Our next general meeting is on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the extension office. I know we are all looking forward to the spring equinox on March 20 and the coming of spring.

As we look toward spring, we also look forward to our speakers for the year. For our March general meeting, we will have several gardening representatives who will present *Who, What, Where, and When to Volunteer for Master Gardener Hours*. Representatives from Hilltop Garden & Nature Center, Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard, T. C. Steele State Historic Site, Bloomington Community Orchards, Hinkle-Garton Farmstead, Hoosier Hills Food Bank Garden, City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation Community Gardens, Middleway House Rooftop Gardens, WonderLab Garden, Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park, and Flatwoods Park Butterfly Garden will discuss their volunteer needs. Attendees may earn two education hours for this presentation.

Being present at this general meeting also makes you eligible to win a MCMGA board-awarded $100 scholarship to the Purdue State Master Gardener Conference in Evansville on June 4-6. Also, you can be among the first to buy your copy of the new Master Gardener *Garden Hints & Recipes* book, for sale for $8 at the meeting.

Our March refreshment committee volunteers are Jackie Gilkey, Ann McEndarfer, Muff Johnson, Sandy Belth, Laramie Wilson, and Deb Thompson. Refreshments will be available starting at 6:00 p.m., so come and enjoy our social time prior the start of our meeting.

Extra hands to help set up and clean up after our March meeting are needed. If you can come early or stay a few minutes after the meeting to help, your help will be appreciated. If everyone pitches in, the work will be quickly done.

We still need one to two volunteers to bring treats and drinks at our general meeting on July 21. If you can help, please contact me at smlovell@indiana.edu.
Can she bake a cherry pie, Billy Boy, Billy Boy? Can she bake a pie, Charming Billy? Hopefully the tune is stuck in your head now. It’s a great little ditty to hum while baking a cherry pie for the Garden Fair Spring Thyme Café later this month. Or rhubarb pie, or apple pie, or peach pie—you pick. Homemade fruit pie is one of the desserts we are asking you to contribute to the Café, or maybe you’d like to bake batches of cookies or brownies (no nuts, please) for sale at the Café. The sale of desserts is a major source of income for the café, and the Café proceeds contribute to the grants for community gardening projects. NOTE: please do not cut the pies or the brownies. Café volunteers will be at the Armory from noon-3:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, to receive your baked goods, and to cut/divide the items to assure equal portions. If you cannot bring or send your baked item with someone on that afternoon, please bring your baked goods as early as possible on Saturday so that the Café crew can work their magic. Pie plates will be washed and returned to you on Saturday. Doors open at 7:00 a.m.

Plan to attend this year’s State Conference

The 2015 Purdue Master Gardener Conference will be June 4-6. Pre-conference events are scheduled on Thursday, June 4. If you have never been to our state conference, this is the year to go. If you attended last year’s state conference, this one will be as good and probably better, and this is the year to go. If you would enjoy one of the pre-conference trips to local gardens in the Tri-State area, or to the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden in Owensboro, or to the gardens of New Harmony, this is the year to go. Every year is a good year to go to the Purdue Master Gardener Conference. For more information you can visit the website at <http://www.swimga.org/2015-master-gardener-conference-june-4-6-2015/>. When making your travel plans, remember that Evansville is one hour behind us.

Win a scholarship to attend the State Conference

Your board has awarded a $100 scholarship to a lucky attendee in years past and will do so again this year. The drawing for the scholarship will take place at this month’s general meeting on March 24. Join us for educational speakers, volunteer opportunities at the Garden Fair just four days later, and the scholarship drawing, plus great snacks and a chance to catch up on garden news with garden friends.

Articles in February Roots and Shoots

If you have not taken the time to read the February issue of Roots and Shoots, do yourself a favor and carve out a few minutes during this protracted winter season. This publication is always a wealth of information. The February issue provides very timely additional information on invasive species; Ellen Jacquart reminded us at the January meeting to be on the alert for those stinkers. There is in-depth information on growing mushrooms; mycologist Stephen Russell made mushrooms exciting. (continued on page 5)
2015 Garden Fair will come quickly, and now it’s time to work on those last minute items that contribute to bringing in a large crowd and having a successful event.

