Visit Hobbit Gardens and Cox’s Plant Farm

Our next Master Gardener field trip is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, when we will visit the Hobbit Gardens in Fillmore followed by a tour of Cox’s Plant Farm in Clayton. Hobbit Gardens is a 27.5 acre organic farm growing vegetables, herbs, flowers, and produce. A tour of the Hobbit Gardens is scheduled at 10:30 a.m. at a cost of $5 per person. This cost includes a glass of herbal tea. For more information, visit www.hobbitgardens.hendrickscountyconnection.com. After the one hour tour we may use their picnic area to eat lunch before going to Cox’s Plant Farm, which is about 30 minutes away.

Cox’s Plant Farm, one of the largest garden centers in Indiana, has almost everything associated with gardening, including plants, bulbs and seeds. Please visit www.coxsplantfarm.com for more information.

For the field trip, we will gather at Marsh North located at 1825 N. Kinser Pike on the south side of the parking lot. Departure time is 9:00 a.m. We will carpool from there to Hobbit Gardens. Please bring your lunch if you plan to eat in the picnic area. We will bring a larger cooler for drinks and other items needing refrigeration. Since Hobbit Gardens needs an estimate of people for the tour, please contact Vicky St. Myers at vstmyers@hotmail.com by Thursday, July 8 if you plan to attend.

INPAWS offers free Landscaping with Native Plants garden tour

Indiana Native Plants Association offers a free Landscaping with Native Plants garden tour on Saturday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This tour is open to the public but requires registration at www.inpaws.org or via phone to Kelly Spiegel at 317-418-5489 to receive addresses and directions. Registration is limited.
Our annual Garden Walk was a great success, thanks to chairperson Mary Hawkins and her capable committee, led by Diana Dingman. Many members contributed to the planning, organization, and the success of Walk day, and we send a rousing “thank you” to all who made this so special.

Hosts for the three gardens, David Waterman, Vina Kinman, and Tori Rogers, graciously answered our questions and led us through their lush and charmingly unique gardens.

Following the garden visits, we joined at Tori’s garden for a carry-in picnic that put the finishing touches on the event. If you missed it, plan to join us next year. This event is singularly Master Gardener event filled with camaraderie, fun, sharing, and what gardeners do best, glory in the challenges and pleasures of digging in the dirt.

Master Gardener exhibit is at the History Center

Don’t forget to visit the Master Gardener exhibit at the Monroe County History Center if you haven’t already been there. You have until August 8 to see this informative collection of historical and fun garden related items. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

New certifications awarded to four Master Gardeners

Congratulations to the following who received their certification badges recently: Ida Bouvier, Ramsey Harik, and Mary Hoffman. Congratulations also go to Herman Young, awarded the silver badge.

Answer gardening questions at Saturday Farmers Market

Help is needed to staff the Master Gardener Farmers’ Market Booth each Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m. to noon. Time spent in this activity qualifies for volunteer hours. We have a display that stimulates questions on gardening topics, and those interested in the intern class can sign up for more information. Most visitors to the booth ask basic questions on garden weeds, pests, and deer resistant plants. More involved inquiries can be directed to the Purdue Horticulture website. Why not volunteer for a few hours sometime soon? Your help is needed. Contact Nancy White if you are interested.

Monroe County Fair is coming up!

Are you planning to exhibit or volunteer at this year’s Monroe County Fair? Fair books are available from the Extension Office. Diana Young and Esther Minnick are the contacts for the Open Class Vegetables and Flowers, and Linda Burke for the Floral Arrangements. Contact these folks for information or to volunteer. Help is needed in all areas but is especially needed on Saturday, July 24, 1:00-3:00 p.m., for the vegetables, herbs, fruits, and seeds registration.

Member News

By Nancy White
Got Japanese beetles? Here’s what you’ll want to know

Publication E-75-W which deals with Japanese Beetles in the Urban Landscape was updated in February of 2010. Check it out here [http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-75.pdf](http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-75.pdf) to get recommendations for control of both adult beetles and grubs.

Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair on July 26-30

Monroe County Fair Garden Chats are scheduled at the Fair on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, July 28-30, at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building. The Chats are free and open to the public. All are invited and education hours are available to Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardener’s Information Booth will again be offered to Fair visitors each day on Monday through Friday, July 26-30, from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Building. Master Gardeners are needed to staff this booth and answer gardening questions from the public. Volunteers earn volunteer hours for participation in this activity. If you are available to help staff the booth, contact Amy Thompson or Nancy White.

