



# ROOTS AND SHOOTS

## Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

July 2007 Volume 23, Issue 7

**MCMGA Board To Award Two  
\$100 Scholarships to Purdue  
State Master Gardener Conference**  
By Helen Hollingsworth

**July 17 General Meeting Will Be Held at  
Fairgrounds, Rain or Shine**

By Nancy White

Drawing for Two \$100 Scholarships;  
Winners to Attend State MG Convention

To encourage members of our association to attend the Purdue State Master Gardener Conference held each fall, the MCMGA board voted to award two scholarships of \$100 each toward conference expenses. Those who wish to attend may place their names in a drawing during the general meeting on July 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Monroe County Fairgrounds at the Demonstration Garden. Winners will receive their scholarships following the conference and upon submission of their conference receipts.

The 2007 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference will be held this year on September 27-29, 2007 at Aztar Executive Conference Center in Evansville. The cost of the three day conference is \$120 and for two days \$95.

The state conference program is a garden enthusiast's delight—top notch speakers, intriguing program topics, and an opportunity to meet outstanding gardeners. Those from our association who have attended in the past returned with renewed excitement, ideas and information to share. Information for registering for the conference is on page 8 in an article written by the State Conference chairperson Julie Mallory.

Monroe County Master Gardeners will hold its July general meeting at the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on July 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Items on the agenda include

- ◆ Award of new badges
- ◆ Two \$100 scholarships to the 2007 Purdue MG State Convention in Evansville on September 27-29
- ◆ Monroe County Fair award to Master Gardener earning highest number of points for exhibits at the fair
- ◆ Voting on the adoption of new bylaws

After the business meeting, Marsha Trowbridge, Demonstration Garden chairperson, will direct us as we ready the garden for the Monroe County Fair. Bring your favorite hand tools, rakes, and pruners. Water will be provided. This session will end at dark.

### JUST THE FACTS — HOSTA VIRUS X

By Gail Ruhl, Director,

Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab

Hosta virus X (HVX) was first identified in 1996 and has become more prevalent in the nursery trade over the past few years.

HVX is a potyvirus, and, currently, hostas are the only known host. It has been reported that hosta varieties can exhibit three different responses to HVX. (1) Susceptible plants will show viral symptoms including severe mosaic, (continued on page 8)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**July 17—General Meeting, Fairgrounds, 6:00 p.m.**

**July 21-28—Monroe County Fair**

**August 1—Deadline for 2006 Intern Class**

**August 4—Field Trip to Munchkin Garden**

**September 15—General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**

**September 27-29—Purdue State MG Conference**

## MEMBER NEWS

BY NANCY WHITE



### Field Trip on August 4

Be sure you have registered for the next Master Gardener field trip scheduled for Saturday, August 4. We will car pool to DePauw, IN, to visit the Munchkin Garden and Nursery. It is about a two-hour trip, so we will leave at 8:00 a.m., have a tour provided by the owner Gene Bush, and enjoy lunch on the way home. Estimated return time is 3:30 pm. To register, call Ann McEndarfer, coordinator for this trip at 334-1801, or email her at [amcendar@truman.edu](mailto:amcendar@truman.edu). Ann will forward final details to those registered prior to August 4.

### Garden Recovery

A recent issue of *Horticulture Magazine* contains an interesting article about the recovery efforts at Longue Vue Gardens in New Orleans. Badly damaged in Hurricane Katrina, the gardens are listed as a National Historic Landmark and were originally designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman. A group called the Garden Conservancy is spearheading the recovery efforts by raising funds and seeking volunteers. For more information, see the *Horticulture Magazine* website at [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com) or contact the Garden Conservancy directly at [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org)

### Volunteer Opportunity

The Monroe County United Ministries is looking for volunteers with an interest in gardening. Help is needed to develop projects and plan some experiences for children. Experience in a greenhouse would be helpful. Contact Cliff Edens at 339-3429.

