

HORTICULTURE NEWS

P. O. Box 6896 - Pine Bluff, AR 71611 - (870) 534-1033 - 500 Idaho Street
January 31, 2008

Dear Gardener:



Mailing List Update

Federal regulations require the Cooperative Extension Service to update our mailing lists annually. If you would like to continue receiving Jefferson County Extension newsletters, please fill out the enclosed card and send it back to us. You may also give us a call at **870-534-1033** and let one of our agents or clerical staff members take the information by phone. Please include your email address in case we need to make a quick announcement concerning pest management alerts like Asian Soybean Rust.

Persons who do not respond by **February 10th** will be dropped from our mailing list(s). Those wishing to enroll or re-enroll for a mailing list may also call the county Extension office to provide information over the phone or email Don Plunkett at dplunkett@uaex.edu to sign up for mailing lists.

21st ANNUAL LAWN & GARDEN SHOW

“Come and Grow with Us” is the theme for the Jefferson County Lawn and Garden Seminar and Show set for **Saturday, February 16, 2008**. The show starts at 8:30 a.m. at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. Join with the Jefferson County Master Gardeners, the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Clean and Beautiful Commission and the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service to make this one of the biggest and best Seminars and Shows to date.

The seminar speaker line-up looks great and there are some really fantastic door prizes such as *Stihl string trimmer* to be awarded at each seminar. Look over the program on the back of this newsletter for information about the great speaker list and program topics for each speaker.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

DEBBIE TRIPP has been interested in herbs for over 12 years after being introduced to them by her sister-in-law, Monica Arndt, former president of the Oklahoma Herb Society. Throughout the years, her herb garden has grown, as has her knowledge and love of all types of herbs. After assisting with many of the Oklahoma herb festivals and with encouragement from Monica, Debbie has ventured into herbs for sale. Debbie now operates Rosemary Hill Herb Farm in Crystal Springs, Arkansas just west of Hot Springs. Although it seems that there is never enough “Thyme” or “Time,” Debbie is learning to juggle the herb business with her career as a high school math teacher, a wife to Mike, mother to Katy, and the keeper of two dogs and two cats. Rosemary Hill Herb Farm herbs are organically grown.



NORMAN WINTER is an Extension Horticulturist with Mississippi State University Extension Service. He is coordinator of the Mississippi Medallion Award program and promote outstanding plants

for the state. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Hardin-Simmons University and his Master’s degree from Texas A&M University. Mr. Winter has written three books: “*Mississippi Gardener’s Guide*,” “*Paradise Found*,” “*Growing Tropicals in Your Own Backyard*,” and “*Tough-As-Nails Flowers for the South*.” He is a highly sought-after garden lecturer, speaking at such well known events as the Callaway Gardens Symposia, Little Rock Flower Show, Arkansas State Master Gardener’s Convention, New Orleans Botanical Gardens and the Memphis Horticultural Society.



JANET CARSON is a Horticulture Specialist for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and is married with two children. She has a B.S.

Degree in Urban Horticulture & Landscape Design and a

M.S. Degree in General Agriculture, with a minor in Horticulture. She serves as the Master Gardener Statewide Coordinator and gives state leadership to the program of consumer horticulture serving 75 counties. Her weekly call-in radio show is on the Arkansas Radio Network from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. She is currently doing television spots from Garvan Woodland Gardens on KARK. She writes a weekly gardening column for "The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette" and a monthly column for the "Arkansas Gardener" magazine. Janet was the 2003 recipient of the John White Award for "Excellence in Extension Education."



KANDY JONES has been an artist all of her life, creating unique art and helping others get in touch with their creativity. She teaches classes on making everything from stepping stones to casting leaves and water features using a lightweight cement mixture called Hypertufa. She teaches workshops on Hypertufa and mosaics in her whimsical backyard and at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her mosaic art is featured exclusively at the Clinton Museum Store. She's been featured in the "North Little Rock Times" and the "Arkansas Democrat Gazette." For the last several years, the "Garage Sale Queen" has appeared on KATV Channel 7's Daybreak sharing "The Art of Recycling" and garage sale tips. She is also the exclusive designer for Sunbelt Convention Services, creating custom "wild" and very fun art.

