

THE MGN NEWS



A monthly publication
of the
St. Louis Master Gardeners



Missouri
Botanical
Garden

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- Plant Dr. Q & A's
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Turfgrass Research Update

Wednesday, July 16th Kemper Classroom 1-3 p.m.,

Dr. Brad Fresenburg, our July Enrichment speaker, will give us an update of the latest research in the field of Turfgrasses as well as the best management options available to the homeowner today.

Dr. Fresenburg is an Extension - Research Associate in the Department of Horticulture at the University of Missouri. His responsibilities includes: teaching athletic field maintenance in the Advance Turf class, supervising the day-to-day operations of the MU Turfgrass Research Center and advises the MU Athletic Department on athletic field maintenance and development. He is also involved in the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program trials, product testing and annual field day activities. Currently, he is developing a statewide extension program that relates primarily to the maintenance and management of sports fields and golf courses. He has written a number of publications including MU Guidesheets on Turfgrass.

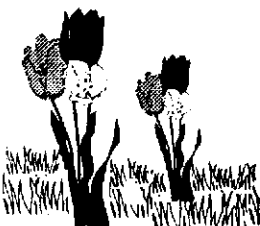
Don't miss this informative session.

CALENDAR

- July 4th – Independence Day “Happy Fourth of July!”
- July 16th – MG Enrichment, Dr. Brad Fresenburg, *Turfgrass Research Update*, Kemper Classroom, 1-3 p.m.
- July 5, 12, 19, & 26 - Clayton Farmers Market
- July 8, 15, 22 & 29 – Plant Doctor Training

Visit the St. Louis Master Gardener Website at
<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/>

“To provide research-based horticultural information to the public for community service and gardening pleasure.”



Volunteer and Education Opportunities . . .

LANDSCAPING SENIOR CENTERS

The following Senior Centers needs your help.

Northview Village Nursing Home

"Top Ladies of Distinction" is an organization comprising of ladies that have decided to make a difference in their community. The group is involved in various community projects including beautification. This year, they decided to get involved in the beautification and landscaping of City Nursing homes and Senior Centers.

Their first project is the Northview Village Nursing Home located along North Kingshighway close to Penrose Park. The first phase of this project was to decorate the inside of the Nursing home with indoor plants. The second phase will involve landscaping the Courtyard at the back of this facility that is completely devoid of any greenery.

James House – Lutheran Senior Services

James House is one of the Lutheran Senior Centers located in the City (Along St. Ferdinand St.). The landscape around the Center was maintained by one of the residents (a 90 year old lady) but she is not able to continue maintaining it now.

Recently, the Center got into a partnership with HDC (Human Development Corporation) that has the potential to solve its landscaping needs. HDC works with youth from the City, helping them identify careers in various fields. We will be

working with 4 youths at a time, teaching them landscaping principles and using *James House* as an outdoor classroom.

Master Gardeners are needed to work with these youths to help them attain their goals as well as the goals of the Nursing home. The sessions with the youth will be on every Friday (10-12 noon).

For more information and to volunteer for these projects, contact: Anne Gachuhi (314-615-7516).

FALL FIELD DAY & GARDENING FESTIVAL

The Horticulture Co-op of Metro St. Louis is sponsoring its *Fall Field Day* on Friday, September 19, 2003. As in previous years, there will be programs for professional members of the green industry. Master gardeners are also invited to register. This year the Horticulture Co-op is planning an additional new event: the *Gardening Fall Festival*, to be held on the following day, Saturday September 20, 2003. This event will offer demonstrations and talks to home gardeners.

Volunteers are needed for the *Gardening Fall Festival*. Hours are still being decided upon (probably 9 to 4, so there will be two shifts of volunteers). Both the *Fall Field Day and Gardening Fall Festival* will be held on the campus of St. Louis Community College at Meramec, on Big Bend between Kirkwood Road and Interstate 270 in Kirkwood, Missouri.

The Horticulture Co-op is a coalition of five local green

industry trade organizations: Gateway Professional Horticulturist Association, Greater St. Louis Flower Growers Association, Gateway Professional Grounds Management Society of Greater St. Louis, St. Louis Arborist Association, and Landscape and Nurserymen's Association of Greater St. Louis and two advisory organizations: St. Louis Community College at Meramec Horticulture Department, and the Missouri Department of Conservation. It is organized for the purpose of promoting quality horticultural materials and practices by providing educational experiences for the green industry professional and the general community in the St. Louis metro area.

