



‘Ozark Blooms’
Arkansas State Master Gardener Convention
Springdale Holiday Inn & Convention Center
May 29-31, 2008

Wednesday, May 28, 2008 (optional)

Pre-Conference Tour to Eureka Springs

Tour departs 9:00 a.m. Wednesday and returns mid afternoon Thursday, May 29.

Thursday, May 29, 2008

9:00 a.m. –9:00 p.m. Registration, Atrium, Springdale Holiday Inn

2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Continuous Bus shuttles to Gardens:

(Arrival after 4:30 will limit to one garden tour)

Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks

Wilson Park Horticulture Gardens

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Tailgate Party at UA Campus “ The Gardens”-- Jones/Lindsey

Dinner will be available from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Bus shuttles back to the Springdale Holiday Inn Convention Center

7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Moonlight Madness Trade Show – Convention Center Hall I

7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. Silent Auction Opens – Convention Center

Friday, May 30, 2008

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Registration: Atrium

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Silent Auction open (Closed during seminars)

Morning Activities:

Tours: Meet at 7:45 a.m. in the lobby of the convention center. Tours will leave promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Tour A – Water & Woodland Wonders

Tour B - Shades of Northwest Arkansas

Tour C - Backyard Beauties

Seminars:

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

A. Wildflowers – Bob & Julie Holland

B. Garden Whimsy – Joyce Mendenhall

C. Rain Gardens: Capture the Flow & Make it Grow – Katie Teague

D. Edible Landscapes: Gardening Around the House – Craig Andersen

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

A. Ornamental Plant Breeding at the UA – Jon Lindstrom

B. Arkansas Medicinal Plants – Steven Foster

C. Medicine for Soil: Composting – Mary Anderson

D. Tried & True Annuals and Perennials – Sabrina Childs

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

- A. Landscaping with Lawns – John King
- B. Peonies – Hank Chotkowski
- C. Water Gardens: What the Books Don't Tell You – Marcella Thompson
- D. Specialty Cut Flower Production – Mark Cain

11:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch

Length of Service Awards & Friend of MG Awards

Afternoon Activities:

Tours: Meet at 1:15 p.m. in the lobby, leave promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Tour Water & Woodland Wonders

Tour B Shades of Northwest Arkansas

Tour C Backyard Beauties

Seminars:

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

- A. Arkansas Medicinal Plants – Stephen Foster
- B. Specialty Cut Flower Production – Mark Cain
- C. Rain Gardens: Capture the Flow & Make it Grow – Katie Teague
- D. Medicine for Soil: Composting – Mary Anderson

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

- A. Ornamental Plant Breeding at the UA – Jon Lindstrom
- B. Wildflowers – Bob & Julie Holland
- C. Edible Landscaping: Gardening Around the House – Craig Andersen
- D. Tried & True Annuals and Perennials – Sabrina Childs

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

- A. Landscaping with Lawns – John King
- B. Peonies – Hank Chotkowski
- C. Water Gardens: What the Books Don't Tell You- Marcella Thompson
- D. Garden Whimsy – Joyce Mendenhall

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Reception – Convention Center

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Awards Banquet; Convention Center

8:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Moonlight Madness Trade Show – Convention Center

9:00 p.m. Silent Auction Ends

9:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Pick up your silent auction items, or pick them up by 8:00 a.m. Saturday

Saturday, May 31, 2008

8:15 a.m. Morning Announcements – Convention Center

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. The Rules of Gardening – Gerald Klingaman

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Planting Villages: How Gardens Make Good Neighbors – Roger Swain

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Fayetteville Farmers Market and Square

Garden Guides will be available for tours of the gardens and you can shop.

Box lunches will be served here if you order one.

Conference Ends – Turn in Evaluation, Get Plant & Drive Home safely!

About Your Registration

The 2008 Master Gardener State Meeting is limited to the first 500 applicants. All tours, workshops, and educational sessions will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Please fill out the enclosed registration form, putting down your first, second, and third choices. Do not choose both tours and seminars in the same time period—one or the other please.

Notice that we are offering garden tours on Friday morning and afternoon. We will try to give everyone their first choice, but when tours fill up, we may switch which time of day you get your choices. We always try to give everyone his or her first choice, as long as space is available. Note that the three garden tours Friday morning and afternoon are an additional \$10 to cover the cost of the bus.

