Providing Horticultural Information and Assistance To the Public for Community Service and Gardening Pleasure through the Volunteer Efforts of Master Gardeners
Following in the footsteps of Chyrle Arens who wrote the first two St. Louis Master Gardener Annual Reports in 2009 and 2010, and of Dennis Green (2011) and Mark Kalk (2012), it falls to me to present this fifth consecutive annual report. Master Gardening has gifted me with a parade of people, experiences and places and the reward of turning a life-long hobby into benefitting a community. Master Gardeners around the world would say the same! “Our work is never done” is a too-often used phrase. In our case it’s not even work, because whether it’s another garden bed to be double-dug, a dozen flats to be planted, more questions to be answered or new volunteer opportunities to be developed – it’s always fun, always satisfying. This is why we are here still today and celebrating graduation of the first class of St. Louis Master Gardener volunteers thirty years ago. Many aspects of St. Louis Master Gardening are unchanged from 1983. But others during my mere seven-year adventure are life-changing of the organization as much as being a Master Gardener is often life-changing for individuals. Continuing with the traditions of this annual report established by my predecessors, these pages evince who we are, what we do, some activities of the past year and sprouts of new opportunities ahead.

Congratulations to all St. Louis Master Gardeners on our Thirtieth Year and Thank You for Everything You Do!

Chris Kirmaier
December 2013
In addition to volunteering with the organizations listed below, St. Louis Master Gardeners donate their time and knowledge – not to mention muscle – to community gardens and projects, at schools, churches, hospitals, libraries, civic and non-profit facilities and with a diversity of other programs throughout the area. In 2014 St. Louis MGs will be hosting the State Master Gardener Conference.

Brightside St. Louis
Butterfly House
City Seeds Urban Farm
Flora Conservancy
Forest Park Forever
Forest ReLeaf
Gateway Greening
Missouri Botanical Garden
Litzsinger Road Ecology Center
Olivette In Bloom
Shaw Nature Reserve
St. Louis Audubon Society
St. Louis City Parks
St. Louis County Parks
The Green Center
University City in Bloom
Urban Roots

Meet Up In St. Louis – 2014!

Every year on a September weekend, Master Gardeners from all over Missouri gather for a jam-packed conference full of tours, lectures, learning, sharing and, well, all the fun you’d expect to have when 300 MGs are all in one place at one time. In Sept. 2014 St. Louis will host the 19th state Annual MG Conference, with MGs from Jefferson, Franklin and St. Charles counties and the Missouri Master Gardener Association partnering. For a whole year already, a large committee chaired by St. Louis Master Gardener Mark Kalk has been planting the seed. It’s almost time!
18 Weeks of Learning

For the fun and privilege of volunteering in our community, Master Gardener Trainees enjoy (if occasionally endure!) 18 weeks of rigorous classroom training on all aspects of plants and horticulture. Three-hour sessions overseen by our Univ. of Mo Extension Coordinators Nathan Brandt and Holly Records are held weekly Jan. to mid-May. Quizzes are given! Instructors include professionals from the Missouri Botanical Garden, Meramec Community College and the Univ. of Missouri. Trainees learn about botany, how plants grow, their nutritional and habitat requirements, about soil, composting, photosynthesis and common plant pests and diseases and top it all off with a healthy dose of Latin names. Whew! Then there is the fun stuff too that all gardeners want to know – the best annuals, perennials and trees for St. Louis, the best native plants to grow in a home garden, how to create and maintain rain-gardens, general landscaping, environmentally sensitive practices and so much more. Why do we learn all this? Because our mission is to deliver horticultural information and assistance to the gardening public!
Bringing Horticultural Information to the Public

The MG Speakers Bureau is one avenue of fulfilling our mission of horticultural education outreach to the public. Delivered by 26 different Master Gardeners, the list of programs has grown to number 50 talks and 5 tours. In the blink of an eye, any of these can be booked at our website: www.stlmg.com.

