The July Master Gardener general meeting will be held at the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, July 14, at 6:00 p.m. until dark. There will be a brief business meeting followed by a general work session to get the Demo Garden ready for the Monroe County Fair. This will be a good chance to earn volunteer hours, work with other Master Gardeners, and enjoy the Demo Garden. Since we will be spreading mulch, please bring rakes, shovels, forks, and a wheelbarrow if you have one. Water will be provided, but please bring a simple finger-food to share. Please contact Bethany Murray with questions.

Also at the July meeting will be a drawing for a $100 scholarship to the 2009 State Master Gardeners Conference in Elkhart on September 10-12. You must be present for your name to be entered to win, so here is another good reason to join us at the Demo Garden. The MCMG Board established a 2009 Conference Scholarship open to any member or intern who agrees to attend the State MG Conference and who applies for the scholarship at the Demo Garden Work Day on July 14. The conference registration is $135, and the scholarship will pay $100 toward the fee. The registration fee is for the conference only and does not include housing costs. Recipient receives the scholarship upon submission of receipts to the treasurer. For more details about the conference, visit http://www.michianamastergardeners.com

We need volunteers to staff the 2009 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Booth, which plays a vital role in sharing information. Your duties will include setting up an educational display (Monday evening only), answering questions from the public, and recording questions that need research. Booth materials and reference materials are provided by Amy Thompson. Located on the patio of the community building, the booth is a relaxing way to socialize while earning volunteer hours. Please sign up by Monday, July 6. Available shifts are as follows:

Monday, July 27, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 28, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 29, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Thursday, July 30, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Friday, July 31: 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Contact Kim Hill by email kilhill@gmail.com or by phone at 825-5658. Please leave a message, and I will return your call.
Several members of our group assisted with the planning for the recent Bloomington in Bloom Front Yard Contest. Sponsored by the Bloomington Board of Realtors, nominations for outstanding front yards were solicited from the public in May and June. Mary Jane Hall was chair of this committee, and other Master Gardeners serving included Susan Eastman, Helen Hollingsworth, Susan Osborne, Dot Owens, Gretchen Scott, Vicky St. Myers, and Nancy White. Judging panels made up of community members gave awards to winning front yards in each Bloomington zip code.

**Master Gardeners Enjoy Garden Walk**

A big THANK YOU goes out to all who participated in our Garden Walk on June 13. Under the direction of chair Mary Hawkins, the committee worked long and hard to organize a quality event. The weather even participated with a few sprinkles of rain but provided a warm and pleasant day overall. Committee members for this event were Diane Dingman, Diann Lock, Bob Baird, and Pat Verhagen. We greatly appreciate the hosts of the three gardens we visited, Joe Phillips, Esther Minnick, and Jo Prentice. They were gracious to invite us to share their delightful, creative gardens. It was a great event. If you missed it, be sure to be there next year.

**MGs Provide Information Booth during Annual Garden Walk**

Our Master Gardener Information Booth went “on the road” on June 20 and 21 for the Bloomington Garden Club’s annual Garden Walk. The booth was housed inside the Monroe County Historical Museum and had many visitors who viewed information on deer resistant plant materials and techniques. Members who manned the booth also shared information on the Master Gardener program, invasive plants, water gardens, and other topics. Booth helpers were Nancy Page, Ida Bouvier, Bob Baird, Karen Brosius, Trish Gustaitis, and Debbie Harding.

**Volunteers Needed for Information Booth at Farmers’ Market**

The information booth will re-appear during July and August at the Saturday morning Farmers’ Market in downtown Bloomington. Coordinators for these months are Ann McEndarfer in July and Kim Sherer in August. They need volunteers for each Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon and can use anyone who might want to help. This activity qualifies for volunteer hours.

**Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair**

As the July Monroe County Fair approaches, there are several committees that participate in various fair activities. These are a great way to collect volunteer hours and to get to know other Master Gardeners. Contact these coordinators for more information: Esther Minnick and Diana Young for Open Class Flowers, Vegetables and Herbs; Linda Burke for Floral Arrangements; Carol Cobine for Master Gardeners Booth; and Diana Young for Garden Chats.

