



# Roots and Shoots

December 2006 Volume 22, Issue 12

## Renew Your Membership by January 1!

### 2007 FOLIA AND FLORA AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

Our membership guide, *Folia and Flora*, contains everything you need to know about Monroe County Master Gardeners, including names and addresses of fellow members, members of the board of directors, new volunteer and education hours policies, and revised bylaws.

To be included, send your dues to Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc., 119 West 7th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404 along with your membership application by January 1. Membership blanks were included in the October issue of *Roots and Shoots* and are also available at the Extension Office and online at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net). Dues are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for members in the same household.

### 2007 MCMGA OFFICERS SLATE

This slate of nominees for MCMGA offices will be voted upon at the Tuesday, January 23 general meeting at the Monroe County Public Library.

President	Marilyn Brinley
Vice Presidents	Ann McEndarfer & Nancy White
Treasurers	Diana Young & Dale Calabrese
Secretaries	Barbara Cappy & Mary Hawkins
Journalists	Helen Hollingsworth & Susan Osborne
State Advisory Board	Eugene Brancolini & Herman Young

### MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



The annual Holiday Dinner was held on November 28 at First United Church. An excellent carry-in buffet was enjoyed before the program on Poinsettias was given by

Gordon Elsbury from Elsbury Nursery and Greenhouses in Hope, Indiana. Many of Gordon's lovely varieties went home with MG members in attendance. As part of the presentation, we learned how to nurture our plants all year and even how to get them to re-bloom next holiday season. Those who attended and are Advanced Master Gardeners are eligible to receive one hour of Advanced Training Credit. Be sure to turn that in on your final tally for 2006. If you missed the party, be sure to join us next year.

Many thanks to the Holiday Dinner Committee who prepared food items and decorated the site. We appreciate the work of Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White, Gloria Noone, Preston Gwinn, Diana Young, and Esther Minnick.

#### **New Master Gardener Status Earned in 2006**

At the recent Holiday Dinner, members who earned MG badges during 2006 were recognized:

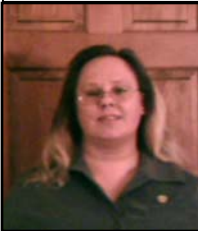
**Certified:** Nita Horrar, Debbie Lorton, Dan Nichols, Jeff Schafer, Lauryl Lefebure, Karen Bish, Sandra Olvey, Judy Hawkins, Al Cooper

**Advanced:** Carol Cobine, Gloria Noone

**Bronze:** Marilyn Brinley, Nancy White

(continued on page 2)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY MARILYN BRINLEY



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. And what an exciting year it has been. We were fortunate to quickly find Amy Thompson, our a new Extension Educator so quickly in Amy Thompson. Amy is a joy to work with and has helped me greatly in leading our organization. I know I could not have done all this without her knowledge and guidance. The staff in the Extension Office work tirelessly for our organization, and they also deserve a round of applause for all that they do for us.

With a new educator come new challenges. Amy has found some items that we need to address in order to meet Purdue's MG standards, and the board is working on conforming to those rules. This process will take time and patience, but we are hopeful that the process will be relatively painless and will result in a better association for us all.

The members of the board have also been a blessing. Each member is dedicated to seeing that the best is done for our association, and each works very hard behind the scenes. I also could not have done so well without all of their help and support. In that vein, I wish to personally thank Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White, Dale Calabrese, Diana Young, Barbara Cappy, Mary Hawkins, Lydia Anderson, Helen Hollingsworth, Gino Brancolini and Herman Young.

I would also like to thank Barb Hays for her hard work and dedication to keeping our website going. She has made many improvements to the site and continues to do much for us all.

A very special thanks goes to Mary Jane Hall, who has gone out of her way to help me learn this job. Her advice and support has been a tremendous help to me, and by extension, to our organization. Thank you.

And finally, the members of our organization are some of the nicest and most helpful people anywhere. Neither the board, nor Amy could do their jobs nearly as well without the backing of our membership. And for that we all owe you heartfelt thanks. You are what keep us going. You are the reason we exist. So thank you and Happy Holidays.

