



Dates to Remember

April 21
Earth Day Program
PCC, DeWitt – 5:00 p.m.

May 11
Happy Mother's Day

May 17
Master Gardener Meeting
Fowl Play Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

May 20
Primary Election

May 29–31
State Master Gardener Meeting
Springdale

June 14
Prairie County Garden Tour

Master Gardener Officers:
President – Bobbie Bennett
Vice President – Georgia Wells
Secretary – Robin Burkett
Treasurer – Beth Carter

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President's Notes

“April showers bring May flowers.” If that adage holds true, we should have a glorious month coming. April flowers have been beautiful despite all the rain, and hopefully none of us have suffered any damage to homes from all the water.

Our “one day” garden show experiment seems to have gone well. There were a few glitches here and there, but that is part of such a project. I want to express my gratitude to those who assisted in any way putting the project together and bringing it to what I think was a successful conclusion.

Next month will be busy. Our meeting will be at Fowl Play Lodge at Point DeLuce, and the program will be on the MG Costa Rica trip. The state meeting is the latter part of the month, and I hope you plan to go. The schedule is a varied and interesting one.

Happy Gardening, Bobbie

Earth Day Program

On **Monday afternoon, April 21**, we will celebrate Earth Day and the life of Mrs. Chris Barr with a tree planting at the Phillips Community College campus, DeWitt. Mrs. Chris was one of our first Master Gardeners from Arkansas County and an inspiration to each of us. The planting will start at 5:00 p.m. We would like to have as many of our members in attendance as possible. We will be planting a Starletta magnolia, and it will be designated in her memory with a marker. Mrs. Chris is the second active Master Gardener to have this honor.

May Master Gardening Meeting

Our May M.G. meeting will be held on Monday night, May 19, beginning at 6:30. This meeting will be a special treat to us as we have been invited by MG Sally Morton to meet at her family's new Fowl Play Hunting Lodge located in Point Deluce. The Lodge is located on Angel Lane just off Highway 17. Directions from DeWitt: At Highway 165 bypass and Highway 1 (Exxon station corner) go south for two miles, turn left onto Hwy. 152 and continue approximately nine miles to Angel Lane (pavement will end at Hebron Church, but continue straight on gravel road to Angel Lane). Turn left on Angel Lane and continue on to Fowl Play Lane on the right. Fowl Play Lodge is located at the end of the lane.

The program will be presented by the Arkansas County Master Gardeners who participated in the Costa Rica tour (Betty Neely, Marilyn Braswell, Laura Jo Prange and Jean Prange). A barbeque dinner will be served prior to the program.

Rain Gauge

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



December, 2007		January, 2008	
12/12	1.75	1/8	.4
12/13	.25	1/10	.3
12/15	1.1	1/22	.5
12/20	1.0	1/29	.5
12/22	.25	<u>1/31</u>	<u>.9</u>
12/26	.3	Total	2.6"
<u>12/28</u>	<u>.5</u>		
Total	5.15"		

February, 2008		March, 2008	
2/5	.4	3/3	1.5
2/12	1.0	3/4	.1
2/16	.4	3/7	8.0 snow *
2/21	1.0	3/14	.5
<u>2/24</u>	<u>.1</u>	3/15	.2
Total	2.9"	3/19	1.0
		3/29	.1
		3/30	.25
		<u>3/31</u>	<u>.7</u>
		Total	4.35" rain 8.00" snow *

Submitted by P.A. Shockley
2014 South Maple, Stuttgart

January, 2008		February, 2008	
1/8	.6	2/4	.1
1/10	.3	2/6	.75
1/21	.45	2/12	1.8
1/29	.3	2/17	.55
<u>1/31</u>	<u>.9</u>	<u>2/22</u>	<u>.3</u>
Total	2.53	Total	3.50"

March, 2008	
3/4	1.7
3/7	6.0 snow *
3/14	.3

Project Beds Spring Clean-up

The weather has not been favorable for much outside work lately, but as soon as the weather allows the chair of each project bed should schedule a work day to clean up the area and get it renovated for the year. All Master Gardeners should make every effort to do their part in making this job easier on each committee. Our project beds are highly visible to the public, and we want their appearance to reflect a positive image for our organization.

