



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

GRAPEVINE

Volume 15, Issue 5

May 2005

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

I want to give a special thanks to the Social Committee for a great job on the Spring Banquet. It takes a lot of hours and creativity to make this such a special night. Thanks again to chairpersons Sharon Masterson and Jana Belk, and to all who helped with the banquet.

When I received one of my favorite garden magazines this past month, one of the articles was entitled “Plants I wished I never planted.” At this time of year we all have our list made out of new plants we’re looking forward to trying. We talk about plants we love and have done well for us, but rarely about the plants we wished we had never planted.

I was at a garden symposium in April at Colonial Williamsburg. This was the first question asked of a panel made up of garden experts with different interests and backgrounds. What a discussion! This is the question I’m asking you “What are the plants you wished you had never planted?”

I’ll start this off with my own list and do I have a list. Yes, I planted mint in the ground. Twenty years later and I think I have control. Another plant that grows at NG with no problems is Brazilian Verbena. It has a beautiful blue flower in mid to late summer, but self seeds in my garden better than henbit or dead nettle. So what’s on your list? Just let me know.

The May 3 meeting is the plant exchange. It is one of my favorite meetings. Not only do you get to spend the evening outdoors, but you are with other MG sharing plants. Hope to see you there.

Cindy



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MG Annual Plant Exchange

**May 3
6:30 p.m.**

**Nathanael
Greene
Park**



Master Gardeners of Southwest Missouri

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2410 E. Rosebrier St., Springfield, MO 65804-3959
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 MG,
Bookkeeper—883-7984**

At the end of March, 2005, our balances were:

Regular Account \$13834.48
Petty Cash \$399.16
Total Cash \$14233.64

Xeriscape Account \$178.50

For those authorized to charge items for our gardens at Lowe's, please see Carl Redmond for updated instructions. It is essential that you give Lowe's the correct account number and that you give them the correct manner in which the account is listed. Doing anything to the contrary will result in our charges being placed on someone else's account and/or your not being able to "find" our account for the charge. Carl has a printed instruction sheet for your use. Also, please be reminded, you will not be reimbursed for sales taxes paid. We are sales tax exempt. Please see Carl for the paperwork needed to secure the tax exemption (sales tax exempt letter).

Gardens On Display!

• Show Off Your Garden in 2006!

Gardens are needed for the state conference we are hosting in 2006. If you would be interested in having your garden on tour, please call Sharon Masterson at 732-8391, or Villageweaver@aol.com. The committee would like to tour the gardens and have it set in September of this year. We hope to have more gardens than needed so if you know of a great garden, or nursery, or special place to tour, please let me know. Please see insert in this newsletter.

• 417 Garden of the Year!

Proud of your garden? Let your pride show – 417 Magazine features Gardens of the Year. Check out the current issue for this year's winners. If you would like to enter your garden, go to www.417mag.com and click the Call for Entries button. If you prefer, you may call Kelly Dorrance at the magazine at 883-7417.



MG Regular Board Meeting *Highlights* for April 5, 2005 Mary Lou Braswell, MG, Secretary—417-485-0563 and Ernest Braswell, MG, Assistant

In the absence of President Cindy Arrowood, Gene Wallace called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. with Board Members and Committee Chairpersons: Gene Wallace, Barbara Lucks, Ernest and Mary Lou Braswell, Sal and Marie Macaluso, Paula McBurnett, Sharon Masterson, Carl Redmon, Gaylord Moore, Rebecca Hilmes, Sonja Lallemand and special guest Al Judycki.

The minutes were approved as printed. The following bills were approved to be paid: McMullen Landscape Center \$318.29 (rock NG); Lowe's, \$46.20 (NG); BWI \$46.20 (top soil for plant sale); Holiday Inn North \$1532.20 (banquet); Christie Jenkins \$32.94 (banquet); MU \$600 (MG Notebooks); Greene County Printshop \$30.66 (February *Grapevine*) and \$30.66 (March *Grapevine*); Gaylord \$40 (electricity for garden shows); Rebecca Hilmes, \$7.02 (MG garden refreshments); Gaylord \$13.47 (MG garden refreshments).

The volunteer hours for 2004 are in excess of 14,260 to date. The MG printer will not print. It was recommended that rather than purchase a new computer, a new printer should solve the problem. Purchase was approved.