BIB results in America in Bloom contest will be announced in fall

Two America in Bloom judges arrived in Bloomington on June 17 and visited over 60 sites in the Bloomington area on June 18-19. The judges were Evelyn Alemmani from San Diego, an author and a prize-winning gardener, and Bill Hahn, an urban forester from Akron, Ohio. The judges were welcomed by a reception held at Oliver Winery on June 17 where those who had worked on the city’s preparations for the visit were invited to meet the judges and celebrate the beautification projects that preceded the visit.

The judges saw many large and small projects, including the B-Line Trail, a home on the Bloomington Garden Walk, various sites at IU, the Miller Showers Park, Willie Streeter Garden, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, Hinkle-Garton Farmstead, Griffy Lake Nature Preserve, several neighborhoods, and Wylie House.

Our city’s results will be announced at the National Educational Symposium and Gala Awards Conference, September 30-October 2, in St. Louis, Missouri. The ceremony is open to the public, and anyone may attend.

Congratulations to all Master Gardeners who worked so hard for almost two years to make this project a reality, especially Gretchen Scott, one of our own Master Gardeners who served as BIB General Chair.
Vegetable and cottage gardens galore for our Garden Walk

Three contrasting garden styles, reflecting different management strategies and ways to utilize Master Gardener know-how, were on display during this year’s sixth annual Garden Walk and Picnic on Saturday afternoon and evening, June 12.

Master Gardeners were treated to three robust gardens that excel in their respective missions: to grow veggies organically; to stabilize a front yard and provide backyard “puttering opportunities” despite a backyard black walnut tree; and to provide a welcoming, whimsical home base for an educator who opens her home to friends, family members and fellow Master Gardeners.

Mary Hawkins’ cadre of event planners pulled out all the stops in orchestrating a relaxing, fun, informative event where Master Gardeners could share bread and barbecue, beaucoup salads, veggies and fanciful desserts. With all respect to the pulled pork and chicken brought in from Smokin’ Jack’s Rib Shack, it was one time when Master Gardeners could, pardon the expression, “pig out.” Yet, as we all know, energetic gardeners need the protein and caloric intake for busy days ahead.

After touring the host gardens and eagerly awaiting the culminating picnic in Tori Rogers’ backyard, one Master Gardener confessed candidly that one garden on the tour left her impressed, but depressed—impressed that someone could be so resourceful in making the most of one’s situation, but depressed that she herself hadn’t done the same in her own garden.

For predominantly ornamental gardeners whose challenges are often relegated to weeding, mulching, moving plants about and picking up the latest cultivar, experiencing David Waterman’s “vegetable compound” might have precipitated reaches for more antidepressants. How could he have done all this?

Chatting with David, at his appropriately named Homestead Drive address in Hoosier Acres, one gathers he finds vegetable gardening something like a game, calling for know-how, proper technique, equipment and whatever it takes to grow veggies organically, free of pests, destructive critters and other misfortunes.

When a touring Master Gardener asked how he keeps bugs and worms off his cabbages, David was quick to respond: “Bt (bacillus thuringiensis) every four to five days.” The inquirer seemed relieved to learn of feasible organic solutions. (continued on page 5)
Vegetable and cottage gardens galore for our Garden Walk (from page 4)

Master Gardeners were visible impressed, if not intimidated, by David’s canny vegetable layout: 2,900 square feet of neatly planked raised beds on a rectangular grid, skirted by wood-chip paths and enclosed by a double fence of seven feet high mesh netting to deter deer and two feet high chicken wire to bar rabbits, hence his garden’s name, Bar Rabbit Ranch.

David’s prowess notwithstanding, he and wife Sharon, who’s more of the traditional landscaper, were blessed by location. They had moved to their home in 1993, finding themselves next door to the developer of Hoosier Acres and a construction disposal site and neighborhood composting site.

The budding vegetable gardener had no trouble finding the compost-rich soil beneath the brush, disposed limbs and construction debris. For many years he raised vegetables on the disposal site, supplying his neighbor regularly with fresh vegetables. After the developer died in 2005 and his property was disposed of, the relentless gardener wheelbarrowed much of the nutrient-rich soil to his own backyard. Five years ago his vegetable garden was born.

