-day tours going on Wednesday as well. Pre-conference tours included an Amish grocery, the Serpent Mound archeological site, herb farms, a stop on the Underground Railroad, a thoroughbred horse farm, The Ohio State University Stadium's state-of-the-art athletic turf system, and a certified organic produce farm run by nuns. On Thursday, another tour visited the Cincinnati Zoo Gardens.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday workshops and keynote speeches were so packed with information that some of us began to complain of brain strain before the conference ended. One of my favorite sessions was about the National Junior Master Gardener Program. We got to try four of the lessons from the Junior Master Gardener Handbook ourselves. It was worth going to that session just to see adult gardeners dancing around in newspaper-and-duct-tape sombreros that were decorated with craft materials representing "things plants need."

Another of my favorites was the Accessible Gardening panel from St. Rita School for the Deaf. Gardens at the school had fallen into disarray, and a Master Gardener was called in to help revive them. Now their Learning Gardens include bountiful flower, vegetable, and herb gardens; a Succulent Garden, a Butterfly Garden, and a Friendship Garden (plants that multiply easily, so they can be shared with visitors). Older students model and photograph step-by-step instructions for various gardening activities, which are laminated and bound into books for younger students to use. Nestled among the plants, markers name the proud students who work on each bed.

.....Continued on page 7



Speaker for the October 14, 2003 meeting will be Master Gardener Nancye McCowan. Come enjoy her presentation of the International Master Gardener Convention in Cincinnati. Also, Effects of the sun on the gardeners' skin.

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.



Best in Show: Baptist Rehab By Julia Loyall



Ann Bridgers must have a beautiful garden to supply the armload of flowers and fragrant herbs she brought to the basement Recreation Therapy Room for her presentation at Baptist Rehabilitation Institute on the first Saturday of August. She is Team Four's group leader, and represented her team for one of the six turns



each team does yearly. Six wheelchair patients (one man) were brought to the long cloth-covered tables, and showed their delight as Ann began to put them and the other Master Gardeners to work. The recreational therapist that day was Janet Dodge. She had invited the patients, prepared the room, and helped in many ways, especially with a candy bar when one patient felt faint.

Ann passed out zinnias and salvia to be arranged in little spice jars for a bedside bouquet. The Master Gardeners [including me] poured water, tied bows, cut stems, and had a ball. Many of the patients are stroke victims, and help was really needed. Next Ann had us help stuff bundles of basil, rosemary, and pineapple sage into a white paper doily for a dainty tussie-mussie tied with a ribbon bow. For a long-lasting dried arrangement, we helped the patients stand pale-green hydrangea blossoms in a small pebble-filled paper bag. When I had to leave, they were filling little string-tied cloth bags with lavender seeds for a drawer sachet and moth-repellant.

This twenty-two member committee has four teams which alternate on first and second Saturdays, one team member planning and presenting the program, and other members assisting. Any Master Gardener is welcome to come help. I was surprised how much I enjoyed feeling needed.

Team 1: Leader-Aleta Newell. Susan Crisp, Debbie Cummings, Mildred Walton, Lisa Vest

Team 2: Leader-Gail Roberson. Margaret Dorland, Catherine Hepinstall, Pat Marchese, Melanie Mortimore, Norma Parker

Team 3: Leader-Lavon Spears. Vivian Davis, Nora Ann Lawrence, Jerry Quick, Don Thompson

Team 4: Leader-Ann Bridgers. Mary Douglas, Sharon Mayes, Sandra Miller, Patricia White, Nancy Wolford

Project Chairman is Jerry Quick, and Sharon Mayes is Co-Chair.

Photos courtesy of Julia Loyall

Thank you for the Leadership

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the outgoing board of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners. The time and energy expended on the smooth running of our organization by this outstanding group of Master Gardeners is appreciated.

Thank you.

President: Carolyn Newbern

First Vice President: Nancy Kirsch

Second Vice President: Dick Blankenbeker

Secretary: Pat Green

Treasurer: John Prather

Member At-Large: Rochelle Greenwood

Member At-Large: Mary Freeman

Past President: Jane Druff

Friend to Pulaski County Master Gardeners for 2003

The Greenhouse Committee Chairman, Lois Corley, nominated the Pulaski County Corrections Department for "Friend to Pulaski County Master Gardeners for 2003" at the June Master Gardener general meeting. She explained how these men, serving their time at County Correction, help the Greenhouse Committee throughout the year with planting, hauling, and cleaning up. It is a collaboration that has worked well for a number of years.

Don Webb, of the PC Corrections Department, was introduced at the September meeting and presented with a plaque for winning the "Friend" award for 2003. Our congratulations to him and his department for the good work they continue to do.



Carolyn Newbern, Don Webb, Lois Corley and Ann Morgan

City Beautiful Nominations

Little Rock and North Little Rock want to promote public interest in the appearance of their city. They plan to recognize homeowners whose landscapes are exceptional and visible to the public. Nomination forms are available in the County Extension Office. Or you may contact the City Beautification Commission of each city for more information.



Best in Show: Continuing Education Committee By Ann Green



This year's Continuing Education Committee, chaired by Meg Fox, has planned an impressive day for Thursday, March 18, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Ferndale 4-H Center. To put this committee's work in context, while beginning with one topic in mind to develop for this year, our current committee discovered that another Master Gardener group in Arkansas had duplicated the topic and had it further developed; therefore, yielding the topic to the other county eliminated plans for a seminar during 2003.

Instead, the committee began to dream big with plans for an early 2004 seminar on Heirloom Gardening. "We are partnering with the Butler Center and Historical Arkansas Museum to bring **C. Allen Brown** to speak," explained Meg. Brown, a landscape architect and historian from Virginia holds degrees from the University of Arkansas and the University of Virginia where he was a Thomas Jefferson Fellow. He has consulted on many projects in Arkansas including the Old State House, Historic Arkansas Museum, and Old Washington State Park.

In addition to Brown, the following speakers will add to the day's interest:

- **Denise W. Adams**, PhD. is a horticulturist and plant historian from Dillwyn, Virginia. Dr. Adams holds degrees in Agriculture and Horticulture from Ohio State University. Her book, *Restoring American Gardens: Heirloom Ornamental Plants, 1640-1940*, will be released January 2004 by Timber Press and will be offered for sale at the seminar.
- **Jack and Shirley Pratt** of Step-Back Enterprises give a first-person, costumed presentation that enables the audience to hear about and to "see" the "urban farmstead" vegetable garden of long-time county clerk Simon Sanders and his wife Zenobia in 1848. The presentation is supported by video images appearing behind the lecturers. With over 50 years of combined programming experience, the Pratts have served as interpreters at many of our state parks including Woolly Hollow, Pinnacle Mountain, Toltec Mounds, and Old Washington Historical. Both also provide programs for Historic Arkansas Museum.
- **Gerald Klingaman**, Ph.D. is a professor of horticulture at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. He is currently writing a book on plant acquisitions and will address that topic, in addition to answering the whens and whys of the popularity of certain plants and how plants have been discovered, acquired abroad and transported to the United States.
- And last, but certainly not least, our own **Dorothy Veirs**, Master Gardener in Pulaski County, will share her expertise in the historical use of herbs and flowers.

As we go to press, the day's schedule includes:

8:15 - 8:30	Welcome
8:30 - 10:00	Historical Landscape Design: European/American styles and how they translated to Arkansas landscapes [Brown]
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 12:00	Heirloom Ornamental Plants 1640-1940 [Adams]
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch and Book signing
1:00 - 2:00	Heirloom Vegetable Gardening: Horticulture of the Arkansas farmstead in the mid 19th Century [Pratts]
2:00 - 2:45	Plant Exploration and Acquisition: How plants came to Arkansas [Klingaman]
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 4:00	The Language of Flowers with a demonstration of creating a Tussie - Mussie [Veirs]

This seminar will be open to the general public and it could be used as a recruiting tool among friends and acquaintances by Pulaski County Master Gardeners. Admission costs are currently being decided and will be announced as soon as finalized.

In addition to Meg Fox as chair, other members of the Continuing Education Committee are Suellen Roberts, Jane Druff, Sandy Harrison, Ray Sarmiento, David Dodson and Carolyn Newbern. Meg summed up this effort, "We are very happy to have figured a way to bring speakers of such high quality as Mr. Brown and Ms. Adams. It is our intent to provide a very educational as well as entertaining program."

North Little Rock High School - West Campus is holding a clean up and planting day Saturday, October 11th. They will begin work at 8:00 a.m. Chris Olsen from Horticare is going to help them with their design. Community members are invited to help. If you are interested in helping, contact Laurie Osborne at 835-5835. These hours would not be Master Gardener volunteer hours but they would be community outreach.



Calendar By Ruth Jones

Continuing Education Opportunities

October

- 1 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 2 Fall Gardening with Mary Evans. Info:666-0759
- 2 Master Gardener Advanced Training, "growing Roses" Independence County Master Gardeners.
- 2-6 Gardens of Savannah with Janet Carson
- 7 Fall Gardening with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759.
- 8 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 9 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 11 Greenhouse sale, 8 a.m.
- 12 Central Arkansas Rose Society annual Rose Show, University Mall.
- 14 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.
- 15 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 16 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 16 Wine and Cheese at Horticare Nursery, 6:30 pm.
- 17-19 MumFest and Plant Sale at Garvan Woodland Garden. Friday Noon - 6:00 p.m., Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- 18 Arborist Service Day at Camp Aldersgate. Master Gardeners are invited to come work on the flower beds. Hours count as Community Outreach. Call Christy Watts, AR Urban Forestry Council at 800.958.5865 or Peter Rausch, Little Rock Urban Forester 374.8733. 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Container Gardening with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 22 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 23 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 24 Fourth Friday at Garvan Woodland Gardens, 6 to 9 pm, free to members, regular admission to non-members.
- 29 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training

November

- 4 Fall Bulb Blast with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 5 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 5 Arbor Day event at Allsopp Park, 10:00am - 12:00.
- 6 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 6 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans. Info: 666-0759
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.
- 13 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759

December

There is no Master Gardener meeting in December. Plans will be announced about a holiday party.

January

- 20 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. NOTE: New day, time, and place: Third Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Below is the 2003 Pulaski and Lonoke County Master Gardener training schedule. Experienced Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the trainings. If you would like to have lunch, please let Beth Phelps know by noon the Monday of the week you plan to attend. The cost of lunch is \$6.00, which you may pay when you come.

