



St. Louis Master Gardener Garden Talk

Volume 3
September 7, 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MG AC Chair	2
MG Ann Robison	3
MG Susan Pang	4
Upcoming Tour	4
Crossword	6
More Misc	8

Upcoming events:
Sept. 15th-17th
Kirkwood Green-
tree Festival

Sat, September 16
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
St. Louis Native
Plant Garden Tour

Sat, September 16
12:00 to 7:00 p.m.
8th annual St.
Louis Garlic Fest

Sat, September 23
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Native Plant Expo
& Sales



St. Louis
Master
Gardener



Find us on
Facebook

Change of Career

Bill Winkeler registered for the 2016 St. Louis Master Gardener training after reading about the program on the Missouri Botanical Garden website. Bill has an undergraduate degree from the MU Columbia and an MBA from Washington University and after forty years as a CPA, Bill retired this summer to follow his passion. Yes, Bill retired from a highly successful career to join the ranks of college students once again. This time Bill will be attending Meramec Com-

munity College in pursuit of an AAS degree. While I would love to tell you that the Master Gardener training was the inspiration for Bill's change of career that is not the case. His inspiration and passion for plans and gardening came from his grandmother and father who were both avid home gardeners. Maybe the MG training gave him the nudge to go for it?

Bill is in good company at Meramec as there are

quite a few Master Gardeners who attend the horticulture classes there. Good luck Bill and don't think you are getting out of volunteering just because you have to study.



Cultivating Young Cook's 3rd Year is Fabulous!

Cultivating Young Cooks took place on Saturday, August 19th at the MBG Kemper Center. Amazing! The door ticker count was over 2200 by the end of the event. Children and their parents could learn about vermiculture, permaculture, microgreens, hydroponics, goat milking, cheese making and more. Each child was given a passport and when they had visited each exhibit

they received an ice cream bonbon from Serendipity. Master Gardener, Margaret Grant, is the Chair of this very special one-of-a-kind educational event that connects gardening to healthy eating. The St. Louis Master Gardeners should be very proud of this successful event. The 4th Annual Cultivating Young Cooks is going to be even bigger and better so add Saturday, August 18, 2018, to

your calendar.



MG Advisory Committee



Greetings from the Advisory Committee! Who's that, you ask? For those of you not already familiar with our STL MG Advisory Committee and who might have missed the profile feature in the May 2017 issue of 'Garden Talk', our Committee is comprised of nine MGs, each of whom are elected to serve three-year terms. Each April, one third of the Committee rotates off and another three members are elected. In addition to a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer, the Committee has standing Subcommittees that

include Membership, Community Outreach, Continuing Education, and Communications. Each of the Subcommittees is chaired or co-chaired by a member of the Advisory Committee but also includes additional active MGs such as yourself! The entire 'AC' meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month and all MGs are invited to attend. Meeting Minutes and additional information about the Committee can be readily located on our website at www.stlmg.com. As the STL MG program is governed by an agreement between the Missouri Botanical Garden and University of Missouri Extension, cooperative programming initiatives between the Garden and Extension

are cornerstones of our organization, and accordingly, Nathan Brandt from Extension and Glenn Kopp from the Garden also serve on the Advisory Committee as 'Ex Officio' members and liaisons to their respective organizations. Further Duties of the AC can be found as listed within the Bylaws document that lists our organizational Policies and Procedures. Look for exciting new initiatives coming forth from each of the standing Subcommittees in the near future! And please attend one of our monthly meetings and/or consider Subcommittee membership! We'd love to have you aboard.

For further information, please contact AC Chairperson, Ned Siegel, at siegeln@charter.net.

Meet Some of The Class of 2017

The 2017 class had nurses, teachers, caregivers, volunteers, artists, biochemists, physical therapists, college professors, chefs, techies and on and on. There were trainees in their 20's and a trainee who turned 80. An amazing collection of individuals willing to spend 18 weeks studying so that they could be better volunteers.



Jane Yu has only lived in the U.S. for about 2 years but she had no problems tackling the St. Louis Master Gardener training. Jane is currently volunteering in the MBG greenhouse but she is willing to help wherever needed. Jane is the queen of seed saving and always has something unique to share.