**Master Gardeners Volunteer as Garden Hosts**

Several MC Master Gardeners worked at the Bloomington Garden Walk on June 20 and 21 as garden hosts. Although the weather was hot and humid, they helped visitors enjoy the lovely gardens and served as pleasant greeters and guides. Thanks to those who helped make this community event a very special one.

(Continued on page 3)
Volunteer to Help at Monroe County Fair

Summer is here with a bang. Remember when we were complaining about the cold spring? We are having trouble at the demonstration garden plot at the Monroe County Fairgrounds with vegetable seed germination. I think it has been too cold and wet.

Your help is needed at the fair, and here are some volunteer and educational opportunities. First, we need help with set-up before the vegetable show on Saturday, July 25. Second, help is needed before the flower show on Monday, July 27. Third, we need help during both shows. To volunteer, please call Esther Minnick, 876-4523 or Diana Young, 339-0040.

Don’t forget to enter something for both shows. Also, plan to attend the Garden Chats at the fair on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. You will receive one education hour for each night that you attend. See you at the Monroe County Fair!

How to Eat a Raw Tomato

Are you a raw tomato lover, or do you fall into the category of those who are happy just making gazpacho and spaghetti sauce with the bounty we seem to have of the reds, yellows, and pinks (remember, confession is good for the soul). Maybe your problem is just finding the right way to enjoy the raw ones. Here are a few suggestions to try. Let Roots and Shoots know if you have some better ways!

Slice tomatoes very thinly, cover with balsamic vinaigrette and add a little mild feta cheese.

Pick them when firm and let ripen for two days at room temperature. Eat with only salt and pepper.

Eat a sample right in the garden straight from the vine, with or without salt (my Grandpa’s favorite way).

Cut into quarters and add crumbled blue cheese and garlic parmesan dressing

Sprinkle with olive oil to reduce the acidic flavor.

Eat one with a friend.

(Borrowed from Midwest Living, August 08 issue)

Member News (continued from page 3)

Call Preston to Volunteer at the Indiana State Fair

Preston Gwinn is arranging volunteers for the Purdue Master Gardeners Booth at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. Our group will staff the booth on Sunday, August 16, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, August 23, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to contact Preston if you can take a shift one of those days. Volunteer hours are available for this activity.
2009 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Exhibitor Award

The MCMGA board is pleased to sponsor the 2009 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Exhibitor Award. The Monroe County Master Gardener with the highest overall points will receive a $50 award at a future general MCMGA meeting.

Who: Members of Monroe County Master Gardener Association

How: Accumulate points for exhibits in the following divisions: Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs and Grains, Potted Plants, Cut Flowers and the Floral design show

Points for the exhibitor award will be earned as follows:

Second Place: 2 points
First Place: 5 points
Honor: 7 points
Reserve Champion: 10 points

Champion: 15 points
Reserve Grand Champion: 20 points
Grand Champion: 25 points


Need More Info: Pick Up a Fair Book available today or call Amy at 349-2575 or email afthompson@purdue.edu or visit this link:
http://www.co.monroe.in.us/extensionservices/Fair%20Web/openclassfairbook09.pdf

July Master Gardener Field Trip

On Wednesday, July 8 at 5:30 p.m., we will be visiting the Willowfield Lavender Farm in Mooresville, where owner Libbe O’Connor will be guiding our tour. Willowfield is a 28-acre lavender farm with 35 organically grown varieties. Harvesting will have just begun when we are there, so there should be plenty of color and fragrance. The charge is $1 per person, and we can enjoy a glass of lavender tea for an additional $1. We will be meeting at 4:30 p.m. in the Marsh North parking lot, in the southeast corner by the free-standing Marsh/Monroe County Bank sign. Marsh North is off Kinser Pike and Highway 46. There are a Subway and H&R Block near by. Remember, family, friends, and neighbors are also welcome. Contact Vicky St. Myers with questions.