Basic Plant Science and Soils: October 1, 2003
 9:45 a.m. - Basic Plant Science, Beth Phelps
 1:00 p.m. - Pesticide Safety and Alternatives, Beth Phelps
 2:45 p.m. - Interior Plants - Selection and Care, Lynn McMahan

Soils, Turf grass and Weed Control: October 8, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - The Arkansas Lawn, Dr. John Boyd
 10:30 a.m. - Weed Control in the Lawn & Landscape, Dr. John Boyd
 12:30 p.m. - Soil Science, Keith Perkins
 2:00 p.m. - Pruning Ornamentals Beth Phelps

Annuals..Bulbs..Composting..Fruits..Perennials..Wildlife: October 15, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - Annuals, Perennials and Bulbs, Nancye McCowan
 10:30 a.m. - Composting, Suzanne Hirrel
 12:30 p.m. - Small Fruit Crops for Home Garden, Beth Phelps
 2:45 p.m. - Attracting & Dealing with Wildlife in the Landscape, Jane Gulley

Ornamental Plant Material: October 22, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - Trees for the Arkansas Landscape, Janet Carson
 10:30 a.m. - Shrubs, Vines and Ground Covers, Janet Carson
 1:00 p.m. - Tree Fruits for the Home Orchard, Beth Phelps
 2:45 p.m. - Growing and Enjoying Herbs in Arkansas, Dorothy Veirs and Jan King

Plant Pathology and Vegetables: October 29, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - Basic Plant Pathology & Common Diseases, Dr. Steve Vann
 10:30 a.m. - Vegetable Gardening Basics, Dick Blankenbeker
 12:30 p.m. - Vegetable Crops for Arkansas, Dr. Craig Andersen
 2:45 p.m. - Vegetable Crops Continued, Dr. Craig Andersen

Controlling Insects and Fertilization: November 5, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - Insects and Their Control, Beth Phelps
 10:30 a.m. - Fertilizers and Fertilization, Beth Phelps

First Annual Fall Forestry Festival
 Saturday, November 8th, 2003, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Allsopp Park.

A day full of trail tours, children's activities and educational areas. The Arkansas Tree Climbers' Competition will be held at the park to educate and demonstrate professional tree climbing skills and techniques.



October Checklist By Rose Hogan

Clean up the planting areas as you harvest fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Rake up fallen leaves and fruit. Compost all disease-free organic refuse. Destroy all disease infected refuse.

Protect container plants for winter. Mulch tender plants that can't be moved.

Continue watering lawns, trees, shrubs, vines and all new plantings until the rains come. Don't forget to water plants in sheltered areas. Well-watered plants survive freezing temperatures better than dry ones.

Cover open compost heaps with plastic when there are signs of heavy rains.

Tips for Bulbs

Lift and store begonia, dahlia and gladiolus bulbs. Mark dormant bulbs so they won't be destroyed when ground is prepared for spring planting. Be ready when shipments of bulbs such as crocus, daffodils, irises, day lilies, freesias, hyacinth and tulips arrive at nurseries, then plant immediately. Water well to encourage root development and cover with plenty of mulch.

Tips for Flowers

October is the best month to transplant perennials. Enrich beds with organic soil amendment.



Keep marigolds blooming until the frost arrives. Feed, water and pick faded blooms. Shelter frost-tender plants or over winter cuttings. Lift and divide plants that have finished blooming. Divide and replant daisies, callas, and day lilies every few years for best bloom. Remove suckers from roses and lilac. Spray or dust roses to discourage mildew. Winterize, protect or lift tender perennials for winter storage.

Tips for Fruit

Spray your trees for peach leaf curl if they were victims this year. Apply a dormant spray to reduce over-wintering pests and fungus diseases when the leaves fall from fruit trees. Mulch fruit and berries well to preserve moisture in the soil. They need a lot of water. They are the only food that contains approximately 80% water.

Set out strawberries during fall rains for fruit next May. If planted in spring, plants won't bear well until the following year.

Tips for Herbs

Tarragon should be divided annually. Chives and sweet woodruff should be divided every 3 to 4 years.

Cool weather annual herbs such as cilantro and parsley can be planted now. Warm weather herbs such as basil and dill should be gathered now and dried.

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy

Tips for Lawns and Ground Cover

Cut back ground covers that have spread out of bounds.



Prune vines.

Plant flat and slightly sloped areas with ground cover so roots will get a head start before winter. Do not plant steep slopes or the rains will wash plants away. Sow seeds for new lawns. If there is an early frost, be sure to keep the ground moist so the seedlings will continue to develop roots until the ground freezes.

Grass grows best this time of year in the cooler, wetter conditions. Aerate lawns now.

Tips for Vegetables

By mid-October, or if frost is predicted, pick all tomatoes whether they are ripe or not. Refrigerate or freeze ripe tomatoes. Wrap green tomatoes in newspaper or hang the entire plants (with unpicked fruit) upside down. Alternatively these can be stored in a brown paper bag in a cool dark area.

In late October cut back asparagus stalks to the ground. Mark the location. Mulch 3 to 4 inches.

Prepare vegetable beds for spring and remove all debris.

October Blooms

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, euonymus, eupatorium, four o'clock, 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, viburnum, viola, Virginia creeper, wisteria, and zinnias.

The Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs

Fall Garden Lecture, *Successful Southern Gardening*

Tom Wilhite, Senior Editor of "Southern Living Garden Book" (revised Jan. 2004) Writer, editor, and garden designer for Sunset Books. The Lecture will be repeated at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 1, 2003

Little Rock Council Building, 1501 Kavanaugh Blvd.

Public is invited at no additional charge, but reservations are required as seating is limited. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., but must be prepaid by October 28. The cost of lunch is \$12.00. Checks are made payable to the Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs, and sent to:

Little Rock Council, 1501 Kavanaugh Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72205. Phone 501-663-7515 for reservations or information.

There will be an open bulb sale before and after lectures.



What Works! By Sharon Davis

As previously reported, regular vinegar does a good job in controlling weeds and grass in concrete driveways and sidewalks. One Master Gardener recommends using the hot vinegar water you run through your coffee maker to clean it. Just pour this on cracks in driveways and sidewalks.

What Works! is a forum for gardening design and craft ideas. Spread the dirt from your garden, share tips from magazines, television, and friends. You can jot down your hints at the monthly meeting or send them to Beth Phelps at the Extension Office. Although not a requirement, if you sign your name you will be credited.

Times are changing...

Beginning in January 2004, we will hold our monthly meetings on the *third Tuesday* each month at *St. James United Methodist Church on Pleasant Valley Drive*. We will go back to our old meeting time of *11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.* St. James has generously offered to let us use their fellowship hall at no cost. The hall is large enough to accommodate our group and there is plenty of parking.

These changes are necessary because we have already out grown the State Extension Office parking lot, and in the near future UALR will be building a field house in the area we have used for overflow parking.

Thanks to the committee, Jim Tyler, Sandy Harrison and Suellen Roberts, for all their leg work and investigation to locate a meeting place that was accessible, affordable, accommodating, and had ample parking. Thanks to St. James United Methodist Church for their generosity.

Mark your 2004 calendars now - the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. - Master Gardener Meetings. A map will be mailed with the December/January issue of the Master Minutes.

Beth Phelps

== Internet Pipelines

- For fall color sightseeing updates, visit the Arkansas web site: www.arkansas.com
Or call toll-free 1-800- NATURAL. _____ Ruth Jones
- For complete details of the Southern Region Master Gardener Meeting and Caribbean Cruise see the Poe Travel website: www.poetravel.com.

NOTE: Portions of the "Enabling Gardens" article in the September Master Minutes were previously published in the July/August issue of Arkansas Gardener magazine".
Lorraine Hensley

Trading Post:

The Plant and Seed Exchange
By Sharon Davis



- Lou Sanders has Bromeliads, Aechmea species to give away and wants other species of Bromeliads (501-221-9722)
- Betty Henderson has Blackberry Lily seeds to give away. (501-868-1196)
- Don Ford has Red Flowering Buckeye to give away. (501-821-9353)
- Fran Lopata has "Buddleia Davida" to give away and wants Montbretia and Monarda. (501-223-8099)
- Wincie Hughes wants a "Cherokee Rose." (501-758-5271)
- Anita Chamberlin has Moon Vine seed to give away. (501-7581959)
- Jan Gauntt wants cuttings or division from Calycanthus shrub with fragrant brown flowers.
- Nancye McCowan has a medium long-sleeve khaki twill shirt to sell. (\$33.50) (501-8681335)
- Sharon Davis has an XL denim long-sleeve shirt to sell or trade for large denim shirt. (\$33.50) (501-835-7254)
- Steve Lopata has an XL green long-sleeve shirt to sell or trade for green-check shirt. (501-223-8099)
- Bonnie Peek has an XL zip-front jacket to sell. (\$43.00) (501-663-1717)
- Patty Wingfield has a medium zip-front jacket to sell. (\$43.00) (501-225-5758)

Come Ride the Gardening Wave June 24-28, 2004

Southern Region Master Gardener Meeting and Caribbean Cruise

The cruise will leave from New Orleans Thursday, June 24 at 4:00 p.m. and return Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. For a wonderful opportunity to visit with Master Gardeners from 13 other southern states and a great vacation, plan to join us. Families and spouses are welcome. A flyer is enclosed with your Master Minutes. To reserve a room, you must put down a non-refundable \$50 deposit.

Highlights from the International Master Gardener Conference Continued from page 1

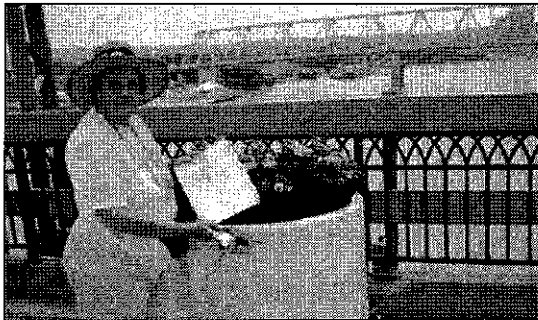
The Keynote Speaker I heard was Dr. Lonnie Thompson, a noted professor of geological sciences. His talk about global warming and glacier melt was chilling (pun intended). He told us, "If nothing is done to change the current trend, in thirty years no glaciers will remain in Glacier National Park."

Other Pulaski County Master Gardeners attended other events and sessions:

Hilda and James Boger: "We especially liked the grass farm tour and garden tour we went on. We liked the way sessions were divided according to level of expertise. I enjoyed being challenged, and my husband, who is not a Master Gardener, was able to get what he wanted out of the sessions, too," Hilda said.

Nancye McCowan: "I really liked Tracy DiSabato-Aust's keynote speech and session about colors in the garden. We had fun working on the bridge. A busload of Master Gardeners rode to the site. Five to seven were assigned to each team. There was a diagram for each container so volunteers knew what to put where. We helped design the two planters in the middle because the design was missing."

