

Heartland Horticulture

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension
Master Gardener

News for Missouri Master Gardeners

From the President's Desk

by Teri Loney, State Advisory Board President

Well, I'm done. That's right, I am a fair weather gardener. When sweat clouds my vision and the chiggers occupy most of my time, it's time to hang up the shovel and let God take over. A few mild days have drawn me into a few meager tasks, but for the most part, it's time to sit on the dock and enjoy conversation with my multitude of guests (I live on the lake—no oil spills) and enjoy the view my earlier efforts created.

Earlier while browsing through Barnes and Noble, I collected several fringe magazines (read as not People or Cooking Light). "Good" was an interesting find. "Slowing down" was the thread which united the various articles. Really? We, whoever the we is, need directions on how to slow down? Now I realize I may be part of the populace the magazine is targeting—I did buy the magazine (more out of disbelief than need.), but really, articles on creating a less chaotic lifestyle?

It is true, if I were to sit in a dark room and not move I would be amazingly healthy. My ER visits have all been self induced—breaking my leg carrying a bag of dirt down a steep slope (read as my yard), an unbelievable case of poison ivy (again from my yard) and chemical bronchitis—my latest endeavor a result of cleaning the bathrooms in my home.

So maybe I do become, as I like to say, intense or perhaps utterly focused. At the end of the day when the cows are making their way to the barn—I enjoy being active.

So what is this about slowing down? Is it a nasty syndrome or a new way of life? From my self-reflection and exhaustive reading, the term mindfulness seems a plausible path to enlightenment. One of my quirkier friends recently married. The wedding was in a word 'unusual' (that is being kind). But as I described the event to others, I described it as "exquisitely Annie". She had mindfully chosen each detail, quirky as they were, and as I saw it through her eyes, it was perfect.

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As we dig, plant, fertilize, deadhead, and dig some more, the more mindfully we approach our task the more restorative the activities become. Dragging myself through the back door this spring, I appreciated and valued the exhaustive feeling of having accomplished what I set out to do, reflecting on my garden in full bloom. So as summer comes in full force, I take the time to enjoy and appreciate my efforts. I am slowing down and mindfully enjoying the view. Come join me, the iced tea is nice and cold.

Happy Gardening!

News From Around the State

Gardeners Urged to Share with “Ozarks Harvesting Hope”

by Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist, Southwest Region

While many gardeners feast on fresh, healthy produce, there are people all around southwest Missouri who can't enjoy these items.

It is not because they don't like them, they simply can't afford them.

In 2008, a local volunteer-led group named Ozarks Harvesting Hope formed in southwest Missouri as part of the national “Plant a Row for the Hungry” campaign.

According to Amy Tuggle, a member of the University of Missouri Master Gardeners of Greene County, the idea of this national campaign is to plant an extra row of crops and, at harvest time, take extra produce to a local food pantry.

“We formed Ozarks Harvesting Hope based on the generosity of gardeners who care enough to plant a little extra in their gardens to be donated to those in need,” said Tuggle. “Some of that extra has been coming in over the past two or three weeks and more of it should be coming.”

Good choices for donations include firm, clean fruits and vegetables. Vegetables such as peas, beans, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, winter and summer squash, cucumbers, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, onions, zucchini, rhubarb, eggplant, sweet peppers and garlic.

Good fruit choices include blueberries, strawberries, apples, peaches and melons.

Visit www.ozarksfoodharvest.org to locate a food pantry or to find an updated map of locations in Springfield where produce can be dropped off for delivery to the food bank thanks to the “Harvest on Wheels” program.

Summer Friends of the Garden Newsletter

*by George Deatz,
President, Friends of the Garden*

Summer weather has arrived in the Ozarks and so has the Summer 2010 *Friends of the Garden* newsletter that was just published by board member George Freeman, it can be viewed at this link with its great color photographs: <http://www.friendsofthegarden.org/summer10.pdf>

As you know *Friends of the Garden* is the support group that makes many of the 24 beautiful gardens in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Gardens & Park possible. This year we are still working to complete the Redbud Garden, Native Shrub Garden plus the Dwarf Confer Garden. The expanded Wildflower Garden and Bill Roston Butterfly House are both complete. The butterfly house is now open every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm with the new tram service running both days from 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Come try it!

Produce donations can also be dropped off at Ozarks Food Harvest, 2810 N. Cedarbrook, Springfield, Mo. Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri, and provides food to a network of more than 300 agency partners such as shelters, soup kitchens, senior centers, pantries and day cares in 29 counties in the Ozarks.

Ozarks Harvesting Hope is a joint public service project of AAF of the Ozarks (formerly the Springfield Ad Club) and the Master Gardeners of Greene County.