♦ If you signed up to place a yard sign on your property, your sign will be at the extension office for pick-up after March 2. If you need your sign delivered to your home, contact Nancy White. Yard signs can be placed on Sunday, March 22, and signs should be removed on Sunday, March 29.

♦ Posters publicizing Garden Fair are popping up around town. If you would like to have one to place at your workplace, business, or office, contact Nancy White or the extension office.

♦ The best publicity is friend to friend. Bring your friends and neighbors to 2015 Garden Fair on Saturday, March 28, and offer to buy them a homemade dessert.

♦ If you are part of the Master Gardener crew on event day, please remember to park in the extension office lot and take the sidewalk to the National Guard Armory.

♦ If you want to have a chance to win a door prize at the Garden Fair, be sure to buy an entry ticket and deposit it in the box by the main door. If you are a volunteer worker, you do not need to pay the entry fee. However, to win a door prize, you will need to purchase a ticket (or several.)

♦ Bring your extra garden catalogues to our Tuesday, March 24 general meeting. The Master Gardener information booth gives these away to Garden Fair attendees. Our visitors love those catalogues, and your contributions don’t even have to be the 2015 editions.

♦ David Dunatchik has agreed to be our official event photographer at the Garden Fair. If you see a great photo opportunity, be sure to alert Dave. He takes great photos.

♦ This year we have made a special effort to make a space for our non-profit partners; some have been with us every year. Be sure to take a look in the front hallway and along the north and south walls to see their important booths.

(continued on page 4)
Winners of the 2015 Master Gardener horticulture grants will be announced by March 6. These grants are funded from the proceeds of the 2014 Garden Fair. Be watching the announcement in the Herald-Times for the 2015 winners. We thank the grant committee for their hard work. Grant committee members are Abe Morris, Lynn Courson, MC Paul, and Nancy White.

Can you help? Where are Garden Fair yard signs?

Help! Calling all yard signs for the Garden Fair! Some of you still have your Garden Fair yard signs from last year. That’s fine, but we do need to know where these signs are hiding until Fair Day, March 28. If you have a sign or two, please drop an email to Nancy White to let her know.

Garden Fair update (continued from page 3)

♦ Don’t miss the outstanding education sessions that Sandy Belth and her committee have planned. These will be held in the education room off of the north corridor in the main armory room. The schedule is

- 9:30-10:30, Incorporating and Capitalizing on Moss in the Native Shade Garden, presented by Linda Cole.
- 10:45-11:45, Succulents, presented by Lisa Weisner
- 12:30-1:30, Growing Opportunities: a Non-Profit Farm with Hydroponics Techniques, presented by Nicole Wooten
- 2:00-3:00, Alternatives to Boxwoods; Boxwood Blight!, presented by Ken Cote

♦ Need volunteer hours? Remember that all hours spent working on committees prior to the annual Garden Fair or on event day qualify for volunteer hours. If you need some hours, we need you, and that includes the 2015 intern class. Some committees still have open spaces. Contact Nancy White or Evelyn Harrell if you want to volunteer.
New volunteer opportunity

By Mary Cusack

An exciting project is about to come to fruition here in Bloomington.

You may have noticed the progression of a hydroponic greenhouse being erected next to Stone Belt’s main facility on Tenth Street.

This project will offer tuition-free educational job training to low-income adults with an intensive 20 week curriculum for clients wishing to work in the greenhouse.

The produce grown will be sold to local restaurants, schools, supermarkets, and hospitals, thus providing the income to sustain this project.

Master Gardeners wishing to help with this innovative local project can volunteer in different ways:

- greenhouse education volunteer—to assist individuals with varying ages and abilities to learn job skills related to the greenhouse

- greenhouse site and crop maintenance volunteer—to assist in the general maintenance of the greenhouse, focuses on plants and does not have client interaction.

