



Master Gardeners of Greene County

GRAPEVINE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

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January 2011

From the President's Garden
Renae Bernskoetter, MG—861.7868
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January 2011, here we go. Another year to see what exactly do those rose bushes need from me. Oh yeah, I remember, water, fertilizer, water, fertilizer. . . I have attended many classes on growing roses, but it still has not sunk in. Selective listening is what my mother calls it.

We have many new things for this coming year. We have our new board members, Gary Jones, Ruby Miller, Janet Wreath and Barbara St. Clair. Our returning board members are: Janet McWilliams, Will Cooper, Christine Chiu and myself. We will begin the process of setting the calendar and budget for 2011 very soon.

We have a new member at the Extension office. I would like to ask all of you to welcome Sabrina Brown. She is the new administrative assistant and will be assisting us in our endeavors. She will be sitting at the reception desk at the Botanical Center during the workday.

You will notice that the calendar is still very sketchy for the year. We have much tweaking to do on dates, times and locations of our activities. Be watching for updates and opportunities.

Please get your hours turned in for 2010 by the middle of January. Your numbers have to be put on a spreadsheet along with the other 200+ members of our group. This is a process that takes some time. We are to have our totals sent to the State MG office by the end of January. So help us out by getting your hours turned in now.

2011 Some dates are still tentative, watch for more details
JANUARY

- 9 Deadline for information to be included in next month's Grapevine
 - 10 Board meeting—4:30pm—Extension board room—Botanical Center
 - 11 General meeting—6:30pm—Botanical Center
- “Attracting Butterflies to your Garden”

Board Members

Renae Bernskoetter,
President

Barbara St. Clair,
Vice President

Janet McWilliams,
Secretary

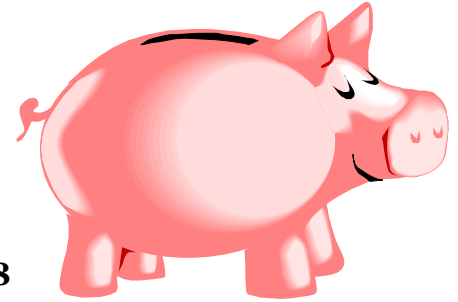
Board Members

Christine Chiu
Will Cooper
Gary Jones
Ruby Miller
Janet Wreath

**To submit
articles to the
Grapevine
please email
Susan Ewing at
Betterwing@cs
.com**



Treasurer's Report
Christy Jenkins, MG, Treasurer—759-2987



As of November 30th, 2010 we had the following:

Extension Account-\$13,548.38 MG Account-\$ 3663.00

Certificates of Deposit-\$10,700.70 Total Cash-\$ 27,912.08

FEBRUARY

Board Meeting - time and date TBA – Extension Board Room – Botanical Center
Master Gardener Class
8 General Meeting
9 Deadline for information to be included in next month's Grapevine
17 Set up Lawn and Garden Show Booth
Master Gardener Class
18-20 Lawn and Garden Show
Master Gardener Class
Wisteria trimming (Late February, early March) – Nathanael Greene

MARCH

Board Meeting –date and time TBA– Extension Board room
Hotline scheduling begins
Master Gardener Class
Clean up day for ornamental grasses at Nathanael Greene, starting at 9:30
9 Deadline for information to be included in next month's Grapevine
8 General Meeting – 6:30pm – Botanical Center
Garden Clean up – Nathanael Greene – starting at 10:00
9:30 am - Espalier pruning at Nathanael Greene
Garden Clean up – Nathanael Greene – anytime of day after 9:00 am
Alternate rain date - garden clean ups at Nathanael Greene – start at 9:30
Pot'em up at Nathanael Greene



Master Gardeners of Greene County Board Meeting Minutes 12.6.10

Voting Board members in attendance: Janet McWilliams, Renae Bernskoetter, Mary Brown, Carl Redmon, Christy Jenkins, Randy Underwood and Christine Chiu.

Committee Chairs in attendance: Cindy Arrowood, Barbara St. Clair, Bobbie Ream, Susan Willenbrink, and Gary Jones

State Board Representative: Carl Huffman

MO Ext: Patrick Byers

Botanical Center: Katie Steinhoff

Mary made a motion, seconded by Carl to approve the minutes from last month's meeting. Motion passed.

