

# Roots and Shoots



Volume 28, Issue 7

July 2012

## July 17 general meeting is at Demonstration Garden

By Evelyn Harrell



### Special points of interest:

- Work at the Demo Garden and volunteer to help set up for the Monroe County Fair
- A pumpkin planted now will be ready for Halloween
- Select and read a book about gardening
- Read the bylaw change proposals online
- Win \$50 by competing in the fair
- Chiggers are not insects

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, July 17, and join us at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at the Fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. Enter through Gate 3 off Airport Road, and the garden will be on your left. Everyone is asked to bring favorite garden tools useful for weeding, trimming, and spreading mulch. Members will spruce up the garden before the County Fair officially begins on July 28.

Refreshment committee members for the evening are Dorothy Kiser, Carol Reynolds, Kay Cunningham, and Sylvia Smith who need two or three more people to help with refreshments. Mary Jane Hall is providing bottled water left from our Garden Walk picnic. Needed are finger foods and a card table or two for serving refreshment for the gardeners. If you can help, please contact Evelyn Harrell at [ear4841@comcast.net](mailto:ear4841@comcast.net) as soon as possible.

### Inside this issue:

Plan to come on Tuesday, July 17 and help make the Demonstration Garden look spectacular for visitors to the County Fair.

Member news	2
Fair volunteers needed	3
Got chiggers?	4
Fertilizing tomatoes	4
Board Exhibitor Award	5
KnockOut rose disease	6
Bylaws change proposals	6
Garden Walk a treat	7

**Coming in September**  
**General Meeting, September 25, 6:30 p.m.**  
*Focus on Flowers for Fall* presented by Moya Andrews  
*Hydrangeas: A Short History and Cultivation Practices in the Care of the Genus* presented by Anita Bracalente

## Member news

By Nancy White



After such an enjoyable day at our June 9 Garden Walk, we extend our thanks to the host gardens, to the planning committee, and to Mary Hawkins for her coordination of this event. Mary has organized our Walk since the beginning, and it is one of the highlights of each year.

### **Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair**

Be sure to read the article in this issue on opportunities to help with the Monroe County Fair. Like the Garden Walk, the Fair is another of our premier events, but your help is needed to make this happen. You can get involved in so many ways, for as little as an hour or two or for a whole day. Come and join us at the Fair.

### **Jeff Holland is retiring**

The Purdue Extension Board will host a retirement reception for Jeff Holland on Sunday, July 1, 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Jeff has been an extension educator in Monroe County for many years, and we wish him a productive retirement. Jeff will assume the presidency of a national extension educators association in retirement but will keep his residence in Bloomington. All are invited to the reception to honor Jeff for his many years of service. Purdue hopes to have his replacement in place by early fall.

### **Gretchen Scott memorial service on July 14**

A memorial service has been announced for MCMGA member Gretchen Scott on Saturday, July 14, 2:00 p.m. at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. The public is invited. A longtime member of our group, Gretchen participated in many of our activities and was the “Godmother” of the Bloomington in Bloom initiative in 2009-2010. We miss her warmth, enthusiasm, and concern for our hometown and all that makes it special.

### **Be a volunteer driver at the Monroe County Fair**

Preston Gwinn is asking for help during the Monroe County Fair, July 28—August 4. Preston has been assigned to coordinate the drivers of the Fair shuttle that takes fairgoers to the various areas on the grounds. If you like to drive and would be able to sign up for a shift, contact Preston at 320-2150.

### **Master Gardeners serve as hostesses at Summer Garden Walk**

As we have for so many years, many Master Gardeners assisted the Bloomington Garden Club at their annual Summer Garden Walk on June 23-24. This year, our members served as hostesses in private gardens and at the Monroe County History Center flower show. Thanks to the following members who helped at this fine event: Jennifer Cleland, Ann McEndarfer, Nancy Miller, Sydley Skolnik, and Cindy St Leger.

