



Master Gardener News

A monthly publication of the St. Louis Master Gardeners

September 2004

A Word from the Editor, by Stacy Rolfe

Feature Writers

Anita Joggerst – Website Update

Holly Parks – Book Review

John Stephens – Q&A

Connie Alwood – Bird Bath

All contributing writers will be noted with a byline



What's Inside

Volunteer Opportunities

The Great Pumpkin Patch

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Fantastic Photos

MG Fall Picnic

As autumn falls upon us, Mother Nature begins her slow waltz of give and take with the earth. Flowers that once stood grandly in our yards now begin taking on a tired, withered look - almost longing to be put to rest for the season. Trees reach out to grab everyone's attention, pleased that their time to shine has finally come. And even gardeners feel the pinch of having worked hard for so many months - true albeit, happily doing so, but nonetheless, weariness begins to sink in as a welcome reprieve of the cool weather arrives. And so too with this change of season comes the end of my seasons of enjoying my yard work while my cat watched dutifully from within the confines of my gardens. At the grand old age of 17, she has deservedly earned her

way into a garden much grander than mine. Yet how I will miss those pounces on crickets, the pulling of leaves as tender shoots come up from the ground and even the way she would venture a taste or two of my daylilies. I'll no longer see her long fluffy grey tail twitch while she waves it like a flag on her way to greet me across the lawn. Yet I know in my heart that her flag will soar as she walks upon greener grass as our seasons change once again and flowers too will come around next year, and so it goes.



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



Missouri Master Gardener
University Outreach & Extension

To provide research-based horticultural information to the public for community service and gardening pleasure.



Clayton Elementary School Looking to Beautify Their Grounds

The Ralph M. Captain Elementary School located at 6345 Northwood Avenue in Clayton is in the process of building a children's garden to be used as an outdoor recreational and educational space. They are seeking 2-3 Master Gardeners to assist with design, preparation and on-going maintenance to the garden. A fall parent/child planting event is scheduled for October 2 and the school is hopeful to have Master Gardeners on hand. To volunteer please contact Steve Bailey at 314.727.1058.

training necessary for these programs. Volunteers must be comfortable with public speaking and working with slide projectors. There is a tremendous joy and satisfaction in bringing the beauty of the Garden to those who cannot visit on their own. These positions allow complete flexibility regarding service hours. Volunteers are asked to present at least one program per month. Programs are presented during the weekday daytime hours. Contact Jennifer Smith, Senior Programs Coordinator, at 314/577-9473 or jennifer.smith@mobot.org for more information.



Soule Senior Educational Programs

Soule Senior Programs provides outreach programs for senior citizens in the St. Louis area. Volunteers visit various senior organizations and present slide presentations or hands-on horticultural programs. Some examples are "Bulbs for all Seasons", "Mysteries of Orchids", and "Container Gardening". These presentations are very well received by many participants at nursing homes, retirement centers, libraries, senior garden clubs, etc. We provide all scripts, handouts, supplies, and



Trip to the Great Pumpkin Patch September 28th

Plan to attend a field trip to The Great Pumpkin Patch in Arthur, IL on September 28th. We will join the Kemper staff and leave the Garden at 8:30 a.m. for a day of fun and learning while enjoying acres of pumpkins, squash and over 250

varieties of gourds. To sign up please call Jack Lane at 314.541.2243 or Linda Waugh at 314.909.8559.

Power Point Training Scheduled -
Excellent Course for Speakers
Bureau Volunteers!



When: Friday October 1st
Where: UMSL
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Developing Speech Content
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Hands-on Powerpoint Training
Class size limited – call Phil Egart at 314.577.9441 to sign up



Q&A with John Stephens
John Stephens is on vacation this month.



Take a look at these pictures from MG Kay Pelikan's yard!

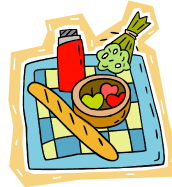


Submit your photos to srolfe@charter.net

Don't Forget to Attend Fall 2004 Gardener's Field Day sponsored by Horticulture Co-op of St. Louis. September 9-11th at Meramec Community College. For further information visit their website at www.hortco-op.org


HORTICULTURE CO-OP
of Metro St. Louis
www.hortco-op.org

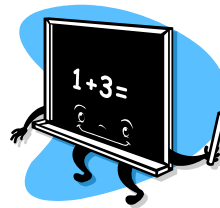
Master Gardener Fall Picnic is Scheduled for October 3rd at Shaw Nature Reserve



Click on the links for RSVP form and directions

<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/who/picnic2004.htm> .

Upcoming Class at MBG
By Tammy Palmier



GP-52 Missouri Native Plants for your Garden

Native plants are not just for meadows and wild areas anymore. Learn how to incorporate native plants into your garden plan and diversify your perennial borders. You will see the fall plants first-hand with a walking tour of the Kemper Wildflower Prairie, Native Shade Garden, and Butterfly Meadow lead by horticulturist Martha Hill. In the classroom, Ann Case will highlight a variety of native and naturalized Missouri plants plus discuss light

and moisture requirements for each plant.

Wednesday, September 8, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Instructors: Ann Case and Martha Hill

MBG- Kemper Center classroom

Member: \$30

Non-member: \$35



LA-14 Designing a Home Herb Garden

Learn the finer points of combining and arranging herb plants to produce stunning and useful designs. Identification, site selection and care will also be covered. From perennials to annuals, herbs of all shapes and sizes can be used.

Wednesday, September 15, 7 to 9 p.m.

