

ROOTS AND SHOOTS



March 2009, Volume 25, Issue 3

Attend Our General Meeting on Tuesday, March 24

By Nancy White Our next Master Gardener General Meeting is on **Tuesday, March 24**, at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library, in Room 1B in the bottom level. Our speaker will be Marian Keith, who was our guide at Oliver Winery in the fall of 2007. Marian will speak on *Designing with Spring and Summer Bulbs*. We look forward to visiting with Marian again. Also on the agenda will be information and opportunities to sign up for the field trips planned for our 2009 season. Refreshments will be served, and friends and family are always welcome. Parking is available in the library lot, on the street, and in the bank lot on the southwest corner of Lincoln and Kirkwood. Two hours of education credit will be available for this meeting.

Statistics from 2008 MG Intern Class

Those that completed the pre-test and post-test at the intern class improved their scores from an average of 67% for the pre-test to an average of 83% for the post-test. On the post program evaluation, 97% of those returning the exam indicated that the program met or exceeded their expectations, and 100% indicated that they would recommend this class to others. Ninety-seven percent indicated that they felt the Master Gardener program had helped them to become better environmental stewards in regard to gardening, and 80% indicated that they had already changed a gardening practice as a result of the class.

Mark Your Calendar

By Nancy White Vicky St. Myers, our vice president for programs, asks us to star the following dates as we enter the busy spring season.

Saturday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Wylie House Annual Seed Sale, 317 E. 2nd St. Over 80 varieties of flowers, vegetables, and herbs will be for sale.

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 p.m., T. C. Steele State Historic Site, garden panel discussion

Friday, March 20, 3:00-8:00 p.m. and **Saturday, March 21**, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Morgan County GardenFest and Pansy Sale, Martinsville National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Drive.

Tuesday, March 24, General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Monroe County Public Library, Room 1B in the bottom level.

Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m., field trip for members and friends, *Tree Identification Walk*, at the IU Woods in Center Campus. Amy Thompson will be our guide. Contact Vicky St. Myers for details and exact location.

Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. until dark, *Spring Clean-up in the MC Fairgrounds Demo Garden* for interns and MCMG Board Members. Contact MG Bethany Murray on details at bethany.murray@gmail.com.

Member News



By
Nancy
White

The rescheduled General Meeting took place at the Jukebox Community Center on February 17 with over 44 members present. Mick Renneisen, Bloomington Parks and Recreation Director, presented a program on the present and future design and implementation of the B-Line Trail. He stressed the numerous plantings and trees that will be included in the completed trail. Phase 1 will be completed this spring with other phases to follow. Hiking, walking, biking, nature exploration, and other outdoor activities will be encouraged on the trail along with art exhibits and live performances planned for the larger areas, such as the ones adjacent to Wonder Lab and the Showers Plaza. There are numerous opportunities for groups and individuals to donate to items on the trail such as benches and water fountains. Mr. Renneisen also included information on the upcoming Bloomington in Bloom competition which will be held in 2010. He encouraged us to use our MG skills to encourage neighborhoods, businesses, and families to participate in making Bloomington a strong entry in the competition. Several of our members have volunteered to assist with this project so there will be more information coming soon. Mary Jane Hall and Gretchen Scott will be our contact persons for Bloomington in Bloom.

Led by Vice Presidents Carol Cobine and Vicky St. Myers, members at the meeting discussed program planning and events we would like to include in our meetings. Refreshments were served by committee members Carol Cobine, Jeanie Cox, and Vicky St. Myers.

Garden Volunteer Opportunity

Recently, members Cheryl Engber and Penny Austin and Extension Educator Amy Thompson attended a workshop with other community leaders to discuss ongoing projects at Middle Way House, including gardens and rooftop gardening at the location on Washington Street that is currently under renovation. If you are interested in getting involved with this project, contact Amy Thompson.

