



Master Gardener News

A monthly publication of the St. Louis Master Gardeners

January 2005

Calendar

February 16th 1-3 p.m. Landscape Design Class, part 1

March 5th 8-4 p.m. Spring 2005 St. Louis Garden Symposium

March 10-13th Home & Garden Show

March 16th 1-3 p.m. Landscape Design Class, part 2

April 20th 1-3 p.m. Bulb Garden Class

A Word from the Editor, by Stacy Rolfe

Is there any one out there who doesn't make a New Year's resolution? Even if you don't write them down, I believe most people at least think about having some type of resolution. I, myself am actually one who gives this sort of thing some serious consideration, although, admittedly, mine can be pretty ambitious. For example, in the past I have resolved to kiss my husband when he leaves for work or comes home. How'd that turn out? Let's see. I usually don't even hear him leave before I realize that I can spread out under the warm covers and curl up with the dog. And on his way in the door after work, he usually gets my famous roll of the eyes when he asks about my day. Let's say it's safe to say that now I try to keep my resolutions a little bit

more realistic. This year I am bound and determined to enjoy my yard. And I mean it. I have found that too often I have found myself so stretched with activities that I have very little time for the things that I truly want to be doing the most, namely, working in my gardens. I'm going to do my best to resist working on projects, programs, and campaigns and try to put a little more emphasis on my own hobbies. I have a lot of yard to work with and I love being out in the dirt, this year I'm going to make that my goal. It's a little less lofty than the kissing thing, but, I'd like to have at least one New Years resolution that I can say I actually did.



What's Inside

MG Level 2 Classes Rolled Out!

New MG Level 1 Classes Underway

Upcoming Spring Symposium

Help Wanted!

Q&A

MO State Master Gardener Conference



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



Missouri Master Gardener University Outreach & Extension

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



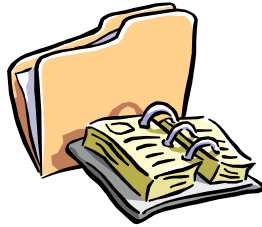
Master Gardener volunteers are needed to assist with registration, or to offer horticulture information, at the Spring 2005 Garden Symposium to be held on Saturday, March 5, 2005 at Meramec Community College. This event is sponsored by the Horticulture co-op of Metro St. Louis. Volunteers will serve two-hour shifts between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Call Jan Hermann at 314.469.3577 to volunteer.

St. Louis Home & Garden Show



Still looking for more volunteers! The St. Louis Home and Garden Show is March 10-13th and we are

looking for Master Gardeners to staff the booth at various times throughout the 4-day show, Thursday – Sunday, March 10th – 13th, 2005. This is a good chance to share your knowledge with the general public and get some action! Call Phil at 314.577.9441 to discuss your time availability. We need 40 people to get the job done!



MG Continuing Education Class Schedule for 2005

January 12, 2005 1-3p.m.; Amy Haake from the MBG Education department will speak on the new Children's Garden. This program will be especially beneficial to all MG's working in the Kemper Center area so they can explain to visitors just what is being developed. The class will be held in the Garden room at Ridgeway.

February 16, 2005 1-3 p.m.; Master Gardeners Jim Hoefener and Van Spurgeon will teach a class on basic landscape design. Part One. The class will be held in the Kemper Center classroom

March 16, 2005 1-3 p.m.; Part two of practical Landscape Design with MG's Van Spurgeon and Jim Hoefener. Class will be held in the Kemper Center classroom.

April 20th, 2005 1-3 p.m.; Jason Delaney, Curator of the MBG Bulb Garden, will teach a class on bulbs. The class will be held in the Kemper Center classroom.

May 11, 2005 1-3 p.m.; Judy Allmon, Marketing and business development from Grow Native! will speak on native plants. Grow Native! is a joint program of the MO Department of Agriculture and MO Department of Conservation. The class will be held in Monsanto Center located at Shaw and Vandeventer, first floor lecture room.

June 15, 2005 1-3 p.m.; Scott Woodbury of the Shaw Nature Reserve will lead a tour of native areas at the Reserve. There will be a \$3 charge per person for this tour.

June 29, 2005 Time TBA; Cindy Gilberg of Gilberg's Nursery will hold a session at her nursery located in Wildwood. Topic: Rain Bog and Pond Gardening



July 13, 2005 Time TBA;
There will be a tour in Forest Park for all Master Gardeners. The program will include park history and horticulture, as well as a general overview of the park. There will be presentations and tours of the Jewel Box, greenhouses and outside gardens. Further details will be published in a later newsletter.