Dorothy and Steve Veirs: "We enjoyed meeting people from all over. We had fun fixing the bridge plantings with 'Mr. Worm' (James Looney, the man who won Ohio Master Gardener of the Year Award)."



Mary Evans: "My favorite part of being at the International Conference was being with friends and flowers. Ten of us from Arkansas were on the planting team at the far end of the bridge. After we finished planting our section, we worked our way back across the bridge re-setting plants that hadn't been done properly. 'Mr. Worm' worked with us. He kept referring to us as his 'Ladies from Arkansas.' Other Master Gardeners at the conference were griping about their coordinators; they were amazed by our Arkansas coordinator and by our variety of programs. We were good ambassadors for Arkansas."



Jane Druff: "I enjoyed the many gorgeous plantings in the zoo gardens. The educational sessions included many new topics, even for one who has been to a lot of conferences."



Nan Matthews: "The speakers were interesting personalities and were very knowledgeable. I especially enjoyed Holly Shimuzu's talk about herbs in the landscape."

Carolyn Newbern: "It was interesting to see how they did the pedestrian bridge, because we might do one here. The signs for the sessions were unusual--placed in enormous decorated urns of a variety of designs. In the session about Blooming Boulevards in Vancouver, B.C., they told how troubled neighborhoods were improved by community involvement in plantings."

Beth Phelps: "There were no dud speakers at this conference. They were the best of any International Master Gardener Conference I have attended."

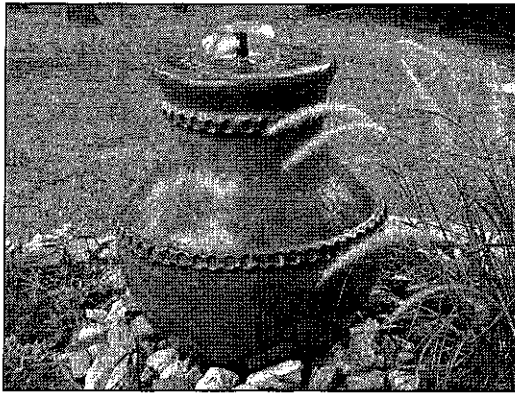
Saturday was my day to load up on goodies at the Gardener's Market, similar to the one at our Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. I figured it was time to leave the Market when my bags were too heavy to carry. It was hardest for me to tear myself away from the bookseller, who carried new and old gardening books, some of which were out of print "Oldies but Goodies."

Besides the Saturday workshops, there were more tours to gardens, arboretums, a conservatory, greenhouses, historic districts, and plant farms. Those of us who stayed to the end were rewarded with a paddle wheel Riverboat Dinner Tour, which included a tasty buffet and live Bluegrass music. Gliding back along the sparkling Cincinnati skyline was a relaxing ending to a very stimulating four days.

At IMGC 2003, I learned a lot about plants, and I learned that Master Gardeners--no matter where they come from--are the friendliest and most interesting people you can find anywhere. In fact, one of the hotel workers told me, "You gardening folks are the friendliest group we've ever had."

In 2005 you can go to Saskatoon, Canada and find out for yourself how much fun an international conference can be. In 2007 we'll be having one right here in Little Rock--so get in on the fun and help make it happen here!

P.S. The Ohio newsletter reported that on Aug 20, 2003, 'Mr. Worm' died. According to the Pulaski County Master Gardeners that met him, Mr. Looney's picture should be in the dictionary under master gardener.



I have been besotted with the idea of a water feature with a water pot since I first saw one at the Arkansas Garden Show a few years back. It wasn't until I became a Master Gardener and retired that I finally decided that if I was ever going to have one this was the time.

After lots of research on the internet and planning, you'll need this list of supplies for a water feature in a bed 8 feet by 6 feet:

- Power source
- 180 large size Windsor Stones
- Sand
- Top soil in addition to soil from existing bed
- Level and string
- Large Water Pot
- Thompson's Water Seal
- Polyurethane
- Water pump and filter system
- 3 feet of clear plastic tubing and brass fittings
- 1 drip pan of sufficient size to fit neck of water pot
- Clear silicone water tight sealer
- Hard plastic catch basin
- River Stone to surround pot
- Metal diamond grate
- Kit from Lowe's for bubbling effect
- 20 gallon plastic tub liner for reservoir

Building the bed

The site I selected was an existing bed that was in drastic need of a make over.

Step 1: Remove existing plants from old bed.

Step 2: Remove and dispose of old cross ties.

Step 3: Level bed. Using string and a level determine the grade variance from the top side of the bed to the lower end.

Step 4: Place Windsor stone making sure each stone is level with the other. The first level should be under ground.

Step 5: Continue adding stone until bed is level. 8 stones were needed across the front of the bed and 3 stones were need across the lower side of bed.

Step 6: Level bed by adding soil to the top of the stones.

Step 7: Select the spot for water pot to be placed. Dig hole large enough to accommodate the 20 gallon plastic tub liner.

Make sure this reservoir is perfectly level. Place Windsor Stones around the edge of the reservoir.

How To Build A Water Pot (With Lots Of Help From Your Husband And Friends) By Susan Gillihan, Master Gardener Novice

Step 8: Place heavy gauge diamond grate across reservoir to keep pot secure in place.

Step 9: Prepare the pot. My pot was purchased at "I Like it All". A large Mexican water urn was selected. I suggest one with smooth sides so the water will run smoothly down and around the pot back into the reservoir. This pot had an existing hole in the bottom. 10 coats of Thompson's Water Seal were applied inside and out, allowing the pot to dry completely between coats. After completely drying, two coats of polyurethane were applied.

Step 10: Place the plastic drip pan in the neck of the pot. A 3/4 inch hole was drilled in the pan to allow for the passing of the clear plastic tubing. The pan was then sealed with clear silicone to make it water tight.

Step 11: Pass clear plastic tubing through hole and use brass fittings to attach the bubble effect kit.

Step 12: Place pump in the bottom of reservoir and cover with water and connect to power supply.

Step 13: Place River Stone around the edge of pot for beauty.

Step 14: Select and place plants.

Step 15: Turn on pump, enjoy, and kiss your wonderful husband.

Special thanks to Lowe's, Home Depot, and especially River Valley Horticultural Products INC.

And a very special thanks to Carl Gillihan, husband extraordinary!

Susie Gillihan is a guest writer for Master Minutes, earning some education points while researching for her own landscape project.

The Ozark Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will hold their fall meeting at Wildwood Gardens in Little Rock on Saturday, October 25, at 9:00 a.m. There will be two speakers:

- Keith Johannson, of Arlington, Tx., "Plants that will take the heat of north Tx. including rhododendrons and Japanese maples."
- Hank Schennen, of the Rare Fine Nursery of Princeton, N.J., "Rhododendrons recommended for hot climates." Hank is an expert on the Hochmann rhododendrons from Germany that are good for hot climates.

There will be a plant auction and the proceeds will be donated to Wildwood Gardens. There is no fee to attend nor do you need to be a member of the Ozark Chapter, but we encourage you to bring a plant to auction. The meeting will conclude at 11:30 a.m. and a tour of Wildwood will follow.

Len Miller, Eastern Vice President of the American Rhododendron Society and Director of Lendonwood Gardens

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights: September 8, 2003

By Pat Green

Highlights of the Master Gardener Board Meeting

- ◆ A conflict with scheduling at St. James United Methodist Church means that the meeting room originally planned for the Master Gardeners is no longer available on the second Tuesday of the month for 2004. After much discussion, the board agreed to move the meetings to the **THIRD** Tuesday at **11:30 AM**. There will be no charge from St. James United Methodist Church.
- ◆ Treasurer's report shows an ending balance of \$10,304.02 for August 31, 2003.
- ◆ Mary Freeman and Carolyn Newbern have been working on a survey of "Gifts, Talents and Interests" of our membership.
- ◆ The Pulaski County Master Gardeners have proposed an advanced training session on Heirloom Gardening for march, 2004
- ◆ The Arkansas State Hospital Auxiliary will sell calendars for \$5 each featuring pictures of the State Hospital MG Project at the October meeting.
- ◆ Reservations have been made for our officers to attend Leadership Training October 7 & 8.
- ◆ Pulaski County Master Gardeners will host the 2007 International Master Gardener Meeting.



Lew Hyatt presents program on mosquitoes.

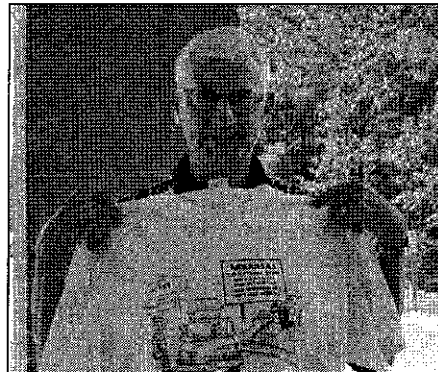
Photos by Lynn Winningham



Rochelle Greenwood reports on mentors for the 2003 class of Master Gardeners.

Highlights of the Master Gardener Meeting

- ◆ There are still spaces available on the Missouri Botanical Garden trip scheduled for October 21-23.
- ◆ An award of appreciation was presented to the Pulaski County prisoners for the work they do at the Greenhouse. Mr. Don Webb, who oversees the program, accepted the "Friends of the Master Gardeners" award on behalf of the prisoners.
- ◆ Project chairpersons need to turn in request for spring plants to Lois Corley by November 1.
- ◆ The Greenhouse will sell fall plants on October 11 at 8AM.
- ◆ Congratulations to the new slate of officers elected:
 - President - Nancy Kirsch
 - First Vice-President - Dick Blankenkemper
 - Second Vice-President - Sylvia Orton
 - Secretary - Susan Crisp
 - Treasurer - Mary Freeman
 - At-Large - George Harper
 - At-Large - Ila Newberry
- ◆ Three new projects were approved. They are:
 - Patrick Henry Hays Senior Citizen Center, North Little Rock
 - Wildwood Park for the Performing Arts, Little Rock
 - Amy Sanders Library, Sherwood
- ◆ Lou Sanders spoke on behalf of ARORA - Arkansas Regional Organ Recovery Agency.
- ◆ Dick introduced Lew Hyatt from the Pulaski County Central Health Unit who presented the program on West Nile Virus.



Ray Sarmiento won a T-shirt donated by Arkansas Department of Health.



