Our July general meeting is not like other general meetings at all but rather an opportunity to prepare to showcase our Demonstration Garden for Monroe County Fair visitors and enjoy each other’s company while gardening. Our volunteers have been working all summer so this work session on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. will be a final push to prepare the garden. You will enter the fairgrounds through Gate 3 off Airport Road, and the garden is on the left. Everyone is asked to bring favorite garden tools and gloves. Also bring your favorite bug spray.

The agenda for the evening includes a brief meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. followed by the work session in the garden. Drinks and snacks will be provided by the refreshment committee for the evening including Karen King, Mary Cusack, Tom Lovell, and Susan Lovell. Those laboring in the garden will be expending a lot of energy and will be hot and thirsty, so refreshments will be welcome.

The work session is a great opportunity to earn volunteer hours and to meet and work with other Master Gardeners. We hope to see you on Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Demonstration Garden to help make the garden not only look awesome but also provide inspiration to Monroe County Fair visitors.
June 13 was *Weed Your Garden Day*. Clearly, this nationally recognized “holiday” was celebrated in advance by the four hosts of the 2015 Master Gardener Garden Walk, because June 13 was the day that about a dozen Master Gardeners, plus guests and hosts, enjoyed the beauty of four very different gardens, and there was hardly a single weed in sight.

Susan Eastman and Diane Gregory started off the tour with their self-described “small gardens,” but they were hardly small. New groupings, new colors, and new designs awaited around every twist and turn. Susan’s garden featured many levels of plantings of great variety, set off by a small bridge over an attractive cobblestone creek bed that intersects the yard and meanders along to carry away excess rainwater. Just up the street is Diane Gregory’s dense shade garden under a vast canopy that demonstrates the diversity and interest that can be achieved in challenging shade.

Michael Bennett is creating a multi-featured garden in an eastside subdivision, not where one would expect to observe bee hives alongside vegetable beds, fruit trees, and trellised beans and squash. Bees were quieted when Michael fired up the smoker to show visitors the inner design of the hive and the queen’s large cell. A recent intern, Michael is applying his new knowledge to many and varied projects.

Donna Terry and her husband bought five acres east of town 30 years ago. It came with a farmhouse and a milk house—which is now her potting shed—and nearly five acres of weeds. The trees have grown into impressive specimens that make a sylvan glade of the front yard, and, she winces, also shelter a host of moles. A tall fence protects a well laid out vegetable garden with fruits and vegetables, including celery growing in pieces of PVC pipe, bisected by grassy paths. Whimsical garden art pops up everywhere to delight the visitor.

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Check out Sandra Boynton’s Facebook page where readers commented that weeds are in the eye of the beholder; some call them native plants or wildflowers; flowers are just well-placed weeds; a weed is an unloved plant; and, one man’s weed is another man’s ornamental grass. Nope, nary a weed in sight on the 2015 MG Garden Walk.
Excursion with the Limestone Daylily and Hosta Society

By Nancy White

On June 6, a bus load of Limestone Daylily and Hosta Society members, Master Gardeners, and other community members traveled north for some new adventures. Our first stop was Muncie for a visit to Minnetrista, defined as meaning a “gathering place by the water,” and the Oakhurst Gardens. The Ball family, owners of the Ball Brothers Glass Company famous for their bottles and canning jars, settled on the north edge of Muncie on the White River in the 1890s where they built substantial homes and gardens. Ball State University in collaboration with the Minnetrista Foundation now manages the forty acre site.

Four of the original houses remain and are used for offices and even a lodging house for guests to Muncie. Tours of the restored gardens and contemporary demo plots were led by knowledgeable guides who related stories of the lives of the Ball family and of the ongoing restoration work in the homes and gardens. A small rose garden installed near the Minnetrista Welcome Center and art gallery was a pleasant place to rest and chat.

An annual Garden Fair is held on the Minnetrista grounds and this year coincided with our visit. It provided the travelers with some shopping among the many vendors of plants, hardscape, and local non-profits related to horticulture. Many plants and other treasures purchased at the Fair were loaded into the bus.

