

"In the Garden"

ARKANSAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Issue 4

November 4, 2008



Dates to Remember

Monday, Nov. 10
Pre-registration due for
Christmas Dinner Meeting

Monday, Nov. 10 – 4:00 pm
Work Day at Extension Office

Thursday, Nov. 13 – 4:00 pm
Work Day at Co. Courthouse

Saturday, Nov. 15
Early Bird Registration for
International MG Meeting Ends

Monday, Nov. 17
MG Christmas Dinner Party
Ag Museum, Stuttgart, 6:00 pm



Master Gardener Officers:

President – Bobbie Bennett
Vice President – Georgia Wells
Secretary – Robin Burkett
Treasurer – Beth Carter

Ark. Co. Extension Offices

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DeWitt, AR 72042
870-946-3231 or 870-673-2346
Fax: 870-946-3061
Email: arkd@uaex.edu

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Stuttgart, AR 72160
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**Arkansas County Master Gardeners
Christmas Party**
 **Monday, November 17, 2008** 
Ag Museum, Stuttgart – 6:00 p.m.
Dirty Santa Gift Exchange – \$15.00



Dinner Menu:

**BBQ chicken, baked beans, salad &
dessert.**

*(If members bring a guest, there will be a charge
of \$20.00 for the guest's meal.)*

**Pre-registration deadline – Monday,
November 10**

Notes from Ken

As the year 2008 winds down, it will soon be time to submit our annual MG report to Janet Carson. Please turn in your time sheets and report all hours, education, and work as soon as possible. We want to get credit for all the hours of hard work you have done to improve your community this year.

I am sure some of you do not know that I am your "official" UA Cooperative Extension Service sponsor and have been for the past year. In February I had surgery and chemotherapy during the summer. I have been healing and am much better now than anytime this year. I hope to attend the annual Christmas dinner party, and I will be more active in the future. Thank you for your personal visits, encouraging cards and most of all your prayers.

Ken Adams



International Master Gardener Meeting

Las Vegas is the site of the 2009 International Master Gardener Meeting to be held March 22-26, 2009 at the host hotel, Alexis Park Resort Hotel. Conference highlights include:

- *Jeff Lowenfels, author "Teaming with Microbes," founder "Plant a Row for the Hungry"
- *Marvin Miller, PhD., Ball Horticultural Co., President "American in Bloom"
- *Sunset and Stars opening reception at SkyLounge
- *Viva Las Vegas banquet and show featuring "Encore Follies"
- *IMGC Trade Show

Early Bird registration is through Nov 15, 2008, and is \$260; regular registration is \$310 and ends February 15, 2009. More information can be found at the web site www.unce.unr.edu/imgc. Sounds like a very interesting program and the web site gives lots of information on pre- and post-conference tours as well as program tours.

Master Gardener Birthday Party

By Marsha Heien

I attended the Master Gardener Birthday Party at the 4-H Center in Ferndale on Monday, October 13. It was a lovely day. The afternoon session began at 2:00 with a welcome by Janet and a PowerPoint presentation of the 20-year history of the Master Gardener program. Arkansas County was represented with several slides: the crape myrtle demo at the Health Dept., Gail Northcutt demonstrating stepping stones at the 4-H Center in 1997, and one of several of our group mugging for the camera (date unknown). I hope we can get a copy of it to show at one of our meetings. I think ya'll would enjoy it.

The "Small Gardens for Small Spaces" program by Melinda Myers was very informative and enjoyable. Afterwards cake and punch were enjoyed by all in the dining room.

Since I was the only attendee from Arkansas County, I brought home the "Arkansas County Tree." Janet had an oak tree for each county to take home and plant in celebration of the 20th Birthday of Master Gardeners. There is a small green plaque that will go beside the tree after it is planted. It is about 6 feet tall and is sitting in the carport at my house. So if any of you from DeWitt are in Stuttgart with your pick-up, please stop by and get it.

Workday at the Extension Office Beds

Monday, November 10

4:00 p.m.

