

St. Louis Master Gardener Speakers Bureau Topics

TOPIC	DESCRIPTION OF PRESENTATION
A Dark Side to Your Garden	Plants that Prickle or Poison. There are villains lurking in the garden. Find out if you are harboring one. Over millions of years, plants have developed adaptive means to protect themselves. Learn about these defensive methods and some of the plants now growing in your garden that need to be labeled with a danger symbol.
A Perfect Perennial – Daylily Magic for Your Garden	Go beyond Stella D’Oro! The modern daylily gives a spectacular display of color when other garden plants are wilting in the heat and humidity. Take a quick look at the history of daylilies, the modern hybridizers who changed species daylilies into 60,000 plants of every size, shape and color except blue. and the Jenkins AHS Display Garden at MBG. The program includes information on plant selection, cultivation, as well as information on local plant sales, including the annual sale of plants from MBG.
ABC’s of Honeybees	An introductory frolic through the intriguing world of all things honeybee. The principle focus of the presentation is honeybee behavior. Of course, it covers stings and honey. It starts with a who’s who and who does what in a ‘queen right’ hive. It discusses curious honeybee behaviors, including swarming, ‘waggle dance’, pollination and colony collapse, as well as an outline of specific resources to help forestall the impending demise of the region’s bee population.
All About Orchids	Orchids, the largest of all plant families, are the most diverse, fascinating and exotic plants on earth. Although enveloped in mystery and legend, orchids are not difficult to grow in our homes if we observe a few simple rules of care. They are different; not difficult! This visual program includes the cultural requirements of growing orchids, as well as their structure, growth habits and reproduction. We will explore the great diversity in the Family Orchidaceae.
Annuals & Perennials	This session gives you an opportunity to learn the differences between annuals and perennials and the care needed for each. An in-depth discussion of the site analysis, soil preparation, plant selection, planting, routine maintenance, dividing, insects, and disease control is accompanied by a spectacular slide display of the best annuals and perennials for the St. Louis region. With proper attention to selection, installation and maintenance, a well planned annuals and perennial garden will provide you with the color and interest you desire in your landscape throughout the growing season. This session helps you design the garden that best fits your style and time while avoiding the most common mistakes in gardening.

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<p>Autumn Spectacular</p>	<p>Travel in a photo journey to witness the spectacular changes of autumn. Many people believe autumn to be the most beautiful season of the year. This program documents the dramatic spectacle that plants undergo in their transition from summer green to the brilliant yellows, oranges, purples and reds of fall. During the program, you will look at trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, flowers and fruits of the fall season. How and why these changes occur will be discussed. The photo journey will travel to natural areas, as well as local neighborhoods, parks and gardens.</p>
<p>Backyard Composting</p>	<p>Composting yard waste is one of the most environmentally sound things you can do. Join the Master Composter in a discussion of materials to use, compost bin selection, and how to construct a compost pile. The biology of composting, management of the compost pile, and troubleshooting composting problems will also be covered.</p>
<p>Best Gardening Practices for a Sustainable Garden</p>	<p>This program offers an outline of sustainable/organic practices for use in your home garden. Learn gardening practices that will help you maintain your garden in an environmentally friendly way. Among the points covered are plant selection, composting, mulching, water conservation, recycling, Integrated Pest Management, and improving the soil.</p>
<p>Botanic Garden Arm Chair Tours</p>	<p>Thirteen botanic gardens are available for your arm chair tour. Choose 3 for your personalized adventure. They are all sites that have been visited by Master Gardener, John Hensley. Choose any 3 of the following botanic gardens: Alaska Botanical Garden, Anchorage; Boerner Botanical Garden, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Butchart Gardens, Vancouver Island; Chicago Botanic Garden, Kew Botanical Garden, London; Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota; Naples Botanical Garden, Florida; Norfolk Botanical Garden, Virginia; Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (The Dome) Milwaukee, Wisc.; Powell Gardens, Kansas City, Elche Garden, a UNESCO World Heritage site in Elche, Spain; Santa Fe Botanical Garden; Visby Botanical Garden, Gotland, Sweden</p>
<p>Boxwood: the Oldest Garden Ornamental</p>	<p>This talk gives a comprehensive look at the ornamental, boxwood. Presented by a member of the Boxwood Society of the Midwest, this talk includes history, landscaping, available cultivars, selection, planting and care of the “oldest” garden ornamental.</p>
<p>Bring the Natives Home</p>	<p>Learn how to include Missouri native plants in your home garden. This talk features photos of native wildflowers. The program gives ideas for incorporating native plants into the home garden with suggestions for shade, sun, and boggy areas. It covers the various habitats for wildflowers and features photos of plants growing in the wild. It will guide you to plant selection to make your landscape part of a natural world.</p>