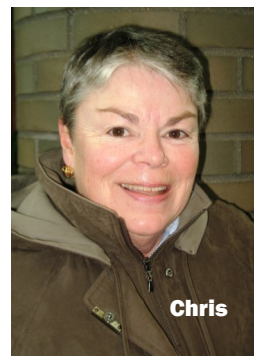
Mary Lofton learned about the St. Louis Master Gardener program through the YMCA where she volunteers/runs the community garden. After 30 years of teaching history Mary is now a certified St. Louis Master Gardener and we are very lucky to have her.



Jeff Gerth was in the evening class this year. Jeff is a chef and owner of Side Lot Farm in the Benton Park neighborhood. Now Jeff is a Master Gardener, chef and farmer. Stop by and see Jeff's farm. You will not believe the variety of vegetables and fruits that he has growing.



Helena is proof that gardening helps keep you young. She turned 80 during the training and she could run circles around most people half her age. Helena is an herbalist which might be why she is fabulous at 80!



I love Chris but it's her dogs I really love. Chris trains service dogs and she would bring them to class. These puppies are so cute and well-behaved. Chris is a new beekeeper and I wonder if she has the bees trained.

Why and How I became a Master Gardener

by Ann Robison

My mother was not a gardener; but our German neighbor was. As a little girl I peeked through the fence between our yards in Cleveland and saw the luxurious flower beds, admired the smooth green creeping bent lawn and hear the tick tick of the sprinkler. I averted my eyes to avoid looking at the concrete pad that occupied most of our yard.

On our side of the fence, my mother (what we now call a stay at home mom), was a world-class cook and baker, and as needs demanded, an upholsterer, a carpenter, a painter, a seamstress and ferocious house cleaner. Although she wasn't a gardener, unlike our child-free neighbor, she was the mother of five.

So I grew up with those beautifully handmade clothes and toys, the light sponge cakes, the furniture whose looks changed with the seasons but like Minever Cheevy I longed for what I didn't have—those floribunda roses, the lush peonies, the delphiniums. They were all visible through the fence.

It wasn't until many years later when we deposited our son at Swarthmore College whose campus is a National Arboretum that I got the idea. I would combine my lifelong love of plants with my husband's love of aquariums. There would be a garden, of course, but also a pond where he could enjoy fish outside.

A pond required the removal of what had been the neighborhood soccer field/baseball diamond and led to the gradual development of perennial beds. At last! Roses on my side of the fence--water lilies too.

I needed to know more: what about vegetables?

At that time, 1995, I heard about the Master Gardener Program and sent for an application. It took me a year until I screwed up my courage to fill out the form. It came with caveats: only 30 applicants would be selected and there were always more applicants than openings; the selection process is competitive. Selected applicants would be invited for an interview before final choices were made. Notification of acceptance to be mailed in December. Classes would be held at the Media Center, University of Missouri Campus and conducted by two way television with instructors from University of Missouri Columbia.

To my relief I made it through the first round. Next up, the interview which was conducted by two men whom I later learned were notables at The Garden: Chip Tynan and Glenn Kopp. I know there wasn't a bare bulb hanging over my head during the questioning but it sure felt like it: What do you know about indoor gardening? Outdoor gardening? Solving gardening problems? What skills or talents do you have that would be of value to the Master Gardener Program?

Just before Christmas, the acceptance letter came. (Did those kids who got into Harvard feel as relieved?)

So I sent in my \$100 fee and looked forward to the New Year, 1997.

Next time I'll let you peek through the fence and learn more about how my life blossomed during the following 20 years.

Host Plant Natives and Colorful Creatures in the Garden by MG Susan Pang

Page 4

Much of art and design is inspired by nature. If you want some of that beauty first-hand in your garden-yard, then consider planting native trees and shrubs.

Photographed here is a Rosy maple moth, *Dryocampa rubicunda* that feeds on maple species and an oak. Not only are the colors beautiful, but the textures on the body are also amazing.



It seems like a win-win, all the way around, to plant trees and shrubs that are host plants to our local lepidoptera and invertebrates. You'll have more showy moths and butterflies and the birds will have more caterpillars and protein to raise their young. Many species of native trees and shrubs also contain edible benefits for humans as well!

