

“In the Garden”

ARKANSAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

JUNE 23, 2008



DATES TO REMEMBER

County Courthouse Workday
Saturday, June 28
8:00 a.m.

Master Gardener Meeting
July 21 – 6:30 p.m.
Ag Museum of the Grand Prairie

Arkansas County Fair
September 8 – 10, 2008

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

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President's Notes

Summer seems to have arrived early—temperatures up and rainfall amounts down. These are the conditions, which try the patience and endurance of gardeners.

Several of our members attended the State Meeting in Springdale in May. The Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks and Wilson Park Horticultural Gardens were the tours available the first day. As with most gardens, both are a work in progress and very interesting.

A variety of gardens were on the tour schedule for Friday, including Water and Woodland Wonders, Shades of Northwest Arkansas and Backyard Beauties. Seminar topics ranged from medicinal plants to garden whimsy. There seemed to be something of interest for everyone.

The site for the next State Meeting will be West Memphis in June, 2009.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting which is July 21. Mother Nature has forced us to alter our plans to a degree. The meeting will be held at the Museum of the Grand Prairie. Our program will consist of a tour of the museum and a brief information talk by Kathy Radomski concerning Arkansas Downtown Network.

For those of you who were dealt a blow by the May storm, I hope your lives are getting back to some semblance of normal.

Bobbie



Arkansas County Master Gardeners Meeting

Monday, July 21, 2008

Ag Museum of the Grand Prairie

4th & Park Avenue, Stuttgart

6:30 p.m.

*A tour of the museum will be included in the program.
Stuttgart area Master Gardeners will provide refreshments.*

KEN'S KORNER

As a county agent, I have been asked many times about effective weed control in a landscape maintenance program. In the past we have had only a few options other than mechanical or hand removal of weeds and grass. The UA Cooperative Extension Service has just recently printed a new factsheet entitled "Weed Control in Landscape Plantings." The factsheet recommends several herbicides for this use and are divided into: 1) selective pre-emergence control; 2) selective post-emergence control on herbaceous ornamentals and woody ornamentals.

The factsheet is too many pages to mail with the newsletter, but you can pick up one at either Extension Office in Arkansas County. Just ask for factsheet FSA6137.

Below is a copy of a letter from Janet Carson about a new Arkansas Master Gardeners Program called "Garden Voice." If you are interested in participating in this program, call the Extension Office for registration forms. The deadline to register is August 8, 2008.

Dear Master Gardeners,
The Arkansas Master Gardener Program is embarking on a new and exciting program this August 19 & 20 called Garden Voice. The program will start at 12:30 p.m. August 19 at the Arkansas 4-H Center in Ferndale, Arkansas, and conclude after lunch on August 20. We are accepting 4 Master Gardeners per MG County and 1 County Agent. Counties who have multiple counties in their group may send 4 per county involved. Each county may have one person in each of the following four topics: Writing and Editing; Photography; Graphic Design; and PowerPoint. Please submit one registration form per county with the MG designated per topic. Agents may choose whichever topic they are interested in. All participants must own a home computer, since most of the work is computer generated. Those signing up for photography must own a digital camera.

We will be conducting intensive training over the two day period, with hands-on experience in each category. In return, each participant will be required to pay back one of the following:

Writing/Editing: Write a one- to two-page summary of your county program for our 20th Birthday celebration or a two-page fact sheet on the topic of your choice.

Photography: Submit 10 edited photos with cutline's of pictures from your county projects or a specific topic or teach a minimum of 3 MG's in your county what you learned.

Graphic Design: Create a tri-fold brochure promoting the MG program in your county or a flyer celebrating 20 years of Master Gardening in Arkansas.

PowerPoint: Create a PowerPoint program on the topic of your choice, complete with script or train 3 other members of your county how to use PowerPoint.

Each participant will have one month to complete their assignment. The theory behind this is: if you don't use what you have been taught, you will lose it. We want to create a trained group of volunteers to strengthen our program on the county and state level. The possibilities are endless!

The registration fee includes dinner August 19, breakfast and lunch on August 20. Lodging is available if needed, and you may purchase optional lunch on August 19, if you arrive early. Pre-payment is required. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Contact your local Extension office for registration forms.

Janet B. Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist

Rain Gauge

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



April, 2008	May, 2008
4/2 .3	5/2 .5
4/4 2.8	5/8 1.2
4/9 3.9	5/10 1.0
4/10 .3	5/14 .3
4/18 .4	5/15 .6
4/22 .1	<u>5/27 .6</u>
4/24 .1	Total 4.2"
4/25 1.2	
<u>4/27 .3</u>	
Total 9.4"	



GARDENING TIP

By now all of your spring blooming shrubs should have finished blooming, and your pruning jobs should have been done. If you got too busy to do so, and your plants are in need of trimming, do so as soon as possible. The later you wait, the hotter and drier it becomes and plants don't grow as quickly. Recovery will be slower and if too slow, your flower bud set for next season will be reduced. Keep in mind that spring blooming shrubs set flower buds in late August to September and we need ample time for the plants to recover and grow. If you have not fertilized yet this season, do the one application now as well. Follow label directions as to rates and do remember that it is better to err on the side of too little versus too much.

