



HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

"Helping Others Learn to Grow."

December 2006

Plants of Promise

November's meeting, our last meeting for 2006, was full of promise for the upcoming year. We learned more about the exciting possibilities of the Plants of Merit (POM) program. The program's mission is to raise the level of success for regional gardeners. "Merited" plants have been researched for at least five years and, while there are of course no guarantees, they are promising selections for our gardens.

Also in the works is an exciting statewide data tracking system for the Plants of Merit at Mizzou Botanic Garden. Eventually, this info will be accessible on the World Wide Web so that if, for example, someone from a small town in China wants to know how well

gingko trees in Columbia grow, they'll be able to find out. This type of accessible info is pertinent to MG's because, as Mary Ann Fink, MoBot's POM coordinator, so aptly explains, the "master" in Master Gardener, mostly means that we have mastered the art of accessing valuable information for gardeners. Mary Ann also explained the sponsorship program for POM,



Plant of Merit: Colorado Spruce; *Picea pungens* "Fat Albert"

and Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners voted to sponsor the program at the entry level. This is a yearly contribution (\$150 at the entry level, voted on yearly) and a potential nomination of a plant for the list.

The Mizzou Botanic Garden, the largest display garden in the state, won the University category from America in Bloom. Thus, the volunteer opportunities and partnerships abound. For more info:

www.plantsofmerit.org and gardens.missouri.edu/

Another vote at the meeting was the one that elected our new slate of Heart of Missouri Master Gardener officers. For more on the new officers, see page three.

Special Points of Interest

- *America in Bloom at MU:*
http://www.cf.missouri.edu:80/stories/ls_aminbloom/fullarticle.html
- *A Success Story:*
mastergardener.wsu.edu/summary/pdf/mgearlyhistory.pdf
- *Our Heart of Missouri History:*
muextension.missouri.edu/mg/history.html

A Look Back, a Look Ahead

As the pace slows, we reflect on the year that will soon become a thing of the past. It's been a busy year for Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners. We've had a variety of interesting programs and projects. As we

move into a new year, we can explore new ways to get involved as Master Gardeners. After all, our motto is "helping others learn to grow," and our training that designated us as Master Gardeners obligates us to

do just that. If our program is to continue to flourish, we must stay active in our group, alert for promising possibilities to help, and accurate as we record and report our hours. See Special Points of Interest: "History."

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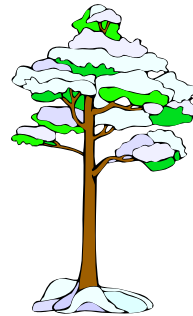


Volunteer Opportunities: Committees

The Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners work hard at their various volunteer projects. Most of these projects are organized within various committees. The January meeting will provide an opportunity to sign up for the committees and some will also need new chairs.

A new committee is "Gardening with Youth." It is a combination of the old "Jr. Master Gardener" committee and "School Gardens." The committee will be responsible for educational gardening activities

with youth. Another newer committee is "Plants of Merit." After November's meeting, which featured Mizzou Botanic Garden specialists and Missouri Botanic Garden's Plants of Merit coordinator, Mary Ann Fink, it's clear that this committee can use several active members. It would also be useful for someone to help with



"Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong." Winston Churchill

updating our webpage. Contact Don Day for more information on that committee.

For a partial list of current committees (there's been some new ones added): <http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html>

Go to the "committee descriptions" link and be thinking about which committee could best use your help. January's meeting will also provide info about the committees.

Volunteerism

The Master Gardener program's mission is "Helping Others Learn to Grow." Thus our volunteer opportunities are focused around that mission. As the above article on committees says, most of these volunteer projects are organized within the various committees. In addition,

A good rule of thumb: "Does this activity contribute to the goals and mission of the local Extension program?"

there are projects that may also meet our mission as Master Gardeners. For example, we may also, within limits, report hours we've spent consulting with neighbors or family on gardening issues. Whatever our project, it is important to note that as representatives of MU Ex-

tension, we rely on researched based procedures and information.

Volunteer projects are plentiful. Read the newsletter for listings of volunteer opportunities. If you need info on what's acceptable, please refer to the "Policies and Procedures" link on our webpage at: <http://outreach.missouri.edu/mg/index.html>

Another Good Reason

As certified Master Gardeners, we have made a commitment to volunteer 20 hours per year (Trainees must complete 30 hours within their first year). These hours are to be reported to Don Day, preferably by the end of November. He then tallies our hours and sends them to the state offices, along with any personal suc-

cess stories and quotes highlighting our projects we've included. By remaining active members of Master Gardener, we may attend the meetings as voting members as well as benefit from the interesting and informational programs presented.



