

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 6

Join us on June 12 for our annual Garden Walk

You should have received your mailed invitation by now to our Master Gardener Garden Walk and Picnic on June 12. If not, please let me know so we can get the information to you. It is **very important**



By
Mary
Hawkins

to RSVP to Di Dingman by June 9 so she will know how much meat to order and seating to provide at the picnic. Also, remember, when you visit all three gardens and attend the picnic, you are eligible to receive an hour's educational credit.

Please read the following descriptions of our three featured gardens. We thank our gracious hosts for opening their garden homes to us and sharing their successes of raising vegetables with no deer or rabbit invasions; the contrasts of sun and shade plantings; and the bird friendly peacefulness of a friendship garden. Come and enjoy!

The Bar Rabbit Ranch

Except for a few token beds with flowers, my garden is nearly all vegetables. The enclosed area is about 2900 square feet, with around 1200 feet of raised bed planting space, separated by wood chip paths.



By
David
Waterman

The area is surrounded by a seven feet mesh fence, with a two feet high rabbit barrier along the bottom. I have a solar shed that serves as a greenhouse for bedding plants in spring, along with a small cold frame/hot house.

(continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

<i>Member News</i>	2
<i>Extension office has moved</i>	3
<i>BIB judges coming</i>	3
<i>Middle House needs your help</i>	3
<i>New reporting system</i>	3
<i>MG display at the History Center</i>	5
<i>2010 Garden Tour in Madison County</i>	6
<i>Earn volunteer hours as a presenter</i>	6
<i>Annual flowers offer long lasting color</i>	7
<i>T. C. Steele summer programs</i>	8

Special points of interest:

- Our sixth annual Garden Walk on June 12 showcases three member gardens*
- Master Gardeners are volunteering in many places, including Cheryl's Garden, Wonder-Garden, Hilltop, and Middle Way House*
- Present a program in Blackford County*
- Master Gardener display at the History Center is a delight; check it out*

Member News

More than 30 members met on May 25 for our general meeting at the Community Building at the Fairgrounds. After several announcements on up-coming MG events, Jeff Schafer presented a very informative discussion on wine making. Jeff has been making beer and wine for over four years and explained the decisions that begin the wine-making experience. He carefully took us through the processes from choosing the fruit to aging after fermenting and bottling. Various equipment and types of wine were displayed as he engaged us with his successes and failures. Based on the questions from the audience, more MGs seem to be interested in trying this hobby. Jeff encouraged us to contact him for more information and to check out the Purdue publications on Indiana grape production.



By
Nancy
White

After the program, the annual plant swap was held and lots of plant material found new homes. Many thanks to Cindy Benson and her refreshment committee of Jackie Gilkey, Evelyn Harrell, and Joanna Howe for their goodies.

Starts of night-blooming cereus plants available

At the plant swap, you may have noticed some healthy starts of the night-blooming cereus. These were provided by Barb Hays who has adopted a very large cereus and wanted to share it with us. Last fall, a gentleman from Ellettsville contacted us about a plant that had been in his family for many years but was too large for him to manage. Barb was gracious enough to adopt the plant and keeps in contact with the previous owner. If you would like a start of this interesting and prolific plant (if only plants could relate their history to us) contact Barb.

Jeanie Cox wins scholarship to MG State Conference

Congratulations to Jeanie Cox, winner of the scholarship to attend the MG State Conference, June 18-20 at West Lafayette. The drawing was held at the May General Meeting.

Volunteer at Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park

Nancy Fee is the coordinator of Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park. The garden is starting a second generation and can use some more MG help. Contact Nancy if you can give some hours this summer. It is a small garden, and working hours are flexible. If you have plants to donate, the following are needed at Cheryl's Garden: bee balm, coneflowers, coreopsis, Shasta daisies, autumn sedum, and Stella de Oro daylilies. This is a nice, relaxing volunteer project that you are sure to enjoy.