Photo by Paul McDonnell

All three door prize winners are 2002 Graduates!
Lynn Winningham - ornamental rain gauge;
Jet Cuffman - Metal Frog; Mickey Elmore - T- Shirt

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for October:
Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except 5th Thursday of the month)
Curran Hall: Mondays @ 9:00am
Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 9:00am
Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am
PC County Extension: October 16 @ 9:00am
State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

Janie Ballard ---

Janie Ballard was killed in her home, Friday, September 12, 2003. She went through her Master Gardener training in 2000 and had been an active member of the Old State House Committee since, serving as co-chair in 2003. Anytime you talked with Janie she was full of energy and willing to do whatever was needed. Patty Wingfield, Chairman of the Old State House Committee said Janie was the best co-chair; not only was she always willing to do her share but she also looked for opportunities to promote the Master Gardener program. Janie did special things for their committee like putting together a calendar/notebook and Master Gardener magnets for each member. Her enthusiasm for Master Gardening and the Old State House will be greatly missed.

Beth Phelps

Reminder: Old magazines are sold for \$.50 at Master Gardener meetings to help fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Arrive early for Master Gardener meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www/arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural - related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to: Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Smell34@aol.com
663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bp Phelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:

Pat Green
Susie Gillihan

Pulaski County Master Minutes

November, 2003

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 14, Issue 10

Horticare Nursery Reception for Master Gardeners

Horticare Nursery was decked out beautifully for the Fall Fest wine and cheese reception held for Master Gardeners on October 16, 2003. Chris Olsen, President of Horticare, and Mitzi Burch, Nursery Manager, expressed their appreciation to the Master Gardeners for all their help during the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show. The food was good and the fellowship was great. It was no surprise that lots of wonderful new plants were taken home by our enthusiastic crowd.

Beth Phelps



Maxine Ramage and Fran Ables



Rita from Horticare with Margaret Breen



If you missed the party, check out Horticare Nursery's website at:
<http://www.horticare.net/index.htm>

Photos courtesy of Kandy Jones



There will be no speaker at the November, 2003 Master Gardener meeting. Instead there will be a reception welcoming the new class of Master Gardeners. Plan to be there.

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.



Best in Show: Once again, Curran Hall



It is official: Curran Hall has been selected as "a winner in the City of Little Rock City Beautiful Commission Landscape Awards." According to the notification, "These awards are given to sites that exceed the requirements for landscaping, have voluntarily upgraded existing landscaping or are past Landscape Award winners that continue to support us in our mission to make Little Rock a more beautiful place to live, work, and play.

"The City Beautiful Commission commends you [Curran Hall Visitor Information Center] and your company [Little Rock Convention & Visitors Bureau] and would like to recognize you and your organization at the Little Rock Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, November the 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the board room on the second floor of City Hall at 500 West Markham.

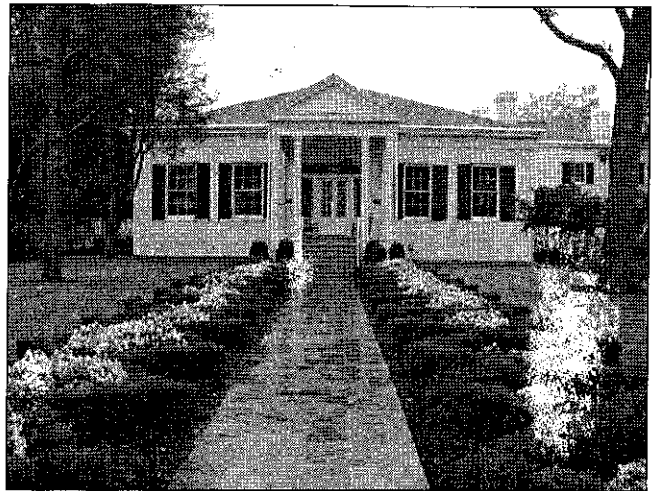
"We will also be hosting a pre-awards ceremony reception in your honor to allow you to mingle with members of the City Beautiful Commission, City Directors and your fellow award winners. The reception will begin at 5:00 p.m., in the City Hall Rotunda. We encourage you to invite your landscape architect, maintenance managers or others who contribute to your winning site [Pulaski County Master Gardeners, Curran Hall Committee!] to join us at the reception and awards program."

CONGRATULATIONS TO CURRAN HALL AND ALL OF THE HARD-WORKING MASTER GARDENERS WHO HAVE FAITHFULLY AND GRACIOUSLY LABORED THERE!

How many of you can attend the reception at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18th in the board room of City Hall? I hope that all of you can work it into your calendar. Let's make a good appearance for PCMG!

Please call me or e-mail me so that I can tell Cathy Cerrato how many to expect for the reception.

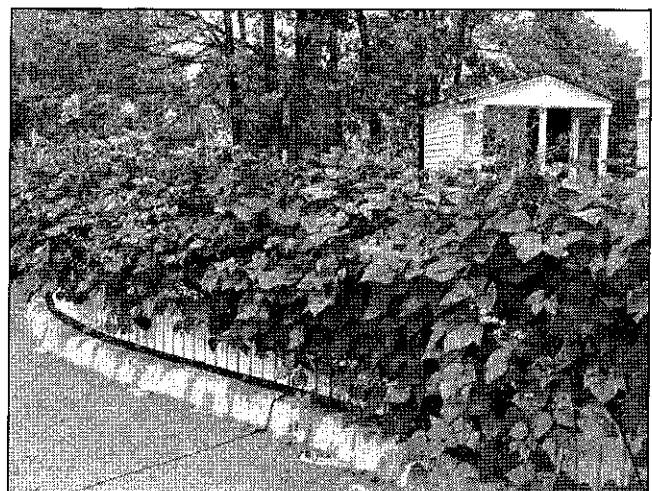
Carolyn Newbern
663-1222
clnewbern@aristotle.net



Curran Hall with *Buxus*, boxwood, parterres and *Begonias*



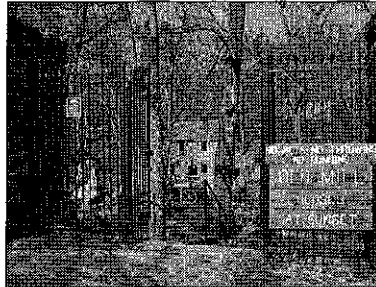
Zinnia elegans with *Coreopsis grandiflora*



Lablab purpureus, Hyacinth bean vine



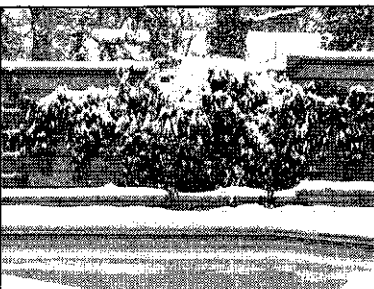
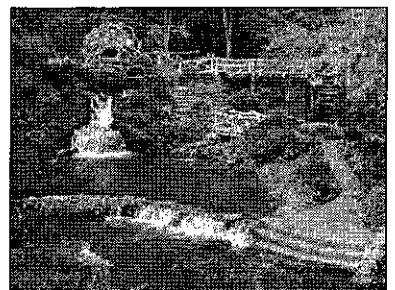
Best in Show Old Mill By Libby Thalheimer



One of our most recognizable Master Gardener efforts is the Old Mill Garden in North Little Rock. This committee works closely with the North Little Rock Parks & Recreation Department to design plant and maintain this garden. Its workdays are the first and third Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m.



Co-Chairmen are Martha Basinger, Judy Bradsher, and Anita Chamberlin. Micky Barsocchi, Dick Blankenbeker, Bob Bumgardner, Bridgette Caples, Kim Cartwright, June Chandler, Rita Davison, Sue Dean, Meg Fox, Carolyn Goetsch, Rochelle Greenwood, Ray Hartley, Lorraine Hensley, Wincie Hughes, Patsy Knodel, Billie Massey, Pat McDonald, Danny Murdaugh, Paula Phillips, Jerry Quick, Jack Singleton, Judy Spencer, Don Smith, David Walker, Pat Wallace, Marilyn Wheeler, and Lynn Winningham are on this committee.



Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham



Calendar By Ruth Jones

Continuing Education Opportunities

November

- 4 Fall Bulb Blast with Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 5 Class of 2003 Master Gardener Training
- 5 Arbor Day event at Allsopp Park, 10:00 a.m. – noon.
- 5 Japan: A look at some of its rare and unique plants, by Jim Jermyn. U of A Fayetteville Plant Science Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 6 Winter Gardening with Mary Evans. Info: 666-0759
- 8 Home for Holidays, 10 am- Chris Olsen, Wildwood Garden Series.
- 11 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Tuesday at noon, at the State Extension Office Auditorium, 2301 S University.
- 11 Holiday Floral Workshop. Ted Lewis, 6:30pm. \$49.00 Call Mary Evans at 666-0759 for information.
- 13 Custom Border Gardens. Mary Evans. Call 666-0759
- 15 Planting Trees and Shrubs with Mary Ann King, Pineridge Native Plants. 10:00 a.m. Wildwood Garden Series.
- 23 Grant County Garden Club Christmas Open House, 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m., at the home of Willis & Dolly Fusilier, 4129 Hwy 35 North in Sheridan. Tickets are \$3.00 at the door. All profits will be donated to the Sheridan Museum in honor of retiring Grant County Museum Director Elwin Goolsby. Contact Janice Erwin at 870-942-0960 or boslick@alltel.net for information.
- 29 Helping Mediterranean Herbs Feel at Home in Captivity with Tina Marie Wilcox. 10:00 a.m. Wildwood Garden Series.

December

- There is no Master Gardener meeting in December.
- 11 Master Gardener Holiday Dinner Party, Park Hill Christian Church.

January, 2004

- 20 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. New day, time, and place: Third Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley.

February, 2004

- 13- Hot Springs Lawn and Garden and Leisure Show, Hot Springs Convention Center.
- 15
- 17 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Third Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.

March, 2004

- 15 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley.

Our year end is quickly approaching. Have you earned your required twenty hours of continuing education points? If not, consider these options:

Research a topic of gardening interest to you, write an article and submit it to the Master Minutes. If you need help writing the article, the Master Minutes staff can help you. Contact Libby Thalheimer at 663-1151 or smell34@uark.edu for more information.

Pulaski and Lonoke County Master Gardener training:
 Controlling Insects and Fertilization: November 5, 2003
 8:45 a.m. - Insects and T. control, Beth Phelps
 10:30 a.m. - Fertilizers and Fertilization, Beth Phelps
 If you would like to have lunch please let Beth Phelps know by noon the Monday of the week you plan to attend. The cost of lunch is \$6.00, which you may pay when you come.

