Summer has arrived! Flowers are in bloom, trees are lush with foliage, mosquitoes are abundant as well as the welcome sight of fireflies, and the temperatures at times are becoming uncomfortable hot!

Summer also brings us longer days in which to work in our gardens - during the cooler mornings and early evenings when the sun is less intense. My morning ritual is to grab a cup of coffee and walk among the beds of growth. All the fresh smells, while there is still dew enough to enhance that experience, are an exhilarating boost for the senses.

I had already planted a 2^nd^ crop of carrots which I noted, recently, were sprouting nicely along with some late beans. The new flower heads of my day lilies are a joy to see every day and seems like there is always something growing which I had not noticed on my previous days’ walk.

It is this joyful witness of continuation of growth that I accept as compensation for my continuing battle with the wildlife, who enjoy my garden as much as I do! I cannot fault the critters – only try to outwit them to see who gets the produce first! I do believe I’m ahead on that scorecard!

“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.” Voltaire

Happy Gardening to all Master Gardeners and to those we mentor on the joys of the natural world!

The following MCMGA members obtained the levels listed below of Master Gardener certification. Congratulations and thank you for your volunteer service.

- Cindy Esham – Certified
- Hall Evans – Advanced
- Sandrine Evans – Advanced
- Mary Cusack – Bronze
- Dorothy Wilson – Bronze
Photo Contest

How would you like to have your garden photo featured on the cover of the new *folia and flora*? All entries will be voted upon by each person attending our Harvest Dinner in November.

Deadline for submission is **November 1, 2017**.

1. Up to **three photos** may be submitted.

2. All submitted photos must original and taken by an MCMGA member.

3. Photos must contain living plant material. (We are Master Gardeners after all!)

4. Photos should be submitted in **.jpeg** format.

5. Submit to: ckpercif@purdue.edu

6. If you do not receive an email confirmation of your submission, please call Cindy at the Extension office: 812-349-2575.

Happy photo shooting!!
Monarch Butterflies  
Saturday, July 22, 11:00 am – Noon

1 hour education credit

Learn about the life cycle, biology and physiology of the Monarch butterfly and its amazing annual migration to Mexico. Find out what plants Monarchs rely on to complete their life cycles, how long that life cycle takes to complete, what flowers the adult Monarchs seek out for nectar, and why and how Monarchs undertake their migration. The Monarch population has been declining for many years; find out why this is happening and what we can do to bring back the Monarchs.

Sandy Belth is a Master Gardener and assistant naturalist with Monroe County Parks and Recreation and has been studying butterflies for more than 20 years. She is the founder and coordinator of Bug Fest, Bloomington's one-day immersion in the world of insects attended by hundreds of people each year. Her husband, Jeff Belth, is the author of Butterflies of Indiana: A Field Guide, which won the 2013 National Outdoor Book Award for best nature guidebook.

Where: Endwright Center, 631 W Edgewood Dr, Ellettsville  
Cost: $5.00, FREE to Endwright Center members  
To register: Call 812-876-3383, ext. 515.

Upcoming Garden Chats at the Fair

Held at the Community Building of the Monroe County Fairgrounds at 6:30pm

August 2 - Tomato Tasting - Master Gardeners - Esther Minnick & Diana Young

August 3 - Growing and Using Herbs – Master Gardeners- Nancy Deckard, Esther Minnick & Diana Young

August 4 - Green Beans from Seed to Table – Michael Richter, Farm Manager at Sobremesa Farm.
2017 Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Exhibitor Award
By Amy Thompson

The MCMGA board is pleased to sponsor the 2017 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 meeting of the MCMGA.

Who: Members of the 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 show

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 29.
Entry of Potted Plants, Cut Flowers and Floral Designs is on Monday July 31

Need More Info: Pick Up a Fair Book available today or call Amy 349-2575 or email atthompson@purdue.edu or visit this link for open class exhibit requirements (scroll to the bottom of the page): https://extension.purdue.edu/monroe/pages/article.aspx?intItemID=4447
Notice of Changes to our Bylaws

The bylaws committee has reviewed the current MCMGA bylaws and is proposing the following revisions. The proposed revisions are highlighted.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments states the procedure for amending these bylaw revisions is:
• Members shall receive two notices of the proposed bylaw revisions prior to a vote at a general meeting.
• A majority vote of those members present at the general meeting shall be required to approve the revisions.

One of the notices you receive will be via email and the other will be via Roots and Shoots. We will vote to approve the revisions at our general meeting in September.

