



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

GRAPEVINE

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From the President
Cindy Arrowood, MG—881-5996
Cynarrowood@sbcglobal.net

Remember last month when I was looking forward to spring in 27 days? I was wrong. Spring started in January this year, being the warmest on record for the US. I can never remember being this sore from gardening in January and I was only home half the month. We are all trying to speculate what the weather will be like in the coming year. I do know this about gardeners: they have the most positive attitude. When we look forward every spring to planting seeds and small plants there are such great expectations and hope for the coming summer. Whatever the weather brings this summer, next year we will be looking forward with our positive attitudes to planting again for the coming season.

There is an article in *Ozarks Maturity*, January 2006, about a great lady who has such a positive attitude about life and gardening. Dorothy Haase is featured in this article. I hope many of you have had a chance to read it. Dorothy has been a Master Gardener since 1996.

Welcome to the new members of the Master Garden Class of 2006. We look forward to meeting you, and visiting at the meetings and the Spring Banquet. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. Happy Gardening!

Cindy



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**Some Good Soil,
Great Plants and
Lots of Volunteers:
The Dirt on Growing
an Excellent
Fund-raiser**

**Tuesday, March 14
6:30 p.m.**

**St. John's Cancer
Center, 2nd Floor
Auditorium
2055 S. Fremont in
Springfield**



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

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Grapevine

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Articles due by 12th of the month.

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

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**TREASURER'S REPORT
Barbara Lucks 883-7984**

At the close of January, our account balances were:

Petty Cash Account \$ 851.23
Regular Account 913.39
6-mo. CD 3028.13
12-mo. CD 7575.04
Total Cash \$ 12,367.79

We couldn't have done it
without you—

Thank You!

A big thanks to City Utilities for providing \$5,000 for the Xeriscape Gardens watering system.

We'd like to express our appreciation to The Parks Department for replacing the roof on the Xeriscape Gardens gazebo.

Glenstone Block's donation of paving stones will allow us to add hardscape to select areas of the Xeriscape Gardens. Thanks, Glenstone Block!

From,

The Master Gardeners



MG Board Meeting February 7, 2006

Paula McBurnett, MG Secretary 866-6858 pmcburnett@drury.edu

Board Members Present: Cindy Arrowood, president; Mark Bernskoetter; Paula McBurnett, secretary; Dan Bohannon, vice-president; Amy Tuggle; Barbara Lucks, treasurer; and Gene Wallace. Others Present: Gaylord Moore, Barbara St. Clair, Carl Redmon, and Jana Belk.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 3, 2006, meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Barbara Lucks presented the proposed budget for 2006 which was approved. She presented the following bills for payment: Lowe's, NG irrigation, \$8.84; Greene County Print Shop, \$24.74; Randy Underwood, NG plant, \$65.96; Signs Now, NG espalier, \$60.42; and St. John's Catering for the Christmas Party, \$195.00. Dan moved that the bills be paid; it was seconded by Gene and passed.

Old Business: Dan reported that 10,950 MG volunteer hours have been turned in so far. It was noted that if anyone receives word from MGs who will not be involved in volunteer efforts this year, please pass that information on to Rebecca in the MG office.

It was announced that the Greater Ozarks Garden Tour, June 9, 10 and 11, still needs gardens.

MO Gardens and June Garden Symposium: The committee discussed at length the MO Garden and Garden Symposium programs. It decided that a volunteer coordinator for each of the programs for 2006 would be necessary in order for these programs to be possible. Gaylord Moore coordinated the MO Gardens program last year. Cindy Arrowood will announce the open positions at the February MG meeting.

New Business: Barbara Lucks requested a letter of support for the Botanical Garden project regarding the Parks tax renewal proposal.

Amy Tuggle shared the children's coloring sheet design which will be distributed at activities and

events involving MG displays such as the garden show.

Committee Reports:

MG Conference Steering Committee—the next meeting will be at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 15, at the Clarion.

