

HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWS

JUNE 2005

NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Flat Branch Park – 6:30 p.m.

The park is located on 4th Street; one block East of Providence – South of Broadway

A horticulturist from Columbia Parks and Recreation will be our guide and speaker. Please bring a blanket or chair for the meeting portion.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Barnes and Noble

On June 8 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and June 11 from 12:00 (noon) to approximately 2:00 p.m., we need one or two Master Gardeners each day to answer questions at Barnes and Noble bookstore in conjunction with Gardening Week. Contact Kathy Richmond, richmondk@socket.net, if you can help.

Plants of Merit

MU Botanic Garden needs help with putting up signs for Plants of Merit and sorting brochures. Call MU Landscape Services if you can help, (573) 882-4240.

Tour Leaders

Several Master Gardeners have indicated they would be interested in leading tours at the Mizzou Botanic Garden if they had some training and familiarity with the garden. On **Monday, June 20 at 5:30 p.m.**, there will be an orientation training session for those interested in occasionally leading tours in the Mizzou Botanic Garden. If you are interested, contact Hsiao Mei Weidmeyer, wiedmeyerh@missouri.edu, 573-808-6307. The orientation is free, but please call Hsiao Mei to register. The session will begin at the Beetle Bailey statue in front of the MU Reynolds Alumni Center. Parking is available on the street and in Turner Avenue Garage.

Blooms & Benevolence

On Saturday, June 25 at the Tiger Pilot Club Garden, Master Gardener volunteers are still needed at several of the eight gardens to serve as tour guides and answer questions. Openings for 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Each volunteer will receive a free tour pass to all the gardens. To sign up, contact Phyllis Barks, barksp@missouri.edu, (573) 698-3845.

TIGER PILOT CLUB PRESENTS
the 3rd annual garden tour



*“Blooms
&
Benevolence”*
Saturday, June 25th 10a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pilot International is a service organization focused on helping people with brain-related disorders. All proceeds from the Blooms & Benevolence Tour will help fund local service projects.

Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 dollars at the door, and available at:
Lakewood Home & Garden, 1313 Vandiver Dr, Columbia
My Secret Garden, 16 N 9th St, Columbia
and Wilson's Garden Center, 909 Clinkscales
For questions call Robyn at 446-8225



WHAT EXACTLY DOES “NATIVE” MEAN?

By Tony White

By this point in our gardening careers, many of us understand that when it comes to landscaping our homes, businesses and civic buildings – using native plants make sense.

Their ecological, economic and aesthetic benefits read like a grocery list.

- ✓ Physically adapted to local soil types, regional weather patterns and annual rainfall amounts.
- ✓ Culturally adapted to the needs and lifecycles of native pollinators and other plants from similar communities.
- ✓ And so on and so forth.

These days with increasing efforts to return native plant species to our domestic landscapes many people have forgotten to stop and ask ... native to what? To when? And where?

It is important to remember that when talking about something being “native” we must agree upon a specific point in time and space in order for the conversation to proceed. For many, pre-European settlement is the most commonly used reference point for time. In other words, for a living organism to be considered native to the United States it must have existed here naturally before Europeans moved in.

Now what makes a good geographic reference point? Most books speak of the entire historic range of a species, that is, every place where the plant was seen and someone bothered to record it. At first it seems innocent

enough to view living things on this scale, but when one begins to delve further problems appear. Differences, often significant, exist within a population spread out over a large geographic area. Since in many cases we know relatively little about a particular species we instead generalize about the overall population and as a result we ignore the diversity present in both form and behavior.

For example, are Butterfly Milkweeds (*Asclepias tuberosa*) growing wild in northern Minnesota the same as those in southern Texas? Or do they each exhibit distinct outward characteristics, like flower size, root depth or bloom time, that make them different? Enough even to consider them separate subspecies?

Many scholars, land management professionals and hobby gardeners argue that these differences are significant enough to stop and question the very concept of "native." This school of thought believes that these localized differences (i.e., adaptations) represent actual subspecies called "ecotypes."

Next month we will explore the idea of native ecotypes further, identifying some of the advantages and disadvantages to using them in our (sub)urban gardening and landscaping efforts and in rural conservation and preservation work.