Lost and Found

The following items were left at the fairgrounds during the Garden Show. If any of these items belong to you, contact the Extension office, DeWitt, to claim them:

- Silhouette eyeglass case, gray
- Gray/black chenille sweater, White Stag, woman's size 18

Gardening Tidbits

Georgia Wells

It is time for the fun to begin in earnest. The three most used gardening tools we will rely on will probably be the garden fork, spade and trowel. When purchasing these tools, choose high quality items, as they will get the most punishment throughout the year. Also make sure your hand fits well in the handle without rubbing at the sides. If I find one that I really like and it fits well, I will buy two because I can guarantee I will break (or lose) one before the gardening season is over, and there will not be another one found.

April:

- While doing your spring clean up, watch out for the resprouting perennials.
- Clematis paniculata can be cut down almost to the ground. It will make a rapid growth and flower again in the fall.
- Lily pools should be drained and cleaned at this time before the lilies start to grow. Hardy variety lilies can be set out now, but wait until late May before setting out tender varieties.
- Hydrangeas, buddleias and other late-flowering shrubs may be cut back to produce a new flush of growth. These plants flower on new wood and do not produce well on older wood.
- Now is a good time to have your soil tested for pH and soil nutrient values.

May:

- If chrysanthemums and asters have not been divided, this can be done now before they get too large.
- An easy and non-toxic way to kill the weeds that grow in the cracks of your driveway and sidewalk is to pour boiling water on them. Try not to pour excess that can run off into your existing beds or lawns.
- Chrysanthemums can be made into bushy plants by pinching the tips of the branches with care until the end of June; then allow the shoots to grow. These bushier plants will have more blooms than plants that have not been pinched.
- Keep all newly planted trees, shrubs, perennials and roses well watered so that the roots will not dry out.
- Remember to leave the foliage on all spring flowering bulbs until they turn yellow. Even though the plant may be done flowering, it is now storing the energy needed for next year's bloom.
- Spring flowering shrubs can be pruned after the blossoming season is over.

- Prepare for the heat that will soon be upon us by mulching your perennial borders and rose beds to keep these plants alive through the summer.

Secateurs: pruning shears —usually used in plural: *chiefly British*

Word history: from Latin word *secare* (to cut)

Source: Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Featured Plant

By Betty Archer



Last year at the International Master Gardener Meeting, members who served as hosts for the meeting were treated to a tour of P. Allen Smith's new project outside Little Rock. We were also treated to a plant that I have really been impressed with – *Euphorbia Diamond Frost*, which gives masses of cool color for our hot, dry garden places. I placed

mine in a pot with pink penta, and it made a beautiful showing. I definitely plan to incorporate it in the garden this year.

Diamond Frost is a spectacular new Spurge for hot, sunny locations, although P. Allen says it does well in shade also. This plump, compact little annual offers attractive gray-green foliage in spring and fall, plus thousands of small white blooms all summer long. Carefree and very adaptable, it makes the ideal filler, accent planting, container choice and even houseplant.

Just 12 – 28 inches high and up to a foot wide, Diamond Frost is well-branched and dense for a good show that never looks tired or sparse, even at summer's end or during unseasonably hot, humid weather. In the annual bed it cuts a gleaming path through green-leaved and flowering plants of all types and makes a little punctuation mark in bare spots as needed. But it's also fine in containers, where blooms can be enjoyed at closer range. And it travels indoors as easily as out, flowering happily in any bright, sunny window spot.

Diamond Frost is easy to care for too. Give it plenty of sunshine and water, make sure the soil drainage is good, and it will grow and bloom happily. If you grow it in containers outdoors, bring it in before the first frost and it will continue to flower inside well into autumn.

PRAIRIE COUNTY GARDEN TOUR

The Prairie County Master Gardeners would like to invite the Arkansas County Master Gardeners on a garden tour Saturday, June 14. Please make plans to attend this tour---there will be many beautiful gardens and homes, and also a wonderful array of hors d'oeuvres will be served on the last stop at Lonna Rhodes' home. More details will come as they are completed.