"Nothing will work unless you do." Maya Angelou

Another good reason to attend meetings is that we may also count MG meetings towards our required volunteer hours. While many of us spend hours of time in various meetings, the MG meetings are lively, fun, upbeat and informative.



New Officers

At the November meeting the Nominating Committee presented their slate of prospective executive officers for the new year. Unanimously approved, were: President, Rich Frieden; Vice-President, Julie Fisher; Secretary, Kaye King; and Treasurer, Sandy Perley.

Our special thanks to our outgoing officers, Phyllis Barks, President; Betty Gayle Smith, Vice-President; Mary Jane King, Secretary, Treasurer, Debbie Scholes.

Our State Representative has been Barb Kribbs, we appreciate all she has done on the board. Another person will be appointed soon.

All officers serve a one year term, beginning in January, and are limited to two consecutive terms, with eligibility for re-election after a one year absence from the office.

For more info, see the "by-laws" link at: <http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html>



"Always remember that the future comes one day at a time." Dean Acheson

Information Update:

If your email address, or physical address or phone number has changed, please send us the new one. That way you're sure to receive emails about events and the newsletter. Please send the updated information to Kaye King, MG secretary at: kayeking@socket.net

New Events

December 14: MU Extension presents a free workshop on "Winterizing the Landscape," Truman State University Farm, 11:30-3:30, lunch provided. RSVP by Dec. 12. More info: schutterjl@missouri.edu or call Jennifer Schutter at: 660-665-9866.

December 16: Hanukkah begins.

December 21: First day of Winter/ Solstice: shortest day of the year.

December 25: Christmas.

December 26: Kwanzaa begins.

While not too much is happening in our gardens, or on our gardening calendars, there's **plenty of natural events** taking place, according to the **Missouri Dept. of Conservation:**

December 1: River Otters begin breeding

December 2: Great Horned Owls are courting (listen for their calls)

December 3: Barred Owls courting

December 5: Bald Eagles arriving in Northern Missouri

December 14: Geminid meteor shower peaks

All month: watch for pine siskins, purple finches, evening grosbeaks, woodpeckers, goldfinches, cardinals, titmice, chickadees and nuthatches at bird feeders

For a great new year calendar, order the **Natural Events calendar** from Missouri Dept. of Conservation: <http://www.mdcnatureshop.com/mdc.cgi>

New Business

Our first meeting for the new year will be led by our new President, Rich Frieden. Important meeting business will include committee chairs discussing and describing their committees and soliciting new volunteers.

Also important will be the refreshment sign up sheet. It seems that we outdo ourselves each meeting

with delicious and satisfying snacks and drinks.

Also think about any interesting guest speakers or presentation topics you'd like to see as possible programs. The Vice-president, Julie



"One kind word can warm three winter months." Japanese Proverb

Fisher would appreciate your input.

Also, any articles, upcoming events or other items of interest that you'd like to see in the newsletter are welcomed. Contact Julie Fisher:

julie8401@tranquility.net

"Helping Others Learn to Grow."

Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter
University of Missouri Extension-Boone County
1012 North Highway UU
Columbia, MO 65203



NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 7:00 pm

Welcome in the *New Year*

New Officers, New Committees, New Business, New Master Gardeners

Meeting held at:

Boone County Extension Center, 1012 N. Hwy. UU, Columbia, MO

Refreshments provided by: Hsiao-Mei, snacks; Debbie Scholes, drinks

Remember to wear your Master Gardener name tag!

The Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter is published monthly for Master Gardeners in Central Missouri. For more information contact:

Don Day

Natural Resources Engineer
University of Missouri Extension - Boone County
1012 N. Highway UU, Columbia, MO 65203
(573) 445-9792, extension 310; daydr@missouri.edu

Todd Lorenz

Horticultural/Agronomy Specialist
University of Missouri Extension - Cooper County
Courthouse, 608 E. Spring Street, Boonville, MO 65233
(573) 445-9792 or (660) 882-5661; lorenzt@missouri.edu

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Boone County Extension Center
Office Hours are:
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.