### Low Maintenance Roses

Horticulture Magazine invites us to view and learn about new low maintenance roses. Their website contains information on these roses that are easy to grow and long-lived. See [www.hortmag.com](http://www.hortmag.com).

### September General Meeting

Mark Tuesday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. on your calendar as a reminder for the MCMGA general meeting. Our speaker will be Linda Thompson, who will present a program on naturalizing gardens. This meeting offers an hour of advanced education training. Additional information will be available in the September issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

### Ideas for Future Programs for Our Meetings

MG Vice-presidents, Ann McEndarfer and Nancy White, invite members to offer ideas for future programs and to contact them anytime. The MG board has focused our general meetings to include training opportunities, and programs are planned for that focus. Let us hear your ideas for 2008.

### GARDEN CHATS

By Diana Young

Master Gardeners can earn both education hours and volunteer hours during the Monroe County Fair. Education hours are available by attending sessions called Garden Chats, which are held inside the Community Building starting at 6:30 p.m. The schedule for the chats is as follows:

Wednesday, July 25: Daylily and Hosta Hybridizing

Thursday, July 26: Herbs

Friday, July 27: Ornamental Grasses

If you want to earn volunteer hours during the Monroe County Fair, contact the following:

Vegetables: Larime Wilson 333-9705 evenings

Flowers: Esther Minnick 876-4523

Flowers: Diana Young 339-0040

Floral Design: Mary Jane Hall 824-2762 evenings

Master Gardener Fair Booth: Carol Cobine 333-8314



## 2007 MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER EXHIBITOR AWARD

By Amy Thompson

In order to encourage a little friendly competition among its membership, the board of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association is sponsoring a Master Gardener Exhibitor Award at the 2007 Monroe County Fair. Members of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association will accumulate points for exhibits in the following divisions: Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs and Grains, Potted Plants, Cut Flowers and the Floral show. MCMGA members are eligible to exhibit whether they reside in Monroe County or not; this is a change from previous exhibition rules. Information on exhibit entry, requirements and other general rules can be found in the Monroe County Fair book. The Fair book is available online at <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/extensionservices/Fair%20Web/2007%20open%20class%20fairbook.pdf> or at the Monroe County Extension office. Copies of the Fair Book will also be available at the General Meeting of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association which will be held at the fairgrounds on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Points for the exhibitor prize will be awarded in the following manner:

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

The award of \$50 will go to the Monroe County Master Gardener with the highest overall point total.

### REMINDER FOR 2006 INTERN CLASS MEMBERS

By Amy Thompson

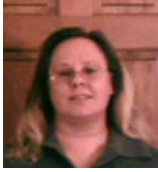
Members of the 2006 Intern Class who want to become certified Master Gardeners will need to have their 35 volunteer hours required for certification completed and reported to the Extension Office by August 1, 2007. An activity report form online is available at <http://www.mcmga.net/newsletters/record.pdf> or by calling the extension office.

Also, please report additional educational hours accrued since the intern class on the front of this form. Volunteer activities should be recorded on the second page.

I know many of you have completed many volunteer hours but have not turned them in – please turn them in so you get credit for all of your hard work. If you're still lacking a few hours, there are lots of opportunity to earn hours during the fair. You can email me at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) if you are interested in a specific activity. I will put you in contact with the coordinator of the different events. Once I have received your form, we will order your badge and get your certificate, and you will receive the \$50 refund of your class fees for completing your volunteer commitment.

#### WHAT DO YOU ESPECIALLY LIKE?

As gardeners, we develop our favorites—favorite garden tools; garden magazines, catalogs, and books; garden gloves; perennial and shrub combinations. The choices are endless! What are your gardening favorites? Send me an email ([hlhollin@indiana.edu](mailto:hlhollin@indiana.edu)) about your special discoveries, and we'll print them in future editions of *Roots and Shoots*. Just send the following: name of the item, description of the item, precise purchasing information, cost, and how and why this item is your favorite. I look forward to hearing from you!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Marilyn Brinley

Sigh! I just got back into town after being away for a few days. And I promise to never again complain about Bloomington's fear of properly labeling streets after having spent half an hour being lost in Purdue's campus and West Lafayette this weekend.

