



Roots & Shoots

President's Report

It was a great turnout for our General Meeting at the end of March!

Our speaker, Linnea Good, put our minds at ease about Carnivorous plants (not really like the Little Shop of Horrors) but rather fascinating living plants that get most of their nutrients from insects instead of soils. (THAT is a very basic explanation!).

Following that we were treated with the spectacular beauty of African Violets and Gesneriads accompanied with a talk given by Terri Vicenzi. My leaf cutting kit, which Terri gave to all, is duly planted, and now I'm waiting patiently for new growth to appear.

Many thanks to Linnea and Terri for their participation at our meeting!

As we all work in our own gardens this spring, we should also remember what it is to be a member of our Master Gardener organization. Our training was just the first part of being a Master Gardener. We are committed to being part of Purdue Extension – to extend our talents and knowledge out into our community. That is the commitment as a Master Gardener. Yes – we took the classes for our self benefit, we continue to come to meetings for our own education and yet, there is a greater need we are obligated to fill.

The natural world depends on our care. Our care is possible through our knowledge of best gardening practices. Our knowledge is gained, in part, through our Monroe County Master Gardener Association.

Continue to participate in our events. Continue to attend our programs. And continue to volunteer in the many opportunities around our community. This is what it means to be a Master Gardener. Wear your badge proudly as it represents your commitment to a worthwhile association.

Thanks for being part of MCMGA!

It is because of YOU that we continue to have an impact for the greater good, not only in Monroe County, but all our surrounding area as well!

--Mary Cusack, President



What's Inside

Garden Fair News

Volunteer

Opportunities

Upcoming Events

Flower and Patio

Show Report

Garden Fair News

By: Nancy White

Here are some Fast Facts from our April 1, '17 Fair. Be watching for a full report in the May issue of Roots and Shoots.

GARDEN FAIR 2017 FAST FACTS

- Paid attendance was 713 (a new record)
- 400 visitor bags were given away with items from local business and US seed companies.
- 300 black chokeberry bushes found new homes with attendees.
- Numerous decorated cookies, fruit pies, brownies, coney dogs, sandwiches, fruit cups, veggie trays, and drinks sustained the staff, exhibitors, and visitors all day.
- 40 exhibitors provided ample variety and information; 11 of these were new to GF.
- 3 new vendors with garden décor and hardscaping braved the cool weather to set up tents outside the armory that attracted many passersby.
- Over 50 MGs served on planning committees, prepared food, worked at set up, worked on event day, and helped to publicize the Fair, some wearing several hats.
- Even though sun and mild weather were predicted, it was chilly with no sun most of the day. (We're getting used to that!)
- All 4 education sessions were well attended.
- Barb Coffman's lovely photo, "Peggy's Porch" adorned the front of the GF booklet.

GARDEN FAIR YARD SIGNS

Because of a printing error, the newest yard signs are printed on only one side. The sign company will print the second side for us this month. If you have a yard sign that is printed on only one side, please return it to the Extension Office during April. If you cannot do this, call Nancy White and she will pick it up.

"Garden as though you will live forever."

—William Kent

You are invited! Upcoming Endwright Center Garden Series Programs (All = 1 hr. Education Credit)

Saturday, April 29, 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Planning and Planting a Perennial Bed

Ann Robins presents a program on creating a perennial garden that will withstand browsing, drought, and floods, and provide a succession of flowering plants from early spring through late fall. An ecologist with many years of experience, Ann has gardened in Zones 3 through 8, in full sun and deep shade, in soils ranging from sandy to acid peat to clay to karst, in climates ranging from 365 to 79 frost-free days, and with annual rainfall ranging from 10 to 60 inches. In Indiana, she has designed three landscapes using mostly native plants. Weather permitting, we may be able to visit Ann's home gardens, which are within walking distance of the Endwright Center.

Where: Endwright Center, 631 W Edgewood Dr, Ellettsville

Cost: \$5.00. **Free** for Endwright Center members

To register: Call the Endwright Center at [812-876-3383, ext. 3](tel:812-876-3383)

If you need a ride, let the Endwright Center know. We may be able to arrange transportation.

Thursday, May 4, 3:00-5:00 pm

Gardening Above the Ground: Container Gardening and Raised Beds

Dreaming of window boxes and hanging baskets, or an herb and kitchen garden by the back door? Sherry Wise, Outdoor Interpreter at the Wylie House Museum and Heirloom Gardens, returns to lead a class on growing beautiful and healthy plants in containers or in raised beds. Sherry will cover the advantages of growing above ground, including ease of access and increased productivity, how to plant a container, how to make a raised bed, soil preparation, and plant care. For the hands-on part of the class, Ellettsville Main Street has again invited our group to plant the hanging baskets that will brighten downtown Sale Street this year.