CURRENT Wording:
ARTICLE IV Officers Section 1 Election of Officers
The officers and board members shall be elected for staggered two-year terms at the final general meeting of the year, with service to begin on January 1, beginning with elections in 2015 with service to begin on January 1, 2016, as follows:

January 2016, for two-year terms, with election in even-numbered years thereafter:
Vice President
Treasurer
Meeting Director
Records Director
Journalist

January 2017, with election for two-year terms and in odd-numbered years thereafter:
President
Secretary Education Director
Communications Director
Director at Large
The slate of officers for election shall be published in the edition Roots and Shoots newsletter immediately preceding the last meeting of the year.

PROPOSED Revisions:
ARTICLE IV Officers Section 1 Election of Officers
The officers and board members shall be elected for staggered two-year terms at the final general meeting of the year, with service to begin on January 1, beginning with elections in 2015 with service to begin on January 1, 2016, as follows:

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January 2017, with election for two-year terms and in odd-numbered years thereafter:
President
Secretary Education Director
Communications Director
Director at Large
The slate of officers for election shall be published in the edition of the Roots and Shoots newsletter immediately preceding the last meeting of the year.

CURRENT Wording:
Section 6 Treasurer The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall receive and keep safe account of all monies for the fiscal year which shall be January 1 through December 31. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget and present it for approval at the December Board meeting and present a budget update at monthly board meetings. The Treasurer shall pay all bills incurred. All non-budgeted items shall require approval by the Board prior to payment. The Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks and shall complete all required state and federal forms as needed to maintain not-for-profit status. The Treasurer shall work with the Extension office and other members of the board to ensure that all active and associate members pay dues. The Treasurer shall prepare the financial records for audit annually at the end of the fiscal year.

PROPOSED Revisions:
Section 6 Treasurer The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall receive and keep safe account of all monies for the fiscal year which shall be January 1 through December 31. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget and present it for approval at the December Board meeting and present a budget update at monthly board meetings. The Treasurer shall pay all bills incurred. All non-budgeted items shall require approval by the Board prior to payment. The Treasurer shall have the authority to sign checks and shall complete all required state and federal forms as needed to maintain not-for-profit status. The Treasurer shall work with the Extension office and other members of the board to ensure that all active and associate members pay dues. The Treasurer shall prepare the financial records for audit annually at the end of the fiscal year. The Treasurer shall serve as the chair on the Financial Committee for the annual MCMGA Garden Fair.

CURRENT Wording:
Section 7 Meeting Director
The Meeting Director shall chair the Meeting Committee to plan general meeting logistics, locations and refreshments for the year.

PROPOSED Revisions:
Section 7 Meeting Director
The Meeting Director shall chair the Meeting Committee to plan general meeting logistics, locations, and refreshments for the general meetings. Logistics for the meetings shall include tables, chairs, IT equipment, and other requirements to ensure a successful meeting. The
Meeting Director shall work closely with the membership to ensure adequate refreshments are available for each of the scheduled general meetings. The Meeting Director shall work closely with the Education Director and the Extension Educator to ensure the Program Presenters logistics requirements have been identified for a successful program (i.e. IT equipment, Easel Pads, etc.), and meeting locations have been secured and reserved.

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**Important Upcoming Dates**

**July 25** – MCMGA work day at the Demo Garden – Fairgrounds. This is the last work day before the County Fair kicks in. Meet at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served.

**July 29 – Aug 5** – Monroe County Fair –

*Volunteers are needed for the fair for the following activities:*

This is always a good time and a great way to earn volunteer hours.

- **Thursday 7/27 @ 4:00 pm** help set-up the patio of the community building for the Garden Exhibits. Contact Diana Young [young-diana@att.net](mailto:young-diana@att.net) or **812-322-2304** if you can assist with this activity.
- **Saturday 7/29** – entry and judging of vegetables, seeds, herbs and fruits. Volunteer times vary. Contact Esther Minnick if you’re able to volunteer **812-876-4523**
- **Monday 7/31** – entry of cut flowers, potted plants, and floral design. Volunteer Times Vary. Contact Esther Minnick if you’re able to volunteer **812-876-4523**

**August 17** – New MCMGA classes begin. If you know someone interested in taking the Master Gardener classes, have them contact the Extension Office.

**Sept 26 – 6:30** - General Meeting

Extension Building - speaker is: *Rachel Beyer – “Extending the growing Season”* for 2 educational credit hours. Refreshments will be served.

**November 14** – Harvest Dinner pitch-in – Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Speaker will be Mildred Perkins with her talk “*Tea & Roses: What people Do with a Plant can Change the World.*” 1 hour educational credit given.
State Garden Tour Recap

It was a very hot afternoon in which to walk the beauty of Bloomington. But chilled water, great companionship, air conditioned busses, and interesting stops made it all worthwhile.

