

ROOTS AND SHOOTS



August 2008 Volume 24, Issue 8

2008 County Fair a Success

By
Diana
Young

Esther Minnick and I want to thank everyone who helped with the county fair. Without your help, we could not have gotten everything done. The exhibits looked great, and we received several compliments. We had several new exhibitors from the Master Gardeners.

A special thank you goes to Bethany Murray for doing such a good job with the garden. She gave tours Monday through Wednesday. Several people were drawn to the garden by a poster she had on display. She also received Reserve Grand Champion on her sun flower seeds.

The garden chats were well received. Sherry Wise and Dan Knudsen were two of our speakers. Everyone who attended will receive one education hour for each night, so be sure to turn in your hours.

We had a good fair and are already discussing events for next year. Congratulations to all and thank you for all the great help.

An Update on Volunteer and Education Record Tracking Hours

By
M. Susan
Osborne,
Director of
Records

In the early 1970's interest, when strong interest in home gardening blossomed, Master Gardener programs developed to help gardeners and their communities learn about gardening. To be an active Master Gardener (MG), members volunteer their time and earn educational hours as well as pay an annual \$10 membership fee. Currently Monroe County Master Gardener Association (MCMGA) has over 80 active members. Last month 15 Monroe County Master Gardeners received certifications as well as advanced, bronze and silver badges. And we would like to distribute more of those badges!

Achievement levels within the Purdue Master Gardener Program include certified, advanced, bronze, silver, and gold. Here are the requirements for each level; hours are cumulative:

| Level | Volunteer Hours | Education Hours |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Certification | 35 | 35 |
| Advanced | 60 | 45 |
| Bronze | 200 | 60 |
| Silver | 500 | 75 |
| Gold | 1000 | 100 |

Gold Master Gardeners are recognized at the State Master Gardener Conference in the year they reach that certification level.

(continued on page 3)

Member News



By
Nancy
White

Master Gardeners were well represented in the Open Class entries of flowers and vegetables at the Monroe County Fair. Diana Young and Esther Minnick coordinated the open class flowers, and Mary Jane Hall officiated with the adult and children's flower arrangements. Many members volunteered with these events, and several brought their own entries. Thanks to all who participated to make this a special event.

Share Special Master Gardener Memories

The planning has begun for our 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Monroe County Master Gardener's Association. We can use your help in this planning. If you have a special memory or humorous incident from your training class, an interesting garden experience, or just a comment on your time as a Master Gardener, forward these thoughts and comments to Nancy White. We plan to share these in some format in the future with our membership. Be sure to attach your name (unless you prefer to be a "mystery contributor.") Send these to Nancy at ["nwhite38@hotmail.com"](mailto:nwhite38@hotmail.com) or send to 3744 Mesa Lane, Bloomington, 47401.

Bob Baird's Work Recognized with Design Award

Congratulations to MG Vice President Bob Baird on receiving a Merit Award for garden design by the U.S. Perennial Plant Association. Bob, who is a landscape professional with Designscape, received his award in Philadelphia recently.

Mark Your Calendar for the September General Meeting

Tuesday, September 23 is the date for our next general meeting. We will meet at the Monroe County Library at 6:30 p.m. in Room 1B in the basement level. After a business meeting, two hours of education hours are available with topics related to fall garden planning and maintenance. Put this event on your calendar and plan to be with us for this meeting.

Planning Ahead

Monday, December 1 will mark the date of our 20th Birthday Celebration of our organization's founding. A festive dinner is planned at Terry's at Westbury with our charter members as special guests. Invitations will be sent to all current members and their guests in the fall. Be watching for your invitation, and be sure to RSVP so we can make our meal plans.

August Field Trip to Elsbury Greenhouses Cancelled

The field trip planned for Thursday, August 14 to Elsbury Greenhouses in Hope, IN has been cancelled. Mr. Elsbury will not be growing his own poinsettias this year due to increased fuel costs. We will make contact with him in the future and perhaps this can be rescheduled for another year. Stay tuned for a date in the fall when we may be able to offer another trip of interest. We regret the cancellation.

Calendar

Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., fall General Meeting, Monroe County Public Library, Room 1B

Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m., advanced educational workshop, *Water: Make Every Drop Count*, at First United Church, East Third Street

Monday, December 1, 20th anniversary of MCMGA, Terry's at Westbury, time TBA

Update on Record Tracking Hours (continued from page 1)

MCMGA volunteer service hours policy printed in *Folia and Flora* states, “Volunteering is the backbone of the Master Gardener concept. Earning hours is important, but choosing and continuing with projects and activities you enjoy is what the Association is all about.” And that is what, I believe, makes advancement successful.

