Coordinator's Comments
By Mary Kroening, State Master Gardener Coordinator

Once again, a huge heartfelt thank you and applause goes out to the Central Missouri Master Gardeners for yet another incredible Master Gardener Annual Conference in Jefferson City in September. What a conference!!! Thank you!!!! Jefferson City hosted the Renegade Gardener as their keynote guest, and he was delightful, educational, and superb. Visit his website at www.renegadegardener.com.

We have several new websites to keep Missouri Master Gardeners apprised of our activities. The main Master Gardener website is mg.missouri.edu. Please always check your local listing on this website under the subpage “Area Master Gardeners”. We know we are missing a few groups, and would love to have you bring this to our attention so we can get you added. Also, please check your listing occasionally to make sure your URL has not changed.

We also now have a new website for our conferences. RJ Jacob, a Master Gardener in Branson, has graciously taken on this role to keep this website rolling for us. RJ is also the webmaster for our online reporting system. The conference website is conference.missourimastergardener.com. There is also a link from the mg.missouri.edu website to this page. We will keep all updates regarding Master Gardener conferences posted on this website.

Please also remember that nationally, we now have launched our nationwide extension website – eXtension – www.eXtension.org. Please check this website out if you have not already done so – it offers some wonderful resources.

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VOLUNTEER HOURS

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN … time to summarize activities for the previous year. I would like to highlight the importance of submitting volunteer hours on an annual basis. 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 reminding decision makers just how much our efforts are making a difference in Missouri!! We have recorded over 135,000 hours for the calendar year 2008. 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 another year of valuable service that you have given to this program. And I would love to top 135,000 hours!!!!!

Please report hours to your local extension office so they can turn those hours into the state office by the end of the year. If you are unsure about who to turn the hours in to, please just send them up 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 myself at (573) 882-9633 or Rita Gerke at (573) 882-7511. The volunteer hours reporting form is also available on the website at mg.missouri.edu. You do not have to fill out the forms to turn in volunteer hours - a simple phone call or email is adequate as well. Feel free to email your hours to kroeningm@Missouri.edu.

REMINDER – OUR NEW ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM is up and running beautifully. You can now report your volunteer hours online, and we are encouraging you to do so if possible. The website for online reporting is report.missourimastergardener.com. Please do not hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions or concerns about our online system for reporting hours.

And enjoy another great year!!! Thank you for everything you do for University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener Program!!!!

News From Around the State

How Demonstrating Ways to Grow Vegetables Blossomed into Master Gardeners Partnering With the Community
By David Barylski – Advanced Master Gardener St Charles County, East Central Region

In 2006, the St. Charles County Master Gardeners began building four raised beds, led by Paul Hendricks, as a way of demonstrating a method of growing vegetables. Additional beds were added each year and now total twelve beds. The goal of the raised beds is to make an efficient vegetable factory which will supply produce from April through November.

The beds are designed to be very versatile
Example of netting protecting young plants

Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service volunteers

Heartland Horticulture – A Publication of the Master Gardeners of Missouri  October 2009

with trellises at each end to allow the use of the vertical growing space and to provide attachment for support wires for the vegetables within the beds. Additionally, netting is placed over the beds to protect the plants from deer and rabbits.

The vegetables in the first two years were made available to the Master Gardeners and Extension staff. However, almost everyone had their own garden and a large portion of the produce was recycled into the compost bins.

In 2008, during a discussion of how to better utilize the output from the beds, the idea of providing the vegetables to one of the services that provide for families in need was raised. One of the Master Gardeners, Pat Lang, contacted Jan Hooker of Sts. Joachim and Ann church who was the Director of their Pantry Program who was delighted at the idea of receiving fresh produce.

Sts. Joachim and Ann Care Service provides assistance to approximately 125 families in St Charles County. Along with the fresh produce provided by the St Charles Master Gardeners, the Care Service provides other donated food items and partners with other agencies to provide housing, repairs to homes, school supplies and clothes.

