Immediately preceding the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on December 1 at Terry’s Banquets and Catering, members participated in the election of officers for 2009. Elected were President, Nancy White; Vice President for Programs, Vicky St. Myers; Vice President for Education, Carol Cobine; Secretary, David Dunatchik; Director of Communications, Barbara Hays; and Director-at-Large, Herman Young. Continuing their service on the board for 2009 are Treasurer, Diana Young; Journalist, Helen Hollingsworth; Director of Records, Susan Osborne; and Fair Board Representative, Preston Gwinn.

Master Gardeners Celebrate Their Beginnings

In 1988, a group of dedicated gardeners came together to form Monroe County Master Gardeners Association, an organization affiliated with Purdue Master Gardeners, started in 1978. Today MCMGA, with a membership of approximately 125, shares the love of gardening in the community through volunteer service, sponsors a demonstration garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, provides educational events for its members, and assists the Monroe County Extension Office with the yearly Master Gardener Intern Training Classes. On December 1, MCMGA met at Terry’s Banquets and Catering to celebrate its 20 year history and to honor those who founded the organization. Honored were Ellen Boruff, Barbara Hays, Joanna Howe, Esther Minnick, and Michael Simmons, who were among the group of 25 members who started the organization twenty years ago.
Member News

Amy Thompson has announced the winners of the Monroe County Fair Master Gardeners awards. They are Joyce Peden, John Behringer, and Bethany Murray. Congratulations to all!

Buy 2009 Master Gardener Calendars

The 2009 Master Gardener Calendars, $10 each, are now available and would make excellent gifts. They include photographs from Indiana MG members that were chosen in competition. Note cards with winning MG photographs are also available for $7 for a box of seven cards and envelopes. Our president Marilyn Brinley’s photo was chosen for publication in the calendar. We congratulate her on this award. Order forms for the note cards and calendars are available at www.IndyMGconf.org.

Community Garden Project Applications

Over a year ago, the MG board agreed to award a grant each year to an individual or non-profit group who would like to develop a gardening project designed to enrich the community. Applications for this grant will be accepted through March, 2009. If you are interested in applying or know some group who might qualify, please contact Nancy White, 824-4426 to get more information.

Next General Meeting Is January 2009

The first meeting of the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. We will have one hour of education credit available and spend some time planning our program for 2009. All members are urged to attend. Look for more details in the January issue of Roots and Shoots.

2009 MG Calendars Available and in Need of a Good Home

Unfortunately, the economic downturn has hit our calendar fundraising project pretty hard. Please consider buying some 2009 MG Calendars to use as holiday gifts. People will enjoy them, and you will be helping the Master Gardener Program in Indiana. Remember, for each calendar purchased the state program and the 2009 state conference each get $1.25. Your county Extension Program or Master Gardener Association also receives $1.25.

For more info, look at www.indymgconf.org or contact Kathleen Hull, 317 996-4380, hullk@ccrtc.com.

Preserving Wood Tool Handles

Hoes, shovels and other common garden tools often have wooden handles that can deteriorate over time. Storing tools in a protected location can slow that process, but normal use will still expose the tools to the elements. The end of the season is a good time to clean up and protect the handles so they will last for many years. Weathering can raise the grain of wood, resulting in splinters. A light sanding can smooth the handle. Follow that with a light application of wood preservative, linseed oil or polyurethane to protect the wood. Wipe off any excess after a few minutes as oil-based products can attract dirt. (WU)

A Winter Day in the Garden

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist and Master Gardener State Coordinator

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, those who share a love of gardening will gather to experience A Winter Day in the Garden. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners and Lincoln Trail College, the conference will take place at Lincoln Trail’s Zwermann Theatre in Robinson, Illinois, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.). Five experts in the field of gardening will provide entertainment and enlightenment at this seventh annual event.

Garden for Change = Transform the World presented by Eva Shaw, will teach each of us how to improve the planet, help our neighbors and empower others through soil, solutions and gardening savvy.

Tooling around the Garden with Roger Swain (PBS Victory Garden) will demonstrate and talk about the various tools all gardeners should have.

Lunch will be divided between two speakers: Fun with Gourds by Helen Thomas and Growing and Care of Fruits by Roger Swain

Diversity Beyond Belief—The Wonderful World of Cucurbits will be presented by Mac Condill, Great Pumpkin Patch

To access the flyer and register online after October 30th, please go to our website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/>. Click on the Horticulture/Environment icon and you will see "A Winter Day in the Garden" under local programs. For general information, please call 618/546-1549.