## INTERN TRAINING CLASS BY AMY THOMPSON



A Master Gardener Intern Training Class will be held Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. beginning January 29<sup>th</sup> and running through April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The schedule and registration materials are not yet available because we are waiting to confirm one more speaker. If you know of individuals interested in participating in the class, please have them call the extension office at 349-2575 or email [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu), and we will send class information and application directly to them. As soon as everything is confirmed we will also post all the information and forms on the MCMGA web page at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net)

Volunteers are also needed for the intern class, to serve as class coordinators (one session or more than one) and as mentors to the new interns. If you are interested in either of these opportunities or want more information, please call Amy at 349-2575 or email [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) .

**Member News** continued from page 1

**Advanced Training Opportunity**—Announcement has been made of the 2007 gardening seminars presented each year by *Horticulture Magazine*. The spring session located closest to us will be February 15 in Indianapolis at a place to be determined. The topic will be Harmonious Planting Design. Several of our members have attended these sessions in years past, and they are always informative and well presented. For more information and to sign up, visit [www.hortprograms.com](http://www.hortprograms.com) or call 1-877-GDN-PROG. If enough are interested, we may carpool. Contact Nancy White for more information about carpooling.

## OUR VOLUNTEERING MEMBERS BY NANCY WHITE

We continue our recognition of MG members who have volunteered on committees or worked on special events sponsored by our local group. On behalf of the board and all residents of Monroe County and southern Indiana who benefit from your work, thank you to all.

**Cheryl's Garden** – Larmie Wilson, Dale Calabrese, Barb Cappy, Al Cooper, Kate Cruikshank, Vicky St. Meyers, Susan Osborne, Ruth Rauch

**MG Nominating Committee** – Susan Osborne

**By-laws Revision Committee** – Mary Jane Hall, Amy Thompson, Marilyn Brinley

**Webmistress**—Barbara Hays

**Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show**—Dale Calabrese, Barb Cappy, Cheryl Engber, Preston Gwinn, Ruth Gwinn, Judith Hawkins, Chuck Holdeman, Helen Hollingsworth, Joanna Howe, Diana Young, Herman Young, Olga Zai

**Indiana State Fair Booth**—Cindy Benson, Eugene Brancolini, Preston Gwinn, Judith Hawkins, Helen Hollingsworth, Marni Karaffa, Ann McEndarfer, Ed McEndarfer, Jennifer Mickel, Gloria Noone, Joe Phillips, Marsha Trowbridge, Nancy White, Diana Young, Herman Young

**WFIU Fund Drive**—Preston Gwinn, Ruth Gwinn, Barbara Hays, Helen Hollingsworth, Marni Karaffa, Fred Risinger

As a postscript to our recognition of the many volunteer hours Master Gardeners give to this community, it is interesting to note that the State of Indiana assigns a figure of \$18 per hour as the value of volunteer work in our state. We can be proud of our contribution to the education and beautification of our Hoosier home.

## CHERYL'S GARDEN CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION BY AMY THOMPSON

The work of Larime Wilson, coordinator of the Cheryl's Garden project, and all volunteers who worked on this project this last season, was acknowledged by Commissioners of the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department and by departmental staff at their November Board meeting. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the Monroe County Master Gardener Association in recognition of all the hours of effort that went into the design, renovation, planting and upkeep of Cheryl's garden. Chuck Stephenson, Parks Department administrator, said, "We have received many positive comments from the public throughout this growing season on the beauty of the garden." Larime and her volunteer group spent numerous Saturday mornings working at the garden, removing bulbs, removing landscape cloth, mixing in compost, planting native species, and weeding; it is nice that all their efforts have been recognized!

The staff extension office appreciates the numerous volunteer efforts of our Master Gardeners, and we are happy to see that your efforts are receiving additional public recognition.

## ENGLAND AND ITS GARDENS BY B. ROSIE LERNER

Mike Dana and I are once again offering the Purdue *England and Its Gardens* study and travel abroad experience to participants in the Purdue Master Gardener Program, slated for May 13-25, 2007. The curriculum aims to expand participants' knowledge in ornamental horticulture, landscape, and garden design in a historical context. In addition, a small portion of the program fees will be targeted for support of the statewide Master Gardener Program.

