

Heartland Horticulture

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
M Extension
Master Gardener

News for Missouri Master Gardeners

Coordinator's Comments

By Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

Greetings and Happy Holidays!!! It is that time of year when everything seems so gray in the garden, and yet my Hellebores are perky and vivid with green color. However, even the last couple nights of the bitter cold has them looking a little stressed.

It is once again time for annual reporting. If you have not finished your summary of volunteer service for this past year, please take a moment to do so. In 2007, Missouri Master Gardeners volunteered over 130,000 hours – amazing what your efforts do statewide!! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the Master Gardener program.

We are very excited to launch a new web based system statewide through which you can report your volunteer hours directly online. We will host training sessions throughout January and February to train people on using this new system. But it is now up and working just fine, so feel free to create your own profile and start entering your service records at <http://momgreports.rjjacob.com/>. The URL of the site will change once the system is moved to its final location; you will be advised when that occurs.

When you first open the site, you will need to create your own profile with your information. From then on, all you need to do each time you access the system is input your service records. We are still working on updates and changes to the online reporting system. So please do not hesitate to email us with questions or suggested improvements. We are very excited to have this available for your use.

Some of you may prefer not to report your volunteer hours using a web-based method. We will still gladly accept volunteer hours submitted through paper copy, or emails. We will also have volunteers that will assist those that would like to have their hours recorded online, but not wanting to learn how themselves or for those that do not have access to a computer. And as always, if you are not sure where to report your volunteer hours – please feel free to contact me and I will gladly assist you.

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2009. And a huge thank you for all your hard work and dedication to make the Missouri Master Gardener Program one of the best!!!

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SAVE THE DATE:

- ◆ **March 14th, 2009 – MGGKC Spring Seminar**
- ◆ **March 22nd – 26th, 2009 International Master Gardener Conference, Las Vegas, NV**
- ◆ **September 18th – 19th, 2009 State Master Gardener Conference, Jefferson City, MO**

News from Around the State

Master Gardeners at Work in Warren County

By David Barylski



Front of the Schowengerdt house in the fall

Built in 1866 for Ernst and Elesebet (Hukreden) Schowengerdt, this historic residence was continually occupied by a member of the Schowengerdt family until the death of Ernst's granddaughter, Margaret, in 2002. At that time, ownership, including two acres of land as well as the house and contents, was transferred to the Warren County Historical Society to be administered for the educational benefit and pleasure of the residents of Warren County. The Schowengerdt House was placed on the

National Register of Historic Places on October 3, 1980.

Realizing the need for trained assistance in the development of the Gardens surrounding the Schowengerdt residence, the Warren County Historical Society invited the Warren County Master Gardeners to partner with them in the work of restoring the property and developing the Site into a more formal botanical collection.



Lot behind the Schowengerdt House in spring

The Master Gardeners plan to restore the gardens from an old drawing describing the plants in the original garden beds. The drawing was found among some of the Schowengerdt papers. One goal is the restoration of original garden beds and identification of heirloom botanical specimens. Some plants are being moved to other locations on the property as conditions have changed from sunny when trees were small to areas of shade as they matured. As plants are identified, permanent labels are inserted so that visitors to the garden can use the information in their own gardens.



Master Gardeners at work on new garden

Volunteers are creating "theme" or "focus" gardens such as: Entrance gardens, Wildflower area, Butterfly garden, Birdseed garden, Native garden, Rose garden, and Shade garden.

The gardens will be used for teaching new Master Gardeners and others, along with hosting concerts and possibly outdoor meetings for various groups, and all around

New Office Location of Extension Office for Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City

At the beginning of December, the Extension Office affiliated with the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City moved to a new location:

1106 W. Main Street
Blue Springs, MO
64105
816-252-5051

Clinton County Chapter MG's Celebrate Together

By Larry W. Golubski

Each year the Clinton County Chapter has a Christmas Party at a members' home. The spouses of members are also invited. The host supplies main part of refreshments and everyone else is to bring something to round out the food spread. It is always a very nice evening of fellowship enjoyed by all. Almost every member attends this event.

enjoyment of the great outdoors.

The Historical Society wishes to emphasize that work at the Schowengerdt site is very much a JOINT venture of the Society, Master Gardeners, the Warrenton Garden Club, Boy Scouts, Businesses, and numerous individuals who have contributed their time, their knowledge, their talents, their equipment, plants, funds, etc. to this endeavor. This JOINT effort makes this project somewhat unique.