Janet Carson & Garvan Woodland Gardens Present:
 Japanese Maples and Their Place in the Home Landscape
 November 13, 2003
 Magnolia Room - Garvan Woodland Gardens
 540 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs, Arkansas 71913
 1-800-366-4664; 1-501-262-9300
 Reservations & Pre-Payment Required (50 Attendees Maximum):
 Members - \$25, Non-Members - \$30

9:00 - 9:45	Arrival & Check-In
9:45	Welcome
10:00 - 10:30	"Japanese Maples in American Gardens" by Gerald Klingaman
10:30 - 11:15	Variety/Selection by Harry Childs
11:15 - 12:00	Culture & Care by Janet Carson
LUNCH	
1:00 - 2:00	Tour: Pruning Demo & Variety Identification by John Powell & Bob Byers
2:00 - 2:30	"Propagating Japanese Maples" by Gerald Klingaman
3:00 - 3:30	Companion Planting by Bob Byers
3:30	Q & A

Fee includes workshop, lunch, and 10% gift shop discount on workshop day only.

Special seminar on Rock Gardening
 Contact Gerald Klingaman, 1-479- 575-2604, or klinga@uark.edu
 The U of A Department of Horticulture and the Ozark Rock Garden Society are sponsoring a talk by Scottish nurseryman and plant explorer, Jim Jermyn, a noted authority on Asian plants. Mr. Jermyn is a world renowned authority and author on Himalayan alpine plants. For twenty years he managed Edrom Nurseries in the UK, a successful nursery specializing in Himalayan and other Asian plants. Jermyn is a regular exhibitor at flower shows in England and Scotland, and is an active and popular lecturer in both the UK and the US. He resides in Berwickshire, Scotland.
 Mr. Jermyn's topic will be "Japan: A look at some of its Rare and Unique Plants". The talk will be on Wednesday, November 5th at 7:00 pm in the Plant Science Auditorium (PTSC 009) on the U of A Campus, in Fayetteville. All are welcome to this free lecture.



November Checklist By Rose Hogan

Tips for Bulbs

If your lily-of-the-valley, *Convallaria*, has become overcrowded and is blooming poorly, dig them up and replant them a foot apart. This winter, try storing your dug bulbs in a pail filled with sawdust after they have dried.

Now is a good time to start those bulbs that you want to force. Paper white narcissi, *Narcissus papyraceus*, are the easiest bulbs for indoor forcing. These bulbs do not need cold storage. They do not even need soil to grow. You can plant these bulbs in a pot with pebbles or gravel. The only thing you have to do is water them regularly and within four to six weeks you will have flowers.

Tips for Flowers



Add shredded leaves to the base of your ferns to protect the growing tips. Remove when new growth appears in the spring. November is one of the three best months to plant azaleas, rhododendron, camellia and other hardy broad-leafed evergreens. (October and March are the other two.)

Fiddlehead fern at the Mickels.
Photo courtesy of Cheryl Kennedy.

Apply mulch around hostas as the foliage begins to turn yellow. Roses that have been badly affected by disease this year should be pruned severely now.

Fall flowers, such as sedum and chrysanthemum, should be deadheaded before the first killing frost.

Plant new peonies outdoors. Dig up and divide mature clumps by lifting the entire root mass. Use a sharp knife to separate roots into section with at least three to five eyes and then replant. Take cuttings from geranium to enjoy indoor blooms over the winter.

Tips for Fruit

Prune established apple trees between now and late winter. Before planting new apple trees, check to see that they are compatible with existing varieties. All apples need pollination by another variety.

Plant bare rooted fruit trees from now until late spring if the soil is not frozen or water logged.

Check stored apples and pears regularly and remove any showing signs of decay. If left, they encourage all the other fruit to rot. Rake up all fallen fruit, leaves and blooms that you missed earlier and compost all disease-free organic refuse.

Tips for Lawns

Lawn cutting is over for this year, so clean the mower thoroughly. Scrape off soil and old grass. Cover all metal parts with a thin layer of oil or grease, then store mower in a dry place.

When digging borders along side lawns, place a plank on the turf to prevent lawn edges from being broken.

Do not install lawn edging after long periods of rain. The ground may be swollen with moisture, and any edging you install may

move once the ground dries. If your soil holds together loosely without clumping, it is safe to install lawn edging. If you were not able to repair worn patches of lawn in the early fall, use erosion mats to stop soil from washing away and to keep the problem from getting worse.

Tips for Yard Care

Discard garden rubbish and plants infected by disease. Rake up all leaves and place them on a compost heap. If left on paths they become a hazard when the colder weather comes. Paint fences with wood preservative now that leaves have fallen and plants are not obstructing them. Clean all garden tools and wipe metal surfaces with an oily rag.

Tips for Vegetables

Cut down faded asparagus foliage and compost it. Mulch beds with chopped leaves to protect crowns over the winter. Mulch rosemary, sage and thyme plants. Don't be tempted to retain potato tubers for replanting next spring. They are very likely to be infected by viruses and will not produce a good crop.

November Color

Aster; *Brassica oleracea*, Capitata Group are the ornamental cabbages and Acephala Group are the kales; *Camellia*; *Chrysanthemum*; *Clerodendron*; *Dahlia*; *Bellis perennis*, English daisies; *Dianthus*, pinks; *Cornus*, dogwoods; *Euonymus*; *Eupatorium*, Joe Pye Weed; *Gaura*; *Ginkgo*; ornamental grasses; *Liquidambar*, gums; *Hydrangea quercifolia*, oakleaf hydrangea; *Consolida*, larkspur; *Acer*, maples; *Viola*, pansies; *Papaver*, poppies; *Rosa*, rosehips; *Antirrhinum*, snapdragons; *Solidago*; *Oxydendrum*, sourwood; *Matthiola*, stock; *Torenia*; *Tricyrtis*, toad lily; *Verbena*; *Viburnum*; *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, Virginia creeper; *Erysimum*, wallflowers; and *Hamamelis*, witch hazel.



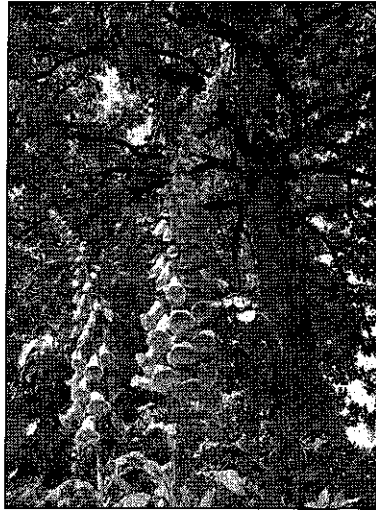
Ornamental grasses - Contemplation Garden.
Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham

2003 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival

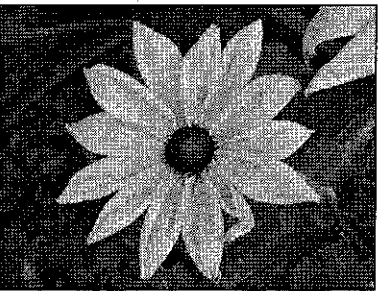
For the garden enthusiast, "Streets of Flowers" directed by Ian Ross will be playing at 7:55 pm on Saturday, October 25, and at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 31, 2003. The film is about the 28th Street New York Flower Market. The market, established in 1857, is the oldest flower market in the country and one of the most beautiful sights in Manhattan. Sadly, this wonderful bit of heritage is disappearing as the number of wholesalers decreases. Having lived in the flower market, the director felt that it was essential to document the rise and fall of the market. The film takes the viewer on a journey through the colorful world of the flower business. For more information, contact Darrin Henderson at the Garland County Extension office at 501-623-6841.



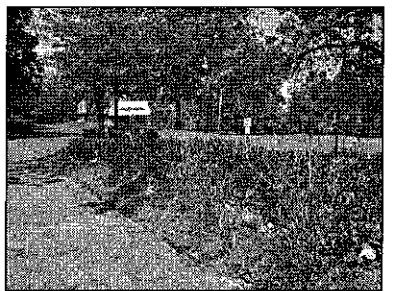
Best in Show: Pulaski County Extension Office Gardens



Master Gardeners have totally re-landscaped the grounds of the Pulaski County Extension Office with a once a month workday that begins at 9:00 a.m. There are several perennial beds, a foundation planting, and seasonal color beds, as well as a large lawn.



Co-Chairmen are Bernice Johnson and Cathy Muren. Jim Bowling, Ann Cooper, Marie Flickinger, Mary Ann Francis, Deborah Houck, Joan Humphries, Jenny Jackson, Julia Loyall, Cathy Martindill, Janee Miller, Jean Moffett, Betty Pagan, Kathy Phillips, Leslie Scott, Vande Southerland, Beth Stewart, Claudia Stallings, Amy Schuh, and Carolyn Wilcox are on this committee.



Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham



Pulaski County Master Gardener October Meetings' Highlights: By Susan Crisp

Note: Highlights were unavailable at the time of printing. Please see next month's newsletter for the highlights of the October meeting. Our apologies to you for any inconvenience caused by the delay.

Master Minutes Staff



Incoming President, Nancy Kirsch presides at the October meetings



Secretary Susan Crisp



Speaker for the October meeting was Dr. Nancye McCowan. Her presentation was on the highlights of the International Master Gardeners' Conference in Cincinnati and the effects of sunlight on gardeners' skin.



Door prize winners at the October meeting were:
Rose Crane - Metal Pig
Beth Stewart - Flowers
Fran Ables -CD

Times are changing...

Beginning in January 2004, we will hold our monthly meetings on the *third Tuesday* each month at *St. James United Methodist Church on Pleasant Valley Drive*. We will go back to our old meeting time of *11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.* St. James has generously offered to let us use their fellowship hall at no cost. The hall is large enough to accommodate our group and there is plenty of parking.

These changes are necessary because we have already out grown the State Extension Office parking lot, and in the near future UALR will be building a field house in the area we have used for overflow parking.

Thanks to the committee, Jim Tyler, Sandy Harrison and Suellen Roberts, for all their leg work and investigation to locate a meeting place that was accessible, affordable, accommodating, and had ample parking. Thanks to St. James United Methodist Church for their generosity.

Mark your 2004 calendars now - the third Tuesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. - Master Gardener Meetings. A map will be mailed with the December/January issue of the Master Minutes.

Beth Phelps

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for November:
Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00a.m. (Except
5th Thursday of the month)
Curran Hall: Mondays @ 9:00a.m.
Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 8:30a.m.
Master Minutes: Write an article for the
newsletter anytime and earn volunteer
hours.
Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30a.m.
PC County Extension: November 17 @
9:00a.m.
State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @
9:00a.m.

City Beautiful Nominations

Little Rock and North Little Rock want to promote public interest in the appearance of their city. They plan to recognize homeowners whose landscapes are exceptional and visible to the public. Nomination forms are available in the County Extension Office. Or you may contact the City Beautification Commission of each city.

