Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardeners

Garden Fair
Saturday, April 21
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Indiana National Guard Armory
3380 South Walnut Street
Bloomington IN 47401
Admission $2.00

Fantastic Door Prizes!
Free Educational Seminars
Free Parking/Handicap Accessible
Over 30 Vendors of Lawn & Garden Products and Services
Answers to Gardening Questions from Master Gardeners
Food Available at the Garden Thyme Café

Educational Programs

9:00-10:00 am ........................................... Janet DeLong, PT, DPT
Less Pain: A Guide for Preventing Pain & Injury While Gardening

10:00 –11:30 am ........................................... Clifford S. Sadof, PhD
Emerald Ash Borer: What Can I Do To Protect My Trees From The Pest That Is On Our Doorstep?

12:30-1:30 pm ........................................... Sally Weeks, PhD
Shrubs & Woody Vines

2:00-3:00 pm ........................................... Sally Weeks, PhD
Lab: Identifying Shrubs & Woody Vines
Member news

By Nancy White

The March general meeting was attended by a large crowd of members and interns, and they were not disappointed in the evening. Thanks to all who contributed to our successful meeting.

Reminders for Garden Fair on Saturday, April 21

Posters and small postcard-size Garden Fair announcements are available to members for distribution to friends, neighbors, work spaces, community buildings, and other locations. Contact Nancy White if you can help distribute these.

Master Gardeners and interns working at the Fair do not pay the admission fee. If you are not working on Friday, which is set-up day or on Saturday, April 21, entrance will be $2 for all those attending over age 12.

On Saturday, April 21, please park in the extension office lot to allow more parking at the National Guard Armory for our Fair visitors.

Master Gardener volunteers needed for booth at Farmers’ Market

The Bloomington Farmers’ Market will begin on April 7, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at the Showers Parking Lot on North Morton Street. We will have an information booth during April and May to publicize our organization and its community service. If you would like to staff the booth any Saturday morning, contact Nancy White. Time spent working at our booth qualifies for volunteer hours.

Report your education and volunteer hours

As the busy spring and summer gardening seasons get in full swing, don’t forget to keep track of all your education and volunteer hours gained. They can be entered by computer anytime or sent to Amy for entering.

Check out this website

I discovered this website, mastergardening.com, but it does not seem to have any connection to Purdue Master Gardeners or any national Master Gardening organization. That said, it is another source for seeds, garden décor and hardscape, plant care ideas, and containers. It started as a mail order catalog but is now only on-line. It might be worth a look.

Annual Daisy Day Plant Sale on April 28

The Hinkle-Garton Farmstead, 2920 E. 10th Street, will hold its Seventh Annual Daisy Day Plant Sale, April 28, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 pm. Available will be native perennials, hostas, day-lilies, spring bulbs, heirloom tomatoes, and vegetable plants as well as shrubs and trees.
Save the Date

By Mary Hawkins

What do the afternoon and evening of June 9, 2012, a Garden for Wonder, a Garden for Rain, a Garden for Shade, an hour of educational credit, picnic fun, fellowship and beauty all have in common? They are all essential parts of our annual Master Gardener Garden Walk and Picnic! Can you believe it? This is our eighth year for this popular event. Varied and unusual specimens, a lot of native cultivars, interesting learning opportunities plus delicious food and getting to know our fellow Master Gardeners are additional highlights of this very well-attended activity. Please mark your calendar for Saturday, June 9, 3:30--8:30 p.m. for our annual Master Gardener Garden Walk and Picnic and watch for additional information in our May newsletter and your official invitation coming in early May.

Front Yard Contest in April/May

By Nancy White

Again this year, Master Gardeners will join the Bloomington Board of Realtors to sponsor the Spring Front Yard Contest. Begun in 2009 as an America in Bloom project and continued in 2010 and 2011, this competition encourages homeowners to put their best front yard face forward. This year winners in each Bloomington zip code will be chosen weekly from April 23-May 18. Judging panels of Master Gardeners, community gardeners, and Board of Realtors volunteers will travel the city and place signs in the yards of the winning homes. A brief training for volunteer judges will be held on Thursday, April 12. If you would like to join a panel, contact Mary Jane Hall, Dot Owen, or Nancy White. Your help is welcome.