Volunteer to help at the County Fair Flower and Vegetable Show

Diana Young and Esther Minnick will again coordinate the Open Class Flower and Vegetable Show at the Monroe County Fair. They are in need of volunteers to help with the Saturday, July 24 registration of vegetables and Monday, July 26 flower registration. Linda Burke is the Superintendent of the Floral Design Show and also could use some volunteers. Registration for that event is 9:00 a.m.-noon on Monday, July 26. Contact these coordinators for information.

Fair booklets and schedules are available

Amy Thompson has announced that Monroe County Fair booklets and schedules are available at the new Extension Office location, 3400 S. Walnut Street in the building directly east of the county recycling center. Also located in this building is the MC Solid Waste Department.

Extension office has moved!

The new home of Monroe County Extension Service is 3400 South Walnut Street, and the new zip code is 47401. Our telephone number and fax number remain the same. You can find a map to the new location here:

<http://www.mcswmd.org/index.php?option=comcontent&task=view&id=111&Itemid=52>

. We're gradually settling in, and we invite you to stop by to see our new offices. We now have ample parking!



By
Amy
Thompson,
Extension
Educator

Bloomington in Bloom judges will visit on June 18-20

After many months of planning and educating the community, the Bloomington in Bloom workers are waiting for the visit of the judging panel who will visit Bloomington on June 18-20. Two driving routes around the city will introduce the judges to examples of the floral displays, landscaping, tidiness, urban forestry, community spirit, and environmental efforts that are part of the competition. The judges will then decide if Bloomington deserves the designation of an *America in Bloom* city. The efforts of many Master Gardeners in many community beautification projects will be on display June 18-20.

By
Nancy
White

Congratulations to all who have served on committees, judged the front yard and commercial landscaping competitions, educated community members, and helped design and tend projects for this important community event.

Middle Way House needs your help

Several of our members have been working on the Green Roof Project at Middle Way House headquarters on south Washington Street. Work there is now entering into a phase of the project that will take additional volunteers to prepare and waterproof the roof and to install the first crop of plants into specialized containers. If you would like to volunteer, contact Cynthia Brubaker at cindy@middlewayhouse.org.

By
Nancy
White

New reporting system for MG hours is up and running

Dan Nichols, director of records, coordinates the new Purdue system for recording volunteer hours. All members are being notified of the information needed to access the system. If you have questions or problems, Dan encourages us to contact him. He has agreed to assist us as we get used to a new system to record our hours. Although we may take some time for adjustment, the new system will allow us to enter our hours more quickly and to keep more records more current.

By
Nancy
White

Save the date! The Bloomington Garden 2010 Summer Garden Walk, featuring five private gardens and a fabulous flower show at Hilltop, is Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. Tickets are \$8 in advance (June 1-18) available from BGC members and from ten well-located stores. Summer Garden Walk proceeds benefit Hilltop and civic garden projects.

The Bar Rabbit Ranch (continued from page 1)

I raise a fairly wide variety of vegetables each year, including 15 or 20 different pepper varieties, which along with peas and spinach, are my favorites. (A bit of a caution, which is that mid-June, the time of the walk, is usually sort of between vegetables. Most spring crops like peas and greens are fading out and the summer crops are not yet producing much to eat, but weather willing, they are not unemployed-- green and growing fast.)

I started the garden after I moved into our house in 1993, and the garden originally was almost entirely on the property of my neighbor, whom I kept well supplied with fresh veggies. After he died and his house was sold in 2005, I moved the garden, including about a hundred wheelbarrows of dirt, onto my land. The dirt was worth the work, since the original plot was formerly a neighborhood compost pile and was mounded with black gold. Anyway, work and digging, along with eating, is the main idea to begin with.

Sun Garden and Putter Place

My garden in the front gets full sun, and the one in the back is mostly shade. They have never had a name, but I would call the one in the front my Sun Garden and the one in the back my Putter Place.



By
Vina
Kinman

The front garden is without large trees. It was birthed seven years ago when our newly planted front lawn kept sliding down the slope. It is now filled with numerous perennials, bulbs, shrubs and small trees.

The only original growth in the back garden is the black walnut tree, with which I have an ambivalent relationship. It provides excellent shade, but gardeners know how the ever present juglone can limit gardening plans. The tree is now sharing the yard with many juglone-friendly plants, shrubs and small trees that I have learned, through extension services, trial and error and by bird reseeding, would reside there.

