



# GRAPEVINE

## From the President

**Mark Bernskoetter, MG—887-5782**  
**marnaeb@sbcglobal.net**

Hopefully, mowing is done – or almost done – for the year.

By the time you are reading this, we should have our new board members elected for 2010. I do hope that you took the opportunity to cast your vote. The course of our organization is important, not only to each of us, but also to the citizens of Southwest Missouri who benefit so much from our programs.

It is not too late to finish cleaning up your garden in preparation for winter. Nor is it too late to do some garden journaling and make notes about what worked well this year, what seeds you want to get again, and what new ideas you have for next year.

I find this to be a great time to go out and work on garden paths and other hardscape – it's a lot easier to deal with this time of year than next June or July in the heat.

This is a great time of year to start pulling out those seed catalogs to start dreaming (or maybe even planning) for next year, or making up that list of plants that you really want to add to your garden in 2010 – for me, it's hardy cyclamen.

Remember, hours sheets, pamphlets about upcoming seminars, and the calendar of events are all available at our website:

See you in the gardens.

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Board Meeting
- 10 General meeting 6:30

### DECEMBER

- 7 Board meeting

### JANUARY

- 12 Holiday Potluck
- 16 Gardening Inside and Out

## Board Members

**Mark Bernskoetter,**  
**President**

**Ann Hall,**  
**Vice President**

**Janet McWilliams,**  
**Secretary**

**Christy Jenkins,**  
**Treasurer**

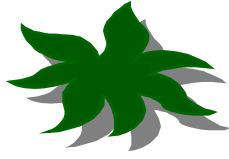
**Carl Redmon,**  
**Board Member**

**Mary Brown,**  
**Board Member**

**Randy Underwood,**  
**Board Member**

**Renae Bernskoetter,**  
**Board Member**

**Please Contact  
Nancy To  
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missouri.edu**



**Treasurer's Report**  
**Christy Jenkins, MG, Treasurer—759-2987**

**As of September 30, 2009, we had the following account balances:**

<b>Extension Account—\$ 11,866.72</b>	<b>MG Account - \$ 2983.45</b>
<b>Certificates of Deposit - \$ 15,907.75</b>	<b>Total Cash - \$ 30,757.92</b>

**MG Continuing Education 2009 Opportunities**

It is recommended by University of MO Extension Master Gardener Program that we as Master Gardeners obtain at least 6 hours of Continuing Education each year, in addition to the 20 volunteer hours. These are the opportunities that have been available thus far for 2009:

January 24 – Gardening Inside and Out - up to 2 ½ hours  
February 7 – Veggies from Start to Storage - up to 4 hours  
March 14 - Espalier pruning at Nathanael Greene - 1 hour  
March 28 - Spring into Gardening – up to 2 hours  
May 2 - Knowin' & Growin' - identify/transplant native seedlings – ½ hour  
June 6 - Knowin' & Growin' – Beneficial Insects ½ hour  
July 11 - Knowin' & Growin' – Dividing Iris – ½ hour  
Aug 8 - Fall into Gardening Seminar – up to 2 ½ hours  
Sept 26 – Knowin' & Growin' – Herbs – 2 hours  
Sept 26 & 27 – Fall Fest at Rutledge Wilson Farm – up to 1 hour for each class attended  
Oct 10 – Going Green in the Garden – up to 3 hours  
Sept 18 – 20 - State Master Gardener Conference  
Friday 18 – 3 hours advanced training if you attended a class  
Saturday 19 – still needs to be determined  
Sunday 20 – 1 hour for each class you attended

**General Meeting topics:**

February 10 - Emerald Ash Borer - 1 hour  
March 10 – Rain Gardens ½ hour  
June 9 – Lawn seeds – 1 hour

**Other opportunities:**

Lawn and Garden Show – Seminars  
Naturescaping at the Nature Center - Seminars  
Jan 24 - Veggie Gardening for Beginners – Midtown Library  
Feb 21 - Organic Gardening – Midtown Library  
March 21 - Herb Gardening – Midtown Library

You can count the time spent in classes that broadened your gardening knowledge. This is not meant to be an all-inclusive list. If you attended a class not listed here it can still count towards your Continuing Education hours. If you are unsure if it would qualify, contact Patrick Byers for a determination.



