July general meeting—a special opportunity

By Susan Love

The July Master Gardener general meeting will be held at the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on Tuesday, July 23 at 6:30 p.m. to prepare the garden for Monroe County Fair visitors. Enter the fairgrounds through Gate 3 off Airport Road, and the garden is on your left.

The evening’s agenda includes a brief business meeting followed by a general work session to prepare the Demonstration Garden for the Monroe County Fair. Everyone is asked to bring favorite garden tools useful for weeding and trimming and also your favorite bug spray.

Drinks and snacks will be provided by the refreshment committee for the evening: Sandy Belth, Mary Hoffmannn, Kay Cunningham, Bethany Murray, Sidley Sholnik, Diane Long, and Cole Kiser.

Members present are eligible for a drawing for a $100 scholarship to attend the 2013 State Master Gardener’s Conference in Bristol, Indiana, on September 5-7. Check out their website for speakers and topics at www.MichianaMasterGardeners.com. You must be present for your name to be entered to win. The MCMGA board established the scholarship, which is open to any member or intern, to support anyone who wishes to attend the State Conference. The scholarship applies to conference costs only and does not include housing costs. The scholarship winner receives the award upon submission of receipts to the treasurer after the conference.

The work session is a great opportunity to earn volunteer hours and to meet and work with other Master Gardeners. I hope to see you on July 23 to spruce up the garden for the Monroe County Fair, July 27 through August 3.
Master Gardeners were in evidence everywhere during the month of June. One of the events included the contributions of Master Gardeners to the SNAYL Day to identify and reduce invasive species in Monroe County. Ellen Jacquart from The Nature Conservancy was effusive in her appreciation. As she put it, “The Master Gardeners really saved our ______ at lunch. Getting the food out, watching the donation box, directing people through the line—it was a huge help. And then doing so much of the table break down and the clean up—we would have been there much longer this afternoon if you guys hadn’t handled so much of that. Please pass on to all your volunteers how much we appreciated their help!”

2013 Master Gardener Garden Walk

Two weeks later Master Gardeners were attending the 2013 MCMGA Garden Walk, and it was outstanding! We can’t thank enough those Master Gardeners, Moya Andrews, Linda and John Emerson, and Sandy Belth, and their spouses who shared their gardens and their knowledge with all who participated. It was an afternoon of significant diversity, education, fun, and good food.

BugFest a hit

Close on its heels the very next weekend were the Bloomington Garden Walk and the BugFest, a first time event and very well attended in spite of sweltering heat and humidity. There were many opportunities for volunteer hours on what had to have been the busiest weekend of the summer for anyone wanting to be out and about in Bloomington.

Monroe County Fair on July 27 through August 3

At mid-summer the Monroe County Fair is just around the corner, and when Stephen Anderson sent fair information in an email on June 10, there were a number of volunteer opportunities. Help may be needed in the entry and judging of vegetables, cut flowers, potted plants and floral designs. If you are interested in helping, please contact Esther Minnick at 876-4523. Amy Thompson will use volunteers on Friday, July 26 at 1:00 p.m. to set up the Community Building patio. You can contact her at 349-2575 or afthompson@purdue.edu.

Mentors needed

Mentors are still needed to assist MCMGA grant winners to fulfill their goals and implement their projects. Contact Nancy White at nwhite38@hotmail.com to see how you can help and earn volunteer hours.

Demo Garden clean-up during the month of July

Check out this issue’s articles by Diana Young and Susan Lovell on the Demonstration Garden. Be sure to join us there (with your gloves and favorite garden tools) for the general meeting on July 23 at 6:30 p.m. for the annual clean-up. The demo garden always looks great when the evening is over. If you can help out before then, contact Diana at young-diana@att.net.
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 2013 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 27.

Entry of Potted Plants, Cut Flowers and Floral Designs is on Monday, July 29.

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/OC%20Exhibit%20Requirements%202013.pdf.

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

Info about tomatoes available online
Submitted by John Orick, Master Gardener State Coordinator

Growing Tomatoes with IPM for Home Gardeners This module includes recommendations on planting, diseases, insects and abiotic tomato problems for home gardeners. See: http://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=749. Cost is $10. Developed by the North Central Consumer Hort Working Group and the NC IPM Center. Upon completion, participants receive a certificate that can count toward advanced training for Master Gardeners.
Garden Chats at the Monroe County Fair

By Amy Thompson

Garden Chats, informational talks about various gardening topics, again will be held at the Monroe County Fair. These Chats are held in the Community Building; all talks begin at 6:30 p.m. Dates and topics for 2013 are listed below. Note this is updated information more recent than information found in the published fair schedule.

