

ACMG NEWS LETTER

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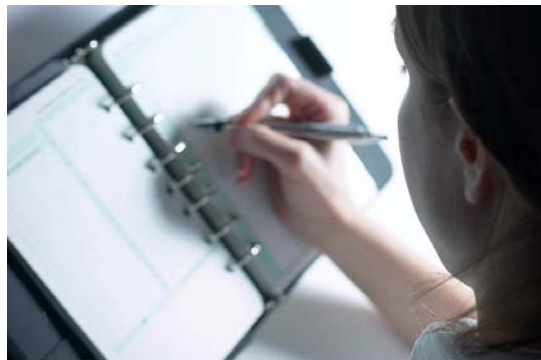
Special points of interest:

- Name our News Letter
- Program committee meeting
- Community Improvements
- Environmental
- Mentors

With all the new year's **calendars** floating around, now is a great time to dedicate one to your Master Gardener schedule. **Begin** by flipping through each month and **writing in our meetings** which are usually held on the first **Wednesday of every month at 6:30** p.m. The exact meeting time and place can always be found on the back page of the newsletter.

Remember that you can count volunteer hours for attending Meetings! **Then**, mark up your **committee meeting dates and scheduled or potential dates to complete your Master Gardener volunteer projects**. When you're working on a project, it might help to

Mark Your Calendar



Planning

pack along your calendar so that you can remember to record your time volunteering. Too often we forget how long a project took and may even underestimate the time we spent, or worse, not record it at all. Remember to record those little answers you may have given during your work breaks. A little can add up to a lot.

Next, record some **upcoming events** that you might want to attend. If you see something of interest to other MG's, send them to the newsletter editor for posting.

Last, but not least, mark the date when to turn in your **total hours**. This is usually by the end of **November**.

Sending them in is important to the entire organization. Without a strong record of participation, we might cease to exist, or at the very least, experience funding cuts. So make a great start for the new year of Master Gardening. Sit down with your new calendar and plan. **Next meeting January 2nd 2008 at ACHS.**

HOLIDAY FEAST

You are cordially invited to the **2007 Audrain County Master Gardener Holiday Get-Together on Wednesday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m.** at the Audrain County Historical Society Meeting Room. You may bring a guest. Please bring a covered dish. We are especially glad to welcome the 2007 fall Master Gardener Core Class graduates to our chapter. Door prizes will be given. New Officers will be introduced and a short business meeting is on the agenda. Come and make new Master Gardener friends and share the holiday joy with current members.

**Our mission:
“Helping Others
Learn to Grow “**



In the Beginning

History of the Missouri Master Gardener Program

The mission of the Missouri Master Gardener program is: "Helping Others Learn to Grow". As part of the outreach efforts of University of Missouri Extension, Master Gardeners involve people in improving the quality of life, and enhancing the economy and environment through horticultural education, applied research and the resources of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University.

The Master Gardener concept began more than 25 years ago in Washington state in response to a high level of interest in home gardening and numerous requests to county extension offices for horticultural information. The idea was to involve horticulture extension faculty in training knowledgeable gardeners to assist Extension staff in delivering home gardening information to friends, neighbors, and the general public. From that first class of Seattle area Master Gardeners in 1972, the concept has now spread to all 50 states and several Canadian provinces.

The Missouri Master Gardener program began in St. Louis in 1983. The program was offered jointly by the University of Missouri and the Missouri Botanical Garden. This unique partnership continues today. St. Louis Master Gardeners are vital to staffing the Kemper Center for Home Gardening at the Missouri Botanical Garden in addition to serving outreach functions outside the garden gates. Other metropolitan areas of the state soon followed suit, with Master Gardener programs in Kansas City and Springfield beginning a couple of years later. These additional programs were wholly sponsored by University of Missouri Extension and the local county extension centers. Since then, there has been a steady increase in both numbers and locations where Master Gardener training is offered. By 1994, 400 Master Gardener volunteers were serving 12 communities in the state. Currently, over 2,500 active Master Gardeners serve as University of Missouri Extension volunteers in 110 counties around the state.

In 1995, the State Master Gardener Advisory Board was formed. Two Master Gardener representatives from each Extension region of the state, along with four staff members provide guidance and direction to statewide programs. The mission of the Missouri State Master Gardener Advisory Board is "To unify and strengthen the Missouri Master Gardener program".

In its initial year of existence the State Advisory Board functioned as a State Master Gardener Conference Planning Committee. The first statewide Master Gardener Conference was held in Columbia on the campus of the University of Missouri with 100 Master Gardeners in attendance. Public television personality and Mizzou alumnus, Jim Wilson was keynote speaker. Since the initial statewide conference, an annual conference has been held in September each year. The state conference serves as an opportunity for Master Gardeners to receive advanced level training in conference workshops. It's also a time for them to share program successes and management strategies.