Special Lost & Found Note:

A pair of Fiskars pruners was found on the bench in the Memorial Garden at the Extension office. Call the Extension office if you have misplaced yours.

Rain Gauge

Rainfall amounts submitted by
Brenda Meins – 13 mi. east of Stuttgart



June, 2008	July	August	September
6/1 1.0"	7/4 .1"	8/3 .8"	9/2 1.0"
6/9 .5	7/5 .8	8/10 .75	9/3 3.7
6/14 .6	7/9 .15	8/12 .5	9/9 2.0
Total 2.1"	7/22 1.5	8/15 .7	9/14 .1
	7/23 .5	8/16 .4	Total 6.8"
	Total 3.05"	8/19 .5	
		8/20 1.7	
		8/21 .2	
		Total 5.55"	

Rainfall amounts submitted by
P.A. Shockley – 2014 South Maple, Stuttgart

June, 2008	July, 2009
6/1 0.35"	7/3 0.2"
6/10 .5	7/5 1.4
6/14 .5	7/9 .4
6/26 .1	7/10 .5
6/27 trace	7/22 .65
6/28 trace	Total 3.15"
Total 1.45"	

Gardening Tidbits

By Georgia Wells

Winter is an important period in the gardening season. For those that make your own compost, during the winter months is the time it continues to decompose and get ready for use in the spring. Even when our gardens look like they are in hibernation, the soil is active all year long, and evergreen plants still use nutrients. It is important to replenish those nutrients for the next growing season, and composting is a good way to do this.

If you are the type that cannot keep your hands out the soil for the long winter season, try your hand at houseplants and windowsill gardens. For healthy indoor plants, you should choose a place that gets plenty of sunlight. You can also use this time to gather and store seeds for the spring planting season. This is an excellent time to catch up on reading those gardening magazines you have collected all year, and maybe plan new designs for you garden.

For those that have water gardens featuring fish, if your pond freezes during the winter, do not hit the ice to break it! Instead, use hot water to melt a hole. Placing a ball on the surface will stop the hole from freezing up.

Also, keep the bird feeders full; more birds surviving the winter means fewer slugs when summer comes.

One final reminder: stay off frosty lawns – nasty footprints will stay for weeks if you walk on a frosted lawn.



The October County 76 Newsletter can be viewed at the following website:

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardeneronly/county76/newsletters/default.htm>

Remember, in order to access the Master Gardener only website you must enter the following user name:
mastergardener and password: compost

Dana's House Project

Betty Neely & Yvonne Rodgers

On Tuesday, October 21, the first work day for doing our landscaping project at Dana's House took place. Twelve Master Gardeners, four "Junior Master Gardeners," and one volunteer just about got all the shrubs in and mulch applied. It was a great couple of hours, from 4:00 – 6:30 p.m., and a lot was accomplished. The soil was actually better than anticipated, but we did use some amendment and are short a few shrubs, which should be in soon. We put out four sky pencil hollies twelve Japanese compacta hollies, three boxwoods, seven dwarf gardenias, four acuba, one crape myrtle, one kerria, lots of lirope, deutzia, two clumps of miscanthus grass, some rosemary and a few pansies. There is a stepping stone pathway started. Betty Neely donated her preschool gift, for starters. Maybe others would like to do the same in honor of someone???



We have already received compliments on the improvement, and it will look even better as the plants grow. This project also qualifies for helping with the DeWitt PRIDE

project, since it is in the designated area for improvements. Thanks to everyone who turned out and got it done in one time!!! Your co-chairs really appreciate you!!

Betty & Yvonne

Dana's House, Inc.

Love and Hope in Adversity



October 25, 2008

Arkansas County Master Gardeners
c/o Betty Neely
341 N. Jackson
DeWitt, AR 72047

Dear Master Gardeners,

On behalf of Dana's House and the children in our care, thank you so much for the landscaping at Dana's House. We appreciate the time and long hours of your time spent making our grounds beautiful and something to be proud of. You have brought beauty to our facility and joy to our hearts. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people like a job of you!

