

Heartland Horticulture

Volume 1 a Issue 1 a July 2008

News for Missouri Master Gardeners



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Coordinator's Comments

Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

I am delighted to once again offer an electronic Heartland Horticulture, the Missouri Master Gardener newsletter. A huge thank you to our new editor, Sherry Adams. Sherry is very enthusiastic and very dedicated to this effort – so we cannot thank her enough for resurrecting Heartland Horticulture.

It is time once again to mark our calendars for the upcoming Annual Missouri State Master Gardener Conference in Branson, September 26-28, 2008. The theme of this year's conference will be "Gardening Secrets of the Ozarks" and the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks have put together an excellent line-up of tours and speakers, including a wonderful evening cruise and dinner on the famous Branson Belle.

Be sure to register for the wonderful conference early to ensure you get your preferred choices of tours and workshops.

The website with information and registration is <http://www.momg08.org/>

Since we have not published a newsletter in several years, I would like to give a status of the program statewide. In 2007, over 1,600 Missouri Master Gardeners contributed over 131,000 volunteer hours. This number is incredible and has doubled since 2005. I am very proud to have such a strong program statewide and cannot tell you how much your efforts are appreciated and valued both statewide and at the national level. Remember that all volunteer hours add up, so please report all volunteer time, not just the minimum required. Questions often arise as to what counts as volunteer time. Our general guidelines are that the hours you put in for a particular program should 1) be educational in nature, b) not result in financial gain, and c) be sanctioned by University of Missouri Extension. If you are unsure about whom to turn the hours in to, please just send them up to the state office, Mary Kroening, 1-31 Agriculture Building, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, email kroeningm@Missouri.edu.

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SAVE THE DATE:

- **September 26th – 28th 2008 Master Gardener State Conference, "Gardening Secrets of the Ozark Mountains", Branson, MO**
- **February 1-10, 2009 Missouri Master Gardener Tour to Costa Rica**

News from Around the State

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners say Farewell to Don Day

By Julie Fisher, Boone County Master Gardener

After 41 years of teaching and service in University of Missouri Extension, Don Day, Natural Resource Engineer, retired on June 30, 2008. Don came to Bonne County University Extension Center in 1975, and his exemplary work as an educator and his commitment to community service is a template for those who follow him. One of



his many jobs has been Coordinator and instructor of Master Gardeners and Master Naturalist programs. He estimates that he has taught around 650 people in Master Gardeners in the Central Missouri region and had 92 people go through the Master Naturalist program. On June 10th the Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners had a retirement BBQ in Don's honor. A highlight was roasting Don with Todd Lorenz's collection of Power-Point photos. Each attendee wore a "Don Day Day" pin that featured Don's smiling face. Several gifts were given to Don from the Master Gardeners including on the Extension grounds a "Don Day Parkway" street sign and a Weber grill for the new deck he plans to build. In return Don gave a gift "The Master Gardener Joke Book", First Edition -- a collection of his favorite gardening jokes.

St. Charles County Master Gardeners – A Growing Group

By David Barylski, East Central State Advisory Board Member

The St. Charles Master Gardeners began in 1998 with their first class of 12 graduates. Since then, a Level 1 class has been held every year with a total of 161 Master Gardeners receiving training. In 2008, for the first time, a second Level 1 class is planned for the fall.

There are now 52 active Master Gardeners, which gives us a wealth of resources and provides for the expansion of programs throughout the community. The services we offer are varied and well received.

Demonstration gardens have been established at the extension center in St Charles County and at the St. Peters Recycle Centre. Currently we have a native wetland garden, native butterfly garden, native prairie restoration, herb garden, bulb garden, shade garden, orchard, vineyard, raised vegetable beds and

Northeast Region Master Gardeners

By Jennifer Schutter, Extension Horticulture Specialist, Adair County

Hello from the Northeast Region. There are seven active Master Gardener clubs and approximately 200 active Master Gardeners in the Northeast region. The clubs in the region include Kirksville Area, Macon-Shelby, Sullivan County, Heartland (Brookfield), Magic City (Moberly), Fabius (Memphis), and Salt River (Palmyra, Hannibal). Master Gardeners in the region are active throughout the year doing various activities including beautification projects, giving programs, helping with Garden n' Grow, consultations and public assistance, as well as many other service projects. During the year the Master Gardeners also attend workshops, tours and education programs to further their knowledge and training. Representing the region on the state advisory board are Carolyn Morgret from Edina and Nancy Cruse from Hannibal.

compost demonstration area. Additional gardens are planned along with a greenhouse. The gardens provide opportunities to educate visitors to the extension center and explain various growing techniques. Plant catalogs are under development that will provide information on all the plants in the gardens to allow gardeners to make informed decisions about what to grow in their own yards.



