

February 2011

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 2



Our next general meeting is March 29

Many thanks to refreshments chair Barb Cappy and committee members Charlotte Griffin, Donna Terry, and Dale Wilkins who served us delicious refreshments at the January 25 meeting: The refreshment chair's responsibility is to contact the others about a week in advance and coordinate what they would like to bring, in order to be sure there will be paper products and drinks, in addition to finger foods.

Thanks also to Jeff Schafer for Set-Up/Tear-Down duty and to one or two other gentlemen who cheerfully agreed to be conscripted for the assignment.

Our March 29 general meeting is at 6:30 p.m., in the Extension Office meeting room. Our program, *Helping Your Lawn Recover from Drought and Turf Alternatives* will be presented by Aaron Patton, Turf Specialist, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University. Attendees receive two education hours credit.

Refreshment Committee members for the March 29 general meeting are Chair Melissa Britton, Penny Austin, Mary Hoffmann, and Dot Owen. Jim Jeffries has volunteered for Set-Up/Tear-Down duty. Thank you all.

Plan to work at our Garden Fair on April 23

Volunteers needed—guaranteed to have lots of fun and make others happy! Consider helping to procure and give away outstanding door prizes at this year's Master Garden Fair on April 23. Anyone interested, please contact Diann Lock at: dlock333@yahoo.com.



By
Evelyn
Harrell



By
Diann
Lock

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Special points of interest:

Look for your name on the Garden Fair committee list on page 3
Are your houseplants in need of more moisture? See page 7
Explore ways to enjoy gardening through your senses; see page 8
Solve your lawn problems at our next meeting on March 29; see page 1
2011 issue of *Folia & Flora* contains new features described on page 5
Explore new garden sites on the internet; read Karen's column on page 6
See the list of wonderful English gardens you can visit with Rosie & Mike on page 4

Member News

A large group of certified Master Gardeners, 2010 interns, and some of the new 2011 intern class joined to make our January general meeting an enjoyable and informative time. Following the announcements, Alan Payton, owner of Meadowhead Nursery, educated us on choosing the right flowering shrub, picking the right site for the plants we grow, and planting shrubs. He even gave us tips on pruning many types of shrubs. After getting the audience excited about planting new shrubs, he provided us with photos and details on a wide range of flowering shrubs that he has grown and can recommend. Many of these are deer resistant and available locally.



By
Nancy
White

Amy Thompson completed our education sessions with an overview of landscape plant diseases and conditions that are currently facing Indiana growers. She showed many examples to alert us of possible problems we may have on our own properties. She encouraged us to send samples to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab and to visit their website, www.ppd.l.purdue.edu.

Thanks go to Barb Cappy and her refreshment committee, Dale Wilkins, Charlotte Griffin, and Donna Terry for helping to make the evening an enjoyable one with their delicious treats. Thanks, too, to Jeff Shafter for his work in setting up and taking down chairs and tables.

Also at the General Meeting, Amy Thompson announced an on-line education series, *Growing Green, Sustainable Vegetable Culture for Pleasure and Profit*. Starting February 8 and available to the public, this series is offered by Purdue and includes sessions on vegetable farming, pest management, and disease and weed control. For more information, contact Amy Thompson.

2011 Folia and Flora is now available

If you attended the January general meeting, you have already received your *2011 Folia and Flora*. Be sure to check your personal information in the book and report any needed corrections to the extension office by email. An addendum including corrections will be available in a few weeks. Be sure to check out the new additions to our yearbook such as our 2011 programs and MG annual Garden Walk listings. Our thanks should go to Dan Nichols, Helen Hollingsworth, Amy Thompson, and Jackie Claffey, extension office staff member, for their fine job in completing our book.

Thank you, H-T!

Did you see the wonderful article and color photos on our current Master Gardener intern class in the H-T on Saturday, January 15? Karen Sparks, 2010 intern; Amy Thompson; and MCMGA President Nancy White were interviewed by H-T columnist Carol Krause for the article. We thank Carol for such a thorough overview of our training class.

