

# HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWSLETTER

The Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners is a fun, vibrant group that brings together gardeners of all levels by providing engaging educational opportunities and meaningful volunteer projects that enhance and sustain our communities.

November 2009



University of Missouri Extension - Boone County, 1012 North Hwy UU, Columbia, MO 65203  
[extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html](http://extension.missouri.edu/boone/mg.html)

## Use fall leaves to make garden compost

*This story was excerpted from [Vegetable Gardener e-newsletter](#), and written by Ruth Dobseavage, editor*

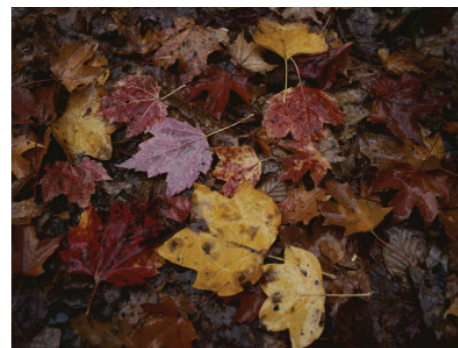
**F**or many, raking leaves is a dreaded autumn chore. For me, it's part of the process of renewing the soil in my vegetable gardens before putting them to bed for the winter.

Unlike my neighbors across the street, who start their screaming leaf blowers at the first sign of a littered lawn, I like to wait until all the leaves are down and the garden is clean, which is usually sometime after Halloween. So for several weeks, their lawns are gleaming emerald expanses, while mine is more, uh, muted.

My equipment is decidedly low tech: a rake and tarp, maybe a pair of gloves, if it's chilly. My approach is this: rake into piles, rake piles onto tarp, drag to garden, and

dump, to a depth of a foot or two. (I don't put leaves on crops that linger, such as Brussels sprouts, kale, and parsley. I simply mulch around them.) I've been using this approach for years, and soil is much improved by it.

Trust me: If you are an active gardener, you can easily handle raking. Boring? Some would say so. But I work at it for an hour or two at a time. I don't much like to hike during hunting season, so raking is a good excuse to be outdoors in crisp and energizing weather, and my mind is free to wander where it will. And sometimes I get help. The leaves make a great mulch, and as they decompose they improve the texture and quality of the soil. In the spring, when I've decided where the beds will be, I just rake them off to the side.



**TOP:** A pile of fallen leaves will decompose during winter and provide a good mulch for your beds. **ABOVE:** After decomposition, leaves will improve the texture and quality of your garden's soil.



*Every leaf speaks bliss to me,  
Fluttering from the autumn tree.*

— Emily Bronte

*November's sky is chill and drear,  
November's leaf is read and scar.*

— Sir Walter Scott

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Committee	Chairperson	Latest news
Advanced Training	Julie Fisher 445-3488 <a href="mailto:julie8401@tranquility.net">julie8401@tranquility.net</a>	
Adopt-a-Spot	Carolyn Oates 443-3057 <a href="mailto:Carolyn.Oates@USOncology.com">Carolyn.Oates@USOncology.com</a>	
Educational Displays	Peggy Ann Eichen (660) 841-5253 (Home) (660) 537-5744 (Cell) <a href="mailto:eichenp@missouri.edu">eichenp@missouri.edu</a>	
Extension Grounds		A volunteer is needed to fill this post. See article in "Volunteer Opportunities" on page 3.
Farmers' Market	Marie Pasley 474-5245 <a href="mailto:smpasley@aol.com">smpasley@aol.com</a>	
Gardening with Youth	Lea Langdon 864-7647 <a href="mailto:langtrea@gmail.com">langtrea@gmail.com</a>	Things are winding down for the season for Gardening with Youth and for Rain Gardens. The only scheduled work day is from 1-3 p.m. Nov. 11 at Rock Bridge High School. If anyone wants to be on the list for updates and possible additional workdays, please contact me at <a href="mailto:langtrea@gmail.com">langtrea@gmail.com</a> , or call 864-7647. Derby Ridge is beginning to plan a new Outdoor Classroom, so if anyone is in that area and interested in getting involved, let Lea know and she will pass on the information.
Habitat for Humanity	Phyllis Barks 698-3845 <a href="mailto:BarksP@missouri.edu">BarksP@missouri.edu</a> Brenda Jones 884-6190 <a href="mailto:Jonesbj@missouri.edu">Jonesbj@missouri.edu</a>	
Hotline	Emily Bonwich 449-0444 <a href="mailto:emmylou1@mchsi.com">emmylou1@mchsi.com</a>	
Mentoring	Betty Gayle Smith 874-3997 <a href="mailto:turtleisland@tranquility.net">turtleisland@tranquility.net</a>	
Mizzou Botanic Garden	Elizabeth Hoyos 874-9492 <a href="mailto:hoyosm@missouri.edu">hoyosm@missouri.edu</a>	
Plant-a-Row for the Hungry	Evette Nissen 474-3055 <a href="mailto:Evette1357@msn.com">Evette1357@msn.com</a>	
Plants of Merit	Donna Puleo 882-1989 <a href="mailto:puleod@missouri.edu">puleod@missouri.edu</a>	
Speakers' Bureau	Alice Havard 445-4624	
Nominating committee	Contact Laura Redfield-Jacobs, Rose Mayfield or Betty Gayle Smith.	There is an urgent need for volunteer for vice president position. We need someone to e-mail or call the presenters who are already lined up for the monthly meeting dates. The job involves initial contact and a follow-up e-mail or call the week before the meeting. Please consider this job as a way to acquire 12 to 15 hours each year. Someone can normally fill in on introductions if you cannot make it to each meeting.

