

Heartland Horticulture

Volume 3 * Issue 4 * October 2010

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
U Extension
Master Gardener

News for Missouri Master Gardeners

From the President's Desk

by Teri Loney, State Advisory Board President

As I write this, it is 71 degrees and the end of October. How does that work? As one may expect, raked leaves for several hours yesterday in perfect weather; need more of those days to finish the job. (We “do” have trees down here!!!). On the other hand, fall is a wonderful lake season. Not only are the crowds gone, making for gorgeous boating days, but as the leaves fall, new venues are revealed. Fall is simply renewal.

Over the summer, Mary Kroening, our State Master Gardener Coordinator, resigned. Anna, her daughter, had a brain tumor successfully removed, but the aftermath presents her and her family with numerous challenges. Recovery will be a long process. Having been with the program several years, Mary will be missed; yet, her decision is understandable. We want only good things for her and her family.

Obviously, this presents challenges for the Master Gardener organization as we seek new leadership. With recent cutbacks at the University level, uncertainty reigns. Dr. Mike Collins, Director of Plant Science Division, is working diligently on creating a structure which will ensure the continued success of the Master Gardener Program. The Advisory Board will be working with him and his staff with suggestions and desires throughout the next year.

As with fall, the coming season of the Master Gardener Program creates an opportunity for reflection and renovation (otherwise known as cussing and discussing). Throughout this time, the Board is open to Master Gardeners' ideas and desires as we work on developing a strategic plan which will enrich the program. The Master Gardener program has grown immensely over the last few years and therefore, has no doubt outgrown its past structure. We invite you to take part in this new season and add to the growth and excitement of the coming years. Happy Gardening!!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Fall Gardening Workshop	2
Fall Friends of the Garden Newsletter	2
Greene County Extension Center Moves	3-4
Book Review: Missouri's Wild Mushrooms	5
Plants of Merit - Picea Abies 'Acrocona'	6



News From Around the State

Fall Gardening Workshop in Kimberling City, MO

By Sandra Reames, Master Gardener

Each year for the last seven years, the “Master Gardeners of the Ozarks”, whose members cover Stone and Taney Counties of Missouri, hosted two workshops. This year’s spring workshop brought in 202 attendees and was held in Branson, MO (Taney County).



This October, The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks hosted their annual Fall Gardening Workshop designed for homeowners seeking tips on garden management. The workshop started with registration at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 3:15 p.m. at the Kimberling Area Library in Kimberling City (Stone County).

“This program featured presenters who discussed the topics of garden pruning, improving Ozark soils, growing perennial flowers, planting for fall color and tips for bringing the garden indoors for fall.” said Tim Schnakenberg, agronomy specialist, University of Missouri Extension, based in Galena, MO. “The Master Gardeners are drawing this year on speakers who have a lot of experience in these topics and we continually hunt for experienced and knowledgeable speakers.”

Registration was required and over 108 attended. A boxed lunch was provided for pre-registered participants and seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Each speaker was followed by lively question and answer sessions. Another part of the education that has been adopted is to share catalogs, books and to bring in plants for give away.

Each attendee walked away with a better understanding of gardening, with trees to plant and a better of understanding of who and what the Master Gardeners do for their community.

Fall Friends of the Garden Newsletter

by George Deatz,
President, Friends of the Garden

Welcome to fall in the Ozarks and the all new Fall 2010 *Friends of the Garden* newsletter. It can now be viewed here with its great color photographs> <http://www.friendsofthegarden.org/fall.pdf> (Note: It may take a little time to load.) The printed version of the newsletter is a special one and should be available later this week as an insert in the all new exciting *Greene Magazine*. Watch for it around Springfield!



Greene County Extension Center Moves to New Botanical Center

By Dr. Tim Seibert, Urban Program Specialist, Greene County

The University of Missouri Extension Center in Greene County has moved to the new Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center located in Close Memorial and Nathaniel Greene Park, at 2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield, Mo. 65807.

