

# Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 1

## Meeting on January 26 at Jukebox

The next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 6:30 pm. The location of the meeting will be the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Allison Jukebox



By  
Vicky  
St. Myers

Community Center at 349 S. Washington Street. Parking is available behind the building and on surrounding streets. *Planning Your Spring Vegetable Garden*, presented by Stephanie Solomon, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Assistant Director, provides an opportunity to acquire education hours. We also will be distributing a survey to get member suggestions for speakers and fieldtrips for 2010. Bring your ideas and join us to kick off the new gardening year.

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## Time to sign up to volunteer at the Flower & Patio Show

It's time once again to sign up workers for the Master Gardener information booth at the Flower & Patio Show in Indianapolis on March 13-21, 2010.



By  
Preston  
Gwinn

Volunteers will be given a one-day pass for use on their scheduled work day and should have plenty of time to visit the show as well as answer gardening questions at the booth.

Sign up for a shift, a minimum of two people and a maximum of six people working in the booth per 4-hour shift. (Please note that only three to four people will fit inside the booth at any one time!)

To volunteer, call Preston Gwinn at 320-2150 [cell] or email [pgwinn@bluemarble.net](mailto:pgwinn@bluemarble.net).

### Special points of interest:

- Meeting on January 26 at the Jukebox at 6:30 p.m.
- Call Preston Gwinn to volunteer at the Indy Flower & Patio Show
- Volunteer to work on the Spring Garden Event
- Check out the list of Indiana gardens to visit
- Both snow and coffee grounds can be good for gardens!

## Member News

We welcome the 2010 MC Master Gardeners Board to a new year of leadership for our organization. At any time if you have questions or ideas for our activities, please contact a board member or attend a board meeting. Your involvement is imperative for a strong organization. 2010 Board members are president: Nancy White; vice president for education: Jeff Schafer; vice president for programs: Vicky St. Myers; secretary: David Dunatchik; treasurer: Diana Young; journalist: Helen Hollingsworth; director for communications: Barbara Hays; director for records: Dan Nichols; director at large: Herman Young; coordinator for membership: Bethany Murray; Fair Board representative: Preston Gwinn, and past president: Marilyn Brinley.



By  
Nancy  
White

### **Coming soon: a new way to report volunteer hours**

With the new year, we begin new opportunities for volunteering. The board is working with Amy Thompson to organize a new way of recording volunteer hours that will be simpler for all. Be watching for more information on this. In the meantime, continue to take opportunities to gain volunteer hours in committee work, such as providing refreshments for a general meeting, writing articles for *Roots and Shoots*, and attending general meetings that offer education hours. Continue to use the current recording system until the new plan is up and working.

### **Is your Master Gardener membership up-to-date?**

If you have not yet returned your membership blank, do so now to make sure you are included in our membership booklet, *Folia and Flora*. Mary Jane Hall has graciously agreed to coordinate the booklet for 2010 and must have all membership information returned by Monday, January 11 to the extension office. If you have recent changes to your personal information, forward that to Mary Jane immediately.

### **Phone number correction**

Please note Evelyn Harrell's correction of her phone number. The correct number is 812-339-0572.

### **Keep in contact**

Past MG president Barb Baynes is facing some serious health issues in the months ahead. Hearing from some old friends would be a nice surprise for the new year. Her contact information is in *Folia and Flora* if you would like to send a card or e-mail her way.

### **New dogwood tree on the market**

Included in one of the 2010 garden catalogues is a report on a new variety of dogwood tree, *Karen's Appalachian Blush*. This tree, suggested for our zone, is reported to be resistant to powdery mildew and to produce very large blooms. The fall foliage displays shades of red, maroon, and burgundy with crocodile skin textured bark. It is also well-rounded and appropriate for a small garden. Developed at the University of Tennessee, this may be an interesting specimen to consider.

## Volunteers needed to initiate web-based reporting system

Amy Thompson and Dan Nichols, director of records, are looking for volunteers with varying computer skills to report their 2010 hours in the new web-based reporting system. An internet connection, email address, and a willingness to document and report problems or suggestions are all that is necessary to



By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

volunteer. We will ask that you document educational or volunteer efforts shortly after they happen so that you can provide feedback in a timely matter. Time spent familiarizing yourself with the system and reporting back will count as volunteer time. Once we have some initial feedback and have made any necessary changes, we will be opening the web-based system to all who are interested. For those not volunteering for the web-based system, paper copies of your records should continue to be sent to the Extension Office, 119 W 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Bloomington, IN 47408.