Douglas W. Tallamy, in this [OP-ED](#), discusses the benefits of planting natives in our garden spaces to benefit the whole ecosystem. He has studied the differences in host plant participation in non-native maples versus native maples and concluded that planting natives, overall, is better for the food web.



To become better connected with the native plant community, please check out stlouisaudubon.org and note the calendar is filled with activities and events sure to keep you engaged in learning and exploring the wonders of nature possible even in our urban garden spaces.

New Volunteer Opportunity

St. Louis County Parks, the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Master Gardeners are partnering to offer the JR. Master Gardener Program. Doug Wolter with St. Louis County Parks has offered the program for about 5 years and asked the Missouri Botanical Garden and the St. Louis Master Gardeners to help him to grow the program. Scheduled to begin the end of March at Queeny Park, Master Gardeners will be needed to facilitate the training. I will keep you posted.

Bring Conservation Home

2016 Master Gardener David Swank became an apprentice Habitat Advisor for the [Bring Conservation Home](#) program for the St Louis Audubon Society this spring. He has assisted in conducting home surveys and follow-up reports. "Go Native is more meaningful and important to our support of many forms of wildlife in St Louis and beyond," said David. If you are interested in volunteering with Bring Conservation Home send Mitch Leachman an email at mitch@stlouisaudubon.org.

Upcoming Tour

Monday, November 13th at 10:00 a.m. Tour of Hamilton's Commercial Urban Farm in Lafayette Park.

Josh Hamilton owner of Vin de Set, Eleven Eleven Mississippi and PW Pizza restaurants is opening his [commercial urban farm](#) located across the street from Vin de Set to the Master Gardener for a tour. There is a limit of 20 so I ask that you do not register unless you are absolutely sure you will attend. Registration is available on www.stlmg.com.



Funny or sick?

Did you know?

- **New food sources**—The startup [Aspire](#) offers what folks in the industry call an “alternative protein” product. The company’s recipes are designed to make crickets palatable to the U.S. market, with a packaged snack food in five familiar flavors, including Sour Cream & Onion and Texas BBQ. Crickets are a high protein food source that leaves a minimal environmental footprint to farm. The Garden Gate Shop sells “Chirp Chips” made from cricket flour. They were tasty and full of protein.
- **Villa Sacred Heart Preschool on The Hill has 18 new garden beds thanks to the St. Louis Master Gardeners, a student’s father and the University of Missouri Extension.** One of the beds is a dinosaur garden that was installed with the help of Jennifer Schamber at Greenscape Garden & Gifts. Okay, so asparagus ferns are not real ferns but I needed a fern that could survive the sun and it was a good price. Next season I will work on replacing it. .
- **Beeflow, an enterprising company from Argentina, promises to pollinate crops and increase yield by “teaching” bees to efficiently pollinate specific target crops.** At the same time, they have developed technologies that enhance their immune systems and can reduce hive decline by 70%.
- **LINDA UPDATE:** Master Gardener **Linda Anderson** is happily gardening in Holland, Michigan. Among other things Linda helped support the MG training classes. **Linda Stallings**—MBG horticulturist known to Kemper volunteers—retired to Billings, MT, to be closer to her grandchildren. Never one to sit still Linda is now volunteering in horticulture at the zoo and an historic mansion near her home. Both Lindas are some of the hardest working people I know and I miss them both.

Have you tried these?



Melothria scabra or Mexican sour gherkin is growing in the Kemper vegetable garden. MBG horticulturist, Sheila Flinchpaugh, planted the cucumber in 2016 and it self seeded this year in abundance. Easy to grow this little vegetable is incredibly crunchy and has a cucumber/lemon/sour taste.



Zea mays 'Strawberry' or strawberry popcorn is easy to grow and the only plant that survived in my grandson's vegetable garden. The 2 to 3 inch cobs are a lovely magenta color. I will let you know if it really does make the best popcorn ever.

Online Class Site

Here is another website that offers online gardening classes [Craftsy](#). I took/watched a class titled [Transform Your Garden Design](#) taught by [Rebecca Sweet](#) and it was free. Rebecca is good speaker and comfortable in front of the camera and I didn't keep watching the red bar to see how much time was left in the class. She talked about how to analyze a landscape and then make changes based on landscape design principles. She offered several tips that I could definitely use and will use, if I ever fix my landscape. The prices of gardening classes on the site range from \$30 to \$170 but there is always a sale so you can take the \$170 for \$40 right now. I have registered for a vegetable class and will let you know what I think. I paid \$20 on sale so it will be interesting to see if paying for a class will affect my judgment.