## Volunteers needed for Monroe County Fair events

Submitted by Amy Thompson and Diana Young

### Patio set-up

Volunteers are needed **Friday afternoon, July 27** to help set-up the patio for the garden exhibits. We will start about **1:00 p.m.** and will work through the afternoon. We'll be dusting off the display equipment and moving tables, so the ability to lift and carry items is VERY helpful but not essential. We also put on the table coverings and table skirting, so non-lifting jobs are also available. Please contact Amy at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) for more information or to schedule a time.

### Cut Flowers, Potted Plants and Floral Design

Volunteers are needed on **Monday, July 30** to help with the Cut Flowers, Potted Plants and Floral Design exhibits. This is typically a FUN day. You'll learn quite a bit about flowers as you assist with exhibit entry and work with the judges to enter results, place ribbons, and other tasks. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Esther Minnick at 876-4523.

### Exhibit volunteers

Daytime volunteers are needed from **Tuesday, July 31 through Friday August 27** to help keep the displays looking great. Volunteers could come any time after the building opens at 10:00 a.m. and before the MG booth is staffed at 3:30 p.m. Work would include ensuring that cut flowers have adequate water, removing spent blooms and rotting veggies and fruits, sweeping up spent leaves, flowers, from the display tables and perhaps running the vacuum. The schedule on this activity is flexible, the amount of time needed will vary depending on how many exhibits are entered and how hot it is and how quickly things decline during this year's fair. If you'd be willing to give an hour or so during the week for this, please contact Amy [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) with the day you'd be willing to work and the approximate time you plan to come.

### Patio display tear down

Volunteers to help break-down the display area and get ready for project pick-up are needed on **Saturday August 4**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** Please contact Amy Thompson at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) Help is also needed to assist people who are coming to pick up their entries on **Sunday, August 5** from **12:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Esther Minnick at 876-452.

### Master Gardener Information Booth

The Purdue Extension Office/Monroe County Master Gardener Association host an information booth on the patio of the community building in the late afternoons and evenings during the fair. We need volunteers who will reach out to engage the public, answer questions, and share information about MCMGA and the MG training program. Shifts are Monday, July 30 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 pm and Tuesday, July 31 through Friday, August 3 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

If you are willing to fill one or more of those shifts, please contact Amy at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) or 812-349-2575 with your preferred date and time and a second choice if you have other time available.

## Got chiggers?

Submitted by Amy Thompson



Chiggers are mites, not insects. And like all mites, the adults have eight legs. However, the larva only has six legs.

Though the bright red female adult is tiny (about 1/20th of an inch) the larva is much smaller (about 1/150th of an inch). Only the larvae are parasitic and attack animals. The larva injects digestive juices into the skin, which causes a rapid swelling. In the center of the swelling is a "feeding tube" from which the chigger sucks out liquefied skin cells. Feeding usually continues for two to four days.

Protection from chiggers uses two approaches. The use of a repellent can discourage chiggers from attacking. The most effective repellents are Deet and permethrin. Both are applied to clothing. The second approach seeks to reduce chigger populations. Keeping the lawn mowed regularly can help, but large populations may require the use of an acaricide.

Effective products include bifenthrin (Talstar, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster II, Hi-Yield Bug Blaster Bifenthrin, and Ortho Lawn Insect Killer Granules), cyfluthrin (Tempo 20, Powerforce Multi-Insect Killer) and carbaryl (Sevin).

From <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/doc3406.ashx>

## Fertilizing tomatoes

Submitted by Amy Thompson

Though tomatoes need to be fertilized to yield well, too much nitrogen can result in large plants with little to no fruit. Tomatoes should be fertilized before planting and sidedressed with a nitrogen fertilizer three times during the season. The first sidedressing should go down one to two weeks before the first tomato ripens. The second should be applied two weeks after the first tomato ripens and the third one month after the second.

Common sources of nitrogen-only fertilizers include nitrate of soda, urea, and ammonium sulfate. Blood meal is an organic fertilizer that contains primarily, but not exclusively, nitrogen.

Use only one of the listed fertilizers and apply at the rate given below.

Nitrate of soda (16-0-0): Apply 2/3 pound (1.5 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.

Blood Meal (12-1.5-.6): Apply 14 ounces (1.75 cups) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.