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Updated 09/28/07

Remember When.....

its cold outside, there is always something to do. Lets welcome the new core class and pick their brains too.

The Mentoring Program was started 2 years ago to better communicate with our Master Gardeners in training and to encourage retention in the Master Gardener program.

**Volunteers are needed to be
MENTORS to the current
Core Class participants.**

When you have extra time, spend it helping explain how to track hour. This always seems to be a problem at the end of the year for everyone.

Also we need ideas for Programs and Event. So lets put on those thinking caps. There are a lot of good ideas out there. So happy reading and surf the web and jot down those ideas.

Committees Review

Update on all committees and who will be involved in them.

Community Improvements

Everyone is needed to help in one way or another.

The **flower bed** on the **ACHS ground** will need some serious work this spring to make it flourish and show our pride. It was suggested that we think about using **Plants of Merit** in the space. Lets have some feed back on what needs to be planned.

The 4H council has asked for help in landscape designs for their new building. So let throw out some ideas for the 4 H clubs to do.

Programming

We have a few ideas for small programs during our meetings. More are needed along with ideas for field trips to local areas of interest.



Environmental

What can we do to help save our Mother Earth?

Remember the **Three R's**

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Plans are in the works to have a drop off point for plastic pots and flats to be recycled and or reused. **Hint, Hint** plant sale coming in the spring. So lets start looking when you do your **spring cleaning**.

Mentors

Help with new MG

Trainees

Future Plans

Think Spring

The **spring plant sale** will be held on Earth day on **April 26th**. It will also be the kick off of the 2008 Mexico Area Farmers Market in **Harden Park**. Lots of thing to plan before then. Brainstorm of ideas on what we to need to order in the way of seeds to start. **What will we be selling this year for our money making project?**

We need ideas soon to place orders and get some good pricing.

The first scheduled work day is scheduled for **March 13th** at **Maxwell Garden Greenhouse**, but we may need to schedule an earlier date to fill flats and seed. The next two work dates will be **April 10th** and **24th** for last up potting, labeling and pricing.

Working hours will be up to each individual. Just call Tom Maxwell or Calvin Mackey at **581-4389 or 473-7487** the day before so they can have things ready for you and an area of the greenhouse to work in. They will have areas ready on the dates given, but if your schedule does not allow give them a call.

**Plant
Water
Grow**

Farmers Market Booth

We have had great luck in getting information out to the Public at the booth. For the 2008 Market we will need to man the booth with at least 2 members. The way it was done in the past we switched members about every 2 hours. When we man the booth you need a few items. They are: Pen or pencil, note book to take notes, names and if you have a business

card with your name and your contact information to give out . That way we can contact prospective Master Gardeners and or get back with individuals with good information that we may not have on hand at the market.

On the 26th of April we will



Farm to Market

need help setting up for the plant sale at Harden Park. Tables will be needed as will be small flat type boxes and bags. Also someone responsible for making change. Sign up sheet available at monthly meeting and every Saturday at the market.

Bring your happy smiling faces and sell, sell, sell.

Volunteer Opportunities

Everyone needs a job.
Here are five committees
that need your help.

*Community Improvements
Programming
Environmental
Tours and Events
Mentors*



Help Wanted

Want to accrue some volunteer hours and help your newsletter editor? Your newsletter editor is looking for some assistance for next month's newsletter. Are you a budding writer who has a desire to see your work published? We are interested in finding Master Gardeners who would like to write gardening related articles or provide interesting gardening tidbits for the newsletter. If you are up for it contact Calvin Mackey at calvin@mackeyproduce.com

Up to Date

The new 2008 year will be off to a new start with officers elected at the November meeting. Our chapter of the Missouri Master Gardeners continues to learn and grow as a group. Marje Motley is President with other officers serving include: 1st Vice-President (Programs)—Calvin Mackey, 2nd Vice-President—G.Sue Priest (Public Relations and Membership), Secretary—Tom Maxwell and Treasurer—Mel Muskopf. Others assisting are Jackie Hanke—Reporter and Bob Hanke serves as our photographer.



Have a Happy New Year

Current "ACTIVE"—27 have turned in hours
Currently trainees: 18 MGer trainees
With 8+2 more of the Winter 2007 group that are still eligible to STILL turn in their hours in 2008. EVERYBODY needs to start their new VSRecord the day after they stopped their 2007 tally.
Here are the results of the Master Gardener hours turned in:
26 members reporting
1985 hours - volunteer service
2165 contacts
25 reported contacts
Largest contact per MG - 610
Highest hour per MG - 703
Average volunteer hours per MG - 76.35
Average contact per MG - 86.6