You will be notified prior to the meeting which sessions or tours you have been assigned to. Please list your email address *only if you use email on a regular basis*. We do utilize this method frequently. If a topic is repeated, it is the same session presented twice. If you sign up for the same topic or tour twice, assuring you of getting that topic or tour, we will only assign you to that topic or tour once.

Early Registration is February 1- April 1, 2008. ONLY Active Master Gardeners have priority registration from February 1 - March 3.

Early registration for Sustainer MG's, for those on leave of absence, and for guests will be March 1- April 1. Each MG may bring a guest, if space is available.

The early registration fee is \$105 and must be postmarked by April 1, 2008.

From April 1 – May 9 is the final registration period for everyone, and the cost goes up to \$120.

You may send in all registrations for each category upon receipt of this information, but we will hold sustainer, leave of absence and guest registration forms until after March 3, at which time we will process them as space is available. That has not been a problem in past years.

The registration deadline for all participants is May 9, 2008. We will not accept registration forms postmarked after May 9. If you must cancel your registration, do so by May 9, 2008. This will be the last date for a refund. After that, meal counts are set, and we must pay for you regardless of whether you are there or not.

If you have more than one person registering, please send a registration form for each person, so that we can keep forms separate according to what each person is signing up for. You may send one check with the forms for two people if they are both Master Gardeners. Alternatively, if you are registering a guest, you may want to write two checks if you are registering prior to March 1, since we will hold guest registrations until that date.

Please make all checks payable to Ag. Development Council (ADC)—not Janet Carson. Basic registration covers all seminars, Thursday garden events, trade show and the following meals: dinner Thursday night, lunch and dinner Friday. Friday garden tours are an

additional \$10 fee for bus expenses. Breakfast is provided if you are staying at the Holiday Inn or Hampton Inn. Saturday box lunches are available for an additional fee.

Our conference site is the Springdale Convention Center, 1500 South 48th St., Springdale, AR 72762. We do have a block of rooms booked at both the Holiday Inn and the Hampton Inn which is next door to the Holiday Inn. The conference rate is \$99.00 at the Holiday Inn (1-479-751-8300) and \$94 at the Hampton Hotel – (1-479-756-3500). Please book your own rooms.

This meeting is only for active Master Gardeners, Sustainers, Master Gardeners on leave of absence, and their spouses and/or one guest per Master Gardener. We consider this conference a privilege of being a Master Gardener-- it is not open to the general public.

This meeting is sponsored by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service and the Washington County Master Gardeners. The Master Gardener program is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

T-Shirt Information

This short-sleeved T-shirt has the meeting theme, “Ozark Blooms”
Shirts are available in beige; the lettering will be full color. The T-shirts are high quality 50-50 blend. Remember, T-shirts must be pre-ordered! Order information is on the registration form.

Program in Review

Garden Tours:

Wednesday:

OPTIONAL Pre-conference Tour---Eureka Springs: Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Leave from Holiday Inn Springdale 9:00 a.m. Visit Blue Spring Heritage Center and Indigenous Plant Trail, and then travel to Karen and Patrice Gros' organic garden that was featured in the July issue of Southern Living for a tour and lunch. From there we'll have a short stop at Bear Creek Nursery and arrive at our historic hotel, the Basin Park, in downtown Eureka Springs. The afternoon is open for shopping or other pursuits. Then at 4:45 p.m. gather in hotel lobby to arrive 5:00 p.m. at Keel Creek Winery for a tour and a wine and cheese reception by Doug Housler and Edige Denyszum, the owners. Return to the hotel. Dinner on you own. Group breakfast at Basin Park around 8:30 a.m. Leave Eureka around 10:00 a.m. May 29, in time to arrive for registration. Space is limited.

Cost is:

\$135 per person, double occupancy

\$175 single

Thursday:

Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks: The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks celebrates the spirit of the Ozarks through a series of expertly designed and intensively maintained outdoor spaces and the unique timber-framed Totemeier Horticulture Center. Mini lectures will be held throughout the gardens along with light refreshments and entertainment.

Wilson Park Horticulture Gardens: Tour a beautifully landscaped city park which has a special Master Gardener Touch. Visit with the horticulturists and gardeners who plant and maintain this city treasure.

UA Campus "The Gardens" - Jones-Lindsey: Named for UA alumni Jerry Jones and Jim Lindsey, the gardens are located along Razorback Road and were opened in 2006. The Gardens feature one pavilion, five gazebos and individual grass areas that tailgaters can reserve for their pre-game activities. Master Gardeners will have their very own tailgate party complete with entertainment.