Barbara Lucks had an organizational meeting for the 2006 Convention. Seven of the 10 chair positions have been filled.

Paula reported that we have 518 printed Journal covers and she will be getting the contents printed and inserted. Thirty-five Journals were sold at the L & G Show. Paula and Linda Duncan are working on details for a booth at the conference.

Sharon remarked that the banquet was a huge success and we had 116 reservations.

Don't forget! The annual Garden Symposium is scheduled to be held at NG June 4 with June 11 as a rain date. MGs will do programs on Hostas, ornamental grass beds, and espalier fruit trees. Fee is \$12.00 which includes lunch. Notice will be sent to other MG groups.

Carl reported that the Parks Department stated that we have used all of our money for the fiscal year. Gaylord will check with them and see why. Carl says the paths still need mulching.

Paula announced that all *Grapevine* articles must be in by the 12 of each month and she requests that members write educational articles for the newsletter.

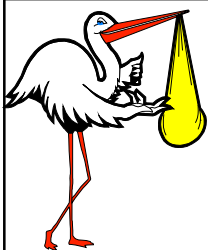
Gaylord introduced Al Judycki who continued his explanation of his new database. He will explain his program at a future general meeting.

Gene adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.

PROGRAMS

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

May 3, 6:30 p.m., at Nathanael Greene Park in the front pavilion will be our annual group plant exchange! Don't miss it! You may bring up to seven plants and exchange for however many you bring. Upon arriving you will place your name in buckets for the drawing. After the drawings, we have a free-for-all for the leftover plants. Remember to bring some extra plants just for the fun! The Social Committee will provide the drinks. The food will be provided by H I U and anyone who would like to bring snacks.



Congratulations!

To Amy Tuggle and her husband, Carter, on the birth of Abigail. Abigail weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces. Dad, mother and baby are doing well, sleeping during the daytime and up all night!

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>



News From the Gardens

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

The color explosion has happened at our gardens. It began with the crocus, then the hyacinths, and now the big bang—the tulips. So many varieties and so much color. They are all so beautiful, and I am having a hard time picking a favorite. But, I am leaning toward the Monte Carlo, Queen of the Night, Big Smile—and that very unusual one, Rocco. Special thanks to those of you who worked hard last fall to make this wonderful thing happen. It was worth the effort!

Despite the rain delays, our pot-'em-up effort at the gardens went very well, and we **will** have something to sell at our plant sale from our own gardens. There are still some things that need potted at this writing, and we'll be working on them right up to the sale. I realize that many of you are "potting up" at home as well, which is great and will help keep us well funded for another year.

Now, even though I got the bed assignments out late (and am still fine tuning them) you Master Gardener garden folks really took the initiative and

have worked a miracle with the gardens already. The beds look great and are ready for spring planting. I can hardly wait to see what new stuff you have chosen for this year. Just remember, each plant that goes into the ground also needs that silver companion to go along with it, the label stake! Be sure and let me know when you plant, and I'll be there with the label machine and stakes, or else make it available to you.

The ornamental grass section at Nathanael Greene is now ready for planting. The rains stopped long enough to get the rest of the beds burned. We also got the wood fence in, which really makes it look like part of our garden. Jim Hawkins is finishing up the rock borders, and has been very instrumental in designing and completing the section. Our committee will be meeting this month to decide what goes where in the beds. I'm looking forward to seeing this section finished with grasses and mulched paths. It will be a great addition to our "demonstration garden."

The *Grapevine* wants more "educational stuff." Short, concise gardening articles are needed. Write about what you know best. It may be a type of flower, bush, tree, herb, etc. Maybe pesky bugs are your thing. Do you cultivate something unique like a moss garden? Please e-mail your article to Linda at Lindadunc@mchsi.com or Paula at pmcburnett@drury.edu

Hotline

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



It's May, the month of flowers; gardens are growing and blooming everywhere. The hotline hasn't been quite as busy this year as last, maybe the weather, but still the predominate question was when to use a preemergent for crabgrass. It should have been done by April 15. Number 2 question was when to do a soil test. A soil test can be done anytime, as soon as you know where you want to plant something, test your soil. We have received lots of questions on when to plant tomatoes. Don't get over-anxious. The middle of May is pretty safe, although we could still get a very cold night.

We are still looking for a few good men and women to man the Hotline. Can you help? Thanks to all of you who do help on the Hotline.