Jardin de amistad

Welcome to my garden! As with all gardens, it is a work in progress. I have lived here two growing seasons, and the expanded space (along with my increased knowledge as a new Master Gardener) allows me to put plans into effect that could not happen in my condo, even though I pushed the rules to the limit.



By
Tori
Rogers

The front garden is the street face of the Casa de Amistad (Friendship House). Plantings include knockout roses, giant catmint, and various shrubs and trees. Annuals in pots add splashes of color through the growing season. The iron trellises on the walk to the front door have held Halloween lights, Christmas greenery, snowflakes, and now, butterflies that will share the space with purple clematis planted last year.

(continued on page 5)

Jardin de amistad (continued from page 4)

Roses, lavender, chives, grasses, hostas, and other herbs and plantings line the brick walk that take you back to the main garden, jardin de amistad (Friendship Garden). The back yard had "good bones" when I purchased the house in December of 2007. It is cut in half by a dry creek bed (just beyond the fence) that becomes a torrent after heavy rains. The various drainage solutions have resulted in an interesting yard with slopes, walls, and dips. One spot in particular may be perfect for a rain garden.

It was fun to see the existing plantings appear in the spring and summer of 2008. On my birthday, in May of 2009, I invited friends to join me for lunch and asked them to bring a start from their garden for my new garden. Many treasures came my way that day and are now planted in my side and back yards, hence the name, *Friendship Garden*. (The name is in Spanish because I am learning Spanish in preparation for a trip to Guatemala next spring.) I am planning on inviting those same gardening friends over to visit their plant babies all grown up.

Beds surround a flat area near the brick patio. A cutting garden is just off the patio, and a large deck is perfect for planters with annuals and grasses. Just off the screened in porch, the deck is a hotspot for hummingbirds that entertain the four cats on the porch. A former play area along the back fence is now a shade garden, and additional shrubs and trees and beds are increasing options for habitat in the fenced yard. The area of the yard behind the fence is wooded and a feast for the senses in all seasons. I would love to add a permanent water feature near the patio but make do with more temporary water sources for the birds in residence.

My back garden is a haven for the spirit. Bird song and the bells from St. John's serenade throughout the year. The trees stand like protective sentinels. Neighbors are close, but not intrusive. Although it will never be finished or perfectly maintained (thanks to Lucy Dog Rogers), jardin de amistad is a work of heart.

MG display at the History Center

You have until August to visit the new display of the Monroe County Master Gardeners history and current activities The Monroe County History Center, 202 E. 6th St. (corner of 6th and Washington) has provided space on the second floor for our exhibit. You will see pictures of past and current projects, vintage garden tools, hardscaping, decorations, and three wonderful personal garden-related collections. Susan Eastman has arranged her lifetime collections of flower paperweights and flower garden frogs for all to enjoy. You will be charmed by these creative and historical collections, some of which were found during overseas travels. Diann Lock's display is of vintage flower wall pockets, collected by Diann and her mother over many years.

By
Nancy
White

A grand opening of this display was held on Friday, May 21, with many of our group in attendance. We thank Amy Thompson, Susan Eastman, Diann Lock, and Jenny Mack for their planning and implementation of this display that honors our service to the community.

Madison County MGs host 2010 Garden Tour

Madison County Master Gardeners will host *2010 Garden Tour* on Saturday, July 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person. All proceeds go to Madison County Master Gardener Association Scholarship Fund. The tour features a variety of gardens.

Visit www.madisoncountymastergardener.org for more details or call Sharon Shear (765-744-1474); Loretta Heiniger (765-215-1407); or Bonnie Carrell (765-724-2520).