A Horticulture answer line was established in 2007 to provide answers to gardeners' questions. Master Gardeners man the telephone on Monday and check for voice messages daily. Answers are provided within 24 hours of receipt of the question. This service has freed up the time of the extension agent who previously did this himself.

An "Ask a Master Gardener" program was offered at the various library locations. Master Gardeners staffed tables that allowed library patrons to have their gardening questions answered. Master Gardeners taught five Federated Garden club training classes in support of their educational program. Over 30 speaking engagements have been supported this year on various topics to local garden clubs and church groups. St. Charles Master Gardeners have two Plants of Merit ambassadors that have been trained and certified by Missouri Botanical Gardens. These individuals speak to various garden clubs about the Plants of Merit program.

Beginning in 2007 classes on various garden subjects were offered at the extension center. In 2007, there were 31 classes and in 2008, 19 have been offered through July. Attendance by the public has been excellent along with feedback on additional topics. Over half of the Level 1 training classes are taught by Master Gardeners in St. Charles County. Additional Level 1 training support was provided to Warren and Washington counties.

Garden design services have been provided to school, church, and community services groups within the county. Additional volunteer hours maintaining various public gardens and answering visitor questions have also been provided.

While the St. Charles County Master Gardeners are a busy group, we are investigating opportunities to expand our support of gardens at various county facilities and providing additional educational opportunities to the gardeners in St. Charles County.

Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners 2008 Garden Tour

By Sherry Adams, West Central Master Gardener



In mid-June, six Master Gardeners in Kansas City put their hearts and souls on display when their gardens were visited during the 2008 Garden Tour. Along with the sights of beautiful gardens, the visitors were treated to



individualized guided tours through the varieties of terrains, plants and structures at each location. Visitors from as far away as South Dakota, Wisconsin, Texas, and California attended the tour and had a chance to see what can be done when one really loves to grow things.



Upcoming Events

Master Gardener Horticulture Study Tour to Costa Rica - February 1-10, 2009

By Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

As Bruce Beck said so well when we returned from our first Costa Rica study tour in 2001 “What could be more appropriate for Master Gardeners than to visit a country that is one big garden?” Join fellow gardeners on an exciting tour of the exotic and beautiful gardens and sights of Costa Rica. This trip will leave the typical tourist route and visit private gardens, agricultural production locations, and various native habitats from cloud forest to tropical rainforest to tropical Pacific coast. Some highlights include a several night stay at the famous [Wilson Botanical Garden](#) and an exclusive tour of the private garden and orchid collection of Ms. Ileana



Teran, the president of SACRO (Saving Costa Rica’s Orchids), an organization committed to preserving natural habitats where orchids grow wild. For those of you who like birds, animals, butterflies and sea creatures this trip will provide an excellent opportunity to keep the binoculars and camera extremely busy.

A Master Gardener Study Tour is a fabulous experience shared with fellow gardeners. Not only will you see, smell, feel and taste the marvels of nature and horticulture, but also you will learn about them. And you will learn about this wonderful country from an educated, experienced and passionate native tour guide. The tour leaders, an Extension agronomist and his Master Gardener wife, will see that you bring home lessons that will make you a better gardener and volunteer back home.



In addition to being a country blessed with a diversity of plants and animals – native and cultivated, Costa Ricans (who call themselves “Ticos”, an endearing diminutive term) are especially friendly. Tourists are welcome. English is the second language, but their Spanish language and unique Central American culture is rich and delightful. Costa Rica has no army. It is a safer, more educated and more prosperous country for it. And the weather is wonderful, with daytime highs varying from low 70’s to mid 80’s. Could there be a better way to escape our winter blues than with a tropical plant based vacation?!

2008 Missouri Master Gardener State Conference “Gardening Secrets of the Ozarks”

Hosted by the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks at the Hilton Branson Convention Center at The Branson Landing in Branson, Missouri.

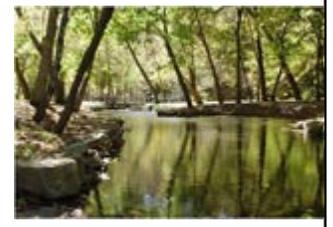


September 26-28,
2008

Open to the public.

Online registration with payment by credit card is now available on our website:

[Missouri Master
Gardeners State
Conference 2008](#)



This tour will introduce you to one of the most diverse natural areas of the world and to a rich and diversified agricultural/horticultural economy. You will understand how we, too, are intertwined in the global economy and ecosystem.

