“Reaching Out Report”
the Greene County Extension Newsletter
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65807
Email: greeneco@missouri.edu * Tel: (417) 881-8909
November 2015 * Vol. 8, Issue 11

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Byers Presented with “Vice Provost’s Award for Outstanding Achievement”

Patrick Byers (above at right) is the MU Extension horticulture specialist headquartered in Greene County. He was presented the “Vice Provost’s Award for Outstanding Achievement” honoring off-campus faculty during the recent MU Extension Summit in Columbia. Tom Henderson, interim director of MU Extension (and pictured above at left) had this to say. “Byers has one of the most comprehensive horticulture programs in MU Extension. He oversees one of the state’s largest Master Gardener programs and is known statewide by commercial fruit and vegetable producers. His elderberry project brought international recognition to MU and has helped grow a new and expanding industry in Missouri,” said Henderson.

University of Missouri Extension is an equal opportunity/ access/ affirmative action/ pro-disabled and veteran employer.
# Greene Game of Business

## Greene County Extension Scorecard – November 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>YTD #s</th>
<th>Budget #</th>
<th>DIFF</th>
<th>Total %</th>
<th>OWNER</th>
<th>Forecast</th>
<th>Actuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0100</td>
<td>Student Fees</td>
<td>$16,166.26</td>
<td>$5,035.00</td>
<td>-$11,131.26</td>
<td>321%</td>
<td>K. McGowan</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$2,390.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0210</td>
<td>County Appropriations</td>
<td>$24,160.00</td>
<td>$27,000.00</td>
<td>$2,840.00</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>David Burton</td>
<td>$2,250.00</td>
<td>$2,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0400</td>
<td>Gift/Grants/Contracts</td>
<td>$21,308.00</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
<td>$3,692.00</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>$3,550.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>0900</td>
<td>Resales/Fees/Soil Tests</td>
<td>$10,118.75</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
<td>-$7,618.75</td>
<td>405%</td>
<td>McGowan/Byers</td>
<td>$450.00</td>
<td>$519.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2100</td>
<td>Postage Allotment</td>
<td>$2,185.00</td>
<td>$2,400.00</td>
<td>$215.00</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>David Burton</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2600</td>
<td>MCHP Subsidy</td>
<td>$3,850.00</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
<td>128%</td>
<td>M. Black</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600</td>
<td>Balance Transfers</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>#DIV/0!</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$77,788.01</td>
<td>$64,935.00</td>
<td>-$12,853.01</td>
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<td></td>
<td>$6,900.00</td>
<td>$8,709.45</td>
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<td>2700</td>
<td>Personnel - Wages</td>
<td>$26,214.11</td>
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<td>$6,774.89</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>M. Black</td>
<td>$2,184.00</td>
<td>$2,392.00</td>
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<td>2800</td>
<td>Payroll Expenses</td>
<td>$9,483.13</td>
<td>$6,956.00</td>
<td>-$2,527.13</td>
<td>136%</td>
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<td>$530.00</td>
<td>$577.56</td>
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<td>3100</td>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$5,718.45</td>
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<td>P. Duitsman</td>
<td>$417.00</td>
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<td>3600</td>
<td>Postage &amp; Postage Meter</td>
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<td>Telephone Service</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
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<td>61%</td>
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<td>Publishing/Printing</td>
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<tr>
<td>4800</td>
<td>Reproduction &amp; Copies</td>
<td>$125.47</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
<td>$74.53</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>D. Burton</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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<td>5100</td>
<td>Supplies/Services</td>
<td>$4,136.50</td>
<td>$2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5110</td>
<td>Annual Meeting</td>
<td>$537.50</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>-$37.50</td>
<td>108%</td>
<td>Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>6400</td>
<td>Other Contract Services</td>
<td>$1,248.00</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
<td>-$348.00</td>
<td>125%</td>
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<td>$528.00</td>
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<td>6800</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$350.00</td>
<td>-$50.00</td>
<td>114%</td>
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<td>7010</td>
<td>Ext. Council Election</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
<td>$1,100.00</td>
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<td>Council</td>
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<td>7100</td>
<td>Soil Test Expenses</td>
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<td>$1,500.00</td>
<td>-$1,722.00</td>
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<td>Patrick Byers</td>
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<td>Publications for Resale</td>
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<td>$500.00</td>
<td>-$496.00</td>
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<td>7300</td>
<td>Repairs/Maintenance</td>
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<td>$1,740.00</td>
<td>-$256.70</td>
<td>115%</td>
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<td>$170.00</td>
<td>$158.14</td>
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<td>7700</td>
<td>Furniture / Equipment</td>
<td>$965.73</td>
<td>$1,200.00</td>
<td>$234.27</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>7999</td>
<td>Fee Generation MU</td>
<td>$7,633.80</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>-$5,633.80</td>
<td>382%</td>
<td>R. Wardlow</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
<td>$2,812.45</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$68,848.16</td>
<td>$64,935.00</td>
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<td>106%</td>
<td></td>
<td>$7,451.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NET INCOME</td>
<td>$8,939.85</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>-$8,939.85</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>Monthly forecast</td>
<td>-$551.00</td>
<td>$379.36</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Our Critical Number this year is “Net Income” and our goal is to finish the year in the black (positive balance) so those funds can be applied toward additional programs in the 2016 budget.

