

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

February 2006 Volume 22, Issue 2

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MARILYN BRINLEY ELECTED PRESIDENT



I would like to introduce myself to those of you who might not know me. My name is Marilyn Brinley and I have just been elected as the President of our fine organization for this year.

I went through the intern class in 2000 and became certified later that year. I became an Advance Master Gardener in 2002. I held the position of treasurer in 2001 and 2002. After a couple of years break, I came back to the board last year as recording secretary.

Since joining Master Gardeners, I have begun writing and to date I have written around 20 articles for our newsletter and plan to write more. I encourage all members who have an affinity for writing to give it a try. I personally would like to see more articles from our own members in the newsletter.

It is also my hope to see more member involvement at our general meetings, and I encourage every member to attend at least one general meeting this year. Our general meetings usually are held on a Tuesday in January, March, May, July, and September, with a holiday party either in November or December. The exact date and place will be announced in the newsletter, and education hours are available for some meetings.

In addition, please remember that all members are welcome to attend the board meetings. The time and place for each meeting will be announced in the newsletter.

Sincerely, Marilyn Brinley

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXTENSION EDUCATOR, AMY THOMPSON



Dear Monroe County MGA members,

Last week we got off to a great start on the 2006 Master Gardener Intern Training class. We have a wonderful group of people involved in the training program; from looking over their applications I know they bring a wide variety of gardening interest and experiences with them to our program. I'm sure that these trainees will be valuable assets to the association upon completion of the training program and volunteer hours. Although

I've been coordinating the Master Gardener program for the past 3.5 years while working for Purdue Extension in Brown Co. I did not have the privilege of working with a formal Master Gardener association. I'm very excited about working with the MCMGA because of all the opportunities that can be offered to Monroe County's current and future certified Master Gardeners. I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the future.

Amy

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW MASTER GARDENERS BY LYDIA ANDERSON

If you are looking for volunteer hours, consider helping at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden this year. It is a great place to develop friendships with your fellow Master Gardeners, learn from their experience, share ideas, and take home a few extra plants.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the garden, it is located at the Monroe County fair grounds off of Bunger Road. There are several established beds including a shade garden, mixed perennial bed, herb garden, heirloom garden, raised beds, and an ornamental grass demonstration plot plus a number of plots that change from year to year.

Anyone who is interested in having a plot or helping out, please call me at (812) 825-2961 or email me at landers@wormsway.com. I'm looking forward to another fun and interesting garden this year and hope to get an early start. I am also hoping to meet you!

DATES AND EVENTS BY MARY JANE HALL

Listed below are events of interest to gardeners listed in order of dates. Now is the time to look ahead and plan to participate in educational opportunities or to visit gardens or garden shows.

February 4 – 12: National City Cleveland Home and Garden Show; for info call: 800-600-0307 or www.homeandflower.com

February 16: *Horticulture Magazine* Symposium, Color Rich Gardens; Indianapolis Museum of Art,

February 24: Woody Plants Symposium, Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe, IL; for info call 847-835-6829 Or www.chicagobotanic.org

March 2 – 5: Nashville Lawn & Garden Show; for info call 615-876-7680 or www.nashvillelawnandgardenshow.com

March 4: Madison County Master Gardener Advanced Training;

Fairgrounds, Alexandria, IN; 8:30am – 3:30pm; \$30, lunch included; registration due: 2/24/06, call: 765-641-9514 or email jorick@purdue.edu ; 6 CE hours; various instructors

March 5 – 12: Philadelphia Flower Show; for info call: 215-988-8899 or www.theflowershow.com

March 11- 19: Chicago Flower and Garden Show; for info call: 312-222-5086 or www.chicagoflower.com

March 20, 27, April 3: IU Lifelong Learning; 450 S. Landmark Av., classroom #, Bloomington; 7 – 8:30pm; \$60, call: 812-855-51008; 4.5 CE hours; Anita Bracalente, instructor

May 11,12: American Horticultural Society School, The Art and Science of Color in the Garden, Franklin Park Conservatory, Columbus, OH; for info call 703-768-3700 x 121 or www.ahs.org.

NEW MASTER GARDENER BY JOANNA HOWE

We welcome Nita Horrar to the rank of Master Gardener. Nita put in numerous hours connected with the Bloomington Garden Walk, helped several relatives and neighbors with landscaping questions/problems, put together a demonstration on flower arranging for a women's group, and helped prepare a newsletter for mailing. Congratulations, and keep on growing!

MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



ADVANCED TRAINING A HUGE SUCCESS

The advanced training session, **Trees, All Seasons, All Reasons**, was a success, thanks to all of the MCMGA members who planned, organized, and worked on the event for the last several months. If you missed attending on Saturday, February 4, too bad, because the information on trees given by our speakers, Ralph Unversaw and Lee Huss, was enlightening, encouraging, and challenging. We could not have shared this informative day without the following planning members and their committees:

General Chairs—Ann McEndarfer and Nancy White

Publicity— Chair: Helen Hollingsworth and Larime Wilson

Food—Chair: Marilyn Brinley and Ann Wrenn, Richie Epps, Mary Jane Hall, Gino Brancolini

Handouts/Folders—Chair: Ann McEndarfer, Mary Hawkins, Dan Nichols, Cheryl Engber

Decorations/Door Prizes—Chair: Nancy White, Judy Hawkins, Diana Young

Set Up—Herman Young

Clean Up—Chair: Jeff Schafer, Barb Cappy, Dale Calabrese, Lydia Anderson

Thanks to our host site, St. Marks Methodist Church, for the use of wonderful Garton Hall and to the Extension Office secretarial staff, Jackie and Kris, who supported our efforts with design, duplicating, and organizational tasks. We are grateful to everyone who joined to help our committees.

We also thank the following for donations of food and door prizes: Lowe's Home Improvement, Bloomington Hardware, Bloomington Bakehouse, Linnea Good from "Linnea's Greenhouse", Abell's Nursery and Landscaping, and Andy and Amy Hamilton from Musgraves Orchard. Patronize these generous community friends when you can.

MARK THESE 2006 MCMGA MEETING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

At our recent general meeting, programs for 2006 were discussed, and ideas were shared on speakers and topics of interest. The following plans reflect some of these ideas. Here are dates for 2006 general meetings.

<u>DATE& TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>
March 28, 6:30 p.m.	First Christian Church	Garden Design
May 23, 6:30 p.m.	Karst Farm Park Shelter	Celebration/Welcome Intern Class and Plant Exchange
July 18, 6:00 p.m.	Monroe County Fairgrounds	Work Session in the Garden
September 26, 6:30 p.m.	TBA	TBA
November 28, 6:00 p.m.	First United Church	Holiday Program and Dinner
January 23, 2007, 6:30 p.m.	Monroe County Public Library	TBA

WONDER GARDEN

Located next to WonderLab on West 4th Street is Wonder Garden, a professionally designed, beautiful, and relaxing addition to downtown Bloomington. The WonderLab staff seeks our help with developing a yearly maintenance plan and in developing and engaging a volunteer team to provide maintenance and upkeep. Master Gardener volunteers might help in directing volunteer teams. This will be a win-win situation for all, since MG members can gain volunteer hours by providing education and direction to both volunteers and WonderLab staff. Thanks to MG members Elizabeth Brown, Barb Cappy, Cheryl and Mike Engber, Rosemary Dever, and Nancy White, who gave their planning expertise in January.

FIREWITCH DIANTHUS NAMED 2006 PERENNIAL OF THE YEAR

BY B. ROSIE LERNER

The Perennial Plant Association has selected *Dianthus gratianopolitanus* Firewitch (Feuerhexe) as its 2006 Perennial Plant of the Year. Also known as a cheddar pink, the perennial dianthus is an excellent choice for use as an edging plant, as a rock garden specimen, to soften retaining walls, and in container gardens.

Firewitch has hot pink flowers that bloom profusely in mid to late spring, with some repeat bloom in summer and fall if you deadhead faded blooms. As an added bonus, the flowers have a spicy clove-like fragrance. The bluish-gray evergreen foliage forms solid mats, making it an excellent ground cover, even when not in bloom. Plants reach only 3-4 inches tall, though the blooming stems add a few more inches.

Dianthus performs best in full sun, though light shade is helpful in particularly hot locations. The plant is rather adaptable, but well-drained soil is a must. Plants are hardy in USDA zones 3 to 9. Plants are easy to propagate by division or by stem cuttings taken just before or immediately after flowering.