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>



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

Plant Sale Happenings. What a wonderful response we had at both gardens for dig- 'em-up. MGs, you came through. Everyone worked hard and had a lot of fun. It was a beautiful day. The most fun of all our potting days. We met new members, new spouses and renewed old friendships. What else do we need!

A special thanks to Al Hill for the special transportation he provided for the plants from Xeriscape to Nathanael Green and to Jim Hawkins for his capable direction on "how to" at Xeriscape.

With the 750 prepared stakes from Christy Jenkins and the box that Henry Justice cut, we have over 1000. Most have been used in potted plants

By our next newsletter we will have all the stats for you from the Plant Sale. Thank you so much for your hard work to make this MGs' Plant Sale a great one.

Let's hope April 30 is as nice as our work day was!

Your Plant Sale Committee.
 Susan Boswell and Christy Jenkins

Plant Sale Workers Eat at Yen Ching for 20% Discount

After hearing me at choir rehearsal announce our April 30 plant sale, our organist, Wayland Schue, invited those of us working the event to come for lunch, at a 20% discount, to his restaurant. His family owns and operates Yen Ching at 1639 E. Sunshine, right at the corner of Sunshine and Fairway, east of Fremont and only a block or so west of Glenstone. The restaurant opens at 10 a.m. I told Wayland that we would identify ourselves with our MG name badges. Yen Ching is a small establishment, but the Schues have managed to fit in a piano which sometimes, upon request, Wayland, or his mother will play. The food there is excellent and freshly prepared for each customer.

Joan Young, MG

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

Once again it is time for the annual plant exchange scheduled for May 3 at Nathanael Greene Park at 6:30 p.m. You may bring up to seven plants, with a free for all at the end. Complete details were in the April newsletter and on page 3 of this newsletter under Programs.

We are having a garden hat and cap contest for the June mixer at our regular monthly meeting. Prizes will be awarded in four categories: Silly, Beautiful, Practical, and Eccentric. So unearth those hats and caps from the back closet or the garden shed and let's get decorating. If you have any questions please give Jana a call.

Mark your calendars for June 18 for the mem-

ber's only garden tour. If you would like to show off your garden, please give me a call. We would like about 5-7 gardens that we can tour. We really need your help, if we don't have gardens, we don't have a tour. This is not open to the public, so the gardens do not have to be perfect, in fact we like them better that way.

Joplin is having a city wide garden tour June 11 and I'm still waiting on info about the tours. We hope to have a carpool going. I hope to have the details at the next meeting, if not watch your newsletter.

Please bring snacks to the May meeting if your last name starts with these letters, H, I, U.

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>



Two Plants in the Mint Family

Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*)

This plant is also called Wild Bee balm. It is named after a 1600s Spanish physician and herbalist. It grows to 2-4' in sun. It is best planted at the back of a garden. It likes dry, sandy or clay soil, but with sun will do well in moist soil. Pink to lavender flowers appear in the summer and fall.

Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)

Bee Balm (Beebalm) (horsemint) (Oswego Tea Bee Balm) grows 2-3 feet in sun, to part sun. It needs moist, humusy, well drained soil. Red flowers bloom in the summer and early fall. It is particularly good for naturalizing in woodland and bog gardens. The plant needs good air circulation.

Both of these perennial plants are prone to powdery mildew and rust; some new cultivars are resistant. Also look for dwarf (12") and petite varieties (15"). Bee Balm is greedy and spread quickly. Divide plants in the spring. The hairy looking flowers attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

As members of the mint family, Bee Balm's fresh leaves are used to flavor food and wine. Bee Balm is an American herb that was once widely used by native Americans. It was introduced to the early colonists by the Oswego Indians, and Oswego tea was brewed as a protest by colonists during the time of the Boston Tea Party.

Oswego Tea: Use five or six large fresh leaves or one teaspoon dried leaves in 8 ounces of boiling water, steep for 5 minutes, to make a refreshing and relaxing tea.

The tea was also inhaled to sooth bronchial complaints and ease colds. Thymol is contained in this plant which has been used as a stimulant and to relieve digestive flatulence and nausea.

Other uses: Use fresh young leaves sparingly in salads, fruit salads and fruit drinks. The leaves improve the flavor of pork dishes and are used in preparing duck. Also, the leaves and flowers add color and scent to potpourri.