Our next stop was in Richmond at the Rose Garden and Hill Memorial in Glenn Miller Park. Named as “Rose City” in 1970, Richmond was the home of Hill Rose Growers and of Hill Floral Products. Hill Rose Growers were well known for many years as cut rose growers and marketers. This rose garden was nicely arranged and each bush was identified. Many AARS winners were included in the vast collection. An interesting sidelight of the garden was that each rose variety had several bushes placed together. This enabled the visitor to clearly see the shape and color range of each bush and blossom.

A short 10 mile journey west put us in Centerville at the Cope Environmental Center, a site for protection and restoration that hosts school groups and environmental researchers regularly. The land donor family were teachers who wanted to preserve the unique site for future generations. A meadow, ponds, native trees, wetlands, several well-marked trails, and an abundance of mature conifers were experienced by the hikers.

In past years, some of us have enjoyed other trips provided by the Limestone group. Thanks to them for planning this well-organized and diverse day. Where will they travel in 2016?
Earn volunteer hours at the Garden and Fair

By Diana Young

Don't forget you can earn volunteer hours by working at the Demonstration Garden. Herman and I plan to be at the Demo Garden on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. until we can't work any longer. You can work anytime you want; just call me to learn where or what needs to be done. Don't forget to bring your tools.

We need five people on Friday, July 24 at 4:00 p.m. at the Fairgrounds to set up for the Vegetable Show and Flower Show. Meet in the patio area of the Community Building.

Also, we still need volunteers on Saturday, July 25 for the Vegetable Show at the County Fair and again on Monday, July 27 for the Cut Flower and Floral Arrangements Shows.

Contact Esther Minnick (812 876 4523) for volunteering at the County Fair show hours or call me (812 339 0040 or 812 322 2304) for Demo Garden hours.

Submit photos for foilia and flora cover contest

By Evelyn Harrell

July may be the best time to plan the composition of your photo for the 2016 cover of our annual membership book, foilia and flora. So many plants are in bloom and gardens are lush. They certainly should be lush after this year's June rains. Here are the photo contest rules:

1. Submit no more than five photos. It can be fun, or agonizing, to select the best five.

2. Photos submitted to the contest must have been taken by members of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association.

3. Photos must contain living plant material.

4. Photos must be forwarded to the Extension Office by November 1 in order to be prepared for voting at the November 17 general meeting.
A ‘really glad I went’ conference

By Mary Cusack

The first weekend in June, I found myself driving across part of the new I-69 highway to Evansville. The road was great, and we came upon SIU in Evansville (amid the deafening sounds of mass locusts) in no time flat in order to attend the Purdue State Master Gardener Conference.

On the bus for one of the pre-tours, Eryn (my MG daughter) and I met up with Evelyn Harrell. We were fortunate to have an Evansville historian on our bus so we got the extra benefit of learning about architecture and history of the area before visiting some amazingly beautiful gardens—all run and managed by Master Gardeners. Talk about inspiration!

Returning to the University the next day we attended very beneficial and informative workshops on shade gardening, pollinators, and landscaping, all given by lively and entertaining presenters. The keynotes were outstanding—the words just made me want to run home and expand upon the garden environment at my house. As a result, I have lots of ideas swimming around in my head! Oh, did I mention that the vendors and sellers there got a good chunk of my cash—plants, garden art, ceramics, jewelry, future gifts.

One insight we had was how easy it was to be there amongst strangers and how comfortable everyone was talking to everyone else. You could sit anywhere, at any seat at any workshop or meal and have a great time conversing with those around you. By the end of the conference, we were greeting those strangers by first name and really hoping to cross paths again.

It would be wonderful for more Monroe County Master Gardeners to attend this conference. What a great experience it was! I’m really glad I went!