Costa Rica raises most of its own food – fruits, vegetables, poultry, fish and dairy. The country exports coffee, pineapples, bananas, sugar, beef cattle, fine timber, flower seeds, and landscape and indoor plants. Tour participants will see the production and marketing of some of these commodities.



Participants will also see an incredible number of other familiar and exotic tropical fruits, nuts, spices, medicinals and timber species – citrus, mango, papaya, guava, plantains, durian, breadfruit, oil palm, cashew, Brazil nuts, cacao, cinnamon, vanilla, coca, quinine, mahogany, strangler figs, orchids, bromeliads, heliconias, crotons, philodendron and many more.

The diversity of fauna matches the diversity of flora. Birds you might see include the resplendent quetzal, numerous hummingbird species, toucans, parrots, macaws, oropendulas, motmots and jacanas. Spider and howler monkeys, sloths, coatimundis, fruit-eating bats, iguanas, leaf cutting ants, aerial termite, and dazzling morpho butterflies are among the many animal species you should see and hear.



The group will travel by air-conditioned tourist bus with panoramic windows. Meals and evening accommodations will be first class. There will be time to relax at locations with gardens, scenic views, ocean breezes, pools and beaches. Check out the following links for more information on the accommodations: <http://www.hb.co.cr/>, www.savegre.co.cr, www.lacusingalodge.com, www.hotelgranodeoro.com

Persons who are not Master Gardeners are welcome, too. In past years they have enjoyed these tours as much as the Master Gardener volunteers. The tour will accommodate up to eighteen persons. Go to the Missouri Master Gardener home page <http://mg.missouri.edu/> for details of the tour, terms and costs and registration.

Costa Rica is "pura vida" (pure pleasure). Don't pass up this opportunity!!!

2008 Missouri Master Gardener State Conference "Gardening Secrets of the Ozarks" (continued)

All conference details and descriptions and a printable (mail in) version of the registration are available on our website. Don't forget to rank your choices for tours and educational sessions!



We look forward to seeing you in September.

Sincerely,

2008 State Conference Steering Committee



From the President's Desk

Linda Kalicak, Master Gardener and State Advisory Board President

Finally, I can get out in my yard and start the never-ending battle – Me vs. The Weeds! Slowly I'm getting plants potted that have been hibernating all winter and plants that I bought in March that have taken residence on my deck.



By the way, my name is Linda Kalicak and I have the pleasure to be your chair and representative on the Missouri State Advisory Board. I'm a St. Louis Master Gardener and my main job is Plant Doctor at the Missouri Botanical Garden. I'm also on several committees including the Training Coordinating Team.

It is so nice to have our newsletter, the *Heartland Horticulture*, back. Years ago we published the newsletter quarterly to inform the Missouri Master Gardeners what was happening around the state. As time went by the newsletter got put in the compost pile and the MG website was being revamped at the University level. After several years, Sherry Adams, our editor, was willing to take on the task of getting our newsletter up and running. Three cheers for Sherry! Look for our quarterly newsletter on our new and improved website <http://mg.missouri.edu>. Sherry will feature many articles that will inform you and keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your state with other Master Gardeners. Well, if my back holds up, I'm back to my fight with the weeds. I refuse to let them win.

Plant of Merit - *Capsicum annuum* 'Black Pearl'

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



A new addition to The Plants of Merit program for 2008 is an ornamental pepper called 'Black Pearl'. *Capsicum annuum* 'Black Pearl' is grown as an annual here in St. Louis and thrives in our heat and humidity. The foliage is a glossy black, and its fruit also starts out black, but then matures to a cherry red. The fruits are edible but very hot! The best black foliage color occurs in full sun. This plant grows vigorously in an upright bushy mound up to 18" tall.

'Black Pearl' is an excellent selection for beds, borders and mixed containers.

An All America Selections Winner (AAS). For more information about The Plants of Merit program, be sure to visit: www.plantsofmerit.org Plants of outstanding quality and dependable performance for the lower Midwest.