Friday Tour Options:

A. - Water & Woodland Wonders \$10 fee

Gardens whose attributes range from naturalistic water features with ponds and bridges and woodland settings with native plants to a community vegetable garden.

B. - Shades of Northwest Arkansas \$10 fee

Gardens featuring the rugged, rocky terrain of the Ozarks demonstrating success with shade plantings, water and rock gardening and Japanese landscaping. Notice: very steep and uneven pathways. Not handicap accessible.

C. - Backyard Beauties \$10 fee

Residential gardens, both formal and informal, which create private retreats for families and entertaining, highlighting whimsical yard art, tropical plantings and "green" solutions to water run-off issues.

Saturday:

The Fayetteville Square and Farmers Market are a wonderful way to end our conference. The gardens that surround the square are a sight to see. Garden Guides will assist you as you tour the gardens, but feel free to shop at the Farmers Market, with their supply of fresh produce, cut flowers and local craft items. Turn in evaluation and receive trial plant. Box lunches will be available for those who order one.

SPEAKER BIO'S and PRESENTATIONS

Craig Andersen: Edible Landscaping: Gardening Around the House. *Intermediate Level:*

Craig will give pointers on how to incorporate vegetables and herbs to provide color and taste in the landscape. Craig is a native of South Dakota. He received a M. S. in 1979 and a Ph. D in 1981 in Horticulture and Plant Physiology. He worked for the Horticulture Department at Texas A&M University with vegetable crops and post-harvest handling systems of vegetables. He joined the faculty of the Horticulture Department, University of Arkansas in 1985 working with vegetable production systems and as a horticulture specialist for the Cooperative Extension Service working with all aspects of vegetable production from commercial to home gardens, farmers' markets, Master Gardeners and 4-H.

Mary Anderson: Medicine for the Soil: Composting. *Intermediate Level.*

Mary will discuss the reasons we should compost and what it does for the soil, community and planet. She will give a brief overview of how composting occurs in nature and in compost piles along with directions on how to build a compost pile. She will give you pointers on what to include, what to leave out, how to choose the right equipment, and how to use the end product for maximum benefit. Mary was born in Manchester, England, and attended college in Liverpool in the days of the Beatles. She met and married an American in 1972 in Canada, and after living in various parts of the U.S., settled in Winslow, Arkansas, in 1976. On 20 acres they have raised 3 sons and an organic garden. Their aim was, and still is, to leave a small footprint on the land. After retiring, she took the Master Gardener class in 2005 and finally learned how to build a compost pile that cooked instead of rotted. She was chosen 'Rookie of the Year' for Washington County in 2006.

Mark Cain: Specialty Cut Flower Production. *Basic/Intermediate Level:* What started as a hobby has turned into a successful business growing and selling cut flowers at the Fayetteville Farmers Market. After a short video, Mark will give you pointers on how to create your own cutting garden. He will highlight specific varieties and production techniques. Mark Cain has been farming organically in the Northwest Arkansas Ozarks since 1984. After completing an undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Illinois, he became a student of English master gardener Alan Chadwick, and apprenticed at the Farm and Garden Project of the University of California in Santa Cruz. Since the mid-eighties, he and farm partner Michael Crane have owned and operated Dripping Springs Garden, an intensively-cropped 5-acre market garden near Huntsville. Their cut flowers and other crops are sold at the Fayetteville Farmers Market. Mark has given presentations around the region on cut flower production for years, and in recent years served twice in northern India as a volunteer for Winrock International's farmer-to-farmer program. Dripping Springs Garden has hosted tours for the Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers and numerous other groups, and is featured in Southern SAWG's video series titled 'Natural Farming Systems in the South. Their large variety of locally-grown cut flowers is a huge draw at their market booth.

Sabrina Childs: Tried & True Favorite Annuals and Perennials. *Intermediate level:* Sabrina will give an overview of the California pack trials, highlighting new varieties for Arkansas Gardens, as well as the tried and true favorites. Sabrina Childs is the Ball Seed Company Sales Representative with territory including North Mississippi, North Louisiana and Arkansas. Sabrina graduated from Northeast Community College in Mississippi with a degree in Forestry. She then went to work at Tippah County Growers in Tiplersville, MS., and a 110-acre wholesale nursery, which specializes in shrubs, trees, perennials, and annuals. After 3 years as Propagation Manager and 4 years as the seasonal color Sales Manager, she then went to work at Ball Seed in November 2005.