## Key Drivers for finances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>YTD</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>DIFF</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Soil tests done in 2015</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total # of donors in 2015</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>-38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu
Selected Upcoming Extension Events in Greene County

Exploring 4-H (Urban Club)
MU Extension and Springfield-Greene County Parks staff are offering an opportunity for youth to explore a variety of 4-H projects and experiences as part of an urban group. This new program is open to children age: 8 to 13. Call 881-8909 for information on how to get involved or learn more online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene.

Master Gardener Orientation
Required informational meeting for anyone interested in the 2016 MU Extension Master Gardener core training. Orientation sessions will be held on Jan. 26 and Jan. 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Botanical Center. This orientation meeting is free. The series of core trainings are $150. Call (417) 881-8909
Age: 18 yrs. & up | Fee: Free
Date: Jan. 26 or 28 | Time: 6-8 p.m.
For details: http://mggreene.org/

Master Gardener Core Training
The 2016 Master Gardeners of Greene County core training will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from Feb. 23 to April 14 at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center. For information, contact Kelly McGowan at mcgowank@missouri.edu

Business Development Classes
Regular business classes are held at the Small Business Development and Technology Center, 405 North Jefferson Ave., Springfield. Register by calling (417) 836-5685 or check online www.ws.missouristate.edu/sbdc.

Potting Shed University
Invest in gardening skills for life and become a better gardener. Different topic every week. Offered by MU Extension and Master Gardeners of Greene County. Call 891-1515.
Age: 18 yrs. and up | Fee: $5/class
Time: Mon., 6-8 p.m.
Date: 29-Feb Herb Theme Gardens
7-Mar Winter Sowing
14-Mar Bring Back Monarchs
21-Mar Houseplants
28-Mar Frugal Gardening
4-Apr Small Gardens Trees
11-Apr Haybale Gardening
18-Apr Twilight Gardens
For details: http://mggreene.org/

Extension Council Changes
Monthly Meetings to Noon
The Greene County Extension Council has decided to conduct future council meetings during the noon hour at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield.
Council members agreed that noon meetings would help reduce staff time, makes better use of building space, and aids in volunteer recruitment along with other benefits.
The goal is for future council meetings to last no longer than one hour. Thanks to a donor, low-cost or donated food items will be provided to council at the noon meeting.
Council voted for the schedule change to become effective at the next meeting on Monday, Nov. 30. There will not be a council meeting in December and the February meeting is the annual dinner meeting held in the evening.

Program Calendar Online
The most up-to-date list of reported upcoming MU Extension programs in Greene County is available online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene
Calendar visible on right side of page.
Friends of Greene County Extension

Members of “Friends of Greene County Extension” contribute financially to make it possible for Extension to continue having a positive impact on the quality of life in Greene County. Learn how to help by calling (417) 881-8909 or going to http://extension.missouri.edu/greene

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu  Page 4
Direct contact where learning is occurring is considered teaching. This includes one-to-one calls, emails to individuals who have asked questions or sought information, meetings that include learning, and classes.