Garden Fair news

Committees are already working to make this year's Garden Fair on April 23 a success. If you have not yet signed up for a committee and would like to do so, contact Nancy White. Garden Fair committees are as follows:

By
Nancy
White

Physical Arrangements	Evelyn Harrell	Charlotte Griffin
David Dunatchik, chair	Helen Hollingsworth	Linda Burke
Barb Cappy	Harriet Fulton	Financial
Linda Emerson	Nancy White	Diana Young, chair
Penny Austin	Vendors	Robin Nordstom
Mary Jane Hall	Peggy Reis-Krebs, chair	Esther Minnick
Jeff Schafer	Vicky St. Myers	Dianne May
Mary Ackerman	Kathleen Baker	Diana Dingman
Herman Young	David Hunt	Marilyn Brinley
Dan Nichols	Melissa Britton	Master Gardener
Amanda Harding	Julia Bebeau	Information Booth
Stephen Anderson	Lauren Bikoff	Susan Eastman, chair
David Burkhart	Lisa Denlinger	Helen Hollingsworth
Café	Mary Ackerman	Harriet Fulton
Cindy Benson, chair	Katrina Ladwig	Ida Bouvier
Jackie Gilkey	Publicity	Allison Huffman
Diana Dingman	Nancy White, chair	Jill Curry
Linda Heath	Bob Baird	Moya Andrews
Mary Hoffman	Karen Sparks	Dan Pyle
Evelyn Harrell	Patty Crites	Sandy Belth
Gloria Noone	Lisa Denlinger	Ann McEndarfer
Mary Hawkins	Jeanne Cox	Door Prizes
Donna Terry	Charlotte Griffin	Dian Lock, chair
Education	Billie Moore	Patty Crites
Jeff Schafer, chair	Abraham Morris	Judy Hawkins
		Nancy Page

Please help the physical arrangements committee by saving the long plastic bags that our newspapers are placed in during snowy and rainy days. Plan to bring any you may have to the March general meeting. These plastic bags will be used to wrap our free trees for Garden Fair attendees. (continued on page 4)

Grant County Master Gardeners host advanced training

Grant County Master Gardeners are hosting *A Gardening Sundry*, an advanced Master Gardener training, on Saturday, March 19, 8:00 a.m.—2:15 p.m., at the Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, 1403 E. State Road 18 in Marion, Indiana. Sessions on gardening with wild-life, English cottage gardens, herbs, heirloom plants, and butterfly gardening, are open to Master Gardeners and Master Gardener interns. A fee of \$20 is due by March 11. Registration information is available at www.extension.purdue.edu/grant .

Visit gardens in England with Rosie and Mike

Several openings are available for the Purdue Master Gardener Study Abroad to England this summer. The program, *England and Its Gardens*, is an international study abroad opportunity for Purdue Master Gardeners on July 6—19, 2011. Course fee (not including airfare) is \$3240 per person double occupancy/\$3970 per person single occupancy

By Rosie
Lerner,
Master
Gardener
State
Coordinator

Our adventure will visit gardens of historical and modern significance in the regions of London, including such notable gardens as Hampton Court Palace, Stourhead, Hidcote Manor, Corsham Court, Hestercombe, Iford Manor, Westbury Court, Knole, Sissinghurst, Beth Chatto, Blooms of Bressingham, and the Royal Horticulture Society gardens at Wisley.

The program flier can be downloaded from our webpage at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/eaig/main.html>. To register for the course, contact our secretary, Tammy Goodale <tgoodale@purdue.edu> 765-494-1296.

Garden Fair News (continued from page 3)

Be sure to check out the link on our website for the information on the *Save the Date* card. You can tell you friends and neighbors to check out the card or simply print it out and send it to them. The whole community is invited to join us at the Garden Fair.

Members of the vendor committee are selling ads to be placed in the Garden Fair booklet. If you know of a local business or service agency that might be interested, contact Peggy Reis-Krebs or any vendor committee member.

This year we will have door prizes awarded during Garden Fair day instead of a raffle. Dian Lock and her committee would welcome any door prizes you would like to contribute. Contact Dian for more information.

Master Gardeners offer grants to community agencies

MCMGA is reinstating its grant program. Proceeds from our upcoming Garden Fair will fund this program. Community agencies are encouraged to apply for grants for a variety of garden projects. Master Gardeners may work with local groups to provide ideas and encouragement for the project and the grant writing to earn volunteer hours. The application is simple and is available on our website. Applications are due into the extension office by March 1, and winning grants will be announced April 1. We hope this grant program will encourage new ideas and gardening partnerships within our community.

By
Nancy
White

Education sessions brighten winter months

Details on several education sessions offered in other counties were listed in the January issue of *Roots and Shoots*. Here are additional listings.

By
Nancy
White

March 5, 8:30-3:00, *Spring Tonic*, presented by the Hoosier Hillside Master Gardeners. Fee of \$35 includes breakfast and lunch. Contact Sharron Cousineau at 812-278-6794 for more information.

March 12-20, Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds, West Pavillion. Admission is \$12. For more information, see website at indianaflowerandpatioshow.com.

June 9-11, Purdue Master Gardeners State Conference, *Sustaining the Circle of Growth* in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. More information will be available soon at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/events>.

