

Heartland Horticulture

Volume 3 * Issue 2 * April 2010

News for Missouri Master Gardeners

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
 Extension
Master Gardener

Coordinator's Comments

By Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

I wanted to share with you information that I recently received on a worthwhile program that deserves our support.

This comes from Gary Oppenheimer, the founder of the AmpleHarvest.org Campaign, a nationwide effort to diminish hunger in America by educating, encouraging and enabling millions of backyard gardeners to easily find a local food pantry eager for their excess garden produce.

The campaign has been endorsed by the US Department of Agriculture, [Google.com](http://www.google.com), Garden Writers of America, VFW, Rotary International, food/hunger bloggers, numerous faith groups, etc.

Since mid 2009, the AmpleHarvest.org Campaign has reached the following milestones:

1. More than 1,500 food pantries spread across all 50 states are now participating, with more signing up every day (<http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/all-pantry.php>).
2. A free iPhone app (Ample Harvest) was released in January to help gardeners and other prospective donors more easily find a pantry. (<http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/iPhone.php>)
3. At the request of United Way, they added the capability to direct individuals who had accidentally come to the site seeking food assistance, to local United Way resources on a state by state basis (<http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/UnitedWay.php>)
4. To better enable local media to inform gardeners about the opportunity to donate their excess garden produce, they added a press/media page specifically designed to make their work easier (<http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/press.php>)

Currently, 17 food pantries in our state have registered at AmpleHarvest.org.

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SAVE THE DATE:

- **May 8 - Plant/Art Sale, Kansas City**
- **June 4 - Lake Area Garden Walk, Eldon**
- **June 5 - Ozark Garden Tour, Branson West**



While they are working hard to increase that number, they are also working hard to inform home gardeners across the state that they can help the needy in their own community, and they are asking for our assistance with both of these efforts.

There are several ways to help:

1. Inform gardeners about AmpleHarvest.org when they call in to the Help Lines
2. Tell garden clubs and community gardens in our communities about the AmpleHarvest.org campaign. A short comment in our newsletters or handouts at garden shows would be great.
3. Ask local nurseries, garden stores, and lawn/garden section of the local big box store for permission to post www.AmpleHarvest.org/downloads/GardenShop.pdf by the cashier or in another conspicuous area. It can also be posted on library and supermarket bulletin boards.
4. Ask people to encourage their local food pantries to register at AmpleHarvest.org (remind them that it is free). As 70% of all food pantries are in houses of worship, reaching out to the faith community can be very effective here.
5. Remember that some of the plants we might consider weeds, like mint, chives, and horseradish are greatly appreciated as herbs by many pantry clients.

The AmpleHarvest.org Campaign recognizes that we have worked hard to grow our plants, and should fully enjoy them. However, when we grow more than we can use, preserve or give to friends, any remaining harvest should be donated to local food pantries. These garden fresh donations not only help to feed the hungry in the community, they may also reduce the long term health care costs as pantry clients eat a more healthy diet.

If you have any questions about the campaign, you can email info@AmpleHarvest.org or visit their website where additional valuable information about AmpleHarvest.org is available.

Although the economy is still weak, AmpleHarvest.org helps people support their local food pantry by enabling them to reach into their backyard instead of their back pocket.



KC Holds Special MG Training

by Lala Kumar, Horticulture Specialist, Jackson County

This winter, the University of Missouri Extension Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City program began a special Master Gardener Training for midtown and downtown residents.

Classes are being held at the new Southeast Community Center in Swope Park. Breaking from the traditional MG class structure in Kansas City, the classes are being held on Saturdays for full days for a fewer number of weeks. Thirty people enrolled in the new class with 40% being from minority populations.

Eight of the trainees benefitted from half scholarships. David Barylski, a Master Gardener from St. Charles, MO and a prior State Advisory Board member contributed \$500 for scholarships. Thanks so much to David for his support in helping us bring Master Gardener training to our urban core.