## 2010 Master Gardener training class

In response to multiple requests over the last few years, the 2010 class will be held in the fall rather than the spring. If you know of individuals who had hoped to participate in our next training program, please have them contact the extension office at 349-2575 or [monroeces@purdue.edu](mailto:monroeces@purdue.edu), and we will add them to our interest list. Individuals on the interest list will be contacted in the summer with class information and registration materials.

By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

## Adventures in backyard fruit production- The Purdue school for backyard fruit growers

This series offers current and aspiring backyard fruit growers the opportunity to learn from experts about ways to increase the success and satisfaction of quality fruit production in their home landscape as well as ways to store, preserve and prepare the fruits of their labor. The program will be held 9:30—11:30 a.m. on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> at the meeting room of the Health Services building. Space is limited and is expected to fill quickly.

Cost of the program is \$50/person for the entire program, or if you're only interested in individual sessions, the cost is \$15/person/session. This program will be delivered via a webinar format and off-site viewing is also available (high speed internet connection required). A full program brochure and registration form will be available soon on the Monroe County Extension Office Calendar at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/calendar/default.aspx?county=Monroe> or contact Amy at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) for more information

By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

Are you a backyard fruit grower? In conjunction with the Backyard Fruit Production program, we are looking for a local tour site. Do you produce berries, grapes, or tree fruit or any combination of the above? Would you be willing to host a small group and share your knowledge about growing fruit? Master Gardener volunteer hours would be available for time spent preparing for and providing the tour. If you might be a willing host, please contact Amy at the Extension office [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) or 349-2575.

## From the President's Desk by Nancy White

As we begin a fresh new year and decade, reviewing the previous years' highs and lows is a favorite ritual. Personally, I think revisiting the "lows" is depressing and sometimes downright boring. So....let's focus on some of the highs for our MG group.

### Working together

- we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 with a dinner and retrospective program,
- we have grown our membership to its current level of 138,
- we have joined in partnerships with other local agencies to further community gardening and beautification,
- we have maintained our demo garden at the fairgrounds and added updated designs and plantings,
- we have developed a program of continuing education at our general meetings,
- we have continued our outreach to the State Fair, Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show, Senior Expo, Bloomington Flower and Garden Show, and Bloomington in Bloom,
- we have grown with technology through our website, *Roots and Shoots*, and a new system of recording volunteer hours,.
- we have redesigned and maintained Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park,
- we have trained over 300 new Master Gardeners,
- we have offered continuing education on trees and plan a May community event,
- we have been represented at State MG Conferences yearly, and
- we have shared our talents and love of gardening with so many these last 10 years.

Let's keep it going!

## We are hosting a spring garden event on May 1

Be sure to mark May 1 on your 2010 calendar as the date for our spring garden event. We need the help of all our members; whatever your time and interests, we have a committee for that. January activities for planning this event include signing up vendors and non-profit groups for booths, planning publicity, and arranging educational seminars.

By  
Nancy  
White

Contact Vicky St. Myers, Jeff Schafer, Dian Lock, or Nancy White to help out with this May 1 activity.

**Garden books** are a special pleasure when received as gifts, especially those that can be savored during winter months. Three notables to look for: *The Evening Garden: Flowers and Fragrance from Dusk till Dawn* by Peter Loewer; *Green Thoughts* by Eleanor Perenyi; and *The Gardener's Bed-Book* by Richardson Wright.

## Opportunities to earn education hours

Education hours will be available to all Master Gardeners at the following events. If you plan to attend, be sure to register using the provided contact information.

By  
Nancy  
White

**Madison County Master Gardener Advanced Training** is offered on Saturday, February 27, 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m., at the Madison County 4-H Fairgrounds, Alexandria, Indiana. Session topics include *Growing Beautiful Hydrangeas*, *Garden Photography*, *Attracting Birds and Wildlife to the Garden*, and *Indiana Native Plants for the Landscape*. Registration fee of \$35 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Contact is John Orick, Purdue Extension Office, phone 765-641-9514 or [orick@purdue.edu](mailto:orick@purdue.edu).

**Porter County Annual Garden Show** will be held on January 23, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., at the Porter County Expo Center, Valparaiso, Indiana. The show offers various speakers, topics, and vendors. Admission is \$7, and no registration is necessary. Additional information is available at [www.pcgarden.info/gardeningshow](http://www.pcgarden.info/gardeningshow).

**Hoosier Hillside MGs** will present their spring event, *Spring Tonic*, on March 6, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., at the Orange County Community Center, Orange County Fairgrounds, Paoli, Indiana. Registration is \$35 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Sessions are offered on tree maintenance, no-till gardening, container gardening, and planning a butterfly garden. For more information, call 812-723-4835 or 812-278-6794.

