You have expressed an interest in applying for the Master Gardener program. The next training course will begin February 23, 2016. Training sessions last approximately seven weeks. The classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. through early April. Classes are conducted by state and regional University of Missouri Extension specialists as well as other horticultural professionals. Topics covered include such things as an orientation to the Master Gardener program, plants and their environment, home fruit production, woody ornamentals – establishment and care, home lawn and turf, soils and plant nutrition, plant diseases, insects, plant propagation, pest management, vegetables, pruning and herbaceous perennial flowers. There is a nominal $150 training fee payable upon acceptance into the training class. However, due to the contribution to the program by the Ozark Gateway Master Gardeners, scholarships are available for participants, reducing the cost to $100. If you wish to take advantage of this reduced rate, the organization asks that you complete your volunteer service commitment through Jasper County related projects.

After completing the classroom training, class members agree to provide at least 30 hours of volunteer service to University of Missouri Extension conducting horticulture education programs. Examples of programs conducted by Master Gardeners are answering garden questions from the public at the extension center, working with community gardening projects, conducting demonstration gardens, working with youth gardening programs, conducting plant clinics, speaking to civic groups, and gardening programs for seniors.

Those who prefer not to volunteer may take the training program for a fee of $250.

If you would like to be considered for participation in the upcoming training, complete the enclosed application form and return it to Robert Balek or Janet LaFon at the Jasper County University of Missouri Extension Center by February 3. Applications will then be reviewed as class size will be limited. All applicants will be notified regarding their acceptance into the class.

A position description for Master Gardeners is also enclosed. Please let us know if you have additional questions about the application process or Master Gardener program. We’re looking forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

Robert Balek
Horticulture Specialist

Janet LaFon
Jasper County Program Director/
Family Financial Education Specialist
2016 Master Gardener Application

I wish to become a Master Gardener and would like to be accepted into the training course for 2016. I understand that if accepted into the program, I will pay a training fee ($150, or $100 with scholarship), and agree to provide at least 30 hours of service to the Master Gardener program during the coming year or will instead pay a $250 fee.

Signed  ___________________________  Date  _____________

Please type or print
Name (as you wish it to appear on nametag)  ___________________________

Address  ___________________________________________________________

City  ___________________________  State  _____________  Zip  ___________

Telephone (home)  ___________________________  (work)  __________________

E-mail  ___________________________________________________________

(Use additional sheets if necessary)

1. Please list any training or experience (formal or informal) in gardening or related areas. In what area(s), if any, do you specialize (e.g. vegetables, roses, herbs)?
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

2. Describe any practical experience you have had with gardening.
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

3. Why do you want to become a Master Gardener?
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

4. How did you learn about the Master Gardener program?
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

-over-
5. Please describe any previous volunteer or teaching experiences.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. Master Gardener activities span a broad range of community service. If you are selected as a Master Gardener trainee, what times during the coming year would you not be available due to personal, job or other commitments?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7. How do you plan to use the training you receive? What type of volunteer projects would interest you?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8. What kinds of volunteer projects would be the least comfortable for you to do?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9. Please rate your expertise in the following areas. Use 1 = experienced, 2 = know a little, 3 = none

   ___ Houseplants   ___ Herbs       ___ Trees
   ___ Vegetables   ___ Fruits       ___ Perennial flowers
   ___ Lawns        ___ Shrubs       ___ Annual flowers
   ___ Composting   ___ Insects      ___ Plant diseases
   ___ Irrigation   ___ Fertilization ___ Home greenhouses
   ___ Pesticides   ___ Organic gardening ___ Roses

10. What do you feel are particular concerns and needs of home gardeners?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please return this application no later than February 3, 2016 to:  Robert Balek
University of Missouri Extension
Courthouse, Basement
Carthage, MO 64836
(417) 358-2158

University of Missouri Extension provides equal opportunity to all participants in extension programs and activities, and for all employees and applicants for employment on the basis of their demonstrated ability and competence without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, genetic information, disability, or protected veteran status.
Title: University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener

The title of Master Gardener is to be used only and exclusively in University of Missouri Extension Master Gardener activities in which trained and certified Master Gardeners conduct educational programs and answer gardening questions under the auspices of the University of Missouri Extension.

Certification as a Master Gardener is valid only when an individual is participating in University of Missouri Extension sponsored or endorsed programs. Only active individuals continuing in the program may call themselves Master Gardeners.

Purpose:
To assist University of Missouri Extension educational programs in horticulture, gardening, small-scale food production, and consumer environmental issues.

Duties:
Answer questions from the public on gardening, trees, shrubs, lawns, insects, plant diseases, and related topics. The format may be by telephone, clinics, demonstrations and/or workshops. Other duties may include things such as assisting in the preparation and production of horticulture educational resources, staffing booths at Farmer’s Markets or various home shows, coordinating or presenting short courses, etc.

Requirements:
- Available to participate in intensive plant science classroom training.
- Available to devote a minimum of 30 hours of service time coordinated by arrangement through the University of Missouri Extension center during the first year after training. To continue in the program, 20 hours of service time, plus an additional six hours of continuing education, are required in succeeding years.
- Knowledge and skills in basic horticulture and gardening.
- Able to effectively communicate with the public.
- Report to the extension specialist or coordinator responsible for the Master Gardener program.

Supervision and Support:
The Coordinator of the Master Gardener Program will be the University of Missouri Regional Extension Specialist (Agriculture, Horticulture, Natural Resources, etc.) headquartered in county in which the Master Gardener volunteers.
- The extension specialist responsible for the Master Gardener program provides supervision and support to the Master Gardener. The extension specialist is responsible to oversee and approve all financial, program and volunteer activities to ensure compliance with University of Missouri Extension guidelines as well as all local, state and federal laws.
- The extension specialist reviews, approves, and assesses volunteer activities.
- University of Missouri Extension provides office space and other support as deemed necessary.
- Opportunities for advanced training are available.