



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spring Plant Exchange

Plants, Food, and MG Friends

Article & Photos by Sherry Adams, Master Gardener and Ace Reporter



It was a bright, sunny day for the Master Gardener Spring Plant Exchange held at Burr Oaks Wood on April 21st. Despite the record low temperatures in early April that laid waste to so many metro area gardens, the stalwart Master Gardeners still managed to come up with plants to exchange. There were a wide variety of annuals, perennials, ornamental grasses, and houseplants.

Once all the plants were sorted out (and we all had a chance to eye the ones we wanted to get our hands on), the members gathered indoors for a pot luck lunch at tables featuring plants by VanWalsh Gardens. Richard Rice gave us a run-down on the

event's agenda, recognizing the businesses and MG's who contributed door prizes.

And those door prizes were a special treat this year, as little delivery folks (Kelly Vandendaele's grandchildren) handed them out to us. No one went away empty handed since the table centerpiece plants were given away as well.

Quickly following, Richard Rice adjourned to begin the plant exchange and there was a mad rush for the door, headed up by Richard himself! We all made beelines for the things we had eyed earlier. This reporter scored a variegated Solomon's seal AND a Guacamole hosta. Everyone came away with some of their favorites and maybe a few new plants to try in their gardens.

Many thanks to Richard Rice, Sherry Bowers, Rene Hetrick, Mary Medley, all the members of the committee, and the volunteers who organized this great event. Thankfully, we had a nice warm day and let's hope for many more to help our poor freeze-burned plants recover!



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SAVE THE DATE:

- **First Thursday of Every Month at 9:00 am – Steering Committee Meeting**
- **May 10th, Thursday – Gardener's Gathering**
- **May 20th, Sunday – In House Garden Tours**
- **May 24th, Thursday – Rose Workshop at Columbia, MO**

Leadership Retreat – Charting the Future of Our Organization

Article and Photos by Cheryl Ann Novick, Master Gardener and Editor

Given the opportunity to express their opinions in an open, and unconstrained manner; members of the **Steering Committee, Lala Kumar, and Mary Kroening** met on Friday and Saturday, April 13th and 14th; for a “retreat” to discover ways to effectively lead a volunteer organization such as ours.

The goal was to chart a road map to our future: To find ways to make opportunities available to the entire membership; to create a culture of creative thinking, and to uncover new methods instead of doing it the way “it’s always been done”. The outside facilitator, **Galen Hoff**, was able to lead the group through a series of activities that provided real insight into where we are now ... and where we truly want to be.



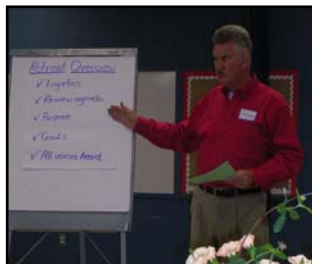
Committee chairs discovered that the public and internal opinions of Master Gardeners may not always mirror their own view. For instance, it was brought forward that some citizens of the Kansas City Metro area think the organization is a garden club; that some Master Gardeners don’t feel comfortable, due to economic or other constraints, going to certain volunteer activities or continuing education opportunities; and that a

disturbing number of Master Gardeners turn in zero hours every year.

With opportunities for improvement revealed, goals were set, and time frames to achieve those goals outlined. In no specific order, is a general list of some of these goals:

- Make the organization better known and its mission understood.
- Find new ways to bring dedicated volunteers into the organization, including recruiting from local garden clubs and societies.
- Assure that volunteer and continuing education opportunities are available to all members; regardless of area of residence, economic resources, physical abilities, or work/personal scheduling issues.
- Provide adequate communications to members of upcoming opportunities for involvement, and progress on current volunteer opportunities.

One thing is assured: To be a great organization for our community and for our members, we must focus on our strengths and find ways to allow every single volunteer to contribute. The two-day meeting allowed the committee chairs to sharpen that focus, and to understand the challenges faced by all volunteer organizations.



WANTED! Special Projects Chairperson

Be the liaison between the steering committee and our special projects coordinators at the following locations:

- Ronald McDonald House
- Harvesters Demo Garden
- Watkins Mill Heirloom Garden
- Martha LaFitte Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary
- Garden Angels in the Northland

Contact Bev Albertson at balbper@kc.rr.com (358-9318) or Molly Fusselman for more information

Grand Total 2006 Volunteer Hours

The final tallies were in on January 30, 2007, and the Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners recorded 15,297 volunteer hours. Great Job!

Travel Back into History At the Next Gardeners' Gathering

By Larry Theiss, Master Gardener

Period Drawing Courtesy Watkin's Mill Web Site

On Thursday, May 10th, the Gardeners' Gathering will be at a truly unique location: Watkin's Mill State Park. Master Gardeners (including some members on the park staff) will take us back in time by introducing heirloom plants and gardening practices of the mid 1800s. The main presentations will take place in the garden area behind the house. During the short walk to the garden, you will see sheep in a tranquil pastoral setting, view the woolen mill, and experience walking through a tree shaded lane leading to the authentic antebellum house of Waltus Watkins.



As a little background: Watkins was born in 1806 in Kentucky and moved to Liberty in 1830. Over the years he amassed a large landholding of 3,660 acres in Clay and Ray Counties. His farm was named Bethany and like many other early Missourians, produced nearly everything his family of 11 children needed. The big house was completed in 1854. The mill was started in 1860 and produced blankets for the Union during the Civil War. This historic site is handled in a "preservation first" manner, and many local citizens play a part in authentic reenactments wearing period clothing.

As mentioned earlier, several Master Gardeners volunteer many hours of work at Watkin's Mill. They plant and maintain the heirloom garden; help facilitate Spring and Fall on the Farm; do heirloom variety research; and oversee plant displays inside the visitor's center and in front of the visitor center.

Besides enjoying a spring evening, experiencing one of Missouri's premier state parks, those in attendance will receive handouts on heirloom plants. Also, our refreshments will be served near the house from recipes found in a cookbook written by Mrs. Watkins. (Dare we say heirloom refreshments will be served?)