Treasurer: Christy – Ext. Account - \$13,548.38; CD – \$10,700.70; MG Account - \$3,663.00; Total Assets - \$27,912.08.

Expenses: Lowes-\$102.50, BC expenses & paint, stain; Schaffitzel's Flowers-29.95, BC expense, mums; Renae Bernskoetter-10.16, Administrative (paper & envelopes); Patricia Bannerman-380.79, Hot line supplies; Carl Redmon-77.25, mileage & brush fees (Nat Greene \$38.62 and Xeriscape 38.63); Carl Redmon-114.44, paint and brush for shed; Barbara St. Clair-150.52, tools & acrylic for xeriscape; Patrick Byers-9.95, Office Suite software.

Vice President: Mary – Have received some hours. Don't forget to include December...meeting counts.

MO. Extension- Patrick Byers- Orientation for new Level 1 classes is December 15 at 1:00 to 2:30 and 7:00 to 8:30. The new computers are loaded with programs and ready to go. The Chapter has a projector available. Contract for Lawn and Garden Show was sent in. Need programs for seminars, if interested or have an idea, let him know. Susan and Nancy have volunteered to help with the newsletter. Would like to put the following proposal to the board: to allow any project at the Center to qualify as hours (working in any of the gardens, volunteering at the center, helping with events there as examples). Any stakeholder events off site to be considered case by case.

Xeriscape: Barbara – We have had our third incident of vandalism at the garden. 45 days ago the box in the gazebo that holds the irrigation system was spray painted; then a few weeks ago two letters in the sign facing National were pried off; a week ago the newly repainted box in the gazebo was scratched into. All About Trees will be removing the remaining Little Linden trees.

Nathanael Greene: Cindy –Garden is looking ready for winter.

State Board Representative: Carl Huff- November 5th was the last State Board meeting. The dates for the next conference are Sept. 23, 24 and 25 in Hannibal, MO. March 4th is the next State Board meeting.

Programs: Susan Willenbrink – Susan will be in charge of the programs for the monthly meetings.

Hot Line: Gary – A revised “green” sheet was handed out for everyone to preview, along with a guideline sheet for filling out the green sheet. Will have these forms at the lobby desk for walk-ins when the hot line is not open.

Mentoring: Bobbie – Let her know if you would be interested in being a mentor for next year.

Plant Sale – Christy – Next year's sale will be April 30th at the Botanical Center workshop studio and just outside. There will be a meeting in January to discuss the plant sale.

New Business:

A donation to the Botanical Center was discussed. Patrick met with Myles Park and asked how a donation could be used. It could be designated for a certain project or just given as non-designated funds. Patrick stated that this would be considered a one-time donation, with the reminder that what we make at the plant sale each year goes toward our two gardens, and this is our only fund raiser. Carl Redmon made a motion , after more discussion of how it was to be used, to donate \$5,000.00 and designate it to be used for the edible and culinary garden and “kitchen” area being considered. The motion was seconded by Mary and was approved. A broom and dust pan will be purchased for the studio. A bid was received for \$500.00 to place a key pad on the hot line door, so that multiple keys would not have to be handed out. Christine made a motion to approve getting the key pad, seconded by Carl, motion was approved. Christine made a motion, after some discussion, to purchase a wet vac for the studio. The motion was seconded by Carl, motion passed.

An expense of \$15.00 a month was discussed for the maintenance of the copier in the hot line. Renae will get clarification on what this covers for the next meeting.

Katie: The Parks department needs everyone to fill out the forms to renew their badges each year. A for may be sent out wilt the newsletter. They can also be picked up at the Center. Would like to see the plant sale expanded to a “spring fling” type of event, with other vendors involved, especially artists.

Copies of the new commitment form were handed out.

Carl would like to look into having cameras put in the park. He also received a bid from Barb Baker to have the walkway around the kiosk widened and stamped concrete put in. The bid was for \$1800.00, including a \$250.00 discount as a donation from Barb Baker, Concrete Enhancements. The cost may be lowed some if Parks will use their Bobcat to transport the cement into the garden. Carl will check on that. Carl made a motion, seconded by Janet, to go ahead with the concrete project. Motion passed.

Christine suggested that inactive members be removed from the roster to lower mailing costs.

Renae gave thanks to all departing board members.