BY THE NUMBERS (for the month)
- Requests for advisement: 16
- Regular weekly news columns: 14
- TV/Radio Interviews – 4
- Total articles written this month – 44
- Telephone inquiries — 12

Donations to Friends of Greene County Extension for 2015
Cash = $24,884
See our list of donors to the Friends Campaign online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/giving.aspx

By the Numbers (for the month)
- Requests for advisement: 16
- Regular weekly news columns: 14
- TV/Radio Interviews – 4
- Total articles written this month – 44
- Telephone inquiries — 12

David Burton’s focus of work as civic communication specialist: Community and civic engagement through communication and media relations, leading and moderating focus groups, non-profit education and support, social media in support of disaster recovery and response, marketing extension regionally, heritage tourism with an emphasis on restoring historic schools; and engaging council members with media relations efforts like the Southwest Region News Service and the Expert Source Program.

As county program director: David also works with the elected council to operate, fund and administer the local Greene County Extension office and to plan local programs, to engage council members in this and other work, and to generate local revenue to support programs in Greene County.

Civic Communication Specialist & County Program Director

CPD DUTIES & PROGRAMS
- Financial oversight, travel authorizations.
- County Commission meetings.
- Friends of Extension mailing.
- Edited “Reaching Out Report”
- Regular updates to county website
- Answers to various member concerns.
- Great Game of Business details/planning.
- Organize and conduct weekly staff meetings
- Regional faculty meeting
- County Program Directory meetings
- Program planning efforts and meetings

Social Media Report Card for the Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SRNS New Subs</th>
<th>SRNS Subscribers</th>
<th>2015 views on AgEbb</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>8794</td>
<td>1,741,212</td>
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YouTube

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Subscribers</th>
<th>Total Views</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>470</td>
<td>486758</td>
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Twitter

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2015 Followers</th>
<th>2015 Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>1299</td>
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Flickr

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<th>2015 Followers</th>
<th>Total 2015 Views</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>182,755</td>
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Facebook

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<tr>
<th>2015 Followers</th>
<th>Monthly Reach</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70213</td>
<td>62,187</td>
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SWRN Blog

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Monthly views</th>
<th>2015 Annual Views</th>
<th>Total 2015 Social/Online Contacts &amp; Views=</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2144</td>
<td>21,440</td>
<td>3,378,726</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Open Rate of News Email this month 18%

National average open rate on emails 13%

I encourage county extension councils to provide content to MUExtension417 Twitter and Facebook pages and to have clients follow those regional options. I also schedule social media posts. All media releases are posted to AgEbb and social media by me using Hootsuite.

KLOUT rating is a national measure of our social media effectiveness.

KLOUT rating (current / highest) = 66 / 72 (out of 100)

SWRN Blog Monthly views 2144

2015 Annual Views 21,440

Total 2015 Social/Online Contacts & Views= 3,378,726
Business Specialist Honored for Helping Businesses Increase Sales

Chrystal Irons, a business development specialist with University of Missouri Extension in Christian, Greene and Taney counties, was awarded the Associated Industries of Missouri Extension Industry Award during the MU Extension Summit in Columbia in late October, 2015.

Chrystal joined the MU Extension business development program in 2010. Last year, under Iron’s direction, the Taney County Small Business and Technology Development Center developed a comprehensive partnership with the Carl G. Hefner Enterprise Center, a small business incubator, and the Ozark Chamber of Commerce to provide free business counseling.

Over the past two fiscal years, Irons exceeded all her economic impact goals. Her goal of increasing sales for area companies was $6.5 million, and she achieved $10.6 million. In the same period, she helped create or retain more than 200 jobs and start 16 new businesses.

Don’t Guess, Soil Test

Now is a great time to get a soil test done at the Greene County Extension Center.

GROW HEALTHIER PLANTS
A soil test shows exactly how much lime and fertilizer your plants need.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
Avoid excessive fertilizer use and guard against nutrient loss in runoff.

AVOID FRUSTRATION
Science-based analysis and unbiased recommendations let you escape hit-or-miss growing efforts.