The May Gardener's Gathering at Watkin's Mill will be from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. This is slightly different than our normal time. Once you've tied your buggy to the hitching post, come on inside the visitor's center for announcements. Hope to see you at the farm!

(To get to Watkin's Mill State Park, take Interstate 35 to Kearney Exit 26. You can easily find the park by following the signs. Specific instructions once you reach Kearney Exit 26 are to go right [east] on Highway 92 for approximately five miles, then turn left [north] on Road RA and go approximately a mile to the park entrance.)

Grow Native at City Market

Volunteer Opportunity for the Grow Native at City Market Event: June 2nd from 8:00 to 2:00. One shift from 8:00 to 2:00, with 4 volunteers needed.

If you can participate your help is appreciated. Please contact Marilyn Joy at 816-246-5598 or email at mjoy@wcbblue.com

Extra Plant Containers???

As you purchase new plants this spring, keep the containers (especially any quart size and greater). Wash and rinse and contribute to us to use for transplanting plants at the Plant Sale. Be sure to save flats and boxes too, as we can use them to package items for customers. Give us a call with your empties!

Wilma Fletcher
816-774-9820
wfletcher816@earthlink.net

or Marilyn Huff
816-965-6363
jmar@kc.rr.com

or Deanna Starr
913-341-7058

Continuing Education UPDATE! More Educational Opportunities for our Volunteers

by Tom Hand, Master Gardener

The Steering Committee has approved additional ways to earn Continuing Education hours at the April meeting. Master Gardeners will now be able to count hours at meetings of garden clubs and other events, featuring a speaker on horticultural topics. You will not be able to count hours by attending such things as a board or planning meeting of a club or society. This new way of counting educational hours is specifically intended to allow all members to attend educational opportunities of a horticultural nature closer to home, at a better time for their work/personal schedule, or on topics not covered by the regular Continuing Education Program.

Please list, on our reporting form under Continuing Education, the date and the speaker with a brief description of the topic and the time. You will not report travel time for these meetings.

Everyone is encouraged to attend our major Continuing Education programs at our regularly scheduled Gardener’s Gatherings. The Steering Committee also encourages all Master Gardeners to report their Continuing Education hours on a regular basis.

Special Note on Hours Reporting from Kathy Vedder: Please make it a point to turn in your hours for the last quarter or for the last month. As an example, we had about 100 Master Gardeners attend the Spring Seminar, yet only 7 have turned in these hours. Remember, these reported hours help us keep our funding from the state! A reporting form is included with this newsletter or you may contact me for an electronic version.

The Results are In – 2007 Annual Survey, Part I

Compiled and Submitted by Richard Rice, Master Gardener
Introduction by Cheryl Ann Novick, Master Gardener and Editor

The results of our 2007 annual survey have been compiled. This information is important to our organization, as it allows us to see our strengths and our weaknesses. As you read the following comments, you may find yourself becoming disappointed, or perhaps even angry. Don’t take it personally! We knew from the outset that there would be widely varying opinions ... that is to be expected from such a diverse group. The point of this survey is to gain the information to be a better organization, to the community and to ourselves.

Most Frequently Attended Program, Project or Event:

1. Garden Tour
2. Flower, Lawn and Garden Shows
3. Hotline
4. Plant Exchange
5. Gardener’s Gatherings

Ways to be a More Effective Organization:

1. Mentor never calls about meetings and activities
2. Too rigid, does not allow members the latitude to grow and use talents and abilities
3. Individual initiative is not encouraged

NEW Special Project

The Steering Committee at their monthly meeting in April approved a new special project. The new project is in Loose Park in Kansas City, Missouri.

Loose Park is a city park located just south of the Country Club Plaza. It is an urban park that has a variety of habitats and gardens in its 25 square block size.

The Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. It has wedding ceremonies almost every weekend around its beautiful fountain. The rose garden will also be a part of our Garden Tour in June.



There is also a large annual garden, with herbs and long walkways through a portico to the rose garden. Meeting rooms in this area host the Rose Society, African Violet (cont. on next page)

4. Add additional chairs to steering committee
5. Alternate meeting times between day and evening
6. Process for getting information on submitting requests for events by vendor is not clear
7. Need an effective leader who will generate more activities and community involvement
8. Steering committee needs more autonomy in decision making
9. Committee chairs need to be more involved
10. Committee chairs need to be less involved, less critical
11. Separate into smaller groups by area
12. Published list of contacts and dates of events (*Editors Note: Ouch!*)
13. Evaluate the effectiveness of university employees
14. Have volunteer opportunities in different areas
15. Stronger leadership and more accountability
16. Hours required for the hotline should be changed to 9 or 12 hours to coordinate with the 3 hour time slots
17. More people need to carry the load
18. Hotline should not be mandatory to receive MG badge
19. There are not enough decisions that are beneficial to the masses

What is your voice in decision making?

1. The people who make decisions are not always the workers
2. No voice at all, we need an open-minded leadership
3. Have to be at steering committee to be heard. Chat rooms, emails, etc. are communication devices for this century
4. Decisions made by the steering committee are overturned by the university leadership
5. The people who are in charge, are in charge, and it's their way or the highway
6. The situation can be improved if there was someone open to new suggestions
7. Each graduating class should have a representative on the steering committee
8. Steering committee meeting should be once a month
9. Ideas seem to be lost after being directed to the person assumed in leadership. We need a more receptive outlet for creative suggestions.
10. The steering committee needs to operate more like a board of directors

How can we improve our communications?

1. Ask for suggestions, input in MG publication, opinions compiled and presented at Steering Committee
2. As a new intern it sometimes seems that it is taken for granted that we may know what is going on and how things are done, yet they have not really been explained well
3. There appears to be an attitude that we don't want to hurt someone's feelings, even if it means that those people continue to adversely affect other MG's. I also believe that there needs to be a review annually of committee chairs to see that they are fulfilling their roles. Removing those that do not.
4. Create a hotline where MG's could express their opinion/ideas via email. Not everyone can attend meetings
5. A summary sheet containing info on all projects needs to go to every member so we know what the needs are and when

shows and sales, along with many other events.