As every gardener can attest, there is a fear attached to coming home and seeing what has happened to our beautiful plants in our absence. Even though I had acquired the services of a wonderful friend of my daughter, I still worried. Would the plants still be alive? Would my tomatoes still be healthy and happy (at least until we eat them)?

Alas, when we drove up, I saw that my Boston fern looked to be brown and unhappy. Had my trust been misplaced? Upon closer inspection, I quickly realized that my daughter's friend had indeed done her job, but unfortunately, so had the Japanese beetles. They were solely responsible for the less than desirable state of my fern.

And so goes it in my life as well. I am busy with certain aspects of my life and when I turn around, I realize that I have neglected important details in other areas. If only there were two of me – oh wait, that thought is just too scary to contemplate. But still, there are so many things that I want to do, that I have to do, and that just plain need to be done, and yet there is only one of me.

Yet I will continue to do the best that I can and will continue to count myself as blessed when our wonderful members step forward to fill in the gaps when I fall short. One such person, Marcia Trowbridge, is our new chairperson for the Demo garden at the fairgrounds. Marcia Trowbridge has been a wonderful asset to our organization, and I can't wait to see how our garden looks this month.

Other members have also given much of their time and selves in order to make sure that our group functions smoothly. Carol Cobine has graciously agreed to head the Master Gardener information table at the fair, despite the fact that she has an infant at home. Larime Wilson has been busy working on Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park, and Mary Hawkins does a wonderful job of coordinating our yearly garden tour and picnic. Of course, Preston Gwinn always works diligently to man the booth at the Indiana State Fair and his enthusiasm is boundless. And what would I do without the wise counsel of our former president, Mary Jane Hall? She and Amy Thompson both do much to keep me going and headed in the right direction.

There are, of course, many others who deserve praise and accolades, but I will save that for another day. Suffice it to say that all of this is only possible because of so many wonderful and talented individuals. While I may be on my own in my own garden, I find that I am never alone in our organization. Each and every one of you has my eternal gratitude and admiration. Happy gardening and see you at our July general meeting!

## GARDEN USE FOR AN OLD ITEM

Just hate to throw away those rubber bands that arrive on your doorstep each morning with the newspaper? Collect the rubber bands in a small sandwich-size baggie and plan to re-use them in your garden in the spring to tie up daffodil leaves.

When you are ready to work on those daffodil leaves, place a half dozen rubber bands around one wrist. Gather the daffodil leaves snugly with both hands, fold leaves over to one-half normal height; and slide one rubber band off your wrist and onto the leaves. Leave the banded leaves in place until the leaves turn brown (late May or early June in my garden). When ready to tidy up, just pick up the bundles of banded leaves, remove the rubber band, and compost the brown daffodil leaves.



## PTERIDOLOGY: STUDY OF FERNS AND FERN ALLIES

by M. Susan Osborne

*Ferns for American Gardens* by John T. Mickel, Timber Press, Inc., 2003

*Nature made ferns for pure leaves to show what she could do in that line.*

Henry David Thoreau

Don't you agree that a fern's soft fronds blowing in the wind in a cool shady garden on a hot sunny afternoon is refreshing? Their delicate structure, their coloring and textures, their hardiness, their naturalness all offer a refreshing change to the ordinary shade garden. *Ferns for American Gardens* by John T. Mickel, Timber Press, Inc., 2003 is one of the few outstanding books written on ferns. Unfortunately, ferns are an overlooked and underutilized class of perennial garden plants. Mickel reports, "There is probably no other group with so little published modern information on its outdoor culture." However, this book has brought an answer to the many questions and concerns gardeners may have regarding the planting, cultivation, maintenance of ferns. He counters the belief that ferns are difficult to grow.