MASTER GARDENER TRAINING



Every Thursday in March, the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service will conduct a Master Gardener training. The 2008 classes begin March 6 and will run through April 3, 2008. Anyone interested in applying for a chance to be in this class should request an application from the county Extension office at 870-534-1033 or visit the office at 500 Idaho Street in Pine Bluff.

Master Gardener education involves training in various disciplines like cool-season and warm-season production of fruits and vegetables, lawn care, rose production, insect control, weed control, pesky wildlife suppression and much more. Participants will learn about basic botany as well as chemistry involved in soil fertility and pesticide applications.

The fee for this class is \$55 per person. Participants must sign an agreement dedicating themselves to attendance at each session and to "giving back" to the program and the county Extension program as much as 60 hours of work

in the first year. Information about the Master Gardener program may be obtained from the county Extension staff. Call 870-534-1033 for details.

2008 RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE

"Changing the Economic Landscape: Strengthening Families, Transforming Communities and Small Farms."

Please mark your calendar from **Friday, February 8, 2008**, and make plans to attend the 2008 Rural Life Conference at UAPB. The 52nd annual Rural Life Conference is scheduled for the Isaac S. Hathaway-John M. Howard Fine Arts Center on the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff campus. **Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.** in the lobby of the Fine Arts Center with the opening session at 8:45 a.m. The conference theme is *"Changing the Economic Landscape: Strengthening Families, and Transforming Communities and Small Farms."*

This year's program features nine workshops; some will be concurrent. Scheduled workshops include the following:

- **Soybean marketing and production: Production practices for high yields, and risk management/marketing strategies to capture high soybean prices.**
- **Organic farming and products, and pesticide recordkeeping.**
- **Fish health: Import controversies.**
- **Estate planning: Holding on to the land.**
- **Financial planning: Credit restoration/debt reduction.**
- **Financial benefits from conservation programs and crop insurance for producers.**
- **Health and Quality of Life: Status of minority**
- **Family Preservation - strengthening families; preparing today's youth for strong family ties.**
- **Are You Ready? Preparing for new and emerging infectious diseases.**

For more information, contact Kellye Luckett at 870-575-8817 or e-mail luckettk@uapb.edu

So Long Eric.....

Eric Howard, CEA-Agriculture, began a new career path on January 28th. He left Jefferson County Extension to work with the Extension entomologist at UAM where he will be an entomology program technician. Eric had worked in Jefferson County for a year and a half and will be missed.

TIME TO SOIL TEST

Gardeners, lawn and shrub growers and homeowners should be active in soil testing and nutrient applications of commercial or animal fertilizers/manures. Soil test boxes and soil testing is free through the U of A Cooperative Extension Service. A soil probe has been made available for ease of sampling on a check-out basis.

One pint of a composite of soil randomly collected from a field/lawn/shrubs or garden is submitted for soil analysis and for fertility recommendations.

LAWN WEED CONTROL

Now is the time to start examining your yard for lawn weeds such as henbit, spurweed, Carolina geranium, chickweed, etc. These cool-season weeds are beginning to show growth as our summer grasses have died back from recent frosts and freezes. No one herbicide program is good for all types of weeds nor is one program good for all kinds of grass species. Bermuda lawns have a lot more choices of herbicide options than do centipede, St. Augustine or Zoysia lawns. Know your grass type before selecting a herbicide. Know your weed species before selecting a herbicide. Then, know how to properly calibrate your sprayer before putting out a herbicide application.

Herbicide information may be gained by picking up a **MP 44 - 2008 Recommended Chemicals for Weed and Brush Control**. You may also access this information online by entering the UA Cooperative Extension Service website at www.uaex.edu . From there, click on Publications and follow this link: <http://publications.uaex.edu/> . Then, type in "Recommended Chemicals." Go to the section you are interested in and find the information for your "crop."

