

Roots and Shoots

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Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

Eastern tent caterpillar invades Indiana's flowering trees

Special points of interest:

- ◆Get to know our new interns
- ◆WonderGarden and Bloomington Garden Club's Garden Walk need volunteers
- ◆Indiana has a startlingly long list of invasive plants
- ◆Six members earn new badges
- ◆Getting rid of bind weed requires persistence

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The leaf-eating Eastern tent caterpillar has once again settled upon Indiana's flowering trees, but Purdue University entomologist Cliff Sadof said the pests won't kill trees and are easy to control.



Eastern tent caterpillars are dark in color with a white stripe down the back, and they can grow up to two inches long. They emerge early in the spring and feed on the leaves of flowering trees just as the leaves begin to break bud. Their nests are white webs, typically formed in tree crotches, the spot where limbs meet one another or the trunk.

"If there are only a few nests and they are low enough to reach, I would recommend removing them by hand," Sadof said. "However, if manually removing them isn't practical because of the number of nests or their location in the tree, there are a couple of pesticides that will do the trick."

When caterpillars are removed by hand, submerging them in a bucket of soapy water will kill them.

"To prevent the offensive odor associated with the decay of large numbers of caterpillars, homeowners should be sure to sweep up the dead insects and toss them into the compost or a trash bin," Sadof said.

For situations where removing Eastern tent caterpillars by hand isn't practical, effective pesticides are those that include Spi-nosad, Bacillus thuringiensis. While acephate, carbaryl and pyrethroid insecticides can kill Eastern tent caterpillars, Sadof said (continued on page 10)

Member news

By Evelyn Harrell



It was a roomful! Eighty-four interns, guests, and Master Gardeners attended the May general meeting for the new spring pitch-in dinner, followed by the annual recognition of interns and the popular plant swap. Introducing the interns with their short bio of their “garden life” was very entertaining. As the expression used to go so quaintly, a good time was had by all. The evening began with lots of good conversation and good food. Master Gardeners really know how to throw a spread—another interesting expression, if you think about it. If everyone contributes just one recipe from either the fall holiday or the spring pitch-in dinners to Paula Perron’s committee, committee members will be overwhelmed with items for the Master Gardener cookbook the committee is compiling. Cindy Benson and her committee did a great job of organizing the buffet tables with everything needed to enjoy the wonderful dishes.

Nancy White organized the plant swap on the patio, and the interns were the first ones to make a selection. Quite a few plants were unmarked which generated even more conversation as many people questioned the person next to them, *Do you know what this is?* Over and over again rang out, *Do you know what this is?* I happened to be standing next to Carol Reynolds when I picked up a forsythia start, something I’ve always wanted. It will be nice to know that it came from Carol’s yard when I look at that shrub in the future. More members might enjoy knowing the original home of their new plants if we remember to put our names on them next year.

Diana Young provided a detailed list of garden chores that need to be done at the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden. Help is needed in many areas of the garden. Your board members will hold their June board meeting at the Demo Garden, weather permitting, to help identify what to tackle first. The goal will be to have a manageable work load by July 22 for the annual cleanup of the garden by the membership before the opening of the Monroe County Fair on July 26. Please watch for information by email about the work to be done there. Cool drinks and finger foods will be available at the garden cleanup. Bring your tools—and see you there!

Several members will be attending the Purdue Master Gardener State Conference on June 12-14. There should be a good representation since the conference is so close to home. Maybe some attendees will educate the rest of us and share the tricks they pick up—the tips, the do’s, and the do not’s. Ah yes, the do not’s!