Urea (46-0-0): Apply 4 ounces (1/2 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.

Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0): Apply 0.5 pounds (1 cup) fertilizer per 30 feet of row.

If you cannot find the above materials, you can use a lawn fertilizer that is about 30 percent nitrogen (nitrogen is the first number in the set of three) and apply it at the rate of 1/3 pound (3/4 cup) per 30 feet of row. Do not use a fertilizer that contains a weed killer or weed preventer.

## 2012 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Exhibitor Award

By Amy Thompson

Join the fun and exhibit your own veggies, fruits, flowers, herbs and floral designs at the Monroe County Fair.

The MCMGA board is pleased to sponsor the 2012 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

**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

**When:** Entry of Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs, Seeds and Grains is on **Saturday, July 28.**

Entry of Potted Plants, Cut Flowers and Floral Designs is on **Monday, July 30.**

**Need More Info:** You can find more information on the exhibits in the open class fair book which can be picked up at our office or visit this link: <http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/counties/monroe/Documents/2012%20Open%20Class%20Fairbook.pdf>.

The competition is wide open this year and who can't use an additional \$50 to buy more plants?

### Hats off!



### Members earn new badges

Marilyn Bourk, certified  
Bryan Hane, certified  
Dan Pyle, certified

**Congratulations!**

# KnockOut roses susceptible to rose rosette

Submitted by Amy Thompson

Rose rosette is a serious disease caused by an aster yellows phytoplasma. It is carried from one rose to another by a spindle-shaped, yellow to brown mite. Transmission of the disease has also been shown experimentally through grafting or through contaminated pruning shears.

Infection is thought to start with rapid elongation of a new shoot. The rapid shoot growth may continue for several weeks to a length of two to three feet. Following shoot elongation, a witches' broom or clustering of small branches occurs. The stems develop excessive thorniness and produce small, deformed leaves with a reddish-purple pigmentation.

Though KnockOut roses are resistant to many diseases, they are susceptible to this one.

There is no effective control measure for infected plants. In garden settings, infected plants should be removed and destroyed, including roots. Any roots that remain after plant removal may produce infected shoots which can harbor the disease.

If possible, eliminate all multiflora rose plants from the vicinity as they are extremely susceptible and will act as a carrier. Multiflora rose is the wild rose often seen growing in ditches and pastures.

Since the disease can be transmitted by pruning shears, disinfect the shears when moving from one plant to another by using rubbing alcohol or a disinfectant such as Lysol.

from <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=764>

## View MCMGA bylaws change proposals online

Bylaws for an organization may become out of date for any number of reasons, such as advances in technology, job description changes, new practices, or new needs. Our last bylaws review was in 2007. A bylaws committee composed of Marilyn Brinley, Helen Hollingsworth, Amy Thompson, and Nancy White is proposing some changes. Proposed changes to the bylaws will be posted for viewing by the middle of July on this website, <http://www3.ag.purdue.edu/counties/monroe/Pages/HomeYardGarden.aspx>, and members using computers will receive two notices of these changes via email and for others via U. S. post office prior to voting. Voting on the bylaw changes is scheduled for our September general meeting.

Members are encouraged to study the proposed bylaws changes and forward comments or suggestions to Helen Hollingsworth.

## Eighth annual Garden Walk a special treat

By Evelyn Harrell



Master Gardeners tour WonderGarden.

The Master Gardener Garden Walk on Saturday, June 9 was delightful on many levels. In spite of predicted high heat and humidity, the weather was great and added to the enjoyment of the outdoor experience. Nancy White gave a history of WonderGarden, next to the WonderLab and described the role that Master Gardeners have played in maintaining the focus areas. She told stories of the efforts Master Gardeners have made and explained how their efforts have contributed to the lovely landscaping we enjoy there today.



Dianne May describes building a rain garden.

Participants then crossed town to the home of Dianne May where she described the process of planning for and designing a rain garden. It was interesting to see how much thought and planning were required, though with a small footprint, still capable of controlling a large amount of runoff from the adjacent structures. The rest of Dianne's homestead was interesting also, with garden surprises around every corner and a very impressive display of lavender at the front steps.