DEWITT COURTHOUSE PROJECT CLEAN-UP



The DeWitt Courthouse Master Gardener project has seen lots of activity this last month, so drive by and take a look. Because of Nancy Hudson working out of town all week, she relinquished her chairmanship to Betty Neely and Jean Prange but continues to serve on the committee. Four workdays have resulted in lots of changes. Sally Morton brought her gas-powered trimmers and some long-needed shrub trimming resulted. Plants were divided and replanted; plants were deadheaded, and lots of mulch was applied which makes it look much neater and should result in less weeding and better use of water. Jean and Betty have worked out a summer schedule for workdays and teams that will do weekly monitoring. If you have question, give either of them a call. The next scheduled workday is Saturday June 28 at 8:00 a.m. See you there! (BArcher)

State MG Meeting Enjoyed by All Betty Archer

Arkansas County was well represented at the 2008 State Master Gardener Meeting this month with 11 members participating. The Washington County Master Gardeners did a wonderful job of coordinating all the activities, getting 540 people moved around to all the various tours and activities with no overlapping.

After a day and a half of tours, workshops and visitation with other Master Gardeners from throughout the state, the meeting concluded with two wonderful keynote speakers. Gerald Klingman (who many of you are familiar with since he is a retired instructor at the University of Arkansas and a great friend of the Master Gardener program) gave us his humorous "Rules of Gardening." Such jewels as first defining landscaping as a noun; and gardening as a verb.

1. Gardens are living art and you are the artist.
2. Gardens are a retreat.
3. Design your garden for where you live, not where you wish you lived.

4. Don't rely on experts. Know what works for you. Make it your own.
5. You must be bilingual—learn a new language (same story about all the common names for plants that can be confusing) Words of wisdom when asked gardening questions: There are three approaches to use: a. pretend you didn't hear; b. bluff, use as many big words as possible; and c. Lie, but mumble in the process.
6. Gardens are too small in the spring and too big in the summer (don't we know it now). Make it manageable.
7. Plant collecting is a disease.
 1. (try <http://www.can't stop buying bushes.com>)
 8. If you are not killing plants you are not trying hard enough.
 9. All plants are native somewhere.
 10. Pruning was invented to correct your mistakes. Prune when the saw is sharp.
 11. All color rules must be closely followed. .
 12. Choose your place on formality vs. informality.
 - a. Nature teaches planting in mass (as witnessed by all the little oaks pulled up each spring.)
 - b. Nature teaches us not to plant in rows (the third plant in a row always dies)

Gerald coined a new word for us—"McMansion." He says that what their landscaping will be is still not clear, but it will surely include privacy fences, John Deere lawnmowers and Jungle landscape.

Final rule: There are no rules! You are your own best expert!

Our second keynote speaker was Roger Swain of "The Victory Garden" fame. His topic on Building A Village stressed the need to know our neighbors today and that gardening is a key tool in building relationships and communities. Gardening was started as a way to feed ourselves, but today it has many other functions. He talked about village friendly and village non-friendly aspects of gardening (many of which we would all like to have). For instance, sprinkler systems are non-village friendly because you miss many opportunities to have interchange with neighbors. Garage door openers are non-village friendly. Community gardens are village friendly gardens as they provide many opportunities for meeting people and having friendly exchanges.

A new term we learned from Roger was PMO (pretty much organic).

A visit to the Fayetteville Square and the Farmers Market was the climax to a great meeting and I'm sure Roger would have termed this a village friendly activity.



**Gardening requires lots of water—
most of it in the form of perspiration.
~Lou Erickson**

Prairie County Tour of Gardens



Arkansas County Master Gardeners were privileged to be asked to tour gardens of the Prairie County Master



Gardeners Saturday, June 14. Prairie County had a nice rain on Friday night and Saturday morning which gave a nice fresh look to the gardens and a wonderfully comfortable morning to tour gardens. We started at the home of Patsy McMullen just out of Hazen. Patsy said her yard was a work in progress as she has just added a large shade garden on the slope of her drive. Patsy has a horse business, which gives her lots of that good compost for her beds. Her daylilies were in full bloom. From Patsy's, we went to Larry and Susan Anthony's three-acre garden in Hazen. Susan says Larry is the gardener, and she does what he tells her. The five-year old garden was beautiful with a mixture of shade and sun plantings. Walks edged with brick and layered with mulch led one around the back of the garden. The outer edge of the boundaries was edged with Rugosa roses.