We'll visit and study these notable gardens: Hampton Court, Stourhead, Hidcote Manor, Hestercombe, East Lambrook Manor, Tintinhull, Westbury Court, Iford Manor, Sissinghurst Castle, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and the Royal Horticulture Society gardens at Wisley. The fabulous Chelsea Flower Show highlights the program. Free time in London and Bath and a visit to Stonehenge will round out our experiences.

We are planning to give priority enrollment to Purdue Master Gardeners for the month of December. Should the program not fill with Master Gardeners and their guests, we will expand enrollment to the general public.

For information, log on to <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/>

## MEMBERS RECEIVE NEW BADGES

BY MARY HAWKINS, VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDER



Linda Burke from the 2005 intern class has now qualified for Certified Master Gardener as well as Cindy Benson and Jennifer Cook from the 2006 intern class. Marla Bailey has qualified for her Advanced Master Gardener status from the 2004 class. Congratulations to these new award recipients! This makes for a grand total for the year 2006 of twelve at our Certified Level, three at the Advanced Level and two at the Bronze Level. See page 1 for additional list of recent certified members.

Please remember the new reporting forms need to be sent to the Extension Office starting in January 2007, and the new rules that were explained in the October Issue of *Roots and Shoots* will be effective then as well. We are still working to update and computerize the volunteer hours records so please be patient and let us know if we have made any omissions.

## RAIN GARDENS BY RUTH RAUCH

Have you ever chanced across an idea so simple and appealing that you wonder why you've never heard of it before? I recently had just such an encounter with the rain garden at an educational seminar presented by the Indiana Organic Gardeners Association. Nina Evans, a horticulturalist at the Indianapolis Zoo, has made a demonstration rain garden near the Dogs and Suds restaurant at the zoo. She covered the basics of rain gardens and shared some excellent resources to help gardeners plan and create their own.

A rain garden is a shallow depression planted with wild flowers and other native vegetation that soaks up rainwater that sheds from the roof of a house or other building or a paved area. The rain garden fills with a few inches of water that slowly filters into the ground rather than running off into a storm drain. An area planted with native plants and grasses will soak up substantially more water than a turf area. Pollutants such as soil, leaves, grass, oil, salt, fertilizer, and pet waste are retained on site instead of being washed into local streams and lakes. Reducing runoff from developed areas can reduce flooding and drainage problems. A rain garden can also provide habitat for birds, butterflies and many beneficial insects.

Here are some of the basics of a rain garden. It should be located at least 10 feet from a structure so that infiltrating water doesn't seep into the foundation. It should be approximately one third as big as the roof area that drains to it. Typical rain gardens are about four to eight inches deep and level. A good design will consider the grade of the site and soil texture.

Some nice resources about rain gardens are on the web. Monroe County has one, <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/stormwaterquality/bioretenion.html>, with links to others, including the highly recommended *Rain Gardens: A How-To Manual for Homeowners*. This publication of University of Wisconsin - Extension and Wisconsin DNR has detailed instructions and eight complete garden plans: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/nps/rg/rgmanual.pdf>

## DEAD MAN'S FINGERS

BY KAREN RANE, SR. PLANT DISEASE DIAGNOSTICIAN, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

A bit late for Halloween, but spooky nonetheless, are the black elongate structures of the fungus *Xylaria polymorpha*. The common name for this fungus, dead man's fingers, evokes visions of skeleton hands poking out of the ground. In reality, these are the spore-bearing structures of a wood-rotting Ascomycete fungus. Spores are produced within microscopic, flask-shaped structures that develop on the surface of the "fingers".

Tom Volk, in the Department of Biology at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, has an excellent website on fungi. His entry on *Xylaria* can be found at the following link: [http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms\\_fungi/apr2000.html](http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/toms_fungi/apr2000.html)

## A VERY INFORMATIVE BOOK ABOUT BULBS BY M. SUSAN OSBORNE



If you're mad about bulbs, then the book *Bulbs for Garden Habitats* by Judy Glattstein is one you should consider reading. The 281 page text plus index was published by Timber Press, Inc. in 2005.

