



Volume 4 Issue 4

September and October 2008

WHO ARE MASTER GARDENERS?

Master Gardeners are adults of all ages who love gardening and who have previous gardening experience.

Master Gardeners are members of the local community who are interested in lawns., trees, shrubs flowers, gardens, and the environment.

Fall Master Gardening Classes

The Master Gardener Training Program for 2008 will be 10 sessions.

October 14 - December 2

Orientation - October 2

Classes in Branson will be in the afternoon and classes in Ozark will be in the evenings.

For More Information Contact:

Ozark Class: Gordon Carriker

Ag Business Specialist

Christian Co. Extension Center

Ozark, MO

417-581-3558

carriker@missouri.edu

Branson Class: Tim Schnakenberg

Agronomy Specialist

Stone Co. Extension Center

Galena, MO

417-357-6812

schnakenbergc@missouri.edu

Fall Gardening Workshop

WHAT:

Master Gardeners of the Ozarks presents the Fifth Annual Workshop

WHEN:

October 25, 2008.

WHERE:

Kimberling Area Library Community Room

45 Kimberling Blvd, Kimberling City, MO

There will be workshops on Raised Bed Gardening, Amending and Improving Soil, Native Flowers for Your Garden, Responsible Use of Chemicals in Your Landscape and Keeping Your Body Healthy While Gardening.

For information contact:

Stone County Extension Center

P.O. Box 345

Galena, MO 65656

417-357-6812

<http://extension.missouri.edu/stone/mg>

The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener program:

"Helping Others Learn to Grow".

Getting Ready for Fall

WOW: What a year this has been. Started out wet, wet, wet. Then in August it turned dry. Some cities around Springfield had 60 inches of rain, that is 5 feet of moisture and the year is not up yet.

It is time to be thinking about putting our flowers to bed for the winter. We have enjoyed all the work (I hope) we have put into our gardens and then the beauty they have brought us. It is time to rid our gardens and flower beds of leaves and limbs that have built up during the summer. To minimize the problems in spring of disease, we need to turn under the garden and flower bed vegetation while it is still green. Also now is a good time to look at our gutters and down spouts. Wash out all the leaves and trash that have accumulated during the summer months. Make sure the down spouts are cleaned out where they exit at the ground. The water needs to get away from the house and foundation as fast as possible. We had several neighbors in our community whose water collected under their foundation and in their basements. That is not a pretty sight.

I want to look at some of our Tubular and bulb plants. There have been some new cannas that have come on the market in the last few years.

There is the “Tropicana” that is brilliant to look at. Let the sun shine through the leaves and you see a stunning shade of bright signal-flag orange and flame above the paddle leaves. The stems are deep purple. The old time cannas are good to look at. They make a good back drop to hide things that you had rather not look at. They make a good container plant. You can move them around where they look the best.

Digging up our bulbs in the fall is the way we can keep our plants for the coming years. Tuberous begonias should be dug up before the first frost, others can wait until the first frost has fallen and the tops are blackened. Dig up the bulbs, remove the tops and spread bulbs on a table or some other flat surface in the shade. Store bulbs in a cool dry place such as a basement or heated garage. Temperatures should be no lower than 50° to 60°. Dry peat moss is a good storage material. Check several times during the winter for spoiled bulbs. Throw them out.

Master Gardener

Denvard Heasley



Pansy Planting Time

It's almost time to plant pansies! How this plant got it's name, I really don't know. Although Pansies cannot take very much heat, some varieties can endure winters down to 40° below zero and still be there to greet us the next spring.

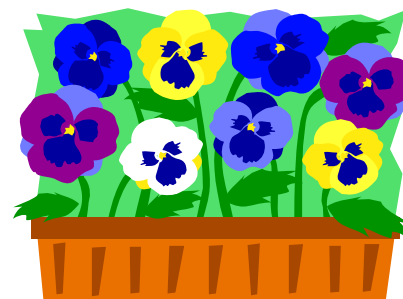
I have planted pansies as late as December First. It was an exceptionally mild late Fall and the roots still had time to get established during that particular year. They made it just fine and put on a show the next spring.

Generally, the best time to plant pansies is

around October First. There is still a good selection to choose from and this should allow enough time to make sure the roots establish themselves before cold weather sets in. It is a good idea to mulch and fertilize for the best results.