T. C. Steele Garden Events This Spring

At the recent General Meeting, Dot Owen spoke to us about several projects coming up at T.C. Steele State Historic Site. She urged us to volunteer for some of the programs.

MCMGA members are already scheduled to participate in some of these events as speakers and volunteers. For a full description of events call (812)677-2003 or check the website at www.tcsteele.org. On March 12 at T. C. Steele, Bob Baird and Moya Andrews will appear on a garden design panel, and on May 9, Amy Thompson will be part of the programs offered in a daylong *Garden Gala*. Don't miss these very special events.

Demo Garden Clean-up on Tuesday, April 14

Each year, members of the MCMG Board host the new interns as they meet at the Demo Garden at the Fairgrounds for some work and fun. This year, Bethany Murray, Demo Garden chairperson, has chosen Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 p. m. until dark for this event. All interns are invited to bring their garden gloves and favorite hand tools and rakes to join the group. It's a great introduction to the garden as board members and interns share tips and stories about our favorite spring thing—garden clean-up.

MG Intern Class Meets MG Mentors

At the February 2 opening session of the intern class, mentors joined class members in discussing opportunities for volunteering and other issue on full membership in MCMG. Those who agreed to be mentors were Herman and Diana Young, David Dunatchik, Helen Hollingsworth, Diann Lock, Carol Cobine, Vicky St. Myers, Jeanie Cox, Nancy White, Barbara Hays, Susan Osborne, Preston Gwinn, and Becky Nyberg.

Partnering with Native Bees Talk



Submitted
By
Amy
Thompson

A presentation entitled, *Partnering with Native Bees: Ways to Cultivate & Conserve Native Crop Pollinators*, will be given by Alex Smith on **Thursday, March 12 at 4:30 pm.** at the Monroe County Public Library Meeting Room, 1B. Concern is growing about declines among honeybees, and some researchers are warning that our bee-pollinated crops may be in peril. Fortunately, honeybees are not the only pollinators of vegetable and fruit crops! This presentation will focus on how native bees (species other than honeybees) can be managed as crop pollinators. We will cover ways to provide forage and nesting habitat for native bees on the farm, and introduce some common native bee species. We will also discuss research on how factors such as land use and plant diversity affect crop pollination by native bees, and point out areas where work still needs to be done. The presentation will be followed by time for questions and discussion. Alex Smith is a masters student in ecology at Indiana University. He is working with Dr. Heather Reynolds, studying the effects of landscape factors on pollination of cucumber by native bees.

Native Plant Use for Water Control Incorporated into Monroe County Plan Ordinance

By Heidi
Russell
Wagner,
Monroe
County
Planning
Department

Every time we step out of our cars and onto a parking lot, we interact with our built environment. As we weave our way through the traffic isles, dodge puddles laced with oil, and circumvent mulched beds with distressed looking shrubs, what we experience is a direct result of the planning decisions we have made over the past fifty years. As land becomes limited and water becomes a commodity more valuable than gold, a new generation of planners, policy makers and citizens have stepped up to plan for a sustainable future.

In 2007, Monroe Planning Director Gregg Zody recognized the need for more diversity in landscaping materials and proposed a text amendment to promote native plantings. With the support of forward thinking members of the plan commission and county drainage engineer Todd Stevenson, the new Monroe County Landscape Ordinance was signed into law by the county commissioners in September 2008. Now, every time a new parking lot is paved on a site, it will be graded to slope gently to an adjoining landscape bed. Gone is the six inch high curb that separated the parking lot from the landscaping. Now, water will sheet flow directly into the landscape bed where it will infiltrate and then percolate down to an underdrain. This system, called bioretention or rain gardens, is required in residential applications. As the water percolates, pollution will be bound up in the mulch, converted by the root systems of plants, and absorbed by bacteria in the gravel layer. The clean water not absorbed by the system will then travel through the underdrain to the receiving waters. No longer will dirty, oil-laced water be directly discharged into streams, ravines and detention basins.