Mary Jane Hall's garden flourishes in shade.

Finally, gardeners and guests traveled toward Lake Monroe and the home of Mary Jane Hall to enjoy an excellent spread of dishes and desserts on the patio under the trees. Guests lingered in the perfect summer evening to listen to Mary Jane describe with great good humor the challenges of landscaping under those same trees, where sunlight is in short supply and surface water races down the steep slopes straight to the lake.

The 2012 Garden Walk was informative, and the picnic site was visually pleasing, the food was excellent, and the crowd had a good time. Many thanks to Mary Hawkins and Di Dingman for their excellent organization of the event and to their committee members Mary Jane Hall, Evelyn Harrell, Linda Heath, Mary Hoffman, Nancy Miller, Lynn Rogers, Robin Rothe, and Carol Reynolds.

# Summer reading

Compiled by Helen Hollingsworth

Looking for garden books to read this summer? Our Monroe County Public Library offers a wide selection. Read a book of interest to our members, write a review for *Roots & Shoots*, and you may claim volunteer hours credit for time spent in writing. Reviews are welcome any month.

*Encyclopedia of garden design & structure: ideas and inspiration for your garden* by Derek Fell, 2005

*Herb gardening for dummies* by Karen Davis Cutler, 2011

*Midwest top 10 garden guide* by Bonnie Blodgett and editors of Sunset Books, 2004

*Garden pools, fountains, & waterfalls* by Scott Atkinson, 2007

*Before & after garden makeovers* by Vicki Webster, 2006

*Design your natural Midwest garden* by Patricia Hill, 2007

*The edible garden* by Hazel White, 2005

*Design in the garden: inspiration, design, structure* by Ursula Barth, 2004

*Organic gardening for dummies* by Ann Whitman, 2009

*The plant finder: the right plants for every garden*, Tony Rodd & Geoff Bryant, editors, 2007

*Soul mates: companion planting for your vegetable garden* by Sara Always, 2010

*Grow your food for free (well, almost): great money-saving ideas for your garden* by Dave Hamilton, 2011

*Perennials short and tall: a seasonal progression of flowers for your garden* by Moya Andrews, 2008

*Cass Turnbull's guide to pruning: what, when, and how to prune for a more beautiful garden* by Cass Turnbull, 2006

*Peonies* by Pamela McGeorge, 2006

*Spiders: learning to love them* by Lynn Kelly, 2009

*Grow your own vegetables* by Carol Klein, 2010

*Composting for dummies* by Cathy Crowell, 2010

*Time-saving gardener's tips & essential tasks, season by season*, by Carolyn Hutchinson, 2008

*Trees and shrubs: a gardener's encyclopedia*, Firefly Books, 2011

# Volunteer opportunities

Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876 bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349-2575
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	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Evelyn Harrell, 339-0572 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	Nicole Richardson, 334-8374

# Renovating the strawberry patch

By Bruce Bordelon, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Most homeowner and small commercial strawberry patches are grown using the “matted row” system. In this system, plantings must be renovated after harvest to establish new crowns for next year’s crop. New crowns that establish this summer will produce more fruit and better quality fruit next season than the old crowns. New crowns develop by rooting of daughter plants on the runners. Runner production begins under long days and warm temperatures. The crowns that produced the fruit this season are needed only as a source of new runner plants, so most of the old crowns can be removed to make way for new crowns. This may seem severe to some growers, but it is the best way to keep a strawberry patch healthy and productive.

For best results, renovation should be started immediately after harvest is completed to promote early runner formation. The earlier a runner gets set, the higher its yield potential and the larger its fruit. Growers should begin renovation as soon as the last good berries are harvested and before a large number of runners and new leaves develop. The following steps describe renovation of matted row strawberry patches.