2016 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference

‘Cultivating Our Legacy’

June 16-18, 2016

West Lafayette, Indiana

For information, see hort.purdue.edu/mg/2016StateConf.html
2015 Master Gardener Garden Walk

Dot Owen and Susan Eastman discuss plants as Evelyn Harrell looks observes in Susan Eastman’s garden. (Photo by Nancy White)

Mike Bennett uses a smoker to calm bees before he opens a hive in his garden. (Photo by Nancy White)

Diane Gregory and Mary Cusack admire shade plants in Diane Gregory’s garden. (Photo by Nancy White)

Evelyn Harrell stands between two decorative scarecrows in Donna Terry’s garden. (Photo by Nancy White)

A decorative mailbox welcomes visitors in Donna Terry’s garden. (Photo by Evelyn Harrell)

Donna Terry’s water collection system collects rain and stores it for use in her garden. (Photo by Nancy White)
Gardening for pollinators
By Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Pollinators are all the "buzz" these days with a federal proclamation designating June 15-21 as National Pollinator Week. Now in its eighth year, the focus of this event is to promote the health of pollinators, so critical to food and ecosystems.

It may surprise you to learn that the honeybee is native to Europe and was introduced to the US. But there are also numerous other pollinator species including native bees, butterflies and moths, beetles, birds and bats. Many pollinators have suffered from loss of habitat, chemical misuse, diseases and parasites.

Gardeners play a critical role in the nurturing and conservation of both native and introduced pollinators. Gardens and landscapes provide pollinators with food, water, shelter and habitat to complete their life cycles. Urban areas typically feature large areas of pavement and buildings and offer little in the way of food or shelter for pollinators – garden plantings can help bridge the gap.

Honeybees and other pollinators need protein from flower pollen and carbohydrates from flower nectar. Plan to provide a variety of different types of flowers, and aim to have three different flower species in bloom throughout the growing season. Showy colorful flowers and massed groups of flowers particularly in small gardens provide efficient feeding stations for the pollinators. Flowering trees and shrubs also provide excellent food sources.

Pollinators also need shelter from wind, scorching sun and heavy rains. Plants, garden structures such as fences, and windbreaks may make the garden more attractive to pollinators.

Pesticides can harm bees and other pollinators directly or may change their behavior or reproductive potential. Some chemicals make pollinators more susceptible to disease. You can protect pollinators by using alternative prevention and control strategies such as hand-picking pests and mulching and by being selective when it becomes necessary to use pesticides.

Read and follow all label directions and pay particular attention to timing your application to minimize impact on pollinators. Generally, bees and others are less active in very early morning or at dusk. Choose spray rather than dust formulations of pesticides to lessen potential for contact. Avoid using pesticides in areas where pollinators are likely to forage. Maintain a buffer "no-spray area" when possible. Wait until flowers have faded (petal-fall) before applying. Mow the lawn to remove flowers of weeds before spraying.
# 2015 MCMGA Budget
Adopted March 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Income</th>
<th>$6,000.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
<td>5,658.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>intern class, Demo Garden &amp; Cheryl's Garden, leadership training, Fair book ad, badges, bond insurance, business registration fees, checks, meeting expenses, printing/copying, travel/conference, supplies, web domain, cover photo contest, Farmers Market booth, reference items, postage, PCARET</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net income</td>
<td>342.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Garden Fair Profit | 6,495. |
| Garden Fair Expenses | 3,650. |
| tree giveaway, publicity/promotion, space rental, insurance, miscellaneous |
| Community grants to non-profit organizations | 2,000. |
| Net income | 843. |

## Notes

1. MCMGA is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the art, science, and pleasure of gardening in the community.

2. Our fiscal year runs from January 1 through December 31.

3. Our treasurer maintains separate accounting of MCMGA monies, which are used to operate our association, and profits earned at the annual Garden Fair, which are used solely to fund community grants.

4. Money to operate our association mainly comes from annual member dues, intern class income, and occasional donations.

5. Money to operate our association is spent primarily for meeting-related expenses, member awards/badges, and Demonstration Garden costs.