The second major change to the Landscape Chapter should be of special interest to Master Gardeners. The allowed plants in a landscape now include perennials, grasses, and ferns as well as trees and shrubs. The previous ordinance only contained requirements for tree and shrubs. Most importantly, all plants are native to Indiana. Indiana's native plants are a treasure trove of diversity, beauty, and habitat. (continued on page 7)

T. C. Steele State Historic Site Offers 2009 Garden Series

March 12, 6:30 p.m., Gardening panel on garden design, perennials, flowering shrubs, and botanical illustration, FREE

Panel includes Moya Andrews, local author and Master Gardener; Bob Baird, landscaper with Designscape, Advanced Master Gardener, and local garden column writer; Gillian Harris, botanical illustrator; and Davie Kean, T. C. Steel grounds supervisor

March 14, 10:30 a.m., Recycle Art for Your Garden

Hummingbird feeders for adults, \$15

CD mobiles for youth, \$5

April 18, 11:00 a.m., Miss Potter's Tea Party. \$15

Come in your Sunday best for a tea party and finger food. We will be making crafts, listening to Beatrix Potter books, and exploring the grounds. Space is limited.

April 24-26, Wildflower Foray

A special weekend of hiking, identification, and art. Friday at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Wildflowers at Selma Steele. Saturday at 7:00 a.m. Birds at T. C. Steele at 10:00 a.m. Art Trek: sketching hike. Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Wildflower Yoga at 10:00 a.m. Conservation Crafts (\$2 for supplies)

April 28, 6:30 p.m., National Mystery Writer, Susan Wittig Albert, FREE

Join us for this special evening in our large studio. She will talk about gardening with herbs and her new book, *Wormwood*.

May 9, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., Garden Gala

Bring your mother to our site for a day of fun and to buy her some flowers. Plant sale of perennials and herbs to benefit the Friends of T. C. Steele. Cooking with herbs demo at 11:00 a.m. with Amy Thompson, Monroe County Extension Educator. Reducing your carbon footprint demo at 2:00 p.m. with Barbara Bowman, Brown County Extension Educator. Papermaking all day!

Master Gardener Committee Chairs for 2009

Contact these members to volunteer. Chairpersons need willing volunteers.

Committee	Chairperson(s)
Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show	Preston Gwinn
Monroe County Fair Demo Garden	Bethany Murray
Monroe County Fair Flowers, Vegetables, and Herbs	Esther Minnick and Diana Young
Monroe County Fair Master Gardener Information Booth	Carol Cobine
Monroe County MG Fair Programs	Mary Jane Hall
MCMGA Garden Walk	Mary Hawkins
Wonder Garden	Nancy White

A Garden on Your Tabletop



By
Susan

Eastman

Inside many houses you'll find glass paperweights perhaps holding down piles of papers but more likely displayed as colorful decorations. Although paperweights come in thousands of types, if you look closely, you'll see that some seem to enclose flowers made of glass in their centers, as in this picture of a red flower. The French writer Collette once called paperweights "small, frozen gardens." She gathered an enormous collection of Baccarat and other antique glass weights that she scattered on tabletops and shelves of her Parisian home. Most that she owned were fabulous French antiques and today would cost as much as a trip to Paris.



But others with charm are available in antique shops and at yard sales with reasonable prices for small collectors.

Baccarat paperweights are particularly notable (to gardeners) for featuring a single perfect flower in fine detail. One can almost reach in to touch a Baccarat pansy or clematis flower because they are so perfect and yet so individual. The company also produced millefiori paperweights, many appearing to be tiny bouquets (or mushrooms) of flowers. Such antique paperweights retail for around a thousand dollars or more.



Paperweights continue to be produced in Italy (called Murano glass), in Scotland (primarily Caithness Glass), and all over the United States, as well as France. Many have contemporary or abstract designs, but some have flowers or flower-like designs. If you seek antique and vintage items, beware of Lucite and contemporary pieces made with lasers that copy old designs.