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<p>Chocolate</p>	<p>Chocoholic? even better a chocoholic gardener? Walk through the earliest history of chocolate, learn how it is cultivated and processed, and then consider ways to take your chocolate addiction into your garden with 'chocolate' plants. For literally thousands of years, people have been fascinated with strange and wonderful fruit, chocolate. Learn the alluring history of this gift from the rain forest, taste samples and then explore the "chocolate" perennials, bulbs, shrubs and annuals that you can incorporate into your garden. This interesting talk will give "recipes" to help you enjoy these special "chocolate" plants in your garden.</p>
<p>Companion Planting Revisited</p>	<p>Companion Planting covers the history, benefits, and implementation details of using companion planting in your garden. This talk provides information about how to utilize companion planting to benefit your garden by attracting beneficial insects for pest control. The talk covers the fascinating relationships between the plants and insects in your garden environment.</p>
<p>Critical for Gardening – Get the Dirt on Soil</p>	<p>A critical aspect of gardening is creating the soil necessary for lush, healthy plants. Do the plants in your garden reflect all of the time, attention, and hope that you invest in them? Four elements are necessary for healthy garden plants: light, water, air and soil. No amount of pruning, relocating, fertilizing, or additional watering produces the same results as quality soil. This presentation gives you the information to 'grow' soil for a lush, beautiful garden.</p>
<p>Designing A Perennial Garden</p>	<p>A humorous look at designing her perennial garden includes the struggles encountered when putting in a new garden. The speaker takes you through a fun-filled exercise on how to design a perennial garden, and pitfalls to avoid. She will simplify plant selection and landscape design to a practical and attainable level. She gives a presentation that is interesting and filled with humorous anecdotes that make gardening nothing but fun!</p>
<p>Designing with Nature in Mind</p>	<p>Attract more birds, butterflies, and pollinators to your yard by creating an appealing design to welcome the natural world. This presentation will show how to design with native plants, creating a habitat appealing to nature's critters as well as to you and your neighbors. It demonstrates how a native landscape can reflect your tastes while still supporting our ecosystem.</p>
<p>Extend Garden Interest into Late Summer, Fall</p>	<p>As we move through summer, days get shorter, fall starts, it is time to consider the steps we need to take to prolong the beauty of our gardens. With the approaching end to summer and the start of fall, with some consideration, we can extend our gardens' interest and prepare for the chores to winterize our perennials, shrubs and trees.</p>

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<p>Fascinating Victorian Gardens</p>	<p>Gardening during the Victorian Period included a fern craze, orchid mania, lavish tropicals, intricate outdoor gardens. The Victorians loved geometric and symmetric features in their outdoor gardens. They used extensive lawns, bedding gardens, vines/shrubs, and lavish lawn flower beds to fill their home landscapes. They were fascinated with tropical plants. Their quest for more lead to the wanton destruction of tropical forests. During this period, the development of the “Wardian” case changed the collecting process and literally changed the course of history.</p>
<p>Flowering Shrubs</p>	<p>The overall Victorian look is described as opulent. It included unique elements, several of which continue in use today as well as one that changed the the course of history. Colorful flowering shrubs can liven up any landscape, contributing seasonal interest with flowers, leaves and berries. In addition to flower color, blooming time and cultural requirements, learn which shrubs can add “bonus” features such as fragrance and fall color to your yard.</p>
<p>Forest Park from a Gardener’s Perspective</p>	<p>A history of Forest Park from the region’s shaping by glaciers to the present landscape renovation efforts on Government Hill, Pagoda Circle. Starting with the glacial impact on this region’s topography, the program covers many decades from the park’s establishment, the 1904 World’s Fair, the mid 20th century decline and the current, landscape renovation efforts. The program includes archival photo’s that have been gathered from several sources.</p>
<p>Gardening Dangers for Pets</p>	<p>Pets can get into trouble exploring our gardens, chewing and eating toxic items. There are multiple perils for pets in home gardens, plants as well as plant based foods that are potentially toxic for them. How about the garden fauna that can cause trouble for pets? There are also various garden product hazards for pets, such as pesticides, herbicides, soil amendmets. The speaker is a veterinarian of 30 years practice. Among her credentials is training at the National Animal Poison Control Center.</p>
<p>Glades of Missouri</p>	<p>A picture program on the unique environment of Missouri’s glades, their magnificent plants and unique animals. Missouri is home to more glades than any other state. These dry, rocky, thin soil natural areas occur on south-facing hillsides. They support a rich diversity of plant and animal life that occurs nowhere else. Through pictures, this talk explores the nature and history of Missouri glades, focusing on the magnificent plants and unique animals that exist in this environment.</p>
<p>History of Missouri Botanical Garden</p>	<p>Enjoy a history lesson on the growth and development of MBG. From Henry Shaw to Dr. Wyse Jackson, the program details the parallel growth of St. Louis city and the Botanical Garden. It starts with young Henry Shaw and includes many archival photo’s and maps.</p>