6. Any expenditure for association purposes that goes beyond the amount budgeted must be approved in advance by the MCMGA board.

7. Money to provide garden grants to community not-for-profit organizations comes from the *previous year’s* Garden Fair profits. All Garden Fair profits are distributed in the form of community grants.

8. MCMGA maintains a checking account and a savings account. The checking account is used to accept income and to pay monthly expenses. Our savings account is used only in case of a shortfall not anticipated in the annual budget, and its use requires advance board approval.

9. Our financial records are audited each year.

10. The treasurer is required to complete and file all required state and federal forms as needed to maintain the association’s not-for-profit status.
# Volunteer opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volatile opportunities</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bloomington Community Orchards,</strong>&lt;br&gt;2120 S. Highland Avenue [Winslow Woods Park]&lt;br&gt;www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance, all levels of expertise welcome</td>
<td>Stacey Decker&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a>&lt;br&gt;Growing fruit for the community through educational opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park,</strong>&lt;br&gt;2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington</td>
<td>during growing season</td>
<td>help w/ design and maintenance</td>
<td>Linda Emerson&lt;br&gt;812-345-2913 (cell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Courthouse Native Garden</strong>&lt;br&gt;Downtown Square</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance</td>
<td>Todd Stevenson&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us">tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</strong>&lt;br&gt;9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport, IN Near Ellettsville</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance/rejuvenation</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer&lt;br&gt;812-349-2805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Growing Opportunities</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hydroponic Garden&lt;br&gt;Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>Nicole Wooten&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:nicole@insccap.org">nicole@insccap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hilltop Garden &amp; Nature Center</strong>&lt;br&gt;2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington&lt;br&gt;www.hilltop.indiana.edu/~landscape/hilltop</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>maintenance of gardens for shade, herbs, pollinators, containers</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin&lt;br&gt;812-345-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hinkle-Garton Farmstead</strong>&lt;br&gt;2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington&lt;br&gt;www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>herb, orchard, butterfly, &amp; woodland gardens, invasives removal, soil reclamation</td>
<td>Danielle Bachtant-Bell&lt;br&gt;812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text)&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:hgvolunteers@gmail.com">hgvolunteers@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hoosier Hills Food Bank</strong>&lt;br&gt;The Food Bank garden is located at Will Detmer Park, 4140 West Vernal Pike</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plant, harvest, and compost; training provided</td>
<td>Bobbi Boos&lt;br&gt;Call Ryan Jochim 812-334-8374&lt;br&gt;hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Way House Roof Top Garden</strong>&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:garden@middlewayhouse.org">garden@middlewayhouse.org</a></td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>scheduled workdays</td>
<td>Toby Strout, Director&lt;br&gt;812-333-7404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother Hubbard's Cupboard</strong>&lt;br&gt;1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington&lt;br&gt;mhfoodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>seasonal garden tasks</td>
<td>Kendra Brewer, Coordinator&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:garden@mhfoodpantry.org">garden@mhfoodpantry.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>T. C. Steele</strong>&lt;br&gt;4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville&lt;br&gt;Www.tcsteele.org</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance, invasives removal</td>
<td>Anthony Joslin&lt;br&gt;812-988-2785 - leave a message</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wonderlab Garden</strong>&lt;br&gt;308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>education, supervision of volunteers, maintenance</td>
<td>Nancy White&lt;br&gt;812-824-4426&lt;br&gt;www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wylie House</strong>&lt;br&gt;307 E. Second St., Bloomington</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>maintenance of heirloom garden, seed saving</td>
<td>Sherry Wise&lt;br&gt;812-855-6224&lt;br&gt;www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MCMGA Volunteer Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Demo Garden: Herman Young (812) 322-5700&lt;br&gt;Garden Walk: Mary Jane Hall (812) 345-3985&lt;br&gt;Newsletter: Helen Hollingsworth (812) 332-7313&lt;br&gt;Program: Sandy Bélth (812) 825-8353&lt;br&gt;Website: Stephen Anderson (812) 360-1216&lt;br&gt;MCMGA help: Amy Thompson (812) 349-2572</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.