Purdue Will Hold Poinsettia Open House on December 7

By Rosie Lerner, Horticulture Specialist and Master Gardener State Co-

Purdue will hold its 2008 Consumer Poinsettia Open House on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Purdue University Horticulture Greenhouse Potting Room, next to the Horticulture Gardens on Marsteller and Harrison, south of the Horticulture building.

The event is free, open to the general public, and will be held in the greenhouse potting room.

This year’s open house will feature 100 poinsettia cultivars as well as poinsettias produced using environmentally friendly production techniques. Help evaluate new and experimental cultivars to see what the future holds, learn how to care for your poinsettia and enter a drawing to win some of the newest cultivars. Poinsettias will not be for sale at this event.

For additional information, contact Roberto G. Lopez, Assistant Professor & Indiana Floriculture Extension Specialist, at rglopez@purdue.edu or log on to http://flowers.hort.purdue.edu

Membership Renewal Reminder

Have you sent in your membership renewal form for 2009? If not, this is your final issue of Roots and Shoots. Also, the new issue of Folia and Flora, our membership guide, arrives in January, so those late to renew will miss this deadline. Membership renewal forms are available at www.mcmga.net or at the Extension Office.

Renew your membership today!
From the President’s Desk

The year is ending and soon a new one will be upon us. Snow will soon blanket the earth, protecting the delicate bulbs and roots from winter’s cold. Dedicated gardeners will be pouring over seed catalogs or reading up on the latest in gardening techniques. Some will even be surfing the internet, searching out the latest and best gardening web sites.

By Marilyn Brinley

This month we are celebrating our 20th anniversary as an organization, as the first Master Gardener class in Monroe County was held in 1988 and the association was chartered in 1989. This recognition of the beginning comes at a time when our organization is strong and its members are committed to working toward the future. I am pleased that we are able to recognize the hard work of not just the founding members, but also of our current members.

This coming year will also be quite different for me, as I am stepping down from my position as president of our organization. I have served the past three years as president and am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish in that time. We have rewritten the bylaws, have worked to align ourselves with the current guidelines set by Purdue University, and have made some progress in bringing our records into the Twenty-first century.

I wish to thank everyone who has helped to make our association what it is. A grateful thank you goes to Amy Thompson, who came to our county at the same time I first became president. I think it is safe to say that we learned together. Amy’s help and support has been invaluable to both me and our county. I thank all the board members and committee chairs and committee members who have volunteered their time. I also thank each and every one of you, as you are the reason we are a success. Though my term may end, I will continue to be active in the organization and I hope that you will, too.

New Plant Disease Factsheet Series from Ohio State

Submitted by Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

A new series of plant disease fact sheets co-authored by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology in conjunction with OSU Extension Colleagues from around the State is available to Master Gardeners. These nine fact sheets are designed to provide an overview of key concepts in plant pathology (study of plant disease) including the reasons why plants get sick and how to control/manage disease. They are written with the non-plant pathologist in mind and will be an excellent addition to our Indiana Master Gardener Notebooks!

The nine fact sheets can be found at OSU Extension’s “Ohioline” web site: http://ohioline.osu.edu. For those without access to a printer or a way to get the hard copy, our office can print copies. It would be best if you call ahead to let us know you will be coming in to pick them up.

This new series will be useful to those who teach—both in the classroom or field—and for those wanting to learn some plant pathology essentials. For more information please contact Michael Boehm (boehm.1@osu.edu) or Sarah Ellis (ellis.293@osu.edu).
MG Anniversary Dinner a Success

By Nancy White

Seventy-six Master Gardeners and their guests attended our festive 20th Anniversary Dinner on December 1 at Terry’s Banquets and Catering. The elegant tables decorated with runners and flower baskets greeted those attending as they entered the dining room. After a social time, Marilyn Brinley, MCMG President, welcomed the group and presented the Charter Members attending with a corsage or boutonniere. A buffet meal followed complete with a “floral arrangement” dessert recognizing the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Amy Thompson presented awards to the Master Gardener board fair winners.

Diana Young announced the results of the officer election, held earlier in the evening, and the present and past officers were recognized.