GARDENING WITH CHILDREN

By Jackie Thomas

Explore the following ideas for gardening with children:

- ◆ Put a small neck glass bottle over a small cucumber, etc. and as it continues to grow it will fill the bottle.
- ◆ Build a tee pee from long branches of wood for beans to climb.
- ◆ Grow carrots in a narrow Plexiglas envelope. Build the box with two pieces of Plexiglas the size of a piece of notebook paper. Then using three pieces of lumber, mount them in a frame so the finished two sides are about 2–3 inches wide. Add soil and seeds. As the carrot grows you can watch it through the sides. Takes some building but students think it's the greatest.
- ◆ Grow vines on an arched and secured cattle panel. Mulch under the arch for a place to play or hide.
- ◆ Potato growing in a bushel basket.
- ◆ Build a Scarecrow.
- ◆ Drip irrigation vs. no irrigation. A learning experience called a science experiment!
- ◆ Pole beans climbing stalks of corn. A history lesson.
- ◆ Carve initials on a small pumpkin and watch it grow.
- ◆ Roast pumpkin seeds to eat.
- ◆ Following Halloween bury one Jack-o-lantern in the compost pile and keep one on the back porch. Check on them every few days for comparison. Another science experiment.

- ◆ Teach math by measuring plants regularly with a ruler and record in a notebook.
- ◆ Paint rocks to mark the rows in the garden.
- ◆ Pot-a-shoe: For extra fun plant a plant in one of their old shoes.
- ◆ Grow herbs in a basket on the back porch then teach how to dry and use them.
- ◆ Press flowers making personalized stationary or a pillow cover.
- ◆ Make and serve a salad using flower blossoms and tender greens.
- ◆ Raised bed. Construct a small one to show drainage and ease of using and how not to walk in it.
- ◆ Identification of bugs and rocks. There are many good books for children of every age.

For questions contact Jackie Thomas at.

jrthomas@mcmsys.com.

NEW ZEALAND MASTER GARDENER TRIP

The following website has the link to the North Central Branch States Master Gardener trip to New Zealand, including pricing and details. This trip includes Master Gardeners from Missouri, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois. There are several Missouri Master Gardeners that plan to join this trip.

The website opens to the Wisconsin Master Gardener home page. Click on 'Upcoming Events' and then click on 'December 2005'; the trip advertisement is the first event on that screen. The website is <http://www.hort.wisc.edu/mastergardener/>.

SAVE THE DATE

The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City Present the 11th Annual Missouri State Conference *Goin' To Kansas City...* on September 16 - 18, 2005 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, Missouri

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Library Series

Daniel Boone Regional Library Friends Room 7:00
June 1 – Basics of Flower Design – Carolyn Doyle
July 12 – Art in the Garden – Marie Pasley
August – Insects – Celeste Mazzacano

SNACKS/DRINKS

Please contact Phyllis Barks (698-3845) if you can bring refreshments for any of the open dates: drinks (D) or snacks (S).

June 21: Marie Pasley (D); Brenda Jones (S)

July 19: Celeste Mazzacano (D); Carolyn Doyle (S)

Aug. 16: Sandy Perley (D); Barbara Ball (S)

Sept. 20: Barb Michael (S)

Oct. 18: Barb Kribbs (D); Harvest Dinner

Nov. 15: Cindy Deegen (S)

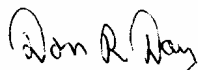
OFFICERS FOR 2005

President – Phyllis Barks 698-3845
Vice-Pres – Betty Gayle Smith 874-3997
Secretary – Mary Jane King 474-2489
Treasurer – Debbie Scholes 445-1263
St. Region. Rep-Barb Kribbs (573) 682-3980
Natural Resource Engineer – Don Day 445-9792
Horticulture/Agronomy Specialist – Todd Lorenz (660)
882-5661

PROJECTS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community Gardens: Barbara Michael 445-0661
Educational Displays: Peggy Ann Eichen 660-841-5253; Melissa Hough co-chair 696-0198
Extension Grounds: Carolyn Doyle 445-1381; Mary Jane King co-chair 474-2489
Habitat for Humanity: Phyllis Barks 698-3845; Brenda Jones co-chair 445-2543
Hotline-Boone Cty.: Monica Frank 446-7508; Barbara Ball co-chair 449-1888
Hotline-Cooper Cty.: Nancy Hendrix 660-848-2357 and Sharon Young 660-248-2356
Jr. Master Gardeners: Lisa Rose 442-1469
School Gardens: Melissa Hough 696-0198
MU Botanic Garden: Hsiao-Mei Wiedmeyer 445-4735
Newsletter: Barb Devine 474-6798; devinebarb@hotmail.com
Plant a Row for the Hungry: Betty Gayle Smith 874-3997
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Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners is published for Master Gardeners in Central Missouri. For more information, contact:



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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.