New interns welcomed at May general meeting

By Amy Thompson



Master Gardeners are pleased to welcome 23 new interns from the 2014 spring training class. The interns, in alphabetical order, are Sarah Balliet, Mark Belding, Joshua Bennett, Barbara Brunner, Maren Claus, Eryn Cusack, Heather Daley, Nancy Deckard, Judy Dillon, Charlene Doerr, Hal Evans, Sandrine Evans, Sharon Frank, Diane Gregory, Casey Kellar, Chadwick Kellar, John Linn, Mary McInerney, Catya Murray, Nicholas Nehrig, Kate Scanlan, Deborah Thompson, and Becky Wood,

To become certified Master Gardeners, interns must complete 35 hours of volunteer service within one year in addition to the 35 education hours completed in the training class. Get acquainted with our new interns; they are a delightful group! Intern contact information is listed beginning on page 31 in *folia and flora*.



2014 spring interns who attended the MCMGA general meeting on May 27 were (row 1, l to r), Sandrine Evans, Kate Scanlan, Deb Thompson, Judy Dillon, Diane Gregory, Barbara Brunner; (row 2) Heather Daley, Hal Evans, Joshua Bennett, Maren Claus, John Linn, Becky Wood and Eryn Cusack.

(Photo by Dave Dunatchik)

An invitation

By Nancy White



Newly graduated Master Gardener interns are invited to join the crew at one of our volunteer sites, the garden at WonderLab Museum of Science, Health, and Technology at 308 W. Sixth street in downtown Bloomington. The WonderGarden is a true community garden with free entrance on Fourth Street and on the B-Line Trail at all times that WonderLab is open, Tuesday-Sunday. Master Gardeners have been tending this site for over eight years as we supervise the volunteer crews that may be church groups, IU students, high school student groups, or families. Our schedule varies but most of the sessions are on Fridays or Saturdays from March through October. Master Gardeners are not expected to come to every session but attend just as your own schedule will allow. Sessions are usually two to two and a half hours in length and include planting, fertilizing, pruning, weeding, thinning, and re-locating perennials, along with other needed tasks to keep the trees, shrubs, perennials, and roses in good health. Tools, water, snacks, and sunshine are provided by WonderLab. Most of us on the Master Gardener crew like to bring our own hand tools.

If you would like to gain some volunteer hours and share in a pleasant gardening experience with other Master Gardeners and volunteers, contact Nancy White at 824-4426 or nwhite38@hotmail.com for more information. This invitation is not just for our interns; all Master Gardeners are welcome to join us at any time.

Reflections on our recent plant swap

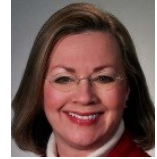
By Nancy White

As I drove home from our May meeting and plant swap, I thought about what I said that night to our newly graduated intern class as we viewed the plants lined up on the Community Building Patio at the Monroe Co. Fairgrounds. I said, "Pick wisely, have fun, and remember that the best plants are from fellow Master Gardeners."

Our plant swap is one of our special events that has a long history and is eagerly anticipated each year. It's a time for members to share their own garden's overflow while at the same time adopt something new that may become a favorite addition to their garden.

So I took a walk in my own garden the next day, and I found: some wildflowers that have escaped the deer inside our fence from Barb Cappy; foliage of Donna Terry's narcissus taking in the sun for next year's blooms; iris in many colors from past Master Gardener plant swaps; evening primroses in bloom transplanted from Susan Eastman's garden; sturdy specimens of lamb's ear and gooseneck loosestrife from Chuck Holdeman over ten years ago; sedum from Carol Reynolds newly
(continued on page 11)

Garden Walk News



By Mary Jane Hall

After much deliberation, the Garden Walk committee and the MCMGA board have come to the conclusion that this year will be a skip year for the annual Garden Walk. So many Master Gardeners from our area enjoy attending the Master Gardener State Conference, scheduled for the second Saturday in June, the Saturday on which our annual Garden Walk is held. To make it more of a conflict, the Master Gardener State Conference is in Indianapolis. The conference is a great opportunity to earn education hours and network with other Master Gardeners from around the state! So, for this year, the conference is our focus!

