

March 2010

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 3,



Plan to attend our general meeting on March 23

Just in time for spring, you don't want to miss our Master Gardener general meeting on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church at Fourth & Washington, across from the downtown post office. On street parking is available in the area, as well as parking in the post office lot.

By
Nancy
White

The program, *Gardens of France*, will be presented by Judy Turner, president of the Marion County Master Gardeners Association. This meeting should be a fine way to start our gardening season. Refreshments will be served, and during the business meeting reports will be given on our program for the year and for plans for our May 1 event, *Garden Fair*. Invite your family and gardening friends for this open meeting.

2010 Master Gardener programs announced

Vice presidents Vicky St. Myers and Jeff Schaefer announce the remaining programs for our year's general meetings. Mark these dates and programs on your calendar. More information on each meeting will be included closer to the dates.

Tuesday, May 25—6:30 pm at Community Building, Monroe County Fairgrounds, program: *Wine Making Homestyle* presented by Jeff Schaefer followed by our annual MG Plant Swap

Tuesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m. at Monroe County Fairgrounds, MG Demo Garden, program: *Spruce up the Garden for the Fair* directed by Beth Murray, Crew Chief

Tuesday, September 28, 6:30 p.m., MCPL meeting room; program TBA

Tuesday, November 29, 6:30 p.m., St. Marks Methodist Church, Holiday Carry-in Dinner

Inside this issue:

<i>Member News</i>	2
<i>Master Naturalist</i>	3
<i>Cincinnati Flower Show trip</i>	3
<i>Ning social network</i>	4
<i>Community orchard</i>	4
<i>Invasive species</i>	4
<i>Education hours</i>	5
<i>Garden Fair</i>	6
<i>Pruning evergreens</i>	7
<i>Deer damage</i>	10

Special points of interest:

- We have a great speaker for our March 23 meeting*
- You are invited to join our new social networking site*
- Visit the Cincinnati Flower Show with LDHS*
- Our Garden Fair is coming on May 1 at the Armory*
- Learn about pruning evergreens and dealing with deer damage*

Member News

The 2010 Yearbook, *Folia and Flora*, should have arrived in your mail recently. We thank Dan Nichols who worked many hours with Jackie Claffey at the Extension Office to make the book as current and accurate as possible. Also, thanks to Evelyn Harrell and Nancy White for getting it ready for mailing. If you spot a mistake or an omission, be sure to send that to Dan so that we can produce a correction page if necessary.



By
Nancy
White

Update email addresses in your *Folia and Flora* membership book

Ida Bouvier is continuing her recuperation from surgery in December. She reports her new e-mail address is i.bouvier@comcast.net. David Dunatchik's email address is changed to dddunatchik@att.net. Mary-Carol Paul's email is changed to mcpaul@bluemarble.net.

Our next general meeting is on Tuesday, March 23

Plan to attend our next general meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, March 23, when *Garden Fair* flyers and publicity cards will be available for you to take and share with friends and neighbors. Our program, *Gardens of France*, presented by Judy Turner, president of the Marion County Master Gardeners Association, is one you'll want to hear. We're excited to have her visit our Master Gardener group.

Wildflower Foray is April 23-25

News from T.C. Steele Historic Site reports that the popular Wildflower Foray is scheduled this year on April 23-25. Actual program information is not yet available.

Volunteer at MG booth at Farmers Market

And with spring comes our wonderful local Farmers' Market. Last year we were successful with our Saturday morning MG booth that dispensed information on a variety of topics. The board is again sponsoring the booth this year if enough members are interested in staffing it on Saturday mornings. We will be signing up volunteers for this activity at the March general meeting.

Chances to earn volunteer hours

Lots of Master Gardener groups around the state sponsor an annual gardening event that the public looks forward to as spring approaches. Garden shows sponsored by Master Gardeners in counties in our area appear in an article in this issue listing education opportunities, because many of these garden shows also provide education sessions. On May 1 at the National Guard Armory, we are sponsoring our first garden event, called *Garden Fair*, and we're going to provide education sessions as well. We need lots of help to make this endeavor a success. An article in this issue lists the committees already at work and explains how you can volunteer to participate. As you help with our May 1 *Garden Fair* and/or volunteer at the MG Booth at the Farmers Market, remember these activities count as volunteer hours.

Advertise in our *Garden Fair* program book

Ad space is available in our *Garden Fair* program book. Any business or community group can buy an ad. Please pass this information on to your friends and neighbors. Ads are \$20 for the general public and \$10 each for vendors for the *Garden Fair*. Contact Vicky St. Myers or Nancy White for information.