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Please keep the children and staff at Dana's House in your prayers. May God bless each one of you!

Sincerely,

Wanda Gagnier

Nancy Strick
Admin. Support
Dana's House, Inc.
PO Box 118
DeWitt, AR 72047



Master Gardeners participating in the Dana's House Project Work Day were Yvonne Rodgers, Betty Neely, Sally Morton, Jeanette Relyea, Beth Carter, Bobbie Bennett, Betty Archer, Shirley Jackson, Jean Prange, Joan McFerrin, Marsha Heien, Beverly Tarkington, & Frankie Long.

Tour of Grand Designs & Governor's Mansion

Betty Archer

"A work in progress" – those are the words that Rand Retzloss of Grand Designs used to describe the beautiful garden in West Little Rock that Arkansas County Master Gardeners were privileged to tour on Sept. 18. Rand said that he had been working on this garden for about 10 years, since he started Grand Design.

The 3 1/2 to 4 acre garden was a treasure of numerous varieties of beautiful Japanese Maples, lots of varieties of hydrangeas and a wonderland of shade plants. Two large koi ponds that dropped some 20 feet with a water fall were a special feature of the garden. Several rock fountains designed by Rand for the Arkansas Garden Show were included in the garden. The morning tour ended at Beth and Rand's garden in Little Rock where we toured their operation and learned how they prepare their plants for winterizing. Rand showed us how "blood root"



gets its name by slicing into one of the dormant roots - it bleeds!

The afternoon tour of the Governor's Mansion and gardens gave us a contrast into a sunnier and more formal garden plan

designed by P. Allen Smith. The gardens included a raised vegetable garden maintained by the Pulaski County Master Gardeners and an herb garden by the Herb Society. One of the highlights of the new addition to the Governor's Mansion is the grand stairway. Looking up from the dining area the grand stairway has the name of each of the governors who has lived in the mansion woven into the carpet, starting with Sid McMath.

Master Gardeners on the tour were Sally Morton, Joan McFerrin, Barbara Jackson, Marilyn Braswell, Betty Archer, Jean Prange, Mary Ann Johnson, Bobbie Bennett and Frankie Long.



Courthouse Gets Ready for Winter

The courthouse project was given a sprucing up to fall with the addition of pansies at a recent workday. Some plants were divided and moved to other areas, clean up and pruning was done, and some plants were potted by MGers for next year's Garden Show. Jean and Betty have done a wonderful job of supervising the courthouse project this year.



The final workday for this year will be Thursday, November 13, at 4:00 p.m.

The World's Only Cactus Plantation

You'd expect to find the "World's Only Cactus Plantation" at an International MG meeting in the Mojave Desert, but if you've traveled I-20 to Jackson, Mississippi, you've probably seen the billboards as you near Edward, Mississippi. On a recent trip Bobbie and I made, this seemed an interesting side trip and proved to be very educational. Mr. John Thomas, whose passion is bromeliads, owns the cactus plantation, which was heavily damaged during Katrina. He was a wealth of information not only on cactus and bromeliads but also on plumeria, which we have been seeking information on. According to Mr. Thomas, cacti and succulents come in many forms and sizes. All cacti are succulents, but many succulents are not cacti. An extremely interesting fact is that all cacti are native to the Americas. They were discovered with the Americas and in all probability were included in the first cargo that Columbus carried back to Spain. Watering with rain water or pond water is recommended for cacti, since salts that may be in treated water can cause immediate death of the plant. If there was ever a family of plants that the "LORD GOD" created for people with "black thumbs," it's bromeliads—they truly thrive on very little care, and sometimes neglect. They are hardy plants with long-lasting, magnificent blooms. Many of the bracts and **blooms will stay beautiful for three to six months or even longer**, and some will keep their magnificent foliage and color for years. They also produce offsets known as "pup." Most bromeliads produce enough pups so that once you have acquired a particular species, you should never have to purchase it again. Most bromeliads hold water in the center of their cup. **Water heavil, once each week in the center of the cup and in the soil mix as well. It is important not to let the water stagnate. Empty it and immediately replace with fresh water at least once a month. Rain water works best.** Needless to say, we left with plants and will see how productive our plants are when Garden Show time comes. A wonderful web site for plumeria he gave us was:

www.theplumeriasociety.org

Arkansas Flower & Garden Show

Believe it or not it is time to start making plans for the 2009 Arkansas Flower and Garden Show – "Dream Gardens." Dates for the show are February 27, 28 & March 1, 2009, at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock.