MG's at work in one of the theme gardens

Warren County Master Gardeners who contributed to this article were Roxie Schroeder, Sally McLuckie, Wanda Thomas, Virginia Garrick and Carl Garrick.

St. Louis Master Gardeners Busy in 2008

By George Hibbard

St. Louis Master Gardeners were again busy throughout the St. Louis community in 2008. They contributed over 30,000 volunteer hours to gardening related projects in St. Louis City and County. Roughly half of these hours are spent at the Missouri Botanical Garden on projects ranging from planting and maintaining outdoor display gardens to the Hort Answer Service and Plant Doctor Desk. The remaining 15,000 plus hours contribute to the planting and maintenance of gardens in St. Louis County Parks, Forest Park, Tower Grove Park, etc., helping with community gardens and urban farms, city beautification projects and many more.

One of the most interesting gardening challenges in 2008 was the planning, planting and maintenance of the Market Street medians. The medians run down the middle of Market Street from 4th to 7th Streets, adjacent to Kiener Plaza in downtown St. Louis. Thousands of Cardinals fans gather at Kiener Plaza before home games, so the plantings there and in the medians are very prominent displays for both St. Louisans and many visitors. Working through an umbrella organization, Urban Roots, Master Gardeners lead the planting and maintenance of these displays.

It all begins with planning and thinking about what plants will do best in a place, which is not the best place for such a HUGE garden. Of course, the medians are done with a red and white (Cardinals colors) theme. Bill Ruppert, of National Landscape Supply, lays out the final design and orders the plants. His 2008 design featured Elephant Ears, Celosia, Begonia, Caladium, Impatiens and Plectranthus. Several of these species need some shade during the hot St. Louis summer. No problem, since the medians have trees spaced along their length. So Bill had all of the plants ordered (arm chair gardening). It was winter and the seeds and small plants were started in the greenhouses.

In 2008 the party was hosted by Theresa Stilley at her country home outside of Lathop. She had the house especially designed and built with her gardening interests in mind as it sits on five acres of land.

This picture shows MG's sitting in the sunroom enjoying good food and good conversation.



This picture reflects the new officers for calendar year 2009.



From left: Val Blosser, Treasurer; Theresa Stilley, Historian; (seated) Cindy Spellman, President; Joyce Vetter, Vice President. Not pictured is Sandy Sondag, Secretary.



But in April, when soil prep is done in the medians, we found our real challenge. St. Louis City had removed all of the trees from the medians. It was far too late to change what we were going to plant. So in May we pressed ahead and planted the medians with the help of volunteers from St. Louis University, Downtown St. Louis Residents Association, Gateway Greening, Horstmann Landscape and many others. Then two weeks later, Leon Zickrick delivered our “shade solution”, all in the back of his 4 Runner. It was hard to believe that all those little Castor Bean Plants that we planted where the trees had been were going to do the job. But, by mid-Summer when the shade was really needed, their large leaves towered up to fifteen feet above the surrounding plantings. The “infamous” Castor Bean Plants became a prominent part of a beautiful display, which lasted until late October.

When it came time to remove the display for winter on October 25th, each Castor Bean Plant had grown to more than two inches in diameter with amazing root systems. Fortunately, in addition to Master Gardeners and other volunteers, the Horstmann crew showed up with chain saws and a Bobcat. This made the “never ending” Castor bean removal project doable. As they say, the right equipment makes any job doable.

Now planning is underway for the 2009 Market Street median and Kiener Plaza displays. The Baseball All Star Game is in St. Louis in 2009 and we will try to put on an even greater display, hopefully, with fewer surprises. We hope you will come see our work the next time you are in St. Louis.

State Conference in Branson a Great Success

By Rosanne McEvoy

“Gardening Secrets of the Ozark Mountains” was the theme selected by the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks for the 2008 Missouri State Conference. The location was Branson at the new Branson Landing Convention Center. Conference information, scheduling and registration via the Internet and tracking for conference events was easily accomplished thanks to our website guru.

Right from the beginning it was obvious that attendees were going to experience the Branson area in a whole new light. A self-guided tour allowed early arrivals to pick up a map to find both public and private gardens where Master Gardeners were readily available to welcome and inform. Certain gardens were open during limited hours and others were designated as “anytime tours” so attendees could enjoy these gardens at their own pace. A real winner with all!