Last fall I read a book review on *Bulbs for Garden Habitats* and was intrigued enough to purchase it. As winter proceeded I read it in anticipation of learning specifically about spring bulbs. However, I learned a great deal more. For one, it could have been more accurately titled: *Geophytes* (a catchall term that Ms. Glattstein uses for bulbous, cormous, tuberous and rhizomatous plants) *for Garden Habitats*, because not only does the book discuss bulbous plants, but also herbaceous plants that have underground storage organs – bulbs, corms, tubers, and rhizomes.

The book reflects Ms. Glattstein's deep respect and appreciation for bulbs. Currently, she has planted at her New Jersey home, named Belle Wood Garden, about 40,000 bulbs, and the criteria she sets for bulbs, in addition to their beauty, is that they need to be self-sufficient, deer-resistant, and preferably capable of naturalizing. She advocates planting bulbs where they will be healthiest and happiest. In essence, Ms. Glattstein teaches gardeners to adapt the planting scheme to the environment, not vice versa.

Chapters in the book are devoted to care and cultivation, geophytes suited for temperate woodlands, native North American geophytes, geophytes for Mediterranean, Texan, Southern, and Southeastern gardens, damp and wet places, and rock gardens as well as autumn gardens. Readers learn about an abundance of geophytes available to consumers for most environments, and most important is planting the correct or one most suitable to a region. The author has included not only her personal gardening experience on the East Coast, but also information from books she has read, interviews with other gardeners, and knowledge from personal travels. Wonderful colored illustrations entice us, but the book is basically about geophytes and their good-natured personality.

Especially appealing is a definition section including textbook pencil drawings which reveals the growth cycle of some bulbs, corms, and tubers (narcissus, crocus vernus, colchicum speciosum, arisaema triphyllum and cyclamen hederifolium). Illustrations portray the development of a geophyte from planting time in September/October to dormancy. An appendix section offers information about invasive bulbs, roots, and shoots, as, for example, the allium family, oxalis family, and certain ranunculus, hyacinthoids and other species have been known to naturalize and spread to overwhelming proportions. A wonderful sources section lists mail order sources, U.S. sources, and foreign sources, as well as, organizations, web sites, and plant societies.

*Bulbs for Garden Habitats* does not cover every bulb, corm, or tuber available, but does offer information on many that would do well in the midwest. Some of the information is redundant, and the book's organization is a bit disjointed, but otherwise it offers useful information that has been carefully researched by someone who is in love with bulbs. I recommend this book because it offers an array of material, but if you don't wish to own it, I encourage you at least to read parts of it and to browse through it to enjoy the great photographs and the pleasure of learning more about bulbs (oops, I mean geophytes!).

## PRUNING CONIFERS

BY B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE EXTENSION CONSUMER HORTICULTURALIST

Generally speaking, landscape conifers that grow a natural, pyramidal shape (most pine, spruce, fir) should not be pruned at all, or if needed to control size, can pinch the "candles" of new growth in spring to make more compact growth. Shrubby evergreens (juniper, yew, boxwood) can be pruned and often need more frequent pruning to keep them in-size for the location they are in. (Would be smarter to select size appropriate material in the first place, but that's another issue!) Some species can take fairly frequent and severe pruning and are often kept trimmed to very precise shapes, including yew and boxwood. The proper way to prune a hedge planting is discussed in HO 27.

For most conifers, it is important to cut back to green growing branches when deciding where to make a cut. Most conifers do not tolerate shade and inner or lower branches that are heavily shaded will die back. Hemlock is one of the exceptions that tolerates shade quite well.

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

## A VISIT TO THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN BY MARY JANE HALL



If the best time to visit a botanic garden is when your own is looking a bit tired, then visit the Chicago Botanic Garden (CBG) in October! Swaying grasses, bright rudbeckia, lovely anemone, and sturdy sedum yield a peek at the underlying structure of trees and shrubs.

How do the trees and shrubs support a summer of blooms? That question and more were explored by the speakers at the Perennial Plant Symposium titled *When Human Nature Embraces Mother Nature*. The internationally acclaimed roster included Richard Darke, Frans

Roozen, Jacqueline van der Kloet, Ann Lovejoy and Neil Diebol.

