Using the proceeds from 2014 Garden Fair, Master Gardeners announce our 2015 community not-for-profit grant awards.

**South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) has a partnership with Stone Belt and Growing Opportunities** that includes a system of growing hydroponic produce year round in greenhouses. The first greenhouse was completed in January. Growing Opportunities will provide employment training on gardening to low-income persons with disabilities. Individuals in the training will have indoor classroom education and hands-on training in the greenhouse. SCCAP will use their grant monies to provide a reliable irrigation system using electronic pumps for the greenhouse.

**Bloomington Montessori School** has developed an “edible classroom” and successfully installed blueberry bushes in 2014. The second phase of their project will include not only building a garden bed and planting it to provide food for students but also to advance the school botany curriculum and to teach students plant propagation and garden planning. Parents are committed to providing additional support and monies as the project progresses. Their grant will provide funds for the garden construction. The school has enlisted current Master Gardeners to assist with this project.

**Middleway House** has developed a substantial rooftop garden in an urban setting. The garden has become a space that encourages health and wellness by providing organically grown produce to shelter residents and weekly education lessons to the children who attend the Youth Empowerment Services program. This year the children in this program will learn about butterflies and the important role they play in our ecosystem as pollinators. The adults and children will create a butterfly habitat and continue to tend the rooftop garden all summer while continuing their study of butterflies. Grant monies will be used to provide the butterfly kits, soil, plants and seeds, and craft supplies. (continued on p. 5)
So much good news to report that it’s hard to know where to start. Let’s go chronologically.

A roomful of Master Gardeners enjoyed an unusual educational experience at our March 25 general meeting. Many thanks to Lea Woodard for putting together this first-of-its-kind program. Speakers from nine different local gardening programs gave presentations on the work being done at their sites. They provided details on how to become involved with their organization, who to contact and how, and maybe most importantly, what one can expect to experience while working with the group. Lea created a comprehensive booklet for the program and for the first time we have all that information for those groups, and more, that is readily available to the reader at a glance. Log onto our website, www.mcmga.net and print a copy. Follow the Volunteer Opportunities link on our home page to find the pamphlet. Or you can pick one up at the extension office.

**2015 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference scholarship**

The annual drawing was held for the $100 scholarship for the lucky attendee at the 2015 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference. Congratulations to Kathy Baxter!

**Interns meet with Master Gardener Board**

On March 26 a group of board members met with the 2015 interns before the start of their class to share with them information on Master Gardener activities and the variety of volunteer opportunities in the community. Lea’s booklet of concise information was a great help.

**2015 Garden Fair a hit**

A large contingent of Master Gardeners swarmed the National Guard Armory on March 27 to set up for the annual Garden Fair. Time-lapse photography would show the first appearance of yellow tape to outline the booths, then the tables going up one by one, and the gradual influx of vendors setting up their booths, and Master Gardeners everywhere. Scroll down our Facebook page to check out Dave Dunnatchik’s photos of the finished product in 2014. And take note of other posts on the Facebook page as you go.

March 28 was the culmination of six months of Garden Fair planning, and we had fun while doing it. We saw vendors who are now old friends and met some new vendors. Four excellent classes, door prizes galore, free trees and catalogues, sandwiches, desserts, and those award-winning Coney dogs as well as Master Gardener cookbooks made the fair a huge success. Altogether a job well done and truly, a good time was had by all.

**Master Gardener cookbooks make wonderful gifts**

The Master Gardener Cookbook is finished, and it is wonderful! Committee members who made this idea actually happen were Paula Perron, Pamela Hall, and Sydley Skolnik. Soliciting the recipes and garden tips and then assembling the book was a significant time commitment and contribution to our organization. Thank you!
2015 Garden Fair fast facts

By Nancy White

♦ We had our largest vendor count with 32 commercial vendors and 9 non-profits
♦ There were 60 door prizes donated
♦ The estimated paid attendance was 569
♦ Attendance at our educations seminars was 57.
♦ Somewhere around 15 pies were consumed
♦ Over 60 Master Gardeners served on or chaired Garden Fair committees
♦ The weather was damp and cold but warm inside the National Guard Armory
♦ 46 yard signs were seen around town
♦ David Dunatchik served as our first Garden Fair roving photographer
♦ 200 paw-paw trees got new homes
♦ Our first-ever Master Gardener cookbook was a fast seller
♦ The Garden Fair roving reporter reports these comments:
  I came last year, too. Today was great!
  Thanks for having the Garden Fair handicap accessible.
  It was just super.