This particular selection of Dianthus was introduced by a German nursery in 1957 as Fererhexe but was mostly unknown in the United States until the late 1980s, when a Connecticut nursery (Sunny Border) took up its cultivation. Commonly sold now as Firewitch in the United States, you can find it in many local garden centers and mail-order catalogs, wherever perennials are sold.

Members of the Perennial Plant Association, generally professional plant growers, select one perennial each year to educate the gardening public and to promote planting of perennial flowers. For more information, visit the association's Web site at <http://www.perennialplant.org>.

LOOKING FOR A CATALOG?

Here 'tis! A website to refer to on those long days waiting for spring to happen: ***Cindi's Catalog of Garden Catalogs*** at <http://www.gardenlist.com/>. It was last updated in January, 2005. This is the home gardener's one stop to find all the mail-order gardening catalogs in the US and Canada--over 2000 of them! Check here first to find the company and see its ratings for quality, service, price and breadth of varieties. You will also find links to mail-order companies outside North America and other gardening-related sites.

Submitted by Richard Cates

VOLUNTEER HOURS BY MARY HAWKINS

With the election of new board members in January 2006, the new person to send your volunteer and education hours to is Mary Hawkins. You can either mail your hours to her attention at the extension office's address or e-mail directly to marywalloon@aol.com. If you have any questions about what counts you may call any of the board members or Mary Hawkins at 824-2139 or 360-0485. Make your time count. Turn in those hours!

2006 TCMGA GARDENING WORKSHOPS

Tippecanoe County Master Gardeners workshops are presented at the Tippecanoe County Extension Office. Reserve your spot by calling Debbie at 800.853.3286 or Mary Ann at 765.447.8160. Upcoming workshops: Orchids & Roses, Saturday, March 11, 9-noon, and Butterflies in the Garden, 6:30-9 p.m., Thursday, April 6.

BEWARE OF 'HELP' WITH YOUR EMERALD ASH BORER PROBLEM BY NANCY WHITE

According to news reports, over 10 million trees in Michigan and Ohio have been killed by the emerald ash borer or cut down to avoid or to contain infestations by the insect, a destructive pest infecting ash trees. Earlier it was believed the emerald ash borer was only in northern Indiana, notably in LaGrange, Steuben, and Noble. In an effort to contain the spread of the insect, Hoosier National Forest (HNF) employees suggested that ash trees be cut down and that no transport of wood from these counties be allowed to other Indiana areas. Now, despite these efforts, news reports indicate that the infestation has accelerated and infected trees are known to be in Hamilton and Hendricks Counties. HNF employees say that the swiftly implemented policies for destruction of trees did not seem to deter the fluorescent green bugs and that homeowners and small forest managers should not destroy the ash trees but to wait to gauge the damage later. Check your ash trees for signs of damage or weakness and be on the lookout for a green bug that eats only ash trees and is very hard to locate until after the damage is done. Pictures of this lethal creature are available on-line at www.emeraldashborer.info

PURDUE'S WORDS OF WISDOM TO AVOID EMERALD ASH BORER SCAMS

Warning: Watch out for deceptive practices!

- ◆ Be wary of individuals or companies who offer to "cure" or "prevent" EAB infestations, often at exorbitant prices.
- ◆ Make sure that any advice you get about EAB control is sound before agreeing to any treatment for your trees.
- ◆ If someone approaches you and claims that the state has ordered your ash trees must be removed and offers to cut them down for a price, report the individual's name and contact information to the IDNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology, at (317) 232-4121.
- ◆ If you have questions about treating your trees for EAB, please contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, your local Cooperative Extension Service, a certified arborist, or your city's or community's forester. Purdue's Emerald Ash Borer website is <http://www.entm.purdue.edu/eab/>

CINCINNATI FLOWER SHOW TRIP IS APRIL 26

Master Gardeners and Friends are sponsoring a trip to the Cincinnati Flower Show on April 26. *Better Homes and Gardens* rated this show as the King of all Flower Shows.

The Cincinnati Flower Show is known for brilliant single genus displays and extraordinary show gardens. This is an opportunity to see garden ideas for every space and for first-rate shopping for gardeners. Look for fresh design ideas and over-the-top tablescapes. This is the only North American flower show endorsed by the Royal Society of Great Britain.