Plants Out of Place

Weeds are often defined as plants — native or introduced — that are merely growing where we don't want them to be. This puzzle focuses on terms related to weed management. Complete the crossword puzzle using the clues provided and unscramble the letters in the highlighted boxes to spell two words. You can find most of the answers in your MG training manual.

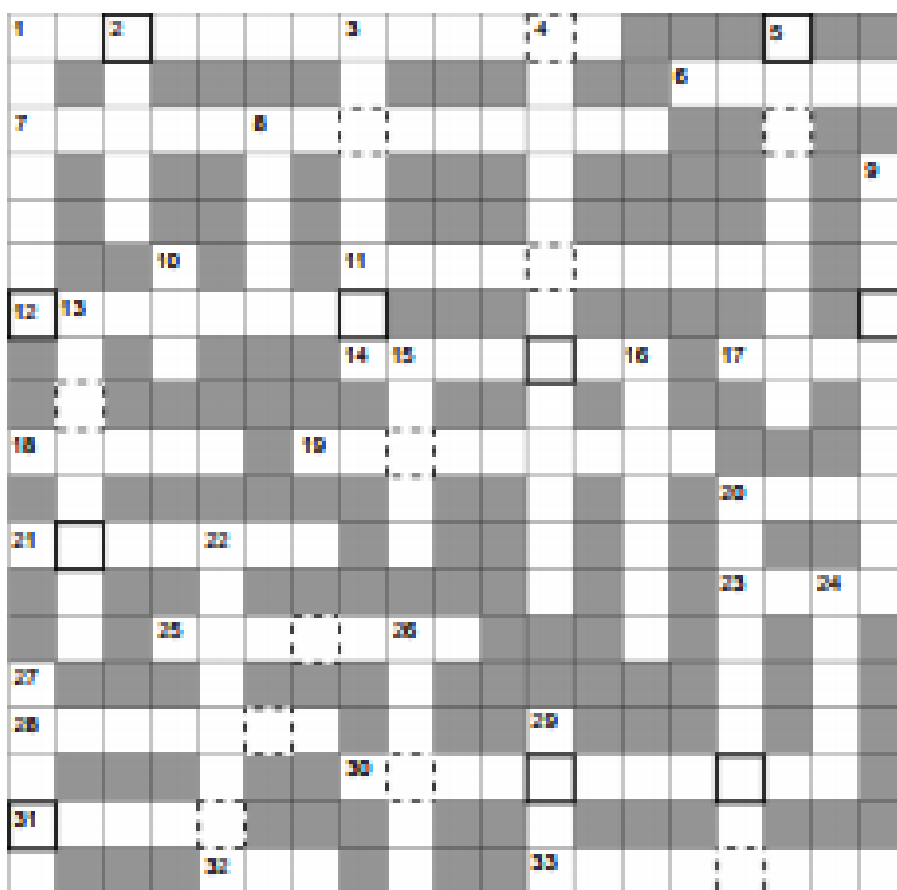
ACROSS

1. A category of herbicide sprayed directly on a weed.
6. A coarse organic mulch good for veggie gardens.
7. An organic mulch readily available from long lawns.
11. The most common method of weed control in small home gardens.
12. Distribute or spread.
14. What mulch does to weeds.
17. Shredded, this is a good mulch around trees/shrubs.
18. This young animal's "quarters" is a common annual weed.
19. Annual called quickweed.
20. Common name for dimethyl 2,3,5,6-tetrachloroterephthalate.
21. Working the soil.
23. Something cats do (this has nothing to do with weeds :).
24. Brand of weed preventer.
25. Trade name of 20 Across.
28. A *Setaria* sp. plant.
30. Prevention of weed development.

31. Height (in feet) some types of 1 Down can achieve.
32. Traditional long-handled weeding device.
33. Plant that requires two growing seasons to complete its life cycle.

DOWN

1. Includes redroot, rough and smooth types.
2. What the cutting edge(s) of weeding implements should be.
3. Creeping underground stems.
4. A nasty broadleaved perennial weed that spreads by extensive creeping roots and seeds.
5. A dicot.



