

HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

"HELPING OTHERS LEARN TO GROW"

October 2008



University of Missouri Extension - Boone County, 1012 North Hwy UU, Columbia, MO 65203
extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html

2008: A Wet and Wild Year

At the September meeting, Simeon Wright of the MU Extension Plant Diagnostic Clinic discussed how the wet weather we've had in 2008 has affected trees, shrubs, and other plants. And, it has been wet; we have received 51 inches of rain so far this year—if we had no more rain for the rest of the year, 2008 would still be the 5th wettest year on record!

Simeon reminded the group that the website for the Soil and Plant Diagnostic Clinic is filled with great information about both soil and plant problems, complete with pictures, and how-to advice (<http://soilplantlab.missouri.edu/>) And, you can always take advantage of the Plant Diagnostic Clinic's service to help identify specific problems in your garden. For only \$15/sample, they can help you identify insects, weeds, and plant disorders, and recommend how to deal with them effectively.

This year, the Plant Diagnostic Clinic has seen many plant problems which have been caused—directly or indirectly—by all of the wet, cool weather.

Jumping oak galls cause brown leaves on white oaks. This generally won't kill the tree, and there is no treatment.

There was a lot of **oak wilt** this year. Pin oak and red oak were most susceptible. The trees looked good until late June or early July, and then the leaves

MU Grad Students prove that "Compost Happens"

Adam Saunders, an MU graduate student, has taken a hands-on approach to support community gardening. Twice daily, Saunders and several classmates pick up pulped table and food scraps from the Rollins Dining Hall and transport them to the Saint Joseph Community garden. There, the food waste is combined with manure from the Stephens College stables and turned into valuable compost.

This program reduces the amount of trash by about 2,000 pounds per week, and creates a marketable product to make the community gardens more capable of producing larger crops of nutrient-rich food. "We

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turned brown and fell off. Unfortunately, the tree then dies. Oak wilt fungus is spread by beetles, and it can infect other trees nearby. Simeon suggested that you only prune oaks in the fall after dormancy, and that if you notice canopy thinning in an oak, have the tree removed and destroyed before the following spring, before the fungus can spread.

The clinic also saw more **bag worms** this year, which can defoliate an entire tree or shrub. Bag worms affect both evergreens and some broad-leaved trees. The best time to combat these pests is in June, when they are small—you can simply pick them off and put them in soapy water to kill them. Their "bags" are about 1" long and hang like Christmas ornaments on the trees or shrubs. There are some chemical treatments for bag worms, but they are only effective at certain points in the life cycle of the pest.

Please see **Wet 2008** on page 2.

put nutrients back in the ground instead of into a landfill," Saunders says.

Saunders hopes to expand this program to more dining halls on campus, to improve the productivity and success of community gardening in Columbia. He is concerned about the inherent fragility of our current food distribution system, which is "reliant on cheap and available oil and a functioning infrastructure. If this system is compromised, we will not have food delivered to the cities of America. We are far too dependent on foreign resources."

Excerpted from the Columbia Missourian, 9/3/2008

Upcoming Events

10/18 6th Annual Chestnut Roast in New Franklin.
10:00 am - 4:00 pm A fun event to attend and a great volunteer opportunity! MG Volunteers are needed to answer questions, provide free food samples, free seeds, plants, etc. Contact Peggy Ann Eichen, eichenp@missouri.edu, www.centerforagroforestry.org

10/21 Annual Harvest Dinner at 6:00 pm. Bring your own table service and a yummy dish (with recipe?) to share. **Kent Shannon** will do a slide presentation featuring committee activities, so email your pictures to him. **Barb Kribbs** and **Betty Gayle Smith** will be helping Kent put the show together, along with anyone else who wants to join the fun! Also we need help setting up and decorating for the dinner—if you'd like to help, contact **Barb Kribbs** or **Marie Pasley**. Barb will be providing drinks so just bring your dish and your appetite!
Barb: cbkribbs@centurytel.net
Marie: smpasley@aol.com
Betty Gayle: turtleisland@tranquility.net



Wet 2008, from page 1

Fungal diseases were rampant due to the damp weather. Tobacco leaf spot appeared very early this year on white oaks. **Fungal leaf spot and bacterial leaf spots** can be very hard to control. Black rot on fruit crops and brown rot on stone fruits like cherries were widespread. Many homeowners lost established trees and shrubs due to root rot and crown rot in poorly drained locations. And everyone knows it was a very bad year for tomatoes, with a lot of cracking due to excessive moisture as well as early blight and fungal diseases.

Simeon also gave us an update on the **emerald ash borer**, which was found for the first time in Missouri in Wayne County in the southeast part of the state. While only about 3% of our natural forest areas are ash, the percentage can be as high as 50% in some metro areas. A few simple steps can help to prevent the spread of the ash borer: don't move firewood with you when you go camping (since most people can't tell if firewood is ash or not); stop planting ash trees in your landscape—plant a diversity of tree species; start removing low vigor or declining ash; and be alert for symptoms on your existing ash trees. For more info go to www.emeraldashborer.info.

