

# Heartland Horticulture

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
 Extension  
Master Gardener

## News for Missouri Master Gardeners

### Coordinator's Comments

By Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

Master Gardeners should be very proud of the accomplishments of the program this last year. To date, we have 1,826 active Master Gardeners that have reported volunteer hours. The total number of volunteer hours for 2009 is an incredible value – 135,113 hours statewide. That is an amazingly impressive figure. What an example of Master Gardeners making a difference in Missouri. Master Gardeners truly make an impact in horticulture in Missouri and your efforts are greatly appreciated by University of Missouri Extension.

Each year it is important to summarize activities for that year. The Master Gardeners have done an incredible job this year, as highlighted by the figures. Getting accurate and complete totals for the Master Gardener program is important to continued support for the Master Gardener program from University administrators and public policy makers. All volunteer efforts are important, and when totaled from around the state, add up to impressive figures. The Master Gardener program is an extremely valuable program to University of Missouri Extension, and reporting volunteer hours is the best way we have of highlighting just how much our efforts are making a difference in Missouri!! Please report all volunteer time, not just the minimum required. Master Gardeners are the ‘hands and voices in the field’ for University of Missouri Extension, and I would like to say “Thank you” for each and every year of valuable service that you have given to this program.

Please report hours to your local University of Missouri Extension office so they can turn those hours into the state office by the end of the year. If you are unsure about where to submit your hours, please send them to the state office, Mary Kroening, 1-31 Agriculture Building, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. If you need the forms in which to record your hours, please contact me at (573) 882-9633 or email [kroeningm@missouri.edu](mailto:kroeningm@missouri.edu).

We also have the new online method of reporting volunteer hours. You can access this directly on the website, <http://report.missourimastergardener.com>. Once you enroll, you can update your hours at your leisure and this provides an incredibly easy way for you to track your hours.

Again, thank you for another great year with the Missouri Master Gardener program!!

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### SAVE THE DATE:

- ◆ September 18th –20th, 2009 State Master Gardener Conference, Jefferson City, MO

## News from Around the State

### Master Gardeners of the Ozarks Garden Tour

by Dieter Beam, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks (Stone and Taney Counties) hosted a Garden Tour June 20th and featured six different gardens of various styles and ideas. A tour of the gardens went from mild to wild. Talented Master Gardeners also displayed artwork along the tour. Guests came to the event from as far off as St. Louis and organizers say the event was an overwhelming success. For more information about the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks, contact Tim at the University of Missouri Extension Office - Stone County - 417-357-6812



Master Gardener Julie Jacobs shows attendees of the Garden Tour the Kimberling Area Library Children's Garden. This garden is used to show kids the how's and why's of gardening. From the Giant Butterfly made of flowers to the ABC garden where plants are in alphabetic order, children of all ages can learn and play.

Master Gardener Alice Troyke answers questions from guest during the Garden Tour. Alice's "Gardening on the Cheap" was of special interest to her guests. From the old wooden ladder used as trellis to a lesson on how to have something in bloom spring to fall, this was a treat for all.



Master Gardener Candy Clark has established a safe home for native wildflowers on three acres. Imagine big burly construction guys with their big bulldozers waiting patiently while Candy and her crew safely removed wildflowers for relocation. Here Candy answers questions as the group moves from one bed to another.

Master Gardener Ruth Ann Seth shows her favorite new flowers during this year's tour. This parachute flower is awesome and guests were shown how native stones were used to accent gardens. Guest were shown her greenhouse and how to select flowers and shrubs that tend to be unappealing to deer.



### Reporting Hours On-line vs. On Paper

by Leslie Shaw

As indicated in Mary Kroening's article on page one, you now have a method to record hours on-line. However, we need to be extra careful not to double-count hours.

Please submit your hours **EITHER** on-line via the web-site or report those hours on paper and send them into your local extension office.

#### Do not do both!!!!

There is no easy way to reconcile the data collected by these two methods and we want to make sure that Master Gardener volunteer hours are counted correctly.

Thanks so much for your help!!!





Master Gardeners Ken and Rose Schwarte with help from Nancy and Kendall Hawkins have hosted 75 guests on the Garden Tour. Here they take a much needed break around the Koi pond and the beautiful gardens. Visitors were treated to ideas on how to build on a side of the hill. From a cactus garden in the front to fruit trees on the side of the house, this garden was one of the highlights of the tour.