We still need a chair for Fairs and Shows.

Let Renae know what is coming up so that she can update the calendar for 2011.

A handout was given to all on the new organization of the Program, Public Education and Speaker's Bureau chairs.

Respectfully submitted, Janet McWilliams, MG Secretary



Changes in the Garden: Renae Bernskoetter - MG

If you have not walked through our Demonstration Gardens at Nathanael Greene Park lately, then you are in for a treat. Over the past few years the future of the Kiosk, that stands in the middle of the walkway in the gardens, has been discussed many times. At one point there was even talk of getting rid of it all together. Luckily, we were emotionally attached to the tiny building and the idea of getting rid of it was short lived. There were ideas tossed around concerning what the purpose of the kiosk should be, there were complaints about the difficulty of getting wheelchairs and wheelbarrows around it. The signage that described our gardens were destroyed by the sun. There was a plan to move it outside of the gardens, to put it as a sort of signpost leading folks into our world. But it is so cute, it seemed a shame to banish it from it's home.

Then, one day a couple of years ago, our blank kiosk got a facelift. Barb Parker created a masterpiece that was displayed on the west side of the kiosk. Then she added another painting. Now our kiosk was once again a showpiece. The beauty of having so many members is that we all have ideas and perspectives that differ from each other. When we put our heads together, we can create great plans. Carl Redmon did just that. He heard the concerns about the area and that our visitors had trouble getting around in our gardens. He heard our members grumble about trying to get wheelbarrows full of mulch around the kiosk. He also saw the beauty in the workmanship (OK, he did build the kiosk), he also saw the beauty in the artwork that has been added to the kiosk. SO. . . the area around the kiosk has been worked on. The bricks that were paving the ground were dug up. A circle was drawn and the rock borders and the irrigation system were moved so that the area around the kiosk could be leveled and the walk way made larger.

The kiosk will remain as a beacon in our gardens. Come by and enjoy this "new" item in our gardens. Remember, if you see something that needs some changing, or upgrading, bring up those ideas. We can only get better as we all get involved.

November Programs Feedback:

What did you think of the *Advanced Training Tool Maintenance Workshop* last November?

"I was at both of the recent trainings – *Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter* and tool maintenance. I thought both were excellent. I would definitely like to hear more about each of them. I liked the "hands on" with the tool maintenance however I wish there were some files to use for sharpening the tools. I should have brought my own but I didn't think about it – a thought for next time!" [Great point J.J.!]

J.J. Averett, *Class of 2009*

"I thought the workshop was great! I learned better ways to clean and sharpen tools as well as how to better maintain and service my mowers. I also learned what products we should dispose of instead of keeping until next year. The product to coat tool handles was fun and useful. It was a great hands-on learning experience. The snacks were good too!"

Sue Fuller, *Class of 2008*

"I had a good time today – learned a lot. I went home and cleaned and sharpened all my hand tools for the garden, planning on doing the same for rakes and shovels tomorrow and then it's time to tackle the lawnmower!"

Ann Gunion, *Class of 2009*

"I thought the tool training was one of the BEST! SOOOO comprehensive! Loved how it included the pesticides and lawn mower info. I learned so much and something from every station! The most significant thing was that yes, I could do this stuff myself and it's pretty easy."

Jan Hutcherson, *Class of 2010*

"I was not able to make the *Tool Maintenance Workshop*. Sure would be happy to have a reschedule of same! I understand a GOOD crowd showed! I did attend *Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter*. I cannot rave enough as to how lucky we are to have Barbara St. Clair – PLEASE have her do more workshops!"

Marjorie Harris, *Class of 2005*

"I was so sorry that I was unable to attend I hope we can have another. I heard it was Great!. Please, lets try for another in 2011."

Pat Schwartz, *Class of 2008*

Response from the Programs Committee:

It's a pleasure to hear that everyone had fun, learned a lot, and went home with sharpened, rust free tools. We're absolutely planning on offering an encore of the *Tool Maintenance Workshop* in the spring. Be watching for details!