KALA Planting Day

by D. Beam, Master Gardener of the Ozarks Media Liaison



The Children's Garden at the Kimberling City Area Library was the site of a Master Gardener work day on Wednesday May 5th. Twelve Master Gardeners planted almost 300 Profusion Zinnias in the butterfly garden. Black Eyed Susan Vines were planted under the arbor and Lantanas were planted in the Rock and Roll Garden. As you can see there are lots of different fun gardens at the Kimberling City Area Library's Children Garden. The play area and Children's Garden are available to all during library hours. The Gardens were created and are maintained by the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks. These Gardens help inspire our area's young population to learn more about native plants. The Kimberling Area Library host a children's story hour as well as a summer

reading programs.

If you would like to know more about the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks.. Call us at 417-357-6812 or email schnakenbergc@missouri.edu.

Master Gardeners of Greene County Conduct Public Gardening Classes

by Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist, Southwest Region

The popular “Growing Knowledge at the Farm” series continued with “Growing Native Plants and Flowers” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 15 inside the community room (red barn) at Rutledge-Wilson Community Farm Park, 3825 W. Farm Road 146 in Springfield.

Amy Hamilton with Hamilton Native Outpost was the class instructor. She has over 25 years of experience growing natives in gardening and growing for seed production.

Participants learned how to get started growing native plants using techniques that mimic mother nature and making native gardens easier. Enjoying fresh cut flowers throughout the season is one of the gardener's best rewards. Attendees of this class learned what to plant for a bountiful and successful cutting garden. The class also covered drying and arranging your own cut flowers.

The Master Gardeners of Greene County are conducting these public gardening classes the third Thursday of each month, January through November.

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks host Monthly Garden Lessons

by D. Beam, Master Gardener of the Ozarks Media Liaison



The Kimberling Area Library and the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks (Stone and Taney Counties) hosted 20 guests at their monthly garden lessons. May's class was conducted by Master Gardener Alice Troyke. Alice spoke to the class on the proper ways to grow herbs. "I have herbs planted in pots and lined up and down my stairs in the back by the kitchen. That way when I need some herbs I can just step outside and harvest."

These classes are free to the public and all are invited.

If you would like to know more about the Kimberling Area Library Summer series; Call us at 417-357-6812 or email schnakenbergc@missouri.edu.

Meet Your State Advisory Board Members!!!

by Teri Loney, State Advisory Board President

This is a new section for our newsletter. In each issue, we'll tell you a little bit about a few of your board members. Here's your chance to get to know them!

Ross Terry represents the Central Region. He was born and raised on a farm in Barry County with a large garden. He now lives in Jefferson City where he has become very interested in raised bed gardening since he now lives in a subdivision with limited space.

His favorite perennial is the iris and favorite annuals are begonias and impatiens. He enjoys watching Paul James on TV.

Ross believes it is important for Master Gardeners to practice and educate others in the practice of using minimal amounts of fertilizers and chemicals to keep the pollution of our streams and lakes at a minimum.

George Hibbard represents the East Central Region. George was raised in Indianapolis where his mother enjoyed flower gardening. He spent his summers working on his uncle's farm where he enjoyed vegetable gardening.

His favorite perennials are butterfly bushes. He likes the variety and colors and enjoys watching the butterflies that are attracted to them.

His most embarrassing gardening moment was when he planted a large number of Missouri natives not realizing they were not rabbit resistant. They were all eaten down to the ground although a few survived.

His advice to new gardeners is "Don't be afraid to experiment and fail."

Plant of Merit - *Celosia argentea* (Plumosa Group) 'New Look'

By Chris Nejelski, Coordinator, Plants of Merit Program, Missouri Botanical Garden



Even though celosia's have been around for a while now, one of my favorite long, blooming summer annuals is a variety commonly called New Look Red. *Celosia argentea* (Plumosa Group) plants (commonly called feather celosia, plumed celosia or feathered amaranth) are old garden favorites that feature narrow-pyramidal, plume-like flower heads (4-10" long) composed of tiny, densely-packed, vividly-colored flowers. 'New Look' is a 1988 introduction that features bright red flower plumes and purple-bronze leaves. It typically grows to 14" tall with a spread to 12". Flowers bloom throughout summer into fall (sometimes to frost) on erect stems clad with spear-shaped bronze-purple leaves. This strong summer bloomer is commonly available in 6 packs, and sometimes in 4" – 8" pots. Another 2010 Plants of Merit new addition!

Common Name: feather celosia

Zone: (annual)

Plant Type: Annual

Missouri Native: No

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 0.75 to 1 foot

Bloom Time: June - To frost

Bloom Color: Bright red

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