Hank Chotkowski: Peonies. *Advanced Level:* Hank will give you an overview of peony culture. He will concentrate mostly on herbaceous and intersectional peonies and what grows well in Northwest Arkansas (with a bit of speculation on what may grow farther south). He will emphasize the individual traits of specific varieties that can aid gardeners when incorporating peonies into their own gardens. Hank has degrees from Yale University B.A. (1971), M.F.A. (1975). He taught Art at the college level at U of Indiana, U of Arkansas, Texas Tech U, and Florida State. He had various one man art shows around the country and created the Human Rights monument in New Britain, Connecticut (1990). In 1996, he started his own peony garden/nursery in Fayetteville, Arkansas. With over 800 varieties of herbaceous peonies and 200 varieties of tree peonies combined, he has one of the most extensive collections in the United States. He is also a board member of the American Peony Society.

Julie and Bob Holland: Wildflowers. *Basic level:* Wildflowers in the garden make good horticultural sense. But growing wildflowers can also broaden your gardening horizons in many ways ... some which may surprise you. Bob and Julie Holland have been growing and selling wildflower seeds and plants for more than 20 years at Holland Wildflower Farm. Julie's training is in biology and ecology, and she taught science in secondary schools before launching Holland Wildflower Farm. Bob's training is in plant and wildlife ecology, as well as plant pathology (diseases). After more than a decade in academic research and extension work, he spent another decade in the landscaping industry before joining Julie full-time at Holland Wildflower Farm. Their farm is located near Fayetteville in the White River Valley.

Steven Foster: Arkansas Medicinal Plants. *Advanced level:* Did you know that dogwood was once a treatment of choice for malaria or that Japanese honeysuckle is a treatment of choice for upper respiratory infections in modern China? Did you know that there are more species of

Echinacea in Arkansas than any other state? Arkansas has a diverse flora encompassing at least 2,700 species of vascular plants. You will explore the herbs and medicinal plants of Arkansas; both native and naturalized that abound in our flora. Many herbal denizens of the wild are also suitable for growing in the home garden. Discover new ways to look at wildflowers, woody plants and weeds that you never knew could also be labeled “herbs”. Steven is a best-selling author, photographer, international consultant, lecturer, and herbalist. He has 32 years of comprehensive experience in the herbal field. His career began in Maine at the Sabbathday Lake Shaker’s Herb Department; America’s oldest herb business dating to 1799. He is the senior author of three Peterson Field Guides (Medicinal Plants and Herbs Eastern North America; Medicinal Plants and Herbs Western North America; and Venomous Animals and Poisonous Plants of North America). In 2006 the National Geographic Society published his latest book, *A Desk Reference to Nature’s Medicine*. Eureka Springs, Arkansas, in the heart of the medicinal plant-rich Ozarks, is where Steven makes his home.

John King: Landscaping with Lawns. *Advanced Level:* This is not a “How to grow a good lawn” talk. Homeowners can choose neglected yards, meadows, gardens, and/or good lawns. Why have a lawn? Are lawns beneficial to landscapes? Wouldn’t lawn space be better utilized for gardens? Are good lawns really the environmental polluters that some claim? What are lifestyle alternatives to having lawns? These questions will be discussed from innovative, historical, factual and philosophical perspectives. John grew up in a farm family in northeastern Indiana. He learned from 4-H, F.F.A, and other activities and went on to earn diplomas from General Electric’s Apprentice-Purdue Program, Purdue, Rhode Island, and Michigan State. At MSU he led the two-year Turfgrass Management Technical Training Program. Dr. King joined the Agronomy faculty at U of A in 1970 where most of his students were horticulture majors. In 1980 he started his own part-time chemical lawn care service. He brought Spring-Green Lawn Care to northwest Arkansas in 1987. He retired in 2000 and since 2006 has been an active Master Gardener in Washington County.

Gerald Klingaman: The Rules of Gardening. Gerald is one of our keynote presenters on Saturday morning. He will give a lighthearted approach to the rules of gardening. Dr. Gerald Klingaman is an Oklahoma native where he grew up on a wheat farm. He received his undergraduate degree in Horticulture from Oklahoma State University and his MS and PhD from the University of Maryland. From 1974 to 2005 he taught in the Horticulture Department at the University of Arkansas. His research, teaching and Extension duties revolved around nursery and greenhouse growing. Now retired, he writes for newspapers, gardening magazines, internet websites and speaks to groups around the state and region. He has been involved as an America in Bloom judge since 2003. He is also an active volunteer at the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, donating countless hours to develop the Children’s Garden. Klingaman is married and has four children and four grandchildren. Hobbies include gardening, book collecting, travel and photography.

Jon Lindstrom: Ornamental Plant Breeding Program at the University of Arkansas. *Advanced Level:* Come learn what plants are being trialed at the U of A. Jon will give an overview of the ornamental plant-breeding program at the University of Arkansas. Plants being grown in the program include *Buddleja*, *Manfreda*, *Polianthes*, *Trichostema*, *Puya* and *Sinningia*. Recent releases from the program will be highlighted. Jon T. Lindstrom is an associate professor in the Horticulture department at the University of Arkansas. He teaches three classes in the department-- Woody Landscape Plants, Herbaceous and Indoor Plants and Plant Propagation."

Joyce Mendenhall: Garden Whimsy. *Basic level:* From pink flamingos, bathroom fixtures, and brightly colored birdhouses – we have all seen these things in other people’s gardens and wondered “What were they thinking?” This program will lead you through a variety of ways

that gardeners have “showcased” such unique and unusual objects and stretched the limits of garden art. You will be laughing too hard to take notes so just sit back and have fun. Joyce is a retired retail manager now working full time at the Cooperative Extension office in Washington County. She has been a Washington County Master Gardener for 9 years. She is a Master Educator and has served on the State Master Gardener Advisory Board. She has received the Washington County Master Gardener of the Year, the Arkansas State Master Gardener of the Year and the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks Volunteer of the Year awards. She is a regular contributor to the Arkansas Gardener Magazine. She has been a presenter at the annual American Horticulture Society’s National Children’s Gardening Symposiums at both the Missouri Botanical Gardens and the Minnesota State Arboretum.

Katie Teague: Rain Gardens: Capture the Flow & Make it Grow. *Intermediate level:* A rain garden is a landscaped depression planted with native vegetation that thrives on rainwater draining from roofs, sidewalks or driveways. This session will describe how rain gardens are designed to capture storm water runoff and reduce pollutants as the water soaks into the ground within and is utilized by plants that are drought-resistant, thrive in local soils, and attract butterflies and birds. Katie Teague was raised primarily in Chicago but moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1987 to attend the University of Arkansas where she completed a B.S. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Soil Microbiology. For the past twelve years, Katie has worked for the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service as a County Extension Agent in Washington County. She coordinates and conducts water quality outreach and education programs through federal grants and a regional urban storm water partnership among 15 jurisdictions in Northwest Arkansas. During the past year, she has enjoyed collaborating on the installation of nine demonstration rain gardens in Fayetteville and Rogers.

Roger Swain, “the man with the red suspenders,” is recognized by millions as host of *The Victory Garden*, television’s longest running gardening show. For fifteen years Roger planted and pruned, harvested and chatted with PBS viewers across the country. More recently, he co-hosted *People, Places and Plants* on HGTV, a show which celebrates New England gardens and gardeners, and features Roger’s commentary, “Food for Thought.” Biologist, gardener, writer and storyteller, Roger Swain was born and raised outside Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College, and went on to earn a PhD., studying the behavior of ants in tropical rain forests, before becoming Science Editor of *Horticulture* magazine. Since 1978 readers have been enjoying Roger’s essays and articles in that magazine, as well as his five books: Earthly Pleasures, Field Days, The Practical Gardener, Saving Graces, and Groundwork. When he is not editing *Horticulture*, filming the TV series or meeting with gardeners across the country, Roger can be found at work in the orchard and gardens of his New Hampshire farm.

Marcella Thompson: Water Gardens: What the Books Don’t Tell You. *Basic level:* Would you like to build a water garden that would WOW your friends? Through years of experience Marcella (owner of Annie’s Pond) tells how your water garden can work for you. She explains how ponds can take care of themselves! In fact, they require minimal care. She’ll tell you how to extend the life of your pump by years and how to buy a water filter for just \$7.00. She will also explain which aquatics filter your pond so that your water stays crystal clear. Marcella, in her humorous fashion tells you what you need to know about building your own water garden that you will not find in books. Marcella has a M.S. in Rural Sociology and she taught sociology at University of Arkansas for 18 years. In 1999 she opened Annie’s Pond, an aquatic plant store at the farm where she and her late husband grew blueberries for many years. She sells aquatics at the Fayetteville Farmer’s Market. She also furnished and planted the main water feature at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks.