

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners May, 2009 Meeting Minutes

5/19/2009 (Location: Carolyn Oates' home)

34 members in attendance

Chairperson: Laura Redfield-Jacobs, President

“Kokedama Gardening” presented by Linda Persinger

The word “kokedama” means “moss ball” in Japanese. The concept is similar to growing plants in moss baskets. Start with fern moss (which is available at most craft stores), and soak it well before starting. Lay out the pieces you need to make about a 10” square. Use a very large handful of Pro-mix and place it in the center of the moss. Then, wrap the moss snugly around the dirt to make a ball, and use about 12’ of 22 gauge wire—wrapping it around the ball tightly—to form and secure the ball. This should make a ball about the size of a softball. You can use a chopstick to make holes in the moss, to insert cuttings which will root, or simply to insert flowers and greenery for a centerpiece. You can also put an entire small plant in the ball; place the plant in the ball when you are making the ball itself, and wrap it in when you wrap the moss.

After the Kokedama gardening demonstration, we broke into groups, with some taking a tour of the lovely gardens and landscape of Carolyn Oates, and others making their own kokedama arrangements to take home.

Committee Updates:

Since we had several new master gardeners in attendance, extra time was allotted for committee updates, so each committee chair could share additional information about their committee.

- **Extension Grounds:** still needs a chairperson. Contact Laura Redfield-Jacobs if interested.
- **Farmer’s Market:** HMMG volunteers are at the Boone County Farmers Market on the 1st Saturday, and at the Columbia Farmers Market on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Committee Chair Marie Pasley said she still needs 1 volunteer for the July 4th, to work with Debi Ball. Volunteers need to be there by 7:30 am to setup the tent, and work until about 11:00 am, at which point the tent is taken down. If you have one, bring a card table. Volunteers have the “most popular” guide sheets ready to pass out, as well as flyers with the hotline information.
- **Habitat for Humanity:** has 2 work sessions coming up and needs volunteers on May 28th and May 30th. Please contact Brenda Jones (ijonesbj@missouri.edu) or Phyllis Barks (barksp@msbanet.org) for more info or to sign up.
- **Hotline:** needs volunteers for three specific weeks: June 29, August 3, and August 24. Volunteer assignments start on the Tuesday of each week and last for one week. During that week, the volunteer checks for voicemail and email messages and handles any requests for assistance that come in. Frankie Anderson has created terrific “how to” packets for hotline volunteers. Contact Emily Bonwich (ebonwich@mchsi.com) for more information or to volunteer.
- **Mentoring:** Committee Chair Betty Gayle Smith said that 39 people have been contacted by their mentors, who are trying to keep them informed of upcoming events and ways that they can become involved in the HMMG group. While she appreciates interest in the committee, she currently has enough volunteers.
- **Mizzou Botanical Gardens:** They are working more closely with university staff to plan volunteer activities this year. There are several gardens where HMMG members are needed to dead-head flowers and weed the beds. There is also a project at the Conley House, as well as monitoring the tree trails on campus. They may also have several opportunities to conduct

educational tours for groups. Contact Elizabeth Hoyos (hoyosm@missouri.edu) for more information or to volunteer.

- **Speaker's Bureau:** provides presentations to various community groups on various gardening related topics. Most recently, they have assisted at Walkabout Acres during a number of tours by school children. Contact Alice Havard (445-4624) if you are interested in participating on this committee.

Old Business:

The minutes and treasurer's report from the April meeting were approved by the group. It was noted that the minutes were left out of the printed copies of the newsletter which were mailed out last month, but they are always available online for review.

The inaugural "**Gardener's Grub and Gab**" was held on May 7th. We had 16 folks show up, and judging by the liveliness of the conversations and the quantities of food consumed, a good time was had by all! We will try to have these informal potluck suppers for HMMG members (and their guests) during the first week of each month. The next "Grub and Gab" is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 3rd** (NOTE DATE CHANGE) at the home of Cindy Deegan. Directions and other information will be in the newsletter.

The **Earth Day** booth was very successful, making \$180 from the sale of plants, seeds, etc.

We do not have enough people signed up to bring drinks and snacks at our HMMG meetings for the rest of the year. Please sign up to **bring refreshments!**

Debbie Scholes said that we can now start reporting out volunteer and educational hours online. More info will be in the newsletter.

The "**Blooms and Benevolence**" tour is coming up on June 13th. No more volunteers are needed, but if you'd like to take the tours, tickets are \$10. Contact Rose Mayfield for tickets or more information.

New Business:

Laura Redfield-Jacobs asked about the level of interest in a "field trip" to the new **Powell Gardens** on a Saturday this summer. About 15-20 people raised their hands to express interest, so Laura will collect more information re: timing, costs, etc. and will report back to the group at the June meeting.

Laura also polled the group to gauge interest in buying **T-shirts or polo-type shirts** with an HMMG logo on it. Around 15 people were interested in T-shirts; 5 were interested in polo shirts. Again, she will get more info and report back to the group.

Jim Wilson reported that the garden tours at his home have been well-received. He estimates that they've had at least 200 visitors. His recent classes on vegetable gardening were a rousing success also, with 80 people in attendance. Jim's new book (which served as the text for his class) will soon be published under the title Home Grown Vegetables: A Bountiful Harvest from Your Garden, and it will contain over 300 high-quality color photos.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.