Greenhouse Chairman Lois Corley reports the two day sales were a near sell out with all proceeds going back into greenhouse operations. In addition, 99 flats of flowers were provided to Master Gardener projects and various perennials were provided to our 'Friend to PCMG for 2003', the Pulaski County Corrections Department.

Reminder: All magazines sold at Master Gardener meetings are 50 cents. This helps fund our projects. Consider recycling your magazines by bringing them to the next meeting for our resale.

Arrive early for Master Gardener Meetings for better parking and door prize tickets. No tickets are given out after the meeting begins. However, you may still sign in for credit.

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee. Jane Gullev. Chair. 225-2072.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service
Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>
- Pulaski County Cooperative
Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road,
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
340-6650

Read 'em and Reap...

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Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural – related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter. Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to: Libby Thalheimer 5005 Crestwood Little Rock, Ark. 72207 Smell34@aol.com 663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Pulaski County Master Minutes

December, 2003/
January, 2004

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 14, Issue 11

Gardening Contributes to Healthy Bones Review by Sharon Davis



bone health so important?

Did you know that gardening is just as good as strength training for improving your bone density and thereby warding off osteoporosis? While going to the gym, lifting weights, and working out on resistance machines may not be your cup of tea, you have been exercising in the private gym in your own backyard—and enjoying it. Gardening not only beautifies your environment but also has been found to improve your bone health and density—without lifting a barbell. But why is

training (45 women) and gardening (1,384 women) were the only two physical activities highly correlated with strong bones.



Osteoporosis is frequently described as “fragile bone disease” and is the result of demineralization of bone tissue resulting in a reduced bone mass. This reduction in bone strength increases the risk of bone fractures. Osteoporosis is one of the most prevalent diseases of aging, affecting more than 25 million people in the United States, 80% being women. Approximately 250,000 hip fractures and 1.5 million bone fractures occur annually as a result of osteoporosis and nearly half of all women will experience at least one osteoporotic fracture by the age of 70. Physical activity has a positive impact on bone health and is recommended for osteoporosis prevention. Muscle stresses are important in fostering and maintaining bone mineral density and high impact loading stimulates bone development. But what does this have to do with gardening?

Lori Turner, PhD, RD an Assistant Professor of Health Science, Department of Health Science, Kinesiology, Recreation and Dance, The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville may turn out to be the gardener's best friend. While conducting a study on the relationship between exercise mode and frequency and bone health using data from the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES III), Dr Turner found that there was a significant relationship between yard work and bone health. The gardening/gym connection was made when the physical activities of over 3,000 women 50 years and older were compared with their bone density. Specific physical activities tested for significance included walking/jogging, swimming, bicycling, dancing, calisthenics, strength training, aerobics, and gardening. Strength

Anyone who has ever carried a bag of soil or mulch, dug a hole in the central Arkansas area, or heaven forbid built a rock wall around a flower bed is well aware of the weight bearing activities involved in gardening. Bending, squatting, pulling weeds, pushing a lawnmower, edging, keeping a wheel barrow upright and moving, and all the other activities essential in keeping your yard and garden beautiful are all a part of the gardening experience. (Dr. Turner is not talking about window box gardening.) In addition, gardening has the benefit of “hours” or exercise extended over a period of time. Do you look at the clock when you are gardening or do you find that three hours have passed when you meant to just pull a few weeds? Just think you have been tending you bones while tending your garden. Encourage your friends to garden.

Turner, L.W., Bass, M.A., Ting, L., and Brown, B. (2002). Influence of yard work and weight training on bone mineral density among older U.S. women. *Journal of Women & Aging*, 14, 139-148.

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham and Steve Corley



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.



Best in Show: Master Gardeners serve their time.

Congratulations for earning your five year pins: Shirley Acchione, Stewart Bell, Rose Bradley, Lois Clifton, Rose Crane, Lee Gershner, Carl Goodson, Ann Green, Sandy Harrison, Coy Hively, Joan Humphries, Lisa Jackson, Ben Jordan, Nancy Kirsch, Gena Norris, Sylvia Orton, Tammy Pope, Carolyn Prickett, Frances Searcy, Claudia Stallings, J. William Trimble, Laura Anne Wilson.

And kudos to Jim Bowling, Joyce Bumgardner, Irene Davis, David Dodson, Linda Holbert, Barbara Johnson, Laura Lasiter, Maxine Ramage, and Kathy Scheibner for earning their ten year pins.



Front: Shirley Acchione, Nancy Kirsch, Sandy Harrison, and Gena Norris
Back: Ann Green, Lois Clifton, Ben Jordan, and Rose Crane



Maxine Ramage, Laura Lasiter, Irene Davis, and Jim Bowling

Social Committee

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham



Linda Chakales, Sandy Harrison, Wincie Hughes, Sharl Hill, Connie Staley, Jim Dyer, Dena Dixon, Lynn Phelps, Dorothy Veirs, and Bernice Johnson



Chairman Susan Crisp and committee: Linda Chakalas, Dena Dixon, Jim Dyer, Sharl Hill, Wincie Hughes, Kandy Jones, Bernice Johnson, Jan King, Sharon Mayes, Bonnie Peek, Lynn Phelps, and Martha Whitehurst, hosted a welcoming reception for the 2003 class of Master Gardeners. They've done an outstanding job of entertaining us this year. Fortunately, there's more to come. The Holiday Social will be Thursday, December 11, 2003, from 6:30-8:30pm at the Park Hill Christian Church. Cost is \$15/person. RSVP to Susan Garner, 712 Shea Dr, LR 72205; 221-1720 by 12/ 5/ 2003.

Herbal Lessons By Libby Thalheimer, Editor

Consider the consequences of confusing *herbal essence* with *herbalists' scents* when concocting a soothing solution of herbal therapy.

- Three or four drops of essential oils in a vaporizer are effective as inhalants or diluted in a teaspoon of base oil suffice for a full body massage, while the herbalist's scents are too subtle for their aromas to substitute.
- Two level teaspoons of dried herbs constitute herbal teas and tisanes, four ounces for tinctures, but concentrated herbal essence may only be consumed subject to careful supervision.

It's kind of a convoluted concept that anyone could mistake herbal essence for herbalists' scents, no matter how similar they sound. That's clear.

Study these simple statements concerning sage.

- Sage is a pungent herb used in bouquet garni for meats and poultry stuffing. It is used in hair care products for dandruff and in tisanes for coughs and digestive aid. The essential oil of sage is used in aromatherapy.
- Sage, a hardy perennial sub-shrub (24inches), grows best in full sun in well drained loam. Grown primarily for its foliage, its flowers are usually removed. If allowed to flower, bees and butterflies are attracted to its ornamental spikes.
- In Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, sage means "wise through reflection and experience". For the herbalist, sage signifies esteem or friendship.

It's a clipped and concise section of facts with no subliminal sub-plot.

So smile if you sense the herbal lessons are contrived to remedy any misgivings you may have on sharing your experiences in the Master Minutes. And....

- Jot down your Sage (*Salvia officinalis*) advice, from Clary (*Salvia sclarea*) Mint (*Mentha*) to Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*).
- Explain the Thyme, not Caraway (*Carum carvi*), you planted caraway thyme (*Thymus herba-barona*).
- Describe that really rash decision to use Rue (*Ruta graveolens*) as insect repellent. Do you still rue that sunny day?
- Spread the dirt on the real Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) in a corner all alone. Never plant a self-sower in a border, it'll take over.

As gardeners, we encounter many of the same old, continuing problems but often with slightly different spins. By submitting your gardening tales and travesties to What Works, listing items for exchange in the Trading Post, or writing an article about a gardening interest, Master Minutes can be another tool we use to help combat some of those problems.

According to The Herb Bible by Peter McHoy and Pamela Westland:

- The symbolic meaning of sage is esteem or friendship; mint is wisdom; thyme is activity; and rue is repentance.

Letter to the editor

We have lost our roots!

We have had a train in our garden, people from forestry, people from the zoo, and liver donations. We are gardeners people!

Let's have an immediate program by Dick Blankenbeckker on tomatoes. Will I get more yield out of determinate or indeterminate?

Nancye McCowan could enlighten us about what to plant and methods for successful fall.

What happened to the "By the Light of the Moon" article in Master Minutes? I actually followed it.

Let's work smarter not harder. When I come to these meetings I want to learn something new about gardening from someone who knows more than I do.

Anonymous



Calendar By Ruth Jones

Continuing Education Opportunities

December, 2003

- There is no Master Gardener meeting in December.
- 1-31 Christmas lights at Garvan Woodland Gardens.
 - 11 Master Gardener Holiday Dinner Party, Park Hill Christian Church.

January, 2004

- 20 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. New day, time, and place: Third Tuesday at 11: 30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley.

February, 2004

- 13- Hot Springs Lawn and Garden and Leisure Show, Hot Springs Convention Center.
- 15 Springs Convention Center.
- 17 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. Third Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Dr.
- 27- Arkansas Flower and Garden Show at the Statehouse Convention Center.
- 29

March, 2004

- 15 Pulaski County Master Gardener meeting. 11:30 a.m. at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley.

"ROOM TO GROW"
JULIANA GREENHOUSE GRANT

The National Gardening Association has partnered with Juliana, manufacturers of hobby greenhouses to create the "Room to Grow" Juliana Greenhouse Grant. Schools and community organizations across the U.S. with established youth gardens are invited to apply. Applicants must involve at least 15 youngsters between the ages of 3 and 18 in gardening in 2004. Proposed projects should actively engage youngsters in a greenhouse environment, establish clear teaching and learning goals, and demonstrate need. 50 selected projects will receive indoor growing equipment and/or materials. Prizes range from a large Professional Horticultural Greenhouse (retail value \$2,495) to NGA's Guide to School Greenhouses. Application deadline: December 31, 2003.

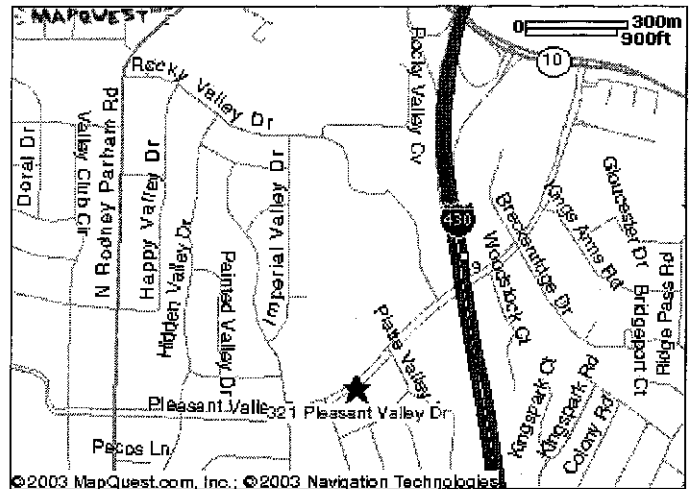
For more information, visit:

The National Gardening Association website:
<http://www.kidsgardening.com/archive/kgnews-current.asp>

Master Gardeners are required to earn twenty points of continuing education each year. In addition to attending the Master Gardener meeting in January where you can earn two education points, the following activity is offered:

- Research a topic of gardening interest to you, write an article and submit it to the Master Minutes. If you need help writing the article, the Master Minutes staff can help you. Contact Libby Thalheimer at 663-1151 or smell34@aol.com for more information.