To the delight of collectors, two producers of such paperweights remain active right here in Indiana. They have glass-blowing facilities just north of Indianapolis, and you can visit their shops, and at scheduled times see the actual blowing of many kinds of glassware. One is the St. Clair factory in Elwood, Indiana, run by Joe Rice since 1971. Tom St. Clair, a descendant of the original St. Clair family, also has operated under his own label since 1985 in Anderson, Indiana.



Antique dealers caught onto the popularity of glass paperweights some years ago, and in Indiana they inflate the prices of those known to be made by St. Clair, whether actually vintage, antique, or contemporary. One common style of the recent St. Clair weights has a tripartite flower in the center, much like older ones. This picture is of a St. Clair paperweight, but its age is problematic.

Floral paperweights are among the most collectable and thus prices for the rarest are rarified indeed. But hunting in antique malls and estate sales can turn up real treasures, such as the five flower weights in this last picture. Two easy-to-obtain books to consult are Jean Melvin's *American Glass Paperweights and Their Makers*, 1967 and 1970 editions, and Peter von Brackel's *Paperweights: Historicism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, 1842 to Today*, 1999. Also, for starters, you might also take a look at www.paperweights.com.



A Passion for Peonies



Peonies by Pamela McGeorge, photographs by Russell McGeorge, Firefly Books, 2006.

Peonies, from the family *Paeoniacea* (once classified as *Ranunculaceae*), have long been treasured. They were first cultivated for their medicinal value, later used in dowry settlements, were seen as a symbol of love, and incorporated in artistic design. The peony has been cultivated for hundreds of years, primarily in China, but their popularity has expanded world wide and especially in the United States.

By
M. Susan
Osborne

One of the first signs of spring in Indiana is the long awaited spring bulbs peeping through the cold wet ground. However, if you have peonies in your garden, you will see their crimson growth at ground level at approximately the same time. As spring progresses, the peony's leaves unfurl and their buds develop. Beautiful fragrant blossoms appear by the end of May.

Peonies are divided into two main groups, herbaceous and tree peonies, and both bear extravagantly sumptuous flowers. They come in a vast array of colors, ranging from dark crimson to every shade of pink, to salmon, yellow, cream, coral, and white. Their forms are range from voluptuous to simplicity. Humans instinctively respond to beauty, and peonies, with their universal appeal, make the top ten list for Midwest gardeners.

Peonies offers thirteen exciting chapters, plus two appendices, a bibliography and index. Within the 143 pages you will discover what exactly are peonies, their ancestors, the allure of peonies, and many new modern hybrids. You will also learn how to use herbaceous peonies in the garden and landscape design, as well as their care and cossetting. Chapters eight and nine discuss tree peonies—the king of flowers, according to the author. A new area of development, intersectional hybrids, a cross between tree peonies and herbaceous varieties, is explained in chapter ten. The final chapters focus on peonies for free, on display, and troubleshooting techniques.

Of course, I must mention the photography. Every page (yes, every page) has a dynamic photograph of a selected peony—over 200 to be exact. Author Pamela McGeorge and her husband Russell work as a writer/photographer team from their home in New Zealand. Russell McGeorge has captured peonies in all their breathe taking beauty. Together, they have done a great job in presenting a book full of exciting material for peony enthusiasts.

Boone County Master Gardeners Sponsor Free Garden Event

The Boone County Master Gardeners are busy making preparations for another fabulous *Gardenfest!* Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon, just east of I-65, at Exit 138. Free tree seedlings will be given to guests as long as they last. Free seminars are scheduled each hour for valuable tips and strategies for your yard landscapes and vegetable gardens. Browse for gardening gifts at the many outstanding vendor booths. For more information about the event, please check our web site at www.bccn.boone.in.us/mg/gardenfest2009.htm.

