



Christian County Master Gardeners Across the Garden Gate



Volume 3 Issue 4

July and August 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Is this a great time of year or what? We can enjoy the blooming flowers and the vegetable garden's bounty. The hard work is over, but we still have to maintain those gardens (i.e. add water and remove weeds). We can all be thankful for this since it gives us another excuse to play in the dirt.

I personally appreciate all the hard work you MGs put into our various projects. Keep up the good work.

Chris Harstick

Scheduled Presentations

CCMG Meetings 2007

Aug. 16	Grilling from the Garden	Jana Belk
Sept. 20	Picnic at Haase Home	To Be Announced
Oct. 18	Gourds	Sara Herndon
Nov. 18	Preparing the yard for Winter	
December	Christmas Party	

Reminder

What: Our August meeting will be held at the home of Donna Singleton. Jana Belk will be grilling from the garden. Donna asks that we bring lawn chairs.

Where: Donna Singleton (near the water tower)
703 E. Meramec Nixa, Missouri
724-9218

When: August 16 at 6:30 pm



The summer night is like a perfection of thought.

Wallace Stevens

UGLY, SPELLED B-A-G-W-O-R-M

That slight little movement as you pass by your evergreen does give one a start. It looks so natural, this Missouri native. Homeowners often confuse this intruder as a regular part of the tree or bush.

The bagworm produces a protective silken bag around its body, according to Mary Kroening. It consumes needles and leaves, often completely defoliating entire plants. Juniper, spruce, and arborvitae are major targets, but honey locust and balm cypress are not immune to attack.

In May-mid-June, larvae (or caterpillars) emerge from previous years bags and start producing their own bag, using bark, leaves, and twigs woven together with silk. The larva will spend its entire life in the bag and be completely developed by mid September. If one host becomes bare, the larvae will search for a new plant to feed upon.

The best way to control bagworm is to remove and destroy the bags as soon as they appear. They can be controlled chemically, but this

must occur in spring when the eggs hatch and larvae begin emerging. Once the larvae get larger and more snug in their bag, control is much more difficult. Hand picking and burning may be the last resort. Guide sheet G7250 has more information of web-producing insects, or go on-line to <http://muextension.missouriedu/xplor/agguides/pests/g07250.htm>

Source: Missouri Environment and Garden

By
Barbara Self

LASAGNA-NOT JUST FOR ITALIAN LOVERS ANYMORE

According to Gardening-Guides.com, lasagna gardening is the latest craze in organic gardening. It goes beyond the image of oregano, basil, and other herbs to something entirely different.

We're talking layers here, with no protein added in any form. No weeds are evident here because there is NO SOIL. First, choose the sunniest spot in your yard. No need to remove turf, rocks or do any digging. This sounds really good for those of us in Christian County. The first layer is very wet newspaper. Top this with peat moss, then top that with a thick layer of organic material.

Continue layering with alternate layers of newspaper, peat moss, or

organic material until the lasagna garden is as thick as you want it. Water it until it is the consistency of a wet sponge. Plant the garden and mulch. The only maintenance is mulching. Use grass clippings, leaves, manure, chopped up corn-cobs, sawdust, wood ash, seaweed or kelp. Asparagus, tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, garlic, lettuce and potatoes grow particularly well, even oregano and basil.

Okay, who is going to be the first to try it?

By
Barbara Self

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

O summer day beside the
joyous sea!
O summer day so wonderful
and white,
So full of gladness and so
full of pain!
Forever and forever shalt
thou be
To some the gravestone of
a dead delight,
To some the landmark of a
new domain.

WEB WATCH

Gardening-Guides.com was started in 2004 by Hans Dekker from the Netherlands. So you would think his website would be about tulips and other bulbs associated with that country. Not so.

He has cultivated a team of talented writers who will provide you with news and insights into every type of gardening. His site specializes in year-round seasonal gardening. Check out the site map for a catalog of hundreds of subjects to help and inspire.

[Http://gardening-guides.com](http://gardening-guides.com)

By Barbara Self

OUR BACKYARD

When you live inside the city limits, you have to take advantage of every available space for gardening. We started out with a spot the size of a flattened car. It offered a hard, rocky place for lettuce, onions, green beans, and marigolds. Since our humble beginnings, we have enlarged our plot to include temporary raised beds, as well as permanent, while keeping the flattened car spot. My cousin from Portland laughed her way home one year because we were thinking of getting a tiller. We didn't need the tiller, but it makes you feel more of a gardener when you have a piece of equipment.

We added permanent raised beds this year. It was a lot of work initially with a trip to St. Louis to order the polyurethane stacking corners with a 6" spike. Maybe we just needed an excuse to drive to St. Louis because we now realize we can purchase them locally. We ordered the soil, and when the truck dumped it into our front yard, I thought would be a piece of cake to spread. Two days later and many wheelbarrows loaded to the max, we were still spreading dirt ("soil" was too nice of a word). When our task was finished, we still weren't too sure what we wanted to plant in the raised beds. We had great ideas and little expertise, but we were

having fun with all of it.

Now that the growing season has peaked and the produce is coming in, we are sharing with our neighbors who have shared with us. We talked over the fence about what to do with the surplus, what to do about the beetles, what to plant next year. We have received many compliments for our hard work. It has all been worthwhile. In fact, we are thinking about adding another rain barrel and another raised bed, or two. By next year, we won't have to mow the lawn at all. It will all be garden!