The book consists of four chapters – *Fern Structure, Growing and Gardening with Ferns, Propagating Ferns,* and *Hardy Ferns for American Gardens*. However, the book also includes a wealth of other information. The appendix includes List of Ferns for Special Conditions, Fern Societies, Sources of Hardy Ferns, Bibliography, Glossary, Index of Common Names and more. The treasure of the book, however, is chapter four, where he describes over 500 ferns and fern allies. He focuses on the native North American species, but includes a selection of British species and varieties, as well as imports from Japan and other regions. He emphasizes that ferns are easy to grow, includes strong growers for a wide range of climates in North America, and yet includes some ferns that would be considered challenging.

The genera that Mickel discusses are in alphabetical order by genus. His first comments regard the genus as a whole, and he does not repeat the information in the species description. He offers both frequently used botanical synonyms and widely used common names. The species name is followed by items of special references – description of fronds, rhizome habit, availability, hardiness zones, and care of cultivation. The information is simple and concise and supplemented by color photographs of the species. An abundant number of prints are close-up shots so that readers can see the spores, the delicate fronds, and the mature product. I was amazed at the beauty and variety that he offers throughout the book.

However, I don't want to overlook chapters one, two, and three. Chapter one – *Fern Structure*, offers very detailed information on the construction of mature ferns and explanation of their parts. Mickel writes about the stems, fronds, venation, texture, color, scales and hairs, evergreenness, fiddleheads, dimorphism, water ferns, fern allies, forking or creasing, margins, buds and more.

Chapter two – *Growing and Gardening with Ferns* provides information on the main requirements for growing ferns – shade, loose rich soil, and moisture. Mickel writes about planting ferns, pests, landscaping with ferns (great pictures here!), flowering partners, rock gardens, ferns for the sun, wet places, ferns in pots, and how to begin.

Chapter three – *Propagating Ferns*, multiplication via vegetatively or sexually. In this chapter Mickel discusses not only the propagation, but gives a section on the life history of a fern. Gardening with hardy ferns in a serious way began in Britain in the mid-nineteenth century, and Mickel's brief snapshot of the history of fern gardening, the naming of ferns, and the development of fern societies is interesting as well as enlightening. I also want to mention that in the introduction, there is a section on the History of Hardy Fern Gardening that offers the names of some of the earlier published (1845 through today) books on ferns.

I have to admit it took me a while to finish reading this book. I'd read for a while, lay it down, and then go back to it to re-read some sections. I truly did not believe that I would ever finish reading the book. There is a lot of the Latin in this book, so I'd have to refer frequently to the terms. But I persevered and am glad I did. The over 500 species that he writes about is nothing short of phenomenal. The book opens the door to the beauty of ferns and removes the myth of difficulty. As Mickel explains, "You don't have to be a slave to the garden to raise ferns. They look good, they fill a need in our shady gardens, and they require very little care." So, if you want to learn more about pteridology, then this book is for you!

## MASTER GARDENERS IN ACTION

by Susan Bucove

June 23 and 24 were busy days for Master Gardeners. Many of our members hosted a Master Gardener information tent on the grounds of the Monroe County Historical Museum during the hours of the Garden Walk presented by the Bloomington Garden Club. The theme for the tent was rain gardens, and many visitors signed up for an upcoming local rain garden training offered on September 10. This training is sponsored by Monroe County organizations and is focused on storm water quality education. Another topic of high interest offered at the tent was the emerald ash borer. MG tent hosts were Ann McEndarfer, Paul Hummel, (shown in the picture above), Bernadette deLeon, Jackie Gilkey, Karen Karpinski, Marsha Trowbridge, Mary Young, Bethany Murray, Susan Bucove, and Maryellen Keen.



Special thanks go to Diana and Herman Young who loaned the tent for the booth and to Glenda Murray from the Historical Society who aided with set up and storing of materials.

Several Master Gardeners also served as garden hostesses during the Garden Walk.