To speak with someone directly about this project, contact Nicole@insscap.org.

For information, visit their FaceBook page: Growing Opportunities

Member news (continued from page 2)

And interesting! Members Sandy Belth and Mary Cusack introduced us to plants that may not be familiar, and perhaps most importantly, there is detailed information on cleaning and disinfecting garden tools. If you can tolerate the temperature in your garage, barn or storage shed, this is a garden chore to scratch off your list while waiting for the ground to thaw.

Spring will have sprung by the time you join everyone for the March 24 general meeting. Come celebrate the return of the gardening season!
In the grow

By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue

Q. The ornamental kale in my flowerbed developed small yellow flowers this past December. I've never seen it do that before. Any idea why this happened?

A. So-called flowering kale and flowering cabbage are ornamental types of the edible crops, grown for their colorful foliage.

Cabbage and kale have a biennial growth habit, producing foliage only the first growing season, then flowering and setting seed the second growing season. Both the ornamental and edible types are grown as annuals in Indiana. The plants are usually killed by winter’s low temperatures before they have a chance to flower. However, occasionally we receive enough cold weather to satisfy the chilling requirements needed to initiate flowering (called vernalization), but yet not cold enough to kill the plants. Here are photographs I took in the Purdue Horticulture Gardens in West Lafayette, Indiana, on December 19, 2013. Note the elongation of the flowering stem compared to the adjacent, still-rounded heads on the specimens not yet flowering.
Spring brings area garden events

On Saturday, March 14, Lawrence County Master Gardeners are hosting their Sixth Annual Blooms a Busting Lawn & Garden Show, 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. in the Main Expo Hall at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds, 11261 U. S. Highway 50 west, one mile west of SR 37. Admission and parking are free, and the show features door prizes, gardening and outdoor living exhibits, and food.

On Saturday, March 14, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST, Wabash Valley Master Gardeners Association hosts 2015 Gardeners’ Gathering. This event features speakers on topics of horticultural interest, vendors, food, door prizes, and beautiful tulips in bloom. The event is being held at the Terre Haute campus of Ivy Tech Community College with plenty of parking available.

On Friday, March 20, 3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., Morgan County Master Gardeners present GardenFest 2015 at the Indiana National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Drive, in Martinsville. GardenFest features speakers, vendors, free trees, soil sample testing, answers to gardening questions, and a pansy sale. The event is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, March 28, Monroe County Master Gardeners offer their fifth annual Garden Fair, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m., at the Indiana National Guard Armory, 3380 South Walnut Street in Bloomington. Admission is $2. The fair features over 30 garden-related vendors, door prizes, free seminars, free parking, answers to gardening questions, food, and free shrub seedling to first 200 visitors.

On Saturday, April 25, Hendricks County Master Gardeners present their annual Gardening for All Ages show from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds Complex, 1900 E. Main Street in Danville. The show offers plenty of free parking. This event features over 40 garden-related vendors under one roof, offering plants, garden décor, answers to questions, gardening presentations, and a children’s booth full of crafts, games, and activities.

Photos by David Dunatchik
Cool-season brussels sprouts are hot
By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue

Brussels sprouts have long been under-appreciated by many, but now they proudly join other conveniently packaged vegetables in produce aisles and at farmers markets. They're loaded with good nutrition—a one-half cup serving has just 28 calories, 0 fat grams, and 81 percent of your daily vitamin C requirement. Brussels sprouts are also a good source of dietary fiber, vitamins A and K, folate, potassium, iron, manganese and many other nutrients.

Brussels sprouts are also pretty easy to grow in the home garden. This cool-season crop can be started from transplants in early spring, but requires a long growing season, about 90 days to first harvest. By then, the heat of summer will make the sprouts bitter and loose-leaved. Indiana gardeners get the best results when planting in mid to late summer for a fall harvest.

The sprouts, which resemble tiny heads of cabbage, are the lateral foliage buds that develop along the stem, just above where the leaves are attached. They begin to form at the bottom of the stem and continue to progress up to the top throughout the growing season.

