2014 MOGARDENS

MOGARDENS (presented by Master Gardeners of Greene County) is a gardening series that is offered to the community and to individuals who do not wish to commit to Master Gardener requirements, but who desire to have an overview of gardening and growing. The series is offered on Mondays, and has two topics and two presentations. For those who can’t attend the series, or prefer only the individual evening programs, they are also available. Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization and all proceeds go to park and gardening projects in Greene County. Prior registration is requested due to handouts and refreshments.

What: Seven week series of fourteen speakers including snacks and handouts.

Where: Mercy (O’Reilly) Cancer Center 2055 S Fremont.

When: Monday Evenings, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm, February 24 – March 7

How: Registration is required. The series is $90 for the fourteen presentations, or $145 for 2 persons. Individual events are $20 for the evening or $35 for 2 persons. For individual events, you can pay at the door, but please, call and reserve your space and handouts.

For reservations, call 881 8909 (press 5 to leave message for the Greene Country Extension Receptionist). Payment can be made at Missouri Extension, Botanical Center, 2400 So Scenic, Springfield, MO 65807.

Or, registrations can be mailed to Master Gardeners, Attn: MOGARDENS, Botanical Center 2400 S Scenic, Springfield, MO 65807 or paid in person at the extension office.

Who: Presenters are experienced Master Gardeners, Horticulturists, Growers, and Professional Landscapers

Feb 24 Let’s Go Native with Paul Armstrong
Paul is a Springfield landscape professional and is well known for his dedication to organic landscaping and his knowledge of native plants. He understands and describes the systems that create a healthy landscape and community. Natives are hardier, protect water storage, feed the local birds, bees, and other nature beings and require less care. How do you establish a healthy system and why is this so valuable to gardens and the community? His knowledge of how to be successful in having a beautiful, natural landscape that contributes to healthy soils and hardy plants is very thorough. What are the benefits of growing with native plants? Which native plants are useful for landscaping and how can you acquire them? Come with your questions and learn how to have an established and beautiful garden that maintains with less work and money.

Create An Inspired Kitchen Garden with Christine Chiu
Discover the secrets to creating a stunningly visual, edible garden that feeds your mind, soul, and body. Christine’s first love is seeing edibles grow, especially uncommon ones. In 2009, she
transformed the 2,300 square foot vegetable plot in the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at the Springfield Botanical Gardens from ordinary row crops into a "Kitchen Garden" in the theme of a European potager. Methods include no-till, vertical structures, cold frames, low tunnels, square foot gardening, and companion planting. A veteran member, Christine is Master Gardener Emeritus and 2013 past president of Master Gardeners of Greene County.

March 3  Growing Herbs in the Ozarks with Barb Emge and Jana Belk
Barb and Jana are Master Gardeners and Barb has years of experience with growing herbs and comes ready to share her information on how to be a successful herb grower, and what herbs you can choose. Do you grow herbs, but don’t know what to do with them? Do you purchase fresh herbs and wind up throwing most away? Did your herb seeds not sprout, or are you afraid to try them from seed? Come prepared to get the lowdown! How do you grow herbs? How do you choose which herbs to grow and what do you do with after you’ve grown them. For the beginning herb grower or the experienced herb user, this program is enjoyable and filled with information.

Growing Nutrient-Dense Food with Patricia Tursi, Ph.D.
Patricia is a retired psychologist, and Georgia Master Gardeners (1987) Missouri Master Gardener (2003), and Master Naturalist (2013). As a psychologist, she specialized in health and the mind-body connection. Since retirement, she has worked as a gardener and in plant care. She and her husband also had an uncertified organic Arkansas farm. There are many studies that prove that nutrients can reduce prison populations, decrease mental illness, and improve immunity, but plants differ in their nutrients. Nutrients can be increased by harvesting at the right time and having nutrients available. What are experts saying about this? What instruments can we use to measure nutrient density? What additives can we use for soil supplementation? Nutrient-dense ornamentals, have less disease and biotic stress, so it makes plant care a lot easier.

March 10  Shade Gardening with Tom Lakowske
Tom is a a Master Gardener, a board member of Friends of the Garden, President of the Greater Ozarks Hosta Society, and, since its inception, a contributing writer to Greene Magazine. His website, SWMOgardens.com, is full of gardening tips and ideas, landscape designs, articles and games, a complete gardening calendar, and a how-to series.

Tom designed and coordinated the renovation of the popular hosta garden at the Springfield Botanical Gardens in 2011 and, in only three years, he, and hard-working volunteers, won American Hosta Society national display garden status. He also has created Alta Song, his own garden, which is one of the most beautiful private gardens in SW Missouri. Tom is entertaining and has beautiful photographs, so come for an enjoyable evening.
Succulents for Indoors and Out with Paul Robertson
Paul, a Master Gardener, is well known as the founder of the Springfield Organic Club and the Succulent Society of the Ozarks and he is a Master Gardener. While living in Sacramento, California, he became a succulent enthusiast. He has grown succulents for over 30 years and grows collectibles from seed. There are thousands of succulent varieties to fit individual appeal. Learn how to care for and propagate common indoor succulents, collectible succulents, and outdoor succulents that can be used in landscaping in the Ozarks climate. These plants are currently enjoying wide-spread popularity. Paul is not limited to succulents, but is also an experienced and skilled organic food gardener.

