



The “Show-Me” Gardener

Webster Groves Garden Club

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October Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2022 - 7:15 p.m.

Webster Groves Rec Complex - 33 E. Glendale

Speaker: Charles Caverly

**Topic: Greenscaping, Landscaping with Mother
Nature in Mind**



October Meeting:

October brings Halloween tricks and treats and our speaker for this month is a real treat and advocate for Mother Nature. I am very, very excited that Charles, “Chuck” Caverly is coming to speak to us and I think you will be too! Chuck is literally changing the landscape of many commercial and city dead green zones by putting in living zones for native insects and plants! Chuck is the Director of Business and Industry Development for Native Landscape Solutions, Inc. He is an ISA certified arborist and a botanist. Chuck’s own yard, which has 114 woody species and taxa and over 250 species of perennials, was on the Open Yards tour list this spring. I did get a chance to view it and it was like taking a walk in a native park. I He has over 35 years’ experience in the landscape design, maintenance and native plant industry. He not only knows a lot about natives and planting, but has experience with municipal zoning issues, having served on the planning and zoning commission in Maryland Heights for 12 years. He has created numerous residential and commercial landscape design projects with native plants, hardscape materials and site drainage. An example of his work is the prairie campus landscape of the St. Claire Hospital in Fenton, Missouri.

In addition, he has participated in the comprehensive plan development for the Howard Bend Levee District and Great Streets Initiative, located in the Creve Coeur and Maryland Heights areas. In the past he was president of the Municipal League of Metropolitan St. Louis and the Missouri Municipal League and is currently an active board member. However, Chuck's greatest accomplishment may be his love of the outdoors and his accolades as an Eagle Scout and Silver Beaver Awards from his scouting career.

His talk will include what cities and commercial businesses are doing to change some of their "neat and tidy" landscaping to more natural, living areas. He has much valuable information to share with us, so please come and bring your friends! This is our October treat for you!

Volunteers Needed:

We are currently looking for new WGGC Board members to replace those whose terms have expired. We are also deciding on a slate of officers for the coming year. Please contact Carol Evans President@mgcwg.org if you are interested in serving or know of someone who is,.

Notes from the Metro Garden:

The committee would like to acknowledge the volunteer work at the garden of WGGC members Brenda and Steve Sias, Roxanne Harrelson and Sue Gold who each, in their own way, accomplished a lot of weeding. Yellow Nutsedge never takes a day off. Many thanks to all. If you would like to volunteer at the garden, please contact Carol Evans (President@mgcwg.org) who will forward your name to Frank or Mike..

April Plant Sale:

When you are cleaning up your yard this fall, look around for any plants which can be divided and donated to the plant sale and mark them. If it is a cold spring, plants won't always have popped up on the 1st of April. If you have pots that can be reused for the April 2023 Plant Sale, please contact PlantSale@mgcwg.org

President's Corner – October 2022

Fall is here and it's time to get your garden ready for cooler weather. There are still some tasks that will help sustain your garden now and prepare it for spring.

The **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** indicates that ball and burlap trees and shrubs can still be planted in the ground, as can those grown in containers. They suggest digging a hole in an area 2 times the diameter of the root ball prior to planting and making sure to water and mulch them well. **MBG** notes that, for good blooms this winter, Christmas cactus, potted azaleas, and kalanchoe can stay outdoors until temperatures drop to about 40 degrees at night.

This is also the time to plant spring bulbs and late crop vegetables. Garden Design has a helpful article on what spring bulbs and vegetables to plant now:

https://www.gardendesign.com/autumn/planting.html?utm_source=article-newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Plant-in-Fall-9-22-22

The **University of MN Extension** advises to “stop pruning, keep watering.” Pruning now may encourage new growth which won’t be able to harden off (go dormant) before winter. They suggest you keep watering until the ground is frozen or you turn off your spigot for the winter.

This is also a time when you can overwinter your geraniums. There are several methods for doing this. Existing pots of geraniums can be brought in, plants can be dug up and planted in pots, the bare roots of the plant can be saved for next year, and finally, you can make cuttings of your plants. Each of these methods is described at this website:

<https://empressofdirty.net/overwintering-geraniums/> More detailed information on keeping geranium bare roots over the winter can be found on the **Garden Gate Magazine** website:

<https://www.gardengatemagazine.com/articles/how-to/all/how-to-overwinter-geraniums/>

If you are into crafts, you might enjoy drying flowers. **Kansas State University Extension** has a good video on how to successfully do this. You can find it here:

<https://kansashealthyyards.org/component/allvideoshare/video/drying-flowers-long-lasting-and-colorful?Itemid=101>

We’ve all had lasagna for dinner, but have you created a lasagna garden? If you are interested in this technique, now is the time to begin preparing your lasagna garden for next spring. This no digging, no tilling method may be just the solution for creating a new bed. Here is a how-to article from **MU Extension** on this technique:

<https://extension.missouri.edu/news/lasagna-gardening-layers-and-layers-of-goodness-5767>

Some virtual programs that may be of interest to you are:

October 6 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. CDT *Grow With Us - Virtual: Spring Flowering Bulbs* offered by the **North Carolina Cooperative Extension**, Guilford County. Grow with Us – plant bulbs now to enjoy; Register for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grow-with-us-virtual-spring-flowering-bulbs-registration-336654270987>

October 18 - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. *Using Fresh Produce.* What to do with excess produce like onions, cucumbers, tomatoes and more? Presented by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Register here: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26178>