Darke began the day (I cannot resist a pun) with his fabulous photography. With his topic, The Livable Landscape, he took us around the world to give a glimpse of cultural landscape impacted by our presence. He emphasized this with slides of Gravetye Manor ([www.gravetyemanor.co.uk](http://www.gravetyemanor.co.uk)) and the wonderful English natural garden created by William Robinson. It is a remarkable creation in the English countryside whereby one man impacted the landscape in a very beautiful way. He also visually took us to the High Line, an abandoned elevated rail line, in New York City. Individuals and community groups are reclaiming this space for gardens and recreation, illustrating ways in which we can have a positive impact on the cultural landscape.

The two speakers from The Netherlands were in Chicago directing the planting of bulb displays in Millennium Park. Both of them treated us to fabulous slides of bulbs as individual specimens and in swaths of naturalized beauties. Their excitement for their product was absolutely contagious. Unfortunately for my wallet, there was a bulb sale, too. It will be a real treat to visit Chicago's new Millennium Park on the lakefront during spring.

Following lunch on the terrace overlooking the CBG lake, Ann Lovejoy discussed Sustainable Design and Natural Care. She is always interesting and entertaining. She made the idea of sustainability seem very workable. Her emphasis was planting natives and allies. Allies are plants native to areas with similar growing conditions, but not actually native in your own region. The best examples are Mediterranean natives easily grown in California. However, she encouraged the listeners to do some research to find plants that might require little additional care and feeding but are native in other similar regions or on other continents. Another of her tidbits was to search for plants that die with dignity--plants that stand up to conditions and provide winter interest and wildlife habitat. A hint for those who need to deter wildlife, especially deer, was to use florist/flower tubes filled with male urine placed near valuable plants.

As a former lowan, I thought that I had plenty of information about prairies, but Neil Diebol of Prairie Nursery in Westfield, WI, gave me plenty to think about. He stressed the need to hand weed a new prairie/meadow in order to give the newly planted prairies and meadows a chance to succeed. Weed competition is the most serious problem for new prairie development. Fall planting of meadows allows for root development and improves flowering for many seasons to follow. Although Monroe County is not a prairie haven, the slides of meadows caused me to think of smaller openings in our woodlands. Southern Indiana could be home to lovely meadows.

Although you can get a better view of Wrigley Field on television, that is not true of the CBG. Up close and personal is the way to go! Visit during a special event, sign up for a lecture, take a class, or just go to enjoy the garden ([www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)). We are fortunate to have this acclaimed garden within a day's drive.

## YAMS AND SWEET POTATOES: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

SUBMITTED BY AMY THOMPSON

There is a great deal of confusion over the difference between yams and sweet potatoes. This confusion has led, at times, to uncertainties regarding the preparation and use of this nutritious vegetable.

Simply stated, yams and sweet potatoes, those which you typically find in local grocery stores, come from the same plant, but are represented by different cultivars. The only major difference between the two is in their baking characteristics. Yams are sweet potatoes that have a moister flesh when cooked. Although sweet potatoes are slightly drier when prepared, both yams and sweet potatoes have the same nutritional value and can be used interchangeably.

Source: [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp\\_hfrr/hnewslet/welcome.htm](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/hnewslet/welcome.htm)

## DEMO GARDEN CHAIRPERSON(S) NEEDED

BY MARILYN BRINLEY

Our current chairperson for the Fair Grounds Demo Garden has to step down, so we are in need of one or two interested individuals to take over the care and supervision of the Demo Garden. The chairperson(s) would be responsible for seeing that each plot has a gardener to oversee that plot, to obtain mulch for the garden, and to coordinate volunteers to work in the garden throughout the year.

A major goal for the Demo Garden is to be ready for the fair in late July as that is the time the public is most likely to see it. In addition, activities might be scheduled there throughout the year, with sufficient publicity, to encourage visitors to the Demo Garden. Examples might include story time in the garden, herb demonstrations, or whatever chairperson(s) might think of.