SAVE MONEY
Buy only the fertilizer you need after getting a quality soil test.

ACHIEVE OPTIMAL GROWTH
Determines what your plants need for optimum health and growth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit “Soil Test Central” online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene
Horticulture Specialist

Community Contact:
TV and Radio
- 4 live interviews with KOLR10’s John Ziegler (1 delivered by Kelly McGowan, 2 by Master Gardener volunteer Terry Newport)
- Interview with Michelle Skalicky, radio station KSMU, on fall leaf management (11/11/15)

Print media
- Contributed to several articles and interviews

Requests for information
- Telephone contacts – 29 for advisement
- Email contacts – 21 contacts
- Office visits, professional contacts – 1 for consultation and advisement
- Farm site visits – 2 for consultation

Programs Presented:
- “Soil Testing – Why we ask what we ask?”, Southwest Region County Support Staff Conference, Springfield (10/23/15)
- “Resources from MU Extension”, SOP Scaling Up workshop, Springfield (11/5/16)
- “On Farm Food Safety – Overview”, SOP Scaling Up workshop, Springfield (11/6/15)
- “On Farm Food Safety – Manure and Compost Use”, SOP Scaling Up workshop, Springfield (11/6/15)
- “Hygiene and Recordkeeping for Food Safety”, SOP Scaling Up workshop, Springfield (11/6/15)
- “Developing an On Farm Food Safety Plan”, SOP Scaling Up workshop, Springfield (11/7/15)
- “Home Fruit Production”, Christian/Stone/Taney County Master Gardener core training, Ozark (11/12/15)

Coordinated:
- Southwest Regional Envirothon (wrote test questions and graded exams for Current Topic), Springfield (11/4/15)
- SOP Scaling Up Workshop (on planning committee), Springfield (11/5/15, 11/6/15, 11/7/15)
- Ozarks Food Harvest high tunnel relocation project, Rogersville (11/12/15, 11/13/15)
- Horticulture soil test reports - recommendations and distribution for SW region – 52 reports during reporting period

Participated in:
- Southwest Regional Envirothon, Springfield (11/4/15)
- Metropolitan Food Systems Team meeting (11/16/15)

Upcoming programming and events
- Ozarks Technical College Turf and Landscape Management advisory committee meeting, Springfield (11/20/15)
- Hollister Farm to Table planning meeting, Hollister (12/1/15)
- Produce Safety Alliance regional training committee meeting, Springfield (12/1/15)
- Grow Your Farm program, West Plains (12/1/15)
- Local Foods Workshop, West Plains (12/4/15)
- National Vegetable Grafting Symposium and ISE, Grand Rapids, MI (12/7/15-12/8/15)
- Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo, Grand Rapids, MI (12/8/15-12/10/15)
- Grow Your Farm tour, West Plains (12/12/15)
- Metropolitan Food Systems team meeting, Columbia (12/14/15)
- Grow Your Farm program, West Plains (12/15/15) (12/22/15) (12/29/15)
- Hmong high tunnel workshop, Seneca (12/17/15-12/18/15)
The Missouri Master Naturalist Program results from a partnership created in 2004 between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and MU Extension (MUE). The Missouri Master Naturalist Program is recognized as a named program within MU Extension. The MU School of Natural Resources is the academic home for the Program. See [www.springfieldmasternaturalist.com](http://www.springfieldmasternaturalist.com) or [springfieldmn.blogspot.com](http://springfieldmn.blogspot.com/)

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**Overview of Master Naturalists**

**OUR MISSION**
Our mission is to engage people in the stewardship of our state’s natural resources through science-based education and volunteer community service.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**
1. Improve public understanding of natural resources ecology and management by developing a pool of local knowledge about natural resources ecology that can be used to enhance education efforts within local communities.

2. Enhance existing natural resources education and outreach activities by providing natural resources training at the local level, thereby developing a team of dedicated and informed volunteers.

Moving a High Tunnel for Ozarks Food Harvest with Volunteers

Ozarks Food Harvest is the food bank serving southwest Missouri, providing assistance to 200 pantries and programs reaching 260,000 people in 28 counties. Recently Ozarks Food Harvest entered into an agreement with a local farm, which allowed the food bank to produce quantities of fresh vegetables for distribution. The farm provides two high tunnels and a large number of raised beds, and volunteers furnish the labor.