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Hydrangeas	A talk that covers growing hydrangeas in St. Louis.
Landscape Design – two topics	Do you want to change your outdoor space? Revise or modify what you have? Increase your property value? 2 talks are available from Terry Milne. 1. Revitalize your garden: Learn the steps to get started in developing a comprehensive, personalized design for your entire property or a single garden bed. Topics include key decisions to consider, and a step-by-step process to get started. The principles of design are outlined and their application explained. 2. Color, Form and Texture in the Garden: Landscape fundamentals are discussed including the principles of design and art. Then the methods to apply them to your garden to get outdoor spaces that are appealing and functional are given.
Landscaping with Native Trees and Shrubs	Ready for low maintenance, plus more birds and butterflies in your garden? Incorporating native shrubs and trees into your landscaping will achieve both. Ready to ditch the lawnmower, watering system, fertilizer spreader and leaf blower??
Medium to Large Trees for St. Louis	Making the long-term investment of purchasing the right tree and placing it in the proper location can pose uncertainty and hesitation. Would you like more birds and butterflies in your garden? Betty's presentation will help you create a lively landscape, reduce maintenance, and increase 4 season interest all while drawing birds and butterflies to your garden. Betty has extensive knowledge of Missouri native plants/trees. She has put her expertise to work in this colorful program.
Missouri's Wild Mushrooms Is It Edible?	There are many common, edible mushrooms in Missouri. This program gives information on finding mushrooms in the wild or even in your own backyard! This instructor will provide you with the steps to identify poisonous mushrooms and give you clues as to where to find those terrific morels!
Orchid Mania	The Victorian Obsession. In 19th century England, passionate plant enthusiasts searched the remote regions of the world to collect and cultivate exotic, new species, no matter the trial, tribulation or cost. Orchids possess a magic apart from all other plants, and their magnetism captivated wealthy Victorian Englishmen and other Europeans. No risk or cost was too great to possess a single orchid.

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<p>Orchids of Missouri Botanical Garden: Behind the Scene of the Orchid Show and Greenhouses</p>	<p>Find out what it takes to ‘put on’ the annual orchid show at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Learn how the Botanical Garden’s world famous orchid collection is maintained. This program covers the creative process for the MBG orchid show starting with theme development to hardscape creation to installation. Also, included in the program is the function of the orchid greenhouses and their importance to the show’s success.</p>
<p>Orchids: Lure and Legend</p>	<p>This program explores the history, magic, and beauty of orchids. Orchids have fascinated people since the time of Confucius more than 2500 years ago. Orchid lore permeates Greek and Roman mythology. Wealthy Europeans of the 17th through the 19th century paid fortunes for exotic, tropical specimens. Plant explorers risked their lives finding new specimens. Found from the equator to the poles, orchids are one of the largest plant families, comprising 30,000 species. Possessing a unique flower structure, they depend on insects and fungi to reproduce. They are magnificent and mysterious, yet not difficult to grow.</p>
<p>Organic Gardening</p>	<p>Organic gardening promotes a healthy, sustainable environment. Enhance your gardening, your plants, and your life with these simple and effective techniques. Learn how to garden successfully without applying synthetic chemicals. Learn the reasons people choose to grow plants organically, how to keep plants healthy, and ways to handle challenges such as pests, disease and weeds. Discover the joys of growing plants in balance with nature.</p>
<p>Photosynthesis – It’s not just about plants</p>	<p>Learn how nature figured out solar energy eons before man did. Plants make their own food via a process called photosynthesis. Powered by the sun and using carbon dioxide out of the air and water, plants synthesize everything they need. But far beyond that, photosynthesis underlies nearly all life on earth. Learn in layman’s language, how this amazing process works and see unusual examples of photosynthesis in the world around us today and from eons ago.</p>
<p>Plants of the Bible</p>	<p>From Genesis to Revelations, there are numerous references to plants in the Bible. This is a presentation on plants that were important to the people of the Bible and are referenced in their stories. Have you ever wondered if there was a real burning bush, or manna. What is gall? This talk will give you some answers and some interesting insights.</p>