## Boone County Extension Giving Campaign begins

By Nancy Franklin  
Boone County Extension Council Treasurer

You recently received an e-mail from Boone County Extension about its Giving Campaign. The file attached was the information sheet about the campaign and a donation coupon on the bottom.

The Master Gardeners were chosen to beta test the e-mail portion of the campaign. What we need is feedback on the form in order to perfect it before going "public."

### Here's an update from the October Harvest Dinner:

Boone County Extension gets its funding from the Boone County Commission, which gets its money from county sales tax. The Extension Council was informed that our

budget for 2010 will, for the first time, be greatly cut back. The Council has already made some adjustments for 2010. We decreased the staff from three people to two at the Extension Center. This helped greatly, but doesn't balance the budget. We do not know what we will be up against in the following years until the economy returns to its pre-recession state.

We are starting a Giving Campaign. We are asking that you complete the process and make a donation (of ANY size) so we can see if there are things we need to tighten up for a smooth fundraising.

Please address any comments to me at [cathefrank@aol.com](mailto:cathefrank@aol.com), by Nov. 15. Thank you for your involvement in helping Boone County Extension remain a strong, supportive agency in Boone County.

## Jim Wilson's gardening book out soon

Jim Wilson's new book "Home-grown vegetables, fruits & herbs, a bountiful harvest for lean times," will soon be available for purchase. The book includes garden photography by Walter Chandoha and text by Jim.

Master Gardeners who took Jim's course "Advanced Vegetable Gardening" in the spring will recognize that the book has been expanded to include tree fruits and small fruits.

"I have seen color proofs of the

cover and interior pages and can tell you that Master Gardeners will want to open this book as soon as it arrives and will not want to put it down," he said. Cost for the book is \$16.95, and Master Gardeners who want to get early holiday gifts can place orders through the publisher's Web site, [creativehomeowner.com](http://creativehomeowner.com). Jim noted he will follow up with those members who had placed advance orders for autographed copies.

## Volunteer opportunities

### Grounds committee needs volunteers

The Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners are in need of someone to head the Extension Grounds committee.

Robin Wilcox, who has served as head of the committee, can no longer continue in the post.

The job involves organizing clean-ups at least twice a year — once in the spring and once each fall. It could be as easy as asking people to come a few minutes early to monthly

meetings during growing season to help with the clean-up work. But we need someone to make sure the Extension office looks nice for visitors.

Working on the grounds is an easy way to accumulate volunteer hours, too.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact [Laura Redfield-Jacobs](mailto:Laura.Redfield-Jacobs), [Rose Mayfield](mailto:Rose.Mayfield) or [Betty Gayle Smith](mailto:Betty.Gayle.Smith).

## Training opportunities available

### Advance Landscape Series

This new class series is being offered by the Central Missouri Master Gardeners and the Cole County Extension Center.

Tim Maloney, MU Landscape instructor, will be the presenter for the series.

Classes are held on the second Saturday of the month, beginning Nov. 14 and continuing through February. Cost is \$20 per class or \$125 for the

series; payment must be made in advance by cash or check.

Only active Master Gardeners are eligible.

Course topics include site analysis, low maintenance design, contemporary landscape design, patio design and installation, retaining wall installation, water falls and features and landscape lighting.

To register, call 573-634-2824 or send an e-mail to [colecto@missouri.edu](mailto:colecto@missouri.edu).

### Missouri Green Industry Conference & Expo

Theme is "Good to Great."

Dec. 8-9 at the St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles

Educational tracks include: ornamentals, lawn care, sports turf, golf, irrigation and business.

For information, go to <http://motoc.org>.

## Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners – 2009 Officers

President:	Laura Redfield-Jacobs	445-8099
Vice-President:	Rose Mayfield	808-6737
Secretary:	Linda Christensen	514-4408
Treasurer:	Cindy Deegan	443-5307
State Rep:	Debbie Scholes	657-9731
Community Garden		
Coalition Liaison:	Lea Langdon	864-7647
HMMG Web Page:	Kent Shannon	445-9792
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(...and thanks to Annette Triplett and Tina Wheeler for newsletter prep assistance.)

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### UPCOMING EVENT

**Gardenland Express annual holiday flower and train show**  
Nov. 25 to Jan. 3, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis  
G-scale model trains travel through a miniature landscape of live plants, surrounded by colorful poinsettias and flowers at the Missouri Botanical Garden. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; closes early at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve; closed Christmas Day. Garden admission plus \$5. Go to [mobot.org](http://mobot.org) for more.

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: Fall pruning tips**

Tuesday, Nov. 17  
7 p.m. at Extension Center

Christopher Starbuck, associate professor in plant sciences at MU, will speak about pruning do's and don'ts for fall. He also will address issues that influence dormancy and cold hardiness, such as soil temperature, fertility and mulching methods.



Click the cartoon for a larger image online.

**November refreshments provided by:**  
**Snacks:** Alice Havard and Barb Rothenberger  
**Drinks:** Pam Nichols

**Report your Master Gardener hours ONLINE!**

<http://report.missourimastergardener.com/>

**Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners  
“Helping Others Learn to Grow”**

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