We're Listening! 2011 Educational Programs by Member Requests:

Educational Program: Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden

Date: January 11, 2011, 6:30 pm

Location: The Botanical Center, Main Meeting Room

After the November program, *Putting Your Garden to Bed for the Winter*, members in attendance offered topics of interest for future programs. One of the most requested was *Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden*. As a result, we will be starting off the new year learning about how butterflies can be a welcome addition to your garden, not only because of their beauty, but also because of their usefulness in pollinating flowers. We'll also learn how we can participate with the Butterfly House in the Park. Butterflies may be just what we need to feel warm on a cold winters night!

A true butterfly garden involves incorporating plants that serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly. They need a place to hibernate, lay eggs, food plants for the larva (caterpillar), a place to form a chrysalis, and nectar sources for the adult.

Butterflies and native flowering plants have co-evolved over time and depend on each other for survival and reproduction, it is particularly important to grow flowering plants native to our geographic area. Native plants provide butterflies with the nectar or foliage they need as caterpillars and adults. Adult butterflies may accidentally mistake a non-native, invasive plant for a good egg-laying site, which could prevent the survival of its offspring.

Learn About the Butterfly Garden Necessities:

- Plant native flowering plants
- Plant type and color is important
- Plant good nectar sources in the sun
- Plant for continuous bloom
- Say no to insecticides!
- Feed butterfly caterpillars
- Provide a place for butterflies to rest
- Give them a place for puddling

Dellene Nelson, Dellene007@aol.com
Program Chair



New Year's Resolutions for Gardeners

To all those New Year's resolutions of losing weight, getting more exercise, spending less money, gardeners may want to add another category.

In the New Year, I resolve to:

- Mulch my perennials after the ground freezes to help them overwinter comfortably even though temperatures may fluctuate.
- When studying plant catalogs, look for pest and disease-resistant plants, such as mildew-resistant phlox, Fusarium-resistant tomatoes and disease-resistant crabapples that will make my gardening job easier and keep my plants healthier.
- Send a soil sample to a laboratory to learn what my lime and fertilizer needs are, rather than guessing.
- Set plants in the ground only at the proper depth-deep planting harms roots and kills plants!
- Use only the well-drained areas of my garden for plants-unless I purchase some swamp-loving species!
- Inspect plants carefully before purchasing to find evidence of invaders such as spider mites, scale insects or mealy bugs, or root swellings that might mean crown gall disease on plants such as flowering cherries or roses.
- Spread a circle of mulch around young trees to keep lawn mowers from damaging the bark, leading to canker diseases later on.
- Use only a few inches depth of mulch and keep it a few inches away from trunks and stems of plants to discourage crown rot.
- Scout regularly for symptoms in the garden, so that I can pick off the occasional spotted leaf before problems escalate.
- Irrigate new trees and shrubs the first two years especially during dry weather to help them establish good root systems.
- Use a soaker hose or some type of irrigation system for the flower beds and vegetable garden that won't wet the foliage and encourage leaf spots.
- Obtain a diagnosis when the cause of a problem is unclear or needs identification.
- Prune only in dry weather, especially when pruning plants prone to fire blight, such as pears, crabapples and hawthorns.
- Encourage beneficial insects and mites by minimizing use of broad- spectrum insecticides.
- Join a Master Gardener class to learn more about the fun of growing and maintaining plants.

Happy New Year and happy gardening from the Plant Doctors at The American Phytopathological Society!

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a non-profit, professional scientific organization. The research of the organization's 5,000 worldwide members advances the understanding of the science of plant pathology and its application to plant health.

I would like to add one of mine: document your garden! Keep written notes and resolve to keep a photographic journal of your garden. Use your cell phone camera or other digital camera to take pictures of the areas that need changing. You can print the pictures at your leisure and add notes to a note card about what you did in the garden that goes with the picture in an album. The memory is unreliable and doesn't always retain its, "color". Plus, we can't share our mental pictures the way we can our digital ones!

