



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

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GRAPEVINE

From the President

Cindy Arrowood, MG—881-5996

Cynarrowood@sbcglobal.net

What a Plant Sale! Even though ice had to be wiped from the tables, even though we had our winter gear on, and even though the north wind was blowing through the tent—What a Plant Sale! Susan Boswell and her committee did a great job organizing and promoting the sale. Thanks!!! Thanks to all the Great MGs who dug, cared for and delivered their plants for the sale. It takes everyone's support to make the plant sale such a successful event.

Several of you have shared with me "The plant you wished you had never planted." Many had a long list, but Mugwort was at the top of several lists. I hate to give a plant a bad name, but evidently it can crawl under buildings and considers Round-Up a fertilizer. Say this; I'm sure there is someone who likes this plant. As the saying goes—One man's trash is another man's treasure. I'm sure this is also true of plants. It's been fun hearing your stories.

On a sad note, John Love passed away in late April. He and his wife Mary Lou were new master gardeners, having just completed the 2005 class. They were already very actively involved at the demonstration gardens. Our sincere condolences go out to Mary Lou and John's family.

Cindy



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**A Berry Delicious
Behind-the-Scenes
Look at a Local
Farm**

Tuesday, June 14

**St. John's Cancer
Center**

6:30 p.m.



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

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Articles due by 12th of the month.

*Thank you for your contributions to the
Master Gardener Grapevine!*

MG Executive Board of SW Missouri

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Mary Lou Braswell
- Treasurer, 883-7984
Barbara Lucks
- Member-At-Large, 833-8278
Gene Wallace



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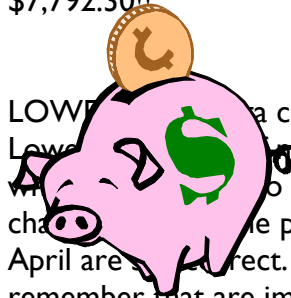
**Christian County
Hotline
Dorothy Haase
417-581-4853**

**Treasurer's Report
Barbara Lucks MG,
Bookkeeper—883-7984**

At the close of April, our account balances were:

- Regular Account \$13,316.39
- Petty Cash \$371.35
- Xeriscape \$148.81

These do NOT include the proceeds from our very successful Plant Sale! There are still some expenses to be paid and there may be a bit more money to come in, but, as of right now, the proceeds are: \$7,792.30!!



LOWE's continues . . . We have given Lowe's names of Master Gardeners to make charges on our Lowe's charge cards. The pink sheets you were given in April are correct. There are several points to remember that are important in the use of these charge privileges:

1. You must give the clerk at Lowe's our account number and the exact name under which the account is registered. (This information is on the pink sheet you were given.)
2. You must ask for and get a copy of the charge slip. Please put your name on the slip, along with the garden in which the item is to be used (Nathanael Gr. Xeriscape) and what the item is (fertilizer, etc.)
3. Please get the charge slip copy to the Extension Office ASAP – either by bringing it in or mailing it in.



If you have any questions, please call me. I'm sorry this is so unwieldy, but it appears this is the way we can keep the account straight.





MG Regular May Board Meeting *Highlights*, Mary Lou Braswell, MG, Secretary—417-485-0563 and Ernest Braswell, MG, Assistant

President Cindy Arrowood called the Board meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held at NG. Board and committee members present were: Cindy Arrowood, Gene Wallace, Mary Lou Braswell, Ernest Braswell, Carl Redmon, Naomi Shaw, Sharon Masterson, Jana Belk and Sonja Lallemand.

Secretary Report: No Changes.

Treasurers Report: The following bills were presented for approval: Hummert International \$26.30 (NG vegetable plot); Al Judycki \$8.45 (paper for mapping); Sonja Lallemand \$19.05 (NG herbs); Gene Wallace \$10.31 (Social Committee); Peggy's Flowers \$15.00 (Xeriscape plants); Lowe's \$99.82 (NG vegetable plot); Lowe's \$17.30 (Xeriscape rose arbor); Greene County Print Shop \$35.10 (May Grapevine); Ackerman's \$8.30 and Schaffitzel's Greenhouse \$30.00 (Xeriscape plants); MO Wild Flower Nursery \$150.75 (NG) and Office Depot \$71.87 (Carl Redmon). Bills were approved to be paid.