The produce is picked three times a week and delivered the day before the Care Service distribution day so it can be cleaned and refrigerated. In 2008, almost 900 lbs of produce, consisting of lettuce, onions, green beans, squash, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, apples and sweet potatoes were donated. So far the 2009 spring planting has yielded 225 lbs of lettuce, spinach, cabbage and broccoli for the Care Service.
Ken and Rose Schwarte of Branson West moved to the Ozarks to relax and retire. In 2006 they attended and graduated from the Master Gardener of the Ozarks training program. After receiving 30 hours of basic horticulture training on a variety of topics; they put the knowledge to work on their home. They created a garden oasis in the back yard. Stone county rock and soil was a challenge.

One May night in 2008, a knock on the door came from neighbor Janice Sallee. She told the Schwartes of a camp that was putting gardens around cabins and wanted to know if the Master Gardeners would help. "Sure" said Ken. They then went out to Kids Across America camp and found and almost impossible task. Kids would be checking in to the camp in days. Flats and Flats of plants were ready to be put in the ground. "Ground... well.. if you call rock and clay ground" says Rose. After the first year, It was heart breaking. "Flowers had nothing to grow in.. no water.. " says Ken.

Kids Across America (KAA) coordinator Dave Jahnlee asked the Schwarte's to help for 2009. "I told him he would need to get us some soil, some compost, and water" says Ken. Flowers were purchased from College of the Ozarks. The gardens started to take shape.

The numerous gardens in front of the cabins, barrels with flowers, the cactus gardens at the entrance, and the near 40 hanging baskets were all in place and ready for the campers to arrive.

Master Gardeners Ken and Rose Schwarte have donated over 250 hours to this project. "A lot of work and some frustrations; but all in all we are very pleased in the progress this year" says Ken. The camp is now quiet and done for the summer. Ken and Rose still are active in other projects around the Ozarks. Each spring is reserved for the KAA camp. The Schwarte’s have earned the winter off and have taken with them a scrap book full of memories and new friends.
Master Gardeners combine art and science in French ‘pottager’ masterpiece

Master Gardeners not only plant garlic, they include it in magical dishes to be shared with volunteers at a recent work session. At right, missing heads, the inescapable aftermath of cabbage patch thievery.

At left, FOG’s Bob and Barbara Kipper share a portion of their garlic crop for fall replanting.

Becoming a Master Gardener: Volunteerism

Summer is officially over and meandering into the wonderful days of autumn, but there’s still time to visit the Master Gardeners’ French “Pottager” Gardens just inside the entrance to Nathaniel Greene/Close Memorial Park. Summer crops are giving way to ripening fall produce that will be donated to feed those who need our helping hands.

There you will discover what can happen when gardens and art merge at ground level. For those who don’t converse in French, a “pottager” garden is a kitchen garden, a place where beauty and bounty become one. For years, the demonstration gardens stuck to a traditional American theme, vegetables planted in rows for easier mechanical cultivation, as many of us do in our backyard sanctuaries.

About two dozen volunteers led by Christine Chiu, soon to be a FOG board member, decided it was time to try something new. That is to say, something several hundred years old by custom in France.

“It seemed time for a change, in order to inspire, educate and motivate all who see the garden to try something different in their own gardens,” says Chiu, a graphic artist with a design degree from Missouri State University. “Vegetable gardens don’t have to be boring; they can be alluring and engaging. We’ve had reports that people have already changed the design of their garden after seeing this one. And several more have built raised beds this spring because they saw the Square Foot Garden.”

First, of course, came the design, circular in shape (above, at top) with room for vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers — truly a “feast for the senses.”
College of the Ozark's Senior receives $1,000 Scholarship from the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks

By Dieter Beam, Master Gardener of the Ozarks

Laura Pennington of Wichita, Kansas is a senior at College of the Ozarks. She has been given a $1,000 scholarship from the Master Gardeners of the Ozarks. "I really needed this money.. it'll help out a lot", said Laura. Ms. Pennington started as a freshman at C of O and her first job was working in the cafeteria. "My Aunt and Mom and Dad are all graduates of C of O.. it became an easy choice for school", says Laura. She has been very active in school. Along with her work duties at the green houses, she was president of the on-campus Horticulture Club and president of the Rotaract (a college version of the Rotary Club). We asked how she was able to learn all the various plants that C of O sells in the green houses. "...the best learning experience I had was working in the sign shop making signs for all of them", she said with a smile. Laura will graduate with a degree in Agriculture with an emphasis on Horticulture. She plans to move back to Wichita where she will work at the Botanica Gardens. Also, she has plans underway for a March wedding.

