

30 Years

Annual Report 2013

St. Louis Master Gardeners



Providing Horticultural Information and Assistance
To the Public for Community Service and
Gardening Pleasure through the
Volunteer Efforts of Master Gardeners



Aloe blooming in the South Tech greenhouse

2013 - 2014

Advisory Committee Members

Chris Kirmaier, *Chair*

Margaret Lahrmann, *Treasurer*

Stephanie Sigala, *Secretary*

Ann Case

Diane Grubbs

Gary Hartman

John Hensley

Mark Kalk

Karla Standlee

Coordinators:

Nathan Brandt & Holly Records

Univ. of Missouri Extension

Glenn Kopp, Phil Egart,

Jackie Juras & Norma Fraser

Missouri Botanical Garden



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

Cover: One of the daisies, made from wood by Harold Jackson (spouse of MG Maggie Jackson) and painted by MG Anne Kirkpatrick, used as yard signs on the 2013 MG Garden Tour.

Where We Volunteer

38,071 Total Volunteer Hours in 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.

Plan

Brightside St. Louis
Butterfly House
City Seeds Urban Farm
Flora Conservancy
Forest Park Forever
Forest ReLeaf
Gateway Greening

Dig

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

Sow



Mulch

Water

Weed



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

Mo. Master Gardener Association, Inc.



www.momga.org

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!

Training Classes

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!



Speakers Bureau

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

Gee, they all look
so interesting.....



Review, Choose
and Schedule
a Talk at
our website:

www.stlmg.com

GREEN

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?!



HOUSE



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.

*Wait a minute....
I have more to do?
Oh, that's OK,
I'm way fast!*

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.



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, Spoehrer 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."*

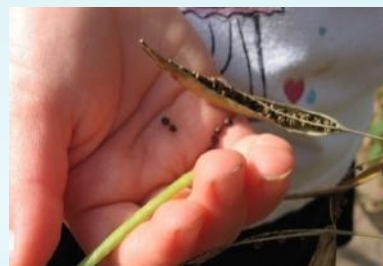


From Almut Marino, Seed to Table Program Director, Maplewood Richmond Heights School District:

"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."



Awards Reports

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



Continuing Education

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



*National Great Rivers Research and Education Center
Alton, IL, Sept. 2012*



*Danforth Plant Science Center
Creve Coeur, MO. Jan. 2009*

Thirty Years at a Glance

St. Louis Master Gardeners

1983 – 2013

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



Mary Ann Pelot celebrates 30-years of MG volunteering at the 2013 holiday party !!

*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.*

Events and News



*June 2013 Garden Tour
Organizers, Hosts and Garden Minders*



Sept. 2013 Picnic

Only the Gnome Knows (for now)



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!**



Dec. 2013 Holiday Party

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!



Membership

Recognition by Hours of Volunteer Service in 2013*

700+ Hours

Mark Kalk
!

600+ Hours

Karen Koehneman
Laurian McGrath
!

500+ Hours

Mary Jo Anderson
Chuck Brust
Claire Chosid
John Stephens
Ron Stevens

Leon Zickrick
!

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 Kirmaier
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
!

George Hibbard
Barbara Hilton
Anne Kirkpatrick
Margaret Lahrmann
Jack Lane
Bonnie Lorenz
Jeff Lund
Susan Pinker Dodd
Cynthia Rill
Susan Scott
Julio Yacula
!

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
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
,

Chuck Johnson
Doris Johnston
Linda Kalicak
Madelynn Kester
Ray Kirkman
Jeanne 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 Pestronk
Frank Peterson
Anne Rankin-Horton
Alan Raymond
Sue Reisel
Linda Robson
Don Rumer
Kay Schechter
Laura Schnure
Ned Siegel

Jodi Smedley
Jeanette St. Vrain
Alan Stentz
Jean Steward
Sarah Strandemo
Betty Struckhoff
Peggy Stuckmeyer
Harold Tennyson
Steve Varga
Linn Wells
Ken Wheat
Chris Williams
Carolyn Willmore
!

50+ Hours

Karla Abel!
Diane Abernathy
Barbara Anderson
Linda Anderson
Sharon Baldassare
Kay Banks
Dave Bassler
Sonia Beard
Helena Bedalli
Katie Belisle-Iffrig

!

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



!

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
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Kathleen Ferrell
Joanne Fogarty
Cheryl Fox
Julie Francois
Paula French
Joyce Fry
Kim Gamel
Julie Geary
Michael Georgen
Hera Gerber
Constance Goss
Joann Griffard
Julie Grimm

*Based on hours reported by each volunteer.

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! !
! !
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 Joggerst

! !
! !
! !
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

! !
! !
! !
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

! !
! !
! !
Robert Irwin
Kathryn Jepsen
Christy Jones
Janet Jump
Lynn Koeneman
John Kolar
Julie Kolberg
Sharon Kruszewski
Barbara Lawton
Anna Leavey
Donna MacDonald
Alex McNett
Patty Mendicino

Elizabeth Johnson
Meg Johnson
Rick Johnston
Mary King
Peggy Knippel
Linda Koenig
Jessica Krafcik
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

Alison O'Brien
Patricia O'Brien
Tammy O'Brien
Jeanne Ortega
Fred Ortlip
Cathy Osborn
Holly Parks
Ve'Niecy Pearman-Green
Lee Phillion
Debbie Phillips
Denise Pott
Cheryl Rafert
Fred Rauch
JoAnn Rawson
Holly Records
David L. Reindl
Margie Richards
Michele Roberts
Ann Robison

Sandra Willems
Nancy Zander
!
Under 50
Gail Abbott
Kelda Abe
JoAnn Alexander
AJ Andreson

Jasmine Fazzari
Teresa Flanagan
Alex Granda
Susan Grossman
Linda Harman
Toni Marie Hayes
Jane Helbig
Albert Hirson
Virginia Horrell

Gloria Mitchem
Rosemary Murphy
Nancy Novack
Sharon Pedersen
Kay Pelikan
Mary Ann Pelot
Bruce Pflanz
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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