According to the Purdue guidelines, volunteer hours must have an educational component. Master Gardeners do not just provide free labor. Almost any project can be adjusted so that an educational element is added, and then the volunteer effort counts. For example, weeding a garden does not count toward volunteer hours, but advising a neighbor about which plants are weeds is acceptable.

Master Gardeners have many volunteer opportunities, such as Monroe County Fair and Demonstration Garden as well as the Indiana State Fair, WonderLab, and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center. *Roots and Shoots* offers a complete list of volunteer opportunities and periodically an email announcement lets us know when additional opportunities become available. Advanced educational hours may be earned by attending programs described in *Roots and Shoots*, such as the AHS Symposium in February as well as the educational portion of the MCMGA general meetings every other month. The education and program directors invest a lot of effort into innovative programs as part of general meetings to give us the chance to continue to learn. If you have questions about what counts toward education or volunteer hours, contact Amy Thompson at the Extension Office.

Since the beginning of MGs in Monroe County, over 125 individuals have submitted hours. However, many members contribute hours to the community and continue their education but neglect to submit the hours for credit. Each county’s MG program submits to Purdue each September their annual totals in education and volunteer work for the year, and our board’s goal is to submit numbers that truly reflect our members work toward a stronger, more active community. So I encourage all of you to complete the volunteer/education hour sheet and submit it to the Extension Office as soon as possible.

Monroe County has 64 certified members, 21 advanced, 13 bronze, 2 silver and 2 gold. So far in 2008, members have submitted a total of 1992 volunteer hours and 392 educational hours. Since MG records began, members have submitted over 18,000 hours. That’s a lot of knowledge learned and work volunteered, but for our strength to increase, we need everyone to continue or to begin submitting their hours. Forty-eight badges were ordered in 2007, and fifteen badges have been ordered in 2008.

Since my appointment as Director of Records I have studied previous hour submissions and records and created a spreadsheet that reflects accurate hour balances. If you have any questions about your hours, please contact me. I want to be sure that your efforts are recognized, recorded, and rewarded. Let’s begin a campaign to increase our hour submissions and report them to the Extension Office. Let’s challenge ourselves to turn in our hours. You can find the Volunteer Hour Worksheet on the MCMGA Website (www.mcmga.net).

Most important we need to remember that Master Gardening is a life-long opportunity, and we are required to have fun. We want to continue to keep our gardening interest alive, attend advanced educational classes, earn volunteer hours, have fun, meet other gardeners, attend general meetings (a great mixer!), and submit our hours to the Extension Office to be recorded. You might be surprised how quickly you advance. I hope I hear from you soon and that the active list continues to grow.

From the President's Desk



August has arrived and that means several things: the Monroe County Fair is over, the Japanese beetles have made themselves at home in our gardens, and the dog days of summer have arrived. Let's face it; August is not a friendly month for gardeners. It's often too hot and muggy to do much more than sneak out in the early morning hours to work in the garden, and rainfall is often sporadic, so little besides the weeds are growing anyway.

By Marilyn Brinley At least August brings the promise of produce. Tomatoes are weighing heavily on the vines, while peppers are ripening and beans are awaiting harvest. Soon it will be time to harvest the garlic planted earlier, and visions of corn dance in our heads. August is also a good time to look around and evaluate the garden. What worked well this year? What didn't? What plants need to be thinned, moved or removed come fall?

August is also the time of year when we Master Gardeners need to sit down and record our volunteer and education hours so that we can send them in to the Extension Office. Oddly enough, Purdue likes to have our yearly totals in mid-September, so this is the time to let them know that we have been busy and active in our local organization. Hmm, maybe August isn't so bad of a month after all.

MCMGA Will Present An Advanced Education Workshop in October

By M. Susan Osborne An Advanced Educational Workshop, *Water: Make Every Drop Count*, will to be held on October 18, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First United Church, East Third Street. Registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Keynote speaker is Dr. William (Bill) Jones of IU School of Public and Environment Affairs. Session speakers include Dr. Michael Simmons, Program Specialist for the City of Bloomington Indiana Parks and Recreation Department on xeriscaping and watering; Ms. Cathy Meyer, Naturalist at Monroe County Parks and Recreation on rain gardens; and Ms. Linda Thompson, Senior Environmental Planner for the City of Bloomington's Planning Department on sustainability.

