



Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter

"Helping Others Learn to Grow."



February's Meeting: The Buzz about Bees

About 27 Master Gardeners listened to fellow MG, Art Gelder of Walk-About Acres, give a very informative program on honey bees and colony collapse disorder (CCA). The honey bee population has declined by 30% in the United States. Hives affected with CCA have no live or dead bees. All that is usually left is brood and honey, which when tested is still good for human consumption. Research is ongoing and

they do not have concrete answers to the cause of CCA.

Ways we can help honey bees include a constant water source, plant flowers & trees that provide nectar to attract bees, and reduce mowing which allows nectar and pollen plants to grow. Art also shared handouts that show plants that attract honey bees.

A Great Project

Tiger Pilot Club is lining up gardens for the June 14, 2008 Blooms & Benevolence Garden Tour. If you are interested in hosting a tour or have a recommendation for a yard, please contact Robyn Kaufman, rkaufman@bcfr.org, or 573-874-1995. Pilot International is a dynamic volunteer organization focused on helping people affected by brain-related disorders. The Tiger Pilot Club of Columbia chartered in 2002, supports local projects such as Brain Minders™, a public service educational campaign geared toward children to prevent brain injury.

Points of Interest:

- Forest Health: www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/eab/
- Big Canoe: www.bigcanoemo.org/
- Grow Your Own Mealworms: audubon-omaha.org/bbbox/bbrp/mealworm.htm
- MEG Newsletter: ppp.missouri.edu:80/newsletters/megindex.htm

March Program: Weather & Insect Invaders

We've all heard information about insects invading Missouri and other parts of the U.S. This month's program, **Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m., Extension Center**, will give us an opportunity to learn more from an expert on the subject. **Rob Lawrence, MDC Resource Scientist and Forest Entomologist**

presents our next program on insect pests. Rob will address several topics related to invasive species of tree pests and will bring specimens and handouts. He says that there are increasing concerns about the **emerald ash**



borer, one invasive species. Rob will also share information on current drought and climatic issues and their impact on tree health and insect pests. Plan to attend this informative and important program.

Special thanks to Phyllis Barks, Debbie Scholes, and Donald Cunningham for helping with this edition of the newsletter.

Committee Feature: Gardening with Youth, by Lea Langdon

Gardening with Youth is a great opportunity to share your love of gardening and the outdoors with the next generation. It can be a way to improve the nutrition of our children and get them outside and active, as well as increasing the richness of their environment with butterflies & other critters that enjoy gardens as well. The Gardening with Youth Committee works both with schools and youth oriented organizations, such as after-school programs, 4-H, or scout groups. We also respond to requests for presentations to promote youth gardening among various groups. The tasks and amount of responsibility required are varied. Sometimes all that's needed is a short presentation, a consultation, a short weeding session, or being on call if one of our regular volunteer projects is short-handed.

With our ongoing projects, it helps to have consistent volunteers for a particular project, when possible, so that they can help plan our activities and get to know the gardens and the youth (although at times just having another adult volunteer to call on can very helpful). Each project meets approximately weekly or every other week during the season, usually for approximately 1-2 hours, with longer times for set up, extra clean-up, planning, etc. Our planning group for each project can be 2-6 people, sometimes all MG's, and sometimes a group that includes school staff or other volunteers. Most of the programs start in early spring, slow down in the summer, and start up again in the fall. During the school year, meeting times are usually after school. During the summer, with consideration for heat, early morning or evening gatherings tend to be the best. Most of our youth gardening projects have been hands-on learning, although our youth have also enjoyed special input from our beekeepers, worm keepers, etc. So, if you have something to share that excites you, and it's related to gardens or nature, we would love to have you share with our youth.



At the present we have two ongoing projects: The Intersection and New Haven Elementary. The Intersection is an after school program at Garth and Sexton, and this spring the Garden Club will be meeting Tuesday evenings from 5:30-6:30. We have a varying group of mostly at-risk youth there, often with fairly short attention spans, but with enthusiasm for hands-on activities and growing things. We have been planting a raised bed vegetable garden and some ornamental beds around the building, and there is also the possibility of planting a rainwater garden.

At New Haven Elementary we have a larger vegetable garden area and a native butterfly garden, and we sometimes care for the ornamentals out front. The after school club there meets from 3:45 to 5:00, twice a month, and is attended by approximately thirty 2nd to 5th graders. We generally break into smaller groups, coordinated by one or two volunteers per group. This will be our 4th spring gardening there. We've had fun seasons including a huge pumpkin patch, snow peas and cherry tomatoes to munch on right off the vine, plus popcorn, sweet potatoes, and Indian corn (they made it into corn meal then into fry bread).



We periodically receive requests for help and are open to more ideas from MG's for possible projects. Some requests are short-term, like the most recent request for help from Lange Middle School, with a long-neglected herb garden. Another type of request has come from schools that have overgrown natural areas where help is needed taming the weeds and finding the valuable native plants, either as educational areas for the teachers, or with new youth garden clubs. Again, we're open to new ideas.

If you would like to garden with youth and share your enthusiasm and knowledge, as well as your own ideas for fun gardening, please contact Lea Langdon, langtrea@gmail.com, or 447-1257.

Mark Your Calendars

Art in Bloom: March 7-9, Museum of Art & Archaeology, Pickard Hall, MU Campus, Columbia.

museum.research.missouri.edu/

Art in Bloom, Special presentation: March 9th: 11a.m., presentation by Marie Pasley on landscape design.

Speakers' Bureau: March 19, 7 p.m.; Marie Pasley, Landscape Design, DBRL Friends Room.

Compost for Sale: March 5, 12, 19 & 26th; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Com-

post Facility, 5700 Peabody Road, Columbia.
More info: 474-9145.

Free Mulch Give-away: March 29th, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. while supplies last, on-site loader provided, Capen Park mulch site only.

Native Plant Sale: March 29; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Runge Nature Center, Jefferson City. 573-526-5544 or www.missouriconservation.org



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Upcoming Programs

April 15: "Water Garden Essentials": Program; Tim Moloney, Rost Landscaping.

May 20: "A+ Restoration: West Boulevard Elementary School": Tour and program; Scott Hamilton; MDC.

June 17: "Inspiration from Jefferson Institute": Tour and program; Jennifer Smith, Director.

July 15: "How Green is Your Roof?": Program; Mona Menezes; City of Columbia.

August 19: "Storing the Harvest": Program; Betty Gayle Smith, MG and PAR.

September 16: "Home Grown Paradise: hydroponics strawberry farm": Tour and program; Charlie and Jo

Veta Deimeke, owners.

October 21: Harvest Dinner: Master Gardeners

November 18: "Protecting the Canopy; tree board and tree ordinance": Program; Lou Phemister; City of Columbia Arborist.

(See monthly newsletters for times and other pertinent information)

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Heart of Missouri Master Gardener Newsletter
University of Missouri Extension-Boone County
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We're on the Web!

[Mu.extension.missouri.edu/
boone/mg.html](http://Mu.extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html)

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Boone County Extension Center

Robert Lawrence, Entomologist, Resource Scientist, MO Dept. of Conservation

Changing Forests: Wacky Weather and Insect Invaders

Refreshments provided by Tony White & Rich Frieden (snacks); Betty Gayle Smith (drinks)

Remember 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:

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Boone County Extension Center

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