Rain Garden Installed

On Saturday, October 15, 22 members and volunteers along with front-end loaders and a backhoe joined forces to install a rain garden in front of Smith Hall and the Extension Office. In 3 short hours over 100 Grow Native! plants were planted and mulched in under the direction of Gwen Schroder to create a beautiful addition to the lawn. Next Spring should bring bouquets of beauty! [More pictures]

MG Program Forms State Association

Every garden needs tender, loving care, and the same goes for the program that helps Missourians learn vital skills to tend those gardens. Recent changes to the Missouri MG Extension Program include online training by August 2012 and the creation of a new nonprofit association to complement the existing program. Members voted to form a separate association at the program’s annual meeting, Sept. 23-25 in Hannibal. This team makes decisions about training requirements and is working to better allocate resources and measure the impact of the program. [To learn more]

Tree Pruning Workshops

November 7: Cedar County Medical Clinic Meeting Room, 801 Owen Mill Rd., Stockton (6:30 pm)
November 8: Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center, 201 W. Riviera Dr., Joplin (6:30 pm)
November 10: Lampo Building, 500 E. Spring St., Neosho (6:30 pm)
November 15: Thiebaud Auditorium, 105 E. 11th St., Lamar (6:00 pm)
November 17: City Council Chambers, 300 Main St., Cassville (6:30 pm)

Young trees need the most attention by pruning. Properly guiding a young tree with pruning will help it develop a desirable shape and improve long term health. Older trees often only need light pruning to remove dead branches, and poor structure. Learn the difference by attending one of the workshops near you. For more information, please contact Jon Skinner at 417-629-3423 or jon.skinner@mdc.mo.gov. [Registration for all workshops is requested by calling 417-629-3423.]
Master Gardeners John and Sheila Littlefield of Diamond, along with their family, were honored at a reception on October 30 at the Extension Center as Newton County's Farm Bureau farm family for 2011. Their contributions to the community and youth were recognized and State Representative Bill Reiboldt presented the family with a resolution. Congratulations to this well-deserving family!

**Take the 10,000 Garden Challenge: Thanks For Helping Missouri Grow!**

Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds wants to help us reach 10,000 gardens!

Fall is a great time to plant, and savvy veggie gardeners order their seeds for next year now. To help us grow Missouri gardens, Baker Creek is offering a $50 gift card to 1 out of every 100 gardens that register with the promo code "BCSeeds".

Everyone who registers is also entered to win a $500 gift card to Tractor Supply Company, and will receive an email voucher for free admission to Missouri Botanical Garden and BOGO tickets to Powell Gardens. Your town or city can also win prizes for having the most gardens.

If you know a gardener that may not be registered, help spread the word by email or sharing it on facebook. Any school, community, personal or commercial garden is eligible. Whether you grow vegetables, fruits, ornamentals or natives, in containers on a patio or balcony to gardens over 1,000 square feet in size, everyone growing in Missouri is eligible. To learn more

**Overwintering tropical plants**

Many tropical plants thrive in the heat and humidity of a typical Missouri summer and can make great outdoor patio plants. But as temperatures drop in the fall, conditions can quickly become deadly.

If you have the time and enough well-lit indoor space, you can overwinter some tropical plants indoors. Plants in this category include hibiscus, bougainvillea, mandevilla and palms. Many tropical plants can suffer from chill injury, so you should move them inside for the winter when nighttime temperatures regularly fall below 45 degrees. Read more

**Mark Your Calendars**

11th Annual Spring Seminar-March 3, 2012

“Lessons Learned in the Garden”

UMKC Student Union- Library

Kansas City, MO

Join the MGers of Greater KC for the region’s largest and most affordable annual gathering of gardeners to learn, grow and get inspired. To learn more

**NEXT MEETING:**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

DECEMBER 6 – 6:30 pm

LOCATION TBA

DON’T FORGET TO BRING OR E-MAIL YOUR SERVICE HOUR RECORD TOTALS.

JOHN MUST HAVE THESE SUBMITTED TO THE STATE BY DECEMBER 31 FOR 2011 CREDIT.

**Fall in the Ozarks**