MCMGA welcomed over 80 Master Gardeners from across the state. And we did our county proud!! After delicious morning refreshments, and interesting talks, we took our lunches and headed out to various gardens, greenhouses, and landscaped areas across the Bloomington area. Following are just a few of the many positive comments we received.

“I was very impressed with what Bloomington and the MCMGA are doing to promote the use and importance of native plants”.

“The people hosting were so friendly and helpful.”

“I think it is a fine idea to creatively team locations that highlight the county’s strengths in gardening and horticulture. This was a good model for others to follow.”

“Have told other non-attending master gardeners about the program and encouraged them to participate if there is another.”

“Loved the information on natives. All of it helps to be a better steward of the earth and to share that knowledge with others.”

Additional photos of our event are posted on our website: www.mcmga.net (with thanks to our resident photographer, Dave Dunatchik)
The Fightin' IRIS Awards

Sponsored by MC-IRIS, this award is given annually and recognizes people, businesses, and other organizations in Monroe County who have made a real difference in fighting invasive plants in the county. Each year, winners are chosen from among all those who are working to help reduce the impacts of invasive plants.

This year, MCMGA had the honor or accepting this award during SNAYL Days on June 10th! It is a direct result of the wonderful work our membership continues to do in the fight against invasive species.

Giving the award was MC-IRIS member, Steve Cotter. Accepting the award on behalf of the MCMGA membership was MCMGA President, Mary Cusack.  GOOD JOB MCMGA!!
Potting Soil Recipe

Contributed by: Cindy Benson

This is Eliot Coleman's recipe to us with soil block and potting soil in general.

*It was given on his television show years ago*

3 Quarts of Peat Moss

2 Tablespoons of Green Sand

2 Tablespoons of Rock Phosphate

2 Tablespoons of Dried Blood

1 Quart Perlite

3 Quarts of Compost
**Fabulous Amaryllis**

By Cindy Benson

I wanted to share this information with you so you can enjoy your amaryllis for generations.

These wonderful spring bulbs, which we get a glorious blossom, will survive a human generation with the proper care and the right lighting.

I started growing and saving my tough amaryllis bulbs about 20 years ago. Each spring I am able to watch the flower stalk emerge and grow 20-25 inches tall then a magnificent flower emerges.

Handle these beauties with care. Coaxing it back to bloom is not difficult but it does require precise measures.

Right now, in June, enjoy your tall strap-like dark green leaves for the summer, placing the potted bulb in an area outside with bright indirect lighting. Water once a week to keep it looking nice.

To prepare for next seasons growth cycle, begin in late Oct-mid Nov. With sharp shears, cut off the withering leaves 1-2 inches from the bulb. This is an excellent time to repot in the same pot or next size up. Use good light potting soil. Remove any dead roots, there will be a large mass of roots, leave the plump roots which look healthy.

The pot should be 2 times diameter of the bulb. Place the roots in the empty pot. The bulb should have 2/3 of it under the soil and 1/3 about it. Pour your rich porous soil into the pot and lightly tap to get the soil to move down into all the roots, fill up to the lower 1/3 of the bulb and its ready to store for the winter. Do not water.

Store your bulb in a closed box, in a cool area, such as a basement or cellar. Do not let it freeze.

Allow the bulb to remain undisturbed for 12-15 weeks. This period of hibernation is essential to allow the bulb to start its growth cycle in the spring.

In late Jan-Mid Feb. depending on when your big sleep began, remove pot for storage and place it in a very bright light in the house. Water sparingly until the sprout is well out of the bulb; from then on start watering regularly. Do not let it dry out completely, but also do not over water. Within 4-6 weeks, you will have an exciting floral crop.

P.S. Thank you to whoever brought the large box of amaryllis bulbs to our plant exchange in the fall of 2016. I see I will have several new color flowers in my collection to enjoy.
2017 MCMGA Board

President: Mary Cusack
812-824-6366 marycus@gmail.com
Vice President: Trish Gustaitis 812-322-9658 pgustait@gmail.com
Education Director: Sandy Belth
812-825-8353 belthbirds@aol.com
Meeting Director: Jeff Schafer
812-332-3130
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
Secretary: David Dunatchik
812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
Treasurer: Dorothea Cole-Kiser
812-606-2834 dkiseefineline@att.net
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Records Director: Abe Morris
812-606-5577 abemorris7@gmail.com
Director at Large: Maren Claus
Please refer to folia and fauna
Fair Board Representative: Diana Young
812-339-0040 young-diana@att.net
Past President: Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

We’re on the Web!
See us at:
www.mcmga.net

About MCMGA ...

The Monroe County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

Inclusion of products or companies in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement.

Monroe County
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