Lowe's was the subject of discussion regarding persons who can charge to the account. Gene moved to delete the restrictions, thus allowing persons needing supplies and equipment for NG and/or Xeriscape. This was approved.

It was suggested that something be done with our reserve account so that it could be making in-

terest like CDs, savings, etc. Gene moved we put the reserves in CDs. This was approved.

Barbara asked for \$500 for the Carl Redmon Petty Cash Fund. This provides for speedy reimbursement for Bedheads. After much discussion, the fund was increased to \$1,000 and approved.

A request was approved to pay for the \$60 repair of Carl Redmon's trailer, which was damaged at the Plant Sale.

2006 Conference: An April meeting was held and a tentative schedule for the conference was set. We still need two chairpersons. The next committee meeting is scheduled for June 1, 5:00 p.m., at the Extension Office.

Gardens Report: Carl reported things are going great. The ornamental grass plot is nearly completed with 26 varieties now in.

Social Committee: Sharon said the Members Only Garden Tour is on June 18.

Other: Ernie discussed the revision of the Internet post cards. They will be printed and ready to mail out soon.

Approval was given to purchase the Weed Identification Guide, a new BIG loose leaf reference book for the Hotline office costing \$44.95 including shipping.

Sonja needs two speakers for the Symposium for June 4. If you can help, contact Sonja.

Gardening Tips!

- Remember to pinch back mums before the Fourth of July!
- Did you know that working and walking into the garden or flower bed while the soil is wet or even damp compacts the soil. Rework the soil to loosen it.
- Remember to water as early in the day as possible to reduce bacteria and fungus problems.
- Deadheading is a must for some annuals such as marigolds, blue sage, geraniums, snapdragon and flowering tobacco. Deadheading tidies up the plant and encourages more blooms.

[Http://outreach.missouri.edu/greene/mgg](http://outreach.missouri.edu/greene/mgg)



News From the Gardens

Carl Redmon, MG — 886-6316 cjred@swbell.net

So much going on in the gardens now, I don't know where to begin. Lots of activity going on, paths being re-mulched, beds filling up with plants, label stakes, mulch, groups taking tours, heavy construction, and lots more stuff!

We are trying a new color of path mulch this year. John Keeter, with Springfield Pallet Company north of Springfield, has come to our rescue, since the Parks Department says it will not supply us with path mulch at least until July. John is making available at no charge all the brown and red mulch we need, as well as regular semi-fine mulch. We have already used the brown at Nathanael Greene on the paths of the new ornamental grass plot, and the native plant and the herb section paths. Response has been very favorable, and we really appreciate John for getting us out of this bind. Still trying to work something out with the rubber mulch folks on the turf grass plot. At this writing, the paths are in bad shape, but we hope to have that resolved by the end of the month.

We do have a good supply of bed mulch on hand now, so Bedheads, you will want to get your people together and get the beds mulched before the weeds take over.

A new project is underway at the east end of the herb section at Nathanael Greene. We are installing posts and wire to support four espaliered apple trees. This technique will be featured at our June Garden Symposium the first Saturday in June. You might be interested to know that approxi-

mately eight to ten inches below the top of the ground in the herb plot is a lot of rock and irrigation lines—not exactly the thing you want to run into when digging post holes and planting trees! But, Jim Hawkins, new Master Gardener Ted Madden and I are determined to not let a few obstacles keep us from staying the course. Although next time, we may check the map a little closer before beginning our journey!

The rose bed at the Xeriscape has been revamped by Jim and me, who know very little about roses! We are hoping someone will step forward and rescue the bed. We did build a much more sturdy trestle for the Blaze climbing rose and planted a variety of roses in the circular bed. We left two of the old ones and would welcome one of you rose experts telling us what they are so we can label them.

We are asking for bids and suggestions concerning the irrigation at both gardens, especially at the Xeriscape, which is supposed to demonstrate the proper use of water in landscaping. The system is in bad shape, with water service to two or three of the beds just not working at all. Hope to report more on this next month.

Overall, the gardens are bursting forth with spring growth and a lot of new stuff is being planted. Thanks to all who are helping in this most worthy and visible effort of our Master Gardener group.