**Master Gardener Board Meeting  
October 5, 2009**

Board members attending: Mary Brown, Renae Bernskoetter, Randy Underwood, Carl Redmon, and Janet McWilliams

Committee chairs attending: Cindy Arrowood, Jana Belk, and Carl Huffman

MU Representative: Patrick Byers

**Patrick Byers**– No news of classes at state next year. No news on scholarship. They had a visit from one of the Board members from MU on Tuesday. The Extension Council met a week ago – Jodie had lots of good things to say about the Master Gardeners. Elections for council members coming up; would like to have a Master Gardener on the nominating committee.

**Renae Bernskoetter**– Level 2 training was discussed. We have some questions on this topic. According to Patrick, no set training has been established for Level 2. Carl Redmon would like to see a “formal” set of training organized. 78 plus people signed up for “Going Green” classes on Saturday October 10th. Have had requests for more in-depth training. Will look into having some Saturday morning classes with just one topic.

**Cindy Arrowood**– NG- Gardens are looking good right now. When it frosts, we will have a work day to clean up on Saturday following the frost.

**Jana Belk**– Social – Susan Gabriel will be taking over the social committee. The banquet is booked at St. John’s Cancer Center, for now.

**Carl Huffman** – November 7<sup>th</sup> is the next state meeting. Next year there will not be a State Conference. Instead there will be advanced training in Columbia.

**Amy Tuggle** is still working on a Jr. Master Gardener program.

Ballots will be mailed out soon; bios are ready; there are 8 people running.

Cook books – **Helen Atnip** is working on this project. We need more information on costs and minimums.

Janet McWilliams  
Secretary



Public Education 887.5782  
Renae Bernskoetter – Chair

Well here we are, another year of gardening almost done. We have “cultivated” a bushel of knowledge this year. With the help of Amy Tuggle, we were able to present 5 seminars this year with a wide variety of topics.

With these seminars we have had a total attendance of about 370 people. With Young Sprouts we can add hundreds more.

I have said it before, but I need to say it again. The success of these seminars is greatly related to the help that I have received. That includes those that helped with the registration table, the food table, those that provided food, and door prizes.

Be watching for more opportunities for education in 2010. At each of our classes I have asked for ideas for other topics and I have received many. Along with our seminars, I am looking into doing a class that will consist of a single topic or idea. We will allow 2-3 hours for this class so that we can get some in depth information.

Also, I have been given some ideas for “hand on” classes. I am looking for dates and locations for these. So again, keep an eye out for more details.

### **Pre-registration required**

**Cost : watch for more information**

- **January 16 – Gardening Inside and Out**  
St. John’s Cancer Center
- **March 20—Home Herb Gardening**  
Mid-Town Library
- Tentative topics: Raised Bed Gardening  
Orchids & Bromeliads  
Crepe Myrtles  
English Gardens
- **August 21—Fall Into Gardening**  
St. John’s Cancer Center
- **January 30—Creative Kitchen Garden**  
Mid-Town Library
- **October 16— Going Green in the Garden**  
St. John’s Cancer Center
- **February 20—Well Fed Neighbor**  
Urban Gardening  
Mid-Town Library
- **3rd Thursday of each month**  
Gardening classes at  
Rutledge-Wilson Farm
- **March 20—Beginning Vegetable Gardening**  
St. John’s Cancer Center



**Master Gardener General Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2009**

Program was given by Dr. Clydette Alsup-Egbers, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Missouri State University. This was an excellent presentation on bulbs (Geophytes). It provided us with not only an informative presentation but also a half hour of advanced training.