Present a program and earn volunteer hours

Blackford County Master Gardeners will be hosting an Advanced Master Gardener program on Sunday, July 11 in Hartford City. The program will be held at Patchwork Perennials Daylily Farm (<http://www.patchworkperennials.com>). We are seeking MG groups or individuals who would like to present a garden topic to earn volunteer hours. We will be offering various 20-30 minute sessions throughout the afternoon. If you or your MG organization would like to participate offering an educational program, please contact me as soon as possible. In addition, if your organization would like to host an informational table for your upcoming event, please contact me. Mark your calendars for this event. The daylilies will be in full bloom, and there will be educational hours available to earn, free food, and more! For information call (765)348-3213 or email cluppers@purdue.edu.

By
Stacy
Clupper,
Extension
Educator,
Blackford
County

Garden tour, plant sale, and hosta garden offered at Fishers

The Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens present *Gathering at the Garden*, featuring a tour of four gardens, a plant sale, and a hosta garden, on Saturday, June 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 106th & Eller Road in Fishers Heritage Park. Admission fee of \$10 includes map/driving directions and entrance to all four gardens. Purchase tickets at The Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens. All gardens close at 4:00 p.m.

Begin your self-guided tour at Historic Ambassador House, a heritage planting of cultivars of the 1890 period and a hosta glen of plants from Indiana hybridizers. Also tour the interior of the Ambassador House, a recently refurbished historic home. Also at the Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens, a variety of plants will be for sale from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., including daylilies, hostas, conifers and woody shrubs. Plant sale admission is free. At 4:00 p.m., a ribbon cutting will open the new hosta garden at the Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens. Admission is free.

The garden tour includes, in addition to the Historic Ambassador House & Heritage Gardens, a garden in Fishers featuring hostas, hydrangeas, boxwood, and unusual shrubs arranged in highly structured settings; a garden in Zionsville on a lake lot setting renowned for its collection of hostas and rare perennials; and a large garden in Westfield featuring conifers, sedum and insular beds.

Visit www.ambassadorhouse.org for additional event details. For additional information, email ronw@ambassadorhouse.org or info@ambassadorhouse.org or leave voicemail at 317-845-4265.

Madison County Master Gardeners invite us to a meeting

Madison County Master Gardeners invite Master Gardeners from surrounding counties to our meeting on June 14 at the 4-H Fairgrounds Building in Alexandria, Indiana. This meeting is open to the public.

Our program features *Quilt Gardening*, presented by Stacy Clupper, who has been with the Purdue Extension in Blackford County for almost 14 years. She has taught several Master Gardener intern classes and enjoys visiting Master Gardener programs in other counties.

Stacy says, "I am not an expert on the Quilt Gardens of Elkhart County, just a fan who believes they have really done a great job at designing the gardens and marketing their efforts."

Social time is 6:30 p.m. with refreshments. The evening's program starts at 7:00 p.m. For additional information call Janet Poore at 765.635.5671.

Annual flowers provide summer-long color

Most home gardeners consider annual flowers among their favorites. Although annuals only live for one year, most provide season-long color, making them a good value. Annuals come in a wide array of colors, shapes, and sizes. Marigolds, petunias, and impatiens are among the most popular, but there are many other annuals that are both practical and easy to grow.

By
Michael Dana
and Rosie
Lerner, Purdue
University

The term "annual" describes plants that go through their entire life cycle—from germination to seed production—in a single year. Because they last only one growing season, annuals are versatile members of the garden. In addition to offering a diverse palette of color on their own you can also:

- Plant annuals among perennials or shrubs in a new bed where you need to fill spaces between small, developing plants.
- Use annuals to add accent in planters, boxes and urns.
- Plant them over fading spring flowering bulbs. Annuals add color in summer without interfering with next spring's flowers.
- Grow annuals in a garden for summer cutting or for drying for winter arrangements.
- Create a temporary low-growing hedge or border of annual plants along a foundation.

Most flowering annuals grow best in full sun and well drained soil. Sun-loving plants that are grown in shade tend to be spindly and produce fewer flowers. Likewise, shade-loving annuals tend to get leaf scorch and flower poorly when grown in too much sun. Few annuals will thrive when planted in wet, heavy soil. Before you plant, check to see how well the soil drains. Dig a hole 10 inches deep and fill it with water. If the water drains quickly, you have a droughty soil. Adding organic matter will aid water and nutrient retention. If the water drains after an hour or two, you have a well drained soil. If the water stands overnight, you have poorly drained soil and may need to consider constructing raised beds. Choose plants that can thrive in the environment you have.

