



# The “Show-Me” Gardener

Webster Groves  
Garden Club  
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## September Meeting

**Monday, September 12, 2022 7:15pm**  
**Webster Groves Rec Complex**  
**33 E. Glendale, Webster Groves**

**Speakers: Besa Schweitzer and Mitch  
Leachman**

**Topic: As We Transit the Change of  
Seasons, Think Natives**



### ***Besa Schweitzer and Mitch Leachman***

Look around you, what do you see still blooming or just starting to bloom? Natives! We have had such a hot summer, with torrential rains it is a wonder anything is still blooming or alive. September is the month that summer changes into fall and we will change our usual format for this meeting, just a bit. We will have two speakers for our September meeting, Besa Schweitzer, local native plant specialist and Mitch Leachman with St. Louis Open Yards.

Besa is a native garden specialist with over 20 years' experience gardening with native plants. She will speak about choosing plants for a native garden. She first started work in plant conservation at Missouri Botanical Garden in 2003 but quickly transferred to Shaw Nature Reserve where she could work with native plant horticulture. Today she does native garden consultations for homeowners and schools. She also volunteers with Wild Ones, Bring Conservation Home, Missouri Master Naturalists and many other conservation minded organizations in St. Louis. In addition, she has also authored a book, *The Wildflower Garden Planner, An Interactive Guidebook to Native Landscaping in Missouri*. The planner presents a month-by-month guide of things to do for a native garden.

Mitch Leachman used to be with the St. Louis Audubon Society's Bring Conservation Home Program but now has organized an exciting, new landscaping program called St. Louis Open Yards, which allows the public to view private native yards and gardens around the St. Louis region. He will explain how the program works, how you can find the yards you wish to see according to your interests and the dates the yards are available for viewing. A small fee is required to participate in Open Yards and all the proceeds from the program go to various charities some local.

As always, we invite you to come and join us! If interested please consider joining our garden club!

### ***Metro Garden***

#### **Extra Plants Available**

The WGGC maintains the Metro garden at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood Avenue. We sometimes have extra plants available to the membership. The Metro garden is generally sunny and well drained and these plants will do best in this type of garden.

Anyone who is interested in having some of these varieties or who would like to volunteer at the Metro garden is invited to contact Mike Tierney at [Michael.Tierney@mgcwg.org](mailto:Michael.Tierney@mgcwg.org).

### ***Giant Daisy Giveaway***

On Saturday, September 17, with Sunday the 18th as an alternate or additional day as needed, from 9:00 AM until complete, at the Metro garden at the corner of Rock Hill Road and Lockwood, a giant daisy giveaway will be held for WGGC members.

The daisies are giant, all Shasta daisies but mostly the large and vigorous white 'Alaska' variety, the savings are giant, actually free, and the numbers are giant because these original additions during the Metro garden renovation have multiplied so well.

Please bring containers for transport. Large cardboard boxes are best so that the clumps of crowns can stay intact for easier transplant. To prepare a site in advance, make holes 3 inches deep and 1 foot across for each division in full sun with good drainage. These Daisies tolerate shade but need sun to bloom well and multiply. Deadheading spend blooms produces new flowers for weeks.

Please let me know in advance if and when you plan to come and how many daisies you would like. I will try to accommodate everyone. My contact information is [michaeljtierney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaeljtierney@sbcglobal.net) and I will provide my phone number in any email replies.

### ***President's Corner September 2022***

The nights are getting cooler and the days, shorter. So, we know that summer is almost over. The question is what do we do in the garden now?

There are lots of tasks to perform to assure you get a healthy lawn and garden next year. I've listed just a few of these here.

The **Missouri Botanical Garden (MBG)** suggest you begin fall seeding or sodding of cool-season grasses (Kentucky bluegrass, fine, tall and creeping fescue, and annual and perennial ryegrass). Seedbeds should be raked, dethatched or core-aerified, fertilized and seeded. Don't forget to keep your newly planted lawn areas moist, but not wet. It is also time to fertilize your existing cool-season lawns. **MBG** also suggests you can make up to 3 applications between now and December. Continue planting evergreens now. If soils become dry, established lawns should be watered thoroughly to a depth of 4-6 inches.

As for annuals, they suggest cuttings can be taken now to provide vigorous plants for overwintering. And you can overwinter your herbs (parsley, rosemary, chives, thyme, and marjoram) by digging them from the garden and putting them in pots to grow indoors this winter.

Except for tulips, you can plant spring bulbs when they are available. Wait until late October to plant tulips, and make certain you keep them in a cool, dark place until you are ready to put them in the ground. It's also time to think about bringing houseplants indoors—they should be brought in at least a month before you turn your heat on. The best way to assure you are bringing in healthy houseplants is to prune extensive growth and any roots that are protruding. Check for pests and treat if necessary. An easy, first step to assuring no pests are brought in is just spraying plants with water. The **University of Minnesota Extension** suggests picking off any debris you find on the soil surface such as old leaves, spent blossoms, etc. to discourage any insects.

Perennials, especially spring bloomers, can be divided now. Enrich the soil with peat moss or compost before replanting. Also, divide peonies now. Replant in a sunny site and avoid planting deeply. Autumn is a good time to add manure, compost, or leaf mold to garden soils for increasing organic matter content.

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

September 14, 2p.m. – 3 p.m. Season extension and winter gardening will be presented on-line by **Seed St. Louis** through the **St. Louis County library**. You can register here:

<https://slcl.evanced.info/signup/EventDetails?EventId=298265>

September 24 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. There will be an Autumn Plant Swap at the **Oak Bend Branch** of the **St. Louis County Library**. Bring your plants, seeds, bulbs, tools, books, and other gardening supplies to swap with fellow gardeners. Plants should be divided, brought in containers, and labeled.

U. of Illinois Extension: Dahlias: Digging, Dividing, and Diseases

September 27 - 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Dahlias: Digging, Dividing & Diseases. Presented by the **University of Illinois Extension**. Register at: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=26177>

### **Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/WebsterGrovesGardenClub/>

### **Weather Cancellations**

If the weather is threatening for any of our club's meeting times, we will send an email notice of cancellation for that event. If we do not have an email address for you, we will try to call you. If you have any questions, please send an email to [Unsubscribe@mgcwg.org](mailto:Unsubscribe@mgcwg.org).

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