



Master Gardeners of Greene County

GRAPEVINE

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
Extension

Volume 21, Issue 3

MARCH 2011

From the President's Garden
Barbara St. Clair, MG-887.9536
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It's Spring! And just in case you are having difficulty believing it, look over the calendar of activities coming up in the next few months. We are going to be busy! Please look the list over carefully and see where you can both enrich your own knowledge and skills and where you can contribute to the gardens and the organization. We need so much help to maintain the high standards for which we have become known. The increased visibility we have because of the Botanical Center puts even more pressure on us to grow and shine. Fortunately, for us the "work" is rewarding and enjoyable. See you in the gardens!

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

March Educational Program: The Afterlife of Plants: A Fiber Artist's Perspective

Date: March 8th, 2011, 6:30 pm

Location: The Botanical Center, Main Meeting Room, 2400 S Scenic Ave, Springfield, MO

- Are trees the only source of fiber for papermaking?
- What do all plants have in common when it comes to making paper?
- Why save Hosta, Iris or Daylily foliage?
- How can dropped petals find new life?
- What do plant roots have to do with paper?

A symbiotic relationship exists between the world of the Master Gardener and of a papermaker with plant fibers. The Master Gardener's focus is all about plants, as is a papermaker who uses plants for the raw materials from which papers are created. However, a papermaker's encounter with plants is most generally in their "afterlife" when they become ago-waste, with no apparent use or beauty remaining to the Master Gardener. Our presenter for March will be papermaker Shirah Miriam "Mimi" Aumann. Learn about her history with plants and how she uses them to produce her works of art with expression of environmental concern. The plants in our gardens can be used both as a writing surface and decoratively. Did you know the Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at Nathanael Greene|Close Memorial Park are providing fiber for paper pulp and inclusions in paper since being harvested in the fall clean-up of 2009? Beautiful examples of decorative papers were created from the huge Cardoon plant that was the centerpiece of the Potager Kitchen Garden, which will be on display at the March program.

Dellene Nelson, Class of 2002
Program Chair, Dellene007@aol.com

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wreathj@yahoo.com

**Are You Receiving Master Gardeners of Greene County Weekly Email News?**

If you have an email address and are NOT receiving the weekly email newsletter, please email Christine directly at NatGreeneVeg@gmail.com to be sure you are added to our chapter mailing list, or to make sure your email is correct. Announcements are sent out each week in order to inform our membership of advanced training opportunities, special events, volunteer opportunities, educational programs, requests for help, and all the wonderful activities our chapter has to offer.

MARCH

- 1 MG class 1-4pm- Botanical Center – Insects /Mentoring
- 3 MG Class 1-4pm- Botanical Center – Turf
- 4 State MG Board meeting, Columbia MO
- 5 Grass-cutting and clean-up at Nathanael Greene
- 7 Board Meeting –4:30pm– Extension Board room
- 9 Deadline for articles for the Grapevine
- 8 Gen. Mtg.–6:30pm–Botanical Center–The Afterlife of Plants: A Fiber Artist's Perspective
- Advanced Training: Ornamental Grasses 1:30 – 3:30 Xeriscape
- 17 Grafting workshop at Rutledge-Wilson Farm, Patrick Byers
- 24 Work Evening at Nathanael Greene

APRIL

- 2 Naturescaping – Conservation Nature Center 9am – 4 pm
- 4 Board Meeting 4:30pm – Extension Board room
- 7 Spring Banquet at 6:00 at the St. John's Cancer Center
- 9 Deadline for articles for the Grapevine
- 9 Pot 'em Up at Nathanael Greene at 9 AM
- 10 Pot 'em Up at Nathanael Greene at 1 PM
- 12 General Meeting – 6:30pm – Botanical Center – Soils
- 14 Tomatoes workshop at Rutledge-Wilson Farm
- 16 Pot 'em Up at Xeriscape at 9 AM
- 16 Advanced Training: Soils 2-4 Nathanael Greene Herb Beds
- 17 Pot 'em Up 1PM Xeriscape
- 28 Work Evening at Nathanael Greene
- 29 Deliver plants to the plant sale – presale to Master Gardeners
- 30 Plant Sale – starts at 7:30AM – Botanical Center –Studio Classroom and patio area

Adult Education Committee Chair, Renae Bernskoetter, class of 2004, 417.861.7868

2011 is shaping up to be a great learning year. The Adult Education committee met to create a calendar of seminars for the coming year. Sylvia Lankard, Mark Bernskoetter, , Cathy Staats (Speakers Bureau Chair), Christine Chiu (Young Sprouts Chair), Barbara St. Clair (MG President), and Patrick Byers discussed and put together a plan.