This project will include working with **Judy Penner**, the Director of Loose Park and a Rosarian. We will be working with Judy in the Rose Garden, the annual garden and the new rain garden. We will also be in a position to answer questions of the public as they view the variety of gardens.



Tom Hand is going to be guiding the project for Master Gardeners at Loose Park. He will be working closely with **Judy Penner** to provide any Master Gardener with the opportunity to learn and educate the public. If interested please let Tom know so you can be a part of Loose Park and the Master Gardener education process.



6. Each month Lala or Molly could write an article in the newsletter about what’s happening in the MG program
7. It would be nice to know that the office staff is as concerned as we are about declining morale in the troops and would listen to our reasonable requests and do them
8. Need ongoing recognition of volunteer’s effort/work
9. The steering committee needs to define the work of the committees
10. We need a policy/procedures manual, so members have written info
11. There seems to be confusion about volunteer requirements
12. In Johnson County it is very clear who is in charge. It is rebellious in this organization
13. Lack of leadership is the biggest problem
14. Get a new leader and install a board to oversee the program
15. Communication would improve if there was someone to communicate, this will never be a reality as long as the decision makers function in an autocratic mode
16. We need to repeat new information/procedures several times a year
17. It would help to have steering committee meetings in the evening so more people can attend and voice their opinion

To be continued in June’s NEWSLINE with many more comments on the “Goals and Dreams” section of the survey. Be looking for Part II.



TICKETS ANYONE?

The Garden Tour is The Master Gardeners of Greater KC’s only major fundraiser and we could use your help selling tickets to your friends, family, garden club buddies, church members, or coworkers. Tickets purchased before the days of the tour are a bargain at only \$10 each. The days of the tour, tickets will be \$12. Contact Sue Waltemath (734-5795), Laurie Duffey (796-3832) or Marilyn Schade (525-8839) for tickets. Tickets will also be for sale at Soil Service Garden Center, the Family Tree Nurseries, Keller’s Greenhaus, and Longview Gardens as well as the area Extension Offices.

Steering Committee Meeting
April 5, 2007

by Mary Medley, Secretary

Don Bjuland, Acting Chair
 Marilyn Shade
 Cheryl Ann Novick
 Carolyn Lidge
 Mary Wood
 Sherry Bowers
 Lala Kumar

Laurie Duffey
 Marilyn Joy
 Tom Hand
 Beverly Albertson
 Georgia Lou Quentin
 Barbara Harris

Mary Medley, Secretary
 Richard Rice
 Kathy Vedder
 Becki Bardin
 Michael Horton
 Marsha Mosley
 Molly Fusselman

I. Call to Order: Acting Chair Don Bjuland called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Blue Springs Extension Office on April 5, 2007.

Copies of the March meeting were not available for approval.

II. Regional Director Comments: Al Black attending the meeting to express his appreciation, encouragement and support of the upcoming Strategic Retreat. He stressed that this is how we make progress and move forward. He also stressed that when setting goals, try to set goals that are realistic as well as “stretch goals”. We may not always have the resources as defined, but we must realize they are “stretch goals”. He wanted to offer support for what we are doing and offer support in finding resources for the goals we develop from the retreat. He stated that they are recruiting for a horticulture specialist in Platte County and that when that position is filled, that person will be available to support the Master Gardeners Program as well as horticulture crops.

III. Specialist’s Report: Lala Kumar focused on the busy month of March and the Spring Seminar. With more than 100 people in attendance, it was very successful and congratulated all those who worked so hard in all aspects of the seminar. He also recognized the success of the Flower, Lawn and Garden Show and thanked everyone involved in that event. There is a total of \$32,903 in the MG account. Lala had three projects to bring to the Steering Committee:

- A. Watkins Mill Greenhouse: Irma Schmitz, Special Project Coordinator, reported she had talked with Michael Becket, facility manager of Watkins Woolen Mill State Part and Historic Site regarding the possibility of having a greenhouse located on the site for the purposes of growing historically accurate heirloom plant material and to further the education of the visiting general public. Mike’s initial response was encouraging. The master gardeners who work in the heirloom garden are excited about and supportive of the prospects for a greenhouse. Lala asked the Steering Committee for approval to pursue further specifics/advantages/disadvantages of this proposal. Some of the comments in response to this proposal were: It is located so far away we do not know if MGs would access it; it is a well protected site at Watkins Mill – a positive; it would also include MG’s growing plants for existing programs such as plant sale, demonstration gardens, etc.; and it is important that we have a permanent site for the greenhouse and we have had a three year partnership with Watkins Mill, so we are well established at this facility. Laurie Duffey made a motion that we pursue the proposal for a greenhouse at Watkins Mill. Carolyn Lidge seconded the motion; motion carried.
- B. “SHADE THIS SPACE” PROGRAM (Safe, Healthy, Attractive Public Environments). Dan Chambers, SHAPE Manager of the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department discussed with Lala the possibility of this being a program for volunteer hours. This is a formal inspection program for the parks of Kansas City and its recreation facilities. Its mission is to measure the effectiveness of park maintenance through consistent monitoring and evaluation and includes cleanliness (graffiti, litter, broken glass, etc.), landscapes (turf, trees, gardens, etc.) and structures (play equipment, fountains, sidewalks, etc.) After considerable discussion, it was agreed to table this issue until Don Bjuland and other interested MGs have an opportunity to explore and clarify this project proposal with the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. Becki Barden made the motion to table until further clarification. Laurie Duffey seconded; motion carried.
- C. Extension Website – Lala provided an information sheet on the Extension Web Support and providing our citizens with easy access to the research-based information and research data produced by the University of Missouri faculty.

