

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting

3/17/2009

31 members in attendance

Chairperson: Laura Redfield-Jacobs, President

“The Trees of London” presented by Lou Phemister, City of Columbia Arborist

From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Phemister worked as an arborist, caring for the street trees in the London area. He checked tree health, and evaluated trees for potential dangers. In central London, 40 to 50% of the trees in the public right of way are London Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolia*), which are a cross between the American Sycamore and the Oriental Plane tree. They are popular for their multi-colored peeling bark, but can cause quite a bit of damage to sidewalks, streets and foundations because of their robust and extensive root systems. Urban forestry in London focuses on reducing the leaf area on trees to reduce their water requirements. The trees are severely pruned back every 3 years to keep them in check; this practice is called “pollarding”. Because London Plane trees become so large, other trees are being planted now, such as the Black Locust, Norway Maple, Italian Alder, and several different varieties of cherry trees.

Announcements:

- We still need volunteers for the **Mentoring** and **Hotline** Committees.
- The **Hotline committee** will meet at 6:30 before our next monthly HMMG meeting. Please let **Emily Bonwich** (Hotline Committee Chair) know if you are planning to join them at this “special session”.
- The signup sheet for the **Gardening with Youth** committee has been lost. If you are interested in participating on that committee, please contact **Lea Langdon**.

Update from Plants of Merit and Mizzou Botanical Gardens Committees

Donna Puleo (chair of the Plants of Merit committee) and **Elizabeth Hoyos** (chair of the Mizzou Botanic Garden committee) met with MU staffers recently. These will remain 2 separate committees, but will work together on projects, including:

- The “Tree Trails” on campus need to be adopted by volunteers who will assess if there is damage or if there are problems with the trees.
- The Plants of Merit volunteers will monitor the plants and associated signage, and will help with a research effort to produce educational materials.

Committee breakout sessions were held for project discussion and planning.

The minutes from the February meeting were approved by the group.

Treasurer’s Report:

Balance on 2/1/2009	\$792.27
Expenses: Earth Day Booth	(20.00)
Income: Donation for books	119.00
Current Balance	\$891.27
State Conference Account	\$2189.13
Shelter Bank CDs	\$1122.51

Total Assets	\$6442.88

Committee Updates:

- **Advanced Training:** Debbie Scholes and Laura Redfield-Jacobs led a discussion of the proposed changes to the responsibilities of the Advanced Training Committee and the Advanced Master Gardener Training Guidelines. After minimal additional discussion, the documents were approved.
- **The Spring Creek Cleanup project** was rescheduled for March 28th. Volunteers should let Laura know if they will still be able to participate on that date.
- **Extension Grounds Cleanup:** Marie Pasley thanked the group for the excellent support of the workday for cleaning up the Extension Grounds on March 14. We had 23 volunteers, the weather was perfect, everyone enjoyed a terrific lunch—and the Extension grounds look much better now.
- **Jim Wilson** met with the Interfaith Council on 3/15. They need mentors to help the churches get started with their vegetable gardens.
- At **Lee Elementary School**, HMMG volunteers will be improving the landscaping in front of the building and in a small memorial area. Contact Laura Redfield-Jacobs if you have forsythia, redbuds, or other perennials you can donate.
- **Plants and seeds** are also still needed for the Earth Day booth, and the Adopt-a-Spot committee still needs plants donated for their folks.
- Only 1 person has signed up for the **Advanced Training class on making presentations**; the class will have to be cancelled if not enough people sign up. There was some discussion that perhaps rescheduling it for a later date would help.
- **Debbie Scholes**, our State Representative, informed us that the MG state advisory board met on 3/13. **The state conference this year will be in Jefferson City on September 18, 19, and 20 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.** The registration fee has not yet been set, but you will be able to register for 1, 2, or all 3 days. The website for the state Master Gardeners is mg.missouri.edu. They will be using PayPal for online registrations in May.

Reminder: TRACK YOUR HOURS for state reporting.

Sandy Deraps is selling raffle tickets for a quilt for the Gold Star Mothers.

Lea Langdon discussed a program called “Restorative Justice” at the Boonville Correctional Center has grown about 40,000 pounds of food over the last few years, which has been donated to food banks. The program was cut, then re-instated with a much smaller budget. Because the Community Garden Coalition has partnered with them in the past, she is looking for volunteers to help with the program, as well as asking people to put pressure on state government to push for additional funding. In winter, inmates in the program build tables and chairs for Head Start, and in summer they grow vegetables.

Next Meeting will be on April 21st at “George’s Pizza & Steak” at the Lake of the Woods Exit, at 7:00 pm. We will be learning about Hydroponics and touring the small hydroponics store located next to George’s restaurant. The group approved a motion to use up to \$75 in funds to purchase food and beverages for the group at this meeting, to compensate the restaurant for allowing us to use their space for our meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.