Planned seminars of 2011, Saturday mornings from 9-12 at 11AM, no food provided, \$10 per person. Pre-registration will be handled by the Botanical Center/Extension Center. The dates are reserved for the large meeting room at the Botanical Center.

May 7-Weed Control, Japanese Beetles and other pests

October 8, Overwintering your garden and sowing turf

We will also be continuing our series of "Growing Knowledge at the Farm." Another group of classes planned for Rutledge-Wilson for \$5 will be 1 hour evening classes. They begin March 17th– Grafting by Patrick Byers, April TBA on Tomatoes, May 19-“The Three Sisters,” June 16- Care of Tomatoes, and July 21– fall planting. Put these dates on your calendar. Tell you family and friends about them too.



Master Gardeners of Greene County Board Meeting Minutes 2.07.11

Voting Board members attendance: Janet McWilliams, Renae Bernskoetter, Christine Chiu, Will Cooper, Gary Jones, Barbara St. Clair, Ruby Miller, and Janet Wreath.

Committee Chairs in attendance: Cathy Staats, Debi Hunget, Harold and Lee Ann Bender
Janet Wreath made a motion, seconded by Renae, approving the consent agenda. Motion passed.

Vice President: Renae – Total hours turned in as of Friday, Jan. 28th is 15,450. Several people had reported that they have sent in hours which have not been received yet. The mix so far is the following: 192 active members, 29 interns for a total of 249. There are 28 Emeritus members, 135 active that have turned in hours so far, 1 Emeritus member turned in hours, 2 inactive members turned in hours changing their status for 2011, 9 interns have turned in hours but no commitment forms, 36 of our members have turned in 100 hours or more for 2010.

Hot Line: Gary –Our hope was to have input from volunteers before starting to cover phones but weather cancelled our orientation meeting. There is an average of 4 calls per day. On 1-18, nine garden related questions were asked at the front desk. On Saturday, 1-29, over 400 people visited the Center, so it is hard to know what we need to prepare for. The Hot Line room is used by many people, which is what it is for; however it is collecting clutter that could become a problem. It would be a big help if nothing was left in the room and excess paper was returned to the store room.

Xeriscape: Barbara – Plant lists are being compiled and a few orders for plants have been sent in. Two advanced training workshops will be held at the garden to help get the beds in shape for spring. Pruning of woody plants is on 2-19 and ornamental grasses on 3-12. Arrangements have been made to have the crab apple tree sprayed for rust (it's a specimen tree and a focal point for the garden). The large Austrian pine at the NE corner of the garden is suffering from problems but won't be removed this year.

Social: Debi –The spring banquet is April 7th at 6. Any theme ideas are welcome.

Nathanael Greene: Christy – First work day will be March 5th at 1:00 to cut down the ornamental grasses. Work evenings will be the 4th Thursday of the month at 5:00.

Speakers Bureau: Cathy –I have been working on several projects in Jan/Feb. Speakers are lined up for the Lawn & Garden Show. We are putting a library of power-points in place for speakers to use as well as publish for our website. Christine and I are working on a brochure. We are starting to communicate that donations are accepted and appreciated. Look for a Speaker's Bureau link on our website soon. We are planning a meeting in March to familiarize speakers w/ presentations and write speaker bio

Fairs and Shows: Harold – Planning for the Lawn & Garden Show are nearly complete. We have been to the E-Plex and reviewed issues with Mary Quinn. We need a few more volunteers to staff the booth but expect to complete staffing at the next meeting. We are working on displays, general appearance of the booth and instructions for volunteers.