The Botanical Center is considered southwest Missouri's latest destination attraction with a focus on horticulture, preservation and sustainability. A week long grand opening celebration continued through Sunday, Oct. 17, with free hands-on activities for children and adults, horticulture seminars, dedication ceremonies, live entertainment, and much more.

THE BUILDING

The 12,700-square foot facility, within Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, is owned and operated by the Springfield-Greene County Park Board and features classroom space for MU Extension programs and a soil and research lab, where area residents can bring in items like soil samples for examination. The building also has a large two-story atrium, adjacent gift shop and restrooms. The facility will now house a number of offices for University of Missouri Extension, Friends of the Garden and Park Board Botanical staff.

The facility was designed to qualify for Silver Level LEED certification. Just a few of the examples of LEED-related elements incorporated into the facility include: geo-thermal ground source heat pump systems utilized for both heating and cooling, LED parking lot light fixtures, low water use plumbing fixtures, solar orientation, ceiling tile and fiberglass batt insulation containing 30% post consumer recycled materials, wood utilized in construction from producers practicing sustainable forestry management practices, and the use of local materials.

The building was designed by H Design of Springfield and built by R.E. Smith Construction. The \$4.35 million project included an adjacent nature playground. Funding was available through the voter-approved 1/4-cent County-Wide Parks Sales Tax, private donations, Greene County, and the City's 2001 1/4-cent Sales Tax for Capital Improvements.

RIBBON CUTTING

Cooperation among groups was the common theme of guest speakers during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Botanical Center held Oct. 11.

"The Botanical Center and surrounding gardens should attract a lot of attention," said Missouri



Botanical Garden (St. Louis) Vice President for Horticulture Jim Cocos. “From the oldest botanical garden in the nation to the newest addition being honored today, I say welcome.”

Powell Gardens (Kansas City) Executive Director Eric Tschanz recalled being in Springfield during 2007 at a kickoff event for the Botanical Center. “Now I’m back and I have to say, this facility is phenomenal. I didn't expect to see this. I think tourists are going to get a kick out of this. But this building is not the final destination, it is just the start to a wonderful future for you.”

Rick Mammen, director of MU Extension’s Southwest Region, praised the collaboration that went in to making the center and new Greene County Extension Center a reality. “When I speak of MU Extension one of the first things people think of is soil testing. We still do soil testing, but we also do so much more. It has not been without challenges for Extension to remain relevant to residents of Missouri, but partnerships like the one we honor here today certainly aid in our goal to provide unbiased research-based information on all types of topics.”

Week-long celebration activities Oct. 11 – 17 highlighted the functionality of the building and surrounding grounds and offered a number of free activities for the public to enjoy.

HISTORY

Nathanael Greene Park is a 59-acre tract received as surplus property from the U.S. Department of Interior and Bureau of Prisons in 1975. Over the years, the land has been gradually developed to include the Mizumoto Japanese Stroll Garden, the Gray-Campbell Farmstead and University of Missouri Extension’s Master Gardener’s Demonstration Garden.

The 55-acre Close Memorial Park was established in cooperation with the Springfield-Greene County Park Board in 1998. The purchase of the land was made possible by a donation from the C.M. Close family.

The first concerted effort to raise private funds for the Botanical Center began in 2003 following the initial architectural design and estimate. On Oct. 20, 2006, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board approved a master plan for the Complex. That master plan includes 45 distinct gardens to be developed over several years, including the Japanese Stroll Garden.

CONTACT EXTENSION

As a result of the move, the Greene County Extension Center has a new mailing address and telephone number. The address changes to, 2400 S. Scenic Ave, Springfield, 65807, and the new telephone number is (417) 881-8909.

The website for the MU Extension Center in Greene County remains the same at <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene>.