The homes of Byrum Kelly and Verne and Rodney Bullock across the street gave us insight into professionally-landscaped gardens by local gardening services.

The next stop was the garden of Sherry Bullock. Sherry's garden was a smaller primarily-shade garden with some whimsical features. Sherry pointed one out to us (three dinosaur poop rocks) saying her husband says there is a new one born everyday—wonder what that meant?

We were treated to a stop at the True Value Store and Nursery where Dee Black was our hostess and shared with us all the treasures to be found in the Nursery and the store—great shopping experience.

Our last stop was outside DeValls Bluff on the White River at the home of Lonna and Jim Rhodes, and what a finale it was! Lonna gave us a tour of the grounds and a short history of her five-year-old garden that overlooked the river. With lots of shade and native creatures like armadillos and deer, Lonna had devised lots of means of protecting her beautiful plants. We

were sorry to have missed the bloom of her over 300 azaleas but enjoyed all the hydrangeas and other plants. We were then invited into their home for a delightful luncheon of finger foods, enough to feed an army, which we all enjoyed on the porch as we viewed the river. Alta Butcher and Betty Archer won prizes presented by Dee Black from True Value.

Master Gardener Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2008



The Arkansas County Master Gardeners met on Monday, May 19, at 6:30 p.m. at Fowl Play Hunting Lodge owned by Sally Morton. The meeting was opened with a prayer by P.A. Shockley.

Sally thanked everyone for coming and invited them to enjoy the barbecue dinner which had been prepared by several Master Gardener members. A video of Costa Rica was shown as everyone was finishing their meal. This video was taken by Marilyn Braswell, Jean Prange, Laura Jo Prange and Betty Neely while on a MG trip with Janet Carson. The video was very interesting and showed several places they had toured and told what the area was like. Marilyn also showed items that she purchased while on this trip and during an earlier mission trip to Costa Rica. She also shared photographs she had taken.

The minutes from the last meeting were read. A motion was made by Betty Archer and seconded by Shirley Jackson to approve as read. Beth Carter gave the treasurer's report and a financial report on the Garden Show. A motion was made by Joan Bullock and seconded by Betty Neely to approve this report as read.

Sally announced that the speaker for next year's garden show will be Chris Olsen. It will be the first weekend of April 2009. (Way to go Sally!!)

Project reports:

Lee Bradley needs help identifying the wild flowers and grasses at the museum in Stuttgart. A request has been made that a plaque be put there identifying each plant. Also, a MG sign should be put there to let people know who takes care of this project.

Marsha Heien reported that the City Hall project is now known as the P.D. (Police Department) project. All is well there, but anytime that anyone can pull nutgrass that will be helpful.

P.A. Shockley and Charles Coffield reported that 2nd & Main looks better. The automatic watering system is not working and the valve needs replaced. Also, P.A. and Charles reported they completed the pruning at the County Health Department in Stuttgart as a follow-up from Janet Carson's crape myrtle workshop in March.

Betty Archer and Bobbie Bennett reported that there will be a work day at the Courthouse in DeWitt on Friday, May 23rd and Monday, May 26th from 8:00 am until 10:00 am each day. All help is welcomed!

State Meeting will be May 29 – 30, 2008, at Springdale. Eight to 10 Arkansas County Master Gardeners have registered to attend.

Announcements:

DUES ARE DUE!!!!

Hypertufa Meeting ~ Monday, June 2nd at the home of Beth Carter. Bring your gloves and a bucket along with a leaf of your choice. A letter will be sent for this meeting.

Tour of Gardens – Rand Design and the Governor’s Mansion are possible locations of garden tours for this summer. This will either be on a Tuesday or Thursday due to that being the days the Governor’s Mansion is open for garden tours.

A card was read from Ken Adams and his wife thanking MG for the fruit basket that was sent to them during his hospital stay. Ken is still taking treatment and is not feeling well. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

Brenda Meins thanked everyone for the memorial sent when her mother passed away.

Prayers and concerns were expressed for all of our Stuttgart members who were affected by the recent severe weather. Cards were signed to send to each of them offering to help them in their landscape/gardening recovery efforts if needed.

Time Cards were gathered and door prizes were awarded to Betty Neely, Jeanette Relyea and Barbara Jackson.

Betty Archer reminded everyone that writing articles for the MG newsletter would be greatly appreciated if anyone would like to do so.

Next Meeting ~ the location will be PCCUA, Stuttgart July 21st and may include garden tours.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Sollars
(Filling in for Robin Burkett)



A perfect summer day is when
the sun is shining, the breeze is
blowing, the birds are singing,
and the lawn mower is broken.

~James Dent

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Publishing Information
Arkansas County Master Gardener Newsletter,
In the Garden, is published monthly.
Submitted material can be typed, handwritten or printed.
We reserve the right to edit as to length and content.
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A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Ken Adams".

Ken Adams
County Extension Agent – Agriculture