Use Native Plants for Water Control (continued from page 3)

Since they evolved with our landscape, they are naturally disease resistant and require minimal maintenance after establishment. Two resources associated with the Landscape Chapter which may be of benefit to Master Gardeners are a list of native plant suppliers found at this website: <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/documents/Indiana%20Sources%20for%20Native%20Plant%20Material.pdf>. A list of suitable native plants begins on page 26 of the document, linked at this web address: http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/documents/830_revised.pdf.

As Monroe County properties are developed under the new Landscape Ordinance, the demand for native species will increase. However, visit any of our local greenhouses, and you will see only a small sampling of native species. Granted, most large scale commercial installations will seek out wholesalers to fulfill their plant orders, but even there, the diversity of natives is in short supply. As Master Gardeners, you have specialized training and education that can be used to promote native species. Educate your friends, neighbors, and clients on native options for common ornamentals. Demand locally will increase supply, and could lead to a boom in the use of native species. Until then, our job is to advocate for a better built environment and ensure native plants are restored to our landscapes one development at a time.

Heidi Russell Wagner is responsible for informing the Plan Commission through maps and research regarding the environmental issues of petition sites. Her background is in Geographic Information Systems, Natural Resources, and Conservation Biology. *For more information, contact Heidi Russell Wagner at [hrussell_wagner@co.monroe.in.us](mailto:h russell_wagner@co.monroe.in.us), or 812-349-2560. To read the Landscape Ordinance online, go to <http://www.co.monroe.in.us/planning/Title8zoningordinance.html> and click on chapter heading 830.*

Coleus Downy Mildew Strikes Again

By Tom Creswell, Purdue University
First identified on coleus in the US in 2005, downy mildew has become an annual threat to production of this popular annual. The disease is caused by the fungus *Peronospora lamii*, and is spread primarily by air-borne spores. The fungus can also infect basil and agastache. The symptoms may range from barely noticeable spots to leaf distortion to defoliation of the entire plant. Cultivars show extensive variation in how they react to the fungus, and symptoms may mimic impatiens necrotic spot virus, *Botrytis* blight, drought stress or spray burn. High humidity favors spore production and spread of the disease. Spores are produced on the undersides of leaves and can resemble *Botrytis* sporulation.



For gardeners, the disease is less likely to be a problem in the landscape than the greenhouse. Look for healthy transplants without leaf spots or distortion of the leaves. Avoid sprinkler irrigation. Instead, water by trickle irrigation on the soil. Bag and remove badly infected plants from the garden. Most fungicides used against this fungus are available only to professional applicators.

For more information on fungicides labeled for use, see "[Downy Mildew of Landscape Plants](#)" (pdf file)

Need Ideas for Education Hours?

By **The annual Cincinnati Flower Show** will be held in mid-April. You may want to join the Monroe County Parks and Recreation bus trip to the show on Wednesday, April 22. Cost is \$50 and includes transportation by bus, an entry ticket, and snacks. Lunch is not included. Many of our members have taken this trip before, and it is very enjoyable. There are several lectures given at the show that will qualify for education hours. It is not necessary to sign up for these in advance. Contact the Parks and Recreation Office for more information at 349-2800. Registration is due by March 20.

And don't miss the following events planned by Master Gardener groups in other counties.

Saturday, March 7, *Spring Tonic*, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Orange County Fairgrounds, Paoli. Contact 812-723-2782 for information on registration. Cost is \$35 including lunch.

Saturday, April 4, *Spring Garden Show*, Hendricks County Master Gardener Program at the Fairgrounds. Contact Jon Cain, 317-745-9260 for information.

June 30-July 11, Purdue MG Trip Abroad to France. Contact Rosie Lerner at the MG website for details.

The **MG Board** meets monthly on the first Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. We encourage you to attend any of these monthly meetings and gain one hour of education credit for your attendance. Contact the Extension Office or Nancy White, MG President, if you have questions about these meetings.

Consider writing articles for *Roots and Shoots* on topics of your gardening interest. Contact journalist Helen Hollingsworth for information and monthly deadlines.