For Sale

Home-built seed starting table 22W x 46L x 36H with heating cable, lights. It's a clever design built by John Brockschmidt. \$25.00. Call Marta at 732-2317.

**Snacks for the June meeting at D and P!
And, don't forget your hat!**

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Hotline

Marie and Saverio Macaluso, MGs—889-6574
mari@getatlas.com



We are starting with a funny this month. We had a phone call at home about a gardening problem. Seem this fella had planted a new asparagus bed, but nothing was happening. I questioned him as to soil conditions, when he planted and what kind and condition the plants were. He told me had had read the directions and had followed accordingly. It seemed as if he had done everything right, so I told him I didn't know what was wrong, but as soon as Sal got home, we would come over.

We arrived about an hour later and went out to

see his garden. The garden was lovely; everything was growing except the asparagus. I asked him if I could dig one up to see if it was diseased or maybe rotted. The first thing I noticed were these long tentacle-like roots but no crowns. I kept digging and finally found the crowns at the bottom of the trench.

He had planted them upside down!! The last I heard was that they had started growing like asparagus should.

The Hotline continues to do well. We could still

Soil Testing

A chemical soil test is the only sure way to measure soil pH.
 Call the Extension Office at 417-862-9284 for information about soil and pH testing.

PROGRAMS

Amy Tuggle, MG—886-0866 amy.tuggle@sbcglobal.net

A Berry Delicious
Behind-the-Scenes Look at a Local Farm

Tuesday, June 14
St. John's Cancer Center
2nd floor, Auditorium
2055 S. Fremont
6:30 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at an orchard? This "case study" of a local farm gives us a snapshot of the daily goings-on when raising fruit. How large is the farm? How long are the fruits in season? What challenges - and strengths

- does our southwest Missouri climate offer?

Jan Wooten with Sunshine Valley Farm Inc., located just east of Springfield in Rogersville, will be sharing her story of starting and maintaining an orchard. She'll have neat details about caring for and raising their apples, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and peaches—and also their thriving eatery where the produce is made into yummy products.

Come ready with your questions. You're also invited to share any stories you have about growing fruit in your landscape. Plus, we'd love copies of any favorite fruit recipes (jams, pies, and so on).

Take a break from your garden—the weeds can wait—rinse off the dirt and we'll see you on the 14!

[Http://outreach.missouri.edu/greene/mgg](http://outreach.missouri.edu/greene/mgg)



Social Committee
Sharon Masterson, MG—732-8391
and Jana Belk, MG—725-3203

Hats

We had a great time at the plant exchange. I hope everyone was able to find something new to add to their garden. Thanks to the social committee for all their help in setting up and bringing supplies. Thanks to everyone who brought plants and to Dan for calling off the names. If you would like to have a fall plant exchange at the September potluck, please let Jana know.

We will have a social meeting at 5:30 p.m. before the regular MG meeting June 14.

Don't forget to bring your decorated garden hats for the June meeting, both guys and gals. We will have four categories; check your May newsletter for details. The snacks for June are D, P.

At the June meeting, we will have the garden list for the Members Only Garden Tour June 18. The members who are participating will be putting a lot of work into their gardens. So mark your calendars and please take the time to tour these gardens. Hope to see you there. Sharon

Plant Sale April 30
Susan Boswell, MG, Chairperson—966-6360
Outsidein@comm-terrace.net

WOW! It was an incredible Plant Sale. This year's proceeds exceeded all other years. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners who worked so hard, and to Carl's Bedheads, and to the wonderful people who donated their garden items—**MANY THANKS!**

We had the beautiful day that we needed and many new customers, as well as the old. Word of

mouth along with David Burton's great publicity, all helped to make this plant sale the biggest and best one yet. The rush was over by 9:30 a.m. this year. Another new record. Every new Master Gardener and our more experienced ones had a great time.

Hope we have another more successful year in 2006. There is always room for suggestions. Thanks you from your Plant Sale Committee.

Springfield Watergarden Society
To Host 10th Annual Public Pond Tour

A showcase of area watergardens awaits you during the tenth annual Public Pond Tour Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12. Tour hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. Whether you are a seasoned pond enthusiast or just beginning, you'll marvel at these wonderful watergarden features. This tour will show that building and maintaining a watergarden isn't as difficult as you might think. The watergardens range in size from several hundred gallons to several thousand gallons, and from nature-like to contemporary.