It’s daffodil season!

By Lynn Courson

The Indiana Daffodil Society (IDS) will be hosting its annual Daffodil Flower Show at Holiday Park in Indianapolis on April 17-18. The flowers will be on display at 2:00 p.m. on April 17 after the judging. If you would like to show your named flowers, please come in the afternoon on April 16 or at 9:00 a.m. on April 17 to enter them.

Would you like to see some more daffodil blooms in their natural state? Come to the fields once used to breed daffodils by Helen Link in Brooklyn, Indiana. The land is now owned by Indiana University. The property is located approximately four miles north of Bradford Woods on Highway 67; turn left on Observatory Road and continue about a mile. Park at the Observatory and walk down the path to the fields. IDS members will be hosting visits throughout the bloom season. There are thousands of flowers. This is a wonderful spring activity for the whole family and beautiful spot for photos.

Both of these events are free. For more information about these events or becoming a member, check Indiana Daffodil Society’s website, indianadaffodilsociety.org.
Although the weather continues to be variable, we should be encouraged by the longer days that spring is officially here. It won't be long until we are all where we want to be—out in our gardens.

The environment in the extension meeting room during our March meeting was one of volunteering and sharing of our knowledge. We heard 10 speakers share information about the organizations they represent and their ongoing need for volunteers to start and keep their gardening projects going.

The meeting was enhanced by the wonderful refreshments provided by our March committee. Special thanks to Jackie Gilkey, Ann McEndarfer, Muff Johnson, Laramie Wilson, Deb Thompson, and Tom Lovell. The refreshments were delicious and beautiful to look at. If it is true that we first taste with our eyes, the colorful offerings presented were very filling. Kudos to all!

We have many activities coming up, including our annual Garden Walk and our next general meeting on May 26. The general meeting will be held at the Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W. Airport Road at 6:30 p.m. Our agenda includes a pot luck dinner, recognition of our graduating interns, and our annual plant swap.

Our support committee for the pot luck dinner includes Cindy Benson (captain), Mary Cusack, Pam Hall, Susan Sachtjen, and Robin Nordstrom. As always, we will need extra hands to help set up, decorate the tables, and clean up at night’s end.

**SCI April 25 hosts Pollination Awareness Event**

The SCI REMC Pollination Awareness Event is April 25, 8:00 a.m. to noon, in the SCI REMC Community Room, located at 300 Morton Avenue in Martinsville. Seating is limited, and RSVPs are required by April 11. To RSVP for this event, call SCI REMC at 1-800-264-REMC (7362).

Pollinators are vital to our future, but they are at risk. As part of its Wildlife Enhancement Program, South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Corporation (SCI REMC) is hosting this event to raise awareness about the plight of pollinators and help people understand how they can help foster these creatures.

The event will include prizes, displays, a chance to “Ask a Bee Keeper,” and a variety of guest speakers, including: Larry Terrell, SCI REMC Vegetation Management; Amy Thompson, Monroe County Extension Office; Joni James, Heron Watch Nature Programs; Roger Graham, Graham’s Bee Works of Morgantown; Kathleen Pough, Indiana Department of Natural Resources; and Martha Miller, Monroe County Soil & Water District. This event is free to attend and it is for anyone interested in knowing more about pollinators and how to support them.
Save the date and grab your walking shoes

By Mary Jane Hall

Our Master Gardeners Garden Walk this year is on Saturday, June 13. The walk includes four very different gardens for you to enjoy. Susan Eastman’s and Diane Gregory’s gardens are adjacent to each other in Sycamore Village, and this will be our starting point. These are small, personal, urban gardens in a condo community. Our next stop will be Mike Bennett’s garden in Park Ridge East, an earth friendly garden spot complete with beehives to show off. Our last stop will be Donna Terry’s garden on Sewell Road, a large country garden with lots of variety.

Each garden presents a unique opportunity to see Master Gardens at their best. Carpooling is always recommended for this event and is an absolute must this year. Sycamore Village, the location of the first gardens to visit, has limited parking. Another parking challenge will be at Donna Terry’s garden on Sewell Road where most of us will need to park across Route 46 on Woodview Drive and then be extra careful as we cross the road.