Bob Baird presented a unique “one-man show” incorporating MG history and photographs of past activities of the group. The presentation was facilitated by Jo Prentice, who researched background information, and Helen Hollingsworth, who researched and prepared the coordinating PowerPoint visuals.

The evening was a fitting way to honor those who founded our organization and to focus on our mission of service to the community.

The following Master Gardeners are to be commended for their fine planning and implementation that made our 20th Anniversary Dinner such a success:

Table Covers and Centerpiece Flowers: Susan Eastman and Karen Bish
Invitations: Jeanne Cox
Historical Research and PowerPoint Presentation: Bob Baird, Helen Hollingsworth, Jo Prentice
Corsages and Boutonnieres: Susan Osborne
Program Presentation: Bob Baird
Organization and Implementation: Cindy Benson, Amy Thompson, Nancy White, Diana Young
Printing and Program Design: Jackie Claffey and Chris Hedrick

Earn Volunteer Hours in Winter

By Nancy White

While many Master Gardeners earn their volunteer hours in the warmer months, MGs can earn volunteer hours just as easily in the winter by calling and volunteering at the following sites (see page 9 for contact info):

Hilltop Garden, MCMGA Speakers Bureau (Amy regularly gets requests for speakers), MG Newsletter, MG Program committee member for 2009 (we can surely use the help), Wylie House, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard and WonderLab (we do most of our scheduling and work revisions in January-March).

In winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle-light.
In summer quite the other way
I have to go to bed by day.

Robert Louis Stevenson
What Counts: Education Hours and Volunteer Hours

Education Hours

Activities where you learn something by attending lectures, workshops, or meetings that contain an educational component count as education hours, AKA continuing education. Education hours for these events should be the actual educational time, not the social time.

Usually education hours include time spent on topics focused on horticulture; however, programs that develop leadership or teaching skills can also potentially count.

Education hours can come from a wide variety of sources; it is not just limited to local Master Gardener programs. Some examples of potential sources of training hours include statewide and regional Master Gardener programs, IU continuing studies, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Garden Club meetings, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, and Wylie House.

Formal garden tours where you are led by a tour guide count as education hours; informal tours where there is not a formal exchange of information do not (i.e. a tour of White River Gardens with a guide discussing varieties and their specific requirements does count, while visiting the gardens on the Bloomington Garden Walk does not).

Education hours are cumulative; you can begin earning education hours from the time you enroll in the Master Gardener Training program.

Travel time to training events does not count.

If you have any questions about whether a particular activity counts, please contact me!

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer activities should be in line with the purpose of the Master Gardener program and should have an educational outcome.

Community beautification projects benefit us all but will not count as volunteer hours unless there is an educational component included.

Volunteer work must be UNPAID. However, you can accept reimbursement for expenses or for travel expenses, and you may also accept a donation to the Monroe County Master Gardener Association.

If you work in the horticulture industry, please do not turn in any hours at your place of employment without prior approval.

Master Gardeners are only to advise regarding home horticulture, NOT commercial clientele. All commercial growers should be referred to the appropriate Purdue Extension staff.

Work in public gardens such as Hilltop, Wylie House, WonderLab, and the MG demonstration garden where the aim of the garden is to increase public awareness and understanding of horticulture count as volunteer hours

Advice to neighbors and family members during “over the back yard fence” time does count as does time researching answers to questions.

Travel time to volunteer activities can count, but this should be a minor part of your volunteer activities. Remember, you can earn credit all year around.

If you have any questions about if a particular activity counts, please contact me!

By
Amy
Thompson,
Extension
Educator

By
Amy
Thompson,
Extension
Educator
Gardens of France in 2009

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue MG State Coordinator

A 12-day (June 30-July 11, 2009) study and travel abroad experience is available for Purdue Master Gardeners. The trip will be led by Purdue Horticulturist and Landscape Architect Dr. Michael Dana; Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator/Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist B. Rosie Lerner; and Purdue International Extension Programming Specialist and Bilingual Guide Kira Everhart-Valentin.

The objective of the study and travel is to expand Master Gardeners’ knowledge in fruit, vegetable, ornamental horticulture, landscape and garden design history.

This exciting course will include site visits to such notable gardens as Vaux Le Vicomte, Versailles Palace, Potager du Roi, Chartres, International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chenonceau, Villandry, Plou et Fils Winery, Le Vasterival, Bois des Moutiers, Shamrock Hydrangea Collections, Monet’s Gardens at Giverny, and the gardens of Bagatelle. Participants will be given an orientation to French history and the evolution of landscape and gardens as well as study readings for each site.