News From Around the State

Spring Garden Workshop

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

The first day of Spring brought a mixed bag of weather - rain, sleet, and snow to the Ozarks. That did not stop The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks from welcoming nearly 200 guests to the United Methodist Church of Branson for the annual Spring Garden Workshop. The Event was held on Saturday March 20th. Kathryn Kufahl, Emcee and chairperson of the workshop stated "this is the largest crowd yet!". Guests were treated to five speakers on a variety of subjects from "How to build an English Garden in the Ozarks" .. to "Organic Gardening". The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks have already started working on the annual **Garden Tour**. This year to be held in **Branson West** at the StoneBridge Village on June 5th. The **Fall Gardening Workshop** will be held in **Kimberling City** in October. The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks.. working hard to "help people grow".



Welcome to Spring

by George Deatz, President, Friends of the Garden

Spring is has arrived in the Ozarks and so has the Spring 2010 *Friends of the Garden* Newsletter that was published by board member George Freeman can be viewed here with great color photographs: <http://www.friendsofthegarden.org/spring.pdf> (Note: It is a large file and will take a little time to load.) Back issues may be viewed here: <http://www.friendsofthegarden.org/newsletters.html>

As you know *Friends of the Garden* is the support group that makes many of the 21 beautiful gardens in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Gardens & Park possible. The gardens this spring are coming alive with spring flowers. During this year we are planning to complete the Redbud Garden, plant the Native Shrub Garden with the assistance of MDC plus construct a Dwarf Confer Garden. We are going to expand both the Wildflower Garden and the Bill Roston Butterfly House.

We are also very proud of the new Botanical Center building that is under construction on the hillside overlooking Lake Drummond. The building is scheduled to be completed the end of this summer. Come out and view the excellent progress in person or see a video here: <http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/botanicalcenter/general.shtml>

In addition you might want to visit our website> www.friendsofthegarden.org plus our interesting [Garden News Blog](#) that contains many informative postings. Last but not least we have two new community services you might also enjoy looking over, The [Community Forum](#) and [The Garden Calendar](#) all can be accessed from the website.

Story Hour at the Kimberling City Library

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

Master Gardener Alice Troyke volunteers her Saturday mornings at the Kimberling Area Library to read to kids. The kids got to hear a story about 5 mice and then went outside to play in the Children's Garden. These Daffodils were planted by kids two years ago. Cookies, flowers, playing on the slide, and reading books at the Kimberling Area Library - A great Saturday for all!



Master Gardeners of the Ozarks have lots of activities scheduled for 2010 - including the annual Garden Tour. This year the tour will be at one of the most beautiful areas of Stone County, StoneBridge Village in Branson West. Soon there will be announcements on where to get tickets to this June 5th Tour.



Upcoming Events

Lake Area Master Gardeners Garden Walk 2010

by Teri Loney, Master Gardener

Again this year, the Lake Area Master Gardeners will host their Annual Garden Walk. The event featuring gardens from the Eldon, Missouri area will be held from 9 am until 2 pm, Saturday, June 4, 2010. Each garden will represent a different gardening theme including shade, butterfly, feng shui, and heritage gardening. Throughout the day, artists and musicians will be featured at various gardens. In the past, guests have enjoyed the music of a jazz clarinet and a classical guitar as well as various wind instruments. Local painters at work add to the ambiance of the day. Without a doubt, visiting gardeners, gardener-wanna-bes, and the “just here because it seemed like a good idea when they got up this morning-ers” will enjoy the educational and relaxing day.



Master Gardeners Of Greater Kansas City

Invite you to a

Plant and Art Sale
May 8

8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Bass Pro Shop in
Independence

SW Corner of the Intersection
of MO-291 & I-70



Perennials, Annuals, (including Plants of Merit & All-America Selections)
Vegetables, Herbs, Unique Handmade Garden Art

Come early so you won't miss out
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For more information, call 816-252-5051
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From the President's Desk

by Teri Loney, State Advisory Board President

Recently, a patient brought me a book excerpt that was reprinted in the New York Times. The author, Dominique Browning, was the past editor of the now defunct House and Garden Magazine, the magazine "that celebrated the good life," the one that I often drooled over. It is no more, a victim of the economy; an economy which is probably not done with its nastiness. But I digress; the essence of the book is her journey from being fired to re-claiming her life.