MGers who would like to volunteer should complete the volunteer sign-up form and return by January 20, 2009. Forms will be available at the November meeting, or you can go to the following website for more information:

<http://arflowerandgardenshow.org/index.htm>

Hours Reporting

Mrs. Edna Dryden has done an excellent job of recording time sheets. Below is a copy of the hours that have been reported to her as of October 1, 2008. Please contact Mrs. Edna or the Extension office if you have questions.

Master Gardener Time Reported as of October 1, 2008		
Name	Work	Education
Betty Archer	132	70.5
Bobbie Bennett	137.5	66.5
Marilyn Braswell	37.5	25
Robin Burkett	2.5	5
Alta Butcher	10	19
Beth Carter	46.5	14
Ann Crum	11	16.5
Edna Dryden	26	11
Marsha Heien	28.5	22
Barbara Hornbeck	22.5	10
Connie Hudson	-	-
Nancy Hudson	1	2.5
Jackie Johnson	-	-
America Jones	-	-
Frankie Long	35	30
Joan McFerrin	76	20.5
Brenda Meins	26.5	34
Sally Morton	75	26.5
Betty Neely	42.5	78
Gail Northcutt	-	-
Kerri Nutt	-	-
Jean Prange	32	77.5
Lindy Rabeneck	15	20
Fred Ragland	-	-
Gladys Ragland	-	-
Jeanette Relyea	11.5	6
Barbara Rodgers	10.5	14
Yvonne Rodgers	26	15
P.A. Shockley	21.5	16.5
Paige Shook	18	4
Elaine Simpson	-	-
Terry Simpson	2.5	22
Beverly Tarkington	38	33.5
Sheryl Yelvington	1.5	18.5
2007 Class		
Dawn Avery	1.5	4.5
Jayne Bonnette	8.5	5
Joan S. Bullock	42	29
Lee Bradley	6	32.5
Charles Coffield	23.5	28.5
Barbara Jackson	48	39
Shirley Jackson	98	40.5
Mary Nell Johnson	64	31.5
Laura Jo Prange	11.5	72
Katie Sollars	38.5	25
Jane Thigpen	-	-
Laura Watson	-	2
Georgia Wells	22	23
John Young	5	5.5

In order to help you be sure you are reporting all possible hours for certification, below is a copy of the guidelines for payback hours from the MG manual:

The requirements for retaining the Master Gardener designation are (1) completion of 40 working hours in the Master Gardener program the first year as payback for the training course, (2) accumulation of 20 learning hours (over and above the training course) the first year, and (3) willingness to volunteer an additional 20 working hours and 20 learning hours each subsequent year. At least one half (50%) of all required working hours must be earned by participating in official, county sanctioned Master Gardener projects. County sanctioned projects are those that have gone through a proposal procedure, been accepted by the county Master Gardener membership as one of the group's official projects, and been accepted by the county agent. The other 50% of required working hours may be used on "individual projects." Individual projects could consist of providing horticultural advice, expertise, or information to individuals requesting assistance, committee work, contributing to the newsletter, presenting a gardening program to a garden club, landscaping a church or other public area which is not an official Master Gardener project, etc. Attending the monthly county Master Gardener meeting is considered one learning hour unless conducting the meeting.

Arkansas County Master Gardener Meeting PCC UA DeWitt Campus September 15, 2008

The Arkansas County Master Gardeners meeting was held Monday, September 15th, at 6:30 at the PCC/UA DeWitt campus. President Bobbie Bennett greeted everyone and invited members to enjoy snacks prepared by the DeWitt members while we had our program. The meeting was opened with a prayer given by Yvonne Rodgers.