Saturday tours of seldom-seen places like Dogwood Canyon, Persimmon Hills Blueberry Farm, College of the Ozarks, and more exceeded all expectations. The luncheon site was Table Rock Dam at the Dewey Short Visitors Center where Master Gardeners tend the beautiful gardens. Corps of Engineers personnel explained the operation and history of the dam and some attendees were able to watch as dam gates were shut down. This was a rare day when all ten gates were open so it was very interesting. Saturday evening’s venue took us to the Branson Belle for dinner, show and cruise on Table Rock Lake

Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City Contribute to State Endowment Fund

The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City have donated \$1000.00 to the Ray Rothenberger & Jim Wilson Missouri Master Gardener Endowment Fund. This is the 2nd time that the MGGKC have donated to this fund.

The Missouri Master Gardener endowment fund, administered by the University of Missouri Extension, was 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.

enjoying the beautiful weather and many lights reflecting on the water.

Because it was our intent to introduce more people to the Master Gardener program, registration was open to the public; also, one-day only registrations were available for those unable to attend all functions. Spouses and friends of Master Gardeners were grateful for this feature as it enabled them to share. Only time will tell if our goal reached its potential.

Friday evening entertainment provided by the Hughes Bros. and Beyond Extension, the Band was a taste of Branson family entertainment and our own Master Gardeners' other talents. This evening was topped off with prize drawings and silent auction winners. The stage, backdrop and main meeting room were designed and landscaped by Garden Adventures creating an outside atmosphere. It was totally awesome and many of these plants were sold at the end of the conference.

Overall high gas prices, an election year, and a poor economy did not dampen the enthusiasm or attendance. While the cost was more than normal, the statement that it was well worth the investment was heard over and over. Those of us that worked so hard to make this a successful and memorable conference are grateful to all who attended and to everyone who contributed their time and talents to make it so.

Upcoming Events

Master Gardeners of KC Host Eighth Annual Spring Seminar

The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City are hosting their Annual Spring Seminar on Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 8:30am to 3:15pm. The theme of this year's seminar is "The Mysteries of Gardening". The location will be the National World War I Museum, at the Liberty Memorial in Kansas City. The brochure on the pages 7-8 contains details of the sessions, speakers, and the registration form. Space is limited so reserve your spot today!!!!

From the President's Desk

By Ed Stowell, Master Gardener and State Advisory Board President

Happy New Year Master Gardeners! By the time this is published in 2009, your new seed catalogs will be stacking up on your desk, and you will be starting to think about the beginning of your new gardens ... and I am no different than the rest of you. My initial experience with gardening started while working on a truck farm during my high school days. I've always liked planting seedlings, harvesting fresh vegetables and enjoying the fragrances of the flowers I chose to plant that year. These are the memories that prompted me to think about becoming a Master Gardener. Those thoughts didn't become a reality until after I retired and a friend

Clinton County MG's Attend State Conference in Numbers

By Larry W. Golubski

For the last several years the Clinton County Chapter has had excellent representation at Master Gardener State Conferences in terms of number of attendees as a percentage of total chapter membership.

In September at Branson there were eight master gardeners from Clinton County Chapter.

Considering that the entire chapter has about eighteen members, with twelve of those being very active, it is astonishing that percentage-wise this means about forty five percent of the membership went to state conference. Just think if every chapter in Missouri would have 45% of it's members attend we would have to have much larger facilities at the conference as 600 to 800 master gardeners would be in attendance.

of mine actually pointed me in the direction of the Greater Kansas City Masters Gardeners... and I took the bait.

I joined Master Gardener's Organization in 2000 and knew immediately that it was something that I wanted to be involved with. I started by attending the Steering Committee meetings just to see what they did and how it worked. Well, the next thing I knew I was the Chairman of the Home, Lawn and Garden Show in Kansas City for the next two years. During one of the Steering Committee meeting the subject came up about "knowing" our Master Gardeners. So, another Home, Lawn & Garden Committee member, Amica Gomersal and I put our heads together to see if we could come up with a way to actually get to "know" our Master Gardeners. I readily volunteered to do any photography necessary and she stated that she loved to write and would be willing to write any and all articles necessary. Well, we started going around to different Master Gardeners homes to conduct interviews and take pictures of their projects and gardens. From there we would publish their individual photos and submit an article to the Newline. Well as things progressed we were eventually interviewing people in the green industry as well and started holding a meeting each month featuring that industry. Hence, the Gardeners Gathering was born!

