Meet Us in St. Louis in 2003

Seeds ... for change, for growth, for the future

September 5, 6 and 7
Missouri State Master Gardener Conference

The St. Louis Master Gardeners are working to make this a memorable and rewarding conference for you. Everyone who attended the 2002 conference in Joplin knows that we have a hard act to follow.

Our theme for the conference is “Seeds ... for change, for growth, for the future.” With internationally acclaimed Dr. Allan M. Armitage as our keynote speaker, the conference will focus on gardening practices that respect our environment.

The St. Louis area is rich in opportunities to learn about new gardening ideas first-hand. In addition to the Missouri Botanical Garden, planned tours will include the Shaw Nature Reserve, an Ecology Center, the Monsanto Research Center, Forest Park restorations, Community Gardens and Master Gardener Gardens.

For the first time, our state conference will include educational sessions certified as Level II training classes for Advanced Master Gardener Certification. If minimum enrollments are met, there will be one class on Friday afternoon and another on Sunday morning. The Level II topics will be Pesticide Labeling and Propagation.

For updates on other speakers and tours, go to the St. Louis Master Gardener Web site at www.outreach.missouri.edu/stouismg/seeds.

If you would like to be added to our e-mail update list for monthly updates on conference plans, just send your e-mail to Betty Struckhoff at bstruckh@esse-health.com.

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State Advisory Board Update

The following information summarizes the meeting of the state Master Gardener advisory board, held November 8 in Columbia.

The board submitted the following long-term goals to the University Extension faculty:

1. Develop a state-wide advanced Master Gardener educational program.
2. Completion of the Core Course manual - chapters are out for review now.
3. Continue the "Trees of Strength" plantings through the state.
4. Develop a state-wide project such as "Plants of Merit."
5. Emphasize Master Gardener retention beyond the first years in the program.
6. Improve volunteer hours reporting.

The next state Master Gardener advisory board meeting is scheduled for March 7 in Columbia.

Submitted by Chuck Thiesenhusen, Secretary, Master Gardener State Advisory Board

Cosentino to Coordinate State Newsletter

This is the first issue of Heartland Horticulture that I have coordinated for Missouri’s Master Gardeners. In future issues, I hope to have articles from all groups in the state letting us know what other Master Gardeners are doing.

We have a great vehicle to communicate among our various groups; it would be a shame not to use it.

I am a member of the Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners in the West Central Region and I serve on the State Advisory Board.

I have been a Master Gardener since 1999, so I’m still a relative newcomer compared to many other Master Gardeners I’ve met.

If you have submissions you would like to have included, please send them to me by e-mail at PSCOZ@aol.com or by mail.

My home address is Paula Cosentino, 600 NE Silverleaf Place, Lee’s Summit, MO 64064.
Diggin’ Up Dirt From Around the State

West Central Region

Spring Seminar
The Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners are planning their second annual Spring Seminar from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

The Spring Seminar is a day-long event with classes, a keynote speaker and lunch included.

This year’s keynote speaker is Vaughn Fletcher of Syngenta Seeds. He will speak on “What’s New for 2003.”

Classes include everything from growing trees for your Midwest landscape, tomatoes, roses, rock gardens, nature photography, summer bulbs and garden art just to name a few.

The cost of the day-long seminar is $45 ($40 before February 15). Anyone is welcome to attend but be warned, last year’s seminar filled up fast. The deadline to register is March 10.

For more information and a brochure, contact University Outreach and Extension office in Independence at (816)252-5051.

Garden Tour
The Greater Kansas City Master Gardeners have another garden tour in the works for 2003. It will be their 5th annual tour.

This year the tour is a two-day event, June 13 and 14. There will be 10 gardens on the tour. They all are located in the area of Kansas City north of the Missouri River.

In conjunction with the tour, there will be a plant sale of plants grown by Master Gardeners and a booth from local booksellers, Rainy Day Books, with the latest gardening books for sale.

If you are interested in more information or would like to inquire about tickets, you can call University Outreach and Extension in Independence, at (816)252-5051.

Last year we had a bus come with a group of Master Gardeners from Trenton. It was fun meeting them and sharing our gardens with them.

Kansas City Garden Shows
The Kansas City area has two Gardening Shows coming up in February and March.

The Remodeling, Lawn and Garden Show is February 13 through 16 at the American Royal Building.

The Home and Garden Show will be at Bartle Hall March 20 through 23.

St. Louis Garden Symposium Slated for March 22

The Horticulture Coop of Metro St. Louis and the Junior League of St. Louis will host a Garden Symposium Saturday, March 22.

The symposium will be an educational experience in horticulture for individuals who enjoy the outdoor landscape, engage in gardening as a leisure activity or practice professionally.

Bill Rupert of National Nursery Products in St. Louis is co-chair of the symposium planning team. He encourages those interested in attending to visit www.stlouislandscape.org/symposium/ or to contact him for more information at (314)966-0253 or billr@rupehort.com.

Rupert said a wonderful group of nationally recognized speakers have been assembled to start off the spring season with a day of informative and inspiring programs.

Celebrate Gardening in the Ohio River Valley

Hundreds of Master Gardeners from the United States and Canada will meet this June in the beautiful Ohio River Valley to attend the International Master Gardener Conference, Gardeners’ Market and Trade show.

The Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky area will host the conference June 18-21. The four days will be chocked full of events, classes, tours, garden shopping, dining and much, much more.

There are three exciting keynote speakers: Holly Shimizu, Director of the US Botanical Garden, Tracy DiSabato-Aust, award-winning designer and horticultural author and Dr. Lonnie Thompson, Ohio State University geologist named by Time magazine and Cable News Network as one of Americas best scientists.

Dr. Thompson’s research deals with the effect of global warming on the mountainous ice caps and glaciers.

The schedule is too extensive to detail here but you can check it out at the web site address:
(England Tour Flier)