More details about each stop on the Garden Walk will be available closer to the date. Remember, our annual Garden Walk will not include a pitch-in meal this year; the annual pitch-in dinner will be in May. For the June Garden Walk, we are just stopping by to admire and enjoy fellow gardeners’ gardens!

2015 MCMGA grants announced (continued from page 1)

Trinity Lutheran Church in Ellettsville has started a community garden, tended by church youth, and last year’s harvest was shared with the community food bank at the township trustee’s office. 2014 was such a successful harvest that the church will now enlarge the garden’s size in order to provide more food for local residents in need. The stated mission is to teach gardening skills necessary to grow and maintain a vegetable garden while providing food for others. Parents and other church members will maintain the garden project but enlarging the site will necessitate a sturdy fence to deter deer and other nuisance wildlife. This grant will provide funds for the fence.

The Boys and Girls Club-Ellettsville Unit has a growing population of students and the garden program at the club allows students to get outside and take ownership of the garden care. The leadership of the club plans to build three new hoop houses to cover the existing garden beds. This will allow the program to begin earlier in the spring and to continue in the fall. In addition to the hoop houses, plans are underway to start a composting program. Their goal is to provide training to students and their families in gardening techniques and also to teach appropriate ways to compost waste as a family project. Families will be encouraged to start home composting. Materials provided by the grant will be used to construct the hoop houses and the compost bins.
In the grow
By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue

Q. Lightning struck my maple tree early this morning. The tree has no visible damage on any of the outside bark, but as you can see from the picture, the ground above the root system was blown away in ruts in every direction. Do you have any opinion about the likely survival of this tree? Thanks for any input.

A. That is quite the "striking" photo! I wish I could be more specific, but there really is no way to know the extent of the injury to the tree. I would expect some of the root system to be affected, at the very least, and that could be a gradual process of showing up in the top growth.

I would say there is no need for immediate action; it’s best to take a wait-and-see approach. If you see dieback in the canopy, the dead/dying limbs should be pruned out so they don’t become a hazard. If greater than 50 percent of the canopy ends up dying back, you might consider removing the tree. You’ll find additional information on lightning damage at www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/lightningstrikes.html and www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl/hot11/6-2.html.

Q. I found this vine growing next to a fence gate in my yard. I am having a bit of difficulty identifying it; maybe you can help. Is this poison ivy? Thank you.

A. Good news—this is not poison ivy! It looks like mock strawberry, which would have yellow flowers. The plant is so named for the small, red, seedy fruits that look like strawberries; however, they look a lot better than they taste! See www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/mock_strawberry.htm for more information.
Streptocarpus—a new twist on an old favorite
By Terri Vicenzi

If you are a gardener, chances are good that you love plants of all kinds, both those that grow outdoors and those that thrive on your windowsill. Let me introduce you to a highly rewarding plant which has taken the lovers of African violets by storm: Streptocarpus.

Streptocarpus (also commonly referred to as Cape Primrose due to their superficial resemblance to the genus *Primula*) are members of the Gesneriad family and are ‘first cousins’ to the popular African Violet. Streps enjoy the same easy care as do African violets. They thrive under bright indirect light or fluorescent light culture, cool household temperatures between 65°-75°F, and regular watering and fertilization. Under good care, Streptocarpus are nearly ever blooming, and what blooms they sport! They have large, orchid-like flowers, in a dizzying array of shades of purple, pink, red, white, and yellow. Many of the recently introduced cultivars, especially those out of Russia and Eastern Europe, sport multi-colored and highly ruffled blossoms. They carry dark green strappy leaves, and established plants actually prefer to be grown on the dry side, great for those of us that neglect our plants from time to time. When the leaves droop, give them a drink, and they perk right up. You can even trim the leaves to your desired length and shape!

You won’t easily find these plants in big box stores, but Streptocarpus are often carried by greenhouses and nurseries that specialize in African violets.

If you want to learn more, there are many excellent resources.

Hats off!