IV. Old Business:

- A. Strategic Planning Retreat – Richard Rice reported that we have a total of 21 people attending to date. It will be held at the Student Center of the First Baptist Church in Blue Springs, Mo. on Friday, April 13 (1 to 5 p.m.) and Saturday, April 14 (9 to 2 p.m.). Galen Hoff will be the facilitator for the retreat. There will be snacks on Friday with Breakfast, lunch and snacks on Saturday. This is a very important event in the growth and success of the MG program in that we will be exploring/setting goals for the current year, two years and five year into the future.
- B. Clarification Issue: Tom Hand had made an earlier motion in February that hours for Garden Clubs and Garden Societies that have a horticulture focus be included as continuing education hours. Considerable discussion followed regarding what is/is not counted as continuing education and where

the approval responsibility rests. One suggestion was that we give individuals an option to choose where they get their continuing education hours as there are many opportunities available to individuals. Molly felt there should be some type of controls on the type of training that could be applied toward continuing education. It should be continuous education and not basic training. One input suggested that we need guidelines about what is/is not approved and they need to be streamlined and as clear as possible. Bev Albertson made a motion that membership be allowed to use their own best judgment about attending horticulture related education that could count for continuing education. Motion carried.

- C. The proposal made by Pat Farrell, Hotline Chair at the March meeting, to establish a policy whereby the planning committee members who work at events do not have to pay registration fees for the event was moved to the May agenda because Pat was not present to speak to the proposal.
- D. Bus Trip – Molly reported that plans have been finalized for the bus trip to Reiman Gardens at Ames Iowa. Trip information and the reservations form has been printed in the April NEWSLINE, with a deadline for registration and payment by April 13 for those who have met the 45 hour requirement and April 25 for those with less than 45 hours. A list of those meeting hourly requirements is included in the April article.

V. New Business

Tom Hand presented a proposal to include Loose Park, Kansas City, Missouri, as a special project. The educational focus would be working with all of the different aspects of gardening and working alongside members of the Rose Society. This would allow a number of Master Gardeners that live in this area of the city another opportunity to earn hours. Tom Hand has agreed to be the project leader and a number of Master Gardeners have indicated they would serve as backups. Motion made, seconded and carried to include the Loose Park as a Master Gardener Special Project. This information will be included in the Friday update.

VI. Committee Reports:

Hotline: Carolyn Lidge reported that Janice Georg is going to serve as co-chair for the Hotline. There is some discussion regarding a Platte County hotline, and if it should be set up. Some questions arose as to the feasibility of having another hotline in Platte County which would be down the road from the current Clay County Office. Further updates will follow. Cass County Question and Answer desk will be open on Wednesdays from 9:00 to Noon beginning on April 4 through September 19. Nancy Sylvester is the contact point for scheduling (816-250-2298).

Speakers Bureau: Mary Wood reported that they need an individual to lead the annual speaker's bureau training/refresher. Also, she requested Steering Committee approval to purchase two new projectors. Sue Waltemath made a motion to approve purchase of two machines. Motion carried. Lala suggested that we need to revise/standardize the evaluation forms that are used in the Speaker's Bureau. No action was taken.

Universal Gardening: Barbara Harris is working on expending this program.

Children's Program and Beanstalk: Molly reported that they are working towards initiating the Gardening & Grow Program. It is a summer volunteer garden program for 9-14 year olds. It would involve two adults for about 1½ hours each week, with additional help needed at harvest. They are looking for a plot for the garden and are working on a flier to be sent to schools to indicate their interest. Ed reported that all volunteers working with youth gardening now must undergo a background screening before working with youth. Our junior Master Gardener Program, Garden 'N Grow, is affiliated with 4-H, therefore they will handle the background screening and cover the costs associated with this effort. The 4-H Volunteer Application can be found on the 4-H website <http://4h.missouri.edu/go/getinvolved/volunteer/>. Once the application is filed, 4-H will then handle the arrangements for the background screening.

Flower, Lawn and Garden Show: Mary Wood reported that the event was very successful. They made thousands of contacts and have already received several calls for presentations for the Speaker's Bureau. There was some discussion regarding free parking for individuals who work the show. It was tabled for future

discussion.

Garden Tour 2007: Everything is proceeding smoothly to bring about a successful 2007 Garden Tour. 2,500 brochures were distributed at the March FL&G Show and 1,000 at the February show. Tickets have been printed and are available for purchase and will be available at designated nurseries after April 1. The committee purchased a cash register that can be used for any/all Master Gardener events as needed. They still need two garden captains and she passed around a sign up sheet for volunteers to sign up for specific gardens. The Tour Committee has scheduled their meetings through June 11 and everyone is invited to attend. Schedule is as follows:

April 16 – Trails West - - 6:15 p.m.

May 14 – Plaza Library – 6:45 p.m.

June 4 – Plaza Library– 6:45 p.m.

June 11 – Plaza Library – 6:45 p.m.

Media: Diane Darby was a guest on KSHB and Marilyn Shade has a copy of that guest spot if anyone wants to see it.

Special Events: Marilyn Joy reported that there are several events scheduled for April:

April 21-22 – Greenwood Antiques Show

Garden City Fiesta – Let Marilyn know if you want to volunteer

April 28 – 2 events: Earth Day (Staffed) and the Independence Flower, Lawn and Garden Show (Staffed).

Powell Gardens –Blue Moon, Booms and Blooms, Day Lily and Butterfly Event

June 4 – Grow Native at City Market

Also, Marilyn is looking for a co-chair.

Continuing Education: Richard Rice reported that the Gardener’s Gathering is scheduled for May 10 at Watkins Mill State Park from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The topic is Heirloom Gardening and participants will be given the opportunity to tour the heirloom garden and hear about the best plants to grow for our climate.

Demonstration Garden Plots: Don Bjuland reported that they are gearing up for a new season and will be planting 11 varieties of sweet potatoes.

Social Committee: Rene Hetrick reported that Sherry Bowers will be joining the Social Committee – welcome Sherry. Rene asked for some clarification between the Social Committee and Continuing Education and some recent changes that have been proposed. Discussion involved format/budget and the provision of snacks for meetings. No decisions/actions were taken in response to these issues. It was emphasized that if we are going to grow, we need to be able to identify and adopt needed changes.

NEWSLINE: Cheryl Ann Novick requested approval to purchase new software that will aid in the development/publishing of the monthly newsletter. There was discussion relative to standard versus educational versions of Adobe, new package or possible upgrades, etc. Sue Waltemath made a motion to allocate funds to purchase software. Motion seconded, motion carried.