### THREE GARDENS AND A PICNIC

by Mary Hawkins

Our Third Annual Garden Walk and Picnic was held on June 23 on a bright, hot sunny day. Even more welcoming than was Barb Cappy's cool, shady, terraced garden with quaint garden rooms for the grandchildren to play or for swinging in a glider while reading a good book. Then there was the colorful city corner lot of Gloria Noone with a serene haven of a fenced backyard for her dog's delight and owner's retreat. The Nyberg's Texas-size berm full of varietal excellence topped off the afternoon of eye candy.

The grilled chicken and pulled pork BBQ sandwiches the Nybergs prepared along with all the delectable side dishes and sweet treats that the attendees brought to share was our mouth candy.

All this combined with the enthusiasm and interest of about fifty Master Gardeners contributed to a memorable afternoon. A question-and-answer time allowed members to pique their curiosity about this plant or the other and discover the identity of a mystery plant as well as share their successes and tips for fireblight, invasive species, and other various topics. We learned much from each other, made new friends and look forward to continuing this summer tradition next year.

If you were at each of the gardens and the question-and-answer period this year, you may count that time as an hour of educational credit to turn in with your volunteer hours. Also, as I try to tweak and improve this event each year, please share any comments, suggestions, and ideas with me, or if you want to volunteer your garden for next year's Garden Walk, please call or e-mail Mary Hawkins at 824-2139 or [marywalloon@aol.com](mailto:marywalloon@aol.com).

## YOUR MCMGA BOARD AT WORK

Editor's Note: The MCMGA board is composed of the president, two vice presidents, two secretaries, two treasurers, two journalists, two state advisory committee representatives, one webmaster, one Fair Board representative, and the extension educator, a total of fourteen people. The board meets monthly and makes decisions on behalf of the membership on topics that come before the board. The bylaws printed in our membership guide provide a description of the duties of the MCMGA officers. This month and in future months, members of the board will describe the work they do on your behalf.

### **Co-Treasurers Diana Young and Dale Calabrese**

I am the treasurer of Monroe County Master Gardeners. It is my job to manage the monies of our organization. It is my duty to pay all expenses acquired, plan the yearly budget, file all required state and federal forms for the not-for-profit-status, and pay all required fees. The treasurer is bonded for security. Since I have been treasurer, on two separate occasions, we have had less than \$10 in our checking. Since then I have tried to assure that we have enough funds to survive two years without an income.

We currently have four sources on income: dues, donations, Master Gardener pins, and any funds remaining after the intern class expenses are met. Each year we set aside \$50 per intern to be refunded to the interns if they complete their volunteer hours on time. This amount may be as high as \$3500. Our projected budget for 2007 is \$2,902.66. This figure does not include the 2007 intern class. The intern class income for 2006 was \$2977.79. I have not totaled the figures for 2007. Our income for 2006 was \$8272 with \$5624.20 in expenses. Our current dues are more than adequate to meet our expenses.

This year the board voted to offer a \$50 prize for the exhibitor at the Monroe County Fair with the most exhibitor points. Several of you have volunteered to help at the fair; I hope you also plan to exhibit. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. It is an honor to serve this association.

Diana Young

My official position on the MCMGA is co-treasurer, and in addition, I maintain a scrapbook featuring the various activities and meetings the group is involved in. I would appreciate receiving pictures and newspaper clippings from these activities if you happen to have any. Call or email me to let me know what materials you can contribute.

Dale Calabrese

### **GARDEN USE FOR AN OLD ITEM**

I often purchase sacks of garden soil to amend the clay inherited when we bought our property. These plastic soil sacks are sturdy and very useful in the garden after they are emptied from their original use. For example, I reuse them as make-shift pots when giving away plants. Cuff the sack by turning down the top until you have a container-sized receptacle. The rolled cuff around the top is handy for gripping when transferring plants from one location to another, and the sack itself works well as a pot. One friend to whom I gave several hostas in cast-off soil sacks did not get all the hostas planted one fall. The left-over hostas lived outdoors over the winter in these plastic sacks and were perky and ready to plant the following spring.