By

Jan Hoover

GARDENING CHORES FOR LATE SUMMER

- Compost or till under residues from harvested crops.
- For fall garden, plant beans, beets, spinach, turnips, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower.
- Pinch the growing tips of gourds to direct energy to fruit, not vine.
- Apply insecticides to lawns now for grub control.
- Watch for fall webworm activity.
- Continue to spray roses susceptible to black spot and fungus diseases.
- Deadhead annuals and perennials as needed.
- Divide oriental poppies now.
- Evergreens can be planted or transplanted now. Water plant and site well prior to moving.
- Order bulbs now for fall planting.

LEFT HANGING

With all the hoop-la lately about naming the new Seven Modern Wonders, I started “wondering” about the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World.

Exotic as it may sound, there is no conclusive evidence that the much discussed Gardens ever existed. The myth makes a wonderful story, though. From the writings of Greek historians, in particular, we get lush descriptions of overhanging terraced gardens, with stairways and an ingenious system of irrigation. No Babylonian records substantiate its existence.

The gardens were supposedly built by King Nebuchadnezzar II, around 600 B.C., to cheer up his homesick wife who longed for her familiar green, rugged and mountainous home. His remedy was to build an artificial mountain with rooftop gardens. This was located on the east bank of the Euphrates, south of Baghdad in Iraq.

Archaeologists have been working since the turn of the 20th Century to prove the actuality of the Gardens. The foundation of the Babylonian palace has been discovered. But it is not situated on the Euphrates as historians noted.

All of the Seven Ancient Wonders of the World but the Pyramids of Egypt have been destroyed by earthquake or fire. The fate of the Gardens of Babylon? Well, we are left hanging...

Barbara Self

‘Three Sisters Gardening’

While visiting England this spring I was introduced to ‘Three Sisters Gardening’ by a woman on one of the **MANY** TV gardening shows.

‘Three Sisters Gardening’ is a Native American (Iroquois) way of planting corn, beans and squash (the three sisters) together to form an ecosystem that lasts for the growing season. It doesn’t use plowing and relies on the natural relationships between corn, beans and squash. The tall stems of the corn support the vine-like climbing beanstalks, and the beans will in return convert atmospheric nitrogen to a form that becomes available to the hungry corn. The large leaves of the squash plants act as a ground cover/weed suppressing mulch (a living mulch that also helps in reducing evaporation of soil moisture).

The traditional Three Sisters Gardens are planted using small mounds or ‘hills’. This slows down the flow of water and helps hold the soil in place, unlike planting in rows which can channel water and cause soil erosion. All three types of seed are planted in the same mound.

Growing corn, beans and squash together will also attract beneficial insects that prey on those that are destructive.

Good Theory!

So I thought since I have very little space for growing vegetables and a 6 year old granddaughter that would love to help with a project like this, why not try Three Sisters Gardening. So we did...a bit modified. We used cucumber instead of squash since that is the granddaughter’s favorite vegetable.

It has been an interesting experiment and looks really strange to have all those plants growing together. Even stranger is picking the harvest. You never know where you will find beans or cucumbers (on the ground or at the top of a corn stalk). Of course it isn’t the end of the growing season yet, but I probably wouldn’t try this again. I really like my nice tidy rows and predictable harvest, but it has been interesting. The harvest so far has been reasonable given the space. As far as bug control goes, maybe not so good.

Probably with more space and had we stuck to the rules better (ie. actually using squash) our outcome would have been more pleasing.

By
Jackie Siemens



UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 9-11 Eastern Red Cedar Workshop. University Plaza. Springfield. Marketing, production, management of \$60 million industry. \$75 per person. 732-6485.
- Sept. 5 Cut Flower Workshop. Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station, Mtn. Grove. Covers cut flower growing and marketing. Register 417-547-7500.
- Sept. 6 Bradford Farm Tomato Festival. Taste many varieties from common to heirloom. Also peppers.
- Sept. 7-9 13th Annual Missouri State Master Gardener Conference. "Gems of the Prairie." Kirksville. Pre-register by August 24. \$100. Call 660-665-9866 or <http://extension.missouri.edu/adair>
- Oct. 13 5th Annual Chestnut roast. New Franklin. Horticulture and Agroforestry Research Center. 10 A.M. Free.
- Oct. 18-21 Tour for Missouri Master Gardeners to Charleston, S.C. for fall garden festival. \$1190 without transportation to and from South Carolina.
- Jan. 6-14, 2008 Flora and Fauna of Costa Rica. Botanical Tour with Mary Kroening. \$2795 per person, including air fare from St. Louis, 573-445-3975. Website: www.hiddentreasuresbotanicaltours.com
- Jan. 8-18, 2008 Costa Rica Garden Tour for Missouri Master Gardeners. Hosted by Bruce and Sharon Beck. \$3195 per person, including air fare from St. Louis. Beckb@missouri.edu Or <http://extension.missouri.edu/mg> Or 573-882-9633. Payment due by November 1, 2007.

Christian County Master Gardeners

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65721

SUMMER EVENTS



Remember our next meeting on August 16, is at Donna Singleton's home 703 E. Meramec in Nixa, MO. Call **724-9218** for directions.

A picnic will be held at the home of Dorothy Haase on September, 20. Details will be announced later.

