

# Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners July, 2009 Meeting Minutes

7/21/2009 at the Extension Center

28 members in attendance

Chairperson: Laura Redfield-Jacobs, President

## **“Container Gardening” presented by Charles Paxton, Assistant Superintendent of Landscape Services on the MU Campus**

Container gardening allows gardeners to control soil, water, drainage, and nutrients to produce unique displays. Plants are often crowded much closer together, for more intense combinations of colors and textures. Containers can be used to add life and color to a harsh space, or draw attention to an area. In addition to patios, you can use containers in areas where tree roots limit your ability to grow plants in the ground. If your container is smaller than a whiskey barrel, use only potting/container mix; if larger, you can mix in 1/3 garden loam with the potting soil to provide stability for larger plants. Containers need frequent watering and more fertilizer. Mix in a slow-release fertilizer (e.g., Osmocote 15-9-12) when prepping your soil in the spring, and by mid-summer start foliar feeding every 2 weeks. The smaller your container, the more you will need to water it. There are 3 basic methods of design: (1) use many different kinds of plants in one container (play foliage and flower colors off each other); (2) one great plant in one great pot; and (3) group several containers together with a single type of plant in each (this allows you to tailor water/fertilizer needs to each plant.) Don't be afraid to trim or prune container plantings to keep plants in proportion.

## **Old Business:**

- The minutes from the June meeting were approved by the group.
- Cindy Deegan provided the group with a treasurer's report:  
CD \$1148.29  
MG State Conference Fund \$ 2189.13  
Checking account as of 7/1/09 \$865.82
- Mary Kroening's daughter is doing well after her recent surgery for a brain tumor.
- The Gardener's Grub and Gab for July was held at Tina Wheeler's house – lots of great food and fun gardening discussions. If you haven't made it to one of these yet, you're missing out! If you are interested in hosting a GG&G at your house, let one of the officers know and we'll get it scheduled.
- If you are interested in getting in on the possible haydite order, let Laura Redfield-Jacobs know.

## **New Business:**

- We will be electing a new slate of HMMG officers soon, and we need people to serve on the nominating committee. Contact Cindy Deegan if you'd like to be on the committee. 443-5307 or email at [cdeegs@hotmail.com](mailto:cdeegs@hotmail.com).
- Linda Christensen is looking for someone to take over responsibility for the monthly newsletter. If you are interested, contact Linda for more info.
- Don't forget you can report your MG training and volunteer hours online now – it's quick and easy.
- Laura Redfield-Jacobs has information on ordering HMMG “happy veggie” T-shirts, or polo shirts with the Master Gardener logo. Get your order forms to Laura ASAP because she plans to hand out the shirts at the August meeting.
- On Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, the annual Town and Country event will be held on a farm in Sturgeon. This annual event is sponsored by the University Extension Service. This year,

they've asked the Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners to have a booth there, showcasing our projects and activities in the community. Anyone interested in helping with this, contact Laura Redfield-Jacobs, or Peggy Ann Eichen.

- Liz Wells has blackberries, free for the picking!! Literally!! Give your email to Laura and she will get you two together.
- Next meeting will be August 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.