Volunteer at the Indiana State Fair

Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff the Purdue Master Gardener information booth at the Indiana State Fair. The booth will have a new location this year; it will be part of the Purdue Extension Exhibit in the Pioneer Our Land Pavilion. The Monroe County Master Gardener Association has volunteered to staff the booth on the following dates/times:
Sunday, August 16, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 23, 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact Preston Gwinn at pgwinn@bluemarble.net or 320-2150. Carpooling can be arranged.

Folia and Flora Update  Please update your membership book with the following:
Moya Andrews, 840 Sheridan Drive, 332-5280, andrews@indiana.edu
MG class 1999
Flowers to Wear

While low-cost costume jewelry pins were plentiful, real ivory was much desired and often carved into elaborate flower brooches. Because ivory and real gems like diamonds were costly but glitter was much desired in the 1920s, marcasite, a faux metal appearing like tiny metallic crystals, became a popular material for brooches. Marcasite looks like faceted metal but is actually a kind of pyrite or stone with a metallic luster well suited to the making of jewelry.

Many early and mid-20th century floral pins were covered in rhinestones rather than real jewels. The stones gave color and glitter, and the best are highly desired by collectors today. Many vintage pins use copper, brass, or even base alloys for the foundation, and then cover parts with enameling or rhinestones. Enameling allowed for a wide range of colors and permitted detailing of stamen, leaves, and stems via paint. Other brooches in cloisonné or with abalone or coral decoration can be found in the 1920s, the art deco period, along with marcasite. Items imported from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Occupied Japan may incorporate crystal, china, or glass stones in tiny mosaics, generally with an alloy base. Following after the early celluloid widely used at the turn of the century, the next big developments in plastic jewelry material were Bakelite [1930s-1940s], followed by Lucite appearing after WWII.

The 1940s was the era of the big-shouldered power suit, and women found large brooches ideal feminizing adornments. Several top designers turned their attention to creating dramatic costume jewelry of high quality. Among the most collectable of mid-century jewelry are items with the mark of Miriam Haskell, a company still producing high-end jewelry today. The quality of design and workmanship of its 1940s items make them especially desired by collectors. (Haskell items are dated by the shape, font and design of the maker’s mark.)

What we used to denigrate as “costume jewelry” has now been elevated into “estate jewelry” by dealers. In antique stores, that term refers to brooches (as well as rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings) created in Victorian times or early-to-mid 20th century. However, many dealers call anything “estate jewelry,” hoping to enhance the value of cheap mass-manufactured items from the ‘50s to the ‘80s (or even more recently).

Thanks go to Moya Andrews, Jean Anderson, Jeanne Speakman’s friend Diane, and Helen Hollingsworth for providing many of the illustrative brooches for this series of three articles.
From City to Country and Back

By Bob Baird

Gardens that tamed a hillside, made the most of a historic farmstead, and showcased choice specimens in a sylvan setting were on tap for those attending our Fifth Annual Garden Walk and Picnic. Garden Walk chair Mary Hawkins put together a scintillating array of member gardens that broadened our horizons on handling hillsides and drainage issues; melding new concepts with time-tested gardening techniques; and grouping exotic ornamentals with familiar stand-bys.

Sixty-five Master Gardeners, spouses and friends joined forces to chase away impending rain clouds, touring three unique gardens representing the best in city, suburban and country gardening, on Saturday afternoon, June 13.

Only after three hours of touring three gardens, plus a neighbor’s garden, in the Ellettsville area and Bloomington, did the heavens open up a bit as garden-walkers picnicked in Jo Prentice’s backyard in Hyde Park. “Drops of liquid sunshine,” someone quipped as hungry garden-walkers queued up for scrumptious vittles. But the droplets soon dissipated so everyone could sample Susan Eastman’s flower-bestewn fudge cake and someone’s persimmon bars.