2013 saw us give 95 presentations at 63 different venues that included garden clubs, libraries, retirement groups, live-in facilities, churches, community garden expositions, Missouri Botanical Garden docents, Univ. of Illinois Extension and even an accounting group’s staff appreciation session! All totaled we reached an audience of approximately 1,800 people. Do we expect more? Of course! Here’s to at least 100 presentations to over 2,000 people in 2014! New programs are added regularly and speakers rework older programs to stay fresh and current. Of course the newest programs are usually the most requested. With that in mind, these were the top 15 programs in 2013:

1. Best Gardening Practices for a Sustainable Garden
2. Plants of the Bible
3. Extend Garden Interest into Late Summer and Fall
4. The Art of Container Gardening
5. Photosynthesis – It’s Not Just About Plants
6. Spring Wildflowers of Missouri
7. A Perfect Perennial – Daylily Magic for Your Garden
8. Autumn Spectacular
9. Hydrangeas
10. Chocolate
11. Forest Park from a Gardener’s Perspective
12. Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs
13. Rain Gardening
14. Spring Garden Preparation
15. Winter’s Natural Beauty

Review, Choose and Schedule a Talk at our website: www.stlmg.com
For our April 2013 plant sale, we raised 360 different species of annuals, perennials, veggies, succulents, herbs and aquatics.

You think this is a lot? See all those tables behind me?

52 Master Gardeners volunteering 1,458 hours produced 11,528 plants from seeds, cuttings and plugs. Did we forget to mention the labels for all those plants?!
Visionary leadership in a core group of Master Gardeners lead in 2010 to an agreement with the Special School District and South Technical High School whereby greenhouses the school was no longer using would be put back into service by Master Gardeners. It has been a win win plan! We grow plants for an April Master Gardener plant sale, keep the greenhouses tidy and help with repairs and students at South Tech receive weekly hands-on sessions in the greenhouses that relate to their culinary arts studies.

We sold out of 60 varieties!! Unsold plants -- 200 flats (3,600 individual 3.5” pots) and 150 one-gallon specimens -- were donated to 21 non-profit organizations.

The Greenhouse sale raised about $20,000. That’s Great! What did we do with that? Turn to pages 8-10 for some projects we supported.
MG Class Capstone Project

New!

MG trainees in the 2012 and 2013 classes inaugurated capstone projects, brainchild of Nathan Brandt, Univ. of Missouri Extension. The 2012 class project, at the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter in St. Louis county, was a large undertaking that unfolded this spring (see below). In November, a cadre of trainees from the 2013 class descended on the Independence Center in St. Louis city for their capstone project (see pg 10). We are delighted to present pictures from these projects. Thank you Nathan and trainees for a great start to a new and very worthy St. Louis Master Gardener training tradition!

Master Gardener Awards Program

In 2013 we made awards and donations to:

- Missouri Botanical Garden, Spohrer Plaza planters
- Independence Center, St. Louis, Mo.
  (2013 Master Gardener Training Class Capstone Project)
- The Bring Conservation Home Program of the St. Louis Audubon Society
- Little Creek Nature Area
- Longview Farm Park

We were pleased to receive in 2013 reports from the University City Children’s Center, from the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District and from the St. Louis County Parks Dept. describing programs that we provided financial support for in 2012 with a MG Horticultural Award. Excerpts and pictures from their reports are on page 9. Additionally, we supported the 2012 and 2013 MG training class capstone projects.

2012 Class Capstone Project

at the Kathy J. Weinman Shelter, St. Louis county
Writes Stephen Zwolak, Executive Director of the University City Children’s Center, “We teach children where their food comes from, the importance of soil, how to plant vegetables, what it takes to grow vegetables, how to harvest crops and other skills. We are growing an attitude of sustainability……. Thank you, again, for selecting our organization for this very special award.”

From Almut Marino, Seed to Table Program Director, Maplewood Richmond Heights School District:

“Thank you once again for the generous financial support the St. Louis Master Gardeners granted us this school year. It has enabled us to considerably improve the children’s Seed-to-Table learning experiences…….”

Among many projects detailed:

“For spring, we built two hoop tunnels and they have already produced a harvestable crop for us this school year. We plan to add two more in the fall to extend the fall growing season and give our gardens a much earlier start in the spring. The ability to produce food throughout the colder months is very important.”

Historic Sites Foundation Vice President Tom Ott wrote: “Thank you for your generous donation/contribution to the Historic Sites Foundation of St. Louis County. This gift will be used to purchase annuals which will be used throughout the St. Louis County Parks Department and to purchase seedlings of the All-American Selections Award winners.”
2013 MG Class Graduation
& Class Capstone Project
at the Independence Center, St. Louis city
More Training? Of Course!

Master Gardeners are naturally eager to keep up with the latest (and even the oldest!) horticultural information – be it the newest tomato or daylily variety, the Japanese beetle forecast or the best methods for eradicating bush honeysuckle. Why – because our purpose is to be an information resource to the public! Ten hours yearly of continuing education are asked of St. Louis Master Gardeners, who may choose from many venues. These include classes or lectures at community colleges, or at the Missouri Botanical Garden or local nurseries or garden clubs to name a few. Continuing Education classes also are offered near-monthly by the Master Gardener Program and the Univ. of Missouri Extension such as the 2013 slate listed below. Sometimes, a Master Gardener teaches the class! And, sometimes classes take us out of the classroom to a hands-on learning experience or on a tour.