Master Gardener

Claude Kinser



Ole Time Gardening

Growing up a farm boy, gardening was something everyone did to some degree. Biggest, best, earliest, latest, were words used in conjunction with certain people in summertime conversations, from which grew legends and reputations. There were many people who were “master gardeners”, but this is before the term was coined and the University program began. It was also a time before there were guys like me and P. Allen Smith; guys who like to garden, but it’s not all about growing to eat, guys who like flowers too!

Back then if you were at the local feed store, gas station, or post office you might see a group of overall clad, rubber boot wearing men, talking, spitting and tugging on their MFA seed caps, deep in discussion about gardening and growing in general.

A typical conversation between neighbors Jimmy Jr. and J. R. might go like this: Jimmy Jr. “Yeaah, Corn’s up in the bottom, I gotta get home, get the (insert plow, sprayer, or cultivator etc.) hooked up and git down there ‘fore it rains. Boy my ‘maters look real good.”

My other neighbor, J. R. might say, “Yup, I know what you mean. I noticed you needed to git them weeds out. Thought your ‘maters looked a little blighted from the road when I came by there yesterday.”

Jimmy Jr. replied, “Naw, ain’t blighted, just a little sun scorched.” Then they would talk about the neighbors whose gardens were weedy or neglected, get in their trucks and go home to sweat and toil to make sure that there were tomatoes, beans, corn and the like to be canned, frozen or eaten fresh. They also milked, plowed corn, sprayed weeds, cut hay and wood. They

didn’t go home and deadhead the blanket flowers, or pinch back the mums that were trying to bloom too early.

If someone like me, in shorts and t-shirt had walked into the feed store proclaiming to be a “Master Gardener”, that would have brought a wary look. “A master huh?”, and I’m sure there would have been some sniggers and spitting of tobacco on the ground. I don’t think P. Allen Smith would have made a big impression on them either.

In that era, GARDENING meant growing stuff to eat, another part of being a provider. The only thing beautiful about gardening to Jimmy Jr. and J. R. was tomato plants so loaded they were bending over, potatoes and beans bloomin’ and corn “all tasseled out”.

Flowers were usually relegated to a bed somewhere, acknowledged only by some off handed remark like, “Momma’s got a flower bed there by the mailbox, makes things pretty.” Or, “Momma is spending too much time on them dang roses, they’re kinda pretty, but, she cain’t hardly keep up with the cannin’.” “Momma”, could refer to either the man’s mother, or his wife.

The people who find out I am a Master Gardener usually say, “I bet you have a great garden!” When I reply that I mostly grow flowers, they usually say, “So, (pause) you have a FLOWER GARDEN? And I say, “Yup, just like that TV guy, P. Allen Smith.”

Master Gardener

Dan Bohannon



MAGNIFICENT MAGNOLIAS

Say “mag-no-lia.” Feels like sweet butter coming off your tongue, doesn’t it? The magnolias are the aristocrats of ornamental trees. The size and beauty of their flower is unequaled.

Magnolias were mentioned by missionary, John Bannister, sent to “The Plantations” by the Bishop of London in 1687. Since we think of magnolias as an Oriental addition to our gardens, it was surprising to learn that varieties were found in the New World. Indeed, fossil remains have been found in rock possibly 65 million years old.

The magnolia is named for Pierre Magnol, a physician and botanist of Southern France. Since magnolias evolved millions of years before bees and wasps, they rely on beetles as their pollinator. Some varieties have been known for their medicinal purposes, such as tonics for cough, intestinal problems, headaches and nasal disorders. Some leaves and flower buds are used as vegetables, served with rice.

Several species are used as timber products, The wood is used for furniture making, utensils, cabinet work, engraving, and flooring. Some are used in house and coffin construction. Oil extracted from the flowers are used in perfumes. The leaves are food for silk worms.

Magnolia folklore tells us that Native Americans avoided sleeping under a magnolia tree because of the sometimes over-powering smell when in bloom. A blossom placed in a bedroom is said to cause the death of any person who sleeps there. Oops!