Produce stores typically only carry the green types, but home gardeners can choose from an impressive list of cultivars from garden seed suppliers—some mature about two weeks earlier and a few, such as Rubine and Falstaff, can be found with reddish-purple sprouts.

Brussels sprouts should be cut, snapped or twisted to remove from the stem when they reach about 1-1.5 inches in diameter. Some gardeners prefer to remove the lower leaves as the sprouts form, allowing more room for them to grow and to facilitate harvest. Some gardeners also remove the top growing point of the stem just prior to the beginning of harvest to speed the development of the side buds.

The plants can remain in the garden until after a hard freeze. They tolerate frost well, and flavor improves in cold weather.
Volunteer opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington Community Orchards, 2120 S. Highland Avenue</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance all levels of expertise welcome</td>
<td>Stacey Decker&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a>&lt;br&gt;bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park, 2450 S. Endwright Road</td>
<td>summer during growing season</td>
<td>help with design and maintenance</td>
<td>Linda Emerson&lt;br&gt;812-345-2913 (cell)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Garden, 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport, IN</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance and rejuvenation</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer&lt;br&gt;812-349-2805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Gardens 2367 E. 10th St.</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>maintaining gardens</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin&lt;br&gt;812-345-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinkle-Garton Farmstead 2920 E. 10th St.</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>invasive species removal, soil reclamation and more</td>
<td>Danielle Bachant-Bell&lt;br&gt;812-360-6544 (text)&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:hgfvolunteer@gmail.com">hgfvolunteer@gmail.com</a>&lt;br&gt;facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoosier Hills Food Bank Garden, 7480 N. Howard Road</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plant, harvest, and compost</td>
<td>Ryan Jochim, 812-334-8374&lt;br&gt;hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Way House Roof Top Garden, a domestic violence shelter</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>scheduled work-days at the garden</td>
<td>Toby Strout, director 812-333-7404&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:garden@middlewayhouse.org">garden@middlewayhouse.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard 1100 W. Allen St.</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various garden tasks</td>
<td>Kendra Brewer, coordinator&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:garden@mhcfoodpantry.org">garden@mhcfoodpantry.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. C. Steele, 4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>maintenance, invasive species removal, restorations</td>
<td>Anthony Joslin, leave a message at 812-988-278&lt;br&gt;tcsteele.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WonderGarden, 308 W. Fourth St.</td>
<td>twice a year</td>
<td>maintenance, planting, mulching</td>
<td>Nancy White, 812-824-4426&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:nwhite38@hotmail.com">nwhite38@hotmail.com</a>&lt;br&gt;wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wylie House, 307 E. Second St.</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>growing/saving seeds and maintenance</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 812-855-6224&lt;br&gt;indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Demonstration Garden, Fairgrounds</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>select gardens and plan the event</td>
<td>Herman Young, 812-322-5700&lt;br&gt;Jeanie Cox, 812-360-3587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Garden Walk Committee</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>select gardens and plan the event</td>
<td>Mary Jane Hall, 812-345-3985&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:gardenz4ever@hotmail.com">gardenz4ever@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>answer inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 812-349-2572&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:athompson@purdue.edu">athompson@purdue.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Program Committee</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>Help plan MG programs</td>
<td>Sandy Belth, 812-825-8353&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:belthbirds@aol.com">belthbirds@aol.com</a>&lt;br&gt;Susan Lovell, 812-339-5914, <a href="mailto:smlovell@indiana.edu">smlovell@indiana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>research and plan speakers</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 812-349-2572&lt;br&gt;<a href="mailto:athompson@purdue.edu">athompson@purdue.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Website</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various jobs associated with the website</td>
<td>Stephen Anderson, 812-360-1216&lt;br&gt;mcmga.net</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Hydrangea popular, but confusing
By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue

Hydrangeas are popular, but understandably confusing! There are about 25 species, though only five are primarily grown in the U.S. There are literally thousands of cultivars. Some species are classified as either mophead (all large, sterile florets) or lacecap (fertile, center florets surrounded by larger, sterile florets), depending on cultivar. The showiest part of the flower cluster is actually the bracts rather than petals. The bracts persist long after the petals drop and are often cut for dried floral arrangements.