Grant winners announced

By Nancy White

The grant committee members, MC Paul, Ann McEndarfer, Nancy Miller, and Nancy White, selected eight grant applications to fund as winners of our 2012 community gardening grants. Master Gardeners received twenty grant applications this year, and the projects presented were diverse and all worthy of funding. The selected grant winners include 2012 projects ranging from youth gardens at Hilltop, senior gardens at Area 10 Agency on Aging, and a rooftop garden at Middle Way House. Others funded were Mother Hubbard’s family gardening education project, BHS North’s Butler Park garden, a collaborative project between Writing Unlimited and the Hinkle-Garton Homestead, Boys and Girls Club summer camp gardening education, and a Soup and Salad garden at Bloomington Developmental Learning Center. Since these grants are funded by proceeds from our annual Garden Fair, we can all share the credit for this grant program.
Home fruit production guide now available
Submitted by Amy Thompson

The latest version of the Purdue University Extension guide on successful home fruit production may be a valuable tool in helping homeowners decide on which trees or small fruit they want to invest in this spring, as well as proper care to ensure productive harvests.

Managing Pests in Home Fruit Plantings is a guide for homeowners on how to choose the best varieties for themselves. It then focuses on different techniques to manage diseases and insects in home fruit crops such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, strawberries, blueberries, blackberries, gooseberries, currants, and raspberries.

"A lot of people are buying trees and plants now, so these are things people should think about before making decisions," said Janna Beckerman, an associate professor of botany and plant pathology and co-author of the guide. "They can choose the more disease-resistant cultivars and or those that require fewer applications of pesticides to get a good fruit crop."

The guide will help homeowners properly manage the health of their fruit plants or trees using the cultural techniques to minimize pests, as well as appropriate pesticides, fungicides and other disease deterrents, including information on how and when to use the proper pesticides to manage the most common problems homeowners face. It has also been updated to include organic pest management options, when available.

"The updated guide includes new, safer chemicals that are available now but weren’t in previous printings," Beckerman said.

It also includes information for currants and gooseberries, which weren’t in previous editions.

For a copy of Managing Pests in Home Fruit Plantings, go to http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-146-W.pdf.

Spotlight on the Demonstration Garden

By Nancy White

This month we shine the spotlight on the Monroe County Fairgrounds Demonstration Garden. Located at the southwest corner of the Fairgrounds off of Highway 45 west and adjacent to the caretaker’s home, the garden has been tended for many years by Master Gardener interns and certified members. Some members work individually on small areas, and others join together at group work sessions. The garden has some developed areas including shade gardens, vegetables, herbs, and a perennial border. The garden has been the site for tours, book talks, and gatherings. Beth Murray served as coordinator of the Demo Garden for several years. For 2012, a team of coordinators will plan working schedules, special events, and activities to show off the garden during the Monroe County Fair. 2012 coordinators are Barbara Hays, Jeanne Cox, Dan Pyle, and Diana Young. Clean up sessions will be held soon, and volunteers are invited to join the crew. Our July general meeting will be held on July 17, at the garden to finish preparations for Fair. Contact one of the coordinators if you would like to volunteer in the Demo Garden this year.
Get your motor running: crabgrass control adjustment

By Aaron Patton, Turfgrass Extension Specialist

With warm temperatures this winter many are questioning how to adjust their turf management practices in 2012. In the past 90 days, Indiana temperatures have averaged 3-4 degrees warmer than normal. The forecast also shows that we will likely continue to be warmer than normal during the next 30 days.

Although I do not foresee the need to make significant changes to your management program, it will be necessary to start making preemergence applications earlier this year in my opinion. Here are some things to consider as you adjust.