A Star of America coach will provide the transportation. The cost of the trip is \$46, which includes a snack, a bottle of water, transportation and admission ticket. Lunch is on your own. There is a café at the flower show and a fast food pit shop will also be available.

Sign up by March 22 at Monroe County Parks & Recreation by phone (349-2800) or in person. Monroe County Parks & Recreation is open between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mastercard/Visa, checks, and cash are accepted.

MG FAVORITE GARDEN BOOKS BY MARILYN BRINLEY

Our January Master Gardener general meeting included a review of favorite garden books. It truly was a shame that such a wonderful event had such a small audience. With that in mind, I have decided that we could certainly share our favorite gardening books through our monthly newsletter.

I would like to continue this series of book recommendations and with that in mind, I invite all members to email me (mlbrinley@aol.com) a list of favorite gardening books. Please include the title, author, a short description of the book and why you like it so much. Also, please include your name with the list. I look forward to hearing from you.

My favorite gardening books (in no particular order):

The Encyclopedia of North American Wild Flowers by Joan Barker

This book lists over 400 species and boasts beautiful photography. I like that the flowers are listed by habitat and then subdivided by flower color.

The Ultimate Gardening Book by Carole McGlynn

This book is filled with many ideas and gardening tips. The ideas range from planting ideas to hard-scape and decorating ideas and the mind is tantalized with all of the possibilities. Now if I only had the time and the energy...

Botanica by R. G. Turner Jr. (Barnes and Noble Books)

This is an encyclopedia with over 10,000 entries of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines, perennials and annuals. I find this to be an excellent resource and also enjoyable to peruse.

Orchid Growing for Wimps by Ellen Zachos

Just as promised, an easy guide to orchid care. While an easy read for the beginner, this book still has much value among my many orchid books.

Gardening in America by Odgen Tanner

This is an interesting history and overview of the gardening regions of America. Beautiful photography and insightful writing highlight this delightful book.

Herbs by Roger Phillips and Nicky Foy

A listing of various herbs and their many uses. While I do have flashier books on herbs, this was my first and it offers many old and obscure (but potentially dangerous) uses of many common herbs.

Botanica's Roses

This is an encyclopedic listing of many roses. There is also a nice section of the history of roses in the front. The book boasts a forward by David Austin who is a leading breeder of shrub roses.

Mary Jane Hall's favorite books:

Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Michael A. Dirr

A textbook, so informative and occasionally humorous, that you can't put it down! 1187 pages, pen and ink illustrations. If you love trees and shrubs, there is no better reference book.

Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs, Michael A. Dirr

What this book lacks in humor, it makes up for with fabulous color photos. Very informative and a mere 493 pages. A great reference book and pretty enough for display on a coffee table!

Swimming with Frogs, Life in the Brown Count Hills, Ruth Ann Ingraham

Utterly charming account of Southern Indiana flora and fauna in this memoir written by one of the founders of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society. So well described that her lovely photos are almost unnecessary. A great winter read!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	Marcia Figueiredo, 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, 339-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer
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 work with Horticultural therapist	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
Clear Creek School	spring/on-going	identification, education	Charlie Hawk, 824-7969

PRUNING FRUIT TREES AND GRAPES ADVANCED TRAINING AT PURDUE

Purdue University is presenting Purdue Fruit Tree and Grape Pruning and Spring Management Workshop on Saturday, March 11, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to noon, EST, at the Purdue Meigs Horticulture Facility, 9101 S. 100 E, Lafayette, IN, 47909 (765-538-3297).

Presentations are as follows:

Grapes and Brambles by Paul Howard, Department of Agriculture

Fruit Trees by Burk Thompson, Department of Forestry

Learn the proper procedures for pruning and training fruit trees and grapes. Purdue Horticulture staff will also discuss management practices for the backyard fruit tree and grape grower. Three hours of credit are available for Advanced Master Gardeners.

RSVP to your county's cooperative extension office by March 9, 2006. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

MILD WEATHER PUSHES UP THE BULBS BY B. ROSIE LERNER

It's not unusual for Indiana weather to have trouble deciding what season it is. Recent warm spells have had many gardeners wondering what to do about bulbs -- and, perhaps, a few other plants that are poking their foliage through the soil.