Ticket booklets for the two-day event are \$5 in advance (\$4 for groups of 10 or more), \$6 the day of the tour and can be purchased at O'Quinn's Orchids & Water Gardens, Wickman Gardens, Family Flowers in Ozark, Maschino's and Murphy Water Gardens. Booklets include descriptions, maps and directions to each home.

For more information, please contact Linda Siler, club president, at O'Quinn's Orchids & Water Gardens, 417-883-2399.



Moore Thoughts

Gaylord Moore — 862-9284

Horticulture Specialist



Gardening is presently in full swing. Warmer weather has prompted increased soil temperatures and activated plants. However, watch your moisture situation. Dry

weather the past few weeks has left the Ozarks with moisture deficiencies. It gets a little scary to have this problem in mid spring and thinking what may be ahead during July and August. Regarding watering techniques always remember to avoid shallow watering. Thorough watering encourages better roots and healthier plants.

I encourage Master Gardeners to attend the garden symposium on June 4 at Nathanael Greene Park. There should be some good information there for everyone. Often if you can pick up one or two good pointers from an event it is well worth the time. Thanks to Sonja Lallemand for her efforts in getting the program together.

Thanks to Susan Boswell, Betty North and Christy Jenkins for their great leadership with the MG plant sale. I think everyone will agree to the yearly success of this event. Good leadership is essential but good hands on workers are desperately needed to make it happen. You seem to enjoy

the work and fellowship. I enjoy being able to help a little those two days and an opportunity to get to know you better.

Springfield Pallet Company has been donating to the gardens several yards of mulch. This company provides numerous landscapers and other businesses with good quality commercial mulch. I want to thank them for their generosity and community support.

Hotline workers, if you are unable to work on assigned days I want to highly encourage you to let us know in advance if you can not work. Better yet, if you are unable to work it would be super if you can find a substitute so the office is covered. As we get into the late spring/summer months more calls are coming into the office and it is more crucial that someone be present. Thanks to Christian County Master Gardeners who are taking calls in the morning when the office is not covered. Thanks to Sal and Marie Macaluso for their leadership and interest in the hotline portion of the MG program.

Personally, I have not fulfilled my intentions to the program this year. I wanted to assist in more training opportunities to new Master Gardeners and provide more available resources. However, check out our new Master Gardener Resource Manual. This manual gives a majority of the topics and answers to various programs that I have provided for TV and newspapers over the past several years. Answers to problems are direct and quickly to the point. Check it out for assistance.

Fairs and Shows

Dan Bohannon, MG—634-5172 5172 danbo@isp.com

Fairs and Shows wherever you go!

Spring is here and summer is giving us an early exposure of itself, what a great time to play in the dirt. The next opportunity you have to share information will be the Ozark Empire Fair. I already have people signing up, so check your calendar and get ready to be a Master Gardener evangelist for a day!

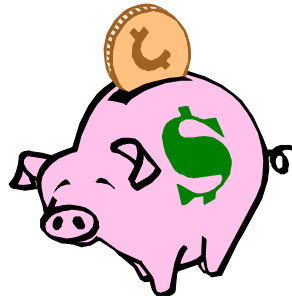
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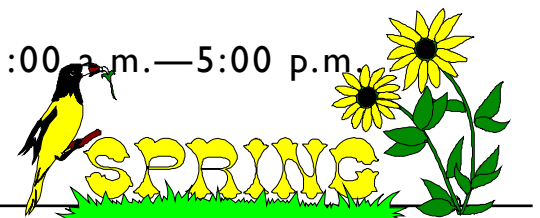
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Phone: 417-862-9284
Fax: 417-862-1809



2005 Master Gardeners Program and Events Calendar

- June 1 2006 Conference Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.,
Extension Office
- June 4 Garden Symposium, NG.
- June 7 Board Meeting, Extension Office, 4:00 p.m.
- June 14 Program, 6:30 p.m., St. John's Cancer Center,
Don't forget your hats!
Social Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- June 18 Members Only Garden Tour, 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
See insert for details.

SPRING



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