Mentoring: Bobbie –Committee meetings have been productive with good suggestions. The best to be suggested is to contact all inactive members. The objectives are: invitation to rejoin us; perhaps learn why they became inactive; invite and encourage them to visit Botanical Center and talk with them about new opportunities. Feed-back from members making these contacts has been encouraging as several people have expressed interest in returning to active status. The weather forced rescheduling of the "BUDDY" committee to Tuesday, 2-8 at 5:00. We want to stress that BUDDIES are mentors. We are all qualified to be a buddy.

Plant Sale: Christy – Meeting was held on Jan. 24th, consisting of Mary Brown, Connie Freeman, Janet McWilliams, Christy Jenkins, and Ruby and Ed Miller, with Katie Steinhoff sitting in. Discussed plant sale, estimating how the plants themselves would be laid out and where the cashier's tent would be placed. A raffle will be held and the possibility of selling tee shirts was discussed. Ruby will look into extended publicity for this year's plant sale. We also discussed next year's plant sale and changes we would like to make which will need more time accomplish than we have left this year. We need to move the date for the 2012 sale to May 5. This is in hopes of getting more involvement from other groups. The first weekend in May was a good date for the Center so we went ahead and booked it.

Advanced Training: Barbara St. Clair – A committee consisting of Renae, Patrick and Barbara met on 1 – 10 and discussed the development of a series of Advanced Training opportunities for this year. A shared goal seemed to be providing additional "deeper" information and training for MG's who want to continue learning.

In answer to the question, what are appropriate criteria for programs and activities qualifying for Advanced Training? Activities should be organized by the chapter or the state MG's, should include an application/hands-on component, should be at least one hour in length and preferable longer, subject to approval by Patrick and/or MG board.

In answer to the question, who is eligible to participate (because of the requirement of hands on attendance needs to be kept to a lower number). MG's of Greene County; Second, MG's from other chapters; Third, interns for the MG program; and others We have identified other issues and questions for future discussion: probably need some definition in the by-laws so we can differentiate between "continuing education" and "advanced training"; discussed having a survey in the future to see if MG are interested in a formal status called "Advanced Master Gardener"; will we/should we require a certain number of hours of Advanced Training per year? Seven Advanced Training workshops are planned so far this year.

Treasurer's Report: Will–Acct. balances at 12/31/10: MG account–16,305.67, Ext. acct. 2,598. Totals - \$18,903.67 bills \$315.65, deposits \$10. Account balances 01/31/11 – MG Acct – 15,990.02, Ext acct – 2,608.00; Total balance \$18,598.02 Renae made a motion to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Janet McWilliams. Motion passed. The projected budget was set, with income projected to be \$13,675 and expenses projected to be \$18,780.00. Gary made a motion to approve the budget, Will seconded. Discussion was held on the budget, specifically working on not having a deficit. Motion was voted on and approved, with one no and one member abstaining from voting.

New Business:

March 2nd will be volunteer training at the Center. March 14th, to April will be the MO Garden series. April 30th at 11 will be the window and library dedication. March 25 – 26 will be the Lily club sale. Let Katie Steinhoff know about any training or other "events" going on. There will be a laser printer demo on 2-15 at 4:00 for a piece of equipment FOG is thinking of buying. We still need a historian and special events (field trips) coordinator. Cathy Staats handed out an acceptable use agreement she is working on. This will be a policy to be signed by everyone using the computers. Christine discussed the use of an "incentive", some type of addition to the badge, for those turning in over 100 volunteer hours each year. Harold and Lee Ann Bender had a handout explaining which events they felt we should participate in and which we should pass on. Discussion was held, and will continue at next meeting. Will passed out handouts for his proposal on payments form and deposits forms. Discussion was held on form. Barbara made a motion to accept with the following changes, seconded by Will. Approved with changes: paragraph with approval need for anything over \$25.00 was taken out, the words :with out board approval: was added to the paragraph about no reimbursement for sales tax, and checks being prepared was changed from monthly to bimonthly. Deposit form was accepted as is, with motion being made by Janet Wreath, seconded by Renae. It was suggested by Christine that we put a donation box in the display at the Lawn and Garden Show.