Master Gardener

Barbara Self

Source: *Magnolias: A Gardener’s Guide* by Jim Gardiner



OPEN MG EVENTS

The Xeriscape Garden will be holding two events in October that are open to Master Gardeners:

1. An hour of advanced training at the garden on Saturday, October 4 at 10:00. We’ll look at the xeric beds and talk about quality low-water plants to grow in our own gardens and the survival strategies used by the plants to thrive with little water. This is for Master Gardeners only. Please bring something you can carry around to write on. Handouts will be provided , as well as coffee and cookies.
2. A total renovation of the cactus bed, digging up the existing soil, amending it with copious amounts of compost, and arranging the rocks into a new, mounded (and hopefully draining) bed. Obviously this is a work day that will require willing backs, shovels, and gloves. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP. We’ll begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 11.

A note about the cactus bed: We currently have a large rather sprawling cactus that has no name, rather vicious thorns, lovely blooms, but no future in the public garden...It is up for grabs (I couldn’t resist....) to the first person who comes to get it. Please let Barbara St. Clair know if you are interested in all of it or a piece of it.

Thank you!

Barbara St.Clair
garden chair

stclair53@att.net

887-9536



KOUSA DOGWOOD

We live on sixty acres in northern Stone County and wouldn't you think it would have just one Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus Florida*). I have walked all of the farm except for one hillside too steep and grown-over to climb. To date not a Flowering Dogwood has shown its beauty.

In its place I planted a Kousa Dogwood (*Cornus kousa*) and what a treasure this tree has been. It adds year around beauty to my yard. In early Summer there are long-lasting creamy sweet smelling "flowers" (actually the bracts for the inconsequential green flowers). There is good Summer foliage, Autumn fruits and occasional fall color ranging from inconsistent reddish purple to green or chartreuse and Winter bark. This tree is native to Japan, Korea and China with its first scientific observations in the United States recorded in 1875.



This vase shaped tree is slow growing, growing 15"-25' tall with a 25' spread. It grows in Zone 5-8 and grows in full to partial sun. It prefers moist, well drained acidic soil but is adaptable to loamy or clay soils. It is somewhat drought resistant but does need irrigation during hot dry Summer times to lessen the degree of leaf scorch. It has the attributes of being more cold-hardy and disease resistant than the Flowering Dogwood. With this trees ability to adapt, it does seem to fit in withal the other trees that have to do the same with our ever changing Ozark climate.

If this isn't enough to make you want to try one as a specimen tree, then there is the true treasure of the tree-the fruit. The fruit of the tree is wonderful! It is green initially, turning a dull rose color in September, resembling a large solitary upright raspberry. The fruit is usually creamy, delicate and sweet, however, they do have some seeds. The darker red the fruit, the riper and more mature it is and it is sweeter and less astringent.

Recently my Granddaughter discovered the fruit and we just sat down on the ground and ate them. Of course, her Dad was concerned it was poisonous and we would be ill. I, however, had read about my tree and knew better.



Master Gardener

Barbara Gale

MG Christmas Party

We have permission to have our MG Christmas Party at OTC in the Atrium. We will have the party on December 18 from 6:00 to 9:00. We have permission to go in before 6:00 to decorate... I have planned a program I think will be appropriate to the season and you all will really enjoy. I just wanted to let you know the location at OTC has been confirmed. More information will be coming.

Have a happy fall, ya all

Dorothy



CLASSIFIEDS



Want to Buy:

4-5 bales of straw. Call Debbie at 725-6261.

Free:

Advertisements in the newsletter, Across the Garden Gate Classifieds for CCMGs.

Want to Buy:

A reliable push lawn mower in good working condition to mow in the ditch and out back. Call 725-6261.

For Sale:

“Seedshells” All kinds of flower seeds, incorporated into a “seedshell”. There is a “pearl” inside the shell that is also full of seeds. They are gifted boxed with instructions. A wonderful, garden novelty that is recycled material and biodegradable for planting! They come in many colors. \$10.00 each. With a shipping box. \$12.95 each. Thank you for going green. Call C.J. at 417-234-5424.

Wanted:

Apples. Call 725-6261 or deb-clithero@gmail.com

Wanted:

Items you want to buy, sell, trade, or give away free to a good home. Email, snail mail, or call Debbie Clithero for the next publication of the newsletter.

For Sale:

Cookbooks! CCMG sponsored. \$10.00 at Extension Office. 417-581-3558.

Email your ads to Debbie Clithero at debelithero@gmail.com