2015 Garden Walk on June 13
By Mary Jane Hall

The 2015 Master Gardener Garden Walk on Saturday, June 13, offers an opportunity to visit four very special gardens created by Master Gardeners. Please note: Carpooling is essential!

The day’s Garden Walk schedule begins at Kmart at 1:45 p.m. where we will meet. You will find me at the balloon bouquet. I’ll have maps, addresses, and directions for the drivers.

We will leave Kmart at 1:50 p.m. and plan to be at Sycamore Village at 2:00 p.m. Our hosts are Susan Eastman at 2214 East Cape Cod Drive, and Diane Gregory at 2240 East Cape Cod Drive. These gardeners make the most of small spaces! Quality small gardens prove that good things come in small packages.

We will spend about 40 minutes in the two gardens in Sycamore Village, after which we will BEE departing for Mike Bennett’s Park Ridge East bee friendly garden located at 217 North Park Ridge Drive. Mike has bee hives and will answer our bee questions. We will have about 30 minutes to enjoy his garden.

Next, we will head east to Sewell Road arriving about 3:20 p.m. at 49 North Sewell Road to see Donna Terry’s garden with its mature shade trees. Donna’s lush garden features garden paths with stone from her creek, vibrant flowers and aromatic herbs. We may park only in Donna’s drive or on (very narrow) Sewell Road. Please disregard previous parking instructions for this home.

Cool water will be available for us at all the gardens. We should finish our garden tour at 4:00 p.m. and be inspired to return to our own gardens and be as busy as bees!
On a perfect late May evening, 50+ Master Gardeners, graduating interns, and family members gathered to celebrate the completion of another class of future Master Gardeners. After a little excitement when we learned mid-afternoon that we were moving to the fairgrounds’ auditorium from the Community Building, and under threatening skies all day, it turned out to be a postcard-perfect evening which just added to the pleasure of being there for the festivities. Cindy Benson and her refreshments committee arrived early to set up the room. If someone, who shall remain nameless, had been thinking ahead, it would have been possible to jot down some names to thank each one of them individually in this space. It is such a pleasure to watch the cooperation and communal effort that goes into setting up and breaking down the many tables and chairs required for seating dozens of people at these Master Gardener events. You know who you are, all you helper-bees. Thank you.

At 6:15 p.m., with 15 minutes to go, there were two dishes on the buffet tables and 15 people in the room to feed. However, by 6:30 p.m., like magic, every inch of the buffet tables was filled with a wide variety of good food.

Announcements followed—there are always announcements! Please find Diana Young’s report on the Demo Garden elsewhere in this newsletter. According to the announcements, June 6 is going to be so full of opportunities, it will be hard to make a choice. Then our Garden Walk is the following week, on June 13. The Master Gardener Cookbook was available for sale, and 23 copies were sold. And a drawing was held to find homes for a few leftover Garden Fair door prizes.

Mary Cusack introduced the graduating interns, shared their bios about gardening, and distributed certificates and pins. Five of the 18 eligible interns were in attendance. Eryn Cusack from the previous intern class was also recognized. She provided the artwork for a brochure that describes the native plants on the northeast corner of the Monroe County Courthouse. Her effort accumulated so many volunteer hours that she finished her intern obligation with Advanced Master Gardener status.

Last but definitely not least was the plant swap. Graduating interns get first crack at finding a plant that warms the cockles of their hearts. Then the challenge is how to open it up to Master Gardeners who have perused the opportunities and already have their own hearts set on a particular plant. Thinking about the traditional method—sorting alphabetically—and feeling sorry for the Z’s, we started at the end of the alphabet. U-Z went first. Happy X-Y-Z’s!

Time to clean up, sort out the remaining empty dishes, sweep up the potting soil, and corral the tables and chairs. Watching it all happen before one’s eyes does give new meaning to the event we refer to as the annual May “pitch-in”.

Member news

By Evelyn Harrell
2015 MCMGA Garden Walk gardens

Diane Gregory’s garden

I have a fun condo garden with sun from the east in front and a very large pin oak in the back yard. Because my house is on a corner, I have wonderful public shade garden under the pin oak in the back. I have planted and replanted over the last ten years, taking out large shrubs and trying to utilize unusual small scale trees and shrubs with lots of perennials.