Business meeting was opened by President, Mark Bernskoetter. Pat Grieshaber asked if anyone knew whether the Blue Nile Lily (Agapanthus) brought to last months exchange was hardy here. He welcomed the visitors to tonight's meeting from Bolivar. Mark also introduced the candidates for board members.

**Xeriscape** – Barbara St. Clair- The Xeriscape has been too wet for a “Xeriscape” – fall cleanup has not been scheduled yet because of the weather. This spring we will try to redo two beds. They will be dug up and lifted up for better drainage.

**Nathanael Greene**- Cindy Arrowood – There have been lots of compliments on the garden this fall. There will be a cleanup in November. Work on the building is progressing.

**Social** – Jana Belk – There was a drawing for the pumpkins, squashes and gourds used as tonight's decorations. BAINEY are the initials for next months (November) meeting. Susan Gabriel was introduced. She will be the new chair for the Social Committee. Susan is asking for volunteers to help with the social committee.

**Education** – Renae Bernskoetter – Saturday's classes (Going Green in the Garden) were a success. Dates for next year's classes and events will be in the newsletter. There will also be a tabulation of advanced training given this year. The State asks for 6 hours of advanced training. If you attended all of the meeting this year you would have 3.5 hours of advanced training. There were at least 26.5 hours of advanced training provided this year in various classes and seminars. If you attended the State Conference you can count 3 hours for Friday (if you attended these extra training classes) and 1 hour for each of the three classes you had an opportunity to attend Sunday morning. Hours for tours have not been decided on, although they can be counted on as at least regular hours.

**President** – Mark Bernskoetter – At the State Conference Mary Cronin stated that there were a total of 135,000 statewide hours turned in last year, and 1826 Master Gardeners that reported hours. We are growing by over 200 MG a year. The rankings were given for numbers of hours turned in.

- 1)St. Louis
- 2)Cole County
- 3)Kansas City
- 4)Greene County
- 5)Christian County

The top four are able to appoint a Master Gardener to attend the State Board meetings.

Next year (even years) there will be an event titled Master Gardener College in June instead of the State Conference. This will be held in Columbia at the University. It will be in-depth advanced training and will be held in “tracts”, where you will attend several classes on the same subject. Some subjects proposed are soil, healthy yards, streams, vegetables, plants, people, and plant diagnostics.

Janet McWilliams  
Secretary



**Conifers in Southwest Missouri**  
**Tuesday, November 10th**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**St. John's C.H. "Chub" O'Reilly Cancer Center**  
**2nd Floor, Auditorium**  
**2055 S. Fremont**

As our seasons change and the leaves fall, we begin to take notice of many of the wonderful evergreens in Ozarks' landscapes. We have a special treat as Robert Lovett presents our November program on "Conifers in Southwest Missouri." Some of you may have had the opportunity to visit Mr. Lovett's Southeast Springfield expansive Pineum. His conifer experimentation station and farm is truly a sight to see and also learn about. We're looking forward to his visit!

Enjoy the holidays as we take a break from our regular monthly meetings for the month of December. We'll start off the new year with our "holiday" annual potluck dinner on Tuesday, January 12th at the Cancer Center. Our normal meeting place was already reserved for February and March, so we'll be taking it "on the road" so to speak. Mark your calendar for these upcoming meetings:

**February 9th:** at Garden Adventures in Nixa. We'll be co-meeting with the Springfield Water garden Society (they also meet at the Cancer Center and their dates were already reserved as well). The program will be on new water garden products and information for 2010.

**March 11th** (note this is a Thursday): at Maschino's. We'll again be co-meeting with the SWS. A program will be announced. We loved their open house and scavenger hunt! I'm sure it will be just as entertaining!

**April 13th:** Ruby Miller will feature a talk on Living Wreaths and Dish Gardens. What a neat topic! Ruby mentioned we may want to make arrangements to meet at her home or perhaps at Nat. Greene and those who are interested could make a living wreath. Let us know what you think and we can get it set up.