Joe Phillips’ trickling water garden, anchoring his 125-foot-long “north-facing challenge” backyard slope, offered a cooling respite as MGers embarked on the sultry afternoon in Ellettsville’s Union Valley Farms. After turning onto Teresa Lane, touring gardeners were greeted by a gargantuan planted hillside, smiling nearly as big as Joe himself.

Vigorous self-seeders, such as Joe Pye weed, cone-flowers, Missouri primrose, even hostas, have helped Joe with his “hodge-podge” design interplanted among pachysandra groupings. Only Martha Stewart could have been critical. “Joe, what is that captivating cultivar tucked beside that charming duck primitive?”

Joe’s friend Craig Koontz was on hand to relate how a retaining wall was built at the base of the slope, followed by a limestone-edged pond and waterfall that, at its deepest, is two and a half feet. Another engineering feat was a gravel-lined sluice, underlain with drain pipe, that drains Joe’s and two neighbors’ properties.

“All three of us got together and got it taken care of,” quipped neighbor Jim Mahoney, who with his wife Beryl, invited garden-walkers to drop over into their backyard bedecked with roses and other charmers.

After turning down Hartstrait Road, garden-walkers went into something of a time warp, experiencing the country charms of Esther Minnick’s garden on the Minnick farm (continued on page 7)
-stead where she and husband Lloyd, a retired horse breeder, have lived more than 50 years.

Gardeners could readily see Esther’s green thumb and knack for grouping plants and maximizing effect. Garden-walkers were treated to a dizzying array of perennials and vegetables, including heirloom larkspurs and peonies, breadseed poppies in bloom, and autumnal standard bearers such as wheat, barley, broom corn and straw flowers, which the crafty Master Gardener plans to dry as decorations for her grandson’s September wedding.

“I love this vegetable garden,” a visitor told Esther. “It makes me want a salad.” Esther agreed her garden has all the makings for salad.

Each step brought new surprises, from hens and chicks planted in old shoes, to a butterfly and caterpillar garden, where insects will feed on red swamp milkweed, fennel, dill and parsley. Esther’s pride-and-joy seemed to be a new concept of growing vegetables on straw bales—which she admitted might be more apropos to urban settings where gardeners lack soil and space to do conventional gardening.

Beneath a curly willow tree in one corner of her yard, Esther had fashioned a real surprise beneath the spiraling branches: a teddy-bear tea party scene replete with child-size teapot and teacups.

Over hill and dale, down Moore’s Pike, Jo Prentice’s lush spread shimmered, even on an increasingly overcast afternoon. Groupings of familiar and less-so perennials beneath stately and unusual trees made for enchanted touring. Woody spectacles included her dawn redwood, ‘Heritage’ river birch, whipcord arborvitaes, and golden full moon maples, with rounded leaves with 11-13 lobes.

Jo shared a secret that yellow works well in shade gardens. Cleverly she used lady’s mantle, with their small yellowish flowers, to foreground an impressive border burgeoning with Christmas, tassel, male and Japanese painted ferns, lenten roses, Japanese anemones and cardinal flowers.

(Continued on page 8)
Tallamy Clinches the Case for Landscaping with Native Plants

Douglas W. Tallamy, Professor and Chair, Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, University of Delaware; author of Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens (Timber Press, 2nd ed. 2009) is the speaker for a special gardening program, Gardening for Life: An Evening with Doug Tallamy. The date is Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 7:30 p.m.; with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. at Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University, Indianapolis. This is such a special event that you will want to mark your calendar now. Doug Tallamy wants us to garden as though life depends on it. His simple but powerful message is this: gardeners can foster biodiversity simply by choosing to plant more natives. In his eye-opening book, Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens, Tallamy shows how life does depend on what we plant in our backyards. It’s a book that makes us look at our gardens — and think of our role as gardeners — in a new, more meaningful way.

Indeed, when Bringing Nature Home, was published, it immediately struck a chord with readers. A full-page story about the book and its message appeared in the New York Times, and the book shot up to number 30 on Amazon.com. Tallamy earned rave reviews last fall when he addressed the annual conference of the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society, prompting an invitation for a return visit to a larger venue. Butler University will host this lecture, lending Clowes Memorial Hall for the evening to accommodate a sizeable audience.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments from local sources and displays by local conservation and gardening organizations. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. Tallamy has agreed to sign copies of the new softcover edition of Bringing Nature Home.

For information, contact Wendy Ford, wwford@comcast.net, 317-334-1932

2009 MG State Conference Is September 10-12

Just a reminder that the 2009 Master Gardener State Conference sponsored by Michiana Master Gardener Association and Purdue Elkhart County Extension will be held on September 10-12, 2009, in Bristol, Indiana. Registration fee, due by July 31, is $135 for three days or $115 for Friday/Saturday. This is a great opportunity to hear outstanding garden speakers and visit the upper part of our great Indiana! Registration flier and additional info are available at http://www.michianamastergardeners.com

From City to Country and Back (continued from page 7)

Other beds, backdropped by captivating neighbor gardens, featured dark-leaved bugbanes, or cimicifuga, ‘Cherry Bells’ bellflowers, ‘Strawberry Fields’ daylilies, crocosmias, apricot foxgloves and a new acquisition, ‘Highland White Dream’ Shasta daisies.

One of the more surprising discoveries was learning that crape myrtles self-seed in Jo’s garden. She admits to hiding a few must-have plants with deer-resistant plants. She dedicates her garden to her grandchildren, who visit from Houston, Texas and to her late brother.

Hats off to our three gracious host gardeners and to Mary Hawkins’ able garden-walk committee of Diana Dingman, Diann Lock, Pat Verhagen, and Bob Baird.

Photographs by Bob Baird and Jackie Gilkey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Garden and Nature Center</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or <a href="mailto:gspeiche@indiana.edu">gspeiche@indiana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gretchen Scott, 330-7548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl's Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Larime Wilson, 333-9705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>writing, stapling, labeling</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeff Schafer,325-3130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Way House</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wylie House</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Hubbard's Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Libby Yarnell, 355-6843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The love of gardening is a seed that once sown never dies.

Gertrude Jekyll

Do you know what a “Zombie Zone” is? Do you know why we should use native plants and wildflowers? Are you interested in building a wildlife habitat for birds and butterflies? All of these questions and many more are answered within the fourteen chapters of Go Native!

Native plants include trees, shrubs, vines and soft-stemmed plants that grow and flourish on their own. When native plants are chosen, our maintenance is reduced, our heritage is preserved, and the ecosystem is supported. In this book the author, Carolyn Harstad, offers valuable information about native plants, specific recommendations, and examples of how to grow native plants.

Go Native! contains three parts for a total of fourteen chapters. Part One addresses why we use native plants and wildflowers, how to plan a native garden, and what plants to consider if you are building a new home. Part Two discusses native trees, shrubs, vines, groundcover, and ferns. Part Three offers information on prairies and meadows, wetlands, woodland gardens, wildlife, birds and butterflies, and invasive exotics, and it concludes with some of the author’s final thoughts. Parts Two and Three, which tells everything gardeners need to know about gardening with native plants and wildflowers in the Lower Midwest, begins with informative material and answers questions such as, Why should I choose native trees? How do I plant a bio-hedge? How can a vine enhance my garden?

Go Native! offers information on a number of native plants, including a drawing, plant requirements, propagation, and plant lore. The plant photography, also by the author, is grouped within two sections of the book and includes stunning snapshots of a variety of plants and settings where the author has captured them at their zenith. Go Native! also outlines 125 native plant drawings along with about 100 photographs.

Harstad is a Master Gardener and is one of the founders of two successful organizations—The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (1993) and the Indianapolis Hosta Society (1986). In 1990, she wrote the wildflower guidelines still used by 4-H members. Besides being a garden lecturer, nature photographer, certified landscape design critic, and a contributor to several gardening newsletters, Harstad has had a long-term love affair with native plants and wildflowers. Her book, Go Native! is reflective of her passion.