August 5, 2005 Time TBA;
Mary Ann Horvath of the UMSL staff will teach a class on power point basics at UMSL. We will have a limit on number of attendees. If you want to attend this class contact Jack Lane at 636.256.8622 or email at lanejbart@aol.com

August 17, 2005 1-3 p.m.;
Bill Ruppert of National Nursery Products of St. Louis and Chairman of Horticulture Co-Op of Metro St. Louis will speak on perennials. Class will be held in Kemper Center classroom.

August 19, 2005 Time TBA;
Mary Ann Horvath will teach power point advanced at UMSL. Attendance will be limited. If you want to attend please contact Jack Lane at 636.256.8622 or email langejbart@aol.com

September 17-19, 2005
Missouri State Master Gardener Conference will be held in Kansas City, MO

October 12, 2005 1-3 p.m.;
Nancy Patkay, Manager of the Plant Clinic at University of Illinois, will speak on plant diseases. Class will be held in the Kemper center classroom.

November 9, 2005 Time TBA;
We will visit ORMI (Organic Recycling Management, Inc.). This is a very large composting and recycling operation in the North County.

More information regarding the Master Gardener Level 2 program will be announced in the February issue.

Congratulations Leon Zickrick!



2004 Master Gardener of the Year!

To read about Leon's contributions which earned him the honor of being Master Gardener of the Year, please click on <http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/growing/leon.html>

And if you didn't make it to the Holiday Party, here's what you missed:

Roll-out of MG Level 2 program

Inside look at the 2005 MG State Conference and a chance to win free admission!

Announcements of milestone volunteer anniversaries

Steve Cline being inducted as an honorary Master Gardener!

Master Gardener of the Year Award

*Lots of door prizes!
Introduction of 2005 MG class*

Good food, friends and general merriment!



Click here for more Holiday Party photos



Master Gardener News



Q&A With John Stephens

Q: When can we cut the liriopie in our garden?

A: Lilyturfs, *Liriope sp.*, are evergreen in our climate and add interest to the winter landscape. These plants should be cut back in late winter or early spring to encourage new growth. Set your lawn mower at its maximum cutting height and mow in a single pass with the clipping collector attached.

Q: Are there any yews that grow in upright habits?

A: There are several varieties that grow in upright form, (as opposed to the spreading form). Some well known cultivars of *Taxus baccata* are 'Fastigiata', (rigidly upright), and 'Nana', (dwarf pyramidal). Similarly, pyramidal cultivars of *T. cuspidata* include 'Capitata' and 'Pyramidalis'. Your nurseryman can probably offer further help concerning uprights and their availability.



Q: What harm is likely to come to my mature rhododendron as a result of its recent flowering?

A: During long, mild autumns such as this year, some flowering of rhododendrons is not all that unusual, depending upon variety. Except for some reduction in numbers of spring flowers, no harm is likely. Your plant will stop this unseasonal behavior with the onset of colder weather.

Q: Recently, I bought some unfamiliar bulbs called "Brimeuras"; can you help with these?



A: *Brimeura amethystina*, is a synonym for *Hyacinthus amethystina*, commonly known as the amethyst hyacinth. This species has stalks of small blue or white, bell-shaped flowers that appear after most hyacinths have finished blooming. They are excellent bulbs for naturalizing in rock gardens or areas of rough grasses. Their care is the same as with more familiar hyacinth species.

Q: Can I safely prune my

privet hedge now?

A: Privet withstands pruning as well as any plant. Your hedge can be pruned at any time of year except early to mid-autumn, (may delay onset of dormancy). You can do this task now or whenever most of the hedge's leaves have fallen.

Q: What should we do about a large, depressed spot, which seems to be rotting, on the lower trunk of our mature dogwood tree?



A: This could be a symptom of a very serious disease, crown canker. Consult with a professional arborist, (see telephone directory), as soon as possible. Crown canker is treatable only in its early stages.

Q: Is it really necessary to strip all the leaves from my rose bushes that were infected with black spot this past season?

A: This procedure is often recommended as part of the prewinter cleanup of roses infected with black spot. Fungal spores of this disease can overwinter on contaminated debris. Good, year-round sanitation and a rigorous control program are the keys to avoiding black spot in our climate.

—and finally a thought for the New Year: "When elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers"

-an old African saying from Chip Tynan's bulletin board.





Bird Bath by Connie Alwood

Most winter days when I look at my feeders I see the same birds as I did the day before. Rarities are just that: rare. Nevertheless, I'm always looking for the bird that shouldn't be here, such as the one that I saw on a Christmas Bird Count in north St. Charles County on January 1, 2004. I was looking at a dove underneath a feeder, but this was no Mourning Dove. It had a longer tail and a scaled pattern on its feathers. It was an Inca Dove, a common bird in Texas and Mexico, but a rarity in Missouri, only the second report for the state.