Interesting Tidbits

'Lady Cynthia' rhododendron bush puts Canada town on the map

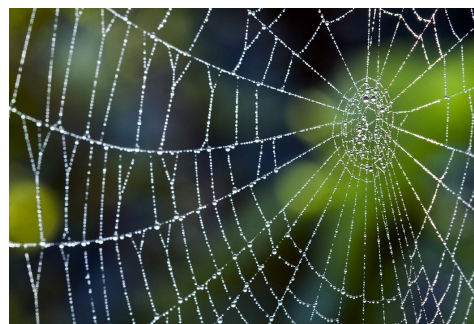


A small Canadian town hopes to become a tourist attraction thanks to the internet fame of a homeowner's giant rhododendron. The 25ft (7.6m) by 30ft bush in Ladysmith, British Columbia, is a 115-year-old botanical wonder - known as Lady Cynthia. The shrub carried about 4,000 blossoms this past spring.

This was sent to me by MG David Swank.

Six Surprising Facts about Spiders

1. Spiders have a design sense.
2. Spiderwebs don't intercept prey; they attract them.
3. Spiderwebs are shiny for a reason.
4. Spiders are sneaky
5. Spiders think big.
6. Spiders often replace their web every day.



To read the entire article visit [JSTOR DAILY](#) a publication that Master Gardener Mary Duchesne introduced to me and now I am hooked. There is an article on [earthworms](#) and another on [insects](#) on the site that I think you will find very interesting. There was also a story on [Cahokia Mounds](#), the remains of the largest pre-Columbian settlement of Mexico, and I think we might have to take a field trip.

Cut Flower Guide

Do you grow flowers for cutting? Would you like to grow flowers for cutting? Well I have the website for you. [Floret Farms](#) owned by Erin Ben-zakine and her family. Here is a blurb from their web-site -

Located in Washington's beautiful Skagit Valley, our fields are bursting with flowers that reflect the season. From fragrant sweet peas in the spring to magnificent dinner plate dahlias in the fall and countless varieties in between, we harvest only the best of what is blooming each day. Research is at the heart of our operation, and we conduct extensive trials to find the very best cut flower varieties, coveted for their scent, stem length, and ephemeral qualities.

Visit the website to print your copy of the Floret's Complete Cut & Care Guide for 100 Spectacular Seasonal Blooms. If is full of tips for prolonging blooms once cut like 2 weeks for a tulip. Serious!





**St. Louis
Master
Gardener**

University of Missouri Extension
132 E. Monroe Avenue
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-400-2115

**St. Louis Master Gardeners
Missouri Botanical Garden**
P. O. Box 299
St. Louis, MO 63166

LOG YOUR HOURS!

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
M Extension

 MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

www.stlmg.com

Gardening Poem

***The Objection to Being Stepped On* By Robert Frost**

"At the end of the row
I stepped on the toe
Of an unemployed hoe.
It rose in offense
And struck me a blow
In the seat of my sense.
It wasn't to blame
But I called it a name.
And I must say it dealt
Me a blow that I felt
Like a malice preense.
You may call me a fool,
But was there a rule
The weapon should be
Turned into a tool?
And what do we see?
The first tool I step on
Turned into a weapon."

To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves. ~Mahatma Gandhi

MG Merchandise

Visit [MG Merchandise](http://www.stlmg.com) on www.stlmg.com
and begin shopping for your new MG
apparel. Contact Margaret Lahrman
with any questions at
mlahrman@sbcglobal.net



Announcements

Registration for the 2018 St. Louis Master Gardener Training will open in October. The exact date/time and registration link will be emailed to interested parties and posted on www.stlmg.com September 30th. If you know of someone interested in the training please have them email me at recordsh@missouri.edu.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the
2017 MG Holiday Party
December 7th

Trivia



Figs are not always considered vegan. When a fig is pollinated by a fig wasp, the fig flower traps the wasp and then the enzymes in the flower digests the wasp's corpse. I have eaten crickets, Japanese beetles & mealy worms so why not a wasp.



**Find us on
Facebook**

**Have something to post on the MG Facebook
then send it to MG Lynne Yenawine
wimoflar@aol.com**