Wednesday, July 31: Tomatoes 101—Tips on Growing Tomatoes presented by Farmers’ Market vendor Gloria Jacques

Thursday, August 1: Soil Health for Gardeners, presented by Rafael Vega, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Friday, August 2: Alternative Gardening: Raised Beds and Containers, presented by Diana Young, Gold Master Gardener

Volunteers needed for Monroe County Fair events

Submitted by Amy Thompson and Diana Young

Patio set-up

Volunteers are needed Friday afternoon, July 26, 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 for more information or to schedule a time.

Veggies, Cut Flowers, Potted Plants, Etc. Exhibits

Volunteers are needed on Saturday July 27 to help with vegetable, herbs, fruits and seeds exhibits and on Monday, July 30 to help with the Cut Flowers, Potted Plants, and Floral Design exhibits. You’re likely to learn something new as you help the judges and work with exhibit entry. Volunteers also help enter results, place ribbons, and do other tasks. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Esther Minnick at 876-4523.

Patio display tear down

Volunteers to help break-down the display area and get ready for project pick-up are needed on Saturday August 3rd, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please contact Amy Thompson at afthompson@purdue.edu or Diana Young at young-diana@att.net to volunteer. 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.
Saturday, June 15 was a partly cloudy day with temperatures in the mid-eighties. In other words, it was the perfect day to tour some lovely gardens belonging to our fellow Master Gardeners. A curious group of Master Gardeners began arriving at the garden of Moya Andrews and Stan Stockton by mid-afternoon. This couple live in Bloomington and have a well-established garden on a corner lot. The garden has changed throughout the years as the plants have matured and when the deer found the scrumptious feast that Moya had planted for them, this Master Gardener had to think on her feet and begin planting things to deter her hungry guests.

Everywhere we wandered that afternoon we were met with surprises: a lovely plant in bloom here, a beckoning path leading off to an unknown destination there. Traversing the garden even a couple of times still yielded new treasures, for there were so many things to see. With its numerous garden rooms and paths and a variety of colors and textures, this is a garden for the mind as well as the soul.

Our next stop on the garden tour was at the home of John and Linda Emerson. The garden is quite young, only three years old, but already John and Linda have made a lot of progress on their country lot. In front of the deck is a large rain garden accented with miniature buildings. Two fish ponds sit above the rain garden and are enjoyed from the deck. Behind the house is a large vegetable and berry garden as well as several grapevines. Next to the house, Linda has planted several herbs in front of a white picket fence, a striking country garden display. As the Master Gardeners strolled around the garden, they were taking mental notes of the ideas the Emersons implemented in their retirement oasis.

Our final stop of the day was at the home of Sandy and Jeff Belth. This is a garden that has been allowed to revert back to nature. In the 18 years that they have called this place home, the Belths have encouraged nature to reclaim the land and have planted native species when appropriate and discarded unwanted plants when necessary. Now the garden is a certified wildlife habitat filled with butterflies and birds of all kinds. Walking paths lead through the woods around the house and koi ponds attract frogs by the house.

Touring this garden made the Master Gardeners feel as though they had stepped into a nature preserve, and they delighted in watching Sandy feed the koi and listened closely as she described the life cycle of the pipevine swallowtail butterfly. The picnic was also held at this garden, and the tables overflowed with good food from our members. As always, our members left filled with ideas for their own gardens.

Many thanks to the members of garden walk committee, Mary Hawkins, Evelyn Harrell, and the picnic committee, Robin Rothe, Marilyn Brinley, Linda Heath, Thomas Lovell, and Paula Perron.
Moya Andrews describes the newer annual garden surrounding the water fountain. (Photo by Marilyn Brinley)

The shade garden in the front yard of the Emerson home (Photo by Marilyn Brinley)

Japanese painted fern glows in the shade (Photo by Dave Dunatchik)

Members and guests picnicked at the Belth home (Photo by Dave Dunatchik)
Help available with installing a water retention system
Submitted by Nancy White

Master Gardener John Emerson has offered to assist any members who might want to install a water retention system using rain barrels. John and Linda were kind enough to invite us to see their retention system and rain garden up close on our June 8 Garden Walk. It is a very impressive answer to the challenges of the last few years of drought. John has offered to purchase and install the needed materials for the water system for any Master Gardener who might need his expertise and experience. Cost to the property owner would be only for the materials. Since each property has unique challenges, each system would be custom designed to fit the property. John suggests that rain garden design can be done with the assistance of other local residents including Todd Stevenson, who is the Monroe County government water usage professional.