Master Gardener Anne Wigg's Lighthouse Garden was an impressive collection of garden beds with varied themes. The 3 1/2 acre area contained shade gardens, a fairy garden, veggies, fruit trees, and a giant lighthouse. Here Anne and Marsha share a laugh while listening to music from Anne's personal Mariachi band. Truly a garden of entertainment.



## Master Gardener Impacts the Green Center

by George Hibbard, Master Gardener

The Green Center is an arts and environmental education organization located in University City, a suburb of St. Louis. Its mission is helping people understand the natural world through hands-on experiences, native habitats, and encouraging artistic expression inspired by nature. In the 1930's, Mr. Aubrey Green had a home and large orchard in U. City. In the 1970's, U. City purchased the home and seven acres from Mr. Green, who continued to live in his home until 1995. In 1998, the Green Center was established. The Green Center has now expanded to include learning and demonstration gardens, a half-acre prairie, a half-acre Missouri wetland and the 26-acre Ruth Park Woods.

In 2006, Laura Streett was assigned to volunteer at the Green Center while completing her Master Gardener certification. She first became involved in the native plant propagation program, which at the time was relatively small. Under Laura's leadership the native plant propagation program has grown immensely. They now collect seed from their outdoor learning areas, as well as from the Shaw Nature Reserve. The seeds are cleaned, stratified, and planted in late winter using a new 33 foot geodesic dome as a home for the seedlings. Laura and other volunteers have just completed planting over 3,000 native plants in areas they are restoring. They are also involved in the removal of invasive species to make the areas more hospitable for the new plantings.

Laura says she has enjoyed being able to apply what she has learned through the Master Gardener program to help others. She now is also a part of the Green Center Education Committee, leading students in outdoor classrooms and is on the Green Center Board of Directors. She has also just been appointed to the St. Louis MU Extension Council. She is an excellent example of the positive impact one Master Gardener can have on their community.

## 2009 MG State Conference Sept 18-20

Master Gardeners from all over the state of Missouri are welcome to attend this year's state conference:

**"Growing in the Heart of Missouri."**

Our conference this year features Advanced Training, wonderful tours of interest to Master Gardeners, a Saturday night banquet, Sunday morning educational sessions and a Sunday luncheon.

We're very excited about our line-up and hope to see you in Jeff City!

For more information check out the web site at

<http://conference.missourimastertgardener.com/>



## New Master Gardener Demonstration Garden

By Bob Halford, Master Gardener of Greater Kansas City



The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City, Missouri, have recently completed the installation of a demonstration garden in the 6000 sq. ft. frontage area of the new Eastside Community Center at Swope Park. The center is a brand new LEED certified sports and activity building that opened on December 4, 2008 under the Kansas City Parks and Recreation department.

Design work on the garden began in September, 2008, led by Gisela Pursel, with considerable technical and design assistance from Marlin Bates, Horticulture Specialist. The project concept involves the use of “Plants of Merit”; plants chosen by the horticultural industry each year for a list published by the consortium of the Missouri Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens, Mizzou Botanic Gardens and University of Missouri Extension. The primary criteria for inclusion in this plant list are minimal pesticide usage, drought tolerance, hardiness, and low maintenance. As a result of the inclusion of these plants, this will be a Plant of Merit certified demonstration garden.

Also used in the garden are “All America Selection” plants. These are new garden varieties that have been tested by a network of independent judges and proven superior (see <http://www.all-americasselections.org>). This garden has been submitted for inclusion as an AAS Display Garden of which there are approximately 200 in the U.S. and Canada. There are 25 distinct plots in the Swope garden, each one a 5-foot diameter circle denoted by a special AAS logo on the identifying card.



Master Gardener volunteers have responded very well to this garden. It is proving to be an excellent training project. The diversity of plants in this 1500 + plant inventory offer the best possible learning laboratory. The plants are thriving, despite the challenges of weather and logistics we have experienced. The ten-year agreement for this garden between Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City and Kansas City Parks and Recreation promises to be extremely fruitful in the furtherance of the Master Gardener mission.

## New Botanical Center Article - Community Free Press

By George Deatz

An excellent article appeared in the Community Free Press about the new Botanical Center Project including Nathanael Greene /Close Memorial Park, the gardens and Friends of the Gardens.

It was published in the Jun 3-16 issue in the Home and Garden section. <http://www.cfpmidwe.ek.com/weeks/IssuePDFs/vo7i11web.pdf>

Once open, go to page 10 of the pdf file to read the article.