T. C. Steele offers diverse programs

Special hike honors National Trails Day at T. C. Steele

Celebrate National Trails Day and the 20th anniversary of the Selma N. Steele State Nature Preserve on Saturday, June 5, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Trek along with T. C. Steele staff on a semi-rugged trail developed by the Steeles. Hikers will learn about the preserve's plant life and the Steele's appreciation of nature and preservation. A visit to a remote painting shack and a walk through the site's gardens will round out the hike.

Wear comfortable shoes, and meet in the upper parking lot at T.C. Steele State Historic Site for this free activity. For more information email tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov or call (812) 988-2785.

T.C. Steele-Knee Deep in June program Join T.C. Steele State Historic Site and the Bloomington Cooking School for a celebration of Indiana's culinary roots on June 6 at 5:30 p.m. The Bloomington Cooking School will be leading a cooking class at this scenic site. Dine in the studio while enjoying paintings by T.C. Steele and listening to jazz guitarist, Barney Quick. Participants will go on a short stroll to look at the gardens and talk about the landscape. Discover the connection between T.C. Steele and James Whitcomb Riley and finish the evening with a tour of the House of the Singing Winds. Registration is required and cost is \$50. The cost includes the class, your meal, and wine. You may register online at www.tcsteele.org, email tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov or call (812) 988-2785.

A Walk in the Garden at T. C. Steele Come spend an evening at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site with award-winning author Sharon Lovejoy on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Just as Monet's garden influenced his art, his art influenced his garden. Join bestselling author and illustrator Sharon Lovejoy as she takes us on a personal walk through the garden and shares garden examples from around the world. Lovejoy will show you how to use colors, textures, patterns, water elements, and whimsy to transform even the smallest space into a living work of art, a collage of flora. Learn how a garden can be used as a canvas and how art can be an inspiration in a garden design. Reservations are appreciated since space is limited and the cost is \$5. To register or for more information visit www.tcsteele.org, email tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov, or call (812) 988-2785.

Note: For Master Gardeners, this program counts for an hour for garden design toward education hours.

T. C. Steele offers art camp for grades 3-7 Here is an exciting art opportunity for students entering grades 3-7. The T.C. Steele State Historic Site is proud to announce its third annual Camp Steele starting in July. The dates for camp are July 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Campers will step back in time with T.C. Steele, see what inspired him as an artist and create artwork of their own. Activities include a behind-the-scenes look at T.C. Steele's studio and house; creating a ceramic tile with potter Mindy Weddle; hiking; making a hummingbird feeder; playing croquet; and spending a day with an artist, Patty Bartels, discovering perspective, color, and the plein-air style of painting. Cost is \$20 a day or \$60 for all four days. Space is limited so reserve your spot now. You can register online at www.tcsteele.org or by emailing tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov. For more information please call (812) 988-2785.

Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee	year around	various	Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762 Gretchen Scott, 330-7548
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
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	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Jessica Williams, 334-8374
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer 2010	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

June 2010

Cooperative Extension Service
Health Building
119 West Seventh Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Our Sixth Annual Garden Walk and Picnic is
on Saturday, June 12, 3:30-8:00 p.m.**

**Please RSVP to Di Dingman by
June 9 via telephone or email.**

20010 MCMGA Board

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MG summer calendar

June 12, 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., annual
Master Gardener Garden Walk
June 18-19, *Bloomington in Bloom* national
judging
June 19-20, 1:00-5:00 p.m., annual
Summer Garden Walk sponsored by The
Bloomington Garden Club
July 11, 10:30 a.m., field trip to Hobbit
Gardens and Cox's Plant Farm
July 20, 6:30 p.m., Demonstration Garden
clean-up
July 24-31 , Monroe County Fair at the
Fairgrounds
Saturday, August 28, 10:30 a.m., field trip
to Hunter's Honey Farm
August, date and time TBD, a visit to Oliver
Winery, north Highway 37, Bloomington, for
a tour of the vineyards