Level I Interviews: Tom Hand reported that he had made recommendations to Lala regarding changes that need to be made for the upcoming interview process.

Volunteer Hours: Kathy Vedder reported that Marilyn Shade and Sherry Bowers had received their badges. Also reported was that 41 MGs have been dropped from the rolls.

Historian: Mary Medley reported that research is being done to determine what is needed to update scrapbooks.

State Master Gardener Board: Ed Stowell announced that Molly had attended the last Board Meeting. He said nothing has been done on the core manual to date. See new business for info on background

checks. The St. Louis group is/has developed a website that enables master gardeners to sign in w/password and log their hours on line as well as sign up for volunteer hours. They are planning to go state wide with the program.

Plant a Row for the Hungry: They encourage everyone to plant extra and take the produce to Harvesters and neighborhood soup kitchens.

Membership: Ed Stowell is planning a meeting with Molly to define the goals for the Membership Committee. He will report at the May meeting.

Special Projects:

- Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary: Becki Bardin requested a total of \$85.72 to purchase plants for the “Bird Island”. Motion carried.
- Shepherd’s Center: Cass Sullivan reported that she and the Shepherd Center are developing a brochure to outline the services given as well as the benefits and limitations. A problem they are dealing with is that the same seniors want more than MGs could or should provide.
- Ronald McDonald House: Sue Waltemath reported the project is moving forward at a rapid pace. MGs and the Water Garden Society will install the hard-scape and water feature and later in the spring will install plant materials. Long term plans are to plant some native shrubs on the park property near the building and start talking about the roof garden.
- Harvesters: Karen Conley reported that their committee is working with one of the core client groups of Harvesters specifically targeting faith-based group gardens this year, and hope they can find up to 10 groups that would be interested in starting a group garden. They are seeking some trusty Eagle Scout to help put together 50 each 5 gallon container gardens that will be given to one agency to distribute to their clients....lots of people with one very little garden each.
- Canine Garden – Independence: Laurie Duffey reported that the front 10 acres were sold to the Blue River Community College campus. Construction has begun on a driver training course for the Police Academy recruits. They are setting up some workdays and are getting ready to hand the project over to the Officers.
- Demo Garden – Lee’s Summit: Jenny Riggs, chair of this project was notified that the Lee’s Summit Parks and Recreation Developing is choosing this garden area as an intro to a new garden project they are developing and our current garden will be bulldozed to make way for the new. Call Jenny if you want to rescue any of the existing plants in the garden.
- Watkins Mill: Rhonda Rodgers/Irma Schmitz are busy getting activities going at Watkins Mill. MG orientation was held Saturday 3/3/07 to get everyone acquainted, and to learn about volunteer opportunities at Watkins Mill. The tradition of planting vegetables on St. Patrick’s Day was kept this year and several MGs were involved. Spring on the Farm was scheduled on Saturday 4/21/07 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you are interested in participating in any of the opportunities at Watkins Mill, call Rhonda or Irma for more details.

VII. Horticulture Educator Comments: Molly Fusselman reported she will be out of the office for personal family reasons and for educational training from April 16th to the 19th. Lala also reported he will be on vacation from May 11th to June 13th and will be out of the country visiting his parents.

VIII. Other: At the March meeting a motion was made and passed to limit the number of steering committee meetings that a member could miss to two before they were asked to resign. This created a great deal of discussion and concern. It was considered a drastic action, given the need to staff all chair positions and given the fact that many people have difficulty getting off work to attend steering committee meetings as well as other valid reasons for not being in attendance.

A motion was made **to rescind** that past motion. Motion was seconded and passed to rescind the existing motion pertaining to attendance at steering committee meetings.

IX. Chair for upcoming month of May – Mary Medley.

X. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 12:10.

Volunteers Needed – Garden Tour Art Sale

By Chris Veach, Master Gardener

There are still a few slots available to assist with the Garden Tour Art Sale. If you can work any of these slots with me I would greatly appreciate your help and support:

- **Thursday June 14th**: Morning activity with 1-2 MG's – help receive any additional garden art, display and price, help out plant sale as needed.
- **Friday June 15th**: Afternoon activity (noon to 4:30) with 1-2 more MG's needed to help out with Art Sale & Plant Sale as needed.
- **Saturday June 16th**: Morning activity with 1-2 MG's needed for same activities as Friday.
- **Saturday June 16th**: Afternoon activity (noon to 4:30) with 2-3 MG's needed to assist with sales as above, then with clean up at the end.

Some important info: There will be a tour the following Saturday for workers. If you work a 4 hour shift you will get a free ticket! You will be mailed a reminder. The Art Sale is new and just like the first year of the plant sale, we have no idea if it will be productive so we are "going with the flow". We are working parallel but jointly with the 3 Plant sale Chairladies so some overlap of duties will occur.

Please contact **Chris Veach** to volunteer or for further information at 407-0553 or by email at cveach0553@kc.rrr.com.

Final Schedule of Meetings for Garden Tour Volunteers

By Laurie Duffey, Master Gardener and Garden Tour Chair

- April 16 – Trails West - - 6:15 p.m.
- May 14 – Plaza Library – 6:45 p.m.
- June 4 – Plaza Library– 6:45 p.m.
- June 11 – Plaza Library – 6:45 p.m.

Watkin's Mill Volunteer Activities Update

By Rhonda Rodgers, Master Gardener and Special Project Coordinator

The tradition of planting vegetables on St. Patrick's Day was kept this year at Watkin's Mill. **Irma Schmitz**, Master Gardener Special Project Coordinator and **Matt Carletti**, Watkins Mill Historic Site Administrator guided volunteers in

Rose Workshop at Bradford Farm

Thursday, May 24
4 to 8 pm

MU Bradford Research and Extension Center
4968 Rangeline Road,
Columbia, MO

Come early for tours of the rose collections at Bradford Research and Extension Center, with hands-on demonstrations of rose pruning, fertilizing with alfalfa meal, examples of roses with herbicide injuries, and our greenhouse grown roses. Conference Room presentations from:

Simeon Wright, the MU Plant Diagnostic Clinic Coordinator discussing common rose diseases.

Jim Lee, manager of Centralia's Chance Gardens explaining the care and maintenance of hybrid tea and floribunda roses.

Jeff Oberhaus, from Vintage Hill Farm touching on rose breeding history and popular varieties on the market today that are good choices for the Missouri gardener.

This workshop counts as three hours of advanced master gardener credits. Refreshments provided

For directions, visit: <http://aes.missouri.edu/bradford/index.stm>

Or call Thresa Chism or Leslie Shaw: 573-884-7945

planting heirloom varieties of vegetables:

- Chiogga Beets
- Danvers Half Long Carrots
- Lettuces – Deer Tongue
Green Oak Leaf
Tennis Ball
- Red Wethersfield Onions
- Champion of England Peas
- Irish Cobbler Potatoes
- French Breakfast Radishes



Volunteering were **Kim Dyer, Bob Halford, Beth Houlihan, Tom and Dee Leroy, Richard Rice, John Rossbach, Prudence True, and Marjorie Yates.** A Master Gardener tradition of eating green donuts during this event was not forgotten!



This year's MG Work Days for the Watkins' Heirloom Kitchen Garden are Tuesdays at 8 am. No sign up necessary. **Costume not required!** Bring garden gloves and hand tools. Dress appropriate for the weather. **This volunteer activity meets public education hours.** Any questions, please call **Rhonda Rodgers**, Special Project Coordinator (816-781-8250).

Garden Tour is Getting Close ...

Help Us Sell Tickets by Getting the Word Out!

By Laurie Duffey, Master Gardener and Co-Chair

Purchase tickets now at the Jackson, Cass, Clay, or Platte County Extension Offices. Or you may purchase tickets after May 10th at all FAMILY TREE NURSERIES, KELLER'S FLOWER HAUS, LONGVIEW GARDENS, SOIL SERVICE and POWELL GARDENS GIFT SHOP. Our website <http://extension.missouri.edu/gkcmg/gardentour.html> has the order form. Just print it out and send it in with your check to purchase tickets by mail. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the days of the tour. Please encourage your friends, family, co-workers and anyone you meet to buy tickets to the tour! In fact, tickets would be a great Mother's or Father's Day gift! If you would like to sell tickets, contact **Sue Waltemath** 816-734-5795, **Laurie Duffey** 816-796-3832 or **Marilyn Schade** 816-525-8839.

Did you know that one of our garden owners is a famous potter with a piece in the Smithsonian? Another garden owner has two granite columns from a bank entrance in their garden. Another is an actor seen each week on "Without a Trace." All our garden owners are very interesting people who have great gardens. Remember, you receive a FREE ticket for working a 4 hour shift. Give one of us a call to sign up!



Get the Dirt!

Master Gardeners and Harvesters volunteers planted the Harvesters Demonstration Garden on April 21. Spring rains delayed our planned planting in March and, given the April cold snap, we're so glad we got rained out! We tilled 2 inches of compost into the garden and then planted cool season crops on a glorious spring day. Kansas City Community Gardens provided plants and seeds in this joint effort. Through the Harvesters Demonstration Garden, we are inspiring Harvesters agencies and their clients to begin growing fresh fruits and vegetables.

On Hunger Awareness Day in June, we'll distribute 50 bucket gardens to the lucky Harvesters agency that wins a raffle. We are working with an Eagle Scout to help us put together 5-gallon buckets planted with peppers and basil. The winning agency will distribute to their clients so there will be lots of people with one (cont. on next page)

In-House Garden Tours – Take a Turn Up North!

By Sherry Adams, Master Gardener and Ace Reporter

Our next member tour of the season is coming up this month and features two stops in the Northland. The date is Sunday, May 20th, from noon to 5pm. Surely by then our gardens will have somewhat recovered from April's deep freeze, so come out and see the gardens of your fellow Master Gardeners.

Cass Sullivan's garden is shared with two digging dogs so her garden beds are mainly behind fences. Her yard has two levels due to a long rock wall. Cass claims her garden is in a transition period right now. She recently added some new raised "lasagna gardening" beds. She also has a new project in process – a water feature built around a 30-year old hot tub. Interesting – let's hope she has it finished in time for us to see it! Address: 301 NW 59th Place, Gladstone. She is off of 169 Hwy and Englewood Road. From 169, take the Englewood exit and go east to the first stop light (Broadway). Turn left onto Broadway. Watching the right side of the street turn right on the third street (59th Place). Her house is the third house on the right (301).

Maggie Basch's garden is a rustic one-acre on a small lake. There are natural areas and beds which feature a variety of native plants – she particularly focuses on planting for birds and wildlife. A self-confessed plant-a-holic she likes all different kinds of plants in her garden. She starts a lot of her plants from seed and particularly likes annual butterfly weed. Come join us to view this natural rustic garden! Address: 7607 W. Forest Lakes Drive, Parkville, MO. Take I-29 North. Exit onto Tom Watkins Pkwy. (also known as 45 Hwy). At exit light turn left (west) onto Tom Watkins Pkwy. Go west about 7 miles and then turn right (north) onto K Hwy. Go about 1 1/2 miles on K, turn left at your first opportunity which is N.W. 76th St.. Go on 76th St. to NW Paradise Ln. and turn right. Then take the first right onto W Forest Lakes Drive and go to 7607.

Come join us to see these two great gardens and don't forget, we have another tour coming up in early June, so read your June NEWSLINE early for all the information. If you are interested in putting your garden on tour this summer, please contact one of us. We'll see if we can add you to an existing tour or even schedule a new tour date if there is enough interest. We want to see your garden!!!

From your Gardening Buddies!!

Sherry Adams (adamssa@hughes.net)
Rene Hetrick 816-347-0711

Keeping You Up To Date on Special Events

By Marilyn Joy, Master Gardener and Chair

On April 18th, a get together with some of the volunteers for the April events met for a "heads up" on the new additions to the Special Events information table. Those who attended were **Kelly Rodriguez, Martha Frasher, Cindy Wharton and Shari Paulsell**. We enjoyed light snacks and beverages as well as sharing some great ideas and information. Thanks to everyone for attending.