New badges!
Deborah Thompson—Certified
Barbara Coffman—Advanced
Jessica Wilson—Advanced
David Dunatchik—Silver
Nancy Miller—Silver
2015 Garden Fair

Photography by David Dunatchik
## Volunteer opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Bloomington Community Orchards**, 2120 S. Highland Avenue [Winslow Woods Park](http://bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org)  
www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org | seasonal  
maintenance, all levels of expertise welcome | Stacey Decker  
getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org  
Growing fruit for the community through educational opportunities |
| **Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park**, 2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington  
www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org | during growing season  
help w/ design and maintenance | Linda Emerson  
812-345-2913 (cell) |
| **Courthouse Native Garden**  
Downtown Square | seasonal | Todd Stevenson  
tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us |
| **Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens**, 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport, IN  
Near Ellettsville | seasonal | Cathy Meyer  
812-349-2805 |
| **Growing Opportunities**  
**Hydroponic Garden**  
Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington | year around | Nicole Wooten  
nicole@insccap.org |
| **Hilltop Garden & Nature Center**  
2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington  
[www.hilltop.indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop](http://www.hilltop.indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop) | year around  
maintenance of gardens for shade, herbs, pollinators, containers | Charlotte Griffin  
812-345-8128 |
| **Hinkle-Garton Farmstead**  
2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington  
[www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead](http://www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead) | year around  
herb, orchard, butterfly, & woodland gardens, invasives removal, soil reclamation | Danielle Bachant-Bell  
812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text)  
hgfvolunteers@gmail.com |
| **Hoosier Hills Food Bank**  
The Food Bank garden is located at Stranger’s Hill Organic Farm, 7480 N. Howard Road near Ellettsville | year around  
plant, harvest, and compost; training provided | Ryan Jochim  
812-334-8374  
hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php |
| **Middle Way House Roof Top Garden**  
garden@middlewayhouse.org | seasonal | Toby Strout, Director  
812-333-7404 |
| **Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard**  
1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington  
mhcfoodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer | year around | Kendra Brewer, Coordinator  
garden@mhcfoodpantry.org |
| **T. C. Steele**  
4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville  
[www.tcsteele.org](http://www.tcsteele.org) | seasonal | Anthony Joslin  
812-988-2785 - leave a message |
| **Wonderlab Garden**  
308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington | seasonal | Nancy White  
812-824-4426  
www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden |
| **Wylie House**  
307 E. Second St., Bloomington | year around | Sherry Wise  
812-855-6224  
www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html |
| **MCMGA Volunteer Opportunities** | year around | Demo Garden: Herman Young (812) 322-5700  
Garden Walk: Mary Jane Hall (812) 345-3985  
Newsletter: Helen Hollingsworth (812) 332-7313  
Program: Sandy Beth (812) 825-8353  
Website: Stephen Anderson (812) 360-1216  
MCMGA help: Amy Thompson (812) 349-2572 |

Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.  
Keep a copy of any volunteer records forms you submit to the extension office.
**Purpose:** The Master Gardener program aims to provide information and technical assistance about gardening and home horticulture through trained and certified volunteers.

The information provided through volunteer service should be unbiased & research based. Many Purdue publications are available free of charge at [www.the-education-store.com](http://www.the-education-store.com). If you’re searching for information and you cannot find suitable research based answers, then feel free to contact Amy.

Participants cannot be paid for their volunteer work, but they may accept reimbursement for supplies or personal travel expenses.

Volunteer efforts should have an educational outcome. Sometimes that outcome may not be immediate, but efforts should, either over the long or short term, result in an increase in horticultural knowledge in the community.

Work in public gardens such as WonderGarden, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center T.C. Steele, Wylie House and others all count, because the ultimate goals of these sites is education.

Volunteer work should not occur at for profit businesses

You are welcome to create your own volunteer opportunities but be sure to ask Amy if the hours you devote will count prior to investing your time.

Purdue updated some of their volunteer policies at the end of 2014. Incoming intern class members were brought into compliance with these new policies when they enrolled in the program this year. Established Master Gardeners will be asked to come into compliance with the new policies when they renew their membership for 2016. Items required include consenting to annual sex offender registry checks, confirming your identity with a government issued photo ID, agreeing to the behavioral expectations, and pest policy. Another big change in the policy is that people completing the volunteer training program will have two years to complete their initial 35 hours of volunteer service required to become a certified Purdue Master Gardener. The updated policy manual can be found here [https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf](https://extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/mg/mg-5-w.pdf).