Any interested individuals are asked to contact me by e-mail at [MLBrinley@aol.com](mailto:MLBrinley@aol.com) or at 824-1318. This is a great opportunity to earn many hours of volunteer time, as well as to meet other dedicated gardeners.

## HOUSEPLANTS LOSING LEAVES

SUBMITTED BY AMY THOMPSON

Homeowners often become concerned about their houseplants at this time of year because they look unthrifty and may even shed leaves. Most of this is the plant responding to low light levels. Not only is the day length shorter but the angle of the sun means sunlight must travel through more atmosphere before it reaches us in the northern latitudes.

Each of these factors means less light energy reaches our houseplants.

Houseplants respond to this stress by stopping growth and dropping leaves if necessary. So how can we tell if leaves are being dropped due to stress or due to other factors? Normally, stress is the culprit if leaves are dropped throughout the plant so a general thinning occurs.

The next question, then, is what do we do about it? Well, you can add supplemental lighting or just wait until longer days and higher light levels allow the plants to recover. Unfortunately, people are often not patient enough and decide the plant needs more fertilizer or water to perk it up. Remember the problem is low light; not a lack of fertilizer or water. Adding extra fertilizer or water won't help and may actually harm the plant. Everything needs to be balanced in the plant. If there is plenty of sunlight, the plant can use plenty of water and plenty of fertilizer. Under low light levels, the plant is unable to use much fertilizer and the nutrients just stay in the soil where they can build up and may eventually burn roots. Also, excess water can actually drown roots. Therefore, it is important to do a good job of watering and fertilizing during the winter. Only water when the soil is dry ½ inch deep in the pot. Eventually you can learn to judge whether a plant needs water just by weight. Also, reduce or eliminate fertilizing during the winter months. If the plant still looks thin in the spring, cut it back so that it can put out new, thicker growth. Also, knock the plant out of the pot in the spring and make sure it isn't rootbound. If it is, move it up to a larger pot.

Source: [http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp\\_hfrr/hnewslet/welcome.htm](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/hnewslet/welcome.htm)

## In the Grow: Question and Answer

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

**Q. I would like to cover several parts of my yard with shredded bark mulch. My concern is we have some wood roaches in this area, and I do not want to attract them to my yard. We have had some in the house in the past and still get one or two occasionally. What are your thoughts on this? Is there any type of mulch that will not encourage the wood roaches?**

**A.** Wood roaches prefer to live outdoors under the loose bark of dead trees, logs, stumps and, possibly, mulch. They are generally one of nature's recyclers, rather than a pest of home structures. They may sometimes enter homes, particularly the males as they are good fliers and are attracted to light. So any house or building located near woods may find a few of these uninvited guests. They can also be carried in on firewood. But they do not thrive or reproduce indoors nor do they cause harm to the structure. As general good practice, keep the mulch pulled back a couple of inches from the foundation of the home. (continued on p. 10)

## DECEMBER GARDEN CALENDAR

BY B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE EXTENSION CONSUMER HORTICULTURIST

### HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- ◆ Check houseplant leaves for brown, dry edges, which indicate too little relative humidity in the house. Increase humidity by running a humidifier, grouping plants or using pebble trays.
- ◆ Extend the lives of holiday plants, such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus, by placing them in a cool, brightly lit area that is free from warm or cold drafts.
- ◆ Houseplants may not receive adequate light because days are short and gloomy. Move plants closer to windows, but avoid placing foliage against cold glass panes. Artificial lighting may be helpful.
- ◆ Because growth slows or stops in winter months, most plants will require less water and little, if any, fertilizer.
- ◆ If you are forcing bulbs for the holidays, bring them into warmer temperatures after they have been sufficiently pre-cooled. Bulbs require a chilling period of about 10 to 12 weeks at 40 F to initiate flower buds and establish root growth. Pre-cooled bulbs are available from many garden suppliers if you did not get yours cooled in time. Then, provide two to four weeks of warm temperature (60 F), bright light and moderately moist soil to bring on flowers.
- ◆ When shopping for a Christmas tree, check for green, flexible, firmly held needles and a sticky trunk base -- both indicators of freshness. Make a fresh cut, and keep the cut end under water at all times.
- ◆ Evergreens, except pines and spruce, can be trimmed for a fresh supply of holiday greenery.

### YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- ◆ Prevent bark-splitting of young and thin-barked trees, such as fruit and maple trees. Wrap trunks with tree wrap, or paint trunks with white latex (not oil-based) paint, particularly on the south- and southwest-facing sides.
- ◆ Protect shrubs, such as junipers and arborvitae, from extensive snow loads by tying their stems together with twine. Carefully remove heavy snow loads with a broom to prevent limb breakage.
- ◆ Protect broadleaves, evergreens or other tender landscape plants from excessive drying (desiccation) by winter sun and wind. Canvas, burlap or polyethylene plastic screens to the south and west protect the plants. Similarly, shield plants from salt spray on the street side.
- ◆ Provide winter protection for roses by mounding soil approximately 12 inches high to insulate the graft union, after plants are dormant and temperatures are cold. Additional organic mulch, such as straw compost or chopped leaves, can be placed on top.

### GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- ◆ To protect newly planted or tender perennials and bulbs, mulch with straw, chopped leaves or other organic material after plants become dormant.
- ◆ Store leftover garden chemicals where they will stay dry, unfrozen and out of the reach of children, pets and unsuspecting adults.
- ◆ Once the plants are completely dormant and temperatures are consistently below freezing, then the winter mulch can be applied to protect strawberries and other tender perennials. In most cases, 2-4 inches of organic material, such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips, will provide adequate protection.
- ◆ Check produce and tender bulbs in storage, and discard any that show signs of decay, such as mold or softening. Shriveling indicates insufficient relative humidity.
- ◆ Clean up dead plant materials, synthetic mulch and other debris in the vegetable garden, as well as in the flowerbeds, rose beds and orchards.
- ◆ Order seed catalogs, and make notes for next year's garden.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 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	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Brunoehler, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**

## WINTERIZING STRAWBERRY PLANTS

BY B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE EXTENSION CONSUMER HORTICULTURIST

Perhaps the last garden chore of the season is tucking in the strawberry planting for winter. Strawberry plants have already set their buds for next spring's flowers and the crop can be lost unless you protect them from harsh winter conditions. A fully dormant strawberry plant's flower buds can be damaged at temperatures below 15 F.

In addition to flower bud damage, the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil that commonly occurs in winter and early spring can cause plant roots to break and the plants to be heaved right out of the ground.

Mulching strawberry plants will insulate them from extreme low temperatures, minimize soil heaving and decrease excessive drying (desiccation) of the plant crowns. But be sure to wait until plants are dormant before you pile on the mulch. Applying mulch too early can cause the crown of the plant to rot. Plants should be mulched before the temperature drops below 20 F, usually by late November or early December in most parts of Indiana.

Several materials can be used for winter mulch, including clean (weed-free) straw, chopped cornstalks, hay, corncobs or bark chips. Tree leaves and grass clippings are not recommended, since they tend to mat down and smother the plants. About 2-3 inches of mulch, after settling, should provide adequate protection.

Put a note on your garden calendar to uncover the plants in spring as new growth begins. Rake off most of the mulch as soon as the first new leaves develop. The new growth will probably look a little yellow at first but will green up with exposure to light. Rake the mulch between the rows to provide weed control and a source of emergency cover in case frost threatens. Mulching around the plants will also help keep the berries clean

## A NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY SUBMITTED BY AMY THOMPSON

The Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) has a small greenhouse, and they are looking for a Greenhouse Assistant. Specifically MCUM is looking for volunteers with an interest in gardening or experience with greenhouses who are needed to develop projects for children and help with greenhouse operations. Contact Cliff Edens, Volunteer Coordinator, at 339-3429 for more information.

## IN THE GROW : QUESTION AND ANSWER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

But mulch, particularly shredded material, is not likely to pose much of an attraction compared to their preferred habitat.