The Antique Garden Show was a great success and even though there were not many sales of tickets for the Garden Tour, there was a considerable amount of pamphlets handed out. The rain barrel was of special interest and many visitors were glad to be able to see one in person. Our contacts for the day and preceding

(continued)

very little garden each!

Master Gardeners are invited to tour the Harvesters Demonstration Garden on May 16 from 11 am to 1pm at "Get the Dirt Day." In addition to tours and displays, there will be several 10 minute presentations:

11:45: How Our Agency Got Started with Gardening by *Lisa Temple -Young, L.I.N.C. Caring Community - Van Horn*

12:00: Why Fresh is Healthy by *Stephanie Zieber, Harvesters Dietician*

12:15: Easy, Low-cost Resources for Gardening by *Ben Sharda, Kansas City Community Gardens*

12:30: Cooking With Herbs by Local Chef

12:45: Getting Started with Gardening by *Ben Sharda, Kansas City Community Gardens*

Harvesters is located at 3801 Topping near 39th and Van Brunt, just west of Arrowhead Stadium.

Hope you have a chance to make it by!

– *Mary McClure, Master Gardener*

evening were 20 men and 75 women. Many thanks go to **Sue Waltemath, Chris Veach** and **Kelly Rodriguez** for their Friday evening support and for **Jane Childress** and **Wilma Fletcher** for their help on Saturday.



An update on the Independence Lawn and Garden Show will be in next month's newsletter, as well as a request for volunteers for "Grow Native At City Market" June 2nd, and for the "Under the Blue Moon" at Powell Gardens, June 16th.

If you are looking for a fun and varied way to volunteer, please consider joining me as co-chair of the Special Events Committee. Email me at mjoy@wcbblue.com or give me a call at 816-246-5598.

2007 Plant Sale – Don't Forget to Set Something Aside!

By Marilyn Huff, Master Gardener and Co-Chair

Undoubtedly, it's been a bad spring with all the late freezes, but hopefully your garden has not suffered too much to spare something for the Garden Tour Plant Sale to be held on June 15th and 16th. You might consider dividing your perennials and potting up some starts now that it's warming up, or perhaps purchasing some bare root perennials and growing them for the sale. The earlier you start, the better established your plants will be. Customers look for "large and healthy", and this brings a better price at the sale than ones that are newly transplanted. Rain gardening, water gardening, and native plants are really popular now, so we need those types of plants along with other varieties of perennials. Certainly, any type of plant you can donate would be appreciated. Don't forget that this is our main fund raising event, and we really count on your generosity!

Remember to identify your plants with the appropriate information: Botanical and common name; plant needs, ie: sun or shade; color; and size when mature. If you need help or suggestions on tagging your plants, please call one of the contacts listed below for help.

A special thanks to all the folks who've contributed so much effort to get us this far: All the Tour/Plant Sale committee members, and especially the class of 2006!

Wilma Fletcher: (816) 774-9820: wfletcher816@earthlink.net

Deanna Starr: (913) 341-7058: ds3539@sbcglobal.net

Marilyn Huff: (816)965-6363: jimar@kc.rr.com



New Computer in Clay County Hotline Room

The next time you have an opportunity, please thank the Clay County Extension staff of Nancy Mense, Glenda Kinder, Diana Milne, Susan Henson, Charles St Clair, Edythe Weber and Mary Atchison. A new flat screen Dell computer was set up for us in the Hotline Room on Friday.

The county MU Extension office is responsible for office materials and supplies for each Hotline, as their budget allows. Clay County Extension staff has been generous and helpful with outfitting the new room with a second phone line and second computer.

A thank you card signed by many MG's at Hotline training sessions will be delivered today.

~Chris Veach

The Hot Spot

By Carolyn Lidge, Master Gardener and Hotline Co-Chair

Okay Happy Gardeners, we're almost there! Just think, another week or so and the soil is ours! Who could ask for anything more? Well I guess we could ... and speaking of we ... the Hotline committee now has two Co-chairs! Please give **Janice Georg** a warm Master Gardener's welcome. Janice transferred her membership to Kansas City from Eastern Illinois. From the onset Janice hit the sidewalk running.



She has been an angel in disguise, and I am so appreciative to have her. Some of you may have already received correspondence from her. She has been doing the scheduling and sending out reminders for the past month. So, please feel free to contact either of us for your Hotline needs. Just make sure to send all your concerns to HotlineMo@aol.com and they will be addressed in a timely manner. Now is the best time to give it a try.

Many of you may not know that May is "Mentor and Mentee" month. So, this is for all you Mentees: Please give your Mentor a call and invite him/her to work the Hotline with you. For those who may not have a Mentor, please feel free to ask any of the Perennials to share some of their expertise.

And, there is something that I do need to mention. When people call inquiring about a contact person for the Speaker's Bureau, please give them the Speaker's Bureau phone number, 816-876-2798, and NEVER the home phone number of anyone on that committee. Instruct them to call that number and leave a message. Assure them that their phone call will be returned by one of the members of that committee.

In concluding, I would like to give a response to a question I've been asked several times ... "Why is the Hotline mandatory?" In all actuality, the Hotline is not mandatory. For all incoming Interns, the Hotline is a requirement and has been factored in with their 45 qualifying hours. Once that commitment has been satisfied, there is never another time that the Hotline has to be added to anyone's agenda. However, who wouldn't want to continue to work the Hotline? It is by far the best way to gain knowledge, meet new people, and just perhaps be smarter than Lala some day ... oh, well, we can wish!

A Big Thank YOU!

By Sherry Bowers, Master Gardener and Co-Chair



Please allow me to take a moment to thank the following folks for supplying our door prizes at this year's Plant Exchange. A round of applause is due them for helping make our event such a success: **Backyard Birds, Planters, Birds Unlimited, Family Tree, Richard Rice, Shari Paulsell, Longview Gardens,** and our very own **Van Walsh Gardens**. I wish to also thank everyone who contributed plants to the exchange, as well as the great members of the Spring Plant Exchange Committee TEAM. Great job everyone! Any comments you'd like to contribute to make next years even better? Just email me at: bowersgardening@yahoo.com

International Compost Awareness Week (ICAW)

This year ICAW runs May 6th thru 12th. ICAW (est. 1999) is a multimedia publicity and education initiative to showcase compost production and demonstrate compost use. For the past five years ICAW has grown in both strength and numbers through its sponsors and compost advocates. ICAW serves the important role of bringing the Compost! message to the attention of the public, businesses and other groups. Communities and government agencies, as well as members of the composting industry, utilize the week to promote their specific Compost! messages and programs.

