Greetings Master Gardeners,

I’m ready for this fall weather. The cool weather the last few days has put a little more spring in my step. It may be just me but it seems that we had NO spring this year and the summer heat and lack of precipitation just seemed to drag on and on and on.…

I have been somewhat sadly and very slowly cleaning up what’s left of my vegetable garden. Some of the tomatoes are still producing a little so they will remain for now. The bell and chili peppers provided a bumper crop this year and they still have immature fruits on them and are blooming again so they get a stay of execution as well. Squash bugs and borers killed all of the squash plants (I deplore those critters).

My granddaughters came over last weekend and we harvested the pumpkins they planted in June (the pumpkin plants have now been invaded by the army of squash bugs as well). We took the pumpkins to the basement where they will be patiently waiting for the girls to make their jack-o-lanterns at Halloween. The cucumbers and melons are done. Still have some green onions. I didn’t plant any fall veggies this year except for radishes (lazy me).

Recently I received a call from our Crosslines Project Leader Tommy E. Tommy told me that so far this year our OGMG project has donated over a ton (2324 pounds) of fresh vegetables to the Crosslines food pantry. Our Crosslines project volunteers have done a GREAT JOB. Thanks for all of your hard work!

Our next OGMG chapter meeting will be at 6:30pm on October 11th. The meeting will be held at the Joplin Greenhouse and Garden Center greenhouse and growing facility. This is NOT at their location near 32nd Street and Rangeline. The address for our meeting is 13415 State Hwy FF, Joplin, MO 64804. This is east of the intersection of FF Highway (also known as 32nd Street) with Kodiak Rd/Prigmore Rd on the south side of Highway FF. Don’t park at the house, park along the driveway east of the house. Please bring a snack and a lawn chair if you have one.

You may know that we have received a directive from the MU Extension leaders to double the impact of the Master Gardener Program by 2023. In Jasper County, we have met that challenge by making Core training more available. This year’s Master Gardener Core training has brought many new trainees into the program. This spring’s Supersession training brought eight participants. The summer online training brought an additional person, and the fall traditional sessions brought 14, totaling 23 new trainees in Southwest Missouri. Most will be active in the Ozark Gateway Chapter, but some will go to their chapters in their own areas of the region.

September has been a busy month, right up to the last day. I am preparing to give a talk this Sunday, September 30 at the Missouri Master Gardener Association’s Statewide Conference in Branson. The talk will focus on future direction of the Master Gardener Program from the MU perspective. If you miss this talk at the conference, I will be giving it again to one of our chapter meetings, so you can stay up to date on the program moving forward.

Thanks for all you do!
Robert Balek
OGMG Master Gardener Coordinator
Many thanks to Colleen and Don for hosting our September meeting! We had a great turnout. They have a beautiful home and landscape. Colleen and Don gave us a tour of the property and beds that they are in the process of switching to mostly native plants. We also got to take a look at her butterfly nursery on the back porch. Colleen is also a Master Naturalist and gave a presentation where we learned a lot about the Master Naturalist program. Colleen also provided us with some accompanying literature.

And, we had a great meal of BBQ sandwiches all the fixings plus the treats brought by other Master Gardeners to share.

On September 11th, Jane G., Bev S. and I sat in on the first session of the new Master Gardener Core Training class. We let the new trainees know about all of our OGMG projects and what it means to be a Master Gardener. Hopefully we inspired the trainees and we will get some new active OGMG members from this year’s class!!

We had a great turnout at the Crosslines workday on the first day of autumn. The fall weather provided some great working conditions for the 16 people that showed up. We all worked on cleaning up the raised beds, Ron ran the weed eater and Grant mowed the grass. Everything looks clean and tidy now. Thank you to all who volunteered for this event!

I am looking forward to our October OGMG meeting. The meeting will be hosted by the Joplin Greenhouse and Garden Center at their greenhouse facilities just east of Joplin on State Highway FF (32nd Street). We will get a chance to learn about their greenhouse and growing operations. More information about the meeting is elsewhere in this news letter. Why not bring a chair, a snack and join the fun?

Until next time,
Thank you Jane G. and Kathy M. for taking pictures at Don & Colleen’s home at the last meeting.

We had a wonderful visit with Colleen and Don at their house prior to our September chapter meeting. We took a walk around their property and enjoyed Asters, Crepe Myrtles, Cannas, an old Red bud tree, just to name a few items. Their landscaping is very beautiful, and they’ve put a lot of work into it. They have a wonderful water feature, and there was a lot of milkweed feeding monarch caterpillars.

Colleen has studied to become a Master Naturalist. She said it has given her even more of an appreciation for the area where she lives. In the area there is diversity of soil, the border of a prairie, and it also has oak and hickory forests. She also said that she enjoys planting native plants to attract insects. Since native plants may not have a long bloom time, she is working on planting to get continuous blooms.

The Kendrick’s have a wonderful screened-in porch where we held our meeting, and we were very appreciative of them hosting it. The meeting was well-attended with 24 members present.

Jane G.
Newsletter Deadline

Please send information and articles for the November issue of Grow For It no later than October 25, 2018.

October Gardening Calendar

Here is the link to the Gardening Calendar: https://ipm.missouri.edu/MEG/2018/9/October_Gardening_Calendar/

My Master Gardener Group (Chapter) OGMG

The MG Group List is a report of all the Master Gardeners who have accounts in this system and who are members of the same group or chapter as you. Please login to view:

https://report.missourimastergardener.com/mg-my-group

Newsletter Deadline

Please send information and articles for the November issue of Grow For It no later than October 25, 2018.