Christy Claybaker, who coordinates the project for Ozarks Food Harvest, consults with Patrick Byers, MU Extension horticulturist, on a regular basis. Recently Christy and Patrick discussed the relocation of one of the high tunnels, a 45’ x 30’ movable high tunnel, to a site that was more efficiently located near power and water.

A crew of several volunteers from Rare Breed Youth Services and Springfield YMCA, spent the first day (November 12) under the guidance of Patrick, dismantling the high tunnel.

Several minutes of excitement were provided when the group cut loose the plastic covering, just in time for several high wind gusts. Other
volunteers graded the new site. The tunnel tracks were moved on the second day of the project, and volunteers (including Shon Bishop and David Middleton of Lincoln University) wore out several sledge hammers securing the tracks with 2’ pins.

It was next all hands on deck, as the crew moved each segment of the high tunnel, raised the segment into place, and secured the segment. The tunnel was in place on the new site by the end of the day, and all the volunteers shared the excitement of a job well done.

Shown above: the tunnel track is relocated and anchored at the new site.

Raising the tunnel sections at the new site.

Christy Claybaker (right), Patrick and volunteers rest after a job well done.
Master Gardeners of Greene County

Community Outreach
- Telephone, email and office visits for horticulture consultation-13
- 11/12/15-KOLR 10 Midday News live TV spot-‘Planting Fall Bulbs’
- 11/16/15-Ozarks Living Magazine article-‘American Elderberry’

Programs Presented
- 10/26/15-Highlandville Master Gardener Core Training-‘Home Vegetable Production’
- 11/10/15-Master Gardeners of Greene County chapter meeting presentation-‘An Indoor Tour of the Springfield Botanical Gardens’

Programs Participated In
- 10/27/15-10/29/15-University of Missouri Extension Fall Summit in Columbia
- 11/2/15-Master Gardeners of Greene County Board Meeting
- 11/3/15-Great Game of Business Huddle; Scaling Up Workshop Planning Meeting
- 11/5/15-11/7/15-Scaling Up Workshop at Botanical Center
- 11/10/15-Great Game of Business Huddle
- 11/12/15-Parks Dept. Review Committee Monthly Meeting; Garden Committee Monthly Meeting and end of the year celebration; Friends of the Garden monthly board meeting
- 11/17/15-MU Extension Regional Faculty meeting in Mountain Grove

2016 Master Gardeners of Greene County Core Training

Core training for new Master Gardener members will begin on February 23, 2016 in Greene County. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-9 pm through 4/5/16. The cost will be $150 per person or $225 for a couple sharing a manual. If you or anyone you know would like to become a member, please have them contact Kelly McGowan at mcgowank@missouri.edu or 417-881-8909 for more information.

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu
Stay Strong, Stay Healthy
Coming to Greene County

A “Stay Strong, Stay Healthy” course will begin Dec. 2 in Springfield at the Botanical Center, 2400 S. Scenic Avenue, Springfield. The first and last class will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the remaining classes will run from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Participants will meet two times each week for eight weeks.

The fee for the sixteen sessions is $40. The fee is payable at the first class. There is still room in the class for a few more participants. If you are interested call the Greene County Extension Office 881-8909 to get your name on the list.

If Springfield schools are closed due to bad weather, we will not meet that day. We will add an extra day to the end of the schedule.

Mental Health First Aid

Fifteen Springfield residents participated in an eight hour training, Mental Health First Aid. The all-day training was presented to individuals who are working toward a drug and alcohol free life. Each participant took an exam and passed, allowing them to be Mental Health First Aiders. These individuals have a better understanding of what mental health first aid is, a better understanding of helping someone in crisis, and the tools needed to be effective as a mental health first aider.

Space for Rent

The Botanical Center offers meeting space for social gatherings and business functions. Contact us for all of your needs!

Springfield Botanical Gardens at Nathanael Greene Close Memorial Park.
417-891-1515 | www.botanicalcenter.org

To learn more about this program or others impacting children and families, contact Human Development Specialist Renette Wardlow at (417) 881-8909 or by email at wardlowr@missouri.edu.

