

HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

"HELPING OTHERS LEARN TO GROW"

January 2009



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

Favorite Yard Ornaments:

The Sundial

By Don Cunningham, Boonslick MG

A sundial adds a nice accent to a garden, flower bed, or yard. Sundials add a touch of historical interest as well as providing a focal point. They are classified either as horizontal (mounted on a base of some kind) or vertical (attached to the south-facing side of a structure). The first sundial that attracted my attention was a large vertical one attached to a building at Henry Ford's Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan. I've been a sundial fan ever since.

Our sundial anchors one end of a flower bed in the front yard and was a gift to my wife from her father over 40 years ago. Her father believed no garden was complete without a sundial, and ours has moved with us from Illinois to Kentucky to Texas to Alabama to Missouri. It is a horizontal solid brass dial (7" diameter) attached to the top of a concrete column. The column is 32" high and weighs approximately 120 lbs. The entire assembly is relatively small, yet large enough to serve as a focal point in a large open space.

By adjusting my sundial (made relatively easy by my being able to rotate the concrete column) I can compensate for the changing length of sun light and switch from Standard to Daylight Savings Time and back. I make adjustments at noon once a month and I can tell the time within approximately 5 or 10 minutes year round. That's sufficiently accurate for me while I work outside.

Please see *Sundials* on Page 2.

New Ideas for a New Year

We are going to try some different things at the **January meeting on 1/20**, so bring your sense of fun and your thinking cap - this one's gonna be lively! ☺

Your new officers have been working on **ideas to re-energize** our Master Gardener organization. We will have a presentation on some of the concepts we've been tossing around, and then get the whole group involved in deciding where we want to go in 2009 and how we want to get there. So, if you've been feeling BLAH about Master Gardening lately, come to the January meeting and join the fun!

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Don's sundial on a lovely summer day is a great reminder that it won't be winter forever!

Recycle your catalogs by sharing them!

Here's an idea from one of our fellow Master Gardeners:

This time of year, many of us are bombarded with seed and nursery catalogs...And we just love them, don't we!!

But if you've got good catalogs that you no longer need, bring them to the January meeting. We'll set them out for everyone to browse and take whatever they're interested in (you just can't be on too many gardening catalog mailing lists, right?)

Upcoming Events

1/30 & 1/31 Landscape Design with Missouri in

Mind is a terrific workshop on the use of native Midwestern plants in your landscape to provide beauty and benefit wildlife. Session on 1/30 is geared for landscape professionals; session on 1/31 is more for landscape enthusiasts. Cost is \$25. For more info, visit www.grownative.org or call 573-522-4171

1/31 - 3/15 Orchid Show at the Missouri Botanical

Garden Experience the color, beauty, and fragrance of orchids in bloom in the middle of winter at the 2009 orchid show. For more info, call 1-800-642-8842 or visit www.mobot.org/events/orchidshow

2/13 - 2/15 Midwestern Herb and Garden Show in

Mt. Vernon, Ill. Exhibits of fresh herbs, herbs for culinary, medicinal, and decorative use, bulbs, seeds, herbs and gardening, herbal cookbooks, and much more. For more info, visit: www.midwesternherbandgardenshow.com

Urban Forestry in Columbia

At the November Master Gardener meeting, **Lou Phemister, Arborist** for the City of Columbia, presented great information about the trees in our fair city.

He discussed concepts of urban forestry, which in Columbia means trees that are planted on the public right-of-way. Lou is in the Public Works Department, which plants trees beside newly-built streets and roads. But unlike the Parks Department, whose staff plants and manages trees in city parks and in the downtown area, the Public Works Department only has Lou to act as an advocate for good urban forestry practices.

While the city has started to include street-side trees in many new road projects, there has often been a dismal lack of maintenance after the initial planting, resulting in the loss of many of the trees. Lou wants the city to develop an Urban Forestry Master Plan, which would include goals such as:

- Targets of up to 50% canopy coverage in certain areas.
- Ordinances to protect large trees on private lots.
- Requirements for developers to include plans for street trees in subdivision layouts.
- Oversight of projects through a tree board or commissioner, to coordinate efforts and diversify urban plantings for maximum benefit.

Columbia's first tree ordinance was passed in 1991, and specifies that developers must survey their site and define areas that will have "climax forest" (containing long-lived trees like oak and hickory). However, the ordinance is very limited and open to interpretation.