Gary made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruby. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Janet McWilliams, MG Secretary, class of 2004

**Master Gardeners of Greene County Treasurer's Report
Will Cooper, class of 2008**

**12/31/10 Beginning cash balance MG account \$16,305.67 Extension account \$2,598.00
Total \$18,903.67**

**Deposit Interest Income \$10.00
Bills \$315.65**

**1/31/11 Ending cash balance MG account \$15,990.02 Extension account \$2,608.00
Total \$18,598.02**

Master Gardeners of Greene County General Meeting 02.08.11

A great program this month was given by Rita Arnold of Arnold's Greenhouse, Inc. from LeRoy, Kansas. She shared with us some of the newest perennials and annuals. They will have them in stock this year. Because of the length of this program a short business meeting was held afterward.

Nathanael Greene: March 5th at 1:00 will be the grass cleanup. Regular workdays will be on the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:00.

The pruning workday for February was filling up fast. March 12th (morning) will be a pruning class for the crab apples, brambles, and grapes at Nathanael Greene. That evening will be a workday at the Xeriscape for the ornamental grasses.

Mentoring: Bobbie – There are 51 students in the new class, plus some transfers, so we need lots of mentors.

Hot Line: Gary – There will be Hot Line training on February 15th from 6:00 to 7:00.

Plant Sale: Christy – There are sign up sheets on the table for the plant sale.

Patrick: Please leave any background check papers with Peter. We have to fill one out each year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Janet McWilliams, MG Secretary, class of 2004**

From the Nathanael Greene Demonstration Gardens

Welcome Christy Jenkins and Janet McWilliams as new Nathanael Greene Garden Coordinators. Along with myself, we will serve as a committee this year to coordinate garden activities and maintenance. At one time, the gardens were considered to be in a remote spot but now they are across the parking lot from the Botanical Center. What a great opportunity we have as Master Gardener's to use this garden for education and enjoyment for the public and ourselves. Please consider volunteering in the garden this year by being responsible for a certain area. Sign up on your commitment sheet or let Christy, Janet or myself know where you would like to work.

We are in need of a bed head for the ornamental grasses. If you are interested, please give us a call.

Dates: March 5th, 12PM Herb Section Meeting- For those that are interested in working in the herb section. Meet at the Herb Section in the Garden

March 5th, 1PM -General Garden clean-up including cutting the ornamental grasses

April 9th, 9AM Pot'em up for the plant sale at the gardens

April 10th, 1PM Pot'em up

Starting in May –Work evenings have been changed to the 4TH THURSDAY EVENING of the month

Christy Jenkins 759-2987 cj@rmmc-cpa.com, Janet McWilliams 886-8532 janmcw@mchsi.com, Cindy Arrowood 881-5996, cynarrowood@sbcglobal.net



Vice President's Report - AKA - Hours report

Renae Bernskoetter (class of 2004), marnaeb@sbcglobal.net, 417.861.7868

CONGRATULATIONS Master Gardeners of Greene County! We as a group worked over 16,700 volunteer hours in 2010. Here is the breakdown of 2010 hours as of February 8th, 2011. We have 247 active, emeritus, intern members in our group. We had 161 members turn in hours for 2010 (35 turned in 100+ hours) with 86 members not turning in hours for 2010. A group of mentors will be contacting members who were already in inactive status, and Robin Bolster (class of 2010) has agreed to contact the active members who have not turned in hours for 2010. If you worked any hours in 2010, it's still not too late to get them in. Our chapter needs them, the University Extension needs them, and the State Master Gardener Program needs them. If you still have hours to turn in, please send them to Sabrina either by email, or fax: brownsabr@missouri.edu, Tel. 417.881.8909, Fax 417.881.8058. If you turned in your hours via the online method, Sabrina has access to view those now and you will not need to do anything further.