Registration is open to those with a serious interest in gardens and garden history, with a focus on participants in the Purdue Master Gardener Program. Enrollment is limited to 25 total participants, available on a first come basis with a $500 deposit required to hold your spot in the class. Advanced training hours will be credited to those Purdue Master Gardeners who complete the required reading and quizzes. Master Gardener participants will also earn volunteer service hours upon their return by sharing what they've learned with others.

Additional information is available online at http://www.hort.purdue.edu/France.

2008 MG Fair Award Recipients Announced

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

Joyce Peden was the winner of the 2008 Monroe County Master Gardener Fair award. Joyce achieved the highest point total by exhibiting potted plants, flowers, floral arrangements, vegetables and herbs at the Monroe County fair.

Joyce generously chose to share her portion of her monetary award with two other Master Gardeners, Bethany Murray and John Behringer. Joyce decided to "spread the wealth" to reward newer Master Gardeners for their participation in the Monroe county Fair with the hope of encouraging other MGs to compete. John and Bethany, although new exhibitors, did very well. John’s gladiolus exhibit was selected as Grand Champion for that division. Bethany had multiple gardening exhibits in this year’s fair including sunflower seeds, for which she was awarded Reserve Grand Champion in the Seed Saving Division.

If you have questions about how you can participate in the 2009 Fair please contact Amy Thompson at the Extension Office. The 2009 Monroe County Fair will be held July 26th through August 1st.

Left to right are Bethany Murray, John Behringer, and Joyce Peden.
Dodder—A Parasitic Seed Plant

Dodder (Cuscuta spp.) is a twining plant that obtains its moisture and nourishment by parasitizing various kinds of wild and cultivated plants. The seedlings must attach to a suitable host within a few days of germinating or they die. Once the dodder seedling finds a plant, it quickly twines itself around the plant’s stem and the basal part of the parasite soon shrivels away so that no soil connection exists. Its water, minerals and carbohydrates are absorbed from the host plant through haustoria, specialized absorbent organs that press up against the stem of the host plant, penetrate the tissue and act as straws. Dodder rarely kills its host plant, although it may stunt its growth.

Dodder flowers are numerous and are borne in tight balls or in a loose cluster (depending on species). The fruit is about an eighth of an inch in diameter, with thin papery walls and contain one to four seeds. These seeds drop to the ground and germinate the next growing season if a suitable host is present. If no suitable host is present, the seed may remain dormant for five years.

Its wide host range and the long life of its dormant seeds make dodder hard to control and nearly impossible to eradicate. There is no herbicide that can be applied to garden and/or landscape plants once the dodder is up and growing on plants. Hand-pulling and pruning is the only method of control once the dodder is established. Pulling and destroying dodder infected plants before it produces seeds is recommended. Prior to germination, dodder can be prevented reasonably well with the application of a pre-emergence herbicide. Be sure to read and follow all label directions before using any pesticide.


Reporting Your Hours

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

A Master Gardener Activity Report is available at www.mcmga.net. PLEASE use this form to report your hours! Forms are also available at the extension office. Also, remember to keep a copy of your activity reports for your records.

Although the annual commitment of 12 volunteer hours and 6 educational hours runs on the calendar year, I would appreciate having hours reported more frequently. My reporting year for Purdue follows the federal fiscal year from October 1 through September 30.

If you have questions about certifying, remaining an active Master Gardener, and advancing to higher levels of certification, please refer to the October 2006 Roots and Shoots newsletter which can be found at http://www.mcmga.net/newsletters/Oct06.pdf

Remember, you can earn education and volunteer hour credits all year around.
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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Hilltop Garden and Nature Center</td>
<td>year around</td>
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<td>Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or <a href="mailto:gspeiche@indiana.edu">gspeiche@indiana.edu</a></td>
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<td>Templeton Garden Project</td>
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<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
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<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876, <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
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<td>Cheryl's Garden</td>
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<td>Larime Wilson, 333-9705</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
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<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426, Bob Baird, 331-1308</td>
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<td>Middle Way House</td>
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<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
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<td>Wylie House</td>
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<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
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<td>year around</td>
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<td>Libby Yarnell, 355-6843</td>
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<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**
Happy Holidays!

Mark your 2009 calendar for January 27 at 6:30 p.m. for the next Master Gardener General Meeting.

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