Several statements, well more than several, intrigued me. For instance, my job "was the structure of my life...The simple act of working defined me." Or "Work had been the scaffolding of my life...It held up the floor of my moods, kept the facade intact." While in the midst of a *busy life*, we are often not aware of the function of our actions. How the everyday activities pull us forward through the day, the week, the years. Yet, developmental milestones often bring this muted truth to light; when children leave the nest, when retirement brings its mixed bag of emotions. Obviously, we all have our own path, littered with varying types of speed bumps that pull us up short, taking our breath away.

Finding something to bridge these valleys and connect the essence of each day is often an on-going challenge or more times than not, a miraculous event. All this gibberish, is hopefully leading to an awareness of the magical quality gardening provides on a day to day basis.

In writing the article for the last newsletter, I was reminded of the relationship I have with my gardening even during the winter and then throughout the year; the fantasizing, the planning, the searching for just the perfect bush that will provide the effect I desire while not becoming deer fodder. Now with the warmer weather, the anticipation I feel to just be outside, the desire to plant (although one more freeze may be lurking behind the next warm day); the flow from planting and coaxing, into pruning, preparing for the winter; the ebb and flow of the gardening year.

Yes, I am still in those producing years where my title and my work go a long way in defining who I am. Yet, I am becoming aware of how the seasons of my garden create a structure for my life, a connection with something bigger than me. Today the hostas tunneled through the soil. The peach tree bloomed and the pansies are putting on quite a show—it is definitely their time of year right here in the Ozarks! Soon I will be carting home the annuals; I have huge plans for annuals this year. And I have promised myself to finish planting the bed of groundcover and... just today, began thinking about creating a grotto for my ferns and orchids.

Again I am thankful for the Master Gardener program, the knowledge I have at my fingertips, the friends that share my gardening triumphs and gardening failures; the scaffolding connecting the seasons of my life.

Happy Gardening!



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!

Maxine Moore represents the Northeast Region. She grew up in Hannibal, MO, where her family had a vegetable garden and fruit trees. Her favorite perennial is coneflowers because they are native and come in so many colors! Her favorite annuals are petunias for their variety and sturdiness. When not gardening she enjoys reading.

Her most embarrassing gardening moment was killing plants with cow manure!

Her advice to new gardeners is to keep it basic, start small and measure success with small steps.



Carl Huffman represents the Central Region. He was raised on a small farm near Thayer, MO. He is of the "old school", preferring trees and shrubs, but now has more appreciation of what others know and try in their gardens. When not gardening he enjoys the outdoors, fishing, and hunting.

His hand trimmers are his favorite gardening tool.

He has learned that "one must give back to the soil to continue to harvest".

His advice to new gardeners is to have fun and continue to learn and share.

Carolyn Lidge represents the West Central Region. She was raised in Chicago with "zero gardening experience". Her favorite perennial is Joe Pye Weed because it has the best background accent. When not gardening, she enjoys writing and cooking. Horticulture and Garden Gate are her gardening magazines of choice.

She is "best buddies" with her garden bugs and she couldn't do without her pruners.

Her advice to new gardeners: "It doesn't just happen to you..cream sours and peaches rot".



Elaine Fix represents the East Region. She was raised in St. Louis where her family grew four o'clocks and shrub roses. Her favorite perennial is hostas - she has a 1/2 acre shade garden. Her favorite annual is cosmos for their long bloom time and delicate flower. She prefers to use the internet to find answers to her gardening questions.

Her hand pruners are her favorite gardening tool.

Her advice to new gardeners is to "start with compost, compost, compost".