I also reuse these soil sacks to collect and separate garden waste. For example, when weeding, some plant materials, such as dandelions, ground ivy, and crabgrass, do not go into the compost (can't be sure the compost heats up enough to kill them off). So I carry two easy to carry soil sacks, one for garden waste that goes out with trash and the other for waste that goes into composter.

## 2007 PURDUE MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE

By Julie Mallory, State Conference Chairperson ([j-mallory@insightbb.com](mailto:j-mallory@insightbb.com))

Three months from now is the 2007 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference, and reservations are arriving daily. Our members are looking forward to hosting this year's conference and having the opportunity to meet MG's from around the state.

To refresh memories, the State Conference is September 27-29, 2007 at Aztar Executive Conference Center, Evansville. Three day conference is \$120 and two day \$95.

Felder Rushing, Eva Shaw, Gene Bush, State Legislator Dennis Avery, and our own Rosie Lerner are guest speakers along with local and regional professionals.

For Aztar Hotel reservations, please use the phone number and room block number in the brochure and on the Web site. Hotel reservations cannot be made online.

For reservation form, see our Web site [www.ces.purdue.edu/vanderburgh/mastergardener](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/vanderburgh/mastergardener).

For further information contact: Julie Mallory, Chairperson, 812-867-0912 or [j-mallory@insightbb.com](mailto:j-mallory@insightbb.com)

Hotel reservation deadline is July 26, 2007. Conference deadline date is August 15, 2007.

### JUST THE FACTS — HOSTA VIRUS X (continued from page 1)

chlorotic spotting, interveinal chlorosis, deformed growth, stunting, and necrotic tissue that appears as if the leaf has dried out, when infected. (2) Tolerant plants can be infected with the virus but show no symptoms. (3) Resistant plants are not susceptible to infection by HVX. On plants with gold leaves a green mottling, especially along the vein, indicates viral infection. Since several other virus diseases can cause similar symptoms on hosta, virus testing is the only way to determine what specific virus is infecting your plants.

A 2004 article, **Hosta Virus X: A Three Year Study** written by Dr. Lockhart at the University of Minnesota and published in **Hosta Journal** categorizes the susceptibility of different cultivars. A few varieties appear to be 100% infected with HVX and were noted for viral symptoms such as interesting streaks, speckles or mottling of the leaf. The varieties Breakdance, Leopard Frog, Lunacy, and Eternal Father are reported as being infected with HVX.

Once HVX infects a plant, there is no cure. Infected plants may go unrecognized because symptoms can take a couple of weeks, months or years to develop; and some tolerant plants may remain asymptomatic while carrying the virus. HVX is mechanically transmitted via transfer of infected sap; so good cultural practices prevent spread of HVX. When cutting back or dividing hostas, clean tools and hands before moving to the next plant or block of plants. Deer browsing or a lawn mower blade can also spread HVX; but the virus has not been shown to spread via insects, nematodes, seeds, or pollen. Hostas can be replanted in the same site where infected hostas once grew, but wait a few weeks to be sure no living hosta material is present in the soil. HVX needs a living host and does not persist in the soil without one. If you suspect you have received plants that may be infected with HVX, testing is available.

Additional references: Kansas State Fact Sheet, <http://www.oznet.k-state.edu/path-ext/factSheets/Ornamentals/HostaVirus.asp>

2006. Hosta Library website on Hosta Virus X- This site has many photos. <http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVX.htm> <<http://www.hostalibrary.org/firstlook/HVX.htm>>

2002. Reaction of 57 hosta cultivars, varieties and species to natural or experimental infection by hosta virus X (HVX) [http://www.ipm.msu.edu/CAT05\\_land/L08-26-05hostaX.htm](http://www.ipm.msu.edu/CAT05_land/L08-26-05hostaX.htm)

2007 updated: Commercial garden supply website description of Hosta Virus X including links to more information [http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com/articles/hosta\\_virus\\_x.php](http://www.inthecountrygardenandgifts.com/articles/hosta_virus_x.php)

Commercial Testing Lab: AGDIA Inc., in Elkhart, Indiana is a private lab that provides testing for hosta virus x (HVX) as well as other viruses. For information on services and costs, go to <http://www.agdia.com>. There are separate images of hosta infected with arabis mosaic virus, hosta virus X, and tomato ringspot virus on the Web site under "slide show".