How about taking in one of the many sessions at the 2009 Wildflower Foray, April 25-27. MG will sponsor a field trip to one session, but all sessions are open to the public and qualify for education hours. Sessions take place in Monroe and Brown Counties and include education on birding, nature photography, medicinal plants, history, as well as native wildflowers. Color brochures will be available soon, but you can access the list of sessions and times at the T.C. Steele website, www.tcsteele.org.

Morgan County MGs Sponsor Free GardenFest on March 20-21

Morgan County Master Gardeners Association will present Master Gardeners Gardenfest and Pansy Sale on Friday, March 20 from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Dr., Martinsville, Indiana.

Four hundred young trees, including river birch, bald cypress, red maple, and Washington Hawthorne, will be given away. Numerous vendors will be available selling gardening related products and plants, and the Master Gardeners of Morgan County will provide a Question and Answer Booth. MCMGA will sell pansies for \$3.50 per five-inch pot as the annual fund-raiser for the association. Educational displays and soil testing will be provided for attendees who bring in a soil sample. 'Somewhere in Thyme', will sell delicious food and drinks at reasonable prices.

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
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 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	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Nancy White, 824-4426 Bob Baird, 331-1308
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	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

New Vegetable Varieties 2009

By (Letter(s) at end of description refers to source and web site listed at bottom.)
B. Rosie What better way to chase away the winter blues than a stroll through garden catalogs with all their promise of gardening adventures for the coming season! Here's a look at just a few of the new seed company offerings for 2009.
Lerner,
Purdue
Extension **Basil 'Cardinal'** is a strikingly handsome addition to the herb garden, with spicy, fragrant foliage crested by tightly packed clusters of deep cardinal-red flowers, resembling Celosia. Plants reach up to 2.5 feet in height. (B)
Horticulturist

Beet 'Chioggia Guardsmark' has striking, alternating spiral stripes of bright magenta and white, forming a bull's-eye when cut in cross section. Promising sweet, mild flavor, hybrid vigor and large, 3-3.5-inch globular roots. 60 days. (P)

Cabbage 'Caraflex' is a unique, pointy-headed compact early selection. Cucumber 'Iznik' is a new hybrid "lunch-box"-sized cucumber, reaching just 3-4 inches long. Plants are compact vines with small leaves, perfect for container and raised-bed gardening. (C)

Eggplant 'Gretel' is a follow up to the 2008 award-winning 'Hansel.' 'Gretel' is the earliest of the white eggplant, bearing clusters of glossy mini-fruit (3-4 inches). 'Gretel' plants are relatively small, about 3 feet wide and tall, making them well adapted to container gardening. 55 days. All-America Selections 2009 (Jo, P)

Watermelon 'Snack Pack' is a "personal-sized" watermelon of 3-4 pounds, about the size of a large muskmelon. Thin, dark green outer rind surrounds a bright red, crisp and juicy, seedless flesh. 75 days. (B)

Melon 'Lambkin' was selected for its early production of outstandingly sweet, aromatic, white, juicy Christmas-type melons. Each oval-shaped fruit weighs between 2-4 pounds with a thin yellow skin with green mottling. Ready for harvest up to a month before other Christmas-type melons. 65-75 days. All-America Selections 2009 (Ju, P, S)

Melon 'Twice As Nice' is a new sort of dual-purpose melon. You can harvest a bit early when the rind turns a distinct dark yellow and enjoy the crisp, sweet white flesh. Or, allow the fruit to stay on the vine another week or two and enjoy a softer-textured, juicier melon. 78 days. (B)

Onion 'Deep Purple' is a dark red bunching- (scallion) type onion that colors up early and holds its color into warmer weather. 60 days. (Jo)

Onion 'Red Candy Apple' is said to be sweet enough to eat like an apple! The 4-inch-diameter bulbs are wrapped in deep magenta-purple wrappers around alternating maroon and white rings of crisp flesh. This intermediate day-length variety should perform well in the Midwest. Sold as plants. 95 days. (P)