We briefly visited with David Ray and Nathan Bell, Supervisors of the Horticulture Dept of the College. David said, "..if it's green; we take care of it." The greenhouses will have 250,000 bedding plants. "We will sell a thousand Hibiscus plants". There is close to 1,000 acres of mowing and weed eating to be done. "We do it all with staff and 72 horticulture students".

Master Gardener President Dave Smith and Committee Chairperson Elaine Fischer said, "we are delighted to help". Past President of Master Gardeners Kathryn Kufahl says, "Every person we can help with our scholarship program will go into the field of Horticulture and that benefits us all".

Laura told us that she will use the money to buy a much needed laptop computer and a printer.

The presentation of the check was made on August 26th, 2009 at the greenhouses of the College of the Ozarks. Those attending (L to R) Master Gardeners Alice Troyke, Marsha Beam, Pres Dave Smith, Laura Pennington, Committee Chair Elaine Fischer, Past Pres Kathryn Kufahl, Julie Jacob, and Louise Mansfield.
Discover a world of flavor with

*Herbal Cookery: From the Kitchens and Gardens of the St. Louis Herb Society.*

Published by FRP-176 pages $29.95

The members of the St. Louis Herb Society have cultivated and maintained the bountiful herb garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden for over 40 years. They are releasing this, their fourth cookbook, so that gardeners and cooks may find inspiration in the magic of herbs in the garden and in the kitchen.

*Herbal Cookery* offers a practical everyday guide for the use of familiar as well as unusual herbs with eight chapters for appetizers and beverages, soups and breads, salads, pasta and grains, vegetables, meats, poultry and seafood, and desserts. Recipes include:

- Herbed Pistachio Paté with Gala Apples
- Meyer Lemon and Blueberry Soup
- Cherry Scones with Lemon Verbena Honey
- Pasta with Purple Sage and Browned Butter
- Apple Cheeseburger with Lemon Horseradish Mousse
- Roast Chicken with Figs and Apricots
- Lavender Blossom Tea Cookies

*Herbal Cookery* has 28 beautifully illustrated color photos of gardens and food and includes eight chapters and 218 tested recipes, ranging from appetizers to desserts, plus special occasion menus and appropriate wine suggestions. In the *Beyond Herbaceous* section herbs, both popular and unusual, are defined as to use, cultivation, and maintenance. The index lists recipes both by name and by herb. Useful tips include how to make basil cigars and how to make oil pastes out of herbs.

The St. Louis Herb Society, a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1941 with the purpose to further the study, use and knowledge of herbs. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be used for continued research and education.

*Herbal Cookery: From the Kitchens and Gardens of the St. Louis Herb Society* was designed, edited, and produced by FRP Books, Inc., the parent company of Favorite Recipes Press.

To order, visit the St. Louis Herb Society website: [www.stlouisherbsociety.org](http://www.stlouisherbsociety.org)
Plant of Merit - *Brassica oleracea* (Acephala Group) 'Redbor'
By Chris Nejelski, Coordinator, Plants of Merit Program, Missouri Botanical Garden

Looking to add some fall and winter interest to your garden and combination pots? Ornamental kale adds frilled edges and intense color as other annuals start to fade.

‘Redbor’ is a cool weather ornamental kale that is best grown in the cool temperatures of fall. It needs cool temperatures to produce the deep red leaf color characteristic of the plant. It may also be grown in early spring. Plants set in the ground in late summer will provide excellent deep red foliage well into fall including through several frosts. Depending on temperatures, plants may survive to Thanksgiving or into December in some years.

Try using ‘Redbor’ kale as your ‘thriller’ item in mixed combinations pots, then using pansies or violas as ‘fillers’ and ‘spillers’.

Visit your local, independent garden center for other varieties of ornamental kale, as well as, other ‘fillers’ and ‘spillers’. Need some suggestions on where to visit?

Go to: [www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/nurs.asp](http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/nurs.asp) for local nurseries that carry Plants of Merit.

**Common Name:** kale  
**Plant Type:** Annual  
**Family:** Brassicaceae  
**Height:** 1 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 1 to 2 feet  
**Bloom Time:** Flowers not showy  
**Sun:** Full sun  
**Water:** Medium  
**Maintenance:** Low