October 2014

Seeds For Thought… A Message from the Agent

The following are some lawn and garden tips for November and December that Janet Carson shared in her book “In the Garden”:

November
- Keep your leaves raked up and make a compost pile
- Plant trees (gardenias, hydrangeas, Encore azaleas, and crape myrtles can be marginally hardy)
- Plant spring bulbs
- Plant winter annuals
- Winterize your lawn mower

December
- Mulch your beds for extra winter protection
- Add pansies, dianthus and snapdragons for winter color
- Clean and sharpen your garden tools
- Coat the metal parts lightly with oil and rub wooden handles with linseed oil
- Properly store tools out of the elements

Butterfly Festival on Magazine Mountain

This year’s Butterfly Festival on Magazine Mountain was a complete success. The Logan County Master Gardeners were hosts to visitors from not only Arkansas but from several other states as well. The visitors saw butterflies and learned of their habitat and their role in pollination. There were activities, concerts and presentations available for all ages. Thank you for all your time and effort to make this a special time in Logan County.

Soil Samples

Fall is the perfect time of year to take soil samples of your lawn, garden, and flower beds. Bring a pint of soil for each sample to be analyzed to the Extension office. It will only take two to three weeks for your analysis to be returned, plenty of time to prepare your soil for your spring gardens. There is no charge for this service.

County Fairs

This is my opportunity to say “Thanks” to all the Master Gardeners who participated in entering projects, assembly of displays, and judging at the county fairs. Master Gardeners contribute many volunteer hours to the community. Again, thank you for a job well done.
“Your mind is a garden, your thoughts are the seeds, the harvest can be either flowers or weeds.” -- Unknown

Fall is finally here! And you can’t help but notice the change in season and in plants. The mass displays of pumpkins, squash, hay bales, pansies, and mums are everywhere you go—from your favorite nursery to the box stores to the supermarket. You feel it in the air—daylight getting shorter, cool air, leaves turning color ever so slowly. Farmer’s markets are closing for the season, while fall festivals and holiday bazaars are opening.

Then there are the activities! Some are disguised as chores. Like those lovely leaves falling to the ground, and I ask Don to chop them up for me with the lawnmower so I can use them as mulch and in the compost bin. Preparing my flower beds for winter is a task that must be done. Advising the Skycrest Restaurant staff on how to freeze some of the herbs for use during the winter before I cover the tender perennials or remove the basil when it freezes is something I do every year. I prepare a few jugs of herbed vinegar to last through the winter.

Mums are being substituted for coleus, and my repurposed wheelbarrow planter is awaiting my tulip bulb order. I have been writing feverishly in my garden journal, making notes about what worked this year and what didn’t, what I want to try next year, what I want to repeat, with a folder on my computer desktop labeled “Garden”. I change my mind a lot! As I work in the flower beds at the visitor center and the lodge, I answer a lot of questions and give a lot of advice. The public has a lot of questions! I also meet Master Gardeners from all over the region—Texas and Oklahoma are the most recent.

“...The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before...” -Vita Sackville-West

Once we get through this winter, we have an excellent opportunity ahead of us this spring. Logan County Master Gardeners will host an advanced training workshop, “Garden Art at the Gateway,” on Saturday, May 30, 2015. It will be held at the Paris Community Center. More details will be available and tasks to be assigned next spring. It will be a fun workshop for everyone! Happy Gardening! LS

**Words of Wisdom**

I think there is sound wisdom in this for all that we do in life. I hope you enjoy it, too! **Janet Carson**

**Maya Angelou** was interviewed by Oprah on her 70+ birthday. Oprah asked her what she thought of growing older. She was such a simple and honest woman, with so much wisdom in her words!

Maya Angelou said this:

► 'I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow.'
► 'I've learned that you can tell a lot about a person by the way he/she handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.'
► 'I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.'
► 'I've learned that making a ‘living’ is not the same thing as ‘making a life’.'
► 'I've learned that life sometimes gives you a second chance.'
► 'I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw some things back...'
► 'I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision.'
► 'I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one.'
► 'I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back.'
► 'I've learned that I still have a lot to learn...'
► 'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'
Pumpkin Facts - In honor of autumn and harvest, here are some fun and unusual pumpkin facts from www.pumpkin-patch.com:

DID YOU KNOW?
A pumpkin is really a squash?
It is! It’s a member of the Cucurbitae family, which includes squash and cucumbers.

That pumpkins are grown all over the world?
Six of the seven continents can grow pumpkins! Antarctica is the only continent that they won’t grow in.

That the "pumpkin capital" of the world is Morton, Illinois?
This self-proclaimed pumpkin capital is where you'll find the home of the Libby Corporation’s pumpkin industry.

That the Irish brought this tradition of pumpkin carving to America?
The tradition originally started with the carving of turnips. When the Irish immigrated to the U.S., they found pumpkins a plenty and they were much easier to carve for their ancient holiday.

Fun Facts about the Pumpkin!
► Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.
► Pumpkin flowers are edible.
► The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.
► In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.
► Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.
► The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
► The Connecticut field variety is the traditional American pumpkin.
► Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
► Eighty percent of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October.
► Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried them and made mats.
► Native Americans called pumpkins "isqoutm squash".
► Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine. LS

Master Gardeners Tour Garvan Woodland Gardens
September 29 was Master Gardeners Appreciation Day at Garvan Gardens in Hot Springs. There were 5 Logan County Master Gardeners touring the gardens and over 400 Master Gardeners enjoyed the colorful grounds that day. Janet Carson and Bob Byers were answering plant questions and several Hot Springs businesses had booths. The new 2015 MG calendar was given to each attending, and Logan County president, Lori Spencer, has a tulip photo featured! Ironically, she took the photo during the Tulip Extravaganza at Garvan Gardens in April. Remember, all your garden tours and visits count toward your learning hours for the year, as do television, radio, and magazine articles. If you have hours to report, please get them to time manager, Lori Spencer, before December 31! LS
Christmas Potluck
Monday, December 1, will be our Master Gardeners Christmas potluck and ornament exchange. I will have more information at a later date and this will be weather permitting. LS

Dates to Remember
November 4—Carson/Byers Workshop: Adding Color to Your Fall Garden, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm, Magnolia Room, Garvan Woodland Gardens, 550 Arkridge Road, Hot Springs. Learn how to keep the color going until first hard frosts and beyond. Call 501-262-9300 for more information and to register. Space is limited.
January 16-17—Arkansas/Oklahoma Horticulture Show, Fort Smith. Theme is “Modern Tools & Technology for Growers and Marketers”.
March 20-22—River Valley Lawn & Garden Show, Fort Smith Convention Center.
June 4-6—Arkansas Master Gardener Conference, Benton. Theme is “Gardening in the Heart of Arkansas”.

Garden Planting Calendar

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<td>Lettuce</td>
<td>Salad Greens (Protected)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shallots</td>
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<td>Lettuce in Cold Frame</td>
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