## Prairie wildflowers native to Indiana

Purdue's website, [www.purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu), has a detailed list of prairie wildflowers native to Indiana, as well as list directions for installing prairie wildflowers and sources for purchase. To find these lists, log onto [www.purdue.edu](http://www.purdue.edu), and type 'prairie wildflowers' in the upper right search box. Among those listed may be cousins that already reside in your garden, such as bluestem grass (*Andropogon gerardii*); butterfly milkweed, (*Asclepias tuberosa*), New England aster, (*Aster novae-angliae*), tall tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris*), shooting star, (*Dodecatheon media*), and pale purple coneflower, (*Echinacea pallida*). Check out the lists and plan to welcome some more natives to your garden.

## MGs observe bonsai demonstration at holiday party

Our speaker for our annual holiday party was David Higgins, IU Jacobs School of Music faculty member and bonsai enthusiast. David, a member of the Indianapolis Bonsai Club, has enjoyed the art of bonsai and studied techniques for many years. He amazed us with a demonstration while relating interesting facts on the history of bonsai.



Photo by Amy Thompson

## Gardens to visit in Indiana

When winter keeps us indoors, why not dream of gardens to visit? Why not plan a visit to a botanical garden or arboretum? Plan now for a destination on the first warm spring day.

Indiana has a number of public gardens where you can learn new plants, as well as how to grow them. Botanical gardens and arboreta are essentially living museums with plants as the exhibits. Public gardens can be abundant sources of information about plants that can be grown in your area. Many public gardens have lecture series, tours and other special events.

The following list of selected gardens includes some of the larger public collections in Indiana. Hours of operation will vary, so it is wise to call ahead and find out the specific hours for the particular site.

Christy Woods  
Ball State University  
200 W. University Ave  
Muncie IN 47306  
(765) 285-8838  
[bsu.edu/map/bldngs/woods/](http://bsu.edu/map/bldngs/woods/)

Hilltop Garden & Nature Center  
Indiana University  
2367 E 10th Street  
Bloomington IN 47401  
(812) 855-8808  
[hilltopgardens.wordpress.com](http://hilltopgardens.wordpress.com)

Clegg Botanical Gardens  
1782 North 400 East  
Lafayette IN 47905  
765) 423-1325

Holcomb Botanical Garden  
Butler University  
4600 Sunset Ave  
Indianapolis IN 46208  
(317) 283-9413

Deming Park Holly Arboretum  
500 S. Fruitridge Avenue  
Terre Haute, IN  
(812) 232-2727  
[deminghollyarb@yahoo.com](mailto:deminghollyarb@yahoo.com)

Huntington College Arboretum  
2303 College Ave  
Huntington IN 46750  
(260) 356-6000, ext. 2001

Foellinger-Freimann Conservatory  
1100 S. Calhoun St  
Fort Wayne IN 46802  
(260) 427-1267  
[botanicalconservatory.org/](http://botanicalconservatory.org/)

Indianapolis Art Museum  
1200 W. 38th St  
Indianapolis IN 46208-4196  
317) 923-1331  
[imamuseum.org](http://imamuseum.org)

Garfield Park Conservatory  
2450 S. Shelby St.  
Indianapolis IN 46203  
(317) 327-7184  
[garfieldgardensconservatory.org](http://garfieldgardensconservatory.org)

International Friendship Gardens  
P. O. Box 8834  
Michigan City, IN 46361  
(219) 878-9885  
[friendshipgardens.org](http://friendshipgardens.org)

Hayes Regional Arboretum  
801 Elks Rd  
Richmond IN 47374  
(765) 962-3745

Oakhurst Gardens  
1200 N. Minnetrista Parkway  
Muncie IN 47303  
(800) 4-CULTURE  
(continued on page 7)

## Gardens to visit in Indiana (continued from page 6)

Purdue Extension Allen County Display Gardens  
4001 Crescent Ave  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815  
[ces.purdue.edu/Allen/](http://ces.purdue.edu/Allen/) (click on Consumer Horticulture link)

Taltree Arboretum and Gardens  
71 N 500 W (enter on 100 N)  
Valparaiso, IN 46385  
(219) 462-0025  
[taltree.org](http://taltree.org)

Purdue University Horticulture Gardens  
Dept. of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture  
625 Agriculture Mall Drive  
West Lafayette, IN 47906-2010  
(765) 494-1296  
[hort.purdue.edu/ext/hort\\_gardens.html](http://hort.purdue.edu/ext/hort_gardens.html)

White River Gardens  
Indianapolis Zoo  
1200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
317-630-2001  
[whiterivergardens.com](http://whiterivergardens.com)

## Grounds for gardening

Do Johnny jump ups jive with java? How about a little coffee on your cucumbers? With so many trendy coffee houses these days, there is a lot of interest in recycling used coffee grounds to divert them from the landfill. And being a plant product, a frequent question is whether coffee grounds are useful for gardening.