Ozark Empire Fair - This year's fair will be July 29th through August 6th. We would like to ask Master Gardener's to pre-commit to working at our booth so that we can be sure we have enough interest this year. The fair is a big commitment for us and we understand that there has been staffing problems in the past. Please let us know by e-mail, phone, or at the next general meeting. Tell us how many hours you would be willing to spend at our booth or let us know if you are unwilling or unable to support an MG booth at the fair. We will report the level of interest to the Board at the March and April meetings and make a decision about the fair.

Harold & Lee Ann Bender, Fair & Shows Committee, Class of 2008, hbbprojects@hotmail.com, 816.245.6031

4th Annual Young Sprouts in the Garden Call for Volunteers

Here's a fun volunteer opportunity! It's the one event where we reach youth with fun, educational garden activities. It's just half a day on Saturday morning and it goes by fast. In 2009, there were 350 attendees who enjoyed learning about all sorts of garden related topics like solar radiation, ladybugs, praying mantis, soil, worms, seeds, weather, and more. If you would like to volunteer, please email Christine at NatGreeneVeg@gmail.com or call 396-2807 as soon as possible.

University of Missouri Extension's Master Gardeners of Greene County, Ozarks Harvesting Hope, AAF of the Ozarks and Springfield Greene-County Parks and Recreation have partnered to host families for a free gardening event geared toward children.

Young Sprouts in the Garden will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, May 21st at The Botanical Center & Gardens, 2400 S Scenic, in Springfield, Mo.

This community educational event is to promote and encourage an interest in gardening for children and teens, and to also foster an appreciation and respect for how we relate to plants and our environment. Interactive exhibits and booths will offer a chance to learn about or participate in activities such as planting a seed, botany rubbings, insects, conservation, weather, trees, recycling, vegetable gardening and more. While supplies last, children will receive a prize for visiting the participating exhibits.

Participants Confirmed for 2011:

• 4-H • All About Trees • Beekeepers Association of the Ozarks • The Discovery Center of Springfield • Friends of the Garden • Garden Adventures • James River Basin Partnership • Master Gardeners of Greene County • Millsap Farms • Missouri Community Forestry Council • Missouri Department of Conservation • Missouri Master Naturalist, Springfield Plateau Chapter • National Weather Service • Ozarks Harvesting Hope • Rutledge -Wilson Farm Community Park • Schaffitzel's Greenhouse • Show Me Yards & Neighborhoods • Slow Food Southwest Missouri • Springfield Area Herb Society • Springfield-Greene County Library • USDA-NRCS South Missouri Water Quality Project (tentative) • Wickman's Garden Village • Wild Birds Unlimited • Springfield Urban Agriculture Coalition •

**Xeriscape: Barbara St. Clair, class of 2004**

It seems odd, but growing beautiful plants has actually been easier these past few year's than two other problems: vandalism and signage. Even in the dead of winter, vandals have apparently been wandering through the garden in search of entertainment. So far, since fall, we've experienced plants pulled up, spray painting and later scratched-on graffiti on the box under the gazebo, paving stones removed from the pathway, and the destruction of large letters for Xeriscape on the garden sign facing National Avenue. The incidents have been reported to the Parks Department and to the police department, but obviously neither organization has the manpower to monitor a public garden twenty-four hours a day. When I was asked what I planned to do, the first words out of my mouth were, "bear traps!". Unfortunately, that isn't either realistic or humane, so we'll muddle through and hope the under-entertained idiots find something better to do. Meanwhile, please keep your eyes and ears open. The issue of signs is a bit knottier. In the past five years, I have helped make plant labels for the specimens in the Xeriscape at least twice. Sometimes they break, sometimes they're stolen, sometimes we stop growing a particular variety and need a new label. The biggest problem seems to be the sun. Last year we carefully printed out and put on labels for approximately 300 plants, bold black letters on crisp white stickers held up by sharp new green stacks. Within two months, the garden was filled with what looked suspiciously like tombstones---completely blank white labels mysteriously lined up in front of our plants. It would be comic except that now we need to identify exactly which species or variety is in that spot, and prepare a new label that will prove to be less apt to bleach out. Friends of the Garden, the Parks Department and Master Gardeners will be discussing some options for more permanent and professional signage for the future. Identifying plants is a critical part of our mission to promote gardening and education, and solving this problem of plant labels will be a major challenge. Meanwhile, be patient and ask the Master Gardeners at work in the garden if you need the name of a plant.