Also, the Garden Walk committee investigated the possibility of moving to September. However, the magic crystal ball that is required to anticipate summer heat and moisture just is not available. The committee did not feel that we could in good conscience ask home owners to irrigate and keep the critters away so long into the growing season for our Garden Walk.

Happily, the committee has begun signing up gardens for 2015 so that everyone will be ready for a great garden walk next summer! To add your garden to the list of potential Garden Walk gardens, contact Mary Jane Hall at 812-345-3985 or gardenz4ever@hotmail.com.

Call for Volunteers

By Helen Hollingsworth

Bloomington Garden Club is requesting volunteers to serve as garden hostesses during their Annual Summer Garden Walk on Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and Sunday, June 22, noon-4:00 p.m. Volunteering provides an opportunity to spend a few hours in a pleasant garden greeting visitors and answering gardening questions (for which volunteers are given training) while earning Master Gardener volunteer hours. Volunteers need to be at their assigned sites a half hour before and a half hour after the Garden Walk hours. To volunteer, contact Beth Hollingsworth at 219-6193 or email btholli@att.net.

Spring general meeting with pitch-in dinner

By Susan Lovell



Thanks to all who participated in our new spring pitch-in at our May general meeting which also included recognition of our new interns and our annual plant swap. The food as expected was delicious and healthy and offered a great variety of salads, sides and desserts. My special favorite was the meatball; I would love to have that recipe!

Our new format gave ample time to kindle new friendships with the interns and renew friendships with other Master Gardeners we don't see often. Special thanks go to the refreshment committee who coordinated the volunteers, helped set up the room, arranged the food tables, and then returned the room to order at the end of the evening. Those volunteers included chairperson Cindy Benson, Larime Wilson, Mary Cusack, Peggy Rees- Krebs, Tom Lovell, Sandy Belth, Robin Nordstrom, David Dunatchik, Connie Clark, and Diana Dingman.

Special thanks also to Nancy White for organizing and supervising the plant swap.

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, July 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds for the final clean-up of the Demonstration Garden prior to the start of the Monroe County Fair. Your help is needed to make the garden look amazing for the visitors to the fair. Bring your own gloves, tools, and bug spray. Light refreshments will be provided; however, we do need three or four additional volunteers to help with the treats and drinks for the gardeners. If you can help with refreshments, please contact Susan Lovell at 339 5914 or smlovell@indiana.edu. Happy gardening!

Hats off!



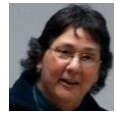
New badges!

Barbara Coffman, certified
Lynn Courson, advanced
Mary Cusack, advanced
Muff Johnson, certified
Camille Rice, certified
Sydley Skolnik, advanced

Congratulations!

In the grow

By Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist



Q. I am sending you some pictures of my shrubs that are in front of my business. This winter was very difficult on everyone and seems to have taken its toll on my shrubs.

The foliage that has turned brown/rust color is on the front of all four shrubs. The backs are not as bad, since they were against the building. I presume this is somewhat of a windburn. Is there any hope they will come out of it? Or is my best bet to replant or turn them around and face the green out? RS, Columbus, Ind.



A. Indeed, this winter was quite a challenge for many woody landscape plants and, in particular, the evergreens. Despite being fully dormant, the shrubs' plant tissue was still subject to losing too much water—a condition called desiccation.

This year's unusually heavy and consistent snow cover provided good insulation, and most plants went into this winter with a good moisture supply. However, when the ground is frozen solid and extreme low temperatures are accompanied by high winds, the plants continue to lose moisture without being able to replenish the supply.

Evergreens and, particularly, broadleaved evergreens such as rhododendron and holly are the most susceptible, because they have a greater surface area through which to lose water compared to deciduous plants. Deicing salts will further aggravate the situation. Severe desiccation will be obvious as brown needles and scorched leaves on broadleaved evergreens, as well as dead twigs and buds. Plants may further dieback as summer stress such as heat or drought applies additional pressure. In addition, your shrubs appear to be planted in plastic tubs rather than in the ground. The roots were more likely exposed to severe cold temperatures, which also compromises their ability to recover.