The Master Gardeners have received an invitation to participate this year from Dennis Hansen, Missouri Coordinator.

If you would be interested in promoting ICAW, please contact Molly Fusselman at the Extension Office.

<p>MAY 13</p> 	<p>NKC-TUE (1) 9:00 – 12:00 A Teresa Kester (8) 468-9018 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Michael Horton (8) 942-6975</p>	<p>BSG-WED (2) 9:00 – 12:00 A P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Marie Robinson (8) 229-4857</p>	<p>NKC-THU (3) 9:00 – 12:00 A Katie Stuart (8) 320-3216 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P</p>	<p>BSG-FRI (4) 9:00 – 12:00 A Terrence Thompson (8)-350-1081 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Terrence Thompson (8)-350-1081 P</p>
<p>9:00 – 12:00 (7) A Terrence Thompson (8)-350-1081 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Carol Rauscher (8)-524-6870 P</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (8) A Beth Flemington (8) 361-7436 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Beth Flemington (8) 361-7436 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (9) A Terrence Thompson (8)-350-1081 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (10) A Teresa Kester (8)-468-9018 P Connie Carder (8) 632-2671</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Becki Bardin (8) 792-2466</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (11) A Bob Parkey (8)-650-6260 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Bob Parkey (8)-650-6260 P</p>
<p>9:00 – 12:00 (14) A Fred Markham (8)-356-0498 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (15) A C. Porrevecchio (8) 353-4249 P Chris Veach (8) 407-0553</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A C. Porrevecchio (8) 353-4249 P Michael Horton (8) 942-6975</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (16) A Renee Austring (8)-229-0255 P Mona Marsh (8) 941-9053</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Patrice Hatfield (8)-916-4000 P Mona Marsh (8) 941-9053</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (17) A Carol Huhs (8)-210-2253 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Carol Huhs (8)-210-2253 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (18) A Fred Markham (8)-356-0498 P Janice Georg (8) 350-1972</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Suzanne Minner (8)-347-1435 P</p>
<p>9:00 – 12:00 (21) A Fred Markham (8)-356-0498 P Cathy Cleary 660-594-3270</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Patrice Hatfield (8)-916-4000 P Cathy Cleary 660-594-3270</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (22) A C. Porrevecchio (8) 353-4249 P Carolyn Lidge (8) 966-1861</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A C. Porrevecchio (8) 353-4249 P Carolyn Lidge (8) 966-1861</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (23) A Fred Markham (8)-356-0498 P Mona Marsh (8) 941-9053</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Mona Marsh (8) 941-9053</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (24) A Sherry Bowers (8)-695-6869 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Sherry Bowers (8)-695-6869 P Carolyn Lidge (8)-966-1861</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (25) A Fred Markham (8)-356-0498 P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A Carol Rauscher (8)-524-6870 P</p>
<p>9:00 – 12:00 (28)</p> <p>MEMORIAL DAY</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p> 	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (29) A P</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (30) A P Shari Paulsell (8)-578-5653</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Shari Paulsell (8)-578-5653</p>	<p>9:00 – 12:00 (31) A Teresa Kester (8) 468-9018 P Jill Moore (8) 452-9212</p> <p>12:00 - 3:00 A P Chris Veach (8) 407-0553</p>	<p>HOTLINE SUBS</p> <p>Janice Georg (8) 350-1972</p> <p><i>Penny Schultz</i> (8) 453-7031</p> <p>Gwen Wheeler (8)-228-9308</p>

The Social Scene

Enough About Us ... Let's Talk About YOU!

Following is a recipe that many of you requested from our Watkin's Mill volunteer and "Top Chef," Irma Schmitz:

CHOCOLATE DRIZZLED CHERRY BARS

Prep time: 30 minutes

Baking time: 42 minutes

Crumb Mixture:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups uncooked quick-cooking oats
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 ¼ cups LAND O LAKES® Unsalted Butter,
Softened

Filling:

- 1 (21-ounce) can cherry pie filling
- 1 teaspoon almond extract

Drizzle:

- ½ cup real semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon shortening

Heat oven to 350°F. Combine all crumb mixture ingredients in large bowl. Beat at low speed until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Reserve 1 ½ cups crumb mixture; press remaining crumb mixture onto bottom of ungreased 13x9-inch baking pan. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until edges are very lightly browned.

Meanwhile, combine all filling ingredients in same bowl. Spread filling over hot, partially baked crust; sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Continue baking for 27 to 32 minutes or until lightly browned.

Melt chocolate chips and shortening in 1-quart saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly, until smooth (2 to 3 minutes). Drizzle over bars. Cool completely; cut into rectangles, diamonds, or squares.

Makes 36 bars.



A Publication of the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City

The Newsline



"The Newsline" is a monthly information source for the Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City, and is provided free of charge to active members by email or by postal mail.

Editor: Cheryl Ann Novick
Reporter: Sherry Adams
Photographer: Sherry Adams

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Articles and graphic elements (photos, artwork, maps, etc.) may be emailed to Cheryl Ann Novick, Editor, at newslineeditor@hotmail.com or may be hand delivered on disc or diskette to the Extension Office, labeled 'Attention: "The Newsline" Editor'.

University of Missouri Extension has updated its AA/EEO statement:

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The statement should be used on longer documents, such as brochures, reports and publications. The shorter version "equal opportunity/ADA institutions" should continue being used on letterhead, in newsletters and where space is limited. MU Extension's graphic standards and identity guidelines are available on the Web:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/staff/marketing/>.

If you do not work with a computer, but would still like to contribute a newsworthy piece, please send or deliver your typewritten work to the Extension Office at the following address:

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