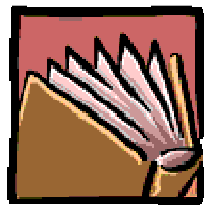
A few days later in East Alton, Illinois, I was invited to look at a friend's backyard feeders, where I watched four Common Redpolls--Minnesota specialties. It was only my second time in twenty-five years to see redpolls in the St. Louis Area.



A week later I was standing on the sidewalk outside the home of Chip Tynan watching a Rufous Hummingbird coming to a heated feeder. The Rufous, as Chip told me, is a western specialty and the most migratory of the hummingbirds. Some travel from the tropics in winter and breed as far north as Alaska.



Winter is the time most of us feed birds. And winter is the time that most of us will see rare birds at the feeders. This year watch for Pine Siskens (at thistle feeders), Red-breasted Nuthatches and Red Crossbills. They are being reported in the area. But even if you don't see a rarity, just seeing cardinals and Blue Jays at the feeders is fun. Besides, they would be very rare birds at, let's say, feeders in California.



Book Nook with Holly Parks

Garden Home, Creating a Garden for Everyday Living, has a fresh approach to garden as a series of "rooms" between the home's interiors and the outdoor area

beyond. These private sanctuaries which connect the house and the gardens are meant for relaxing, cooking, entertaining, and enjoying nature. While Allen does discuss plants, both in general and by specific reference, this approach is more about integrating the gardens and the house itself into a cohesive plan.

Allen begins by walking you through his own garden home, room by room, explaining how he chose the color, structure and purpose of each area. While his garden arrangement tends to be formal and dense, the principles should apply to any area you choose. Then he introduces his twelve principles of design to guide you in making your own decisions. These principles are the basics he has distilled from years of walking around gardens, designing gardens and studies of garden history.

The framework is covered in six principles: enclosure, shape and form, framing the view, entry, focal point and structures. These are much the same principles an interior decorator would use but now applied to the area outside the home. This sets up the outdoor room – the floor, walls, ceiling, passageways between the rooms and hardscape such as gazebos, pergolas or arbors.. The finishing or decorative touches are covered in texture, pattern and rhythm; color; abundance, whimsy, mystery and time.



The book includes charts, plant lists, some simple projects and more than two hundred spectacular color photographs to draw you into creating your own garden home.

Garden Home by P. Allen Smith is a 224 page hardcover book published by Clarkson/Potter Publishers. It is available for \$29.95 at Walden Books in West County Shopping Center.



Welcome MG Class of 2005!

The new 2005 class got off to a great start this month thanks to a lot of hard work and preparation by all of the classroom coordinators! We wish you luck as you begin your journey through xylem, phloem and cambrium!

And speaking of new MG's, here's what candidate Christine Morris has to say in one of our first of many series of new MG articles...

We moved into a new house over the Christmas holiday. Moving, as always, was an exciting and painful process. But this time there was a new twist. This

time, along with the furniture and spoons and that clock, I would be bringing along my garden.

I have been a gardener for two seasons now; having a yard to play around in made for a speedy friendship with the garden. Honestly, I'd rather be outside than in, regardless of the season. I spend a great deal of time with my plants, and had quickly grown attached to the vast majority of them. I decided I would bring them along and let them shine in my new yard. In all, I was bringing sixty-two species of perennials, deciduous shrubs, evergreens and small trees. This was going to require some planning.

A few days prior to the move, I chose which plants would go. I took a shovel and dug around each one, making sure that a gentle tug would pull it out of its place on moving day. The weather was pretty mild, so it wasn't difficult. All I could do then was wait. The forecast was calling for several days of clear, dry weather. I knew it would be a long day, but I was prepared for it.

On moving day, I awoke to gray skies and fifteen-degree weather. And it was windy. It took a few minutes to get past the disgust I felt, but I adjusted and got ready to dig in.

With several layers and some five-dollar suede gloves, I made fairly quick work of pulling up the perennials and small shrubs (anyway, once you get going,

the weather factor goes away). I used a small hand truck for the larger plants to protect my back, and the gloves worked great for taking care of the roses. Once I got them to their new home, I prepared them for their winter nap.

Because it was so late in the year, I had decided to wait until Spring to dig at the new house. I found a perfect spot, facing south and protected by fence and deck on the north and east sides. I separated my plants by size and type, and I used dry leaves and small twigs as mulch for their roots. I have mature maples in the back yard, so both were readily available. After mulching heavily, I gathered small branches and made a sort of "tent" to give a little more protection.

Every few days I go out and check on my "babies". The evergreens are standing proud, the spring bloomers are full of big, healthy buds, and the liriopie is feisty (as usual). I'm anxious for Spring to arrive so that we can pick up where we left off. I know I'll be well-compensated for the time it took to move and replant. And we can all settle into our new home together.





Announcing Weather Alert for MG 2005 Class!

In case of bad weather (or for any reason) that we can not assemble on the day on the day of class, Steve Cline will broadcast a mass email message before 8:00 a.m. advising that class has been cancelled.

The email will also be sent to all mentors, instructors and classroom coordinators. As an alternative for those who do not have email or can't gain access to email on class day, you can call 314.577.9443 and leave a message regarding the status of class.



Mark Your Calendars Now to Attend the Spring 2005 St. Louis Garden Symposium!

When: Saturday, March 5, 2005 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: St. Louis Community

College at Meramec, 11333 Big Bend Blvd., Theatre/Auditorium

Cost: \$65 Pre-registration on or prior to February 23, 2005
\$75 Registration at the door on March 5th

Theme: Thinking Beyond Tradition: New Perspectives on Plants and Landscapes...featuring 5 Nationally Recognized Horticulture Professionals

Produced By: Horticulture Co-op of Metro St. Louis and SLCC at Meramec

For information on program details and speakers, click this link:
<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/growing/events/events.html>



More Dates to Mark... September 16-18, 2005

**Missouri State Master Gardener Conference
Kansas City, MO**

Detailed program information, transportation and lodging information can

be found by clicking on this link:
<http://outreach.missouri.edu/stlouismg/growing/events/events.html>



Sonia Beard MG class '04 and Sue Fields MG class '94 each won paid registrations to the conference at the Holiday Party and a third registration will go to a member of the new '05 class!



Minutes for the November 30, 2004 Advisory Committee Meeting may be viewed by clicking on this link





Volunteer Spotlight: Jackie Mitchell

Jackie Mitchell was a Parkway teacher for fifteen years. When she retired she sought meaningful activities to occupy her time.

She volunteered at the Old Court House, Archival Department. She became responsible for all materials that concerned the Arch and its grounds. It took two years to edit and catalog the materials into archival form. She volunteered, as a tutor, for St. Patrick's Center and as a substitute teacher for her parish school.

Looking for new challenges she gravitated toward the Missouri Botanical Garden. As a child she remembered fondly of visiting this magical place. She applied and was accepted into the Docent program. This began fourteen years of volunteering. Her responsibilities have taken many forms, Master Gardener, Docent, Host, Soule program.

As a Master Gardener, she works at Plant Doctor Desk. She participates in special events, such as conventions. She was a

member of Bonsai Society and developed a Bonsai demonstration for the public. After visiting China and Japan she added two more programs "Moon Gates and Drum Bridges" and "Feng Shui". She uses these programs through the Outreach program called the Speaker's Bureau. It keeps her busy. One year she had twenty speaking engagements.

Her Outreach activities also include the Docent program. She is on the Steering Committee, keeps archival records, takes students on assigned tour, trains new Docents and mentors.

The Soule Speakers program for senior citizens occupied her time for three years.

A recent challenge is participating in a new program called Host. She has helped in training of new participants, mentoring new Host, and leading adult tours.



While we're on the subject on volunteers...

Hats off to those who have reached milestones with their volunteer work:

15 Years of Master Gardener Service:

Carol berry
Rhonda Porche-Sorbet
Dennis Chambers
Monica Clapper
Helen Hilliker
Berta Dulle
Jeanne Klebusch
Charmaine Hutchings
Sue Reisel

20 Years of Master Gardener Service

Doris Johnston
Joyce K. Driemeyer
Alma Reitz
Rosemary Murphy
Carol Wilson
Charlotte Godat





This guy was the last to leave the feeder in my back yard during our recent snow!

**St. Louis Master Gardeners
Kemper Center for Home Gardening**

P.O. Box 299 • St. Louis, MO 63166
www.mobot.org

We would love to have Master Gardeners submit articles for Master Gardener News. Remember that articles are due no later than the 10th of the month. Please send copies to Steve Cline and Stacy Rolfe (drolfe01@earthlink.net). Letters may be edited for length or content.

Master Gardener News is published monthly for St. Louis Master Gardeners. Stacy Rolfe serves as Editor, assisted by Carol Huston (proofreader), and contributors whose bylines appear in each issue.



Steve Cline
Manager, Kemper Center
Missouri Botanical Garden

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