Instructor: Cindy Gilberg

MBG- Missouri Room

Member: \$20

Non-member: \$25



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GT-12 Garden Landscape Walk
The Garden is a plethora of ideas for home gardeners and landscapers. On this landscape walk of the Northern gardens (from the main entrance through the Chinese Garden), supervisor Sam Bahr will highlight ideas you can use at home. Tips on combining annuals, perennials, shrubs, and trees will be included in this instructive garden walk.

Saturday, September 18, 9 to 11 a.m.
Meet at the Garden's Ticket counter
Instructor: Sam Bahr
Member: \$20
Non-member: \$25



Advisory Board Seeking Nominations

The Advisory Committee is announcing the opening of four positions on the Advisory Committee to be elected at the December party/meeting. Nominations can be sent via email to Steve Cline steven.cline@mobot.org or mailed to the Kemper Center. Ballots will be prepared for the election at the holiday party.

Minutes from the July 27, 2004 can be reached at

<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/minutes/minutes.htm>



Bird Bath

A rose by any other name may smell as sweet, but without a name it is simply a flower.

Jim Wright and Jerry Barrack, *In the Presence of Nature*

Frequently someone will say to me: "I saw this bird..." After an attempt to describe the bird, he'll ask me to identify it. My success at doing so depends on how good the description is, on how many field marks the observer could remember.

Here are three tips on how you can identify a bird.

One: If possible always use binoculars when looking at a bird. Of course, most of us don't walk around with binoculars around our necks, but if they are handy, use them. You'll be amazed at how much more vivid the colors and how many more details that you can see of the bird through binoculars. In fact, some believe that you never see a bird until you see it through binoculars.

Two: When looking at a bird try to remember several details. Size is the first detail. Is it bigger than a Northern Cardinal? Smaller than an American Crow? Next look for the color. Where is the gray, the black, or the green? Does it have a streaked or unstreaked breast?

There are many other bird features, such as eyeing, length of tail, wing bars and head pattern. Besides noting its markings, think about where you saw the bird. Was it over water, in a field or in the woods? The habitat of the bird can help you narrow down the possibilities, thereby helping you make a sure identification. To identify most of the birds you encounter. Or as Yogi Berra pointed out: "You can observe a lot by just watching."

Furthermore, what was it doing? Was it soaring in the sky or was it walking on the ground? The more details you can remember, the easier it is to get a correct ID.



Third: Look up your bird in a field guide. In 1934 Roger Tory Peterson published his first field guide of American birds. It's been updated and is still an excellent source.

Many more guides are available. My favorite is the National Geographic Birds of North America.

By using both your binoculars and your guide books and by paying attention to the details of a bird's markings, you can learn to identify most of the birds you encounter. Or as Yogi Berra pointed out: "You can observe a lot by just watching."



Honeybees:

World Champion Pollinators

By Katie Belisle

Kemper Center for Home Gardening

The astounding success of the flowering plants that we see today is the result of their ability to form mutually beneficial relationships with insects. For hundreds of thousands of years, plants and insects have been shaping each other to such a degree that today some plants are totally dependent on only one species of insect for their survival.

The honeybee, Missouri's state insect, has evolved to become the world champion pollinator and pollen collector. Flowering plants provide food for the honeybee in the form of pollen and nectar; the bees spread pollen among the flowers they visit, allowing the plants to produce seed and secure the next generation. Honeybees tend to confine their

attention to one flower species during a single foraging trip, but they move from plant to plant, favoring cross-pollination. Cross-pollination results in greater genetic variation, which can mean stronger, more vigorous plants.

Crops and Flowers

About 15 percent of the cultivated food plants in the U.S. depend upon or benefit from insect pollination. Bees are a main pollinator of fruits, nuts, and cotton. Bees also pollinate alfalfa, clover, lespedeza, and trefoil. These plants fix nitrogen in the soil, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

Honeybees do amazing amounts of work to make orchards and home gardens more productive. They increase the yield on all gourds, including cucumbers, squashes, melons and pumpkins, and on all plants that flower before setting fruits or vegetables. Ninety percent of the productivity of strawberry plants depends on the activity of bees. Some favorite herbaceous flowering plants that attract honeybees to the home landscape are salvias, snapdragons, bee balms, sunflowers, candytufts, lantanas, alyssum, cosmos and foxgloves. Bees are also attracted to the fragrance of herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and thyme.

Shape and Color

Bee-pollinated flowers tend to be brightly colored blues and yellows. Bees see red as gray or as an absence of color; bees who are visiting a red flower are probably seeing ultraviolet markings invisible to us which serve as directional

pointers to the source of the nectar.

Flower shape and color guide bees from a distance, and scent provides the stimulus to alight. Bees are attracted to the blooms with the highest sugar concentration; nectar with a high water content is not worth the energy spent to collect it.





*In Memory of
Kitty
1987-2004*



It's not too late to sign up for the State MG
Conference!

When: September 24th – 26th

Where: Columbia, MO

For complete details, click on

<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/>

**St. Louis Master Gardeners
Kemper Center for Home Gardening**

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We would love to have Master Gardeners submit articles for Master Gardener News. Remember that articles are due no later than the 10th of the month. Please send copies to Steve Cline and Stacy Rolfe (drolfe01@earthlink.net). Letters may be edited for length or content.

Master Gardener News is published monthly for St. Louis Master Gardeners. Stacy Rolfe serves as Editor, assisted by Carol Huston (proofreader), and contributors whose bylines appear in each issue.



Steve Cline
Manager, Kemper Center
Missouri Botanical Garden

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