*How will the warmer conditions affect my preemergence timing?* Some believe that despite the warmer weather, it is not necessary to make preemergence applications early in 2012 because we will very likely get a “killing” frost in April which could kill all the crabgrass that germinates early. While I think this is possible, my experience is that many warm-season grass seedlings (whether crabgrass or Bermuda grass) are largely unaffected by spring frosts. The reason for this is not completely clear, but it is likely that these seedlings are insulated from frosts that occur at the top of the turf canopy because the emerged seedlings, such as crabgrass, are protected next to the warmer soil surface. Since I do not believe that there is a guarantee that a late spring frost will kill emerged crabgrass, then I recommend making sure that you apply your preemergence herbicide early this year prior to emergence. Just how early is uncertain, but it would not hurt to target making applications 7-10 days earlier than normal. To track crabgrass germination and the optimum window for preemergence applications, check the following website http://www.gddtracker.net/.

*How can I get extended crabgrass control?* Split or sequential applications are a strategy for improving crabgrass control with preemergence herbicides. The general strategy is to split the application from one application into two applications using the same total amount of product. The first application would be applied before crabgrass germinates at a one-half rate at the normal application timing and the second application would be made approximately 60 days later at a one-half rate. For example, Dimension 2EW would be applied at 1 pint/acre (0.25 lb a.i./acre) on April 1 and a second application would be made with Dimension 2EW at 1 pint/acre (0.25 lb a.i./acre) on June 1. This would equal a total of 2 pints/acre or 0.5 lb a.i./acre. Research at Purdue shows that crabgrass control can be increased by about 20% using a split application strategy compared to a single preemergence application.
We are certainly having an amazing spring flowering season, nearly over before spring officially began! Are you wondering whether your plants are going to be in trouble if the temperature drops and what to do to protect them?

Following a particularly mild winter but cold enough to easily satisfy the chilling requirements for flowering, our spring blooming plants have a tremendously early and spectacular display this year. Blooms are about four to six weeks ahead of “normal” this year, and bud counts are high.

Due to the unseasonably high temperatures, it’s a bit like the grand finale of a fireworks display. While the sequence of bloom appears to be staying in order, it’s as if the season is on fast forward bringing nearly everything into bloom all together. Our current cast of characters on March 22 in West Lafayette includes forsythia, daffodil, magnolia, redbud, flowering dogwood, ornamental pear, cherry, peach, plum, tulip, serviceberry, Korean spice viburnum, and crabapple. I’m sure you can name some others.

Looking at growing degree days (GDD) with a base of 50ºF, as of March 22 in West Lafayette, we are at 233.5 GDD compared to 45.0 this date last year. We hit 233 GDD on May 5 in 2011. Weather.com has a GDD calculator where you can enter a zip code and specific date ranges if you want to get data for your locale. www.weather.com/outdoors/agriculture/growing-degree-days/

The likelihood of hard frost and freeze is still high in the coming weeks. According to the state Climate office <iclimate.org/narrative.asp>, the average date of the last freezing temperature in spring ranges from the second week of April in extreme southwest Indiana to the second week of May in the extreme northeast. Two-thirds of the time they occur within a 20- to 24-day period centered at the mean date. The trend of a later date toward the north is reversed in extreme northwestern Indiana, where the average date is about May 1 near Lake Michigan.

For plants whose primary ornamental feature is flowers, you’ve enjoyed the show thus far and barring any really unusual weather events, the plant itself will not be killed by frost/freeze. However, there certainly could be injury to foliage and young twigs, likewise for herbaceous perennials and hardy annuals. Except for conifers, plants that lose leaves or leaf buds will produce new ones. If buds are injured, but not killed, new leaves may be cupped, crinkled, twisted, curled, wilted or tattered. Though unsightly, this most plants will eventually outgrow this type of injury. The PPDL has some good articles showing freeze injury from previous years. See www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/hot10/5-14.html and www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/weeklypics/Weekly_Picture6-25-01-1.html.

So, we have a bunch more weather to get through before we will know whether this is the best season ever, the worst ever, or somewhere in the middle. Meanwhile, enjoy the show while you can!
There are times when I wish I had an index to past Web Castings columns, in fact, even an index to all the excellent articles in our Roots & Shoots. So this month, the plan is to list the topic of each month since the last summary in January of 2011. There is no room to list links again, but at least you can narrow down your search by topic and refer to the Roots & Shoots website.