Have You Considered Getting Your Garden Certified?

"When I completed my Master Gardener classes in 2005, Barbara St. Clair asked if anyone was interested in taking over the butterfly bed at the Xeriscape and registering the garden as a Monarch Waystation. I was already interested in butterfly gardening, I thought this was the perfect opportunity to complete my volunteer hours. I've enjoyed helping maintain the butterfly bed, working at the hotline, and I'm looking forward to becoming more involved this year at the Dr. Bill Roston Native Butterfly House. What I have enjoyed most about being involved in organizations such as the Master Gardeners and Friends of the Garden, is the amount of knowledge and experience that I have gained volunteering and working with seasoned gardeners eager to share their wisdom and expertise. It's good to know there are others that share in my love of all things garden-related!"

Thank you to Rebecca Nickols, class of 2007 for writing this wonderful instructional guide for all gardeners to consider:

How to Register Your Garden as a Monarch Waystation:

The Monarch is truly an amazing butterfly... Each season, four generations are born, the first three generations live about two to four weeks, but the 4th generation migrates to warmer climates in Mexico and California and then returns to North America in the spring, living a total of six to eight months and traveling close to 2500 miles! The monarch migration is one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in North America--at the overwintering sites and throughout the spring and summer breeding range as well.

What is a Monarch Waystation?

Monarch Waystations [monarchwatch.org/waystations] provide Monarchs with a much-needed habitat for feeding, mating and rearing young. Without milkweeds and nectar sources throughout their spring and summer breeding areas in North America, Monarchs would not be able to produce the successive generations that gather for the migration each fall.

Size and Location: The site needs to be in an area of at least 6 hours of daily sun exposure and a minimum size of 15 square yards--this can be an existing garden or landscape area.

Shelter and Plant Requirements: It is recommended to have ten [monarchwatch.org/milkweed/guide] milkweed plants of two different species, but the minimum requirement can be met with only one established milkweed plant with ten separate shoots. The minimum requirement of nectar sources [monarchwatch.org/garden/nectar.htm] is four perennial or annual flowering plants. To increase the number of Monarchs surviving, the plantings of the milkweed and nectar sources should be relatively close together, not overcrowded. This will provide shelter for eggs and larva as well as protection for all life stages.

Managing and Sustaining the Site: To complete the application for certification, an agreement to maintain certain management practices must be fulfilled. These requirements include eliminating the use of insecticides, using natural fertilizers or compost, maintaining the area...

What is the Cost of Certification?

A \$16 non-refundable application processing fee is required for each site to be registered. Once approved, you will receive a certificate and your site will be added to the International Monarch Waystation Registry. A 9x12 weather proof sign to display in your Waystation can be purchased for \$17.

How do I Register my Site?

Applications, either on-line submission or by mail, are available at Monarch Watch [monarchwatch.org]. For more information on Monarch conservation as well as a complete listing of milkweed species and suggested nectar sources, please refer to this site.



MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE 2011 !!!!!

We are another month closer to our plant sale. Hopefully by now we are seeing warmer days. Please make a note to join us for one or more of the pot-em-ups listed below.

Nathanael Greene Xeriscape
Saturday, April 9th at 9AM Saturday, April 16th at 10AM
Sunday, April 10th at 1PM Wednesday, April 20th at 9AM

Get in a lot of your hours at one or all four days with a lot of laughing and dig-in-the-dirt fun. Bottled water will be provided. If you have an abundance of pots and need a place to take them, bring them to the pot-em-ups. We can always use them. The same is true if you have old mini blinds. Be thinking about what needs to be divided in your gardens this year. You don't want to miss out on our 8th annual pre-plant sale for the Master Gardeners. More details about that in the April Grapevine.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to call either of us!
Christy Jenkins, class of 2003, 759-2987 - Mary Brown, class of 2002, 753-5160

