From the President's Desk
by George Hibbard, State Advisory Board President

As most of you know, Mary Kroening, our long-time Missouri Master Gardener State Coordinator, had to retire last summer for family reasons. Her position has not been filled. In her absence, a self-directed work team of Extension specialists convened by Prof. David Trinklein is providing statewide coordination for Master Gardeners. One of this team’s recommendations is that the MO MG State Advisory Board form a Missouri Master Gardener Association. This Association would be formed as a nonprofit, educational organization with the purpose to supplement the efforts of the MO Extension MG program. The Advisory Board has voted to incorporate such an Association.

Why is this action necessary? Extension programs across the country are under severe financial pressures. The University of Missouri Extension is no exception; and this can directly impact the future of our Master Gardener program. Creating a nonprofit Association that can raise funds and collaborate with other organizations should provide a mechanism to support and hopefully grow our MO MG program in cooperation with Extension. Many states already have such organizations, including Wisconsin, Texas, Virginia and Alabama. These Associations are functioning well and are good models for Missouri to follow.

Getting the Association incorporated in Missouri is relatively quick and simple. However, getting 501 (c)(3) status from the federal government is tedious and time consuming. The Advisory Board’s goal is to have both of these steps completed by the end of this year.

Independent of the creation of the Association, it is important to get the MG Statewide Coordinator position filled. We are encouraging Extension to do this; but there are many positions to be filled. You can help by encouraging your Regional Extension Directors to support filling this position.

Finally, the folks in the Hannibal region are working hard to put together a great state MG Conference. Please save the date, September 23 – 25, 2011, and plan to attend. More information will be out soon; and you won’t want to miss this conference.

SPRING IS HERE. HAPPY GARDENING!
News From Around the State

Forest ReLeaf Planting Party!!!!
by Bob Lee, East Central Region

Forest ReLeaf of Missouri each year provides thousands of free trees for planting in public areas. In the early Spring, it receives about 10,000 bare root tree seedlings from the State nursery located in Licking, MO. Forest ReLeaf has only three full-time employees and is heavily dependent upon volunteers. On March 19, 2011 The St. Charles Chapter of Master Gardeners joined with the Confluence Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist to set a record of potting 2,100 tree seedlings in a little over three hours!

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks Award Scholarship
by Sandra Reames, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

The $1000 Master Gardener Scholarship was awarded to Joshua Pulliam, a junior at the College of the Ozarks. Joshua is from Harrisonville, MO and is majoring in Horticulture and Wildlife Management.

“The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks” a non-profit group, believes in supporting our youth and The College of the Ozarks.

Each year The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks give a scholarship to a deserving student majoring in horticulture and/or related subjects.

Each year the 80+ members of the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks, which cover both Stone and Taney county work to raise these monies for the scholarship. Last year in conjunction with Stonebridge they sponsored an all day garden tour along with a luncheon.

Left to right in photo:
Alice Troyke, Elaine Fischer, Joshua Pulliam, Tim Schnakenberg of the Missouri University Extension Office, Ann Wigg, Kathryn Kufahl (president of MG of Ozarks)
The Enabling Garden

The Enabling Garden demonstrates gardening techniques that allow individuals with disabilities to enjoy gardening. Our garden currently has raised beds, trellises, espaliers, and a sensory bed. Future plans include:

- Planting table beds, which will run along the back of this garden. These beds will allow knee clearance under the table for those in wheelchairs.
- Hanging baskets on pulleys for easier access.
- A vertical wall.
- A crushed granite pathway, which has the compacting ability like crushed limestone but does not leave dust on the wheels and feet. It is also easier to maneuver through than wood chips.
- A container garden area with stone path.
- A compost bin.
- A work table with a green roof display.

Please visit often and watch the progress!

Horticultural Therapy is an increasingly popular and proven therapy that uses plants and activities to improve:

- Social skills like working with others and dealing with success and failures.
- Physical strength, range of motion, fine motor skills, and balance.
- Mental health by increasing self-esteem, attention span, problem-solving skills and having an outlet for stress.

Master Gardener Program

Master Gardeners are trained by University of Missouri Extension and volunteer in community outreach activities. They teach garden classes on many of the methods used in the Demonstration Gardens. Class schedules are available in the office. For information about becoming a Master Gardener ask inside or call the extension center.