Initiation of flower buds and when to prune
♦ Some hydrangeas bloom only on old wood (last-year's growth); prune after bloom.
♦ Some bloom only on new wood (current season's growth); prune late winter.
♦ A few bloom primarily on old wood but can also bloom on new wood.

Hydrangea species
Smooth hydrangea (*H. arborescens*)
Native species features large clusters of pale, greenish blooms, changing to white and then drying to papery brown; blooms on new wood. Often best to prune back to a few inches in late winter for sturdier stems.
Annabelle—huge blooms, very showy and popular
Incrediball—larger blooms than Annabelle!
Invincible Spirit—pink flowers, breast cancer fundraiser
White Dome—lacecap form

Oakleaf hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*)
A dramatic native species, foliage is shaped like an oak leaf, with outstanding fall color; cinnamon-brown, peeling bark visible in winter. Showy blooms in late spring and early summer; blooms on old wood. It is generally a large, coarse shrub, though some compact cultivars are available. Prune, if needed, after blooming.
Alice—large, white flowers maturing to a rose pink; outstanding purple color in fall
Snow Queen—upright, white flower clusters maturing to pink, burgundy fall foliage
Hydrangea popular but confusing (continued from page 10)

Little Honey—compact plant with yellow foliage in spring, chartreuse in summer, changing to red in fall
Pee Wee—compact shrub, white flowers turn pink, red fall color
Snowflake—large, double white flowers maturing to purple-pink, burgundy fall foliage

**Panicle hydrangea (H. paniculata)**

Large shrub, native to Asia, most with cone-shaped clusters of white flowers; blooms mid-summer on new wood, can prune end of winter.
Bobo—dwarf Pee Gee type, large cone of white blooms, may fade to pink
Grandiflora aka Pee Gee (PG)—huge cone of white blooms changing to pink
Limelight—lime green flowers changing to greenish-white to pink
Little Lamb—small, white florets on compact shrub
Pinky Winky—white flowers changing to deep pink

**Bigleaf Hydrangea (H. macrophylla)**

This most popular species is native to Japan, but most selections bloom only on old wood and foliage usually is killed to the ground in Zone 5, frequently in Zone 6. A few cultivars will also bloom on new wood (remontant) but are showiest on old wood. Flowers are blue in acidic soil, pink in alkaline soil (availability of aluminum is the key factor which is related to soil pH.) If your hydrangea never blooms but produces lovely foliage every year, it is likely this species and flower buds were winter killed.

Selected Remontant Cultivars (can bloom on new wood):
‘All Summer Beauty’
‘Blushing Bride’
‘Dave Ramsey’
‘Endless Summer’
‘Lemon Wave’—variegated foliage attractive even without blooms.
‘Penny Mac’

**Mountain Hydrangea (H. serrata) (a.k.a H. macrophylla var. serrata)**

Flower buds hardier and earlier than bigleaf but more demanding of cool, moist soil.
‘Tiny Tuff Stuff’—compact form of ‘Tuff Stuff’.
‘Tuff Stuff’—reblooming lacecap type, blooms can be pink, blue or white (based on soil pH)
Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

Helping others grow!

Visit us on Facebook!

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812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 athompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener Calendar
March 14, Lawrence County Master Gardeners, Sixth Annual Blooms a Busting Lawn & Garden Show, Lawrence County Fairgrounds, Bedford
March 14, Wabash Valley Spring Seminar, Ivy Tech Community College, Terre Haute
March 20-21, Annual Morgan County Master Gardener Garden Fest and Pansy Sale, Hoosier Harvest Church on SR252, Martinsville
March 24, 6:30 p.m., General Meeting, Extension Office, program: Volunteering, 2 hours education credit
March 28, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Monroe County Master Gardener annual Garden Fair, National Guard Armory, SR South 37, Bloomington