January, 2011
Winter gardening calendar, travels and the site list cumulative summary

February, 2011
Winter garden dreaming, reviews of gardening catalog sites

March, 2011
Roses! And those deer...

April, 2011
Garden humor

May, 2011
Digging/playing in the MUD, raised beds, drainage, shrubs for soggy soils

June, 2011
Gardening as we age; notes: the book Gardening for a Lifetime, staying active

July, 2011
Canning, preserving, and drying produce and flowers

August, 2011
Extreme heat gardening, varying safety of chemicals at higher temps, weird weather gardening tips

September, 2011
Prioritizing garden tasks and chores; and enjoying it all from the hammock

October, 2011
Herald-Times article, garden re-design for the birds

November, 2011
Bringing in herbs for the winter and some recipes

December, 2011
Gardening gift ideas, thinking outside the box

January, 2012
Gardening as therapy: emotional, psychological, social, and scholarly research

February, 2012
Jumping into beekeeping!

March, 2012
The ignored garden; once again, gardening and aging

April, 2012
So, here we are, with the above list of topics for the last 16 months. Hope this will help you find or refer back to what you need, or what you missed. As always, I am open to suggestions.
March general meeting is well attended

By Evelyn Harrell

The meeting room at the extension office may have reached maximum capacity on Tuesday, March 27 when Master Gardeners gathered to hear our speaker, Gordon Elsbury. Mr. Elsbury, former nurseryman and current manager of the Herb and Flower Barn in Nashville, discussed Nutrition, Calibrochoas, and Small Space Gardening. Watering correctly, proper soil balance, selecting pots, it was all there. New badges earned and announced at the meeting included Gary Anderson-certified; Patricia Gustaitis-advanced; Nancy Page-advanced; Jeff Schafer-bronze; Evelyn Harrell-bronze; and Vicky St Myers-bronze. Many thanks to Diann Lock and her committee members, Robin Nordstrom, Donna Terry, Linda Health, Jackie Gilkey, Chris Johnson, and Nancy Page, who were ready with excellent refreshments to greet gardeners as they arrived.

May field trip destination is Avon Gardens

By Evelyn Harrell

A new field trip was announced for Wednesday, May 9. We will travel to Avon Gardens in Avon, Indiana, for lunch and a brief tour of the display garden. Then we can choose to explore/shop on our own because early May will be good timing for purchasing plants. A boxed lunch will be prepared by a caterer, and there will be a pavilion reserved for us. The spring menu will be available soon and will include a vegetarian option or a wrap. Lunch is $14.99 each. If you want to go, please send or drop off a check, by April 30, to Mary Jane Hall, FC Tucker, 487 S. Clarizz Avenue, 47401. Feel free to use the after-hours drop box. We must have a firm number by the end of the month. Please act now, as April is a busy month. Those planning to go will receive by email in early May travel details. The plan is to leave Bloomington about 10:30 a.m., arriving in Avon in time for lunch. For more information, check the website at http://www.avongardens.com/. Thanks to Mary Jane Hall for organizing this field trip opportunity for us.

The proposed field trip on Wednesday, April 11 to the Indiana Daffodil Society Show in Indianapolis has been cancelled.

May meeting features interns, speaker, and plant swap

By Evelyn Harrell

The May general meeting will be held at the Community Building at the Fairgrounds at 5700 W. Airport Road on Tuesday, May 22, at 6:30 p.m. This is one of the favorite meetings of the year, with the chance to meet graduating interns; hear our speaker, David Ray; participate in the popular annual plant swap; and enjoy refreshments provided by chair Melissa Britton, and Larime Wilson, Cindy Benson, Karen King, Bethany Murray, Barb Cappy, Dale Wilkens, and Martha Tarbah. Be sure to mark your calendar!
Volunteer opportunities