There have been a few companies studying the use of coffee grounds as a soil or compost amendment, and there are even a few companies marketing it as such. So here's my cup of counsel.

It's difficult to make a specific recommendation for an application rate, but it's always better to err on the lighter side, since the pH can be variable.

Coffee grounds are a low-level source of nitrogen, having a fertilizer value of around 2.0-0.3-0.2, as well as a minor source of calcium and magnesium. Post-brewed coffee grounds are reported to be slightly to highly acidic, depending on the source, but no more so than peat moss. So, one could apply them to the soil for acid-loving plants, such as rhododendrons, azaleas and blueberries, etc. They might even help keep your bigleaf hydrangeas blue. Or, you could spread them out over a larger garden area to minimize the pH effect. It's difficult to make a specific recommendation for an application rate,

but it's always better to err on the lighter side, since the pH can be variable. A rate of 10 pounds (dry weight) per 1000 square feet would be conservative.

Composting is also an excellent method to recycle the grounds, which have a carbon-to-nitrogen ratio of around 20:1. Use the grounds as you would green, leafy material, mixing with some dry, brown plant materials in the compost. The Environmental Protection Agency suggests adding no more than 25 percent volume coffee grounds. Worm composters report that coffee grounds are an excellent food source for the little critters. Again, be sure to mix the grounds with dry brown materials, even in the worm bin.

By  
B. Rosie  
Lerner,  
Extension  
Consumer  
Horticulturalist

## Snow is good for gardens

Though your aching back may not agree, recent heavy snows actually will be good for your garden and landscape. Snow provides moisture as well as protection from cold and wind.

Snow is an excellent insulator against low temperatures and excessive winds. The extent of protection depends on the depth of snow. Generally, the temperature below the snow increases by about two degrees F for each inch of accumulation. In addition, the soil gives off some heat so that the temperature at the soil surface can be much warmer than the air temperature. One study found that the soil surface temperature was 28 F with a 9-inch snow depth and an air temperature of -14 F!

By  
B. Rosie  
Lerner,  
Extension  
Consumer  
Horticulturalist

Generally, the temperature below the snow increases by about two degrees F for each inch of accumulation.

Snow brings welcome moisture to many landscape plants, which will in turn help prevent desiccation injury. Even dormant plants continue to lose moisture from twigs (as water vapor) in the process known as transpiration. Evergreen plants, which keep their leaves through the winter, are at even greater risk of injury.

On the other hand, it is possible to have too much of a good thing. Some evergreens will suffer from too much snow load. The weight of snow and ice can bend or even

break branches, particularly on multi-stemmed shrubs, such as arborvitae. Snow should be gently removed by brushing away with a broom. Do not try to remove ice, since it is more than likely that you will break the stems. Multi-stemmed shrubs that are known to be susceptible to breakage can be bound with twine to hold branches together to prevent them from splitting apart.

Of course, there's still more winter to come before we'll know how well our plants fare from the snow we receive this winter. In the meantime, rest assured that there really is a silver lining to this storm cloud, at least in the areas that received the snow.

## Growing for Market II

Although targeted to commercial growers, the Growing For Market II program may be of interest to Master Gardeners who are interested in moving to the next level. This webinar-type program offers current and aspiring farmers the opportunity to learn about the emerging consumer demand for locally produced farm products and identify which of these products might best fit into their plan. The series will be offered on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00p.m. on January 28, February 4, 11, 18 and 25. Additional information can be found on the Monroe County Extension Office Calendar at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/calendar/default.aspx?county=Monroe> or contact Amy at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) for more information

By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

## Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee	year around	various	Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762 Gretchen Scott, 330-7548
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
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, stapling, labeling	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	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	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

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

**January 2010**

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Mark your calendar!**  
**Our next meeting is January 26 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**at the Jukebox with speaker, education hours, and**  
**opportunity to plan programs!**  
**Don't miss it!**

## 20010 MCMGA Board

**President:** Nancy White  
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com  
**Vice President—Programs:** Vicky St. Myers  
812-323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com  
**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 barbsblooms@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

## 2010 MCMGA Meetings

Below is the MCMGA meeting schedule for 2010. All board meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the conference room of the Health Building, 215 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street. General meetings also begin at 6:30 p.m., and locations vary and will be announced at a later date. All members are encouraged to attend both general and board meetings.

<b>Board Meetings</b>	<b>General Meetings</b>
January 4	January 26
February 1	
March 1	March 23
April 5	
May 3	May 25
June 7	
July 5	July 20 (allow for MC Fair)
Aug. 2	
September TBA	September 28
Oct. 4	
November 1	November 29 (last Monday)
December 6	