University of Missouri Extension

260 Brown Road, St Peters, MO 63376
Phone: 636-970-3000

extension.missouri.edu/stcharles/mastergardener.aspx
**Raised Beds** are an excellent start to an enabling garden. They work well for individuals who can not kneel down or bend over with ease. They allow those who tire easy to sit on the sides to rest. The height can work well for those in wheelchairs.

Our front raised bed is a flower bed while the back bed is a vegetable bed. The paths are flat to allow easier rolling and minimize tripping accidents. The front bed has been planted with easy to maintain shrubs and perennials.

Trellises also work well because they bring plants up for easier viewing, tending and picking of fruit. The trellis in the vegetable bed can be planted with climbing or vine vegetables like pole beans, cucumbers, or gourds.

**Sensory Bed** is located in the center pot, which is made from recycled concrete pipe. It is designed for those with limited sight and the height of it works well for those who can stand but need extra support.

To enhance the other senses, wind chimes were installed for sound; fragrant plants such as the Lilium orientalis ‘After Eight’ and ‘Sunny Sulawesi’ (oriental lily) were planted for scent; the pot was imprinted with a leaf design and plants with an intriguing texture, such as Stachys byzantina (lamb’s ear), were used to enhance the sense of touch.

**Espalier** is a centuries old pruning technique that trains plants to grow flat and in various patterns. It is used in areas where space is an issue or as a fence to define a space. It is perfect in an enabling garden because it allows easy access to fruit harvesting.

The two dwarf apple trees are Malus xdomestica. The left is a ‘Gold Rush’ cultivar with yellow apples and the right is the ‘Enterprise’ cultivar with red apples. In late winter, the apple trees will be drastically cut near the bottom of the fence making sure there are several buds near the cut. New shoots will be trained to follow the temporary colored ribbon that is tied on the cattle fence. We chose to train the right tree in horizontal tiers and the left tree in a tiered candelabra.

**Enabling Garden Plan**

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**Thank you to these donors:**

- The Reiser family for their hard labor to install the concrete paths.
- Tom Kelpe Contracting for the donation and delivery of the concrete bell.
- Equip Rental for the loan of a compactor.
- Deck Busters for the lumber.
- Cheryl Scherlinck for the oriental lilies in the Sensory bed.
- Stark Brothers for the two apple trees.
- Webster Groves Herb Society for the herbs in the Sensory bed.
Master Gardener Receives Award from Army Corps of Engineers – Table Rock Lake
by Sandra Reames, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

Master Gardener of the Ozarks Carol Gerhart could not conceal her shock when she was surprised by two awards at the monthly meeting of the Stone and Taney County Master Gardener group on Monday, February 14th.

The first award was presented by Jim Sandberg, operations project manager at the Army Corps of Engineers’ Table Rock Lake and recognizes Carol’s achievements over an 8 year span as chairperson of the Dewey Short Visitors Center Committee of the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks. She and her committee are responsible for the design, planting and maintenance of several flower beds and landscape features at the Visitors Center. “I can’t tell you how many times people have mentioned the beauty and aesthetic quality of the landscaping around the Visitors Center,” Sandberg noted as he presented the award. “There is no way we could’ve done this without Carol and the Master Gardeners.”

Ms. Gerhart was also presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks, in recognition of her many years and tireless efforts as a volunteer for the University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener program.

The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks is based in the Stone and Taney County area with close to 100 active residents who participate. Master Gardeners are trained by the University of Missouri Extension as gardening and horticulture outreach specialists and pay back their education by volunteering in their communities. The volunteer aspect of the program is the heart of the community outreach effort.

For more information about the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks, visit http://mgozarks.com/ or contact the University of Missouri Extension Office in Stone County at 417-357-6812.
Upcoming Events

Master Gardener Plant Sale April 30 in Springfield

The annual Master Gardener Plant Sale in Greene County will start at 7:30 a.m., Saturday, April 30, at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center located in Nathanael Greene Park, 2400 S. Scenic, Springfield, Mo.

Members of the Master Gardeners of Greene County gather plants to sell from their own gardens and from the two city gardens that Master Gardeners maintain.