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hilltop Gardens</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128</td>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876 <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Bloomington Community Orchard</td>
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<td>Stacey Decker, <a href="mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a></td>
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<td>Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park</td>
<td>summer</td>
<td>design and maintain</td>
<td>Nancy Fee, 332-1940</td>
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<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
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<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
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<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>write articles</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Evelyn Harrell, 3390572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130</td>
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<td>Middle Way House</td>
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<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
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<td>Wylie House</td>
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<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
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<td>Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374</td>
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<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
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<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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<td>Hoosier Hills Foodbank</td>
<td>year around</td>
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<td>Jessica Williams, 334-8374</td>
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Topping is hazardous to your tree

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Tree topping is an all too common practice among homeowners, particularly when their trees become too tall and pose a possible threat to the house or overhead power lines. Some have the trees topped because they believe, or are led to believe, that topping is a good pruning practice.

Obviously, some situations require the removal of large limbs for the sake of safety. But topping is a drastic step and ultimately endangers the tree’s life. Removing such a great quantity of growth in one shot throws off the balance of roots to shoots that the tree has gradually developed all those years. The much-reduced leaf surface will not be able to manufacture sufficient food reserves to feed the large root system. As roots starve, the rest of the tree will suffer from insufficient moisture and nutrients.

Another drawback to topping for many tree species is the stimulation of numerous, upright branches that grow straight up. These shoots are typically very soft, weak growth that breaks easily and is more susceptible to attack by diseases and insects. These shoots are rapid growers, so the tree will soon be back to its original height. And, the stubs left by the topping are usually too large for the tree’s defense process of callusing to heal over. Thus, the stubs also become easy prey for insects, diseases and decay. Even those tree species that do not produce such re-growth will be drastically disfigured by topping.

There are alternatives to topping when size reduction is required. Thinning out the canopy by removing selected branches completely back to their point of origin will reduce the tree’s size while maintaining more of its natural shape. The cuts will be less conspicuous and should heal more rapidly. Thinning is a much more time-consuming process and requires a more skilled hand, which usually translates to more expensive.

If the tree isn’t worth the money to do the job right, it’s probably better to remove the tree entirely rather than top repeatedly. In the case of overhead power lines, it really is best to remove the tree and replant with a more appropriate sized plant. But if the tree is worth saving, make the investment in a healthy future.
A new boxwood blight in the US

By Gail Ruhl, Plant Disease Diagnostician

A new boxwood blight, caused by the soil-borne fungus *Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum* (= *Cylindrocladium buxicola*) has joined the ranks of diseases that ‘plague’ boxwoods. This new disease has been confirmed on nursery plants in several states (NC, VA) and on boxwood growing in a residential landscape in CT. The first symptoms of the disease are leaf spots that progress to twig blight and rapid death of the plant (see Figs 1,2,3).

If you suspect that this disease may be affecting your boxwoods, please send samples to us at the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory for confirmation.

Note: common diseases found on boxwood in Indiana include Phytophthora root and crown rot and Volutella stem blight.

For more information see

- **A Boxwood Blight New to the US, Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum (pdf file)** - NPDN Pest Alert and

- **The 'box blight' pathogen: Cylindrocladium pseudonaviculatum (pdf file)** - USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST and NCSU-Department of Plant Pathology

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Leaf spots caused by *Cylindrocladium buxicola* on *Buxus* sp., Ct. Dept. of Ag

Stem lesions caused by *Cylindrocladium buxicola* on *Buxus* sp.; M. Munster, NCSU, Dept. of Plant Pathology
Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Helping others grow!

Monroe County Master Gardener Garden Fair
Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Indiana National Guard Armory

Master Gardener calendar

- **Saturday, April 21**, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Garden Fair, National Guard Armory
- **April 23-May 18**, Front Yard Contest
- **Wednesday, May 9**, 10:30 a.m., Avon Gardens field trip
- **Tuesday, May 22**, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA general meeting
- **Saturday, June 9**, Master Gardener Garden Walk, 3:30-8:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, June 23**, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and **Sunday, June 24**, noon to 4:00 p.m., Bloomington Garden Club Annual Summer Garden Walk