The speaker for the January Master Gardener meeting will be Beth Phelps, Pulaski County Extension Agent, Staff Chair. She will be discussing the new horticultural zones and the implications for Arkansas. Below is a map showing St James United Methodist Church where we will be meeting at 11:30 on January 20, 2004.



"Ride the Gardening Wave"
Southern Region Master Gardener Meeting and Cruise
June 24 - 28, 2004

If you are interested in the meeting and cruise leaving from New Orleans be sure and book soon. Information was previously mailed in the Master Minutes.

More information is available @ <http://www.poetravel.com>.
Click Meetings and Incentives.
Click Master Gardener Cruise.
Or call Teresa at Poe Travel, 376-4171.



December & January Checklist By Rose Hogan

Cut holly and Christmas greenery for decorating. When cutting evergreen foliage from the garden for Christmas décor, cut just

above a bud. This ensures that no spurs will be left to encourage decay. Keep it cool and moist to last



longer.

Camellias in bloom at the Old Mill.

Don't throw out that ash if you're burning wood in the fireplace this winter. Save it until next spring then spread it in your gardens.

Scatter it around your radishes, onions and potatoes. Wood ash is high in potassium and will raise the pH of the soil.

BUT don't use ashes or salt to clear garden paths of ice. This could damage plants that are growing in between the slabs. Use kitty litter or sand to melt the ice. Rake up all leaves and place them on a compost heap. If left on paths they become a hazard when the colder weather comes.

Avoid walking in your garden if it is covered in snow. Lawn edges and plants could break. Don't walk on soil unnecessarily. It will compact and damage its structure.

If your soil is not waterlogged, frozen or covered in snow, repair your fences now. If you wait until spring you may step on and damage newly emerging bulbs. It is also easy to pound stakes into the damp soil now, rather than in the summer when the soil could be dry and hard.

If you are planning any major changes to your garden, it is best to do it now while the soil is damp; but not if the soil is still frozen or water logged. Make changes from now until early spring.

Start planning for next season. Send away for seed and plant catalogs.

Order seeds and seed potatoes now to avoid disappointment later.

Tips for Flowers

Enjoy the blooms of forced bulbs such as hyacinth and paper whites.

Plant tulips after cold treatment.

Place poinsettias in a sunny window in a cooler area of the house now. Reduce watering and begin feeding again in spring.

Don't allow potted azaleas to dry out. The soil must remain moist. Pack down the soil around newly planted roses, trees and shrubs on a regular basis until spring.

Check your shrubs on a regular basis for damaged branches that may need removing. Keep your hedges trimmed with a round top so that the snow won't collect and break branches. Gently remove snow. Branches will break if they get too weighed down.

Remove all leaves from around your rock gardens. Moisture retention will cause surrounding plant stems and leaves to decay.

Watch for signs of soft or moldy bulbs if stored over the winter. If they have started to rot or decay, remove them and throw them away. This occurs if moisture gets into storage areas.

Make note of areas in the flower beds, and in the rest of the garden, that retain water. These areas may need to have drains installed when the weather allows.

Tips for Fruit

Cut off sucker shoots from around the bases of apple and pear trees. Prune apple trees. Discard the branches you have pruned to avoid the spread of disease.

Regularly inspect fruits in storage, removing any with signs of decay.

Cut out any dead or weak canes of blueberries between now and February. Use sharp pruning shears.

Replace damaged or broken supports for fruit trees now.

If rabbits are a pest in your area, make sure wire netting or plastic guards have been fitted around trunks of young fruit trees. Young trees are the first to be attacked and if they are totally girdled they will not survive.

Tips for Lawns

If you need to plant grass, do it only when you are sure the temperature will stay above freezing. Avoid planting grass in a rainy season. Heavy rains can leave soil too wet, resulting in damping off, a fungal disease that can kill the seedlings.

Remove dead grass and leaves if the surface of your lawn is not too wet or frosty.

If you haven't already done it, arrange to have the cutting blades on your lawn mower sharpened. Have all electric cables and switching gear checked. If you need a new lawn mower, now is the time to look around for bargains.

December Color

Camellias, dogwood, hollies, nandina, osmanthus, aquifolium, possum haw, rosehips, tea plant, viburnums and violas.



Ruth Owings with the bouquet of pansies.

January Color

Camellias, heather, hellebores, hollies, winter honeysuckle and jasmine, mahonia, possum haw, flowering quince and witch hazel.



What Works!

Trading Post



Compiled By Sharon Davis

What Works and the Trading Post are the Master Gardener forums to propagate the wealth of our gardens.

Share your tips or list your produce on the clipboards circulated during the monthly meetings; or write to:

Sharon Davis @ sedavis@aristotle.net, or @ #6 Alanbrook Cove, Sherwood, Ar. 72120.

Although not required, if you sign your name you will be credited.

- Basil makes a great smelling wreath for your kitchen. It is often grown on windowsills to repel flies in addition to flavoring tomatoes.
- Make a tisane of peppermint, basil, marjoram, yarrow or caraway as a home remedy for nausea or flatulence.
- An infusion of thyme and lemon juice combine to make a soothing gargle for a sore throat.
- For dandruff sufferers with dark hair, use an infusion made from the leaves of rosemary and sage as a hair rinse.
- Balsam scented clary is used in soups, sauces, and winemaking.
- A mint infusion can be used as an antiseptic and a face wash.
- Bee balm flowers are used to flavor teas, while the essential oil from bee balm is used as an antidepressant in aromatherapy.
- The leaves and stems of rue can be used to repel flies and wasps. Be careful handling rue. It causes a strong reaction in some people.
- A decoction of dill seeds is a mild sedative and digestive aid.
- Pat Green has *Hermerocallis* Hybrid Stella d'Oro, daylilies that need a good sunny home—free to any project. Come get them. (501-835-6215)
- Marie Flickinger has "Vinca" ground cover with blue flowers to give away. (501-758-4202)
- Dolores LeCompte has *Lablab*, Hyacinth Bean, seeds to give away and wants *Alcea rosea*, Hollyhock seeds. (501-664-4795)
- Dolores LeCompte already has the windows and would like someone to build a cold frame for her. (501-664-4795)

The easiest and least expensive way to propagate plants is by dividing and replanting plants and gathering seeds. You may bring your extra plants and seeds to share with other Master Gardeners at the meetings. Deposit plants outside the auditorium with a short card listing the name and care of your plant. To guarantee an exchange, list your divided plants and seeds in The Trading Post.

From The Herb Bible by Peter McHoy and Pamela Westland

For gardeners, broadcasting is simply scattering seeds where you want them to grow. In What Works, you broadcast your deeds, or gardening experiences, hopefully in good time, so that we all benefit from your successes and failures.

== = Internet Pipelines

David Werling, a new Master Gardener, found Steve Vann's PowerPoint presentation (slides) on the internet. Anyone can download Stephen Vann's Common Diseases color Power point presentation, the one he used in the Master Gardener class, by going to:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/PlantDisease/>

Pulaski County Master Gardeners Memorial Fund

The Board of Directors of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners has formalized a Memorial Fund into which gifts may be made. These gifts may be made "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" any designated person and may be specified for a particular use. Those specified uses might include trees to be placed on public property; garden related books for libraries; funds to be used for a specific Master Gardener project (benches, boulders, birdbaths, statues, or other hardscape); or for general Master Gardener program support.

Donations should be sent to: Pulaski County Master Gardener Program, 2901 West Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204.



Arkansas Flower and Garden Show "Gardens as Art"

A special feature of this year's show will be an Art Show along with ten landscaped gardens, over 100 booths, the Arkansas Florist Association Competition and the Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs Flower Show.

Volunteer to be a part of this show. You don't want to miss it. Complete the attached form and return it to the Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service, 2901 W. Roosevelt Road, Little Rock, AR 72204 or e-mail to bphelps@uaex.edu or Ray Sarmiento annsarmiento@aol.com.

Volunteer Sign-up Form

Friday, February 27, Saturday February 28, and Sunday, February 29, 2004

YES, count me in. I want to be a Flower and Garden Show Volunteer.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: AR Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Age if under 18 years old _____

I am available to work at the show: Please rank your choices 1, 2 and 3. Please make sure and indicate both the day(s) and the shift(s) you prefer to work.

We need volunteers for all 3 shifts on all 3 days.

Day	Shift
____ Friday, Feb. 27	____ 8:45 a.m. - Noon
____ Saturday, Feb. 28	____ Noon - 3:00 p.m.
____ Sunday, Feb. 29	____ 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
____ I can work as most needed. Just assign me a shift.	

I would like to help with set up and/or take down:

____ Set up Thursday, Feb. 26 _____ a.m. _____ afternoon _____ p.m.
 ____ Take down, Sunday, Feb. 29 _____ 5:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. or so.

I would like to help with:

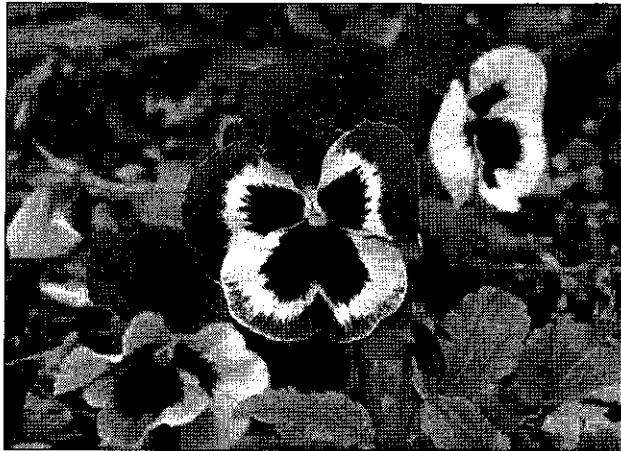
____ Where most needed ____ Selling/Taking Tickets ____ Speakers Area ____ Office/Name Badges
 ____ Vendor Services ____ Master Gardener/Extension Education Center

____ Trainer (Experienced Flower and Garden Show volunteers willing to work a full day helping check in and train volunteers for each shift. Trainers will get together before the show for their training.)