Registration information will be announced next month.

Ways to Extend the Gardening Season

Season Extension

Saturday, September 20, 2008

9:00 a.m.—noon at the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead

Rain date September 27

City of Bloomington's Michael Simmons and MHC's Stephanie Solomon present the various methods of season extension in our area. Join us to learn in the classroom and hands on how to construct weather barriers and extend your growing season! Please register through People's University 349-3700.

MCMGA Members Visit Eaton Daylily Farm

By
Nancy
White

The July field trip to the Eaton Daylily Farm on Possom Trot Road in Brown County was well attended by several carloads of MGs and their guests. Tom and Agnes Eaton and their son, Kenneth, gave us a tour of their many acres of daylilies, and Tom told us of his personal techniques for cross pollinating and developing new varieties. Since he doesn't keep track of his stock with signs or tags, each year surprises come and new colors and shapes magi-



Row one, left to right, Joe Phillips, Joanna Howe, Martha Sattinger,

Row two, Mary Jane Hall, Mary Hawkins, Larime Wilson, Nancy Fee, Marilyn Brinley, Nancy White

Row three, Jo Prentice, Herman Young, Diane Locke, Gloria Noone



cally appear. He graciously dug and sold ample clumps of daylilies to those who wanted to take some home. All who attended were amazed at the large pond, vegetable gardens, hostas, and the Eaton's unique home. If you didn't get to go this year, plan to visit this wonderful place at a later date. It is open to the public. And be sure to ask Barb Hays about her "mystery lily."

(See article below.)

Mystery Daylily

By
Barbara
Hays

With the overwhelming array of flowers to choose from on our recent daylily outing, many of my fellow field trippers probably thought I was nuts to purchase only one daylily and one not yet in bloom. Here's what happened. I wasn't going to buy ANYTHING. In fact, I had no money on me. When I saw a tall, late bloomer, with over 20 buds on one of several stalks, I had to have it no matter what the color of the bloom. So I borrowed five dollars and asked our host to put the shovel to it. See what I was rewarded with? Not spectacular, but very pretty and "very giving," as Mary Jane Hall called it.



A Posh Book on Garden Patterns



A Pattern Garden: The Essential Elements of Garden Making by Valerie Easton, Timber Press, 2007, 207 pp. plus bibliography and index.

By
M. Susan
Osborne

If you attended the 2008 American Horticultural Societies Symposium, *Patterns in the Garden*, this past February in Indianapolis, you had the pleasure of hearing the author of this book speak about why to use patterns in gardening. The lecture was a delightful continuation of this book. In *A Pattern Garden* she clearly expresses her belief that “patterns are the language of design; a way of codifying the essential elements—like water features, pergolas, patios—to make gardens exciting and satisfying, relaxing and comfortable.” I believe the majority of gardeners are looking for ways in which to do just that;

to create gardens *they* enjoy lingering within and gardens that *encourage others* to visit and enjoy as well. This book is about creating our very own satisfying garden space(s) by using garden patterns.

Easton’s approach to garden design is, loosely but not solely, based on the Japanese concept of *wabi-sabi*—an ancient Japanese art where “blemishes and irregularities are good things that bestow character and ensure modesty.” As I read her explanation of *wabi-sabi*, I thought how very true of my gardens—unconventional! Easton emphasizes the use of personal instincts and human nature in which to build the garden. Most important, the book constantly encourages you to recognize and use what pleases you the individual, you the personal gardener, and use that as the basis for the garden design.

In *A Pattern Garden*, Easton identifies fourteen garden patterns—scale, garden rooms, pathways, bridges, gates shelters, borders, patios sheds, focal points, water, ornamentation, containers, and materials. She sees these as a means in which to change any yard into a pleasant and unforgettable retreat. Easton emphasizes the garden as life and as you read through the first chapter—*The Essence of the Garden*—her words encourage you to use your senses to absorb the environment and to rely on your deepest personal instincts to create the garden space. She says that by doing so, we are encouraged to use patterns that we enjoy and are meaningful to our own individuality.

A Pattern Garden contains ten chapters, a foreword by Suzy Bales (editor for *Gardening and Outdoor Living* at Better Homes and Gardens), and the standard introduction material. The photographers are Jacqueline Koch, Richard Hartlage, and Allan Mandell. As always, I must remark on the pictures and say the photography is stunning. There are full pages of breathtaking photos and as Easton states, “an education to see gardens through their eyes and their lenses.” She also focuses on the work of architect Christopher Alexander, who identifies urban design elements for universal appeal.