Sundials from Page 1

It is relatively easy to site a horizontal sundial in central Missouri:

1. Select a site that is in the full sun throughout the day (most sundials are marked in increments from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m.).
2. Make sure the dial face is stable and absolutely horizontal. (Ours is attached to the top of the concrete pedestal with weather-resistant epoxy glue.)
3. Position the dial face so that the pointer (called the gnomon) faces due north. This is done by aligning the gnomon's shadow at noon to fall across the 12 o'clock mark on the dial face.

If you have a sundial that is not easily adjusted physically, you can mentally add one hour to adjust for Daylight Savings Time. Those who are more mathematically inclined and who desire greater precision can find more complex formulas and calculations at several internet sources, such as the website for the North American Sundial Society (sundials.org)

And it only applies to trees on private parcels larger than 1 acre.

Lou showed us pictures of many street tree projects around Columbia, and pointed out that the city has planted trees in 22 different projects in the past 5 years. There are some basic considerations which will result in better overall quality of street tree projects:

- Planting lawns—the ground between the road and sidewalk—should be at least 6 feet wide. Large trees on narrower planting lawns will break up the sidewalk as they mature.
- Trees should be 40-50 feet apart.
- Tree plantings should be overseen by arborists, not general contractors, because trees must be set at the proper planting depth and mulched correctly to survive and thrive.
- Lawn care around the trees must guard against weed-eater damage, which often kills the trees.
- Contractors must restore topsoil in planting areas before planting trees and other landscaping.

City standards for landscaping on commercial projects need to be improved to include more trees and better landscaping, as well as long-term maintenance and management of these areas. But political pressure is needed to get the city to create an Urban Forestry group. So, if you feel inclined, contact the city council to help drive the effort for a master plan!

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. ~Oprah Winfrey

Committee	Chairperson / Contacts	Committee	Chairperson / Contacts
Advanced Training	Julie Fisher	Community Gardens	Barbara Michael
Educational Displays	Peggy Ann Eichen Melissa Hough	Extension Grounds	Kaye King Mary Jane King
Adopt-a-Spot	Carolyn Oates	Hotline	Emily Bonwich
Plants of Merit	Open	Mentoring	Open
Missourian Articles	Kent Shannon	Mizzou Botanic Gardens	Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer
Newsletter	Linda Christensen	Plant-a-Row for the Hungry	Betty Gayle Smith
Speakers' Bureau	Alice Havard	Gardening with Youth	Lea Langdon
Web Page & Plant Protection Grant	Kent Shannon	Habitat for Humanity	Phyllis Barks Brenda Jones

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners - 2009 Officers:

President:	Laura Redfield-Jacobs	lauraredfield1@centurytel.net , 445-8099
Vice-president:	Rose Mayfield	mayflower812003@yahoo.com , 884-7803
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Treasurer:	Cindy Deegan	cdeegs@hotmail.com , 443-5307
State Representative:	Debbie Scholes	scholesd@missouri.edu , 657-9731

University of Missouri Extension Council Elections Being Held in January

Throughout the state, elections are being held in each county to elect members to the local University of Missouri Extension Council. Extension council members provide input and direction to University of Missouri Extension educational programs. Any adult resident who wishes to vote in this election should contact their local University Extension Center to obtain voting details.

In Boone County, you may request a ballot by phone (573-445-9792) or pick one up at the University of Missouri Extension Center (1012 N. Hwy. UU, Columbia). Ballots must be returned to the Boone County University of Missouri Extension Center by 4:30 p.m., January 21, 2009.

Spring Master Gardener Class to be Taught in Columbia

Become a **Master Gardener** by signing up for the **spring classes!** The Master Gardener program is a basic horticulture class. You are eligible to participate if you have some knowledge or experience in gardening, and you want to learn research-based horticultural information and provide it to the public. **Enroll by February 3rd** to be sure we have a space for you!

When: Tuesdays, from February 10 - April 28, 2009, 4:30 to 7:30 pm

Where: On the MU campus, in the General Services building just east of the Hearnes Center

Cost: \$135 (includes the cost of the "Grounds for Gardening" book and handouts)

Those who take the class volunteer 30 hours during the next year in various activities related to gardening, and remain active Master Gardeners by volunteering 20 hours each year after that.

To receive an application, call Kent Shannon at 573-445-9792 extension 310, or email him at Shannond@missouri.edu. You can also contact the Boone County University of Missouri Extension Center, 1012 N. Highway UU, Columbia, MO 65203.

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.

Next Meeting: Jan 20th at 7:00 p.m.
Location: Extension Center
Topic: New Year, New Ideas for 2009
Presented by: 2009 MG Officers



Refreshments to be provided by:
Snacks - Rose Mayfield & Linda Christensen
Drinks - Laura Redfield-Jacobs

Remember to wear your MG nametag!

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