I would like to work the same shift as: _____

Remember to mark your calendars with the dates above.
 Assignments will be mailed in mid February.

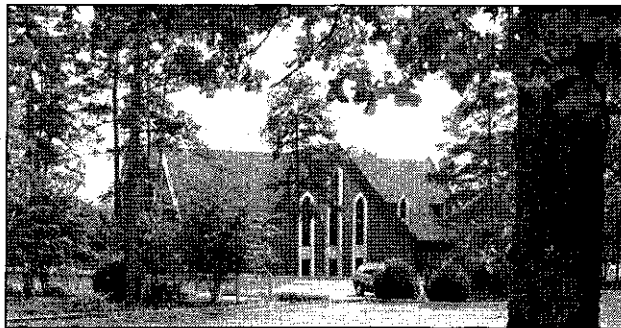
New Digs By Lynn Winningham



We will leave behind some familiar faces at the U of A Cooperative Extension Office after our move to St. James United Methodist Church.



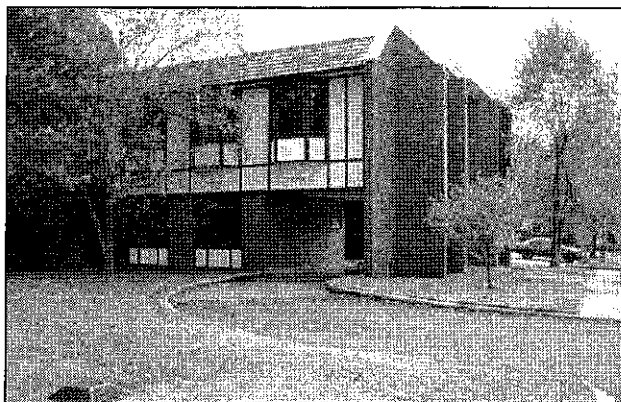
The covered drive is just past the main entry for the church.



Remember no December meeting. We will be meeting at St. James United Methodist Church, 321 Pleasant Valley Drive in Jones Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at 11:30a.m.

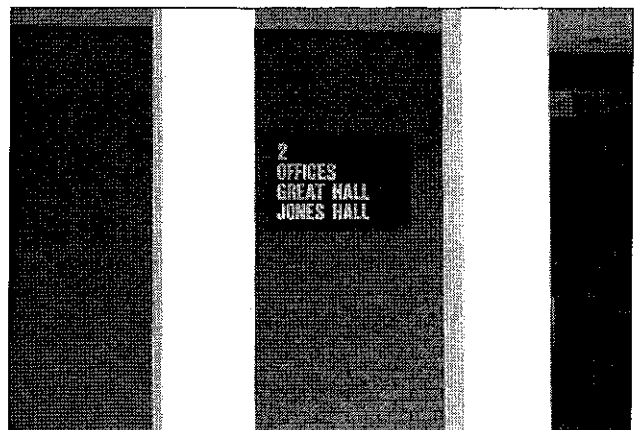


This is a secluded garden located near our new meeting space at Jones Fellowship Hall at St James United Methodist Church. I am so excited to have such a beautiful new place to take pictures.



We will enter the building under the covered drive through.

Photos courtesy of Lynn Winningham



Enter here, go up 8 or so steps, walk 10-15 paces (not far) and turn right. Halfway down that hall, on the right, is Jones Hall. I thought this might help people to know exactly where to go.

New time, new day, and new place!

Pulaski County Master Gardener Meetings' Highlights By Susan Crisp

Board Meeting, October 14, 2003

A Thank you note to Carolyn Newbern was presented.

- ✓ The Treasurer's Report shows an ending balance of \$12,022.34 for September 30, 2003.
- ✓ The Memorial Tree Fund will be given a permanent name and address at the next meeting. The Janie Ballard memorial planting will be at Allsopp Park. The Lester Ballard memorial planting will be at McArthur Park.
- ✓ A Gifts, Talents and Interests Survey will be sent to members in December.
- ✓ A Grant Writing Workshop is November 10, 2003. Interested persons should contact Beth.
- ✓ The Leadership Training was reviewed. Discussed holding mini-workshops for committee chairpersons and interested members.
- ✓ Changes in statewide policies will be discussed at November meeting.
- ✓ Arbor Day is November 5, 2003 at Allsopp Park from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.
- ✓ Advertisements to promote Master Gardening Program will be discussed with the 3Ps Committee at the November Board Meeting.
- ✓ Channel 7 started Mid-Day Program and would like for gardeners to be on the show.
- ✓ A chairpersons' orientation will be held in January of 2004. Dick Blankenkemper and Carolyn Newbern will develop proposal on term lengths of members At-Large.

General Meeting, October 14, 2003

- ✓ A thank you gift to Carolyn Newbern was presented.
- ✓ Project chairpersons need to turn in requests for spring plants to Lois Corley by November 1, 2003.
- ✓ Plant sale will be Saturday, October 18, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- ✓ One opening is left for the St. Louis trip. See Ila Newberry if you are interested.
- ✓ The fall Reception for new Master Gardeners will be held after the November 11, 2003 meeting.
- ✓ The Holiday Social is Thursday, December 11, 2003, at the Park Hill Christian Church. Details and reservation forms will follow at a later date.
- ✓ Members are requested to give Beth all new e-mail addresses.
- ✓ The Janie Ballard Memorial Tree will be planted in Allsopp Park. The Lester Ballard Memorial Tree will be planted in McArthur Park.
- ✓ Contact Beth if you are interested in the Channel 7 Mid-Day Program. Master Gardeners are needed for three to four minute segments.
- ✓ 2004 Committee chairpersons were asked to contact Dick Blankenkemper.
- ✓ Dick Blankenkemper introduced Nancy McCowan, who spoke on the effects of the sun on gardeners' skin. She also showed pictures from the 2003 International Master Gardeners' Meeting.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Winningham.

Board Meeting, November 11, 2003

- ✓ Treasurer's Report had an ending balance of \$14,789.61 for October 31, 2003.
- ✓ A motion to charge dues for first year members to cover increased training costs was approved.
- ✓ Pulaski County Master Gardeners' Memorial Fund will be maintained by Mary Freeman and will have categories specified and unspecified.
- ✓ Orientation for Program Chairs will be January 15, 2004. New Board members are welcome.
- ✓ Mailing of new meeting location, time, dates and maps will be made.
- ✓ Policy changes discussed with Jane Druff on Sustainer Status and Leave of Absence. Motion passed that Sustainer status will begin in 2004 with prior approval.
- ✓ A committee will be formed to write grants to improve PCMG projects.
- ✓ Applications for "Keep Arkansas Beautiful" are due by January 10, 2004.

General Meeting, November 11, 2003

- ✓ New class welcomed.
- ✓ Thoughts and prayers extended for Jane Gulley, Jan King and Marilyn Tilley.
- ✓ Beth Phelps gave five and ten year pins and certificates. Lifetime members were also announced.
- ✓ Susan Crisp thanked the Social Committee, and reminded members about reception following and Holiday dinner.
- ✓ Ila Newberry reported on the St. Louis trip.
- ✓ Lois Corley thanked everyone for attending the plant sale, which funds our projects.
- ✓ Flower and garden show scheduled for February 27-29, 2004. Contact Beth Phelps or Ray Sarmiento to volunteer at the education booth (M.G., U of A, J.R.M.G., and speaker's bureau combining.) Mary Evans announced that forms go out in December, due in January.
- ✓ Contact Nancye McCowan for "stuff" orders. Cutoff date is November 14, 2003.
- ✓ Beth Phelps and Jane Druff discussed Sustainer Status and Leave of Absence policy changes.
- ✓ Check "sticky" board at each meeting for events.
- ✓ No speaker and everyone attended the reception for our new class.



Prize winners:
Juddie Wachtel:
leaf;
Linda Rafferty
and Jim Dyer:
license plates

Classifieds

Volunteer Opportunities for December and January:

Cammack: Thursdays @ 9:00am (except 5th Thursday of the month)
Curran Hall: Mondays @ 8:00am
Governor's Mansion: Mondays @ 8:30am
Master Minutes: Anytime. Write an article for the newsletter at your convenience.
Old Mill: 1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 8:30am
State Hospital: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ 9:00am

Sunshine Board

If you have information about Master Gardener members who have concerns to be shared please contact the Retention Committee, Jane Gulley, Chair, 225-2072.

City Beautiful Nominations

Little Rock and North Little Rock want to promote public interest in the appearance of their city. They plan to recognize homeowners whose landscapes are exceptional and visible to the public. Nomination forms are available in the County Extension Office. Or you may contact the City Beautification Commission of each city.

Keep Arkansas Beautiful Awards

Entries for 2004 must be postmarked by Saturday, January 10, 2004, and mailed to: KArB Awards, Keep Arkansas Beautiful Commission, One Capitol Mall, Little Rock, AR 72201

For additional information: E-mail: info@keeparkansasbeautiful.com or call 1-888-742-8701

The Pulaski County Extension Office project submitted an application and won the Crystal Award of Excellence for 2003. Pinnacle Mountain project was a runner up.

- Our condolences to Jane Gulley on the death of her son, Samuel. Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or the charity of your choice.
- Jan King is recovering quickly from a recent heart attack.
- Ray Sarmiento is recuperating from surgery.

Dig In Here...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

- Master Gardener Website:
www.uaex.edu
Username: mastergardener,
password: compost
- PC Master Gardeners Website
Pulaski.uaex.edu
- U of A Cooperative Extension Service Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

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Thank you

We all appreciate Carla Tunnell and The Decor Store (10900 Maumelle Boulevard, Maumelle) for donating so many great garden gifts to be used as door prizes at our Master Gardener Meetings each month.



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural - related information to the residents of the county. In 2002, these volunteers gave more than 10,000 hours of service.

Elisabeth J. Phelps__ County Extension Agent,
Staff Chair

News & Notes

Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter.

Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or send it to: Libby Thalheimer
5005 Crestwood
Little Rock, Ark. 72207
Or to: Smell34@aol.com
Or call: 663-1151

The deadline is the third Tuesday of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to: Beth Phelps
Pulaski County CES
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72204
Or to: bp Phelps@uaex.edu
Or call: 340-6650



Master Minutes Staff

Shannon Chamberlin
Sharon Davis
Carl Goodson
Ann Green
Rose Hogan
Helen Hronas
Kandy Jones
Ruth Jones
Cheryl Kennedy
Julia Loyall
Linda Moyer
Bonnie Nicholas
Ellen Rouch
Libby Thalheimer

Guest writers:
Susan Crisp
Lynn Winningham