Barbara St.Clair



New Findings Suggest Hosta Virus Survives in Soil

By Kathleen Ward, K-State Research & Extension News, 11/19/2010

The plant pathologist who first identified Hosta Virus X in 1996 has now made horticulture pros' HVX-related advice obsolete. "No one was more surprised than Ben Lockhart by some of the findings in his two-year study, just completed at the University of Minnesota. At the end of those two years, for example, soil that once held an HVX victim could still infect a healthy hosta planted in the same location," said Ward Upham, horticulturist with Kansas State University Research and Extension. Until now, the general recommendation was to allow four to six weeks after removing an infected hosta before replanting with a healthy one, Upham said. "Fortunately another study finding was that infecting a healthy hosta with HVX is difficult when the plant is approaching dormancy in fall," he said. "So, dividing hostas in fall, not spring, may help." Thus far, scientists worldwide have found no preventive or cure for the disease, other than getting rid of infected stock. Since the virus' discovery in 1996, plant experts have found HVX-infected hostas across the United States and in other countries, such as Canada, England, Korea and New Zealand. "The American Hosta Society had a vested interest in funding Dr. Lockhart's recent research," Upham said. "HVX has become a threat to the commercial hosta industry, as well as to the gardeners who've made this shade-tolerant, easy-to-grow perennial one of their foliage favorites." The American society's vice president for Genus Hosta, Rob Mortko, is also a Johnson County (Kan.) Extension Master Gardener. Further highlights he's learned about from Lockhart's research include:

- Despite previous reports, no hosta cultivars are more (or less) resistant to HVX. Any actively growing hosta exposed to HVX is likely to become infected.
- The disease can distort, weaken and sometimes kill hosta leaves. The symptoms, however, can vary widely – puckering, twisting, ring spots, blotches, line patterns, mosaic patterns and tiny dead spots.
- As previously expected, HVX is spread by sap-to-sap contact, typically facilitated by lawn/garden tools. When working with hostas, cleaning hands and tools between plants is still the safest course.
- Dipping a cutting tool in a virus-killing solution is not enough to clean and disinfect it. What's required with HVX is a thorough scrubbing with dishwashing detergent, 70 percent alcohol or a 10 percent solution of household bleach (1 part bleach and 9 parts water).

Perennial Plant Association Names 2011 Perennial Plant of the Year

Amsonia hubrichtii grows 36 inches tall and 36 inches wide in a mounded form. This hardy perennial grows in hardiness zones 4 through 9 and is a versatile North American native. Gardeners may be more familiar with the common names of Arkansas blue star, Arkansas amsonia, thread-leaf blue star, narrow leaf blue star, and Hubricht's blue star. *Amsonia hubrichtii* is native to fields and meadows in the midwest. It can be found growing naturally in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. It has needle-like leaves that line the stems like bottle brushes. Surprisingly, they are soft as silk to the touch.

Amsonia offers a variety of features throughout the seasons. From late spring through early summer, 2-3 inch wide clusters of small, light blue, star-shaped flowers are borne above the short mound of ferny foliage. After blooming, it quickly grows to reach a height of about 3 feet. Arguably the best feature of *Amsonia* is its fall color; the entire plant turns a stunning shade of golden yellow. It makes an excellent backdrop for fall-blooming perennials such as sedums and garden mums.

Amsonia thrives in most gardens with little care. It is low-maintenance, easy to grow and trouble-free. Plant it in full sun or partial shade and moist soil of average fertility. If grown in too much shade or very rich soil, its habit will be open and floppy. This plant grows fairly large but it will not need to be divided for many years. Cutting the stems back to within 6-8" of the ground after flowering will result in fuller growth. Hardy in zones 4-9.

- Light – Plants thrive in full sun to partial shade
- Soil – This plant performs best in average, moist well-drained soil but tolerates less moisture. Once established, it can tolerate drier conditions.
- Uses – This perennial for the seasons is an asset in borders, native gardens, cottage gardens, or open woodland areas. It is best when massed. Arkansas blue star is attractive when mixed with ornamental grasses and plants that have attractive seed heads.
- Unique Qualities – Light blue flowers in spring are followed by marvelous foliage in summer. Golden-yellow fall color is second to none among herbaceous perennials.
- Hardiness – USDA Zones 4 to 9

During the summer, you can see the mature *Amsonia* growing in our Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens in the Mixed Border Garden.



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Custom Embroider Your Own Master Gardener Apparel

Do you have a shirt, jacket, or cap that you'd like to embroider with the current extension Master Gardener logo? You can bring your items to be embroidered to Debi Hunget at any meeting, or contact her to make arrangements. She can have your items embroidered for \$10.00 each. You may also have your name embroidered on the other side for an additional \$5.00. Thank you Debi!

Contact Info: Debi Hunget, *Class of 2006* 425-7987, debistar@sbcglobal.net



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