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Plants that Changed the Course of History	This talk is on a subset of plants taken from Bill Laws' book, Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of the History. The interconnection of plants and human existence is monumental. Food, shelter, fuel, medicines, clothing, oxygen, carbon dioxide certainly, but have you considered the impact of plants on our daily lives? Carol focuses her talk on a subset of the 50 plants that are detailed in Bill Laws' book, Fifty Plants that Changed the Course of History.
Plants, Pollen, and Allergies	Have you ever suffered from pollen allergies? This talk will take you through the plant physiology involved and how to select plants that minimize allergen occurrence and your exposure to them. Plant allergies are complex. If you as a gardener understand plant physiology and plant selection, you can choose plants to minimize allergen occurrence and your exposure to them. You will learn some of the most common plant pollen allergens, their myths and realities. You will learn elementary botany as it relates to allergies.
Problems Common to Perennials and Annuals	Trying to perfect your home garden to the Better Homes and Gardens ideal? It is frustrating to do all of the right things and then find insects and plant diseases challenging your best attempts. Learn about common garden pests and diseases and how to manage them using safe, sustainable tactics. What causes the brown spots on peony leaves; how do you deal with them? How do mites, slugs, fungal, viral, bacterial agents damage garden plants? How do you manage such things? What environmental conditions cause plants to fail? Explore remedies to plant problems using Integrated Pest Management where appropriate.
Pruning Basics	Ever wonder the best time to prune that favorite shrub? This basic primer will help you determine the right tool for the job, the type of cuts to make, and when to prune certain flowering plants to ensure lasting beauty. Live demonstration of pruning will help clarify why we prune plants.
Rain Gardening	What's all the talk about 'rain gardens'? The 'Rain Gardening' program gives an overview of the concept and outlines details for creating one in your home garden. Capturing rain water runoff from impervious surfaces is a means of stabilizing ground and surface water resources. It also provides an esthetically pleasing garden space and wildlife habitat. 'Rain Gardening' will help you learn the in's and out's of both the theory and creating your own rain garden.
Right-sizing Your Garden	Learn tips and tricks to make your garden less work and easier on your joints as you and your garden mature. Learn such things as doing more with shrubs and less with annuals. Find out ideas for plants that give color but don't have to be deadheaded. How do you subtract some plants that don't perform? Get permission to ditch (pitch??) those fussy plants that need too much work. Less is more when you make the right choices and subtract the problem choices.

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Safe, Ergonomic Gardening	Get information for easy ways to protect yourself while you are working in your garden, including general safety tips and safe ways to lift, turn, carry, operate garden tools.
Secrets to Growing Roses in St. Louis	Learn the information to successfully grow roses in the St. Louis metro area. Starting with soil preparation, looking at the various types of roses to select, considering how to plant both bare root and container plants, learning what pests and diseases may cause problems, John, with over 30 years of experience in growing his own roses, will take you through the steps to achieve a beautiful, blooming rose garden.
Spring Wildflowers of Missouri	Go on a photo spring hike looking for Missouri wildflowers with advanced Master Gardener, Carol Gravens. A hike thru Missouri countryside will dazzle you with a display of awesome wildflowers. You will venture out with Carol as your guide to encounter Missouri's plenty, including interesting facts about the flowers that you find and tips on where the best places are to search for them. All of the photo's were taken by Carol the spring of 2009 within a 125 mile radius of St. Louis.
Ten Ways to Add Biodiversity to Your Garden	Learn specific ways to increase the biodiversity of your garden. When most gardeners think of a biodiverse garden, their thoughts tend toward a garden teeming with birds, butterflies, beneficial insects and other wildlife. This talk discusses several ways you can increase wildlife in your garden and thereby increase its biodiversity. There are ideas included on how to add to the genetic diversity of the plants in your garden. By creating a biodiverse garden, you are adding to its beauty as well as helping to heal the planet and to preserve it for future generations.
The Art of Container Gardening	A step-by-step guide for creating a gorgeous container garden for your home. Follow the step-by-step guide to learn the design concepts to put together your own striking containers. The program covers plant selection, container design and maintenance.
The Blooming Prairie	Using the speaker's own photography, the program follows the succession of prairie plants from spring, summer, fall to winter. The Midwestern tall grass prairie was once the greatest grassland complex on the planet. It blanketed millions of acres of the North American continent. Less than 1% of the original prairie remains. Remnants have been preserved and other areas restored. The program follows the seasonal evolution of prairie plants from spring emergence at soil level, through growth often to a height of 10 feet, bloom, seed set and senescence. The talk takes you through the succession of seasons of this carpet of grasses and colorful blooms.