The quality is excellent and the prices are real bargains. Those factors have made this annual event very popular among area gardeners.

People are advised to arrive early if they want the best choices of shrubs, small trees, bulbs, perennials, annuals, grasses, ground covers, houseplants, vegetables, herbs and garden related items. The sale continues until the plants are sold out.

The fundraiser helps Master Gardeners enhance city gardens and continue the group’s mission of providing gardening information to the public by providing free seminars, literature and help.

Last year, members in the Master Gardeners of Greene County chapter gave more than 14,000 hours in volunteer service.

For more information about the sale in Greene County, contact the Greene County Extension Center at (417) 881-8909.

Gardening Programs for 2011 at Kimberling Area Library, Kimberling City, MO
Presented by “The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks”

by Sandra Reames, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

Each session is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, at 10:30AM

May 11 Deer Resistant Gardens - MG Kathryn Kufahl

June 8 Flower Arrangements from the Garden - MG Kathryn Kufahl

July 13 Growing the Best Homegrown Vegetables - MG Joe Wolven

Aug. 10 Composting, Using Nature's Bounty - MG Alice Troyke

All sessions are in the community room at Kimberling Area Library and are free and open to everyone, as part of community education sponsored jointly by the library and Master Gardeners. No registration required.
Garden Tour & Plant Sale
April 30, 2011, 9 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by the St. Charles County Master Gardeners
University of Missouri Extension
260 Brown Road
St. Peters MO 63376
636-970-3000

Plants include: Vegetables ♦ Annuals
Missouri Natives ♦ Annuals ♦ Herbs
Perennials ♦ Seeds ♦ Houseplants ♦ More

♦ Tour Demonstration Gardens

♦ Visit “Ask the Master Gardener” booth

http://extension.missouri.edu/stcharles/mastergardeners.aspx
Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City Plant and Garden Art Sale - May 7th  

by Terry Blair Michel, Master Gardener of Greater Kansas City

Where can area gardeners find over 10,000 plants for sale, all under one huge tent, just in time for Mother’s Day? At the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City annual Plant Sale! Annuals, herbs, vegetables, a large selection of grasses, and mixed containers are currently being grown in the greenhouse at the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron by Master Gardener volunteers with the assistance of offenders in the greenhouse program. This is the second year that the Master Gardeners have worked with offenders at the Western Missouri Correctional Center in Cameron, Missouri. Besides the Master Gardeners plants being grown in the greenhouse, the offenders are growing plants for a large garden of their own from which they donated hundreds of pounds of food for indigent families in Cameron last year. A local church also grows food started in the greenhouse for indigent families in the Northland.

Plants that are not sold by the Master Gardeners at their annual sale will be donated to various community projects of the Master Gardener program, including the Ivanhoe Demonstration Garden, the Southeast Community Center Garden in Swope Park, and Platte County Community Garden.

In addition to the plants grown at the greenhouse, the Master Gardeners will be sharing hundreds of their favorite perennials, native plants, and container plants. Also offered at the sale are fine quality handmade garden art the Master Gardeners are creating for this year’s event. Some featured items will be terrariums grown in five-gallon glass water cooler jugs, antique chairs painted and planted with colorful annuals for sun or shade, lovely concrete leaf molds, rain barrels, fairy gardens, gift baskets for Mother’s Day and more intriguing and fun finds to spruce up your garden. All items—artwork and plants—are very reasonably priced. There is a full list of plants and a preview of the artwork on our website.

Don’t miss the raffle to win one of over thirty items including gift certificates to Lydia’s, the New Theater, the Kansas City Zoo, the Water Garden Society Tour, the Master Gardener Garden Tour and Cockrell Mercantile Co.; as well as a beautiful mosaic bird bath, a floral oil painting, an antique drawer planted with herbs, a hanging basket from Suburban Lawn and Garden Center and much, much more! Anyone who will pledge to “Plant a Row for the Hungry”, a people-helping-people program in partnership with Harvesters Community Food Network will be eligible for a free gift with a purchase at the plant sale.