**May:** usually the plant exchange (but on a date in late April)... Watch for more details.

**June 8:** at the Cancer Center. Peter Longley will be our speaker and he'll be discussing the Victoria Lily. He is a fantastic presenter - don't miss it!

**GARDENING CLASSES AT RUTLEDGE-WILSON FARM:**

Don't forget about our extra learning opportunities at Rutledge-Wilson Community Farm Park next year! Each month with the exclusion of December we will have a "Growing Knowledge at the Farm" (thank you for the great name Mark and Renae!) class on the third Thursday. Patrick Byers will be presenting the topic of "Raised Bed Gardening" for the January 21st class. These are also open to the public, so we invite you to share the information with friends, family, and co-workers. They are held from 6:15-7:15 pm and have a small fee of \$5. We'll be sure to pass along the topics as they are confirmed. For now, be sure to save those dates!

**YOUNG SPROUTS:**

It's hard to believe, but spring will be here before we know it. If you'd like to be on a planning committee for the kids gardening event, please get in touch with me. We'd sure love to have you!

Amy Tuggle  
Amy.tuggle@sbcglobal.net  
886-0866



## Xeriscape-Barbara St. Clair

For the past few years we've been trying out quite a few annuals amongst our perennials, partly to boost the color of the garden and also to use as filler while some of our new trees and shrubs grow to their full size. We were a bit worried this spring about watering them all sufficiently, since most annuals require more water than our deep-rooted perennials do, but of course we ended up with more rain than we ever expected! The result has been huge growth and continuous bloom for most of our choices. Here are some of the annuals we've grown to love:

- Mystic Series dahlias: beautiful dark purple foliage and lovely single blooms. Mystic Desire, which has orange flowers, looks especially great in Bed 11, next to the orange Profusion Zinnias. [This dahlia may return next year, but most growers consider it half-hardy at best. We purchased the plants at Schafitzel's.]
- Zinnias: So many varieties! Profusion Zinnias were always the favorite, blooming like crazy until a freeze, even in our xeric beds, but along came Zahara Zinnias, blooming heavily also but with colors that are more clear. Zinnia maritime [Solcito zinnia] is growing like a ground cover in Jim's xeric bed, although it's listed as a "mound". The traditional zinnias that were started from seed added great tall color until late summer, when they succumbed to the wet by going all mildewy.
- Grasses: Pennisetum rubrum [annual purple fountain grass] always looks good in the xeric beds, especially mixed with silvery Artemisia. A new variety, Pennisetum 'Fireworks', has gorgeous pink and purple and green blades and really is a showcase. We're going to grow several more next year [we purchased it at Arnold's].
- Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost' is a wonderful cloud of green and white and makes a great filler with a bit of shade in the heat of the day. Looks very good next to annual white vinca.
- Annual Asclepius is an important plant in the Butterfly bed, taller and longer-blooming than the natives we grow also.
- Lantana, especially the trailing varieties, is a much-used plant to grow in the spaces between spring bulbs, since it grows quickly and fills in the bed, camouflaging the dying bulb foliage.
- Two plants that show up in the garden on their own every year are annuals that self-seed: Nicotiana [Flowering Tobacco] and Cleome [Spider Plant]. The tobacco always stops visitors with its huge size and great scent, especially on a warm evening. They appear late in the spring, but just when we're sure they aren't returning, up they pop all over the garden. They are also very easy to transplant.

This is not an exhaustive list by any means, but just a few annuals that we've found to be reliable and attractive---and definitely worth the time to purchase and plant. Consider adding them to your lists as you plan this winter!

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**Social Committee**

**Snacks for November: B, A, N, I, V, Y**

**“To be a good gardener, it is said one needs to be optimistic and enthusiastic.” These are also good characteristics for the Social Chair. I think we have found these qualities in Susan Gabriel, our new Social Chair for 2010.**

**Thanks for all the help the last 6 years,  
Jana Belk**

**Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri**  
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