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<p>The Fragrant Garden</p>	<p>Learn about adding the dimension of fragrance to your garden. Imagine your garden as the scent of fragrant peonies, roses, and tall phlox waft through the air. Learn which shrubs, herbs, perennials and annuals can give this pleasant addition to your garden as well as invaluable plant care advice.</p>
<p>The Linnean House at Missouri Botanical Garden</p>	<p>Follow the history of the Linnean House from 1890 through the 2010-2011 renovation. This program is an archival photo tour, including recent photo's of the new interior layout. Recognized as an architecturally significant structure in "American City: St. Louis Architecture", the Linnean House built in 1882 is the oldest, continuously operated public greenhouse west of the Mississippi River. It has had varied uses over the years. It has suffered storm damage and a series of renovations, including the current changes.</p>
<p>Top 10 Orchids for the Home</p>	<p>This talk discusses one orchid hobbyist's favorites and how to grow them in the home, without a greenhouse or special equipment. Every orchid grower is partial to certain types of plants, not an easy decision since the orchid family is the largest flowering plant family on the planet. Each orchid bloom is beautiful and unique in its own special way. Growing orchids in our homes has become widely popular, and although perceived as exotic, most are inexpensive and easy to care for by following a few simple rules. Learn these rules and Carol's choices of a top 10.</p>
<p>Tour – Daylily</p>	<p>Walking/teaching tour through the MBG Jenkins Daylily garden. Walking/teaching tour through the Jenkins Daylily garden at Missouri Botanical Garden. Outdoor program focusing on the care and cultivation of daylilies in your home garden. Program duration is approximately 1 hour. Program fee is \$50.00.</p>
<p>Tour – Iris</p>	<p>Walking/teaching tour through the Iris gardens at MBG. Walking/teaching tour through the Iris gardens at Missouri Botanical Garden. Outdoor program focused on the care and cultivation of iris in your home garden. Program duration is approximately 1 hour. Program fee is \$50.00.</p>
<p>Tour – Orchid Show</p>	<p>Walking/teaching tour of the Orchid Show at M.B.G. Walking/teaching tour of the Orchid Show at Missouri Botanical Garden. Indoor tour through the Orthwein Display Hall focused on the care and cultivation of orchids in your home garden. Program duration is approximately 1 hour. Program fee is \$50.00. Date and Time: Weekdays only.</p>
<p>Understanding the Shade Environment</p>	<p>This presentation covers factors to consider for a successful shade garden, including degrees of shade, moisture, soil composition, and maintenance of trees.</p>

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<p>Vertical Gardening</p>	<p>Expand your gardening space by incorporating vertical elements into your overall design. Explore the use of the overlooked “vertical plane” and envision how walls, trellises and other upright features can add charm and character to your garden’s vertical space. Explore how adding vines and climbing plants can enhance your garden’s personality.</p>
<p>Wildflowers of the High Sierra</p>	<p>This program is a naturalist hiker’s photo collection from exploring the High Sierras. Sit back for a hiker’s tour of the High Sierra, the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. The mountains extend 400 miles north to south, with the highest point in the lower 48 states, Mt. Whitney, 14,505 feet. Snow is present year round on the granite peaks. Variations in altitude, rainfall, and topography support a wide diversity of mountain wildflowers in summer months. This program is a collection of photos taken over many years of exploring the spectacular trails of the High Sierra.</p>
<p>Wildflowers of the Swiss Alps</p>	<p>Take an arm chair trek thru Switzerland to view Alpine wildflowers. Your guide is Master Gardener/Master Naturalist Carol Gravens. Enjoy Carol’s photo’s of spectacular Swiss countryside: quaint farms, breath-taking mountains, alpine flowers, colorful villages and learn a bit of botany in the process.</p>
<p>Winter Damage</p>	<p>While you are snug in your home on a winter evening, there are several types of damage that can be happening outside in your garden. Winter can be a devastating season for your garden. There are several types of damage that the frigid weather can cause. Learn what these problems are, how to identify them and how to prevent or fix them.</p>
<p>Winter Preparation for Your Spring Garden</p>	<p>As you prepare your garden for winter, it is time to think ahead about the coming spring. This program is designed to help you determine the basic steps needed to prepare ornamentals, trees, shrubs, and overall garden for the spring. This program covers gardening cultural and maintenance practices, including when and how to do them.</p>
<p>Winter’s Natural Beauty</p>	<p>Take an alternate look at Missouri winter scenery. Things we take for granted as a gray, bleak season find an attractive, creative look thru the lense of Carol’s camera. See the beauty of winter landscape as interpreted thru Carol’s photography.</p>