The publicity for our largest project, the Botanical Center and Gardens, continues to grow and, as the summer goes on this will be an attraction for more people to visit Close Memorial and Nathanael Green Parks with all of their wonderful gardens.

As always, it is more important than ever that we share the news with our friends and contacts so please forward this excellent article for others to read.

## A Garden in the Harbor

by Marsha Beam, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

The temperatures were icy and thoughts of gardening were a toasty spot in my frozen brain. Our January guest speaker was promoting community gardens. It sounded worthwhile. By the time February rolled around, some of us had heard a radio spot about a grass roots movement asking everyone to "Plant a Row for the Hungry campaign". No money involved, just you - your garden - and some folks in the Ozarks who need fresh food. Something so simple, so easy and potentially so productive. We set out to locate our local food banks and verify the needs of Stone and Taney County residents. During a conversation with the administrator for the food bank at Christian Associates of Table Rock Lake, she said "It's odd you called right now. We've been talking about starting a garden here." I was calling to see what they needed. We talked and events took a totally different turn.

Christian Associates does many things for the needy in our community. Harbor House is a shelter for battered women. Clients range in ages from the very young with small children to seniors. A meeting was held with the ladies and it was decided we would make a garden.



The terrain is a challenge. Asphalt inside a 10-foot high fence. The women are very security conscious - no pictures - and we had to stay in the confines of that fence. We decided to try Square Foot Gardening because of its compact, above ground containers which can produce a bounty of food in a small area. Dieter, my husband, and I set out to help the gardeners. Untreated wood was culled from construction sites. An electrician we know offered to donate and bend metal pipes to attach to the boxes for vertical growth. A good source for the growing medium was found. We went to the community for donations of money and seeds. The boxes were built, buckets were found, the soil was ready and it was time to meet at Harbor House to put in the garden.



I almost cried when the boxes were in place and the lids came off the containers of soil. One of the women plunged her hands into the bucket, letting the particles trickle through her fingers as she smelled the aroma wafting in the air. "Oh, my God. I didn't know if I would ever smell this again!" She was laughing and so were two more. Talk of gardens past and favorite flowers and the difference between the flavor of a home grown and store bought vegetable went on through the afternoon. We planted too early in May and lost some things, but as you can see, by June 15th, we were on track! Actually, the girls were excited as there were radishes on their dinner tables the first week of June.

The Harbor House Garden has 14 2x4 boxes and various containers. The women of Harbor House maintain the garden and I continue to make sure they have what they need. Our hope is to not only supply Harbor House with produce, but to perhaps donate to the food bank as well.



I believe we all know gardening is cathartic for most of us. This project has created a symbiotic relationship. We all learn from each other. New ways and old ways mesh for better growth in the garden. For some, their thoughts are more positive and redirected. The thrill of anticipation has sprouted and now grows bright in a gloomy world. As for me.....sometimes I drive by and know just where to look to see my girls. They are sitting out on the side walk in front of the door nearest the gardens. It reminds me of sitting on the porch with my granny watching the garden grow. I am no fool. I am getting so much more from doing this than I can ever give back.

If this sounds corny.....IT IS!! Happy Gardening and remember to plant a row for the needy.

## Plant of Merit - *Taxus x media* 'Citation'

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



I grew up in a typical suburb of St. Louis County, and the thought of yew shrubs brings back horrible memories of the giant meatball bushes in our front yard. We had one large meatball on the corner of the house, followed by 3 smaller meatballs along the front. The movie “*Edward Scissorhands*” comes to mind. I always wondered... “*What did these poor plants do to deserve such humiliation??*”

However, we now have a yew that has characteristics probably all landscapes could use. Evergreen screening! With a height of 6’ – 10’, this columnar evergreen shrub would be perfect for screening out the unsightly mess under the ‘off the ground’ deck. Yes, get rid of the lattice work that needs painting, and plant a living screen.

Tolerant of urban conditions, the Citation yew also does well in shade.

Goodbye Meatballs!!

**Common Name:** yew

**Zone:** 4 to 7

**Plant Type:** Needled evergreen

**Family:** Taxaceae

**Height:** 6 to 10 feet

**Spread:** 3 to 6 feet

**Sun:** Full sun to part shade

**Water:** Medium

**Maintenance:** Low



Looking for a source for the Citation Yew? Check out our website at: [www.plantsofmerit.org](http://www.plantsofmerit.org) for the nearest garden center currently stocking this shrub.