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
State Fair Purdue Education Booth	August 12	Educating fairgoers	Preston Gwinn, 876-2999
Monroe County Fair	July 22-29	various	Esther Minnick, 876-4523; Diana Young, 339-0040; Carol Cobine, 333-8314; Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Marsha Trowbridge - 876-1493
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 333-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
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	writing, stapling, labeling	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

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

# CENTRAL INDIANA GARDEN CALENDAR FOR JULY

By Steve Mayer, Marion County Horticulture Educator

## First Week

To prevent grub damage in the lawn, apply insecticides containing halofenozide or imidacloprid. Or, wait until August to determine if you have a problem and apply curative controls. ([E-61](#))

Finalize your plan for a fall vegetable garden. Some planting begins this month. ([HO-66](#))

White patches of powdery mildew may be seen on the leaves of garden phlox. To control, plant resistant cultivars, thin emerging shoots in the spring or use a fungicide. ([Link to Purdue PPDL](#)) ([BP-5](#))

Remove faded blossoms on flowers to prevent seeds and encourage continued blooming. ([HO-61](#)) ([HO-99](#))

Continue to watch for Japanese beetle adults and control them on landscape plants. ([E-75](#))

Distinctive circular leaf notches on roses, redbuds and other plants are caused by leaf cutter bees. Plant damage is not significant so do not kill these beneficial pollinators. ([Link to OH](#)) ([Link to CO](#)) ([Link to CO](#))

## Second Week

Check pines for pine needle scale. If young crawlers are detected, treat with an ultra fine oil or other labeled insecticide. ([E-29](#))

Kill unwanted crabgrass growing in flower beds and shrub borders with labeled, postemergent, selective grass herbicides containing Sethoxydim or Fluazifop-butyl. ([HO-217](#))

Pick off and destroy tomatoes affected with blossom end rot, a nonparasitic disorder. Control by providing an even moisture supply, using mulch, and avoiding excess nitrogen. ([BP-13](#))

Begin eliminating patches of tough-to-control, perennial grassy weeds like zoysia and nimblewill if actively growing. This allows time for retreatment before planting. ([AY-11](#))

Spots on grape leaves may be due to the diseases anthracnose or black rot. Not much can be done at this time for control. Pick off and destroy diseased parts and plan a control program for next year. ([BP-36](#)) ([ID-146](#))

This is often the toughest time of the year to establish a lawn. If possible, wait until mid-August to seed. ([AY-3](#)) ([AY-28](#))

## Third Week

Check burning bush, honeylocust and other deciduous plants regularly in hot dry weather. Honeylocust mite and twospotted spider mite populations can multiply rapidly in the heat. ([E-42](#))

Continue to provide roses with proper water, fertilizer and pest control management. ([HO-128](#))

Some insecticides have been taken off the market. However, others are now available to control pests on trees and shrubs. ([E-221](#))

Hot dry weather can cause a bitter flavor in cucumbers. Keep plants watered and mulched.

Severe summer storms may cause tree damage. Proper planning and pruning can help prevent storm damage. ([FNR-FAQ-12](#))

Do not try to control crabgrass after mid-July with a postemergence herbicide. It is often too large to control well. Live with it until it dies from frost and fertilize this fall. ([AY-10](#))

## Fourth Week

Keep beans, tomatoes, peppers, okra, cucumbers and squash picked to encourage further production. ([HO-32](#))

Check euonymus and pachysandra for second generation crawlers of euonymus scale. If detected, treat with an ultra fine oil or other labeled insecticide. ([E-29](#))

Early leaf rust infections may occur in the lawn at this time. For severe infections, apply a half rate of a slow release high nitrogen fertilizer. ([BP-110](#))

Continue harvesting raspberries. Remove raspberry canes that have fruited after harvest is complete. ([HO-44](#))

Tan to brown streaks may appear in unirrigated lawns during dry weather due to mower damage. Consider delaying mowing (as growth allows) until sufficient rain is received. ([Link to Purdue PPDL](#)) ([AY-8](#))

Buy a hose-end shutoff valve to help save water. This allows you to turn off the hose immediately while moving around the yard.