The sale will be held Saturday, May 7, in the big tent in the Bass Pro Shops parking lot at the SW corner of MO-291 and I-70 in Independence, Missouri. Sale hours are 8:00 am to 4:30pm. The sale is sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Sibley Orchard and Cider Mill, and Big T Tents. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted. For more information about the sale, go to www.mggkc.org or call MU Extension office at 816-252-5051.
Master Gardeners Offering “Intro to Gardening” Series at Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center Starting May 7th

by Patrick Byers, Horticulture Specialist, Greene County

The Master Gardeners of Greene County are offering a series of four gardening class during 2011 as part of a program entitled “Intro to Gardening.”

The classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo.

Upcoming classes in this series include the following:

May 7, 2011 – “Spring Into Gardening,” participants will learn to identify and control weeds in the lawn as well as pesky Japanese Beetles and other pests of the summer.

June 25, 2011 – “Propagate Your Own Plants,” will address how to start plants from cuttings, seeds and grafts.

October 8, 2011 – “Fall Into Gardening,” participants will learn how to help plants survive the winter and get a head start on next year’s planting.

January 21, 2012 – “Getting Beyond the Garden,” will address now to make your lawn green and your neighbors green with envy.

There is a minimal registration fee for each of the classes (ranging from $10 to $20) to cover the cost of materials. Since space is limited, pre-registration is necessary by calling 891-1515 or going online to swmogardens.com/fogcalendar.

Webster County Heritage Garden Show and Plant Sale in Marshfield May 14

By Bob Schlutheis, Natural Resource Engineering Specialist, Webster County

The Webster County Heritage Garden Show, sponsored by the Webster County Master Gardeners, will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 14, 2011 at the Orscheln Farm and Home parking lot, 1331 Spur Drive, in Marshfield, Mo.

This event is an outgrowth of the annual Master Gardener plant sale. However, this year the event has been expanded to include a new location, horticultural learning sessions, and activities for children.

A large variety of plants, mostly provided by Master Gardeners from their own gardens, will be for sale. “The quality and diversity of plants is excellent, and the prices are real bargains. People are advised to arrive early if they want the best choices of annuals, perennials, houseplants and garden-related items,” said plant sale coordinator Chris Davis. The sale continues until the plants are sold out.

Four seminars are planned through the day. Vegetable garden tips will be discussed at 9 a.m., container gardens at 10 a.m., hosta gardens at 11 a.m., and rose gardens at noon.
Children will have a hands-on opportunity to make seed balls for easy planting, and will be provided information for growing their own pizza garden.

Proceeds from this plant sale help Master Gardeners fund community beautification projects and continue the group’s mission of providing unbiased, research-based landscaping and gardening education to the public.

Master Gardeners helped multiply the horticultural educational efforts of MU Extension faculty and staff, by contributing over 1,600 hours of volunteer service in 2010 on various projects that benefited communities in Webster County.

For more information about the Webster County Heritage Garden Show, or about the Master Gardener Program, contact Chris Davis at 417-425-9757, or the Webster County Extension Center at 417 859-2044.

Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City 2011 Garden Tour - June 10-11
by Terry Blair Michel, Master Gardener of Greater Kansas City

The Master Gardener’s of Greater Kansas City will hold their 2011 Garden Tour, “Plant Yourself in Lee’s Summit”, 9 am – 4:30 pm, June 10 and 11. Reflected by the title of this year’s tour, all of the gardens are in the Lee’s Summit area. Starting on a rock outcropping in extreme eastern Kansas City off Little Blue Road, and ending on another outcropping at Lake Winnebago, the seven gardens also include two lakeside homes in Lakewood, a large shady garden in east Lee’s Summit off Colbern Road, and a color-filled yard in Saddlebrook. In addition, the mid-point of the tour is a new Master Gardener’s project garden at the Gamber Center east of downtown Lee’s Summit where people can take a break and view this national award-winning Community Center. All the gardens share the similarity of gardening in difficult areas such as heavy clay soil, shallow soil on rock outcroppings, and sloping yards, with each gardener finding their own unique solutions to these problems. Several of the gardens also feature edible gardens -- mixed beds of flowers and vegetables. This newer trend in gardening allows home owners to have a beautiful yard and still grow vegetables in an attractive setting.