Unfortunately, the needles that have turned brown cannot be revived. Pine, spruce and fir cannot replace the dead needles on that part of the twig, so the result will be bare spots as the brown needles fall out. Some evergreen shrubs such as yews and arborvitae can be pruned back with some branch renewal filling in. If these specimens were planted in the ground, I would not recommend digging them up to rotate their position, as that would further damage the roots. But you could rotate the orientation of these containers to see if they look attractive enough to keep. Otherwise, you might think about replacing with different species that would be better suited to this confined available space.

Indiana's 'most unwanted' invasive plant pests

An invasive plant is one that can establish itself and out-compete native species, usually severely disrupting the stability of the affected ecosystem.

Asian Bush Honeysuckle(s)	Giant Hogweed	Siberian Elm
Autumn Olive	Giant Salvinia	Smooth Brome
Bicolor Lespedeza	Goatsrue	Spotted Knapweed
Black Alder	Hydrilla	Star-of-Bethlehem
Black Locust	Japanese Hedge Parsley	Sweet Clover(s)
Black Swallow-Wort	Japanese Honeysuckle	Tall Fescue
Brazilian Elodea	Japanese Hops	Tree of Heaven
British Yellowhead	Japanese Knotweed	Water Chestnut
Buckthorn(s)	Japanese Stilt Grass	Water Hyacinth(s)
Canada Thistle	Kudzu	White Mulberry
Chinese Silvergrass	Leafy Spurge	Wine Raspberry
Chinese Yam	Mile-A-Minute Weed	Winged Burning Bush
Common Reed; Phragmites	Multiflora Rose	Yellow Floating Heart
Creeping Charlie	Norway Maple	
Creeping Jenny	Oriental Bittersweet	
Crown Vetch	Pale Swallow-Wort	
Curly-Leaf Pondweed	Periwinkle	
Cut Leaved Teasel	Princess Tree	
Dame's Rocket	Privet(s)	
Eurasian Watermilfoil	Purple Loosestrife	
European Frogbit	Purple Winter Creeper	
Flowering Rush	Reed Canary Grass	
Garlic Mustard	Russian Olive	
	Sericea Lespedeza	

Source: <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/CAPS/plants.html>

Getting rid of bindweed

By Helen Hollingsworth

This past winter did not slow down bindweed; if anything, it's more abundant this year than last. You'll recognize bindweed as it encircles your favorite perennials and shrubs by its medium-green arrow-shaped leaves and its small flowers that resemble morning glory. What makes bindweed so maddeningly difficult to eradicate is its deep, strong roots. Any hint of root left in the soil allows bindweed to re-grow. Bindweed grows from both seeds (viable in soil for up to 30 years, so don't let it ever go to seed!) and underground roots and rhizomes.

Getting rid of bindweed requires vigilance, patience, and persistence. Check your garden for bindweed regularly, and when you see it, cut it off at soil level. Don't pull bindweed or dig up the plant; it will just re-sprout wherever you tear its roots. Keep checking and cutting it off at soil level, starving the plant of light. You will need to cut off bindweed several times, but eventually the plant will die because of its inability to photosynthesize.

Source: <http://organicgardening.about.com/od/weeds/p/Bindweed.htm>

Volunteer opportunities

compiled by Mary Cusack

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 812-345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Herman Young, 812-322-5700 Jeanie Cox, 812-360-3587
MCMGA Garden Walk Committee	year around	select gardens	Evelyn Harrell, 812-339-0572
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Linda Emerson, 812-345-2913 (cell)
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Anthony Joslin, 812-988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Myer, 812-349-2805
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries & research	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 812-332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Stephen Anderson, 812-360-1216
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Sandy Belth, 812-825-8353 Susan Lovell, 812-339-5914
Middle Way House Roof Top Garden	seasonal	various	garden@middlewayhouse.org or call Toby Strout, director, 812-333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 812-855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Kendra Brewer, garden@mhcfoodpantry.org
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 812-824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson, 812-334-8374

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.