Explore your 2011 *Folia and Flora*

Some features appear in our 2011 membership guide, *Folia and Flora*, that you may find interesting. Thank you, Dan Nichols, for preparing our membership book.

Page 7 provides dates of the Monroe County Master Gardener board meetings. All members are invited to attend board meetings but do call the extension office to let Amy Thompson know in advance so handouts can be prepared for you.

Page 8 lists dates, time, programs, presenters, and number of education hours available.

Page 9 lists owners and addresses of gardens that we've toured on our annual garden walks.

Page 43 provides a list of deadlines for submitting articles for *Roots and Shoots*, as well as the mailing dates for each issue.

Page 46 explains procedures for reporting hours and provides a space for recording your password.

Web Castings

Some 'pre-digested' web offerings provided by local Master Gardeners and their friends.

This month, it's all about the winter garden, or I should say, winter gardening. So, is our first duty as 'winter gardeners' to look out upon the bones of our gardens as they pass through what can be a beautiful (planned, even) time of year? Or, is it to spend soft quiet time with the stack of seed/plant catalogs that have appeared, imagining and dreaming and actually planning what we might manifest this spring and summer? Yes to both!



By
Karen
Sparks

Henry Ward Beecher gave some sound 19th century advice, that we not be 'made wild by pompous catalogs from florists and seedsmen.' So, fair warning! Michael Pollan actually ranks various catalogs as having differing class distinctions and sensibilities. He judges White Flower Farm, with its subdued Connecticut esthetic and the fictional Amos Pettengill's 'old money' prose (www.whiteflowerfarm.com), and Wayside Gardens (www.waysidegardens.com) of South Carolina, with its 'Scarlet O'Hara flamboyance and plant pedigree,' as the ones appealing in their own ways to the upper crust of Yankee and Southern gardening, respectively.

Pollan goes on to assess Burpee (www.burpee.com) at the higher end of middle class, and Gurney's of South Dakota (www.gurneys.com) at the lower 'tabloid' end; we all have our favorites, you be the judge! No pressure!

As I was searching for winter garden articles online, I came across this site, an article actually within a catalog website, suggesting how to add some interesting winter color, so this covers a bit of both: www.dutchbulbs.com/resources/bulblady/winter. It is from the Van Bourgondien catalog site, written by 'Debbie Van B., The Bulb Lady' and I plan to get the catalog. The only caveat is that they are located in Virginia, not exactly our hardiness zone but with loads of experience providing plants since 1893. Love her winter color ideas.

My favorite from 'up north' (back home?) is the catalog from Jung's garden centers, near Madison, Stevens Point and Randolph, Wisconsin: www.jungseed.com. Their trees, shrubs, plants and seeds, clearly labeled, range from zone 3 to way south, past us here.

What's your favorite catalog/web site for imagining or even buying? Let me know, and I will add them to a future column. This is a cooperative effort, remember?! Email me at Karen.k.sparks@mac.com with your favorite websites for upcoming columns: house plants... roses... garden forums we like and use... maybe even more future topic ideas. Looking forward. Now, back to that important winter garden work! Where's my coffee?!

Thirst aid for houseplants

It looks like cold weather is here to stay, so keep in mind that the typical household in winter is a hazardous place for houseplants. Although we grow them indoors, most houseplants are outdoor plants in their native climates. Tropical and subtropical species can be damaged by temperatures below 50 F, but being too warm in winter can also be a problem.

By Rosie
Lerner,
Purdue
Consumer
Horticulture
Specialist

The air in most homes becomes extremely dry as furnaces force warm air through the rooms. It is not unusual for relative humidity (RH) inside the home to drop to 15% during the winter heating season. Most houseplants do best at about 35-45% RH.

Warm temperatures, coupled with low humidity, can cause plants to lose water faster than they can take it up. So, even though the soil may hold plenty of moisture, the leaves may begin to droop and/or turn brown along the edges. Hot, dry, stale air also creates a favorable environment for spider mites to become troublesome.

The most effective way to increase RH for the comfort of both plants and people is to run a humidifier. Grouping plants together on pebble trays filled with water can also help. However, misting plants occasionally with a spray bottle adds such temporary moisture that it does not effectively change the relative humidity. Keep all plants away from hot air drafts near heat registers. Ferns are especially sensitive to dry air, so take care to place them in a protected area.



Although some plants may grow more slowly during the short days of winter, dry air can cause them to need to be watered even more frequently than when they were actively growing. Monitor the soil moisture to be sure that plants are getting watered as needed.