SMALL FRUIT PRUNING WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 19TH



The Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service and UAPB will conduct a Small Fruit Pruning Workshop on ***Tuesday, February 19th*** beginning at 8:30 a.m. Participants should gather at the S.J Parker Agriculture Complex about 8:20 a.m. The workshop will center on the

pruning of muscadines and blackberries as well as blueberries, apples and plums. Dr. Obadiah Njue, Extension Horticulture Specialist, will teach appropriate pruning techniques for the fruits previously listed. For more information on the Small Fruit Pruning Workshop, contact the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service at 870-534-1033.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED !!!

Whatever your special talent or interest, there's a place for you at the Gov. Mike Huckabee Delta Rivers Nature Center, Pine Bluff! We are busy year-round with special programs: Quilting show, summer plant sale, trail tours, "Boo on the Bayou," or "Christmas for the birds." Spring and Fall are our busiest seasons, with school groups coming through the nature center. Volunteers do everything from presenting educational programs to maintaining the grounds; from organizing special events to helping with behind-the-scene preparations. You decide how much time you can give!

The Delta Rivers Nature Center is offering a Volunteer training program for people interested in assisting or presenting educational programs to school groups. There are five Educational program training sessions that start on Wednesday, February 13th and runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Come and enjoy working with children and teach them about nature!

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please call us or visit our web site at www.deltarivers.com , and we will tell you more about the opportunities and benefits of this program. Please contact: Diana M. Neal, Volunteer Coordinator, at the Delta Rivers Nature Center at (870) 534-0011 or FAX (870) 534-4422.

If you have any question or need more information, please call the Extension office at 870-534-1033 or email me at dplunkett@uaex.edu .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Plunkett".

Don Plunkett
County Extension Agent-Staff Chair

Enclosure



LAWN & GARDEN SEMINAR & SHOW

"Come and Grow With Us"

Pine Bluff Convention Center – Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Saturday, February 16, 2008 – 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



For more information, please call 870-534-1033 or visit our website at: <http://www.uaex.edu/Jefferson>

<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	REGISTRATION	FREE ADMISSION
9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Opening <i>Master Gardener Promotion Master Gardener-President</i>	Donald Plunkett & Gloria J. Sumner: <i>Coordinators</i> Kitty Rubenstein: <i>Master Gardener</i> Elaine Berg Eckert
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	"So You Want to Start Your Own Herb Garden"	Debbie Tripp Rosemary Hill Herb Farm
10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	"Growing Tropicals"	Norman Winter
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	VISIT EXHIBITS	
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	"Top 10 Mistakes in Landscaping"	Janet Carson
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH/VISIT EXHIBITS	
1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	"Hot New Plants for 2008"	Norman Winter
2:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	VISIT EXHIBITS	
2:30 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	"Art of Recycling for the Garden"	Kandy Jones

KID'S CORNER ACTIVITIES 8:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

COME JOIN THE MASTER GARDENERS ~ MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

MARCH 6 – 13 – 20 – 27 - & April 3, 2008

For more information, please go by the Master Gardener Exhibit Table

Seminar Planning Committee - Donald Plunkett and Gloria J. Sumner – Coordinators

Margaret Alexander, Gerald Andrews, Edna Ballard, Jane Black, Martin Carty, Julia Christian, Sarah Clifton, Jack Cockrum,

Anne Dady, Eddie Davis, Elaine Berg Eckert, Jimmie Lee Edwards, Bob Gerber, Frances Harrison, Don Hogue,

"Hank" Holderfield, Orpha Howard, Karen Huddleston, Dorothy Hughes, Mary Hunt, Bettye Carter Johnson, Gustavia Johnson, Tommy Jones,

John Kalkbrenner, Ruby Poteet, Linda Power, Mildred Reeves, Kitty Rubenstein, Dorothy Singleton,

Marilyn Smith, Linda Soffer, Mary Ann Stahara, Ann Talbot, Sarah Vangilder, Lloyd Wessels, Arwilda & Cleovis Whiteside