Janeil and Garry Egger’s garden at 6508 Crysler Court, Kansas City, is perched high above a natural outcropping of rock. They have added over 100,000 tons of boulders and rock to help with the huge drainage problems and the erratically sloping land. They now have a wonderful, magical garden, with many garden rooms that supports an array of colorful plantings.

Gus and Dianna Lanz’s garden, 202 NW Hemlock, Lees Summit, had a backyard that was on large ditch—the yard slopes eastward into the lake at Lakewood—resulting from years of poor drainage. Over the years truck loads of dirt, compost, cotton boll mulch and rock added to improve the soil surrounding the residence have brought this yard to life. Using her garden as the canvas, Diana created vignettes of floral color interspersed with artistic pieces, such as metal sculptures and urns.

John & Linda Boyd were fortunate to find a garden already designed when they bought their home at 612 NE Seabrook Ct., Lee’s Summit, also backed up to the lake at Lakewood. They have worked at creating a lovely setting that is a nature retreat for them and the many birds and animals that live there.
Take a break on the tour at the Gamber Center, a national award-winning community center at 4 SE Independence, Lees Summit. The Master Gardeners built a demonstration garden in a circle in front of the center to replace a site that was formerly a heavy equipment parking lot, resulting in compacted clay with serious drainage problems. Add to that the heat and winter salt from the surrounding drive and parking lot and the Master Gardeners had their hands full in creating a beautiful entrance to the center.

The next garden on the tour belongs to Pat & Rodger Wright, 9806 Timber Meadows Dr., Lee’s Summit. The Wright’s have a huge yard with lots of sun and shade depending on the area. Near the front is a large dolphin fountain, near beds of mixed edible flowers and vegetables. Down a slope is a series of ponds connected by waterfalls, leading out to the shady back yard. Bermed beds grow shade-loving plants that don’t mind the huge black walnut trees overhead.

Perhaps the most colorful garden on the tour may be that of Bob and Frances Schmuck, 4301 SE Secretariat Dr., Lees Summit. Due to a large sloping expanse of rolling lawn that meanders gracefully down to a creek at the back of the property, Bob created many raised beds surrounding a wonderful viewing deck, using huge stone blocks, filled with masses of colorful, healthy plants. The profusion of color in the garden attracts many bees and butterflies.

The final garden on the tour belongs to Bob & Sophie Bryant, 344 South Shore Drive, Lake Winnebago. Despite gardening on a solid rock base overlooking the lake, Bob and Sophie built composted beds surrounded by rock picked up from the area, and created a beautiful mix of flower and vegetable gardens throughout their yard.

The tour is open to the public at a cost of $10 per person. Tickets will be available May 1 at multiple locations throughout the Kansas City area. Cash and checks will be accepted at all outlets. Tickets will be available on the Master Gardeners’ website at www.mggkc.org and at all gardens the day of the tour. A drawing for door prizes will be held the two days of the tour.
Plant of Merit - Ocimum x citroijorum 'Pesto perpetuo'

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

This 2011 Plant of Merit is grown in St. Louis as an annual. Set starter plants of this patented basil ('Pesto Perpetuo' is non-flowering and does not produce seed) in the ground after last spring frost date. Plants are very sensitive to frost. Plants are best grown in moderately rich, humusy, medium moisture, well-drained soils in full sun. They thrive in warm, sunny, sheltered sites with some tolerance for light afternoon shade. Consistent and regular moisture throughout the growing season is required. Pinch out growing tips to encourage bushy growth.

'Pesto Perpetuo’ is valued not only for its aromatic leaves but also for its ornamental foliage. For culinary purposes, leaves are used either fresh or dried to flavor a variety of food preparations, including not only classic pesto sauce, but also vegetable dishes, meat dishes, stews, soups and marinades. Fresh variegated leaves are attractive as garnishes. Fresh leaves may also be frozen for later use. Dried leaves are often used as an ingredient in potpourris. For ornamental purposes, the variegated foliage of this non-flowering annual makes this basil an extremely attractive foliage plant for garden areas and containers.

Common Name: basil
Zone: (annual)
Plant Type: Annual
Family: Lamiaceae
Missouri Native: No
Native Range: None
Height: 1 to 2 feet
Spread: 0.75 to 1.5 feet
Bloom Time: June
Bloom Color: 
Sun: Full sun
Water: Medium
Maintenance: Low