*Keep a copy of any volunteer records forms you submit to the extension office*
2015 is the Year of the Sweet Pepper
By Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

The National Garden Bureau has declared 2015 to be the Year of the Sweet Pepper! Sweet bell peppers are cultivars of Capsicum annuum. Sweet peppers are called sweet because they lack the gene that produces capsaicin—the chemical that gives hot peppers their heat.

Pepper plants are easy to grow and are quite compact, making them a good fit for limited-space gardens and containers. Peppers are warm-season crops and should be planted out in the garden after danger of frost has past. Many local garden centers will have transplants available or you can start your own transplants. Start seeds about seven weeks prior to the average date of last frost for your area.

Out in the garden, pepper plants thrive in full sun and well-drained soil. You want plants to concentrate first on growing healthy foliage and roots; flowers and fruit will follow. Give the plants adequate space to grow with good air circulation, a minimum of 18 inches between plants. Fertilize similar to other fruit-bearing vegetable such as tomatoes, eggplant, and beans.

Depending on cultivars and weather conditions, most sweet peppers take 60-85 days to harvest from transplanting. Peppers will continue to bloom and set fruit up until fall frost, but fruiting may decrease during cold spells (night temperatures below 55°F) or hot days (above 85°F).

Sweet peppers can be harvested early while still immature green, which encourages the plant to produce more peppers. However, full flavor and color require waiting until the fruits ripen—thus signaling the plant to slow down production of flowers and subsequent fruit.
Q. We have a pin oak tree that is approximately 30 feet tall. On the north-facing side of the tree, there are many wilted leaves, and there are many balls of strange growth. Pictures of the leaves and the balls are attached. Can you help to identify the problem and any solutions that we need to pursue? – M&L W, Indianapolis

A. My best guess is one of the many leaf galls common to oak trees. Leaf galls are usually more of a cosmetic problem rather than a health crisis and do not warrant chemical control. The gall itself is primarily made up of plant tissue that forms when insects lay eggs inside the leaf tissue and either the adult or the developing young insects secrete a growth-stimulating substance. Each insect causes a very characteristic gall. Most leaf galls are nothing to be concerned about from a plant health standpoint, although they may be unsightly. However, once the gall appears, the appearance of the current growth cannot be remedied. Some of the most common landscape plants that develop galls include oaks, maples, hackberries, and roses. More information regarding galls on trees available in Purdue Extension publication E-56 at http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-56.pdf.

Wilting could be a more serious problem at work that we cannot identify from the photos. I encourage you to send samples of your oak tree to the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory for diagnosis. More information about submitting a sample can be found at www.ppdl.purdue.edu/ppdl.

Q. I was digging up dandelions in my asparagus patch, and they were pretty big. On the roots I saw lots of tiny white "eggs." Can you identify what they were and whether they are good or bad? I did some searching on the Internet but could not come up with an answer. – MF, Scipio, Indiana

A. We would need to see a sample to be able to confirm, but I suspect root knot nematodes as the culprit. Root knot nematodes cause "egg-shaped" structures on roots of dandelion and many common garden plants, but, fortunately for you, asparagus is resistant. More information about nematodes can be found at http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/nematology/melonnems.html and in Purdue publication E-79 http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-79.pdf.
Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Helping others grow!

Visit us on Facebook!

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Past President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener Calendar

July 25—August 5, Monroe County Fair. See www.monroecountyfairgrounds.in for information.

August 6, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Indianapolis Museum of Art, Gardening for Pollinators—a walk/talk in the garden with Sue Nord Peiffer, included with admission. For information, see Special Events at mcmga.net.

September 22-25, 2015 International Master Gardener Conference, Council Bluffs, Iowa, registration closes on August 31. For information, see Special Events at mcmga.net.