IMA offers a symposium on February 10

Join dedicated gardeners, designers, and landscape professionals for an exciting full day of lectures and discussions on how new plants are selected, developed, evaluated, and marketed. Featured speakers include Richard Hawke of the Chicago Botanic Garden, Allen Bush of Jelitto Perennial Seeds, Chris Hansen of Great Garden Plants, Dan Heims of Terra Nova Nurseries, Kirk Brown of Joanne Kosticky Garden Design, and Dr. Steven Still of Ohio State University.

Registration fee of \$119 includes morning refreshments, a buffet lunch, and afternoon refreshments.

Register at IMA's website, <http://www.imamuseum.org> or call 1-877-IMA-TIXS (1-877-462-8497).

Gardening for the senses

While many gardeners choose plants for their visual beauty, you may also want to concentrate on choosing plants that stimulate the other senses.

By Larry
Caplan,
Extension
Educator

A Garden You Can Taste

Fruits, vegetables, and some herbs are perfect for stimulating your sense of taste. As long as you're not spraying your crops with pesticides, you can munch your way across the garden any time during the growing season. Sprayed crops should be thoroughly washed (only with water) before eating.

Nasturtiums have a wonderful peppery taste to both leaves and blooms. Mint is very refreshing to chew, and there are dozens of types of mint: not only the spearmint and peppermint everyone is familiar with, but apple mint, orange mint, and many others can be planted in your garden. Hundreds of herbs can be used for cooking. Be certain that you know what herbs you are eating: some very popular herbs and flowers are considered toxic! For more information on herbs, ask for HO-28, *Herb Gardening*.

A Garden You Can Smell

Every plant has its own scent. Different scents can subtly alter your mood, and your garden can help you take advantage of this. Some heavy scents, like honeysuckle, jasmine and wisteria, can make you feel sleepy, while herbs such as lavender, rosemary, and lemon verbena energize and invigorate you. A stroll through a section of culinary herbs, like oregano, sage, and thyme, will often help whet your appetite.

Herbs like chamomile or creeping thyme can be used as groundcovers for pathways and will release their fragrances as you walk across them. Scented geraniums and other aromatic herbs can be planted along pathways and will release their scents when touched by garden visitors.

A Garden You Can Feel

Place plants with interesting textures in a small, enclosed garden with comfortable garden seats or mossy places to sit. Garden beds raised to a height of two feet and constructed with edges to sit on bring touchable plants within reach. Some plants have soft, fuzzy leaves or flowers, like lamb's-ear, woolly thyme, and pussy willow. Many ornamental grasses, especially hare's tail grass, have fluffy flower heads. The blossoms on some plants, such as hibiscus, gardenia, and most lilies, feel silky to the touch. Blossoms of statice and globe amaranth have a papery feel, as do the seed pods of honesty (also called the money plant).

A Garden You Can Hear

The whisper of weeping plants, such as willows and birch, has a calming influence. The rustling of ornamental grasses and bamboo can create a sense of excitement and activity. The garden is a magical place and should be enjoyed by everyone!

Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Amy Countryman
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
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 articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
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	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Jessica Williams, 334-8374
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer 2010	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Remember to report 2010/2011 hours only at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>.

February 2011

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Check page 3 for your name!
It's not too late to sign up for a
Garden Fair committee.**

**Just call or email the chairperson of the committee
you'd like to join.**

2011 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
Vice President—Programs: Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net
Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer
812-325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
Treasurer: Diana Young
812-339-0040 young-Diana@att.net
Secretary: David Dunatchik
812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
Journalists: Helen Hollingsworth
812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu
Director at Large: Herman Young
812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu
Director—Communications: Barbara Hays
812-332-4032 barbsblossoms@att.net
Director—Records: Dan Nichols
812-331-7412 nicholsdg@yahoo.com
Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn
812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu
Hours Report: <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>

2011 Master Gardener Calendar

Thursday, February 10, 8:15—5:00, *Passion and Pursuit, The Search for the Perfect Perennial*, Tobias Theater at IMA, www.imamuseum.org
Saturday, February 19, 8:30—2:30; *Once Upon a Garden*, Princeton Community High School, Princeton, www.extension.purdue.edu/gibson
Saturday, March 5, 8:00—3:30, Advanced Training, Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Alexandria, orick@purdue.edu
Saturday, March 5, 8:30—3:00, Hoosier Hill-sides, *Spring Tonic*, Orange County Community Center, Paoli. Call 812-278-6794
Saturday, March 19, 8:00—2:15, advanced training, Grant County 4-H Fairgrounds, Marion, www.extension.purdue.edu/grant
Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA general meeting, extension office
June 13—16, Lake Superior's Isle Royale National Park, four day workshop, kbrdo@irkpa.org