

HEART OF MISSOURI MASTER GARDENER NEWS

MAY 2005

NEXT MEETING - Tuesday, May 17 Garden Tour at Sandy Derap's house

Please join us for our next meeting, which will be a trip to Sandy Derap's house. We will carpool from the Extension Center at 5:35 as it will take about 45 minutes (32 miles) to get to Sandy's. Sandy will conduct a tour, discuss her vegetable garden, and host guest the speaker Richard Shroeder, Moniteau County historian. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please bring lawn chairs. Directions: I-70 west to the 179 exit (Wooldridge exit) - first exit after the Missouri river bridge, stay on 179 to Jamestown—the road is hilly and curvy but picturesque. At Jamestown take the fork to Hwy 87 and go 1½ miles to Moniteau Farm Road (on the left) and follow it to Sandy's home, 660-849-2523.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

June 21 – Tour of Flat Branch Park

THANK YOU CAROLYN

A big thanks goes to Carolyn Doyle for her thorough and fun presentation on the Art of Flower Arranging. Carolyn designed four centerpieces—each with a different container, using a variety of flowers such as snowball viburnum, bleeding heart, wild mustard, and a bouquet of store-bought flowers.

Thanks to all who worked on the Extension Center grounds at the April meeting. It makes a world of difference!

EARTH DAY THANK YOU

by Peggy Ann Eichen

We had a very successful, though breezy and chilly, Earth Day display and plant sale. We made many good contacts, promoted the hotline extensively, and netted \$129.75 on our plant sale, even with deep discounts near the end of the day.

We found homes for all the flowerpots that were donated from the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). The students at the center had painted clay flowerpots in their art class, then donated them to the Master Gardeners. We received many favorable comments regarding the pots. The new art teacher at JJC stopped by and said she had heard good things about the flowerpot decorating project.

THANK YOU TO PLANT-A-ROW CREW

by Betty Gayle Smith

Thank you to the Plant-A-Row "crew" for their work in building and planting the raised beds at Claudell Community Gardens. Please keep in mind the Plant-A-Row Project as you plant your spring garden.

ADVANCED MG TRAINING

There will be an advanced Master Gardener training class in Columbia on June 1 and 2. The estimated cost is \$85. Please contact Don Day or Mary Kroening if you are interested in attending. Topics include: Advanced Soils and Soil Fertility by Alix Carpenter, Tree and Turf Interactions by Chris Starbuck, Forest pests of Missouri by Bruce Barrett, Advanced Disease and Insect Diagnostics by Simeon Wright, Advanced Turf by Brad Fresenburg, and Organic Pest Control by Mary Kroening, plus others to be determined.

JUNE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The **Tiger Pilot Club** is hosting their 3rd annual garden tour on June 25 from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. They would once again like to have a master gardener at each location to assist with the tours and answer basic gardening questions. Please contact Phyllis Barks, barksp@missouri.edu or (573) 698-3845 if you are available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7, 8 – Spring Plant Sale at Powell Gardens

Proceeds benefit the Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Native Plant Society. Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday noon - 5:00 p.m.

May 7th – Shaw Nature Reserve's Spring Wild-flower Sale, Gray Summit, Missouri, 636-451-3512.

May 21st – Looking Beyond the Backyard, Wildwood, Missouri

A daylong workshop will outline the benefits of a rain garden, introduce participants to suitable plants and provide construction tips. 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. \$25.00 registration. Scott Hamilton will explain the role rain gardens play in watershed management and how homeowners have an environmental impact when they install rain gardens to catch runoff from roofs. Scott Woodbury will describe the role the gardens play in

developing wildlife habitat and tell what visitors the gardens are likely to woo. A how-to session will provide practical advice on rain-garden construction and Perry Eckhardt will guide participants through rules and regulations to keep in mind when planning a rain garden. Lunch is provided. Download the enrollment form (<http://www.grownative.org/image/eventslib/PDF-110.pdf>) and reserve your place.

MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

by Betsy Conrad

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

If you can attend only one conference in 2005, this is the one! The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City are hosting this fabulous September event and invite YOU to come. Make new friends, reconnect with past acquaintances, and learn from fellow Master Gardeners from all over Missouri as you participate in numerous fun social activities and exciting educational sessions, clinics, special presentations and tours.

The conference keynote speaker this year is dynamite! Felder Rushing and his family share a cluttered cottage garden in Jackson, Mississippi with lots of wildflowers, critters and "yard art." His garden has been featured in *Garden Design*, *Southern Living*, *National Wildflower Research Journal*, *House and Garden*, and other publications. Rushing has a masters degree from the Mississippi State University. He retired after nearly 25 years as an Extension horticulturist. He is a contributing editor and writes articles for numerous well-known magazines and newspapers, hosts a live, call-in Saturday radio program on the Mississippi Network, appears on the Discovery Channel, HGTV, ETV, and has taken a TV crew to European gardens. Rushing's books include *Gardening Southern Style*, *Passalong Plants* (honored in 1994 by the Garden Writers Association as the "best written" garden book in the country), *Taylor's Guide to Landscaping in the South*, *Rosdale Press Great Garden Shortcuts*, and many others. Wow! You can't help but leave the opening program with an idea or two, and that's only the beginning!

The lovely Hilton Garden Inn, located in Independence, Missouri (Greater Kansas City area), is the host venue for the September 2005 event. Please book your hotel room early by calling the Hilton or registering through the Hilton's website, included in registration information at a later date. Mention "Master Gardener Conference" to ensure a reservation at the conference room block rate. Also, be watching for the conference program descriptions, event details, and registration forms in the coming months in state Master Gardener newsletters and on the website:

<http://www.extension.missouri.edu/mg/>. The conference registration fee is \$110 per person and the first 50 people who register will receive a special gift when they check in at the conference.

In short, this is bound to be the most exciting event of the year for horticulture lovers. And all of us Master Gardeners in Greater Kansas City want to hear each of our fellow gardeners statewide singing, "Kansas City, here I come!"

SPEAKER'S BUREAU – LIBRARY SERIES

The Daniel Boone Regional Library hosts the Speaker's Bureau in the Friends Room at 7:00 p.m. The following are the dates and topics.

May 24: Labyrinths by Betty Gayle Smith

June 1: Basics of Flower Design by Carolyn Doyle

July 12: Art in the Garden by Marie Pasley

August: Insects by Celeste Mazzacano

PREACHING TO THE GARDENING CHOIR

Please send contributions for this column to: devinebarb@hotmail.com.

ACTUAL VERSUS IMAGINED GARDENING

by Kathy Richmond

I love spring, but this is the best part of it: There's promise that my garden will look better than ever, and no pest or weather condition has yet emerged to foil that possibility. The sun is bright. The air is cool. Humidity is low. There are no mosquitoes. Life is good.

The vivid green of new leaves, overcast skies that highlight the yellow forsythia and daffodils, birds that hunt for nesting sites—all are welcome signs of spring. I spent winter poring over catalogs, making lists of what to buy and where to plant. The dreams of my garden are still in my head, but they're poised to become reality. Whether they ever do is irrelevant. The dream garden and the one that's out there are closer to being one and the same than ever, and that's what makes this part of spring so wonderful.

As summer comes on, the pond will dog with algae. Deer will forage daylilies and hostas. Weeds will take over flowerbeds and lawn. There will be too little rain and not enough daylight hours to make things right. But now the garden looks tremendous and I have ideas for improvement. I savor this moment when everything seems possible, because the garden in my head always ends up far better than the one in the ground.

"CONTAIN" YOUR CREATIVITY

by Barb Devine

Jim Wilson's *Container Gardening* is one of many critically acclaimed books by our fellow Heart of Missouri Master Gardener and friend. This practical guidebook will inspire even the laziest slug/gardener to

dig deep into this rapidly growing form of gardening. Jim's book includes information about what's new in container gardening such as types of containers, manufactured soils, plant varieties suited for containers, directions for planting, and continued maintenance of the container garden.

Many varieties of containers are available and choosing one will begin the process of creative expression: clay, plastic, wooden boxes, strawberry jars, urns, concrete, plastic bags of potting soil, hypertufa troughs, old sinks, buckets, etc.

There are some quality soilless mixes for pots and large containers, as well. Jim's favorite organic soil conditioners are made from composted pine bark plus peat mulch. His favorite mulches are made from either pine bark or hardwood bark. Chipped wood or discarded pallets are very poor choices.

Remember to make sure your outdoor container has a drainage hole. Saucers under containers are not recommended as the water stands in them and keeps oxygen from reaching the soil. Jim advises readers not to ruin antique containers by drilling holes; but use bricks to lift pots out of standing water and be sure to empty excess water from the bottom to keep from breeding mosquitoes.

Choose your container-destined plants by climate suitability, display area, and your own personal taste for flowers and foliage. Try to purchase plants that retain color, are relatively pest-free, and will tolerate a bit of neglect. Take a list of suggestions to help you choose once you are at the nursery.

When you choose compatible cultivars remember their sun/shade compatibility and whether or not they will need to compensate for strong, drying winds. Pay attention to the plant's tag to determine height at maturity. Creatively choose plants for their scents and spreading or cascading possibilities

Consider your combination of colors and textures. Annuals and tender-perennials dominate much of our mid-Western containers, as over-wintering here is difficult.

Annuals and perennials do not have to be the only plants utilized in containers—remember herbs, bulbs, vines, fruits, and vegetables as possibilities. You may need to replace spent plants and you will need to fertilize often as the season continues.

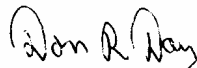
Jim's book devotes numerous pages of exceptional plants adapted to container gardening. If you'd like more information, feel free to borrow my copy or write to Jim at gardengeezer@centurytel.net.

My neighbor and her six-year old daughter gave me a gift of a small bush last weekend, which the little girl helped me plant. I'm not sure my Master Gardening training is going to good use, as the name of this bush, according to my little friend, is a "red-twig dog food tree."

SNACKS/DRINKS

May 17: Angela Nance & Cedar Albert
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)

Heart of Missouri Master Gardeners is published for Master Gardeners in Central Missouri. For more information, contact:



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Office Hours are:

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.