Register for the Indiana Master Naturalist program

The Purdue Cooperative Extension Service-Monroe County and the Monroe County Parks Department will be sponsoring an Indiana Master Naturalist program on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning March 25 through May 6 at Karst Farm Park. The program will conclude with a Field Day on Saturday, May 15. The cost for the program is \$50 for individual and \$75 for a couple from the same household. A brochure with a registration form and class schedule is available at <https://www.extension.purdue.edu/ces/Monroe/MN%20Brochure10.pdf>. Master Gardeners who participate in the program may apply for continuing education credit for the portion of the classes that relate to gardening/Indiana native flora. For more information you may call the Monroe County Extension office at 349-2575 or email Amy at afhompson@purdue.edu.



By
Amy
Thompson,
Extension
Educator

Limestone Daylily and Hosta Society host spring travel event

Join Limestone Daylily and Hosta Society on our trip on the bus on Saturday, April 17 at 7:45 a.m. to attend the twentieth anniversary of the spectacular world-acclaimed Cincinnati Flower Show, in Northeast Cincinnati at Symmes Township Park.

The Cincinnati Flower Show is internationally recognized as one of the world's premier flower and garden exhibitions. It is the only show in North America to ever receive the official endorsement of Great Britain's Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the only show in the world featuring awards from both the RHS and the American Horticultural Society.

Schedule for the trip is to depart at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday from the Hilltop Garden Center and to arrive about 11:00 a.m. at the flower show. Lunch is your choice at many of the cafés and two seated restaurants at the show, or bring your own food if you prefer. You will have over three hours to tour the show and shop. Departure from the show will be at 2:45 p.m., with the next stop at Ertel Cellars Winery and Restaurant in Batesville, Indiana. At Ertel you will be able to tour the winery, sample, and purchase wines. Dinner will be at 4:30 in the winery restaurant from a set menu (\$17-25/entrée + 18% grat), including soup or salad. Departure for Bloomington will be at 6:00 p.m., with arrival back at Hilltop at 8:00 p.m. Cost for bus travel and flower show is \$55/person.

“...one of the world's premier flower and garden exhibitions....”

Tickets are available by mail. Make checks payable to LDHS, and send contact information and check by mail to Carol Reynolds, 459 W. Hillside Avenue, Spencer, IN 47460-1205. Payment is due by Friday, March 12. Direct questions to Roger McCay (RMCCAY@nanonex.com), 812-322-4554, email preferred.

You are invited to join Ning social network

All members of MCMGA will be receiving an invitation e-mail in the next few days to join the Ning social network we have created for our association. This social network will be dedicated to facilitating communication among MCMGA members on gardening topics and chapter news/events. The focus will be on gardening in Monroe County



By
Dan
Nichols

and Indiana, and the network will have a lot of content tailored to the challenges and rewards of gardening in Indiana and the Midwest. Dan Nichols will be the site administrator, but all members can use the site to post content, issue invitations, or announce events. It is a private network so that Internet “surfers” will not be able to access our data, and we can minimize e-mail spam. Support will be provided so that no content entered by members is shared outside of this site. Please join this community which has been created for the enjoyment of our members and which should increase our gardening knowledge. Please call or e-mail Dan if you have any questions about account set-up or use of the system.

Bloomington community orchard meeting held

An organizational meeting was held on Monday, February 22 at City Hall to discuss the idea of developing community-owned fruit orchards in Bloomington. Amy Countryman, who conceived the idea, has a background in organic farming and environmental science. The first community orchard, located next to the Willie Streeter Community Gardens across from the YMCA, would be maintained by volunteers, and the fruit would be available free-of-charge to residents on a “you-pick” basis. It is similar in some respects to urban fruit gleaning.

By
Dan
Nichols

The city is supporting this project by giving the land and \$2,000 in seed money to start the project, which will feature approximately 30 apple trees. A capacity crowd representing a cross-section of Bloomington residents attended the event. There was great enthusiasm but also a real need for specific information on the requirements for growing apples in southern Indiana. Interested Master Gardeners, especially fruit growers, may contact Amy Countryman at (812) 679-8261 or acountry@indiana.edu.

T. C. Steele sponsors panel discussion on invasive species

Spring into gardening at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. A garden discussion panel will be focusing on invasive species, how to eradicate, and landscape alternatives with native plants. Panel presenters are Ruth Ann Ingraham, author and chair of the Brown County Native Woodlands Project; Ellen Jacquart the director of stewardship for the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy; Cathy Meyer, naturalist for the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Department in Bloomington; and Gene Bush, garden writer, avid gardener, and owner of Munchkin Nursery. Ruth Ann Ingraham and Ellen Jacquart will be explaining how to identify invasive species and how to eradicate, while Cathy Meyer will focus on native plants for rain gardens and Gene Bush will talk about landscaping for the native shade garden. No registration is required, and the cost is \$5. For more information or questions please contact (812) 988-2785.