John invites anyone to contact him and come out to his home to view his system. Contact John at jlemerson@comcast.net or by phone at 391-6489.

Let’s get the Demo Garden ready for the Monroe County Fair
By Diana Young

Need more hours? Here is your opportunity. We need help with the Demo Garden. Royal’s Tent Sale is over now, and we need to get busy. Members and interns may work any time between now and our general meeting at the garden on Tuesday, July 23. You may adopt an unassigned garden, weed, help maintain walkways and demo area, or check the Demo Garden map for many other options. The garden map is on the web site, www.mcmga.net.

Herman Young (322-5700) plans to work at the Demo Garden on the second and third Tuesdays from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. before the Monroe County Fair, which is July 17-August 3. Jeanie Cox (360-3587) plans to be at the Demo Garden at 6:00 p.m. on the first and fourth Mondays. Call Jeanie if you’d like to arrange other hours. Bring your tools, sunscreen, and hats. Please help us make this garden a show place before the fair. Hope to see you at the garden.
Plants can grow in even a speck of soil unless we work hard to keep them out. Because we see plants spreading all around us (some—like kudzu and Japanese honeysuckle—seem to be able to cover everything in sight), we don’t think about the simplest fact of an individual plant’s life—it can’t move from one place to another.

We look at the world with animals’ eyes, the eyes of creatures that move around all the time. It shows in phrases we use without thinking. Veg out. Couch potato. It’s easy to see plants as passive. During a drought, plants can’t head for the nearest pond. If they need nutrients, they can’t knock over a garbage pail or move where the pickings are better. We give them water and food. We move them if we think they’d look better in another corner of the yard. And they can’t run away if an animal decides to eat them, something we exploit regularly.

Plants do their moving around during reproduction. They send out extensions of their roots to form a new plant. Their seeds and spores cling to an animal’s fur or ride the wind to someplace new where they are deposited. Once they’ve reached that spot, they spend the rest of their lives right there, either beginning to grow immediately or, something we and animals can’t do, hunkering down and waiting for conditions to improve before they start growing. Plants often have more genes than animals because once a seed or spore lands somewhere, it must make do. It has to grow and change in different ways in response to just one of many possible environments. It can’t decide to pack up and find a better home.

The truth is that plants are far from passive. They are extremely clever and energetic, but their tactics and strategies aren’t obvious to human perceptions. What animals and human beings do by moving around—finding food, escaping enemies, selecting mates—plants have to accomplish in ways that we have difficulty understanding. It’s hard to imagine ourselves trying to avoid being eaten by producing bad-tasting chemicals instead of running away. Or spreading our genes by producing a part of us (like fruit) that is meant to be eaten or by inviting insects to crawl all over us. Or dealing with environmental challenges by changing our size and shape. When we see a human child’s growth stunted by a lack of resources, we rightly see pathology. But the same species of plant can be successful as a compact bush in a dry spot or a lush tree where water is abundant.

Because plants can’t move around, they have to attract creatures that can move. For instance, clover and alfalfa roots produce sugars which they share with certain bacteria in exchange for the right form of nitrogen. Plants have many ways of convincing the world to come to them, and in doing so, they actively create a community of living things that provide them with what they need to flourish. And they in turn give other community members—bacteria, insects, worms, and mammals—what they must have to live.
### Volunteer opportunities

Compiled by Nancy White

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Gardens</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128</td>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Herman Young, 322-5700</td>
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<td>Jeanie Cox, 360-3587</td>
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<td>MCMGA Garden Walk Committee</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>select gardens and plan picnic</td>
<td>Evelyn Harrell, 339-0572</td>
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<td>Bloomington Community Orchard</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Stacey Decker, getinvolved@ bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park</td>
<td>summer</td>
<td>design and maintain</td>
<td>Nancy Fee, 332-1940</td>
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<tr>
<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, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries &amp; research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>write articles</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Stephen Anderson, 360-1216</td>
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<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Sandy Belth, 825-8353</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Susan Lovell, 339-5914</td>
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<td>Middle Way House</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<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>Kendra Brewer, <a href="mailto:garden@mhcfoodpantry.org">garden@mhcfoodpantry.org</a></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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<tr>
<td>Hoosier Hills Foodbank</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nicole Richardson, 334-8374</td>
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Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.
Zones 3, 4, and 5

Creating a Perennial Garden in the Midwest by Joan Severa, Trails Media Group, Inc., 1999.