At that time Chuck Thiesenhusen was the Secretary for the State Advisory Board. After he retired I ask to be considered for a position on the board and was selected to be a board member. Although the meetings are held in Columbia MO, I am only required to make four trips a year.

Wondering what the Advisory Board has to do with you ... keep reading!

The Mission of the State Advisory Board is

"To unify and strengthen the Master Gardener program."

The purpose

- *Serve as a sounding board for needed resources in the MG programs and communities.*
- *Assure equitable distribution of MG resources.*
- *Establish minimum standards for core course training.*
- *Expand the MG program throughout the state.*
- *Strengthen MG education and training.*
- *Raise awareness of MG program throughout the state.*
- *Support an annual MG conference.*
- *Establish policies and guidelines for the MG program at the state level.*

I am looking forward to working with the University of Missouri Extension Board members and taking the State Board to a new and higher level, with statewide involvement. I will also be asking for input and suggestions from all individuals in the organization. All input and suggestions will be acknowledged, taken seriously and answered in an effort to help make decisions. This is your Master Gardener program and we need your advice and suggestions to make it great.

Ed Stowell

H 816-229-5478, Cell 816-223-5480, Fax 816-847-7253, e-mail edsto@swbell.net

This picture was taken on dock of the Branson Belle just before boarding for Saturday night dinner and entertainment.



Front Row L to R:
Joyce Vetter; Theresa Stilley; Elette Ferguson;
Bill Ferguson; Sandy Sondag; Sharon Irsik.
Back Row: Larry Golubski; Valerie Blosser; Tom Flower (NW Region Extension Horticulturist); Ed Blosser (guest).

**Please
remember the
Missouri Master
Gardeners in your
will and/or estate
plan to assist in
our mission to
provide
horticultural
information to the
gardening public.**

**For more
information please
email Mary
Kroening at
kroeningm@missouri.edu**

Our Speakers

Alan Branthagen is Director of Horticulture at Powell Gardens and an all around plantsman and naturalist. With over 24,000 slides of plants and landscapes, he is a stimulating and sought-after speaker. Learn where to install a moon garden, what plants to choose and their ornamental attributes that make them so special for a moonlit garden. See how moon gardens begin to shine as the sun sets, filled with magical flowers and fragrances, mainly in white.

Patrick Byers is a Regional Horticulture Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension in southwest Missouri and served for 18 years as the Fruit Grower Advisor at the State Fruit Experiment Station. Patrick will encourage us to try some unusual berries and show how to create edible landscaping and care for berries in the backyard garden.

Libby Comfort will inspire you to use found objects for containers to enhance living plants and fresh cut flowers. She'll demonstrate whimsical floral garden art and show how to have boldness when creating a decoration. Libby has a B.S. in Art Education from the University of Missouri and is a highly experienced floral designer.

Dianne Darby, Missouri Master Gardener, is a professional graphic designer and photographer who started designing her own garden journals when she couldn't find what she wanted. Learn the basics of what's in a garden journal and how to start one in this hands-on workshop. Bring your own garden journals, thoughts and ideas on how to record your garden's journey. Garden journals will be available for purchase.

Frances Matthews and Ruth Farrand-Cox are Missouri Department of Conservation volunteers at Burr Oak Wood Nature Center with in-depth knowledge of wild edibles. Learn to correctly identify wild edibles, use them to benefit your personal needs, find value in their existence and how to cultivate them in your own garden.

Robert (Rob) A. Mortko is a Kansas Master Gardener and hosta breeder whose latest hosta introduction has been awarded a U.S. plant patent. He is a garden writer and the Newsletter Editor Coordinator for the American Hosta Society. Rob will explore some of the latest horticultural science to advance our

THE MASTER GARDENERS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY PRESENT

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR



THE MYSTERIES OF GARDENING

Saturday, March 14, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
National World War I Museum
Liberty Memorial
100 W. 26th St
Kansas City, Missouri

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension
Master Gardeners of
Greater Kansas City

understanding of the mysteries behind the miracles that can happen in our own backyard. He'll share his passion for hostas as just one example of how Mother Nature provides us an endless array of miracles.

Stan Slaughter is a nationally recognized Compost Educator with broad experience in composting and vermicomposting. Find out how worms are nature's little helpers and the role of organic matter and microorganisms in the soil. Learn how to make your own vermicomposting bin with a "hands-on-worms" demonstration. A limited number of vermicomposting bins will be available for \$17.

Dr. O.R. "Chip" Taylor is a KU Professor who specializes in the population biology and mating behavior of honeybees and butterflies. He has devoted much of the last 16 years to the development of Monarch Watch. His workshop will review pollinator biology and causes of pollinator decline, including Colony Collapse Disorder. Learn how to protect, restore and create habitat for pollinators.

Dr. Franze Wenner has been an avid gardener for 30 years. She is a Kansas Master Gardener, frequent garden lecturer and garden writer whose work has been published in *Flower & Garden* and *Fine Gardening*. Learn from Franze how to choose containers for growing vegetables, which vegetables are most suitable for containers and how to care for vegetables in containers.

Simeon Wright is coordinator of the University of Missouri Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Learn about the tree diseases and insect problems that have been appearing in the home yard and garden with an emphasis on plant samples submitted to the University of Missouri Plant Diagnostic Clinic. Get an update on the emerging insect pest, Emerald Ash Borer, which may be devastating to Missouri ash trees. Simeon will share which tree problems can be managed with good horticultural care and which problems are minor aesthetic issues that may not require treatment.

Equal Opportunity/ADA Institutions

THE MYSTERIES OF GARDENING

MARCH 14, 2009 - 8:30AM - 3:15PM

National World War I Museum
 Liberty Memorial - 100 W. 26th St, Kansas City, MO

| | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Registration | |
| 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. | Welcome | |
| 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. | Keynote Speech: Miracles... Out of Nowhere | |
| | ▪ Robert (Rob) A. Morfko | |
| 10:00 - 10:15 a.m. | Break | |
| 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. | <u>Breakout Session A</u> | |
| | Behind the Back Door: Brambles and Berries | |
| | ▪ Patrick Byers | |
| | ▪ Simeon Wright | |
| | Eat Your Weedies | |
| | ▪ Frances Mathews and Ruth Farrand-Cox | |
| 11:30 - 12:45 p.m. | Lunch and Table Topics | |
| 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. | <u>Breakout Session B</u> | |
| | Pollinator Decline: Causes and Consequences | |
| | ▪ Dr. Chip Taylor | |
| | ▪ Alen Branham | |
| | Prolific Porches and Delicious Decks | |
| | ▪ Dr. Francie Wenner | |
| 1:45 - 2:05 p.m. | Break | |
| 2:05 - 3:05 p.m. | <u>Breakout Session C</u> | |
| | Diaries of Gardens Past | |
| | ▪ Dianne Darby | |
| | Mastering Mulch and Conquering Compost | |
| | ▪ Stan Slaughter | |
| | Mrs. Bloom with the Vase in the Greenhouse | |
| | ▪ Libby Comfort | |
| 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. | Optional Tour of Museum: \$8 fee payable day of tour to Museum. Tower visit: \$4 | |

Register early and SAVE!
 Early Bird Registration postmarked before February 13th = \$49.
 Registrations postmarked after February 13th = \$69
 NO registrations accepted after March 6th.

Registration fee includes seminar, lunch and materials

MG EIGHTH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Daytime Phone _____

I would like a vegetarian meal Yes No

I am a Master Gardener Yes No

Rank each breakout sessions from 1 to 3 in order of preference (1 is first choice):

Breakout Session A

____ Behind the Back Door: Brambles-Berries

____ **CSI for Trees**

____ **Eat Your Weedies**

Breakout Session B

____ **Pollinator Decline**

____ **Mystery by Moonlight**

____ **Prolific Porches and Delicious Decks**

Breakout Session C

____ **Diaries of Gardens Past**

____ **Mastering Mulch/Conquering Compost**

____ Mrs. Bloom with the Vase in the Green house

After Conference Museum Tour

____ Sign me up; fee payable day of tour

Make check payable to:

University of Missouri Extension.
 Attach registration fee & return to:
 University of Missouri Extension Office
 1106 W. Main Street
 Blue Springs, Missouri 64015

Registrations will be confirmed by mail.

Questions? Call MU Extension: (816) 252-5051

SORRY, NO REFUNDS. If you cannot attend, feel free to send someone in your place. We will make every effort, but cannot guarantee to accommodate your preferences.