Program for May

Training for Farmers Market

By Teresa Slack

Our program for our May meeting will be a training session for our Farmers Market. The Gateway Farmers Market Oversight Committee has requested that everyone who works at the Farmers Market be trained in the Arkansas state rules and regulations. This will make us Master Gardeners better equipped to help with the operations of the market.

This training is MANDATORY if you want to work at the Farmers Market this year. Please be in attendance for our May meeting to receive this training so we will all be ready for a great Farmers Market season!!

Again, you MUST have this training if you want to work at the Farmers Market.

Hosted by Saline County Master Gardener Program
Benton Event Center, Benton, AR
June 4-6, 2015

The conference is full but if you haven't already registered, you can be put on a waiting list by contacting Penny Nagel at 501-370-3237 or email her at pnagel@littlerock.com

The International MG Conference for 2015 will be held in Council Bluffs, Iowa. If you are interested in riding with us on a bus to the conference, here is the information:

The bus will leave from Little Rock September 21st at 8:30 a.m. We will make pick-up stops in Russellville, Alma and Fayetteville.

Price for double occupancy is $375; $495 for single. It includes bus, lunch on Monday, Sept. 21st, two night accommodations including breakfast at the Hampton Inn in Kansas City (Monday night, Sept. 21st and Friday night, Sept. 25th), entrance fee to Powell Garden on Tuesday, lunch on Sept. 26th, snacks and drinks on bus.

We will leave Little Rock to Kansas City, MO, eat lunch in Fayetteville and tour Botanical Garden of the Ozarks, then drive to Kansas City and arrive early evening. Overnight at the Hampton Inn. Dinner is on your own at one of many restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

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Calender of Events

May 9th – Plant Sales in Crittenden Co., Faulkner Co. & Van Buren Co.
May 10th – Happy Mothers' Day
May 14th – MG Monthly Mtg.
May 14th-23rd – France Garden Tours
May 25th – Memorial Day – MC Courthouse Closed
May 30th – Advanced MG Class – Garden Art in the Gateway, Paris, AR – Full

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May is finally here!!! It seems we have certainly had enough April showers to bring an abundance of May flowers. Everything seems to be brighter and prettier than ever. Everyone also says we will be complaining in August about the lack of rain. Well, we will just see about that....

With May and warmer months approaching, we are gearing up for our busy season. Lots going on; you can read about everything here in the newsletter. There is plenty to do for everyone.

We are also getting ready for Farmers Market season; a great way to earn Sanctioned hours by the way. It is a lot of fun to work there, such a busy place. We will be having a training session for those who want to work at the Market – you will receive great information to make our Farmers Market even better.

So as the weather gets better and better, it is time for all of us to get going. As I have said before, just find your passion and jump right in. There is something in Master Gardeners for everyone....

Happy Master Gardening!

Teresa Slack

2015 International Master Gardener Conference Continued

Tuesday morning (Sept. 22nd), breakfast at hotel, then depart for Powell Gardens (from 9:00-12:30). Lunch is on your own at either the café or snack shop. Then we will drive to Iowa City in time for opening events. Everyone needs to do their own registration for the IMGC and also needs to book their own lodging in Iowa City at either of the two IMGC hotels – the Harrah or Embassy Suits.

At the conclusion on Friday, we will load up and head to Kansas City for the night. Dinner is on your own but lodging and breakfast included. Then we will head back to Arkansas, dropping off at the various places we picked up. We will provide lunch for the ride back. Snacks and drinks on the bus also included.

A $50 deposit will hold your spot. We must have a minimum of 20 for this trip to make and a maximum of 40 for the bus. Send your name, address, city, county, home phone and/or cell phone and whether you would like to be picked up in Little Rock, Russellville, Alma or Fayetteville. Enclose your $50 deposit and mail to Janet Carson, 2301 S. University Ave., Little Rock, AR 72204. Make checks payable to UACES. Deadline extended to June 1st.

Delayed and Patchy Leaf-Out of Crape Myrtles

The unusual leaf-out symptom of crape myrtle (Lagerstroemia) can be traced back to weather events in November 2014 (temperatures between November 12th-15th were well below 32°F and on average 19° departure from normal). Plants such as Japanese maples (Acer palmatum) and crape myrtles had not sufficiently gone dormant when temperatures dipped into the mid- to upper twenties. The result was that leaves turned brown suddenly and were “stuck” (did not abscise normally) on the plants. The lack of a normal abscission of leaves hinted that the plant was not sufficiently hardened off for these low temperatures. This spring we are observing the result (patchy & delayed leaf-out) of that incomplete dormancy.

Scratch the bark on trunks or branches to look for “green.” IF you see green, we predict that your plant will be okay but that leaf-out will be delayed. Wait several weeks to see how complete the leaf-out is and then consider pruning out dead. Again, use the simple scratch test to determine tissue status.

The other scenario where we are observing delayed leaf-out is on plants infested with the “new” crape myrtle bark scale. Visit https://www.uaex.edu/publications/PDF/fsa-7086.pdf for more information. If you have plants which were/are heavily infested with scale we are also seeing delayed leaf-out. The recommendation is the same. Wait and see what develops and then prune out dead if necessary.