Joan Severa, a Master Gardener and self-taught home gardener has created an innovative book for Midwest perennial gardens. I found this book by accident since I am always looking for reading materials directed to Midwest gardens. The table of contents looked interesting, because I could relate to many of the topics, so I am, once again off and reading!

The over 170-page book has nine chapters plus an introduction, conclusion, glossary, and index. Chapter cover such topics as How my Garden Began; Beginning Your Own Garden; Care of the Soil; Now You Are Ready to Plant; Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; Perennials for Shade; Perennials for Sun; Bulbs for Interplanting; and The Water Garden. Each chapter has sections that cover a multitude of topics. The book includes information about her favorite plants and ones that has been successful in her Zone 4 climate. Severa simplifies and demystifies processes with some step-by-step instructions. She encourages using common sense, provides lots of basic information, and tells you to just do it! Using colorful photos, mostly from her own Wisconsin garden, she illustrates what happens when you follow her directions with before, during, and after accompanied by personal captions. She offers Latin and common names, and you feel as if you were talking to a gardening friend while you read.

Severa wrote this book, as other authors do, to inspire gardeners. Her method consists of telling why and how she did the gardening job and documents the results achieved. She states in her introduction that she “would have you to regard this book as you would a demonstration by a watercolorist: enjoy the pictures, compare the way the artist sees and does things to the way you do, possibly discover more about your own vision, pick up any techniques you might be able to use, learn about some different materials, perhaps get a few new angles then go out and paint your own picture,” and I believe she did just that!

Purdue makes plant doctor apps available

By John Orick, Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator

Purdue Plant Doctor Apps are available to the public. These apps help you diagnose and solve problems found on trees and annual and perennial flowers. These apps are wonderful resources for extension professionals, Purdue Master Gardeners, horticulture professionals, and gardening enthusiasts.

You can find information about the Purdue Tree Doctor, Purdue Perennial Flower Doctor, and Purdue Annual Flower Doctor at the website below:

https://purdueplantdoctor.com/.

We will be featuring these apps at the Plant Info To Go booth at the Indiana State Fair!
Tomato leaf-spot diseases

Submitted by Amy Thompson

This time of year two common leaf-spot diseases appear on tomato plants. Septoria leaf spot and early blight are both characterized by brown spots on the leaves. Septoria leaf spot usually appears earlier in the season than early blight and produces small dark spots. Spots made by early blight are much larger and often have a distorted “target” pattern of concentric circles. Heavily infected leaves eventually turn yellow and drop. Older leaves are more susceptible than younger ones, so these diseases often start at the bottom of the plant and work up.

Mulching, caging, or staking keeps plants off the ground, making them less vulnerable. Better air circulation allows foliage to dry quicker than in plants allowed to sprawl. Mulching also helps prevent water from splashing and carrying disease spores to the plant.

In situations where these diseases have been a problem in the pasts, rotation is a good strategy. It is too late for that now, but keep it in mind for next year. Actually, rotation is a good idea even if you have not had problems in the past. But many gardens are too small to make it practical. If you have room, rotate the location of the tomatoes each year to an area that has not had tomatoes or related crops (peppers, potatoes, eggplant) for several years.

If rotation is not feasible, fungicides are often helpful. Be sure to cover both upper and lower leaf surfaces, and reapply fungicide if rainfall removes it. Plants usually become susceptible when the tomato fruit is about the size of a walnut. Chlorothalonil is a good choice for fruiting plants because it has a 0-day waiting period, meaning that fruit can be harvested once the spray is dry.

Chlorothalonil can be found in numerous products including Fertilome Broad-Spectrum Fungicide, Ortho Garden Disease Control, GardenTech Daconil and others.

Be sure to start protecting plants when the disease is first seen. It is virtually impossible to stop it on heavily infected plants. If chlorothalonil doesn’t seem to be effective, try mancozeb (Mancozeb Flowable). Note that there is a five-day waiting period between application and when the fruit can be harvested. You may wish to pick some tomatoes green just before you spray if you use Mancozeb as they will ripen inside. (Ward Upham)

Tuesday, July 23, General Meeting
Monroe County Fairgrounds—6:30 p.m.
Be present for drawing for $100 scholarship to attend Master Gardener State Conference

Physiological leaf curl in tomatoes
Submitted by Amy Thompson

Every year we have calls from gardeners who have tomato plants with leaves that curl up. 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 ‘realizes’ that it has a problem and needs to increase its 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 leaf roll is a temporary condition that goes away after a week or so when the plant has a chance to acclimate, recover from injury, or the soil has a chance to dry out. For more information see http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/p.aspx?tabid=764.