Opportunities to earn education hours

In order to register for any of these sessions, contact the sponsors directly. By

March 6, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., *Spring Tonic*, presented by the Hoosier Hill-sides Master Gardeners at the Orange County Community Center, Paoli, with sessions on no-till gardening, tree maintenance, container gardening, and planning a butterfly garden. Contact Nancy Kimmel at 812-723-4835 for more information. Nancy White

March 19, 3:00-8:00 p.m. and **March 20**, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., *Garden Fest* presented by the Morgan County Master Gardeners, at National Guard Armory, Martinsville. Event includes vendors, food, education sessions, and door prizes.

March 27, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., *Growing Together*, sponsored by LaGrange County Master Gardeners Association, at 4-H Community Building at the 4H Fairgrounds in La-Grange. Reservations are required by March 15. Education classes available. Cost: \$20. For information, call 260-463-2765.

April 10, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., *Garden Fest*, presented by the Boone County MG at the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds in Lebanon (I 65 t Exit 138). Contact Sharon Grebe at 765-482-0750 for more information.

April 10, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., *Gardening for All Ages*, sponsored by the Hendricks County Master Gardener Association at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds in Dan-ville. This free event includes education sessions, gardening tips, free trees and seeds, children's activities, and vendor booths.

April 14, noon to 5:00 p.m. and **April 15**, 9:00 a.m.—noon, *Indiana Flower Exhibition*, presented by the Indiana Daffodil Society, at Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Free Admission. Contact Ka Freeman at 317-295-8849 for more information.

April 17, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., *Spring Symposium* presented by the Herb Society of Central Indiana at Ritz Charles, 12156 North Meridian in Carmel. Event includes education sessions, herbal treats, silent auction, door prizes, and plant sales. Cost: \$35; registration is required by April 12. Call 317-575-8005 or visit www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

May 1, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., *Garden Fair*, presented by Monroe County Master Gar-deners at the Indiana National Guard Armory on South Walnut. Admission is \$2 (includes two raffle tickets). Events include education classes, vendors, raffles throughout the day, and food.

June 17-19, Master Gardener State Conference at the Beck Agriculture Center in West Lafayette. Registration is \$130 if completed by April 30. For more information see www.hort.purdue.edu/mgconf.

We are sponsoring our first *Garden Fair*

We have two months and counting until our first ever *Garden Fair* at the Indiana National Guard Army, south Walnut Street, on May 1, 10:00—5:00 p.m. A lot of people are working very hard to make this spring event special for the community as well as for our members. If you haven't volunteered and would like to join this effort, contact a committee chair below.

By
Nancy
White

- Cindy Benson and the Foods Committee are planning a fun menu of breakfast and lunch items as well as snacks for sale.
- David Dunatchik and the Physical Arrangements Committee have designed vendor and non-profit booth spaces to fill the ample area at the National Guard Armory, our chosen site.
- Victoria Rogers and the Master Gardeners Sales Committee are working on some fun and creative handmade garden-themed items that will appeal to all our visitors.
- The Publicity Committee will be asking for help as they distribute flyers, publicity cards, and other items to get the word out to Monroe County friends and others. We plan to advertise in local print and on local radio stations, but that can be expensive, so we ask your help in distributing these announcement cards which will be available at the March general meeting.
- Vicky St. Myers and her Vendor Committee report there are still some open booth spaces. If you have favorite commercial businesses that deal in garden related items, ask if they have been invited to our *Garden Fair*. Contact Vicky if you locate an interested vendor.
- Educational seminars will be presented throughout the day with MG credit available.
- Diann Lock and the Raffle Committee will be giving away prizes during the day with a very special grand finale we would all like to win.

We have ad space (\$20 for the general public and \$10 each for vendors for the *Garden Fair*) available in our *Garden Fair* program book. This is inexpensive advertising that your friends and neighbors may like to know about. Any business or community group can buy an ad. Contact Vicky St. Myers or Nancy White for information.

Plan to join us at the Armory on Saturday, May 1, for our first *Garden Fair*!

Registration begins for 2010 State Master Gardener Conference

The 2010 State MG conference will be held on June 17-19 at the Beck Agriculture Center in West Lafayette, hosted by the Purdue Master Gardener Program & Tippecanoe County Master Gardener Association. Registration fee is \$130 early birds through April 30.