The more I read Go Native!, the more I wanted to learn about native plants and wildflowers. I was inspired and began mentally constructing an area in my yard that I could emphasize some facet of the book. I gave myself kudos for having already planted some native plants, and now better understand why the birds, bees, and butterflies seemed to be more abundant every year in my gardens. I am pleased to say that the information I learned from Go Native! will benefit me and my gardens for years. The book contains a plethora of information, and I place it on the top ten lists of summer reads.
Bindweed snakes up the stems of precious roses; it swallows coreopsis and delphinium; it smothers lilies and dahlias. By summer’s end, it has overwhelmed whole shrubs. You can break bindweed off at the ground and unwind the yards of encircling vine, but it won’t die. In a week, the malicious vine is back again. Its roots live deep below flowerbeds, entwined with tree and shrub roots yards below the surface, and its highly aggressive talons spread out horizontally underground. Once it appears in one flowerbed, it will soon emerge in others. Digging the horrid bindweed out requires a backhoe, incidentally wiping out your trees and the rest of your garden.

Bindweed is a hydra-headed monster that returns every summer, enraging the tidy gardener. Winter doesn’t kill it; the nasty vine just hibernates. A relative of the morning glory family (convolvulus), this nonnative perennial even has small white morning-glory-like flowers! Its seeds arrive in soil on new plants and in compost. Spraying bindweed vines with Round-Up or its competitors usually demolishes the enshrouded plants but doesn’t do much damage to the bindweed itself. Well-established bindweed in a garden is enough to make one think about packing up and moving.

Moya Andrews, a thoughtful gardener, has the solution! It involves plastic bags, short plastic ties (or twine), and plant killer. This is the perfect use of those blue plastic bags that protect your newspaper or one of those ubiquitous tan plastic grocery bags. Take a plastic bag and place it over a single bindweed strand that is between six inches and a foot long—preferably before the vine produces flowers and makes seeds. Stick the spray can of Round-Up inside the bag and douse the vine’s leaves and stem thoroughly. Then tie the bag shut as close to the ground as you can.

The sun will heat the bag (darker colors and tighter bags work faster) cooking the bindweed in the poison, which will travel down to the roots, killing the vine. Next year: much less bindweed! Do the procedure again and again until you have conquered the monster completely.

If the space where bindweed is too crowded—such as inside a shrub where other stems are at risk—try cutting off the top of the bag, tying it at the bottom, and spraying down inside. Then tie off the top.

You may not fancy blue plastic bags spread around in your garden, but they beat having the hated vine smother your spirea, lilies, and butterfly bushes. (And you can remove the bags and smile with satisfaction over the rotted vine after about a month.)

Killing the Bindweed Monster

By Susan Eastman
2009 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White
   812-824-4426  nwhite38@hotmail.com

Vice President—Programs: Vicky St. Myers
   323-7072  vstmyers@hotmail.com

Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer
   325-3130  jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diana Young
   812-339-0040  hoyoung@indiana.edu

Secretary: David Dunatchik
   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@comcast.net

Director—Records: Susan Osborne
   812-825-9154  m.susan.osborne@saic.com

Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn
   812-876-2999  pgwinn@bluemarble.net

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
   812-349-2575  afthompson@purdue.edu

In This Issue

General Meeting on July 14 1
Volunteers Needed at MG Booth 1
Member News 2
Volunteer at Monroe County Fair 3
How to Eat a Raw Tomato 3
2009 MC Fair MG Exhibitor Award 4
July MG Field Trip 4
Volunteer at Indiana State Fair 4
Folia and Flora Update 4
Flowers to Wear 5
From City to County and Back 6
Case for Native Plants in Landscape 8
2009 MG State Conference 8
Volunteer Opportunities 9
Native Plants Book Review 10
Killing the Bindweed Monster 11