Another Bee Balm member of the mint family is dotted mint (*Monarda lambada*). It has an unique flower and grows 3' tall.

A Garden Color Wheel Paint Your Garden Dramatic!

Blue flowers if planted in various places in your garden have their color wasted. Plants need to be in mass plantings for the best color effect.

Orange flowers are good with white or gray. Orange "pops" with green, but seems to fade with pink and yellow.

Pink flowers set off neighboring blue and violet, it's more dramatic with green, but is lost with red and orange.

Purple and Violet flowers are always vibrant. These colors are good used as framing for most other colors. If planted alone, the colors disappear in the distance regardless of mass plantings.

Red flowers are bolder in the distance. If planted up close, like near a patio or porch, the color is good, but can be overwhelming if overdone.

Yellow flowers brighten with white or gray. Yellow is dramatic with red, but especially so with violet and blue.

White/Light Gray colors are lost if planted by themselves. They are affective planted in mass Plantings seem to glow at night under a full moon, or soft lawn lights.

~ Thanks to "Missouri Gardener's Guide" by Mike Miller

Springfield Watergarden Society to host 10th Annual Public Pond Tour June 11 & 12 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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. www.spfdwatergardensoc.bizland.com

Have you noticed
the new Web address for MGs!

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>



Moore Thoughts

Gaylord Moore — 862-9284

Horticulture Specialist

The MOGarden series for 2005 has been completed. I want to thank all the Master Gardeners who presented programs to the twenty seven students enrolled in this year's class. Public education is what Master Gardeners is all about and an important outreach for our programs. Master Gardeners who participated in giving presentations (listed in the order of their programs) were: Norene Fields, Barbara Lucks, Sonja Lallemand, Linda Burdette, Bill Ackermann, Jack and J. J. Carney, Sharon Masterson, Brenda Jowers, and Gail Stineburg. Programs and presentations were excellent. All Master Gardeners are to be highly commended for being a part of this group project.

As a reminder to all Master Gardeners, you too can be a part of the speaker's bureau. If you read April's *Grapevine* hopefully you found the insert which encouraged all Master Gardeners to seriously consider being a resource for giving presenta-

tions when contacted within our MG group or from outside requests. The response so far has been less than enthusiastic. Even if you have been a regular participant with the speaker's bureau, please submit an updated review of what programs you can offer so we can have it on record for our file. If you have not been a resource to give presentations, please consider it. All prep time for preparing a program is considered volunteer time.

Speaking of volunteer time, I want to personally commend our group of Master Gardeners for all the time that is committed to horticulture outreach and the on going local Master Gardener program. Over 14,000 hours have been reported for 2004. I know there are more hours, but these are only the ones that were officially reported. Keep up the good work. You are appreciated by the community, fellow Master Gardeners and needless to say, also deeply respected and appreciated by me.

Thank You!

Mr. Frank Buckingham has donated about 50 years of organic gardening magazines to the Master Gardeners. They are in the Master Gardener office in Ozark. Anyone interested in them, please contact Dorothy Haase, 581-9322. We do not want all of you running to the Ozark office at once!! These magazines are full of valuable information for organic gardeners. We thank Frank for his most generous donation.

Dorothy Haase

Fairs and Shows

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

Thanks to all who helped get through the flurry of spring shows! Although the major shows are done, there are still opportunities to engage the public. Of course, the next big deal will be the Ozark Empire Fair, but the June symposium at Nathanael Greene Park and other events are coming soon. Of course, the BIG DEAL is the ongoing planning for the 2006 Convention and with that your chance to serve and add hours to your total in the

process. There are all kinds of things that need to be done. You can contact Barbara Lucks, or just call Rebecca at the Extension office to let Barbara know that you are ready and willing to help.

And of course as always, keep on putting out the message: Gardening is good for you, the environment and for others!

Dan Bohannon, MG Evangelist

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>

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**Master Gardeners of Southwest
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2005 Master Gardeners Program and Events Calendar

April 30	Plant Sale!
May 3	MG Plant Exchange, 6:30 p.m., Nathanael Greene Park Pavilion. Also, Board Meeting.

**Hotline Volunteers are needed!
Think summer and air conditioning!
Hotline is cool way to help and donate your hours!**

<http://extension.missouri.edu/greene/mgg/>