March 17 The Benefits of Trees with Cindy Garner
Who does not love trees? Cindy Garner is well-known as Springfield’s Urban Forrester, but she also covers nine counties and parts of three more. She works with Tree City communities, a program through Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes cities for their trees and she networks with Master Gardeners for diseases. She works out of the Regional Conservation Office, trains Master Gardeners, holds tree pest clinics, writes grants and helps keep our city beautiful. We all appreciate the beauty of trees, but few know about other benefits. Learn about increasing your real estate values, how to choose your trees, how to enhance your property, how to keep your trees healthy and the value of our urban forests.

How to Have Healthy and Lush Lawns with Damon Dohorty
Damon is a certified Missouri landscape professional with 16 years of experience in organic lawn care and he is an artistic natural stone craftsman. He uses compost to keep lawns lush, healthy and green. Using compost for fertilization, he also keeps shrubs, and other plants healthy. He will share information on how he controls weeds without using harsh chemicals, how he avoids drought damage and keeps lawns beautiful by feeding the soil and not the grass without using chemicals. He works with natural biological systems rather than trying to control them. This is a cost saving approach to lawn care. This creates a safe and healthy environment for pets and children and contributes to the health and proliferation of soil organisms which contribute to the lushness of healthy lawns. Damon also creates ponds and creates water features.

March 24 Sex and the Single Flower with Sarah Dewey
Sarah has a masters in botany from the University of Miami, and presents programs on pollinators to future docents for the Butterfly house, master gardeners and other organizations who want, or need, to know about pollinators. She was a graduate level lab supervisor at MSU, and has focused on bringing ecological issues to local situations. Pollinators have evolved elaborate relationships that are amazing, but not well known. She reveals the intricate interactions between insect pollinators and host plants. Participants will receive a list of resources and a gardening guide for local butterflies. Challenges to this important aspect of our environment are important to gardening.
The Honeycutts are inventive and determined urban farm producers. Their goal is to be completely food independent. Eric has a background in agriculture, native & organic agriculture and was an eagle scout. Jesse is an assistant occupational therapist and an activist for preventive and wellness health. Together, they present a refreshing experiment in urban food independence and eagerly share their knowledge and experience in multi-tier and multi-method food production. They use aquaponics, wapini and kugel methods. They teach classes to neighbors and friends and follow an altruistic approach that is refreshing, and very knowledgeable. If you are interested in urban food production, this is for you. This is unique and offers ideas that are novel and helpful in the urban growing scene.

March 31  Attracting Birds to Your Landscape with Rebecca Nickols
Rebecca is a Master Gardener and she is “for the birds”….all birds, chickens included. Bird-friendly elements like birdhouses with living roofs, bird feeders made by Rebecca, and all sorts of bird friendly flora adorn her yard. Can’t afford expensive bird seed? Learn to create a bird habitat by including their natural native food sources, including native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. Bird houses and chicken coops with living roofs are her specialty. What plants can we have in the Ozarks that will attract birds? They have differing needs and taste. There are few things that can give such pleasure as spotting these colorful beauties in your own yard.

Making the Small Garden Productive With Dennis Wescott
Dennis is a professional grower and an award winning photographer, so he produces while appreciating esthetics. His urban farm produces vegetables and mushrooms. You may also see his ducks waddling around. He focuses on how to feed the body and please the eye. Dennis has suggestions on how to make the most of a small garden space while enjoying the beauty and bounty it provides. He has tips to share tips that he has learned through his personal experience as a grower and farmer's market vendor during the past 16 years. Dennis’ farm reminded me of one-straw revolution. He certainly knows how to get the most bounty out of a small space.

April 7  Make Smoke, Burn Smoke with Doug Brethower
Doug is a bright and dedicated person who is committed to helping others become self sufficient. He has designed a pyrolytic stove for the indoor greenhouse grower. It runs unattended for eight hours and can be cost-free if you sell the biochar that it produces (one greenhouse owner paid for a year’s heating with pellets of a 30,000 square foot greenhouse). Doug attended MU and he was in the heating business, but now focuses on self sustainability and even drives a wood burning truck. No pollution from these stoves, however, they burn smoke and produce biochar through pyrolysis instead of combustion. Doug will explain how the stoves work. He
encourages people to build their own and teaches them how. Doug will also explain why, all over the world, major universities are researching biochar. SARE is currently giving out grants for biochar research.

**Home Fruit Production with Patrick Byers**

Recently, Patrick was described by another horticulturist as the most broadly and in-depth plant expert he had ever known….and the commenter was in the same field. Patrick is the regional horticulture specialist and MU Extension Specialist in Greene County. He is the oversight director of the Master Gardeners, and works with Master Naturalists and with home horticulture. He was a five time participant in volunteer assignments through the US Agency for international development Farmer to Farmer Program in assignments to Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Lebanon and participated in an educational exchange to China. He has enjoyed studying and eating fruits for 30 years. He will share information on growing apple, pear, stone fruit, strawberry, blueberry brambles, grapes and several less known fruits.