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu
4-H Recognition Night

Greene County 4-H held its annual “Recognition Night” this month. Here are a few photos of the honored 4-H members in Greene County.

Pictured at right is the winner of the “Outstanding secretary award,” Serena Peterson!

Pictured below is Donna Hammontree who was honored as the 4-H Alumni Award Winner for 2015. She is shown with members of the Teen Council.

More About 4-H

As the largest out-of-school youth organization in the world, 4-H is open to all boys and girls, ages 5 to 18. Children who are five to seven years old are eligible for 4-H Clover Kids, an introductory program. Youths who are 8 to 18 years of age can select from a variety of 4-H projects and activities that stress social and life skills in areas like decision making, communication, social interaction, civic responsibility and physical skills. Children do not have to live on a farm to join 4-H. Project opportunities include computers, robotics, foods and nutrition, horticulture, large and small animals and more. Missouri 4-H is University of Missouri Extension's youth development program. Learn more online.

Contact 4-H Youth Development Specialist Karla Deaver at the Lawrence County Extension office by telephone at 417/466-3102 or by email at deaverk@missouri.edu.
Housing and Urban Development Specialist

Jeff Barber

Energy Audit, Rebates Can Reduce Winter Utility Bills

As winter approaches, many people dread the high utility bills that can accompany the extreme weather of the season. In preparation for this change of seasons, businesses and homeowners should have their HVAC systems checked and also consider having an energy audit, according to Jeff Barber, a housing and urban development specialist with University of Missouri Extension.

“These two steps are like going to the doctor for an annual check-up and can help discover problems that can lead to high utility bills, possibly uncovering safety issues too,” said Barber. “Using the recommendations of an energy audit can help consumers prioritize energy efficiency improvements and get the most from their money.”

To encourage Missouri citizens to make the investment in a home energy audit, Senate Bill 601 passed in 2014 extended an existing incentive to December 31, 2020. Under this provision, any taxpayer who paid an individual certified by the Division of Energy to complete a home energy audit may deduct 100 percent of the costs incurred for the audit and the implementation of any energy efficiency recommendations made by the auditor.

The maximum subtraction may not exceed $1,000 per year, for an individual taxpayer or $2,000 per year for taxpayers filing combined returns.

“To qualify for the deduction, you must have incurred expenses in the year you are filing a claim, and the expenses incurred must not have been excluded from your federal adjusted gross income or reimbursed through any other state or utility energy program,” said Barber.

Another national resource is available for finding local policies and incentives that apply to agriculture, industry, businesses and homes through the “Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency” at http://www.dsireusa.org/.

One noteworthy program is PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) funding that is available to cities and counties that have either developed their own districts or joined the statewide Missouri Clean Energy District (MCED). Communities that join MCED can offer a new economic development tool with no upfront expense or continuing liability, which then allows eligible property owners to apply for up to 100 percent funding of qualifying Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy improvements (for details visit www.mced.mo.gov).

“By making informed decisions that incorporate solid analysis, tax incentives, utility rebates and new alternative funding methods, property owners can better manage their bottom line. These careful investments can pay for themselves through utility savings, enhancing property value and potentially creating a new competitive edge,” said Barber.

Donate Vehicles to Greene County Extension

Cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs, ATVs, boats, boat motors and farm equipment can be donated to the Greene County Extension Council.

When contacting the local extension office with a donation be prepared to give the following: name, address and telephone for the owner and type of item. If it is a vehicle we will need VIN, make, model, year, color and mileage. When the vehicle is picked up (or delivered) the owner must sign over the title.

Jeff Barber is working with leaders in area communities and students at Drury to develop projects and visioning documents that improve living and expand economic options. Information about his work can be found on the Greene County Extension website or contact him at (417) 881-8909 or barberj@missouri.edu.
Nutrition and Food Policy

Seeds of Prosperity Workshop Series
The Seeds of Prosperity team (Patrick Byers, Kelly McGowan, Nashon Bishop, David Middleton, Robert Balek, Clarissa Hatley and Pam Duitsman) presented a three-day workshop covering needed topics to successfully scale up production to provide more local food. The workshop evaluations were excellent, with 100% responding the workshop was needed or very needed; 100% reporting a greater understanding of topics covered; 100% responding that they intended to take action on what they learned.