Your State Advisory Board Members

Northeast Region

Nancy Cruse
ncruse@socket.net
 Carolyn Morgret
cmorgret@marktwain.net

Central Region

Vicki Stark
boylersmill@hotmail.com
 Carol Buck (Alternate)
cbuck1@dnnetcentral.com
 Debbie Scholes
ScholesD@missouri.edu
 Karen Basel
Karen@Basel.us

Southeast Region

Barb Gray
graybb@semo.net

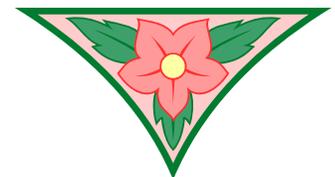
Northwest Region

Larry Golubski
lgolubski@centurytel.net
 Audrey Ayers
audrey@grm.net
 Casey Jo Kellner
Casey.kellner@mda.mo.gov
 Vicki Christensen
vickic@realtor.com

South Central Region

Anne Premont
premonta@usa.net
 Maxine King (Alt)
kmking@fidnet.com
 Teri Loney
terilloney@yahoo.com

Continued on next page



Plant of Merit (continued)

Common Name: ornamental pepper

Zone: 4 to 10

Plant Type: Annual

Family: Solanaceae

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 0.75 to 1 foot

Bloom Time: Flowers not showy

Bloom Color: Purple

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium



Ray Rotherberger & Jim Wilson Missouri Master Gardener Endowment

By Ed Stowell, West Central State Advisory Board Member

A Missouri Master Gardener endowment fund, administered by the University of Missouri Extension, has been created in honor of a retired MU professor and a longtime Master Gardener. The Ray Rothenberger and Jim Wilson Missouri Master Gardener Endowment was launched March 3, 2006 at a lunch in Columbia, Mo., honoring the two men. The permanent endowment fund was created to fund the almost entirely volunteer statewide program that trains gardeners to become experts and volunteers in their communities.

Rothenberger retired in 1998 as chair of the MU horticulture department and had served for 30 years as a home horticulture specialist. He was a key organizer of the first Missouri Master Gardener program in 1984 and helped lead it for many years. “It’s an honor and a pleasure to do whatever I can to support it and help it,” Rothenberger said.

Wilson served as a co-host of PBS’s Victory Garden program from Callaway Gardens for 10 years. He holds the title of honorary Master Gardener in nine states, including Missouri. “This is great. I see huge potential for it (the endowment). The Master Gardener program is so worthwhile,” Wilson said. “It makes me feel very good as an MU grad and a Master Gardener to see this come together.”

Charles Stowell, a Missouri Master Gardener from Kansas City, a state advisory board member, proposed creating the fund to give donors a place to put their money that would directly benefit the Master Gardener program. Ed Stowell, of Blue Springs, Mo., said he learned about the value of endowments through his work as a Shriner. “We’re always struggling for money here,” Stowell said.

Your State Advisory Board Members (cont.)

East Central Region

Linda Kalicak

lkalicack@aol.com

David Barylski

dfbarylski@yahoo.com

George Hibbard

barbaraandgeorge@aol.com

West Central Region

Ed Stowell

edsto@swbell.net

Mary Medley

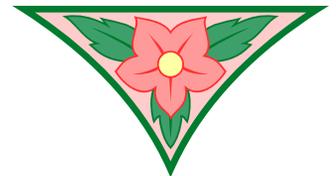
bmedley313@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Lidge

CiestLidge@aol.com

Mary Kroening, State Coordinator

KroeningM@missouri.edu



“What I’m thinking about is not this year or next year. I’m looking at this Master Gardener program 10 years down the road.”

The fund can accommodate big and small donors alike, said Mary Kroening, MU Extension associate and state coordinator for the Missouri Master Gardener program. She said the annual operating budget of about \$15,000, that’s not including her MU Extension salary, which is partially dedicated to her Master Gardener role, comes from training fees paid by the volunteers. The endowment will help fund more advanced volunteer training. Money will also go toward educational workshops and the state conference. The balance of the endowment fund now stands at \$12,487, contributed mostly by regional Master Gardener programs.

Dave Baker, MU Extension Assistant Dean of Agriculture, said he envisions the fund growing into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. “We ought to be thinking outside the box, of funding things like college scholarships for horticulture students,” Baker said.

To donate to the Ray Rothenberger and Jim Wilson Missouri Master Gardener Endowment, contact Mary Kroening at (573) 882-9633.

More than 2,500 Master Gardeners serve as trained volunteers for MU Extension by providing research-based gardening advice to friends, neighbors and the community at large throughout the state.

NOTE: Ray Rothenberger passed away July 31, 2006

Note from the Editor

Sherry Adams, Master Gardener of Greater KC



I hope you all have enjoyed the first issue of the revived Heartland Horticulture newsletter.

If you have items of interest that you would like included in future issues or feedback on any aspect of the newsletter, please contact your State Advisory Board representative.

We all hope that you will find this an informative and useful publication as you pursue your future as a Master Gardener!

Thanks for reading and ‘see’ you again in October!!!