Where have all the flowers gone?

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist

While some spring flowering trees and shrubs performed admirably this season, some species had few or no blooms at all. In addition, some plants were so late to leaf out they had many of us concerned that they had died over-winter.

Some shrubs such as forsythia flowered only on the lower branches, where snow cover provided good insulation. While it is still possible that these plants may continue to show effects of the harsh winter, most should recover and return to normal blooming next year—assuming reasonable weather.

We recommend conservative pruning to remove only dead branches and conserve as much foliage as possible, so the tree can maximize leaf area for photosynthesis to aid recovery.



Forsythia blooming, lower branches only, 2014

Eastern tent caterpillar invades Indiana's flowering trees (continued from page 1)

these insecticides also kill beneficial insects that prevent problems with mites and scales.

Eastern tent caterpillars very rarely affect tree health, but heavily infested trees can be completely defoliated. They also can create a nuisance after they finish feeding.

"After the caterpillars have finished feeding in May, the presence of thousands of two inch caterpillars has given more than one homeowner a terrific fright," Sadof said. "This can have the unfortunate result of turning a patio into a quivering mass of hairy caterpillars."

More information about Eastern tent caterpillars is available at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/HN-68.pdf>

Wonderful recipes to share

By Paula Perron



My, what a fine eating experience we had at our last general meeting on May 27 at the Fair Grounds! I had a number of people tell me that they surely hoped everyone would contribute their recipes for the main dishes, salads, appetizers, and desserts to our book, *Master Gardener Recipe Book and Garden Tips*. Here is how you do it: type your recipe and attach it to or include it in your email to mgrec-ipebook@yahoo.com.

Don't forget to contribute your favorite garden tips as well, particularly since most all of us have been working hard in our gardens during this last month. You could even promote a plant you have especially enjoyed and how you have cared for it and have used it.

Demonstration Garden needs volunteers

Many helping hands are needed to get our Demonstration Garden ready for visitors at the Monroe County Fair on July 26-August 2. Opportunities range from dropping in to weed for a while to adopting a section of the gardens. Interested members are encouraged to meet on Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m. (weather permitting) to work with fellow Master Gardeners. Please bring gloves, tools, bug spray, and water. If you would like to volunteer on days other than Tuesdays, please contact Diana Young at young-diana@att.net or 812-339-0040.

Reflections on our recent plant swap (continued from page 4)

situated in the rock garden; Helen Hollingsworth's lamium in full yellow bloom on the terrace; Di Dingman's hostas happy in the shade garden; newly planted year-old caladium corms, gifts from Nancy Page; and too many daylilies to count from Diana and Herman Young.

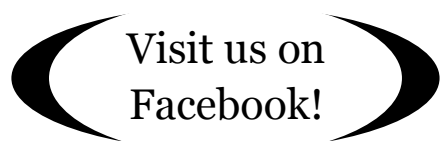
No doubt I have missed some of my treasurers and their donors in this list. They will reveal themselves on my next walk or next year or the next. How lucky we are to have such gifts given from such generous friends.

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners
Association**

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
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Helping others grow!



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Master Gardener Calendar

Thursday, June 12 through Saturday, June 14, Purdue State Master Gardener Conference, Marriott North, Keystone at the Crossing

Tuesday, July 22, 6:30 p.m., general meeting at the Demonstration Garden to prepare the garden for Monroe County Fair visitors; refreshments served

Saturday, July 26 through Saturday, August 2, daily, Monroe County Fair, 5700 W. Airport Road, Monroe County Fairgrounds

Friday, August 1 through Sunday, August 17, daily, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis