Thumbs Up!

A New Year Sprouting Up

Recently John Hobbs met with the officers to plan the 2013 year. They have some exciting opportunities, presentations, and meetings planned. Members submitted suggestions for improvements and presentations and those ideas were discussed.

Here’s just a sample:

- Organic pest control & composting
- Houseplants
- Greenhouse tour
- Field trip to Botanical Garden of the Ozarks
- Grafting
- And more!

RECORDKEEPING

Don’t forget to begin your service record for 2013 now! Our 2012 hours decreased by 30% from 2011—1869 total hours with only 45 members reporting! Let’s bring the numbers back up. We’re looking forward to an outstanding year of gardening and landscaping!

Be sure to record your service hours throughout the year. Need a form?
Contact the Extension office, print HERE, or report electronically.

Under Construction

Don is currently revising our website. This is your source for newsletters, minutes, event and project pictures, and gardening-related articles. Don does a great job and this our tool for others to find out who we are and what we do. If you have suggestions to make our site even better, contact Don (451-1665) or talk to him at the meeting.
Missouri Master Naturalist Eagle Viewing Day
Stella, MO

Saturday, January 26 10 – 3 pm (come and go)
Saturday, February 2 (inclement weather date)

Master Naturalists will have a tent set up on eagle life history, directions, raptor-spotting maps, and some family and scout education activities. Refreshments (compliments of a donation) and restrooms will be available at the local Methodist Church in Stella. The ever popular Eagle Naturalist T-shirts will be available as well for MMN community and habitat support programs. The T-shirts are once again designed by local environmental artist Joyce Haynes and we appreciate the donation of her talent and time. – Jeff Cantrell, MDC Education Consultant

For further information, contact Jeff (417-451-4158), Kevin Badgley (417-629-3423) or the Joplin MDC Office (Cyndi or Diana 629-3423).

FYI: “Our local master naturalist members are a wonderful group of volunteers who appreciate the outdoors and love to help educate, explore and share the unique natural wonders we have in the Ozarks. This group of volunteers willingly give much of their time to events such as this and habitat improvement projects all over the area. The heart of a volunteer simply soars and Badgley and I are proud to be part of this unique naturalist team.” – Jeff

Anyone interested in the Master Naturalist group is encouraged to contact the MDC.

**PRUNING BLUEBERRIES WORKSHOP**

**Date:** Wednesday, February 6, 2013

**Time:** 1:00-4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Orchard near Springfield

Blueberries produce fruit on branches that were produced the previous year. For the first two or three years of a blueberry’s life it’s not necessary to prune it much, apart from keeping the plant tidy. After this, blueberries need regular pruning to maintain plant vigor and high quality berry production. Space is very limited. In order to attend you MUST register here. It is free to MG members. Location will be announced to registrants closer to the date.

The 12th Annual Spring Garden Seminar is coming!

"Gardening: Coming of Age"
Metropolitan Community College-Longview
Lee’s Summit, MO

The seminar consists of 3 tracks of 4 sessions each from which to choose, plus two half-day advanced training sessions. The tracks-Beauty, Productivity, and Adaptability-reflect MGers’ focus on gardening that can produce the most and best food while adapting to our new climate zone and still manage to create beautiful gardens. The 2 advanced training classes taught by K-State Associate Professor Dr. Jason Griffin and K-State Professor Dr. Candice Shoemaker will speak to trees and shrubs after the drought and to gardening for healthy aging.

Learn, grow, and be inspired!

**Deadline for early registration is February 8. Only $49!**

**Final deadline for registration is March 1. Cost: $69**

Next Meeting:

February 5, 2013
6:30 pm
Newton County Extension Center
Crowder College
Smith Hall

Prairie Day 2012

Pam, Gwen, Anne, and Carol did a great job talking about native plants and engaging some of the 1957 visitors to the Carver Monument. It was great to hear the stories. We always learn something too. To the visitors who could give 3 reasons to grow native plants, they received a packet of native seed that we had collected. Thank you to those who donated seed. – Sherry McBride, coordinator
Planning Meeting for MO State Conference
January 15, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Location: Botanical Center, 2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO

This will be the next planning meeting for the state conference and would be an excellent opportunity for you to become involved and get to know your fellow Master Gardeners. There is a wide variety of committees from which to choose and many different tasks, both small and large. Come join the fun! Please wear your name tag!

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Christine by emailing natgreen-eveg@gmail.com with your Name, email, phone, and the year you took MG training. Look forward to seeing you! -Christine Chiu

2013 Laurin Wheeler Program Series
Flower, Garden and Nature Society of NWAR

January 19 Round-table discussion, bring a favorite garden tool for show and tell and be prepared to share what works for you in your garden. Gerald Klingaman to talk on Champion tree of Arkansas.
February 16 Steve Owen from Bustani Plant Farm, Stillwater, OK. “Plants That Can Take the Heat”

AN INVITATION FROM THE MISSOURI COMMUNITY FORESTRY COUNCIL

INSECT and DISEASE SEMINAR
February 26 1:30-4:00 pm
Wildcat Glades and Audubon Center-Joplin
Registration required...Contact Jon Skinner, MDC Urban Forester (417-629-3423)

Arkansas State MG Conference
May 16-18, 2013

The Arkansas State MG Conference is going to be in Benton County (Bentonville/Rogers, AR) and Missouri Master Gardeners are invited to attend. Registration will open in February.

2013 International MG Conference
Alaskan Cruise
September 7-14, 2013

2013 Master Gardener State Conference-Springfield

If you want a really, really quality conference, the best strategy is to plan it yourself! The folks who have been planning the 2013 state conference in Springfield have lined up a dynamic and nationally-known presenter, excellent workshops, over six Advanced Training opportunities, beautiful gardens to tour, social events, freebies, and the promise of a truly “value-added event”. The weekend of September 20 to 22 is one to put on your calendar!