As I write this article, temperatures started out in the 50s and are expected to drop to the upper 20s by tonight! Just what should gardeners do about daffodils, dianthus and daylilies poking out of the ground?

The good news is that no action is really required. Although we're more used to seeing this happen later in winter during a February warm spell, this certainly isn't the first time that it has happened in January. The plants will survive just fine, though they may look a little worse for wear.

The longer the mild weather stays around, the more potential there is for damage when the weather returns to normal winter. Foliage that has popped up will be killed back, but the bulbs and storage roots of other perennials should remain undamaged underground. As the plants completely push out in spring, the damaged foliage will appear brown, giving plants a raggedy appearance. But the plants themselves should be fine.

I wouldn't expect flower buds to be affected much at this early stage of development. But, of course, there is plenty more winter and opportunity for more fluctuating temperatures yet to come. There isn't much we can do about the weather but sit back and wait to see what Mother Nature has in store for us!

NEW AT THE U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN BY MARY JANE HALL

Designed by Roger Hangarter, Indiana University biology professor, "sLowlife" is in its debut exhibit through March 26, 2006, at the US Botanic Garden. The show blends art and science using computers and photography. Hangarter said, "The goal was to create an experience that would be aesthetically interesting and enjoyable while being scientifically accurate and educational." It challenges the visitor to rethink plants as active life forms. The exhibit moves next to the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Reprinted from: *The American Gardener*, The Magazine of the American Horticultural Society.

FREE ORGANIC GARDENING CLASSES AT WORMS WAY BY AGNIESZKA TRAYNOR

Learn how to tend your garden organically from start to finish and more at Worm's Way, 7850 N State Road 37, Bloomington, IN 47404, (812) 876-6425. Free classes are held on the second Saturday of every month at 11:00 a.m. in the Worm's Way greenhouse. No sign up necessary.

February 11	Seed Starting and Garden Maintenance Calendar
March 11	Organic Lawn Care
April 8	Hydroponic Gardening, Indoors and Out
May 13	Pond Building and Maintenance
June 10	Organic Pest Control

PURDUE OFFERS THREE ONLINE GARDEN PROGRAMS

Purdue is offering three online interactive self-paced gardening programs to those who have a valid email account and access to the Internet.

1. **The SmartGarden program**, available March 30—September 30, 2006, was developed in partnership with the American Horticulture Society (AHS). The program enables participants to complete self-assessments and activities to practice good stewardship of the earth, select plants compatible with growing conditions, reassess gardening practices, and measure gardening decisions against its environmental impact. Registration deadline is March 25, 2006 and cost (\$100) includes 400 page SmartGarden northeast guide, access to online program from March 30-September 30, 2006, online discussion board, one-year subscription and membership (or renewal) to AHS, bi-monthly electronic newsletter, and 12 educational hours upon completion to certified Master Gardeners.

2. **Herbaceous Perennials for Sun**, developed with Allan Armitage, features in-depth information for more than 100 outstanding herbaceous perennials belonging to 24 genera that prefer more than 6 hours of sunlight a day. It teaches how to make informed decisions to help you design, select, and grow sun-loving perennials in your garden. The program fee of \$135 includes *Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes*, 2nd ed. By Allan M. Armitage (1141 pages), access to the program until September 15, 2006, online discussion board, one year membership and subscription to AHS, bi-monthly electronic newsletter, and 20 educational hours for completion of the program to certified Master Gardeners.

3. **Herbaceous Perennials for Shade** online interactive, self-paced program will be available beginning September 30, 2006. Register now for both programs and save—only \$195 for both.

If you have questions about any of these three programs, contact Peggy Sellers at 765-494-4713.

NEW AT MORTON ARBORETUM BY MARY JANE HALL

If you are planning a visit to or through the Chicago metro area, stop by the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Their newly opened one acre maze garden is a wonder at any time of the year. Distinctively different than most labyrinths, this one offers four surprise garden rooms cleverly concealed in its design. In addition, if you happen by on different occasions, you might find yourself traveling in a new direction since the maze is designed to be changed periodically using a system of gates.

Log onto www.mortonarb.org or call 630-968-0074

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2006 Membership Renewals Due at Extension Office by March 1.

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MCMGA MEMBERSHIP?

MCMGA memberships must be received March 1, 2006 for inclusion in ***folia and flora 2006 Membership Guide.***

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