Register for the conference online at <<http://www.conf.purdue.edu/gardener>>

Pruning evergreens

Evergreens require a bit different manner of pruning than other landscape plants. Although a plant is not likely to die from improper pruning, it is important to note that most evergreens cannot replace lost growth the way that deciduous plants can. So while other landscape plants might be able to outgrow an errant pruning job, evergreens can suffer permanent disfigurement.

By
B. Rosie
Lerner,
Purdue
Extension
Consumer
Horticulturist

Individual plants should be assessed for pruning needs. Evergreens that have been sheared into formal or artificial shapes require frequent pruning. However, many evergreens may rarely need pruning.

As with other plants, the first objective of pruning is to remove any dead or damaged wood. Prune back to a branch that is pointed in the direction that you want the new growth to go, always making sure to cut back into healthy wood.

The term *evergreen* is used to refer to many different kinds of plants and all are not pruned in the same manner. Trees such as spruce and pine have very different pruning requirements than shrubs such as yew and juniper.

Some evergreen shrubs should be thinned occasionally to prevent lower branches from dying back due to heavy shade from upper growth. You can improve light penetration to overgrown shrubs by using a technique known as thinning. Remove selective branches at their point of attachment, rather than giving a "haircut" to several branches at once. Proper thinning should not mar the plant's natural beauty and does not stimulate excessive new growth.

The best time to thin evergreens is in late winter or early spring before new growth begins. Light pruning may be needed later to shorten branches, especially if shrubs are in formal shapes or hedges. Broad-leaved evergreens that flower in spring should be pruned after they have bloomed. Spent flowers should be removed to prevent seed formation and encourage new growth. Overgrown, broad-leaved evergreens that have become bare at the bottom can be rejuvenated by pruning several of the oldest branches to the ground each year in early spring. This practice encourages new growth at the base of the plant. After repeating this procedure for several years, you'll have a completely rejuvenated shrub.

Pine, spruce, and fir trees generally require less maintenance pruning than other evergreens. Pruning is generally limited to removing dead or damaged branches close to their point of attachment or just beyond a healthy branch. These trees produce all of their yearly growth in condensed shoots called "candles." To encourage more compact growth, the tips of the new candles can be cut back halfway, before the needles unfold. Candling usually occurs between late April and mid May, depending on the weather. Cutting the shoot tips after the needles have developed will result in a misshapen plant, as these trees cannot replace their growing tips. To preserve their natural beauty, pine, spruce and fir trees should be planted where they will have ample space to grow naturally.

Gardening Series at T.C. Steele State Historic Site

March 11, 6:30 p.m.: Garden Panel, \$5 (Registration Required) Identifying and eradicating invasive species and landscape alternatives with native plants.

Panel includes: Ruth Ann Ingraham (local author and co-founder of INPAWS), Ellen Jacquart (Director of Stewardship for the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy), Cathy Meyer (Naturalist for Monroe Co. Parks & Recreation), and Gene Bush (Gardener & garden writer from Munchkin Nursery & Gardens, LLC).

March 28, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Growing Future Gardeners, \$25 (Registration required)

Kids learn about ecosystems and gardening while having fun. Includes container gardening, terrariums, flower pressing, and more.

April 10, 11:00 a.m.: Mad Hatter Tea Party, \$15 (Registration required)

Happy unbirthday to you! Come celebrate at T.C. Steele and please do be silly. Join us for tea, refreshments, crafts, Mad Libs, and readings and skits from *Alice in Wonderland*.

May 8, 11:00 a.m.: Container Gardening Workshop, \$20 (Registration Required)

Create a beautiful container garden to take home and enjoy.

May 8, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Garden Gala and Plant Sale

Bring your mom for garden demos at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m., have lunch, listen to music, and buy a plant. Proceeds benefit the Friends of T.C. Steele.

May 16, 7:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.: Festival of Flowers PaintOut

Registered artists of all ages and media are encouraged to create art onsite. There will be music and other art opportunities for the public.

June 10, 6:30 p.m.: The Artist in the Garden & the Garden in the Artist, \$5 (Registration required)

Program & book signing with award-winning garden writer Sharon Lovejoy.

For more information about these programs, contact tcsteeleshs@dnr.in.gov or 812.988.2785. Friends of T.C. Steele receive discounts on programs. T.C. Steele State Historic Site is located at 4220 T.C. Steele Road, Nashville.

Indiana Daffodil Society presents flower exhibition

The Indiana Daffodil Society will present its annual flower exhibition on Wednesday, April 14, from noon to 5:00 p.m. and on Thursday, April 15, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at Holliday Park Nature Center, 6363 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. Admission is free. For more information, call 295-8849.