St. Louis Master Gardener Pens Book on Missouri's Wild Mushrooms

Submitted by George Hibbard, East Central Region State Advisory Board Representative

Maxine Stone is a St. Louis Master Gardener who recently published a book on Missouri's Wild Mushrooms. Maxine currently serves on the Advisory Board of the St. Louis MG's, is a Missouri Master Naturalist and is past-president and current director of the Missouri Mycological Society. A review of her new book follows. Excerpts from her book were also featured in the October issue of the Missouri Conservationist.

Book Review with Holly Parks.....Missouri's Wild Mushrooms

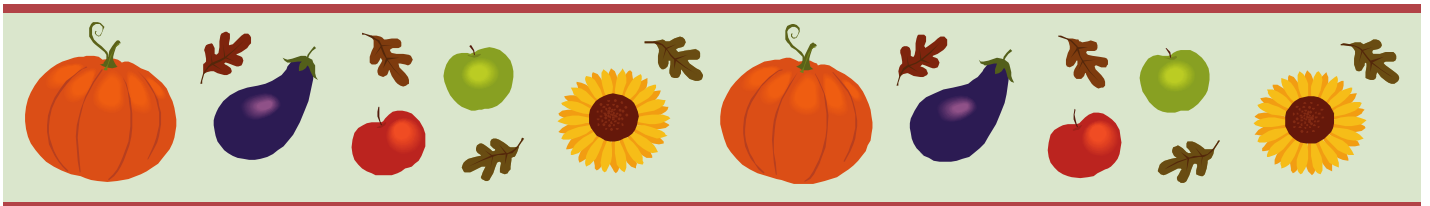
Missouri's Wild Mushrooms is just a delight on many levels. Are you interested in looking for wild mushrooms? There are detailed descriptions and photos of 102 Missouri fungi. And each one listed has extensive details so that you can be sure what mushroom you are dealing with: the season to find them, the habitat where it is most likely to discover them, the cap width, shape color and texture; similar information on the gills and the stalk and the spores. Look-alikes are also listed so that you can compare the descriptions and photos to define which one you have found. And there is usually some general informative comment.

The book starts with a section on how to hunt mushrooms: when and where, equipment you will need, the ethics of the hunt and guidelines for collecting. There is an indexed list of the poisonous Missouri mushrooms with photos. And, of course, an introduction to the Missouri Mycological Society is included.

But beware if you want to cook what you find. Ms. Stone emphasizes repeatedly that you should have an expert verify that the mushroom is not poisonous before you attempt to cook it. Just reading her comments makes me feel that I have been very lucky in the past hunts for wild morels as I had no idea that there are poisonous look-alikes.

But even with that disclaimer, you have to fall in love with the recipes. So you will be out looking for right fungi to try chanterelle and bacon pizza or "Chicken of the Woods" with rosemary and garlic. Maxine footnotes recipes with "This is sinfully good!" or "My dad ate the whole thing."

Missouri's Wild Mushrooms by Maxine Stone is a 186 page soft cover book published by Missouri Department of Conservation.



Plant of Merit - *Picea abies* 'Acrocona'

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



Picea abies, commonly called Norway spruce, is a pyramidal evergreen conifer that typically matures to 40-60' tall in cultivation in North America, but may reach 200' tall in the wild in its optimum native growing environments in Europe. 'Acrocona' is a cultivar that is noted for producing showy immature red cones at the branch ends (acro meaning at the end) in spring. Cones are abundant in early years. Cones mature to tan by summer. This small conifer typically grows as a broad upright-spreading shrub, but may grow as a small tree. Ten year growth is in the area of 5-10' tall. Trees will mature to about 20' tall over time. Dark green needles add interest (and scent) to holiday arrangements. Use 'snippets' and bunch together with other greens, including hollies and red-twigged dogwoods.

Common Name: Norway spruce

Zone: 3 to 7

Plant Type: Needled evergreen

Height: 5 to 10 feet

Spread: 5 to 10 feet

Sun: Full sun

Water: Medium

Maintenance: Low