Evidence of this program met many needed outcomes for Greene and surrounding counties. The workshops included presentations from producers who have scaled-up successfully, and included practical, hands-on advice. Throughout the workshop, participants were assisted in building successful partnerships, understanding next steps needed, and connected to local wholesale outlets and opportunities.

In addition to the above series, during November Pam presented a local Food presentation; wrote one food system article, and took part in five community meetings to move these initiatives forward.

Food Hub Feasibility Study for the Ozarks
Results from this study were presented twice in Greene County during November. Pam is partnering with MSU’s School of Agriculture.

Food Hubs increase access for consumers to source-identified, locally-produced food. Producers and farmers have greater access to buyers, and save money on infrastructure, transportation and marketing. Wholesale buyers benefit by purchasing from one seller with a supply of food that meets their non-negotiable standards including food safety, liability insurance coverage, consistent products, reliable delivery, etc.

Ozark Regional Food Policy Council
Meets the first Wednesday of every month to work on policy, programs, and plans to support the Greene County and Regional Food system.

Voices for Food Project
Pam is the Project Coordinator for Missouri. During November SW Missouri communities received grant dollars to implement their local plans through Food Policy Council work. This project focuses on Food Insecurity, and working to develop and implement sustainable solutions to increase availability and access to healthy foods for communities. Voices for Food is a federally funded six-state research project, drawing on the expertise of Cooperative Extension services. The majority of Pam’s position is focused on this work, which will last into 2018.

Small Steps to Health and Wealth:
Pam taught two sessions of this program in November. SSHW encourages participants to make positive behavior changes to simultaneously improve their health and personal finances. Participants learn to set goals; identify steps to reach those goals; and monitor their progress.

Individual consultation in November
Pam provided individual consultation to 22 individuals/farms/businesses during November.

Contact Nutrition and Health Education Specialist Dr. Pam Duitsman at (417) 881-8909 or by email at duitsmanp@missouri.edu.
Seeds of Prosperity Program Works to Increase Local Food Production
By Audrey Ester, KOLR-TV10 / Nexstar

Right now a little less than two percent of all food eaten in southwest Missouri is produced locally. This week a group of food experts are working on trying to increase that amount.

Leading the local food push are those with the Ozarks Regional Food Policy Council. Their goal is to make sure that by 2030 at least 20% of the food you eat is produced in southwest Missouri.

"When you have all of these different minds and all these different perspectives coming together that's where you get answers," said Pam Duitsman with the University of Missouri Extension.

Reaching that goal she said starts by helping local farmers learn how to meet the needs of buyers like grocers, hospitals and school districts.

"They have to look at local farmers who can get food there that is traceable, clean and has liability insurance with it," said Duitsman.

According to the USDA, more local people eating more local food can help their health, their environment and their economy, Duitsman said.

"The USDA has shown that … when we figure out a way to help farmers produce enough local food to supply the local demand economic development is improved," said Duitsman.

Steve McKaske's 1,000 acre farm located in the state's bootheel region supplies rice and other products to Mama Jeans, Hy-Vee, and Chipotle. The secret to success he said might sound rather simple.

"If you have a good product that's reasonably priced and they know they can count on you to make deliveries you're in," said McKaske.

All reasons why CoxHealth will soon buy and serve his rice to thousands of its patients and employees. CoxHealth officials say farmers wanting to do the same will need to do what McKaske's doing with an emphasis on providing consistent service.

"It'd be like medications. If the truck didn't come in with the medications it'd be a disaster. It's a lot of the same way with food. We need consistent food coverage," said Jason Bauer with CoxHealth.

Program attendees who shared what action they would take as a result of the conference included the following: *I will use this information to grow my farm;* I will start growing more and stay dedicated; *I will start the process to certify organic;* include wholesale in the production plan; write our farms story; improve my record keeping and networking; research and apply for grants/loans; *start the new growing season with a better farm plan;* explore idea of a large consumer co-op to support a regional Food Hub in Greene County.