Fairs and Shows—Dan reported on the preparations for the upcoming garden show. Next activity will be the Naturescape, March 25, at the Springfield Nature Center.

The Gardens—Xeriscape has a new roof on the gazebo, and Carl hopes the gazebo will be wired for electricity. Glenstone Block is donating all of the concrete pavers to hardscape some of the surfaces at Xeriscape. MGs must recognize this donation with a letter to the donor, recognition in the *Grapevine* and possibly an engraved block or plaque at the site. Also must recognize CU's donations and the Park Department's donations.

Barbara St. Clair said she is meeting with Xeriscape Bedheads and bedfellows to discuss plans and changes to the garden. She is considering several types of trees, as the sweet gums are being removed.

Cindy Arrowood shared before and after pictures of the Nathanael Greene gardens.

Grapevine—Reminder of deadline for articles due by February 12.

Programs—Amy announced that Mike Skinner will bring the program in April. Michael Meyer, bee keeper, will speak in October.

Social—Jana said everything is set for the March 30 banquet which will be in the Findley Student Center ballroom at Drury University. She asked that everyone send her pictures of their favorite gardens for the February MG meeting.



News From the Gardens

GARDEN SERVICES COMMITTEE, Carl Redmon, MG—234-4186 cjred@swbell.net

The improvements to our gardens just keep on coming! So far this year at the Xeriscape, the new irrigation system has been installed, the gazebo is almost completely remodeled (hopefully no more birds messing up the black box), the Xeriscape sign is lit, and if the weather cooperates, the paths in the irrigated section will soon have new hard-surface pavers. This latest project will keep us occupied for several weeks, as we will need to remove the old mulch down to 2-3 inches, spread limestone sand, and then lay the 6" by 18" concrete pavers. The folks at Glenstone Block Company have donated up to 12 pallets of the pavers—nearly 2,500 of them—which we estimate it will take to complete all the irrigated paths. The non-irrigated section will continue to use mulched paths, at least for now. Also, by the time you read this, the last two sweet gums will have been removed, and we

are looking into what new varieties can be planted to replace them so we can have our shade back!

As you approach our Nathanael Greene demo garden from the west, you will see a much more open view thanks to Gaylord and his students (about a dozen of us Master Gardeners!) who trimmed two trailer loads of branches off the various trees and shrubs on that side of the garden. Another four of us got real familiar with the wisteria and honeysuckle on the big arbor by the vegetable garden. There is a lot more daylight showing through now, and it's amazing how much trimmings four years of growth can produce!

We're all looking forward to the new gardening season just around the corner. Don't forget to mark something for the plant sale—it's only a little over two months away!

Nathanael Greene Demonstration Gardens, Cindy Arrowood, MG—881-5996, cynarrowood@sbcglobal.net

Several of the shrubs and trees have had a new hair cut and are looking great for the upcoming garden season. A special thanks to Sonja Lallemand, Bob Childress, and Carl Redmon for their help in trimming the wisteria. The pergola looks great and the wisteria is under control. Thanks to Ann Hall for the use of her ladder and to every one who volunteered theirs. I have tried to talk to every current MG who marked that they were interested in working at NG. If I missed you, please let me know. Workdays on beds will be starting soon.

Xeriscape Gardens, Barbara St. Clair, MG—887-9536, stclair53@mchsi.com



Goodness, the Xeriscape Garden is going to be spiffy this summer! Not only do we have a new irrigation system, but now we have a new roof over the gazebo (more from Carl on this) and paved walkways for the future. Along with the work that the projects people have been doing, Bedheads have begun designing their plantings for spring. By the time this newsletter reaches you I should have been in contact with the people I have been told are interested in working in the Xeriscape Garden this year. If you are interested and have NOT been called by

(Continued on page 5)



PROGRAMS

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

**Some Good Soil, Great Plants and Lots of Volunteers:
The Dirt on Growing an Excellent Fund-raiser
Tuesday, March 14
6:30 p.m.
St. John's Cancer Center, 2nd Floor Auditorium
2055 S. Fremont in Springfield**

It's the event Master Gardeners look forward to all winter—the Annual Plant Sale! Last year around this time, we hosted a program on "Getting Ready for the Plant Sale." It was such a success, we've decided it would be a wonderful benefit to everyone to have an encore presentation. At this program, you'll learn what plants might be in demand for the sale, tips for starting and maintaining your plants, how to mark the sale tags and lots of other pertinent information. Find out how you can be involved - there's numerous volunteer opportunities and ways to share your talents and knowledge.