Chapters in the book are as follows: chapter one—context, change, and pattern making; chapter two site—weather, soil, topography, and views; chapter three scale—relationship of garden to house; chapter four journey—room patterns, pathways, bridges and gates; chapter five enclosure and exposure—shelters and borders; chapter six destination—patios, shed, focal points; chapter seven water—our basic element; chapter eight art—ornamentation and containers; chapter nine shape—material patterns; and chapter ten plants—making choices.

In chapter ten Easton says, “Plants are only a small part of garden pattern making.” And when you think of that concept, she’s right because you make choices before you plant.

(continued on page 8)

Plant Bug Damage

By
Lee
Townsend

Four lined plant bugs are sap feeding insects that leave distinctive spots where they fed on plant foliage. These insects with a trendy impact color feed on many woody ornamentals but are especially problematic on herbs, mint, and flowering annuals. Plant tissue around the insertion point of their mouthparts turns light green and eventually blackens. A distinct spot usually can be seen in the center of the lesion. Feeding damage by winged adults often is scattered and not noticeable but the wingless nymphs are limited to crawling so they feed over a limited area leaving concentrated areas of spotting.

There is one generation each year with damage most apparent in mid-summer. Insecticidal soap can provide acceptable control of the immature stages but are less effective against the mobile adults because the insects must be hit with spray droplets to be killed. Physical protection of herbs and mints with a cheesecloth covering may be an acceptable alternative for small plantings.



from <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm>

A Posh Book on Garden Patterns (continued from page 7)

It was interesting how she organized all the chapters separately and brought them together as one. Each element that she writes about is vital to a garden. You may not use all the elements in one place, but you may use all of them in some manner to create a dynamic personal garden space. Also, the book not only contains great photography and explanations of garden patterns, but also includes side articles within the chapters on such topics as moon gates, water plants, deer scare, successful potting, mosaics, and environmentally friendly materials. The articles complement and offer emphasis to her chapter topics.

A Pattern Garden is not a textbook, but a book of encouragement—a roadmap for your garden journey. This book will help you to identify what pleases you. You are encouraged to experience yourself, to involve the imagination, to feel, to touch, to see, to smell, to inhabit your gardens. Each chapter offers uniqueness to the patterns she discusses, causing your imagination to soar. *A Pattern Garden* is another must read on your summer reading list and a delight for gardeners since it emphasizes how the pattern garden and all its elements are about pleasing you.

Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

| Location | Time | Jobs | Contact |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Hilltop Garden and Nature Center | year around | various | Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu |
| Templeton Garden Project | spring/fall | teaching children | Nancy White, 824-4426 |
| MG Demonstration Garden | seasonal | various | Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com |
| T. C. Steele SHS | seasonal | various | Davie Kean, 988-2785 |
| Cheryl's Garden | seasonal | various | Larime Wilson, 333-9705 |
| Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens | seasonal | various | Cathy Meyer, 349,2800 |
| MCMGA Horticulture Hotline | year around | inquiries and research | Amy Thompson, 349-2575 |
| MCMGA Speakers Bureau | year around | various | Amy Thompson, 349-2575 |
| MCMGA Newsletter | year around | writing, stapling, labeling | Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313 |
| MCMGA Web Site | year around | various | Barbara Hays, 332-4032 |
| MG Program Committee Member | year around | plan MG programs | Nancy White, 824-4426 Bob Baird, 331-1308 |
| Middle Way House | seasonal | various | Clara Wilson, 333-7404 |
| Wylie House | year around | various | Sherry Wise, 855-6224 |
| Mother Hubbard's Cupboard | year around | education, resource | Libby Yarnell, 355-6843 |
| WonderLab Garden | 2 times monthly | various | Nancy White, 824-4426 |

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

When Lightning Strikes, Is the Tree Out?

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

When lightning strikes a tree, it will most certainly leave a calling card, but it can be difficult to predict whether that injury is "strike one, two or three." There are many variables to consider, including the species, moisture content, and relative health of the tree at the time of the strike and the intensity of the strike.

Lightning can strike just about anything tall, but trees do seem to be a frequent target. And the same tree can be hit more than once. Moist tissues, which are vessels for water and carbohydrates just inside the tree bark, are better conductors of electricity than the drier wood in the center of the tree. The electrical current creates intense heating, often resulting in the bark virtually exploding off in large strips. Some trees may explode from the center of the tree, while others may have a narrow, but long, split in the trunk. If the surface of the bark is soaked with rain, the current may travel outside the trunk, resulting in less damage.