In the Spring, at the end of the day you should smell like dirt. -Margaret Atwood

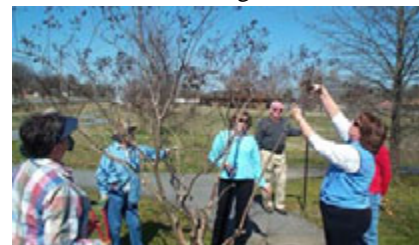
Ken's Korner

Thank you Master Gardeners for the fruit basket sent to me during my recent stay in the hospital. My family and I enjoyed it very much. Also, thank you for the personal visits and all the encouraging cards. The kind of cancer I have is treatable so please continue with your prayers during my treatments.

Ken Adams

Crepe Myrtle Workshop

The crepe myrtle workshop conducted by Janet Carson was a great success. Fourteen Master Gardeners, Ken Adams, and a large number of the general public turned out for the meeting. Janet gave us a walking tour of the walking trail adjacent to the health center and gave a summary of how the trees that have been neglected for eight years had problems and how to best prune to solve these problems. Master Gardeners, under the supervision of Janet, then did major pruning on about 12 of the crepe myrtles on the Health Office grounds.



Thanks for a good turnout with plenty of help to get the job done. The people at the Health Department were very grateful for the workshop.

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes March 17, 2008

The Arkansas County Master Gardeners meeting was held on Monday, March 17th, at 6:30 p.m. at the PCC/UA Campus. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Betty Archer.

Bobbie Bennett greeted everyone and while doing this everyone enjoyed snacks prepared by the Stuttgart club members.

First thing discussed was the current report on Ken Adams. He is still in ICU in Little Rock and is doing better. The Master Gardeners discussed sending him a fruit basket and encouraged everyone to send cards and warm wishes of better health.

The minutes were read and approved with a motion made by Betty Archer and seconded by Joan McFerrin. The Treasurer's report was given, and a motion was made to approve this by Shirley Jackson and seconded by Betty Archer.

The Crepe Myrtle demonstration was a great success. We were sent a card thanking us for this by the Ark. Co. Health Department.

The Louisiana Garden Show was a hit again this year. Nine members and several guests went this year. Many plants were bought for our garden show, and Betty Archer suggested that labels needed to be made for those plants.

This year's Arkansas County Garden Show was the main part of the meeting. Sally Morton reported that we had four vendors for sure. Rand will be there for this year's show and will be bringing some plants that did not come in for the state garden show.

Tickets are available at this meeting, and more can be picked up from Sally or Beth.

Ticket sale deadline is Tuesday, April 1.

Elaine Simpson asked that someone take over the speaker basket this year. She has been doing this for the last several years and wanted someone else to take charge. Katie Sollars volunteered to be responsible for the speaker basket.

Snack Booth – will have cold drinks, coffee, water and different types of food. Food items need to be packaged with 2 – 4 items to a ziplock bag. Such items needed are cinnamon rolls, cookies, Danish, cupcakes, etc.

The garden show will be a one-day event this year, and the gate will open at 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., then will reopen at 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. The luncheon will be from 12:00 to 1:00, and guests will be seated starting at 11:30 a.m. Workers need to be at the fairgrounds at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning to get started for the garden show. Jeanette Relyea is in charge of the decorations again this year.

Trash and Treasure Booth – old yard decorations that can be fixed or something that you are tired of out of your yard can be donated to this booth.

Share your plants for the garden show and for the plant exchange at our May meeting.

May meeting will be held at Fowl Play Lodge (Sally & Thayn Morton's new lodge). This meeting will be our plant exchange, and some of our members have gone to Costa Rica and will be sharing that with us also.

Everyone was reminded that registration deadline for State MG Meeting in Springdale is fast approaching. Need to register early if you plant to attend.

Door prizes from January meeting were given to the winners at this meeting.

Congratulations to Marilyn Braswell for having window in her honor in Costa Rica.

Tree Planting at PCC/UA – in memory of Chris Barr will be April 22.

March door prize winners are Lee Bradley and Katie Sollars.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Sollars

(filling in for Robin Burkett)

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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Please send submissions to:

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