To volunteer, contact Anne Gachuhi at (314) 615-2911. For more information about the *Fall Field Day* event, call Susan Minton (SLCC-Meramec) at (314) 984-7374.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Youth Gardening at:
Intercommunity Public Housing Project
Farragut Middle School
Williams Middle School

Parks Project (O'Fallon Park, Fairgrounds Park)

To volunteer, contact Anne Gachuhi at (314) 984-7374.

Gateway Greening – To volunteer, call (314) 577-5484.

Answer Desk FAQs

By John Stephens, MG

1. That material is most likely a mixture of algae and ordinary moss, which has died and started to decay. Although growth of these plants is favored by wet, cool weather, they often begin to die when temperatures rise. Drying occurs during warm, windy days resulting in that black, leather-like product which you have observed. It often seems nearly waterproof. When dry, it can be raked up and disposed of. Any underlying soil/site problems associated with shade, drainage, compaction, and/or fertility should be corrected.
2. Plant them if they still have leaves attached, otherwise, discard them. Next spring, after assessing their production of blooms, decide if such freebie bulbs are really bargains.
3. This disease, called leaf curl, is caused by a fungus that affects peaches and nectarines. Infection occurs, when leaf buds begin to swell in early spring, by rain splashing the spores from infected bark onto the buds. Nothing can be done about it at this time. To prevent recurrence next year, spray your tree immediately after leaf drop in the fall with lime sulfur or chlorothalonil, (Daconil). Follow the manufacturer's directions.
4. It is likely that your peony is infected with botrytis, a fungal disease. Botrytis can be controlled by the timely application of a fungicide such

as Daconil. Use it according to the manufacturer's directions. Good maintenance and season-end cleanup are also important in controlling this disease.

5. The leaf curl being observed is almost surely the result of drift from the herbicide spray coming in contact with tomato foliage. Tomatoes are among the most sensitive of plants to contact with 2,4D type herbicides, (for control of broadleaf weeds). You can replace your plants now, while stocks of transplants are still adequate, or take a chance and wait to see if they grow out of their deformities.

6. Scientific tests have not validated any claims that plants repel mosquitoes at practical distances. This is another example of marketing hype so, again, let the buyer beware.

(Questions are on the back cover.)

THANK YOU - UOE Open House

A sincere thank you to Master Gardeners: **Arlene Price, Alice Mitchele** and **Susan Rentfrow** for their participation and assistance during the St. Louis Extension Center's Open House on May 21st, 2003.

During the occasion, more than 150 local and state officials, community representatives and friends of extension gathered at the Extension Center in Clayton to celebrate University Outreach and Extension Week. The University of Missouri System President Elson Floyd was the guest of honor. President Floyd

accepted both Senate and House resolutions, recognizing May 18-24 as University Outreach and Extension Week in Missouri.

MG Web Site Update

By Anita Joggerst, MG

Our St. Louis Master Gardener web site has the details of the 2003 Missouri State Master Gardener Conference at outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/seeds.

Answer Desk FAQs



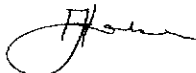
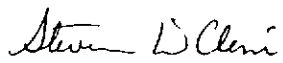
By John Stephens, MG

1. What is the leather-like, black stuff that has appeared in many bare spots in my lawn?
2. What should I do with some tulip bulbs, which were given to me a couple of weeks ago?
3. What's causing the leaves on my peach tree to thicken and curl?
4. What caused most of the buds on my peony to turn brown without opening?
5. My tomato plants had gotten off to a nice start, but now, the leaves are curling and seemed deformed. What's happening? (Further questioning revealed that this client had recently applied a common, broadleaf weed killer to the lawn some distance away).
6. Is it true that some plants effectively repel mosquitoes?

Look for the answers inside this issue!

WE INVITE Master Gardeners to submit articles for *The MG News*. Remember that your article is due no later than the 10th of the month. Please send copies to Steve Cline and Anne Gachuhi. The Coordinators reserve the right to edit these articles.

The MG News is published monthly for St. Louis Master Gardeners.

 OUTREACH & EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI LINCOLN UNIVERSITY	 Missouri Botanical Garden
 Anne Gachuhi Horticulture Specialist University Outreach & Extension	 Steve Cline Manager, Kemper Center Missouri Botanical Garden
University Outreach and Extension does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran in employment or programs.	

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY-THE LEAD PROJECT

By. Anne Gachuhi

Would you like to learn more about the effects of Lead poisoning, some of the ways of overcoming/preventing it and how you can make a difference to homeowners and kids that have to live with this problem in their homes? If so, then come join us during a three-day Lead Education Blitz and Health Fair on July 12th, 19th and 26th 2003. The health fair will take place in 3 Metro area communities with elevated lead levels: **Lemay, Carondelet and Washington Park (Illinois)**. In May, we joined three other area community organizations: **The St. Louis Lead Prevention Coalition, the Metro-East Lead Collaborative and Faith Beyond Walls** in the Lead Education and Awareness Project (LEAP) Initiative that included a two day Train-the-Trainer sessions on Lead, it's effects and prevention.

Lead is an inorganic metal that is not metabolized and is distributed throughout the body in the blood stream. It's found in the dust, soils, water or air. Lead enters the body through ingestion or inhalation and can harm virtually every system in the human body.

According to the CDC, "the major source of lead exposure among U.S. children is lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust found in deteriorating buildings. Lead-based paints were banned for use in housing in 1978. Despite this, deteriorating lead paint in homes built prior to 1978 still poses a significant health risk to young children and requires immediate attention. The CDC estimates that approximately 24 million housing units in the United States have deteriorated leaded paint and elevated levels of lead-contaminated house dust. More than 4 million of these dwellings are homes to one or more young children" The St. Louis region has the second highest rate of Lead poisoning among children. The effects of Lead poisoning include: learning disabilities in children, lower IQ scores, behavioral disorders and stunted growth rate. Lead is particularly harmful to the developing brain and nervous system of fetuses and young children. The good news is that lead poisoning is entirely preventable. Some of the remediation measures include: developmental; educational; nutritional and medical assessments and interventions, remediation of lead exposure; and interventions for children with confirmed elevated blood lead levels. The key is removing lead hazards in a child's environment and treating children who have been poisoned by lead. Children living at or below the poverty line who live in older housing are at greatest risk.

How you can volunteer:

Some of the practical approaches to the problem of deteriorated residual lead paint in older housing includes: helping home owners create "lead safe" residences through landscaping and incorporation of other landscape features that will help minimize the effects of lead exposure particularly to children. During the Blitz days (July 12th, 19th and 26th), we will have a Master Gardener outdoor answer desk at these sites. We will be providing the participants with gardening information and helping them with regular soil tests (the other organizations will carry out soil tests for lead levels). Thereafter we will assist community members with remedial landscaping needs that are geared towards lead mitigation. For more information and to volunteer, call Anne Gachuhi (314-615-7516).

Source of above information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/lead.htm>
, <http://www.epa.gov/lead/leadpbed.htm>

Gardening Fun

By Jan Hermann, Conference Chair

Over the months, we have shared many details with you about the educational focus of the Missouri State Master Gardener Conference in St. Louis, September 5 through 7. From Level II training, to meaningful tours, to a wonderful variety of classes -- everyone is sure to come away with new ideas and dreams.

However, it won't be all work! The conference also has a lighter side. Linda Harmon, committee chair, has assembled a wonderful array of vendors with products of special interest to gardeners. You will be able to buy herbal gifts and natural lotions. How about hand-carved stone or hand crafted wood and iron decorations? We will also have a vendor specializing in wrought iron fences and gates; another will offer antique garden accessories and other unique items. Bring your holiday gift list and budget a treat for yourself!

Our included Saturday supper at the World's Fair Pavilion in Forest Park will highlight Missouri's bounty. Besides the fellowship of Master Gardeners, we will enjoy live music and a buffet of food-produced right here in Missouri. Sally Cohn and her committee have put together a feast featuring, among other items, meats raised in our area, seasonal produce, herbal tea, locally baked bread and scrumptious desserts from Missouri vendors.

Our conference headquarters is the Holiday Inn Southwest – St. Louis Viking Conference Center, 10709 Watson Road. If you have not already registered, now is the time to do so. Avoid the higher registration fee after August 1 by mailing in your form today. The registration form was in last month's *MG News*. You can also access it on line at www.outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/Seeds. A detailed conference schedule is included elsewhere in this issue.

Speakers Bureau - New Members Mean New Topics

By Bill Ziegenbein

Since our last article, the Speaker's Bureau has had 21 Master Gardeners express an interest in becoming members and developing presentations on various garden topics. To take advantage of a little extra support, more than half attended the presentation skills workshop that was held at Kemper on May 29, 2003.

Roxanne Miller, UMSL started off the workshop providing the participants with a solid foundation to build from with presentation techniques and Anne Gachuhi followed with tips to overcome stage fright. The program also featured informal talks by active members of the Speaker's Bureau, Marshal Wagner, Jackie Mitchell, and Carol Gravens. Jack Lane and Bill Ziegenbein. These informal discussions were filled with personal experiences, tips and glimpses into what the new members might expect.

Many of the new members have already selected their garden topics and are well on their way in preparing their presentation. Some of the new topics are:

- Spring Prep
- Medicinal Plants
- Xeroscaping
- "Chocolate" Dark Foliage Gardens
- Cottage Gardens
- Shade Gardens
- Step-by-Step Landscaping
- Houseplants
- Growing a Cut-Flower Garden
- Herbs and Missies
- Gardening for Children
- Garden Art

Along with many more. A special thanks to all our new Speaker's Bureau members. Look for a complete updated listing published soon and don't forget to talk us up!

MISSOURI STATE MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE

Friday, September 5

1:00 to 7:00 PM - *Registration*

2:00 to 5:00 PM

Optional Level II Master Gardener Training: Plant Propagation – Speaker: Mary Ann Gowdy

Dinner on your own

7:00 to 10:00 PM

Keynote Speaker

- Dr. Allan Armitage

Followed by a panel discussion

Saturday, September 6

Included buffet breakfast at the hotel

Tours starting at 8:15 AM.

Box lunch included.

7:00 to 10:00 PM

Missouri Bounty Buffet and Music at Forest Park's

World's Fair Pavilion

Sunday, September 7

8:00 AM

Ecumenical Service

Breakfast on your own

9:00 AM to Noon

Classes or Level II Training

Noon to 2:00 PM

Lunch Celebration at the Hotel

Remarks by Dr. Peter H. Raven,

Director of Missouri Botanical Garden

Missouri Master Gardener Conference
St. Louis, Missouri
September 5-6-7, 2003
(The weekend after Labor Day Weekend)

DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday, September 5

1:00-7:00 p.m.	Conference registration – Conference Center
2:00-5:00 p.m.	Level II Class #1 – Hotel Conference Room
4:00 p.m.	Hotel check-in – Front desk
	Dinner on own – Hotel or nearby restaurants
7:00 p.m.	Dr. Allan Armitage – Keynote address
8:30 p.m.	Panel discussion – “Invasives”

Saturday, September 6

6:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.	Included breakfast in the hotel – Banquet Room
7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Vendors Display – Conference Center
8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Morning half-day tours
8:15 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Full-day tour
12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Included lunch and free time
1:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.	Afternoon half-day tours
6:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.	Attendees drive to Forest Park
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.	Missouri Bounty Buffet-World’s Fair Pavilion

Sunday, September 7

6:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast on own – Hotel or nearby restaurants
7:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Vendors Display – Conference Center
8:00 a.m.- 8:25 a.m.	Ecumenical church service – Conference Room
9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m.	Seminar Choice #1 – Conference Room
10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.	Seminar Choice #2 – Conference Room
11:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.	Seminar Choice #3 – Conference Room
9:00 a.m.- 11:45 a.m.	Level II Class #2 – Conference Room
12 Noon – 2:00 p.m.	Included luncheon – Banquet Room
	* Awards
	* Speeches
	* 2004 Announcement

Location: Holiday Inn Southwest-Viking Conference Center, 10709 Watson
Road (at Lindbergh), St. Louis MO. 63127 - Phone: 314-821-6600

For more details, visit our website: www.outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/seeds

Master Gardener Hours Report Form

THIRD QUARTER 2003

July - August - September

Due September 30, 2003

Name: _____

Use the other side of this form to report volunteer hours that you DO NOT record elsewhere (via index card with project supervisor or online at <http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouisco/mg/index.html>). Please report all hours, even those in excess of what is required to remain an active MG.

Activity Description Column: Please describe the approved activities in which you accumulated volunteer hours. Approved activities are those listed in the MG News or as discussed previously with the Program Coordinators.

Volunteer Hours Column: The St. Louis Master Gardener Program requires 50 volunteer hours per year to maintain an "active" status. Preparation time and "extraordinary" travel time should be included. **DO NOT** include time spent in casual conversations answering gardening questions or activities for which you received payment.

Training Hours Column: Please include all organized training programs you participated in such as: enrichment classes, bi-monthly education programs, regular adult education programs at the Garden, gardening-related classes at Meramec, etc. Note that these hours **do not** count toward your volunteer hours of service. The St. Louis Master Gardener Program recommends 10 hours of training per year.

OVER -