Kathy Radomski presented a program on Main Street Arkansas. She presented a slide show on DeWitt that she presented to Main Street Arkansas in order to be considered for acceptance. DeWitt was accepted, and her program was very interesting and informative. She named the new board members and explained the organization. Kathy handed out volunteer sheets to sign up to be a Main Street Volunteer.

Copies of the minutes from our last meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Betty Archer to accept the minutes and seconded by Ann Crum.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Beth Carter, and a motion was made to accept them by Jean Prange and seconded by Beverly Tarkington.

Under New Business the Master Gardener Birthday Party to be held October 13th was discussed. Information on it was available. Bobbie asked for a show of hands of who would be attending the tour of Grand Designs and the Governor's Mansion Garden Tour on Sept. 18. There were seven who planned to attend.

The Christmas Party in November was discussed. P.A. was checking on this, but we have not heard anything on it. Robin Burkett volunteered to handle getting the location. The date is November 17th and the maximum for a gift is \$15.00. The newsletter next month will let us know where the party is and when to RSVP. The cut-off date will be Nov. 7th and we must

let Onita know by then. Members can bring a guest, and the charge will be the same as for a member.

Bobbie announced that our booth at the AR County Fair won a \$25.00 prize.

Jean Prange gave a report on the workday at the DeWitt courthouse. She said eight or nine people helped and that they did a really good job. The courthouse looks wonderful.

We have has a request to do a workshop at Cook's Lake for teachers. Don McSwain called Betty Archer about this. The purpose is education and we are being asked to provide educational workshops for teachers' meeting next summer. We will teach sessions on planting potted plants. They would buy everything, and we would provide two-hour sessions on planting. We estimated there would be 10 – 12 sessions. Sally made a motion to accept, and Ann Crum seconded it. Betty Archer will report to Mr. McSwain and will work on a curriculum.

Ken Adams was discussed and everyone was asked to keep him in our prayers.

A letter from Janet Carson was read regarding her hysterectomy. She also reminded everyone of the Master Gardener Birthday Party and the meeting for County 76.

Yvonne Rodgers spoke on the Dana's House project. She presented a proposal of what to plant. She did not have a cost estimate, and we already have a lot of plants we can use. The project is in the Main St. area so we will be a large participant in the Main St. Project, and it is a project we will maintain. Cost was discussed, and Betty Archer made a motion that we start with \$1000.00 for the project. It was seconded by Georgia Wells. Sally Morton suggested that the workday for this be 4:30 in the afternoon so people did not have to give up their Saturdays. The purchasing of the plants and mulch was discussed. Yvonne said the first workday would be October 21st, a Tuesday, at 4:00. Yvonne said she would get a card out, and it is open to everybody.

Bobbie asked for any new business. Beth Carter suggested benches on the square. Betty said to organize a committee to do benches. Sally will check on benches for the square and for Dana's House.

Announcements: Marilyn Braswell has a bunch of plastic pots that anyone can have. Carly is expecting a boy. Ann Crum shared a photograph of hummingbirds at her cousin's feeders from Grenada, MS. Sally Morton is having her 5th grandbaby in February.

September door prize winners were Mary Nell Johnson, Shirley Jackson, and Beth Carter.

The next meeting will be the Christmas party, and news of it will be in the newsletter. The meeting was adjourned with a motion from Joan Bullock and seconded by Yvonne Rodgers.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Burkett
Secretary



All meetings and activities announced in this newsletter are open to all eligible persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (large print, audiotapes, etc.) should notify the county Extension office as soon as possible prior to the activity.

Publishing Information

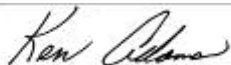
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Submitted material can be typed, handwritten or printed.

We reserve the right to edit as to length and content.

Please send submissions to:

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Ken Adams
County Extension Agent – Agriculture

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