Annual requirements (January to December each year) to remain active include:

- Volunteer for a minimum of 12 hours each year and report that activity to the Master Gardener county coordinator
- Complete and report a minimum of six hours of educational training

Regular reporting of hours is appreciated and helps you not lose track of the service you provide. I report volunteer hours every year to Purdue at the end of August. (continued on page 11)
Timely reporting of hours so that I can provide with most accurate information in my reporting is appreciated.

If there is a lapse in service of more than four years from the last active reporting year, the Purdue Master Gardener volunteer will be required to retake the Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training, purchase any updated Purdue Master Gardener manuals or materials, retake and pass the Purdue Master Gardener Basic Training exam with a score of 70 percent or more, submit a signed Purdue Master Gardener Volunteer Application and Agreement, provide evidence of a government-issued photo ID, and be subject to the annual sex and violent offender registry checks.

Hours can reported online at [http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg).

If you have questions about which email you used or your assigned password you can contact our office. Jackie is the best contact [jclaffey@purdue.edu](mailto:jclaffey@purdue.edu).

If you changed your password you will need to get a new password through the “forgot password” link on the website. That is handled through campus, and we cannot reset your password; we can only share the one which was originally assigned to you.

The badge order is submitted each month on the second Friday. If, when you enter your hours, you believe you should move up a badge level, it is helpful if you send a separate email to [jclaffey@purdue.edu](mailto:jclaffey@purdue.edu) or [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu)--this gives us a heads-up.

We do not review every Master Gardener’s hours each month. Instead when you hit the SUBMIT button on the web-based reporting system, an email is generated that lets us know JOE GARDENER has updated his hours. IF YOU DO NOT HIT SUBMIT, WE DO NOT REVIEW THE HOURS. Several folks have entered hours and then wondered why they haven’t been approved. It’s because the hours are sitting there but we don’t know they need to be reviewed.

If you are eligible for a new badge, then I submit the order to Purdue, Purdue submits it to a vendor, completed badges are sent to Purdue, and then they are sent on to our office. It can take a while to receive the badge.

If at any point you have any question about your status, think you should have gotten a badge, need your $50 refund from the intern class, or other items, you are more than welcome to contact our office. Email is best [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu), [jclaffey@purdue.edu](mailto:jclaffey@purdue.edu) or [ckpercifield@purdue.edu](mailto:ckpercifield@purdue.edu). Jackie and Cindi can often answer questions so feel free to ask them if you are having trouble reaching me.

If you choose not to use the web-based reporting system (we prefer that you do because it saves staff time), then PLEASE use our form for reporting hours. You can find a pdf and word version here: [http://www.mcmga.net/reporting_hours.htm](http://www.mcmga.net/reporting_hours.htm).
Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Helping others grow!

Visit us on Facebook!

2015 MCMGA Board

President: Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572  ear4841@comcast.net

Vice President—Programs: Susan Lovell
812-339-5914  smlovell@indiana.edu

Vice President—Education: Sandy Belth
812-825-8553  belthbirds@aol.com

Secretary: David Dunatchik
812-332-2331  dddunatchik@att.net

Treasurer: Diana Young
812-339-0040  young-diana@att.net

Journalist: Helen Hollingsworth
812-332-7313  hihollin59@att.net

Director—Communications: Stephen Anderson
812-360-1216  stephen_ace@yahoo.com

Director—Records: Abe Morris
812-606-5577  abemorris7@gmail.com

Director at Large: Mary Cusack
812-824-6366  marycus@gmail.com

Acting Fair Board Representative: Diana Young
812-339-0040  young-diana@att.net

Past President: Nancy White
812-824-4426  nwhite38@hotmail.com

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575  afthompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener Calendar

April 25, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Hendricks County Master Gardeners present Gardening for All Ages, Hendricks County Fairgrounds Complex, 1900 E. Main Street, Danville

April 25, 8:00—noon, SCI REMC Pollination Awareness Event, SCI REMC Community Room, 300 Morton Avenue, Martinsville. RSVPs by April 11

May 26, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA general meeting, Community Building, Fairgrounds, recognition of intern class, pitch-in dinner, and annual plant swap

June 4-6, 2015 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference in Evansville. See www.swimga.org/2015-master-gardener-conference-june-4-6-2015/ for information