Where: Endwright Center, 631 W Edgewood Dr, Ellettsville

Cost: \$5.00. **Free** for Endwright Center members

To register: Call the Endwright Center at [812-876-3383, ext. 3](tel:812-876-3383)

If you need a ride, let the Endwright Center know or contact Rural Transit directly at [812-876-3383](tel:812-876-3383) or <http://www.area10agency.org/ruraltransit/>.

Friday, May 5, 1:30-3:00 pm

A Private Tour of Eco Logic Nursery

Owner and founder Spencer Goehl started Eco Logic in 1999 with the dream of restoring ecosystems throughout Indiana by restoring native plant communities, educating the public about the value of native plants, and improving understanding of the role humans play in maintaining biological diversity. From a small firm with one crew run by the owners, Eco Logic has grown into one of the premier ecological restoration firms in the Midwest. Its clients include Indy Parks, Sycamore Land Trust, IU, City of Bloomington, and others. Its service area extends to neighboring states. After the tour, we will have time to visit the native plant nursery.

If you aren't able to join us for the tour, Eco Logic is open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on these Saturdays this spring: April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27, and June 3.

Where: Meet at Eco Logic, 8685 West Vernal Pike, Bloomington

Cost: Free **BUT please register** by Wednesday, May 3, so we can tell our hosts how many people are attending.

To register: Call the Endwright Center at [812-876-3383, ext. 3](tel:812-876-3383)

If you need a ride, let the Endwright Center know or contact Rural Transit directly at [812-876-3383](tel:812-876-3383) or <http://www.area10agency.org/ruraltransit/>.

For more information on Eco Logic: <http://ecologicindiana.com/>, or call [812-876-7711](tel:812-876-7711).

Welcoming Spring at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show...

By Maren Claus, Director At Large

The Indiana Flower and Patio Show was held from March 11 through March 19th at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN. Monroe County Master Gardeners were responsible for staffing the “Purdue Plant Info To Go” booth on Sunday, March 12th. Monroe County volunteers included several board members and one of our new interns, Hana Cleveland. Monroe County volunteers made 75 Direct Educational Contacts with visitors during our Sunday afternoon shift. John Orick, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator, reports that Master Gardeners made a total of 1,300 Direct Educational Contacts with visitors to the Indiana Flower and Patio Show. We would like to thank our local volunteers for their contribution to this impressive educational outreach: **Cindy Benson, Hana Cleveland, David Dunatchik, Evelyn Harrell, and Jeff Schafer.**



Volunteers receive free admission, credit for volunteer hours including travel to and from Indianapolis, and an opportunity to explore the Indiana Flower and Patio Show. This year there were over 30 gardens on display, ranging from backyard budget gardens to showcase gardens competing in the Belgrade Challenge. The Indiana Flower and Patio Show also included speakers, workshops, vendors with samples, a plant market and fresh-cut-flowers-to-go. Join us next year!



Evelyn Harrell, Past President

Volunteering at the IN Flower and Patio show was an excellent opportunity to get to know other master gardeners and practice answering unique questions related to gardening. During my shift I learned how to use the new App for Pest Identification and other Purdue Extension resources to educate gardeners and landscapers from all over Indiana. Overall, I ended up learning a lot! Some memorable questions included -"why doesn't my Paw Paw tree produce fruit?" "My wisteria is almost ten years old and hasn't flowered yet, what am I doing wrong?" "How do I grow blueberries?" "You mean, I could have a green thumb if I took this class?!" I found that I was more knowledgeable than I thought when it came to answering questions, and as we all know there is still so much to learn. This was a great experience and I will definitely volunteer again next year!

--Hana Cleveland, Master Gardener Intern

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Opportunities:

GIRLS INCORPORATED

Girls Inc. has rented a 4 x 8 foot raised bed in the Butler Park Community Garden, and needs someone with gardening expertise to help them plan, plant, and oversee it as an educational project for their members. Contact June Taylor at Girls Inc., [812-336-7313](tel:812-336-7313), or jtaylor@monroe.girls-inc.org

Upcoming Events:

Twelfth Annual Daisy Days Plant Sale and Museum Open Day

Bloomington Restorations, Inc. invites you to the 2017 Twelfth Annual Daisy Days Plant Sale and Museum Open Day on Saturday, April 29, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, April 30, from 1-4 p.m. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, IU biologist Dr. Stephen Bell will lead a free birding walk through the farmstead grounds, a haven for numerous species throughout the year including resident bluebirds.

Native perennials sourced from Spence Restoration Nursery, since 1998 Indiana's premier native plant supplier, will be a primary emphasis of the plant sale. The plants will include those suitable for rain gardens, butterfly gardens and as primary pollinator food sources. Also available will be landscape flowers, spring-planted bulbs and miscellaneous trees and shrubs. Experts are on-hand during the sale to answer questions and guide selections, including members of Monroe County's Identify and Reduce Invasive Species (MC-IRIS) and Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS.) The proceeds from the sale will benefit ongoing gardening efforts at the site.