Odds 'n Ends

Vita Collins (446-4011) has gathered information about Heart of Missouri **Master Gardener shirts**, which we could wear at projects, presentations, etc. Vita would like to gauge the level of interest from the group, and if there is enough interest, decide on the style, design, color and quantity for the order. Prices will range from \$21-\$31.

Carolyn Anderson is having a **garden design contest**, in which winners (and runners-up) will receive a gift certificate. She wants a cottage garden to complement her lovely new home and acreage. Contact Carolyn for house plan, lot plan, and other specifics (573-823-7456)

Cedar Albert has **bats in her belfry**—and she wants to share them with you! Cedar has 200+ bats in her attic and she would like assistance in removing and relocating them. They do eat lots of mosquitoes and other flying bugs! (573-256-1321)

Debbie Scholes would like your comments on the proposal to have the state **Master Gardener conference** every other year, with hands-on Level I and II **advanced training** held in alternate years. Send her your thoughts **before the next Board meeting** on Nov. 21st at: scholesd@missouri.edu

Officer Elections Coming Soon

We will be electing officers soon, so please send your thoughts to a member of the **nominating committee: Phyllis Barks, Sandy Perley or Julie Fisher**. Let them know if you're interested in nominating someone, or if you'd like to be nominated.
Phyllis: barksp@missouri.edu
Sandy: perleys@missouri.edu
Julie: julie8401@tranquility.net

President: Chair all meetings; notify members of meetings; mentor members.

Vice-President: Coordinate programs for monthly meetings; encourage participation in service and projects; liaison with other community organizations.

Secretary: take minutes and attendance at meetings; maintain a current roster; general correspondence.

Treasurer: manage organization funds; coordinate payments; financial liaison with Extension bookkeeper.

Youth is like spring, an over praised season more remarkable for biting winds than genial breezes. Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits. ~Samuel Butler

Committees and Leadership

Committee	Chairperson / Contacts	The Latest Scoop!!
Advanced Training	Julie Fisher julie8401@tranquility.net	This committee needs members to help with topic selection and organizing training events.
Community Gardens	Barbara Michael (573) 445-0661 bam626_us@yahoo.com	
Educational Displays	Peggy Ann Eichen (660) 841-5253 eichenp@missouri.edu Melissa Hough (573) 696-0198 mmhough@gmail.com	Chestnut Roast is October 18th and we need volunteers for the booth and for general assistance. Contact Peggy for more info or to sign up.
Extension Grounds	Kaye King (573) 673-6753 KayeKing@socket.net Mary Jane King (573) 474-2489 mjking@socket.net	
Habitat for Humanity	Phyllis Barks (573) 698-3845 BarksP@missouri.edu Brenda Jones (573) 884-6190 jonesbj@missouri.edu	On Saturday, 11/1 at 9:30 am , we need volunteers to assist 2-3 families with planting trees and shrubs. Contact Phyllis or Brenda to volunteer.
Hotline	Emily Bonwiche (573) 449-0444 ebonwiche@mchsi.com	
Gardening with Youth	Lea Langdon: (573) 447-1257 langtrea@yahoo.com	
Mentoring	Open	
Missourian Articles	Kent Shannon shannond@missouri.edu	
Mizzou Botanic Gardens	Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer (573) 445-4735 WiedmeyerH@health.missouri.edu	
Newsletter	Linda Christensen (573) 256-2590 lchriste@columbia.k12.mo.us	Please email me to have something included in the next newsletter!
Plant-a-Row for the Hungry	Betty Gayle Smith (573) 874-3997 turtleisland@tranquility.net	226 pounds of food donated so far—way to go!
Speakers' Bureau	Alice Havard (573) 445-4624	
Adopt-a-Spot	Carolyn Oates	
Web Page & Plant Protection Grant	Kent Shannon shannond@missouri.edu	
Plants of Merit	Open	

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners - Officers:

President: Rich Frieden
friedenr@missouri.edu, 573-875-5078

Vice-president: Julie Fisher
julie8401@tranquility.net, 573-445-3488

Secretary: Kaye King
kayeking@socket.net, 573-442-2877

Treasurer: Sandy Perley
perleys@missouri.edu, 999-2643

State Representative: Debbie Scholes
scholesD@missouri.edu, 573-657-9731

A new **Master Gardener class** is underway, with 32 participants. If you would like to speak to the group regarding your committee and its activities, contact Kent to schedule your visit. The class meets on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 pm.

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

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

Annual Harvest Dinner

October 21 at 6:00 pm
Extension Center



November Refreshments provided by:
Snacks - **Roseanne Mayfield, Elizabeth Hoyos**
Drinks - **Mary Jane Wheeling**

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners

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