Once the storm has passed and it is safe to assess the damage, the first priority is to determine whether the tree poses a hazard to people or property. Dangling limbs, jagged branches, etc. should be removed immediately. Large limbs that cannot be safely reached from the ground call for a certified professional arborist. An arborist can also help you assess if the tree will continue to pose a hazard and should be removed.

Everybody wants to know if their tree will die from the injury and, in many cases, it just cannot be accurately predicted. We've all seen examples of trees that live for years with extensive injury. But damaged trees will also be more susceptible to insect pests, disease, decay and environmental stress. So while they may not die immediately from a lightning strike, the damage can continue to take its toll over the next several months or years.

You can always take a wait and see approach, as long as the tree does not appear to pose a danger to people or property. Purdue Extension has several publications that can help you learn proper pruning techniques, as well as how to find a professional arborist.

HO-4 Pruning Trees and Shrubs

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-4.pdf>

Coping With Storm Damaged Trees

<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/stormtrees.html>

Hire An Arborist

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-FAQ-13-W.pdf>

Storms and Trees

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-FAQ-12-W.pdf>

Vegetables: Tomatoes and Onions

Submitted by Amy Thompson
Look for tomatoes with golden-yellow, pink or white spots on the fruit. This type of damage is often caused by stinkbugs, the shield-shaped insects that emit a foul odor when disturbed. The stinkbug injures the fruit by using its mouthparts to probe. Color development is affected where probing occurs, which results in the off color, cloudy spots.

Heavy feeding causes spots to spread, so tomatoes may develop a golden color. If you look closely, you can see the pinprick-sized puncture wounds in the middle of the spots. Hard, whitish, callous tissue develops beneath the skin at the area of wounding. By the time you notice the spots, stinkbugs are often gone, so control is impossible.

Affected tomatoes are safe to eat. (WU)

From <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=2063>

Onions are ready to harvest when about half the plants have tops that have fallen over. This is a sign that the onions are mature and need to be pulled out of the ground as bulbs may sunburn without the foliage to protect them. The secret to onions keeping well is to allow the tops to dry completely before storage. Move onions to a shaded, well-ventilated area after harvest. After tops are completely dry, store in a cool, dry location. Large-necked onions take more time to dry than small-necked onions such as Bermuda types. Avoid storage in plastic bags because the lack of air circulation will shorten storage life. Use an open, mesh bag instead. (WU)

From <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=2063>

Members Contribute Volunteer Hours in Demonstration Garden



By
Bethany
Murray

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds a success! We received a lot of positive feedback from many people on the beauty of the garden this year. Thank you to everyone who came out early in the spring for clean up day and especially to those who returned July 15 for our final weeding and mulching work session. I would like to personally recognize the following individuals who donated a significant portion of time to working in the Demo Garden and/or adopted a plot this year:

Joanna Howe (Herb Garden)
Peggy Rees-Krebs (Shade Garden)
Vina Kinman (Shade Garden)
Dorothea Kiser (Vegetable/ Salad Garden)
Diana Young (Heirloom Plants, Seed-saving)
Herman Young (Heirloom Plants, Seed-saving)

Esther Minnick (Heirloom Plants, Flowers)
Vickie St. Myers (Raised Bed, Variegated plants)
Jeanie Cox (Raised Bed, Variegated plants)
Ramsay Harik (Butterfly Garden)
Marcia Ankrom (Raised Bed)
Dan Nichols (General Assistance).

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Cooperative Extension Service
Health Building
119 West Seventh Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

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Are your volunteer and education hours up to date?

Please report your hours to the Extension Office as soon as possible,
because our members' totals are due at Purdue next month!

2008 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

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In This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|----|
| 2008 County Fair a Success | 1 |
| An Update on MG Hours | 1 |
| Member News | 2 |
| From the President's Desk | 4 |
| Advanced Workshop in October | 4 |
| Extend Garden Season | 4 |
| MGs Visit Eaton Daylily Farm | 5 |
| Mystery Daylily | 5 |
| Hilltop 2008 Fall Classes | 6 |
| GOING LOCAL Week | 6 |
| Garden Patterns: Book Review | 7 |
| Plant Bug Damage | 8 |
| Volunteer Opportunities | 9 |
| When Lightning Strikes Trees | 10 |
| Vegetables: Tomatoes and Onions | 11 |
| Members Contribute Hours | 11 |