Hidden Treasures Garden Tour—Old Louisville

The 24th Annual Hidden Treasures Garden Tour in Old Louisville, Kentucky focuses on urban gardens, highlighting the creative use of plantings and hardscape in limited spaces.

This year's tour on June 10-11 will take place in the grand St. James Court area of Old Louisville, tracing the footprint of the Southern Exposition from the late 1800's. Official events associated with the garden tour are Art in the Garden, a hospitality room, a silent auction and garden vendor shops. And, of course, an afternoon stroll through a National Historic Landmarks District is always interesting! Event times are from 10:00 to 5:00 both days.

We offer a special group rate of \$12 per ticket for groups of 10 or more. Group tickets must be purchased together, in advance. There are no refunds - the tour takes place rain or shine. If you're interested in purchasing group tickets, please let me know!

Individual tickets are available in advance for \$15 on our website: oldlouisvillegardentour.com (\$20 day of tour). Additional information and photos of past tours are also available on the website.

--Kris Stewart, Hidden Treasures Garden Tour

In Memoriam:

Susan Sachtjen died this week. Susan lived in Greene County with her husband, Don, and was a member of Purdue Master Gardeners both in Greene and Monroe Counties. Our *folia and flora* indicates that she was certified in 2008, and in 2016 she was honored with the Gold Status at the statewide Master Gardener Conference. That significant level of achievement meant that Susan had accumulated at least 100 hours in horticultural education and volunteered more than 1000 hours of her time to teaching others about how to grow whatever their hearts desired.

Monroe County members will remember that Susan was always first in line to serve. You may remember her from her hours at the Master Gardener booths at the State Fair and the Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show, and at several different booths at our Garden Fair. All that, and more that she did for us, does not touch on her work with the Greene County Master Gardener organization.

I first met Susan when she served as a police officer in Spencer many years ago. I called her about a month ago to ask her to help again this year with the Spring Thyme Café. She said she was recuperating from a fall, but expected to be up and about in time to join us on Saturday. I called her again last Monday to follow up on that, but my message went to voice mail. Still, until I learned Saturday morning of her death, I was watching for her, expecting to see her roll in on her motorized scooter, reporting for duty. Because that's what Susan did, reporting for duty wherever she was needed.

--Evelyn Harrell, Past President

Dandelion Jelly

from *Master Gardener Best* cookbook. (pg. 66)

What a wonderful and fun way to use all those sunny blossoms this Spring instead of just mowing them down. This recipe was submitted for our cookbook by MG Esther Minnick.

1 ½ qts Dandelion blossoms – rinsed well
 3 cups water
 1 teas lemon extract
 ½ teas orange extract
 1 box powdered pectin
 4 ½ cups sugar



1. Boil rinsed blossoms in the water for 3 minutes. Drain well – saving the infused water.
2. Mix extracts with 2 ¾ cups dandelion infusion.
3. Mix in pectin and bring back to a full rolling boil.
4. Add sugar all at once and again bring back to a full rolling boil.
5. Boil 3 minutes – stir constantly.
6. Skim foam if necessary and pour jelly into hot ,sterilized jelly jars.
7. Seal and process in water bath canner for 10 minutes.

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

(812) 349-2575

2017 MCMGA Board

- President:** Mary Cusack
812-824-6366 marycus@gmail.com
- Vice President:** Trish Gustaitis 812-322-9658 pgustait@gmail.com
- Education Director:** Sandy Belth
812-825-8353 belthbirds@aol.com
- Meeting Director:** Jeff Schafer
812-325-3130
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
- Secretary:** David Dunatchik
812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
- Treasurer:** Dorothea Cole-Kiser
812-606-2834 dkiseerfineline@att.net
- Journalist:** Heather Daley 812-325-6322
daleyheather7@gmail.com
- Communications Director:** Stephen Anderson 812-360-1216
stephen_aee@yahoo.com
- Records Director:** Abe Morris
812-606-5577 abemorris7@gmail.com
- Director at Large:** Maren Claus
Please refer to folia and fauna
- Fair Board Representative:** Diana Young
812-339-0040 young-diana@att.net
- Past President:** Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net
- Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mcmga.net

Spaces are Limited! Registration ends in May!

The Purdue Master Gardener Program presents:

Celebrating Nature's Aesthetics: a choice of three tours highlighting some of Monroe County's diverse gardens.



Monroe County Fairgrounds Gate 3
5800 W Airport Rd, Bloomington, IN 47403
Friday, June 16, 2017

About MCMGA ...

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
Inclusion of products or companies in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement.

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners Association**

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