**Q. I have a question about June-bearing strawberry plants. We planted 35 plants this spring. I took the time to pinch off all the blooms for the first year. Now, do I cut the plants to 2 inches above the ground, or do I just cover them with mulch, and wait for the plants to bear next year? This is my first attempt at growing strawberries, and I must admit that I know nothing about how to take care of them, so any information that you can share will be appreciated!**

**A.** There's no need to cut the plants back at this time. The purpose of winter mulch is to keep plants dormant, as well as provide some protection from severe low temperatures. Although we've had several hard frosts already this fall, the plants may not yet be fully dormant. The usual time to apply mulch is late November to mid-December in most of Indiana. Cover the plants with 1-3 inches of clean, weed-free straw after low temperatures are more consistently below freezing, but before they drop below the low 20s F. More information on year-round care of strawberry plants can be found in Purdue Extension Bulletin HO-46, "Growing Strawberries," available online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-46.pdf>.

## USDA EXPANDS EMERALD ASH BORER QUARANTINE

SUBMITTED BY AMY THOMPSON

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service announced the expansion of its emerald ash borer (EAB) quarantine to include the entire states of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The new quarantine becomes effective on Dec. 1 following the issuance of a federal order. The entire lower peninsula of Michigan is already under a federal quarantine for EAB.

Current intrastate quarantines in the Indiana counties of Allen (announced today), Lake, Porter, White, St. Joseph, LaGrange, Steuben, Randolph, Huntington, Hamilton, Marion and Adams remain in effect. EAB poses an enormous threat to urban and rural forests, because unlike many wood inhabiting insects, EAB targets and kills healthy trees. It is a small, fast-moving, aggressive pest that can kill healthy ash trees within two or three years after they become infested. To date, USDA has spent more than \$100 million on research, eradication and reforestation efforts.

USDA estimates that if EAB is not contained or eradicated, it has the potential to cost state and local governments approximately \$7 billion over the next 25 years to remove and replace dead and dying ash trees that can pose a safety hazard in urban and suburban areas.

The federal order prohibits the interstate movement of regulated articles that originate within the quarantine area. Regulated articles include ash nursery stock and green lumber; any other ash material including logs, stumps, roots, branches, as well as composted and uncomposted wood chips. Due to the difficulty in distinguishing between species of hardwood firewood, all hardwood firewood, including ash, oak, maple and hickory are regulated articles.

Three years of EAB survey data support the need to implement strict regulations for the movement of host material. Survey methods are not 100 percent effective for early detection of the pest, and given this uncertainty, the possibility of spreading EAB in unprocessed host material presents a serious risk that requires immediate action.

APHIS is taking this action in response to the destructive nature of this invasive plant pest and the significant threat it poses to the ash resource in our nation's forests and residential landscapes. The quarantine regulations will help to mitigate the spread of the pest while the science community continues to work to develop solutions to combat EAB, including improved detection and control strategies. The ultimate goal is to eradicate this pest from North America.

APHIS is working closely with the states affected with EAB and those border states to address this invasive species. The federal interstate movement restrictions associated with the quarantine augments state quarantines in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio that regulate the movement of firewood and ash wood products within those states.

APHIS also works cooperatively with state agencies, universities, landscape and nursery industries and the international scientific community to develop strategies for the detection, control and eradication of EAB.

EAB is an invasive species wood boring beetle, native to China and eastern Asia, which targets ash trees. EAB probably arrived in North America hidden in wood packing materials commonly used to ship consumer and other goods. It was first detected in July 2002 in southeastern Michigan and has since been found in Ohio, Indiana, Maryland, Virginia and Illinois.

Everyday human activity facilitates the long distance spread of EAB, expanding the extent and range of the infestation in North America. The movement of ash tree products has been found to advance the spread of EAB. Currently, EAB is responsible for the death and decline of more than 25 million ash trees in the United States.

For more information on EAB and APHIS' expanded quarantine, please visit [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov).

For a factsheet of Frequently Asked Questions, which explains a little further about what the quarantine means, please visit: <http://www.ppd.purdue.edu/PPDL/pubs/APHIS-EAB-FAQ-FACTSHEET.pdf>

For continuing up-to-date information, see the multi-state EAB website: <http://www.emeraldashborer.info/> . Also, check the Purdue EAB website: <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/EAB/>

## December 2006 Volume 22, Issue 12

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