As you think about getting your dirty pots and urns from last summer ready for potting up this year's container combos--or for the Plant Sale--, remember that it's a good idea to clean them so that you eliminate problems with soil bacteria. What you may not know, however, is that sometimes antibacterial soap or detergent can actually perpetuate bacterial problems. Here is a letter to the editor that appeared in the magazine, Gardening How-To:

"It has been recommended that containers being re-used be washed with antibacterial soap. I'm a microbiologist and over the years I've learned a lot of reasons to avoid "antibacterial" soaps. The primary ingredient in most of these soaps is a chemical called triclosan, and there are a lot of bacteria that are resistant to this ingredient. Research has shown that bacteria resistant to triclosan are often also resistant to antibiotics and a variety of other chemicals, so the use of triclosan may be making antibiotic-resistant bacteria more pervasive. Also, many plant-pathogenic bacteria may not be killed by the triclosan and can infect the next plant in the pot.

When I disinfect plant pots, I do one of two things: Soak them in water with one fourth cup bleach per gallon for at least ten minutes, or boil the pots [safe for ceramics but not for all plastic pots]. I prefer the bleach, followed by thorough rinsing so the bleach residue doesn't affect beneficial bacteria in the soil for the new plant." Brani Baros, Ph.D., Meadville, PA.

Two Advanced Training Workshops Coming Soon!

Saturday, March 12th, will give you two opportunities to receive Advanced Training in our gardens. The first workshop will be Pruning Espalier Apples, Brambles and Grapes at the Nathanael Greene Demonstration Garden, from 9:00 to noon. You will receive instruction but will also be expected to practice what you are learning. Please bring your gloves and pruners to the workshop.

The second workshop, from 1:30-3:30 will be Ornamental Grasses at the Xeriscape Garden on National Avenue and Linwood. You will receive information on growing beautiful grasses, learn how to identify common groups of grasses by their seed heads, how to cut and bundle grasses in the spring, and how to divide clumps of grass that have grown too large. Again, you will be expected to practice what you are learning. Please bring gloves and pruners to the workshop [and be sure to wear long sleeves!].

Registration is necessary for each workshop. Please email Barbara St. Clair at stclair53@gmail.com or telephone [417-887-9536](tel:417-887-9536) and specify which workshop you wish to attend. Space for each workshop will be limited to enable attendees to actually participate in the pruning and dividing.



GREENE COUNTY
2400 S. Scenic Avenue
Springfield, MO 65807

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There will be a PowerPoint meeting for anyone interested in Speakers Bureau. We will be going over the presentations, doing impromptus, walking through power-point slides, and discussing upcoming Speakers Bureau commitments. Please don't stay away just because you may be uncomfortable with PowerPoint!! Please try to attend. Your area of knowledge is invaluable in community education. This is a time to work together and strengthen our Speakers Bureau! **Monday evening, March 21, 2011. 6-8pm** East Room of the Botanical Center. (where Master Gardener General meetings are held) *Watch for email updates due to conflicts and/or bad weather.*

Cathy Staats, Speakers Bureau Chair, MG-class of 2008, 417.379.9786, almamater_4@yahoo.com

"Baby it's cold outside," is an understatement! Thanks to all of you who braved the cold and made it to the meeting. Our red and chocolate theme was successful. Bring on the green for St. Patrick's Day and March. We are gardeners, therefore we can certainly go green. Snack assignments are S,P, F, K, and J. Of course, each of you always has an open invitation to bring something you would like to share. The Spring banquet is set for Thursday, April 7th, at 6PM in the St. John's Cancer Center. I will have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting if you would be willing to theme decorate a table. It does not have to be fancy, something fun always works. I will also have a sign-up sheet for anyone who would be interested in serving on the Social committee for 2011. It's fun and an easy way to accumulate your volunteer hours.

Happiness and laughter do us good! Thanks to each of you for all you do.

Debi Hunget, Social Chair, MG-class of 2006, 417.425.7987, debistar@sbcglobal.net

**Master Gardeners of Greene County
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