Susan Boswell and the Plant Sale committee will be on hand to provide us with all we need to know for a successful event. We hope to have pots and markers available. Plus, come ready to share your ideas of things you do to get ready for the sale!

"Master Gardeners Coloring Sheet for "Budding" Artists."

We wish to thank Chuck Clore, a local illustrator and graphic designer, for his donation of artwork for a coloring sheet. The sheet features some well-known plants such as Bee Balm and Bleeding Hearts, as well as the Master Gardener logo. Be sure to take a look at the drawings and see how many plants you can identify! The sheets were distributed at the Lawn & Garden Show in February. Please remember the sheets any time you have a presentation involving children. It's a fun way for children to learn about our program and gardening.



(Xeriscape continued from page 4)

me, please give me a call or an email so that I can visit with you. It is certainly not my intent to overlook anyone!

The weather this winter has been anything but normal or predictable and it seems very optimistic to make plans in advance for workdays, but plan we must. Our first official Spring Cleaning day will be Saturday, March 11, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. As we did in the fall, we'll have coffee and breakfast goodies to sustain you through the hard-working morning. The back-up date, should the weather be bad on the 11, will be Saturday, March 18. Plan ahead also for some digging-up and potting-up for the big Plant Sale. Bed-heads should think about digging up special plants prior to April 22. Then Saturday, April 22, we'll have a group day to pot up quantities of plants we're taking out as we redesign the beds to be more xeric. We're still looking for suggestions for those extra-tough plants that have proven to be hits in your gardens, so don't be shy about sharing ideas! Send suggestions to bms523g@missouristate.edu.



Social Committee

Jana Belk, MG—725-3203, jbbelk@yahoo.com

Come to the **March meeting** wearing green and learn how to make green (greenbacks) while we plan for the plant sale in April.

Plans are rolling along for the **Spring Banquet** on Thursday, March 30, 2006 at the Drury University Findley Student Center Ballroom. Please forward your reservations to the extension office by March 20, 2006. You should have received the invitation/registration form in the mail and there will be extras at the monthly meeting. Remember to park in lot #7.

As always, the social committee will be needing daffodils/spring flowering shrubs for the centerpieces for our Spring Banquet. I, Jana, will be picking up on March 29 so be prepared for a call or call me. Many thanks to those who donated last

year and thanks in advance for donations and help this year. My son and I have a special memory while picking last year at the Braswells with buckets of daffodils in tow: A garden visitor/tourist kept snapping pictures of us as if we were the Braswell's personal gardeners. And another memory I have was pulling into Betty North's driveway about dusk. Betty had, on short notice, picked buckets of daffodils and had them ready to depart. That allowed me time to stroll through Betty's garden gathering flowering shrub branches and learn a wealth of information from Betty.

Social Committee will have a short meeting at 6:00 p.m. before our monthly meeting.

Snacks for March: S, P, F, K

Fairs and Shows

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

Thanks to those of you who have turned in your hours. Although it may be late, if you haven't turned them in please do ASAP. Better late than never! One of the big concerns for the local as well as state program is the retention of members. You probably know someone from your class who participated for a while and then disappeared. If you have personal experience or some insights into what issues are involved, the Master Gardeners would like to know. This is not an invitation to vent about particular person or make personal attacks, but an opportunity to really reflect on what connects you to the group and how your experience could help others to enjoy Master Gardeners more.