Contact Nutrition and Health Education Specialist Dr. Pam Duitsman at (417) 881-8909 or by email at duitsmanp@missouri.edu.
Greene County “Reaching Out” Report

Can I Help?
Maggie Black can help customers with material needs, soil tests and program registrations. Contact her at the Greene County Extension Center or email her direct at blackmag@missouri.edu. Maggie Black joined Greene County Extension in 2015.

Get Social with Greene County Extension
Follow us on Facebook: GreeneCountyExtension
Follow us on Twitter: @MUExtension417
Follow us on YouTube: /MUExtension417

Extension Council Officers
The following individuals are officers on the Greene County Extension Council during 2015:
- Matthew Simpson, chairman
- Harold Bender, vice-chairman
- Mary Sue Joplin, treasurer
- Nancy Williams, secretary
See our website (http://extension.missouri.edu/greene) for a complete listing of council members and contact information for each member.

Corporate Sponsors

Master Gardeners of Greene County: http://www.mggreene.org

Greene County Commission, 933 N Robberson Ave., Springfield, MO 65802 http://www.greenecountymo.org/

Springfield-Greene County Park Board, Ph 417-864-1049, www.parkboard.org


Greene County Extension
Office located inside the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center
2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65807
Tel: (417) 881-8909 greeneco@missouri.edu
Office hours:
Monday - Friday * 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Voices for Food Grant
Clarissa joined MU Extension in 2013 and works with Dr. Pam Duitsman on the Voices for Food Grant. She assists with documentation and other details required by this USDA grant and works to make sure the overall program, research, and community work is effective and operations smoothly.

Extension/Partner Meetings
County Commission meetings: 1st and 3rd Mondays of month; confirm agenda and meeting at http://www.greenecountymo.org/commission. Commission building, Springfield, at 9:30 a.m.
Park Board Meetings: Second Friday of each month, 8:30 a.m. Call 864-1049 to confirm.
4-H Leader’s Council Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month (except July), 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2852 S Dayton Ave, Springfield.
Greene County 4-H Foundation: meets 3rd Thursday of each month at Panera Bread on Battlefield (across from the Mall) starting at 6 p.m.
Master Gardeners of Greene County—board meeting: First Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m. at the Botanical Center.
Master Naturalists Board Meetings: The board meets at 5:30 p.m. at the MDC regional office, on the second Wednesday of the month.
Greene County Farm Bureau — Second Monday of the month at Farm Bureau 2530 S Campbell Ave, Springfield. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene
Donate in Support of Local Extension

Local donations over the last four years have made it possible to keep the Greene County Extension office open and our programs reaching over 30,000 county residents annually.

Since 1914, Greene County residents have sought help from Greene County Extension on issues related to agriculture, gardening, 4-H youth, nutrition, cooking, families, housing and business and community development. During 2015, Greene County Extension continued to offer these and other impactful programs thanks to private donors.

Your tax deductible gift during the “Friends of Greene County Extension” campaign, will stay local and support extension programs in Greene County during 2016. This is your turn to help us reach our goal of $30,000 for this program year.

For many years in MU Extension financial classes we have taught adults to “save some, spend some and share some.” This campaign is your opportunity to “share some” by supporting Greene County Extension with an annual gift. Write a check and send your donation today or if you would rather give electronically with a credit card, visit our Greene County Extension website (http://extension.missouri.edu/greene) and “click” on “Donate to Greene County Extension.”

Donors to Fall “Friends” Campaign

These donors have contributed over $2,800 during the fall “Friends of Greene County Extension” campaign. Thank you.

Ann Hall
Larry & Nancy O'Reilly
Minuen Odom
G. Peterson
David & Nancy Chambers
Kim Chaffin & Keith Chaffin
Lamont & Virginia Nelson
Kathleen Goff
Galen & Dedra Jones
David & Stacey Burton
Marla Calico
Jim Arnold
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Bill & Virginia Darr
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Edie Nelson
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William Hosman

Local Extension Programs Need Your Donation this Fall!

Online at http://extension.missouri.edu/greene