In the front are lots of colorful flowering perennials and annuals. In the side garden is a weeping beach and lots of hostas. The back garden is full of shade perennials which are gradually filling in the space. The pin oak saps the nutrients in parts of the garden and so restricts the growth of hydrangeas, but Solomon’s seal loves it under the tree. I have enjoyed working in the spaces that I have.

Susan Eastman’s garden

I love my garden for the color it provides outside my windows and because it makes my small living space feel larger. The yard is fenced for three reasons: to make a place for my dog to run; to reduce deer depredation; and to set a limit to my planting. Various climbing roses and more than a dozen clematis occupy most of the space edging the fence.

Truckloads of top soil added in the back built up a “hill” in order to give some vertical shape to the garden. On the hill, lamb’s ears outline the path, with giant baptisia to the north and a Japanese maple on the south side. Around the edge of the hill are a red chokeberry, holly, crepe myrtle, a redtwig dogwood shrub, a pink dogwood tree, some butterfly bushes and a viburnum.

(continued on page 4)
Mike Bennett’s garden

I mostly grow food (peppers, a large variety of berries, herbs, and 14 fruit trees) in my garden. I also have lilacs and roses.

However, I have recently become aware/interested in native species, even if they don’t give me food. I’m a new beekeeper, and that has been a challenging and rewarding task already. My landscape is new, but I have planted a large variety of berries, tree fruits, and native flowers.

Donna Terry’s garden

Not only do we enjoy fresh vegetables, but we also enjoy the changes to the perennial gardens as the season progresses and share many bouquets with friends and family. I cook with herbs, and now it’s very convenient to harvest herbs as I need them, plus it gives us another place to add more flowering annuals that mix well with the herbs.

Sharing and trading plants with friends and neighbors have allowed my gardens to grow, and my gardens are always a work in progress. I like having new plants, and the more blooming plants, the better! I make it a goal each year to try at least one new veggie in the garden and a new tomato variety. But if I don’t watch myself, I will have an overflow of perennials, annuals and house plants. Planters throughout the gardens add additional color and blooms and allow a place to bring the house plants out for their summer vacation.
Help, calling all volunteers!
By Diana Young

It is time to seek volunteers for the Demo Garden to have the garden looking super for Monroe County Fair visitors in July. Last year we started a major overhaul, but we still have lots of work to do. Volunteers can adopt a spot or help with general maintenance of the garden. Herman and I plan to be at the Demo Garden on Tuesday afternoons and evenings beginning June 2 from 4:00 p.m. until we are too tired to work. If it rains on Tuesdays, we’ll be at the Demo Garden on the following Thursdays. Bring your own garden gloves, clippers, pruners, garden knife, or any favorite garden tools. Rakes, hoes, and wheel barrows, and ice water are available.

Thanks to Abe Morris, we now have compost bins for all of our debris. John Lind made major advances on the Canadian thistle last year. Tom Lovell and John along with Jeanne Cox and others removed the perennial grasses that had become invasive. Herman Young has worked several spots but mainly on the heirloom vegetable garden.

This year we are experimenting with straw bale gardening in the heirloom section. If anyone has experience with this, we can use your advice. Stephen Anderson placed ground cover in almost all the walkways and in our outdoor room. We put wood chips over the ground cover to help control the weeds. We need to remove some grass that has seeded on top of the wood chips.

Please come and help. Hope to see you at the garden.
Grant recipient project update

By Jessica Davis

My Montessori class was fortunate enough to receive an MCMGA educational grant this year, which we are using for the initial construction of permanent beds for a food garden to complement our botany curriculum. I am writing this during our last week of school before summer break, so I just wanted to give you a little update about what has happened so far.

We have dug out the existing sod and a layer of (terrible construction-grade) dirt. Students did this work mostly themselves.

At an after-school gathering, families of volunteers placed landscaping stone to create a barrier and filled the bed with purchased soil and compost. We still need to add one more truck load of compost, which we plan to do Tuesday after school.

We are also adding a layer of composted bark mulch to help with water retention and weeds over the summer.