Note: The numbers in parentheses in the calendar entries are links to related Purdue Extension publications.

# GARDENING MYTHS REVEALED

By Steve Mayer, Marion County Extension Educator

Gardeners often share their success stories with others. However, in an unscientific environment, sometimes the real reason for success is attributed to something else. A successful gardening practice in one part of the country may be worthless in another. Fact sometimes gets mixed up with fiction. Sometimes truths are exaggerated. There are many reasons why myths appear. Beware of the following myths.

**Myth #1:** Pruning paint helps pruning cuts to heal. Research shows that tree paint does not help the wound heal and it is not necessary. Some tree paints might also cause harm in some situations. Treating wounds with tree paint may encourage decay by trapping moisture and disease organisms. Tree paints may even slow wound closure.

**Myth #2:** Add lime to the garden to improve the soil. This practice is more in the East. It is not recommended to add lime to gardens in Indiana unless a soil test confirms the need. Lime increases soil pH. The addition of lime could make the soil too alkaline, resulting in nutrient deficiencies and/or poor plant growth.

**Myth #3:** Marigolds control pests in the garden. Good observation should tell you this is not true. Japanese beetles may feed voraciously on marigold blooms, and spider mites can kill marigold plants. The truth is marigolds may help control some nematodes (microscopic worm-like organisms) that damage the root systems of plants. In addition, only certain species of marigolds are effective.

**Myth #4:** Gypsum helps loosen and improve heavy clay soils. Gypsum (calcium sulfate) only improves soil structure in sodium contaminated soils. This is more common in the West and rare in Indiana. Gypsum is not recommended in central Indiana except for soils with sodium. Misuse of certain deicing salts could cause sodium contamination of the soil.

**Myth #5:** Ants are necessary for peonies to bloom. Ants are not required for blooming; they are attracted to the sugary liquid secreted by flower buds. Reasons why peonies do not bloom include too little light, planted too deep, too much nitrogen, phosphorus and/or potassium deficiency, immature plants, overcrowding, competition from other plants, site disturbance, disease and/or late freezes.

**Myth #6:** Big insects are more harmful than small insects. There is no correlation between the size of the insect and the degree of harm. The hickory horned devil (royal walnut moth) is a caterpillar that grows up to 5 inches long. It does little, if any, damage. On the other hand, emerald ash borer or bronze birch borer can kill large trees, and full-grown adults can fit on a penny.

**Myth #7:** Use a layer of gravel in the bottom of a pot to improve drainage. Applying a layer of gravel in the bottom of a pot actually hinders drainage because the pull of gravity is less due to the reduced soil depth. To improve plant growth in a container, always use a pot with drainage holes and fill the entire container with potting soil. If better drainage is still needed, mix additional perlite into the soil when transplanting.

**Myth #8:** Add salt to the garden to help asparagus grow. Salt does not help asparagus to grow, although it was sometimes used in the past to control weeds. Asparagus is simply more tolerant of salt than many weeds. Do not add salt to the asparagus patch to avoid damaging the soil or other nearby vegetables.

To check the facts on more garden myths go to [http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/%7ELinda%20Chalker-Scott/Horticultural%20Myths\\_files/index.html](http://www.puyallup.wsu.edu/%7ELinda%20Chalker-Scott/Horticultural%20Myths_files/index.html)

## July 2007 Volume 23, Issue 7

Cooperative Extension Service  
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119 West Seventh Street  
Bloomington, IN 47404

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**Attend the July general meeting at the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds on July 17 at 6:00 p.m. and participate in a drawing for two \$100 scholarships to 2007 Purdue State MG Conference.**

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