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

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Deer damage

When damage from deer occurs there are usually two common questions. First, will the plants recover? And second, what can I do to keep the deer away?



Unfortunately, most evergreens (pines, arborvitae, spruce, and fir) will not grow new needles to fill the empty void once the green foliage has been removed from the stems. Arborvitae which have been stripped of foliage by browsing deer will remain bare. The exception appears to be the yew, which has buds in the stems of the plant and can eventually re-grow new foliage.

Standard fencing is one option to physically keep the deer away from trees and shrubs. Another option for protecting larger plantings is an electric fence (above ground electric fence is not legal inside the city limits of most communities). One type, called polytape, when used in combination with peanut butter smeared foil strips, has been fairly effective. Full details on cost, construction and effectiveness are available from your county extension office, in Purdue Forestry and Natural Resources bulletin FNR-136 or online at [http://](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-136.pdf)

www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-136.pdf. Other physical barriers include inch grid plastic bird netting to protect foliage and plastic tree guards to protect the trunk bark.

Several repellents are marketed that deter deer with their scent. You can purchase these at area garden centers or farm stores. Even though these repellents often need to be re-applied frequently because they break down quickly when exposed to the elements, they are much more effective than home remedies such as hanging small bars of scented soap or bags of human hair in each tree, creating a scent of humans nearby (this is an “old wives tale that does not work—the deer are coming to your yard, human scent does not repel them). Apply repellents sparingly and leave some less desirable plants untreated in order to give the deer a choice between treated and untreated plants. However, if the deer have nothing else to eat, and they have developed a habit of eating your bushes, they will likely overcome their fear of the new scent. If deer damage to your landscaping is chronic, it may be desirable to replace severely damaged plants with deer resistant varieties. For suggested plants, see (<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/default.asp>) and (<http://www.deerxlandscape.com/>).



By Gail Ruhl, Plant Disease Diagnostician, Purdue University; Judy Loven, Indiana Wildlife Services State Director, and Jeff Burbrink, Purdue Extension Educator, Elkhart County

Spring lawn calendar

March

- Rake to remove leaves, twigs, and trash.
- Mow lawn as needed. The first mowing should be slightly lower than normal to encourage green-up.

April

- Seed bare spots.
- Apply pre-emergence herbicides to control crabgrass (April 1-20 Southern Indiana). The herbicide siduron is the only crabgrass preventer that can be used on newly seeded lawns.

May

- If needed, apply billbug control to prevent egg laying or damage from larvae feeding.
- Apply post-emergence herbicides to control broadleaves if they are a problem. Be careful to avoid spraying or drifting herbicide onto garden plants.
- Fertilize in May using a 4-1-2 ratio of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium at the rate of 1 pound of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet.
- If needed, apply insecticides to control sod webworm.
- Begin now to search for sod webworm or other turf-feeding caterpillars. Apply chemical controls only if a large number of caterpillars are present.

By B. Rosie Lerner and Michael N. Dana,
Purdue University

Steeplebush



Spiraea tomentosa (hardhack or steeplebush) is native to eastern North America and can be found growing from the Gulf States up into Canada, as well as in the Pacific Northwest.

Spiraea tomentosa grows to be one to one and a half meters tall and equally wide. It produces long-lasting terminal inflorescences with pink flowers throughout most of the summer on the ends of newly-produced vertical stems. It sends up numerous basal stems, with little branching. *Spiraea tomentosa* was used in the landscape as early as 1736. Today, it is used primarily in habitat restoration and naturalized areas. We are currently evaluating this species for its potential as a landscape species in Indiana.

Photo courtesy of Kelly Stanton

By Mike Mickelbart and Kelly Stanton, Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Purdue University

Openings Available to Study English Gardens

A few openings are available for *England and Its Gardens International Study Abroad* for Purdue Master Gardeners on July 1—14, 2010. Course Fee is (not including airfare) \$3075 per person double occupancy and \$3600 per person single occupancy. The program flier can be downloaded from our webpage at <<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/eaig/>>.

March 2010

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

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20010 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
Vice President—Programs: Vicky St. Myers
812-323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com
Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer
812-325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
Treasurer: Diana Young
812-339-0040 young-Diana@att.net
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812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
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812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu
Director—Communications: Barbara Hays
812-332-4032 barbsblooms@att.net
Director—Records: Dan Nichols
812-331-7412 nicholsdg@yahoo.com
Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn
812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

**General meeting on
Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.
at First United Methodist Church,
corner of Fourth & Washington.**

See details on page 1!