Because this is a late start this year, students have grown some grape tomato and cucumber plants indoors that we will try to plant this week. We will have some volunteers stop in at least once a week throughout the summer for maintenance, as well. We plan to start a fall crop when we return to school in August, and in the future, we will have a more complete spring crop.

I have reviewed the items due for the grant by September 1, and I am hoping to complete all three requirements mentioned:

♦ a presentation to a group of MCMGA members (but perhaps they could come to our school?)
♦ an article written by the children for the newsletter
♦ a presentation board for your group to display (made by the children as well).

Hats off!

New badge!
Eryn Cusack, Advanced
Congratulations!
Intern class recognition

By Mary Cusack

New Master Gardener interns were recognized at the May pitch-in dinner, general meeting, and plant swap held on May 26 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Congratulations to the following individuals who have completed all their requirements to become a Monroe County Master Gardener intern:

Mike Bennett: gardening emphasis is on edible landscaping
Jessica Bruns: special interest is in invasive species
Cindy Esham: a self taught gardener
Brandy Gardner: wishes to impart the joy of gardening for her patients
Mary Hallinan: gardening interest in herb gardening
Wendy Katinzky: loves watching plants grown using sustainable practices
Eiko Kocher: loves personally naming her plants
Christina Land: carrying on a family tradition
Delanie Marks: special interest is in vegetable gardening
Jacki Porter: loves gardening with her students
Mike Porter: enjoys all areas of gardening
Cynthia Rex: enjoys expanding her gardening knowledge with these classes
Carrie Roberts: loves botanical gardens and flower arranging
Ada Simmons: has a special interest in landscaping
Terri Vincezi: has a passion for houseplants, especially African violets
Jarrett Wendell: loves growing fruits
Tom Williamson: enjoys growing roses

Left to right are interns Mary Hallinan, Eiko Kocher, Brandy Gardner, Jarrett Wendell, Ada Simmons, and Eryn Cusack, who received her advanced certificate.
May pitch-in dinner and general meeting a success
By Susan Lovell

The spring pitch-in dinner at our May general meeting was a wonderful gathering for our members and interns who love food and plants. Thanks to all who participated by preparing delicious and healthy food to share and donating plants from their own collection to swap. The dinner is a wonderful opportunity to meet our graduating interns and to renew friendships with other Master Gardeners we don’t see often.

Special thanks to the refreshment committee who coordinated the volunteers, helped set up the room, arranged the food tables and returned the room to order at the end of the evening. Those volunteers included chairperson Cindy Benson, Mary and Tim Cusack, Tom Lovell, Robin Nordstrom, Pam Hall, Susan Sachtjen, Herman and Diana Young, Muff Johnson, M.C. Paul, and John and Linda Emerson. The late change of venue could have been a disaster, but thanks to the efforts of this committee, all went smoothly. Once again, thanks to Evelyn Harrell for her ongoing encouragement and support and to Nancy and Allen White for organizing and supervising the plant swap.

Our next general meeting will be Tuesday, July 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds for the final cleanup of the Demonstration Garden prior to the start of the Monroe County Fair. Help is needed to make the garden look special for visitors to the Fair. Each year, due to hard working volunteers, the garden gets closer to the plan of what we want it to be. You can help; just remember to bring your own bug spray, gloves, and hand tools. Light refreshments will be served; however, we do need one or two additional volunteers to help with simple treats and drinks for the gardeners. Our current refreshment volunteers are Angie Fender, Mary Cusack, and Tom Lovell. If you can help, please contact me at 812 339 5914 or smlovell@indiana.edu. Happy gardening!

Master Gardener cookbook update
By Sydley Skolnik

The Master Gardener recipe book was flying off the table at the May pitch-in dinner and general meeting. The delicious dishes reminded us of why we decided to publish our own collection of recipes. Our goal for the book was to have a profit of $300 for the 2016 grant awards. We're about half way there; we have 117 books are still available. If you belong to a group that you think would buy the recipe book, please contact Pam Hall or me for a "consignment" allotment. Or you might consider donating a copy to a good cause. For example, one copy was anonymously given to The Eagle Pointe Ladies Auxiliary Tee Up Against Cancer Committee for a silent auction that includes a basket of local cookbooks. Proceeds benefit the IU Health Olcott Center.