All this leads to this year's opportunity to be a Master Gardener mentor. Prior to the Spring Banquet, I would like to have mentors for the 55 new Master Gardeners who are in the current class. That is a large number and the potential to have 55 more active members is exciting.

If you can help with this send me an e-mail at danbo@isp.com or Dan.Bohannon@Kraft.com and we'll get things set up. Thanks for your help!

Also, Fairs and Shows thanks you for your response to the Lawn & Garden Show and looks forward now to the NatureScaping symposium March 25. All that we do to promote growing plants is good. Never doubt that your presence at these events is important. In order to fulfill our public education obligation we must be where the public is. So plan now to be part of the next big Fairs and Shows event coming soon to a public place near you!

Thanks to Amy Tuggle for the kids' coloring sheet we gave away at the Lawn & Garden Show. It was a big hit!

Again, thanks,
Dan



Moore Thoughts

Gaylord Moore, Horticulture Specialists

862-9284

We want to welcome the new Master Gardener recruits for the class of 2006. Fifty-five new MG trainees are presently enrolled in this class. Enthusiasm has been outstanding and we all look forward to working with this fine group of gardeners. I know they will offer a tremendous contribution to the area program.

I highly encourage those who remain active in the program to attend the Spring Banquet. The committee has worked hard to put the banquet and program together. This banquet is an opportunity to introduce the new class to the existing Master Gardeners and allow you to mingle and get acquainted.

There are so many things going on with the MG program this year and opportunities for service. Jump in and volunteer. There are always opportunities where you can become involved with group activities or take on individual projects.

Just a reminder about the Master Gardener activity and commitment forms. If you plan on being involved with the program this year, we need your completed form. If you don't know exactly what you want to do but want to remain flexible, that is fine. Just indicate that on the form. We do however

want to see an indication of intent with the program.

If you have lost your form and thus have not responded, we will be sure you receive another. However, if we don't hear from you by March 15 either by form or a phone call, your non-action tells us you no longer have an interest in the program and your name will be removed from the roster of Master Gardeners.

Of course my desire is for everyone to be involved and take an active interest. However, I know interests change and that is all right. I think this request will assist in revising our mailing list for 2006. However, if you desire to be on an inactive list and would like to continue receiving the monthly newsletter, please submit \$5.00 for postage costs.

As always, thanks to all Master Gardeners for your interest and activities whether in the past, present, or future.

On a side note for those who have asked or wondering about the Springfield Flower and Landscape Show for March 10, 11, and 12, it has been canceled.

Hotline Notes

Bob Moore, MG—581-5913, Cell 207-3527 rfmoore@550access.com

We still need Hotline volunteers. I am working to get a schedule together for those who have committed to work the Hotline. I will make every effort to make sure that no new person is scheduled for the Hotline without being with another experienced person until that new person feels comfortable working alone.

The Hotline is much easier than in the past because of access to a new computer and a great

supply of research material. We send out very few guide sheets any more because all we need to do is tell our callers where they can find them on our Website as well as many other Web sources. That does not mean that we do not send information, or give out information.

If anyone is considering working the Hotline, do not hesitate to give me a call, or e-mail. My new e-mail address is: rfmoore@550access.com.

GREENE COUNTY
833 N. Boonville Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802-3810

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2006 Master Gardeners Program and Events Calendar

- March 7 MG Board Meeting, 4:00 p.m., Extension Office
March 14 Program, 6:30 p.m., St. John's Cancer Center
 Social Committee will meet prior to program at 6:00 p.m.

MASTER GARDENER 2006 STATE CONFERENCE REPORT Barbara Lucks, Chair, 883-7984

The Steering Committee met on February 14 at the host hotel, the Clarion. We are in the process of arriving at costs for the various activities of the conference so we may set the registration fees. Plans for tours, exhibits, food, etc. are being finalized.

Keep the dates September 15-17 open on your calendar, as well as the week prior. We'll be needing lots of help!!! Thanks! Barbara