1. **Mow** the old leaves off just above the crowns. Do not mow so low as to damage the crowns.
2. **Narrow the rows:** Reduce the width of rows to allow room for new runners to establish. Leave a strip of old crowns down the middle of the row to produce new runner plants. A desirable final row width to attain at the end of the season is 12-18 inches. Rows can be narrowed to as little as 6 inches during renovation. Use a tiller or cultivator to achieve the reduction. Be sure to incorporate the old plant material and mulch thoroughly into the soil.
3. **Rebuild the bed:** Pull a small amount of soil over the row after cultivation with a rake or hoe. Strawberry crowns continue development at the top, and new roots are initiated above old roots on the crown, so a half to an inch of soil on the crowns will facilitate rooting. This also helps cover straw in the row and provides a good rooting medium for the new runner plants.
4. **Fertilize the planting.** Generally, nitrogen should be applied at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. per 1,000 square feet depending on vigor. It is more efficient to split nitrogen applications into two or three applications at regular intervals, rather than apply it all at once. A good plan is to apply about half at renovation and half again in late August when flower bud development is occurring. A soil test will help determine phosphorus and potassium needs.
5. **Irrigate:** Water is needed for good plant growth. Don’t let the plants go into stress. Ideally the planting should receive one to one and a half inches of water per week from either rain or irrigation.
6. **Set runners:** Sweep runners into the row by cultivation or hand set the runners until plant stand is sufficient. (continued on page 11)

# Not too late to plant your Halloween pumpkin

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist



It may seem a bit late to be planting Halloween jack-o' lanterns, but there's still time to plant if you get growing quickly.

The key will be to choose a cultivar with a relatively low number of days to maturity when planted from seed. There are early-, mid- and late-season cultivars of pumpkin, ranging from about 85-120 days to maturity. You'll want to look for those in the "early-season" (around 90 days) category.

While it is too late for the giant pumpkin types, there are quite a few medium- and small-fruited cultivars that can still be planted.

*Very small, or "baby," pumpkins include:*

Jack B Little--deeply grooved orange fruit

Munchkin--deeply grooved orange fruit

Lil Goblin--smooth, orange fruit

Baby Boo--ribbed, white fruit

*Small to medium pumpkins include:*

Baby Bear--shallow-ribbed, orange fruit

Bushkin--ribbed, orange fruit

Autumn Gold--shallow-ribbed, orange fruit

Sorcerer--shallow-ribbed, orange fruit

Racer--ribbed, orange fruit

Orange Smoothie--smooth-skinned, orange fruit

Oz--shallow-ribbed, orange

Lumina--shallow-ribbed, white fruit

Pumpkins should be harvested before frost. In preparing for storage, pumpkins should be handled with care to prevent bruises or cuts in the rind, as these wounds provide entry for rotting organisms. Cure the pumpkins before storage in a warm, humid area, about 80°-85° F with a relative humidity of about 80 percent. After about 10 days, the pumpkins should be moved to a storage area where the temperature can be maintained between 50°-60° F with a lower relative humidity of about 50-70 percent. These conditions can be difficult to find in Indiana homes in September and early October. So try to time your pumpkin crop as close to Halloween as your growing conditions will permit.

## Renovating the strawberry patch (continued from page 10)

- 7. Provide adequate moisture and fertility** during August and September to increase fruit bud formation and improve fruit yield for the coming year. Continue irrigation through this time period and fertilize if necessary. An additional  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 lb. pounds of nitrogen per 1,00 square feet is suggested, depending on the vigor.

July 2012

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cooperative Extension Service  
3400 South Walnut Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401



*Helping others grow!*

**General Meeting July 17, 6:30 p.m.  
Demonstration Garden, Fairgrounds  
Preparing the garden for the Monroe County Fair**

**2012 MCMGA Board**

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**Master Gardener calendar**

- **Saturday, July 14**, at Purdue, one day Master Gardener Advanced Training class, *The Basics of Landscape Design*, limited to 30 participants accepted on first-paid basis; contact [dchitty@purdue.edu](mailto:dchitty@purdue.edu) to register.
- **Tuesday, July 17**, 6:30 p.m., Demonstration Garden, MCMGA general meeting
- **July 28-August 4**, Fairgrounds, Monroe County Fair
- **Tuesday, September 25**, 6:30 p.m., extension meeting room, MCMGA general meeting with program presented by Moya Andrews and Anita Bracalente