Remainders will be available at September and November General Meetings. Prior to that, Pam and I will have copies with us when we are at the Monroe County Fair. Try to have exact change for your copies—$8/each. And, feel free to call either one of us if you want consignment copies.
### Volunteer opportunities

**compiled by Mary Cusack**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bloomington Community Orchards</strong>, 2120 S. Highland Avenue [Winslow Woods Park] <a href="http://www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a></td>
<td>seasonal  maintenance, all levels of expertise welcome</td>
<td>Stacey Decker  <a href="mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a>  Growing fruit for the community through educational opportunities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park</strong>, 2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington</td>
<td>during growing season help w/ design and maintenance</td>
<td>Linda Emerson  812-345-2913 (cell)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Courthouse Native Garden</strong> Downtown Square</td>
<td>seasonal  maintenance</td>
<td>Todd Stevenson  <a href="mailto:tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us">tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</strong> 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport, IN Near Ellettsville</td>
<td>seasonal  maintenance/rejuvenation</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer  812-349-2805</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Growing Opportunities Hydroponic Garden</strong> Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington</td>
<td>year around  education &amp; maintenance</td>
<td>Nicole Wooten  <a href="mailto:nicole@insccap.org">nicole@insccap.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hilltop Garden &amp; Nature Center</strong> 2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington <a href="http://www.hilltop.indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop">www.hilltop.indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop</a></td>
<td>year around  maintenance of gardens for shade, herbs, pollinators, containers</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin  812-345-8128</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hinkle-Garton Farmstead</strong> 2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington <a href="http://www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead">www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead</a></td>
<td>year around  herb, orchard, butterfly, &amp; woodland gardens, invasives removal, soil reclamation</td>
<td>Danielle Bachant-Bell  812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text)  <a href="mailto:hgfvolunteers@gmail.com">hgfvolunteers@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td><strong>Hoosier Hills Food Bank</strong> The Food Bank garden is located at Stranger’s Hill Organic Farm, 7480 N. Howard Road near Ellettsville</td>
<td>year around  plant, harvest, and compost; training provided</td>
<td>Ryan Jochim  812-334-8374  hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php</td>
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<td><strong>Middle Way House Roof Top Garden</strong> <a href="mailto:garden@middlewayhouse.org">garden@middlewayhouse.org</a></td>
<td>seasonal  scheduled workdays</td>
<td>Toby Strout, Director  812-333-7404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard</strong> 1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington mhcfoodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer</td>
<td>year around  seasonal garden tasks</td>
<td>Kendra Brewer, Coordinator  <a href="mailto:garden@mhcfoodpantry.org">garden@mhcfoodpantry.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wonderlab Garden</strong> 308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington</td>
<td>seasonal  education, supervision of volunteers, maintenance</td>
<td>Nancy White  812-824-4426  <a href="http://www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden">www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wylie House</strong> 307 E. Second St., Bloomington</td>
<td>year around  maintenance of heirloom garden, seed saving</td>
<td>Sherry Wise  812-855-6224  <a href="http://www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html">www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MCMGA Volunteer Opportunities</strong></td>
<td>year around  various</td>
<td>Demo Garden: Herman Young (812) 322-5700  Garden Walk: Mary Jane Hall (812) 345-3985  Newsletter: Helen Hollingsworth (812) 332-7313  Program: Sandy Belth (812) 825-8353  Website: Stephen Anderson (812) 360-1216  MCMGA help: Amy Thompson (812) 349-2572</td>
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**Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.**

**Keep a copy of any volunteer records forms you submit to the extension office**
2015 Bug Fest

Looking for a fun activity for you and your family? Bug Fest is Saturday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2368 East Tenth Street. Admission is free.

Bug Fest is a celebration of insects and their relatives. Designed for children of all ages, from 1 to 101, the mission of Bug Fest is to educate the public about insect and spider biology. Guest lecturers will share their knowledge of dragonflies, butterflies, spiders, and other topics, plus there will be opportunities to visit information tables featuring a variety of subjects, including pollinators, garden insects, forest pests, public health, and live insect displays. Activities will include insect crafts, mealworm races, cricket spitting, insect games, storytelling, and more! A display of student art with an insect theme is also planned.

Scheduled speakers include Dr. Leslie Bishop, Earlham College (spiders); Dr. Peter Scott, Indiana State University (pollinators); Sandy Belth, Monroe County Parks and Recreation (Monarch butterflies); Tom Swinford, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves (dragonflies), and more.

BUG FEST is a collaboration of the Monroe County Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, Sycamore Land Trust, Sassafras Audubon Society, The WonderLab Museum, and the Purdue University Extension Office.

Bloomington Garden Club’s Summer Garden Walk

By Linda Heath

Come enjoy Bloomington Garden Club’s 26th Annual Summer Garden Walk on Saturday, June 20, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. and on Sunday, June 21, noon-4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Visit six very special private gardens and the annual Flower Show, Sunshine in the Garden, at the Monroe County History Center, 202 E. 6th Street, as well as an art show, all on one ticket good for both days.

The History Center will also feature garden-themed art from the Stone Belt Art Program. New this year: come see members of the Bloomington Watercolor Society painting in all the gardens. Tickets are $10 and are available from all Garden Club members and from these vendors: Bloomingfoods East, Bloomingfoods Elm Heights, Bloomingfoods West, Bloomington Hardware, Bloomington Valley Nursery, Ellettsville True Value Hardware, and Mays Greenhouse.

Funds raised from the annual Garden Walk benefit children’s gardening programs and civic planting and beautification projects through grants to non-profit local organizations. For details, see bloomingtongardenclub.com.
Help at the Fair, earn volunteer hours, and have fun
By Esther Minnick and Diana Young

This year’s Monroe County Fair is July 25-August 1 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, 5700 West Airport Road. Master Gardeners participate in many aspects of the annual Fair, and we really need your help. Master Gardeners are in charge of accepting and arranging displays of vegetables, herbs, fruit, and seed grains. We are also in charge of accepting arrangements and setting up displays of potted plants, cut flowers, and floral arrangements.

We especially need volunteers to help with set up and judge assistance in the patio area at the back of the Community Building.

1. Friday, July 24: set up and prepare space for exhibits as they come in; contact Amy Thompson for schedule.

2. Saturday, July 25: help with the vegetable show, entries 1:00-3:00 p.m. and help judges 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The herb show is really huge, even bigger than the vegetable show, and help is needed there. Call Esther Minnick (daytime: 812-876-4523) for scheduling.

3. Monday, July 27: help with potted plants and cut flowers, accept entries 9:00 a.m.-noon and help judges noon-4:00 p.m. Also need help is needed with the floral arrangements.

For Monroe County Fair information, see their website: monroecountyfair-grounds.in.

Each year MCMGA board awards $50 to the Master Gardener who accumulates the most exhibited points at the Monroe County Fair. This could be your year to enter and win the board award.

Nightshade vegetables and fruits

Solanaceae plants (commonly known as the nightshade family) include potatoes (but not sweet potatoes and yams), tomatoes (all kinds), peppers (all kinds), eggplant, tomatillos, goji berries, huckleberries, and cape gooseberries (but not normal gooseberries nor blueberries). Tobacco and petunia are listed in the nightshade group, along with these commonly consumed vegetables and fruits. This plant family contains more than 2,500 species, some annuals, biennials, or perennials, some vines, shrubs, trees, or weeds. Nightshade plants are found on all continents except Antarctica, with the greatest concentrations in Central America and South America and also in Australia and Africa.
Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Monroe County
Master Gardeners Association

Helping others grow!

Visit us on Facebook!

2015 MCMGA Board

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Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575  athompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener Calendar

June 4-6, 2015 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference in Evansville. See www.swimga.org/2015-master-gardener-conference-june-4-6-2015/ for information

June 13, 2:00 p.m., Master Gardener Garden Walk featuring four members’ gardens, carpooling recommended.

June 20, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and June 21, noon –4:00 p.m., Bloomington Garden Club’s 2015 Summer Garden Walk. See bloomingtongardenclub.com for information

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