Jan - Plant Propagation Workshop at the greenhouse at South County Technical High School, led by Karen Koehneman, Master Gardener
Feb - “Missouri Forests and their Soil Base” by Mike Walsh, Forest ReLeaf
Apr - “The Bring Conservation Home Program” by Mitch Leachman, St. Louis Audubon Society & “Ecology of the Urban Fence” by David Bruns, Powder Valley Conservationist
Jun - Tour of six Master Gardener gardens (with quiz on plant nomenclature!)
July - “Use of Native Plants in Home Gardens” by Betty Struckhoff, Master Gardener
Aug - “Current Plant Pests and Diseases” by Susan Ehlenbeck, USDA Mo. Plant Protection Specialist
Sept - Tour of Zoo grounds with Tony Range, Zoo Horticulture Manager and Master Gardener
Oct - “Introductory Rainscaping Workshop” with Cindy Gilberg, lecturer, author and plant authority
Nov - “Invasive Species” by Quinn Long, Missouri Botanical Garden Conservation Specialist
According to the Missouri Master Gardeners Association, to which we belong, the St. Louis Master Gardener program was the first one established in the state of Missouri. From the start, our program has been coordinated jointly by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the University of Missouri Extension.*

- Late 1982 – St. Louis Master Gardener program is established by Robert Herman (Education Dept. at Missouri Botanical Garden) and Hurley Thompson (Univ. of Missouri Extension) 
- 1983 – The first two classes of MGs are trained and graduated. A spring class consisted of members of the MBG Horticulture Answer Service. Over 100 applications from the public were received for the second class held in the fall; 35 people were interviewed and 18 accepted. 
- 1984 – In April, a MG Advisory Committee comprised of MGs is formed – Glenn Kopp joins MBG in Dec. and becomes co-coordinator of the MG program along with Bret Reburn, Univ. Mo. Extension, who replaced Hurley Thompson after his untimely passing. 
- 1985 – A monthly MG Newsletter is established by Frank Arnoldy – Billie Beyer is named the first Master Gardener of the Year – Chip Tynan, from the first MG class in 1983, joins MBG to head up the Horticulture Answer Service – Glenn Kopp begins Continuing Education classes for MGs 
- 1987 – MGs regularly giving Speakers Bureau talks at public venues 
- 1989 – Steve Cline joins MGB to help plan and oversee the Kemper Center for Home Gardening

Up until 1994, a new class of MGs was recruited only every other year. A total of only 115 fortunate people graduated from the program in the 1980’s. MGs primarily volunteered at the Horticultural Answer Service at MBG, at Extension’s Hotline and held Plant Clinics.

- 1990 – Ten-week Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 training classes are replaced with Level I and Level II classes, both a 15 week session
- 1991 – Start of MGs trained to be Plant Doctors by Steve Cline and Glenn Kopp for the Plant Doctor Desk at the newly opened (June 9, 1991) Kemper Center at MBG
- 1996 – St. Louis MGs host the 2nd Annual State MG Conference 
- 1996-97 – An experiment was tried: MG training classes are held at Univ. of Missouri St. Louis with lectures live via closed circuit TV from Columbia, MO.

During the 1990’s some of the programs MGs volunteered with in addition to MBG were: Soule Center, School Partnership Program, Oasis, the Home & Garden Show, Work and Tell, Don’t Bag It, Earthways, Hanley House, Flora Conservancy, Gateway Greening and the Stupp Center at Tower Grove Park

- 2001 – The MG Newsletter transitions from paper to electronic form
- 2003 – St. Louis hosts the 9th Annual State Master Gardener Conference
- 2007 – The MG website goes live – used for MG news, for MGs to report volunteer hours and gives the public an easy way to book Speakers Bureau presentations
- 2010 – Online applications replace paper applications and interviews for MG applicants
- 2012 – MG Greenhouse partnership at South Technical High School is established – Nathan Brandt, Univ. of Missouri Extension, initiates Capstone Projects for the MG training class
- 2014 – St. Louis to host the 19th Annual State Master Gardener Conference

*Thank you Glenn Kopp and Ann Case for historical documents and other input.
Did you spy the garden Gnome on the MG tour this summer? It’s not only nomenclature he knows. He’s been keeping track all these years of MG volunteer hours. In 2014 we will begin recognizing St. Louis Master Gardeners for lifetime total hours of volunteer service, starting at 1,000 hours and in increments of 1,000 hours beyond. The sky’s the limit!

It’s a fun new way to look back at thirty years of MG volunteering and celebrate special individuals who have given so much of their time and effort. As 2013 draws to a close, there are some remarkable totals. Around 100 St. Louis MGs have climbed to 1,000 hours! Can the Gnome reveal some more? Sure! Some 30 people have donated 2,000 hours. Nine have risen to the 3,000 hour marker. Six St. Louis MG’s have soared to a lofty 4,000 hours. At 5,000 hours, four people hover together. Rocketing beyond there are three individuals, one person each, at the stratospheric levels of 6,000, 7,000 and yes, even 8,000 volunteer hours.

Would you like to know the names of these St. Louis Master Gardeners? The Gnome will reveal all in 2014!

Carol Gravens
Master Gardener of the Year 2013

Congratulations to Carol, who was awarded our organization’s top annual honor at the holiday party on December 4. A MG since 2001, Carol is a dedicated Speakers Bureau presenter, works in the Orchid Range and at the Plant Doctor Desk at Kemper Center and is busy with many other MG activities. Well Done! Well Won!
**St. Louis Master Gardeners** 1983 – 2013

### Recognition by Hours of Volunteer Service in 2013*

**700+ Hours**
- Mark Kalk
- Karen Koehneman
- Laurian McGrath
- Mary Jo Anderson
- Chuck Brust
- Claire Chosid
- John Stephens
- Ron Stevens
- Leon Zickrick

**600+ Hours**
- George Hibbard
- Barbara Hilton
- Anne Kirkpatrick
- Margaret Lahrmann
- Jack Lane
- Bonnie Lorenz
- Jeff Lund
- Susan Pinker Dodd
- Cynthia Rill
- Susan Scott
- Julio Yacula

**500+ Hours**
- Chuck Johnson
- Doris Johnston
- Linda Kalicak
- Madelynn Kester
- Ray Kirkman
- Jeannie Klebusch
- Deborah Ladd
- Tracie Lewis
- Linda Lieb
- Jim Massey
- Elizabeth Mattingly
- Don McQueen
- Larry Morrison
- Durinda Mullins
- Barbara Mutz
- Barbara Nichols
- Barbara Novak
- Ken Olsen
- Donna Olson
- Susan Pang
- Mari Parato
- Amelia Patrick
- Lisa Pestrone
- Frank Peterson
- Anne Rankin-Horton
- Alan Raymond
- Sue Reisel
- Linda Robson
- Don Rumer
- Kay Schechter
- Laura Schnure
- Ned Siegel

**50+ Hours**
- Karla Abel
- Diane Abernathy
- Barbara Anderson
- Linda Anderson
- Sharon Baldassare
- Kay Banks
- Dave Bassler
- Sonia Beard
- Helena Bedalli
- Katie Beilisle-Iffrig

**400+ Hours**
- Ronda Anson
- Chick Buehrig
- Carol Gravens
- Karla Standlee

**300+ Hours**
- Betsy Alexander
- Dan Gravens
- Dennis Green
- Gary Hartman
- John Hensley
- Marlene Katz
- Chris Kirmayer
- John Lorenz
- Ginny McCook
- Stephanie Sigala

**200+ Hours**
- Chyrle Arens
- Joyce Borgmeyer
- Rita Buckley
- Ann Case
- Linda Coonrod
- Valerie Donahue
- Debra Ebel
- Carole Fehr
- Gordon Gosh
- Jan Hermann

**100+ Hours**
- Helen Albrecht
- Cathy Arnold
- Virginia Bangert
- John Bell
- Mara Berry
- Judy Bolian
- Jack Breier
- David Buck
- Wally Cammarata
- Dennis Chambers
- Marilyn Claggett
- Susan Collins
- Jacqueline Corn
- Rosemary Currie
- Debra Davis
- Carole Dean
- Carly Dominick-Sobol
- Patty Erker
- Judy Evans

**50+ Hours**
- Pamela Fournier
- Keith Gentry
- Jan Gowen
- Diane Grubbs
- Judith Haldeman
- Emery Harmon
- Carol Higgins
- Jim Horn
- David Horton
- John Hyland
- Anita Isenberg
- Maggie Jackson
- Veronica Johnson
- Carol Berry
- Don Bley
- Richard Blowers
- Nichole Blume
- Linda Bolhofner
- Sandy Brooks
- Sharon Buchanan
- Kathy Bumberry
- Leigh Butler
- Sue Chaires
- Bruce Chalker
- Elizabeth Champion
- Tina Cheung

**100 Hours**
- Alberta Chulick
- Jeannie Clerc
- Kim Comer-Ross
- Dick Cone
- Sophie Connor
- Dave Dennon
- Evelyn Dickerman
- Joan Disse
- Berta Dulle
- Diane Dunn
- Karlene Feldker

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*Based on hours reported by each volunteer.*
Mary Hacking  
Susan Hackney  
Pamela Hass  
David Heppermann  
Karen Hindman  
Irene Hindman  
Patsy Hodge  
Norma Holler  
Sandra Hopkins  
Linda Howell  
John Huelsing, Jr.  
Charmaine Hutchings  
Anita Jaggerst  

Elizabeth Johnson  
Meg Johnson  
Rick Johnston  
Mary King  
Peggy Knippel  
Linda Koenig  
Jessica Krafik  
JoAnn Kresko  
Megan Kuban  
Kathy Kuehn  
Yvette Kurtz  
Bill Lampe  
Marilyn Lane  
Bonnie Langston  
Virginia Lay  
Matt Leigh  
William Lenz  
John B. Lewis  
Claire Linzee  

John Lizzo  
Jennifer Loman  
Janice Madden  
Gloria Mahoney  
Pam Manning  
Sarah Martin  
Susan Maurer  
Kelly Mazzacavallo  
Cathy McClellan  
Sharon McClinton  
Veronica McGrath  
Glenda McGrath  
Parker McMillan  

Elizabeth McNulty  
Angie Menard  
Sandy Meyer  
Betty Meyer  
Terry Milne  
Cindy Mittanck  
Linda Monday  
Cherie Moody  
Betty Moore  
Laura Murray  
Greg Newell  
Betsy Newman  
Mary Jo Nowobilski  

Holly Stiles  
Maxine Stone  
Barbara Swanson  
Judy Sweeney  
Audrey Swinford  
Ann Tansey  
Maureen Tramelli  
Ann Tuxbury  
Bernie Violand  
Liz Walker  
Karen Watkins  
Donna Webster  
Kathleen West  
Sandra Willems  
Nancy Zander  

Under 50  
Gail Abbott  
Kelda Abe  
JoAnn Alexander  
AJ Andreson  

Peter Barnidge  
Patty Benner  
Theresa Biggs  
Lucyann Boston  
Marc Bowers  
Sharon E. Brown  
Marcia Carpenter  
Mary Chapman  
Lillian Collins  
Martha Conzelman  
Cindy Corley-Crapsey  
Thom Downey  
Joyce Driemeyer  
Jasmine Fazzari  
Teresa Flanagan  
Alex Granda  
Susan Grossman  
Linda Harman  
Toni Marie Hayes  
Jane Helbig  
Albert Hirson  
Virginia Horrell  

Robert Irwin  
Kathryn Jepsen  
Cindy Irvin  
Janet Jump  
Lynn Koeneman  
John Kolar  
Julie Kolberg  
Sharon Kruzewski  
Barbara Lawton  
Anna Levey  
Donna MacDonald  
Alex McNett  
Patty Mendicino  

Gloria Mitchem  
Rosemary Murphy  
Nancy Novack  
Sharon Pedersen  
Kay Pelikan  
Mary Ann Pelot  
Bruce Pfanz  
Rhonda Porche-Sorbet  
Suzanne Ramsey  
Haubein  
Betty Reinsch  
Susan Rentfrow  
Joanne Richardson  
Aida Rodriguez-Parnas  
Vickie Rosenkoetter  
Don Ryan  
Lynne Sandler  
Maria Schiavello  
Sandy Sher  
Diane Siegel  
Teresa Smith  
Cindy Stein  
Barbara Tate  
Cici Tompkins  
Linda Traina  
Christina Wagner  
Leigh Walker  
Linda Waugh  
Robert Weaver  
Linda Whitten  
Carol Wilson  
Judi Yemm  
Bill Ziegenbein  

Long-time advisor of the MG program  
Glenn Kopp, from the Missouri  
Botanical Garden, was proclaimed  
an Honorary Master Gardener  
at the Dec. holiday party.  

St. Louis Master Gardeners belong to the  
Missouri Master Gardener Association  
www.momga.org
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St. Louis Master Gardeners