Squash 'Bush Baby' is a mini zucchini-type summer squash, ready to pick when 4-6 inches long. Skin is glossy green with pale green stripes. 49 days. (Jo)

Squash 'Buckingham' is a bright golden zucchini-type summer squash, best picked when small, 6-7 inches. Plants are compact, bush types, perfect for container and small space gardens. 70 days. (P)

Squash 'Honey Bear' is an acorn-type winter squash, so named for its sweet-as-honey flavor when cooked. Compact, bush-type plants, reaching only 2-3 feet tall and 4-5 feet in spread, yield loads of fruit. Plants have good tolerance to powdery mildew. 100 days. All-America Selections 2009 (Jo, Ju, P, S) (continued on page 11)

New Vegetable Varieties 2009 (continued from page 10)

Sweet Corn 'Revelation' is an early, bi-color that promises good germination in cool spring soils, allowing for earlier planting. Since it matures quickly, you can plant a second crop for later harvest as well. Ears are 7 inches long and offer some resistance to corn smut. Must be isolated from other sweet corn types. 66 days. (P)

Sweet Pepper 'Merlot' yields large, thick-walled bells on compact disease-resistant plants. The fruits begin green in color, changing to white and finally a smoky purple. 65-70 days. (P)

Sweet Pepper 'Pinot Noir' boasts large, blocky sweet bell peppers in a range of colors, beginning as light green and morphing to shades of yellow, red and purple as they ripen. 'Pinot Noir' is said to have good ability to set in both cool and hot, muggy weather. 70 days. (B)

Tomato 'Chocolate Cherry' is an indeterminate plant bearing one-inch cherry-type globes ripening to a dark burgundy red. 70 days. (P)

Tomato 'Sweet Seedless' You've heard of seedless watermelon and grapes, but new this year is the first seedless tomato. Burpee says that these fruits are extra sweet, because all of the carbohydrates made by the plant go into flavor rather than seed production. 'Sweet Seedless' produces medium-sized 8-10-ounce fruits on indeterminate plants, so they should continue producing until frost. 68 days (B)

Tomato 'Black Truffle' is a hybrid "upgrade" from the heirloom 'Black Peter,' with deep burgundy-colored flesh and rich flavor high in both sugars and acid. The medium-sized fruit (6-8 ounces) can be sliced for sandwiches and salads. 75 days. (B)

(B) Burpee Seeds, <http://www.burpee.com>

(C) The Cook's Garden, <http://www.cooksgarden.com>

(Jo) Johnny's Selected Seeds, <http://www.johnnyseeds.com>

(Ju) Jung Quality Seeds, <http://www.jungseed.com>

(P) Park Seed Co., <http://www.parkseed.com>

(S) Stokes Seeds, <http://www.stokeseeds.com>

Spring Pruning Coming Up

By Helen Hollingsworth
It's time to inspect, sharpen, and oil pruning shears. I've been out in the garden, inspecting the progress of the daffodils and crocus and mentally pruning the roses and clematis. Spring pruning chores in my yard include roses, some clematis, caryopteris, callicarpa, butterfly bush [buddleia], service berry, clethra, barberry, some hydrangeas, and Virginia sweetspire. In June, spring blooming shrubs will get their haircut. Winter pruning requires protective gloves, because mostly, the work is removing weak and/or old wood to increase the plant's vigor. Early summer pruning involves shaping and trimming. Pruning provides an opportunity to become re-acquainted with plants after winter. My favorite pruning guide is *Sunset Pruning Handbook*, 1990.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



General Meeting
Tuesday, March 24, 6:30 p.m., MCPL, Room 1B
Program: Designing with Spring and Summer Bulbs
Speaker: Marian Keith, Former Oliver Winery Gardener

2009 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Vice President—Programs: Vicky St. Myers
323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com

Vice President—Education: Carol Cobine
333-8314 ccobine@hotmail.com

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Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn
812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net

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

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