Each year he grows 15-20 varieties of peppers, plus all manner of vegetables, including asparagus. “I’m glad I did it,” he smiles.

In sharp contrast, Vina Kinman’s Hyde Park showplace triumphed in ornamental gardening, where each square foot offers unexpected joy and wonder. Vina had 40 years’ gardening experience before entering the Master Gardener program two years ago, including in Wyoming where she and husband David lived before moving to Bloomington in 1987. She notes that the short growing season out West requires some getting used-to.

Both the Kinman’s front and back yards offer cottagey plantings along serpentine paths, the front maze-like in its density and layering of plants, some seemingly on top of one another. Tiger lilies and roses thrive in filtered morning sun, despite afternoon shading by a weeping willow, dogwood and doublefile viburnum. Vina seems to push the envelope in integrating hybrids and new in-(continued on page 6)
troductions with holdovers from former farmland.

“If it wants to grow and it looks okay, I let it grow,” she quipped, as we chatted beneath their towering backyard black walnut tree that offers nice shade, as well as all the challenges of finding plants that tolerate the juglone chemical emitted by walnut roots.

Next to the anchor walnut trunk, a volunteer black cherry, reminiscent of my own backyard, offered leafy shrub form. A tree-form pussy willow shows fresh limb cuts as the Master Gardener owner strives to help it revert back to shrub status. Ferns thrive near an old-growth sassafras.

Each step along the way offered new delights. I was fascinated with a healthy stand of silver lace vine beneath the canopy of a prized river birch, offering filtered afternoon light. The Kinmans love their river birch, and Vina says she witnesses cardinals peeling off the bark for their nests and such. I wondered why cardinals have been hanging around my own river birch. It’s understandable the Kinman’s garden is a certified wildlife habitat.

Then, like a bird, we were off to Ellettsville where Master Gardeners were treated to another showplace where a single head-of-household educator has found her own bit of heaven against the woods behind St. John’s Catholic Church. What a setting for our annual picnic, where some 60 Master Gardeners unwound after an afternoon of stultifying hot, humid, threatening conditions. Welcome to Indiana in June!

Tori’s touches were evident throughout, from her richly appointed reddish plant palette in front, segueing to a mix of shades along her westside walkway to her back gardens, deck and patio, all masterful in layering and integration with topography. After moving to her new home in late 2007, she added a deck, expanded her patio, extended a brick (continued on page 7)
walkway from the front corner to the back, and got her gardens going.

Tori’s heavily bermed backyard is contoured to drain to a wooded stream skirting the back of her lot. In fact, she contemplates a rain garden at the foot of a dramatic swale that drains the backyard. Landscape beds flank patio and deck areas, and a shade garden nestles a back area used by former owners as a children’s play area. Now the entire yard has become Tori’s play area, where she satiates her whimsy and free spirit.

Reflecting her warm, engaging personality, Tori’s garden is a riot of color, serendipity and interest. Plants, garden ornaments, birdhouses, and bric-a-brac create a refuge for birds, butterflies, hummingbirds and appreciative gardeners.

Tori calls her garden her *jardin de amistad*, Spanish for “friendship garden.” (She is learning Spanish in anticipation of a trip to Guatemala next spring.) Following a birthday bash last spring, several of 18 friends attending, including Master Gardeners, gave her starts from their own gardens, which she integrated with existing plantings.

Adapting well are sweet woodruff, ‘Lavender Chiffon’ hibiscus and bee balm. Tori is fond of an annual that well could have been named after her, ‘Victoria Blue’ salvia. “It ties things together,” she quipped.

As Master Gardeners headed home, filled with good memories of good gardens and stomachs full of good food, storm clouds moving in from the west waited until all departed to reshower those gardens. For once, Mother Nature had good timing!

Spaces still available at Camp Steele Are you looking for something fun and creative for students to do this summer? Camp Steele is a great option for those looking for a different kind of camp in July. Camp dates are July 9, 16, 23, and 31 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This camp is for students going into grades 3-7 and is an art based camp; however campers will be spending some time outside and on some of the site’s trails. Campers will experience making pottery, painting, drawing, hiking, and exploring the grounds and life of T.C. Steele. The cost is $60 for all four sessions or $20 a day. Registration is required and you can do so online at [www.tcsteele.org](http://www.tcsteele.org) or by emailing tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov. For answers to questions, please contact Christine at (812) 677-2003.
Physiological leaf curl in tomatoes

Every year we receive calls from gardeners about tomato plants with curling leaves. When tomato plants grow vigorously in mild, spring weather, the top growth often exceeds the root development. When the first few days of warm, dry summer weather hit, the plant detects it has a problem and needs to increase root development. The plant tries to reduce its leaf area by rolling leaves. The leaves curl along the length of the leaf (leaflet) in an upward fashion. It is often accompanied by a thickening of the leaf giving it a leathery texture. Interestingly, leaf roll is worse on some varieties than others.

Though rolling usually occurs during the spring to summer shift period, it may also occur after a heavy cultivating or hoeing, a hard rain, or any sudden change in weather. This year, it seems heavy rains have contributed to the situation in certain areas of the state. Too much rain can saturate the soil and suffocate the roots. The damaged root system is less able to transport water, especially when warm temperatures and winds increase water use. Leaf roll is a temporary condition that goes away after a week or so when the plant acclimates, recovers from injury, or soil dries out. (WU)

Persimmon - No fruit?

Do you have a persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana*, tree that has never produced fruit? Perhaps, you have a male tree but no female tree in the vicinity. Or, perhaps you have a female tree, with no male tree in the vicinity. Persimmon flowers are primarily dioecious; that is, each sex is on a separate plant.

However, with persimmon trees, sometimes both sexes are present on the same tree (according to Michael Dirr). And, persimmons rely on bees to transfer pollen from the male flowers to the female flowers in order to produce fruit. Honeybees generally travel a mile from their colony; with perhaps a maximum of three miles.

Persimmons bloom in late May and early June in Indiana. At flowering, you can determine whether a particular tree is a male, female, or a little of both. The quickest and easiest way to determine the difference without differentiating between stamens and pistils, is that the female flowers (see pictures) have relatively large green leaf-like structures (calyx) above the flowers (which are still noticeable above the developing fruit a few weeks later from the female flowers). The leafy structures above the male flowers are much smaller and held tighter to the flower.
<table>
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<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>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
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<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876, <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
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<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
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<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<tr>
<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072, Jeff Schafer,325-3130</td>
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<td>Middle Way House</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
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<td>Wylie House</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
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<td>Mother Hubbard's Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374</td>
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<tr>
<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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<td>Hoosier Hills Foodbank</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Jessica Williams, 334-8374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park</td>
<td>summer 2010</td>
<td>design and maintain</td>
<td>Nancy Fee, 332-1940</td>
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Please wear your name badge when volunteering.
Let your computer do the walking

The Internet offers many opportunities to learn! Check out some information sources that have popped up recently. Any of these sites may offer just what you are looking for.

**Pollinator Partnership** is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the animals and insects that pollinate North American ecosystems, farms and gardens. This group offers free downloadable guides to native plants written for specific regions. Simply go to [www.pollinator.org](http://www.pollinator.org), enter your zip code, and access a free guide to the plants that will benefit our local pollinators.

**Horticulture Magazine's** website, [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com) has a recent article on the causes of hay fever. Although our famous goldenrod blooms in late summer at the same time hay fever symptoms appear, it is not the cause. If you have hay fever, look for the real culprit, ragweed, a regular resident of fence rows and road ditches in Indiana. Since ragweed is pollinated by the wind, its billions of pollen grains can relocate to other plants, our houses and our cars. According to the article, since goldenrod is much more lush and showy than ragweed, our eyes spot the goldenrod and decide to blame that for our discomfort. Those of us with this annual malady can learn to spot ragweed early in its growth cycle and remove it before it releases its pollen.

Is a **composting bin** something you’ve thought about buying? If you have considered trying out a compost plan, you might want to look at several units available from [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org). This site is currently offering some sale prices on compact composters and equipment. For example, its Envirocycle Rolling Composter is listed for $169 and a Dual Compost bin is also on sale.

Late blight disease of tomatoes and potatoes

Late blight is caused by a fungus-like organism *Phytophthora infestans* and is a fast moving and highly destructive disease of tomatoes and potatoes. The disease causing organism is not known to have overwintered in Indiana due to our relatively cold winters. However, *Phytophthora infestans* spores can be blown into Indiana from other states, introduced on plant material (such as potato seed pieces), or on tomato transplants (as likely occurred in 2009). In late May of 2010 Late Blight was confirmed in Kentucky.

Early symptoms of late blight are large water-soaked blotches on foliage which will enlarge to form green to brown lesions. You can read more about the symptoms and management of the disease at [http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-80-W.pdf](http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/BP/BP-80-W.pdf).

If you suspect that your potato or tomato plants have Late Blight, you can contact the Monroe County Extension office Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator Amy Thompson at 812-349-2575 or afthompson@purdue.edu. Upon confirmation that the problem is potentially Late Blight, Amy has the ability to submit samples to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab (PPDL) for confirmation. Normally submittals to the PPDL require the grower to pay an $11 fee, but since Late Blight disease is one part of a nationally monitoring program, fees for suspected samples submitted through your county extension office will be waived.
Garden events that you might want to attend

Daffodil sales in July and August

Indiana Daffodil Society will be holding two daffodil bulb sales this summer at the Nature Center at Holliday Park, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. The dates and times are July 24-25 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and August 21-22-from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For information, call 317-295-8849.

Garden Walk 2010 features nine gardens

Porter County Master Gardeners Association and Purdue Extension of Porter County are sponsoring Garden Walk 2010 on Saturday, July 17, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., central time. Admission is $6 in advance and $8 on the day of the Walk. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge. Tickets will be available beginning Friday, July 2.

The Walk features nine gardens that provide opportunities to observe great garden design ideas, discover new plants, and view pleasing plant combinations. Cameras are welcome. Tickets may be purchased on the day of the Walk for $8 at the Garden of Heroes at Hayes Leonard School, US 30 & Hayes Leonard Road, Valparaiso. Porter County businesses offer advance tickets for $6 throughout Porter County.

Fern Fest II is a two-day event featuring a lecture, a workshop, and a bus tour

Jefferson County Master Gardener Association, Inc. presents Fern Fest II on July 10-11, in Louisville, Kentucky. This very exciting two-day event offers a combination of fern- and gardening-related activities. Participants are encouraged to register early because the bus tour is limited to 54 participants. Tickets for the lecture are $25; workshop $15, and bus tour, including lunch $45.

To register, phone or email Doug Megginson, 502-228-0532/similarprospective9@att.net. By mail, send a check made out to "Fern Fest II" to Fern Fest II, Attention: Doug Megginson, 1209 Pheasant Ridge, Goshen, KY 40026. For more information, including hotel/restaurant information, email www.jcmastergardeners.org. Contact person is June Sandercock, 502-216-8950, 3408 Gonewind Drive, Louisville, KY 40299, june-matt@bellsouth.net.

Learn about daylilies and view 46 new varieties for 2010

Blackford County Master Gardeners and Patchwork Perennials have teamed to offer education opportunities and plant discounts to Master Gardeners on Sunday, July 11, 1:00—4:00 p.m. Patchwork Perennials is located three miles south of Hartford City on State Road 3. Visitors are welcome to wander through plantings of hundreds of daylilies, take photographs, enjoy refreshments, ask questions, attend classes, and make discounted purchases. Master Gardeners will receive a 10% discount on purchases; bring your name badge. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by July 7 to Stacy Clupper, 765-348-3213 or email cluppers@purdue.edu.
Our next meeting is on **July 20**, 6:00 p.m. until dark, at the Demonstration Garden.

Bring your favorite gloves and tools.

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

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**Master Gardener summer calendar**

- **July 11**, 10:30 a.m., field trip to Hobbit Gardens and Cox's Plant Farm
- **July 20**, 6:00 p.m. until dark, Demonstration Garden clean-up
- **July 24-31**, Monroe County Fair at the Fairgrounds
- **July 24**, 1:00-3:00 p.m., registration at Fair for Open Class Vegetables
- **July 26**, 9:00-11:30 a.m., registration at Fair for Open Class Flowers and for Floral Arrangements
- **Saturday, August 28**, 10:30 a.m., field trip to Hunter’s Honey Farm
- **August**, date and time TBD, a visit to Oliver Winery, north Highway 37, Bloomington, for a tour of the vineyards