



Roots & Shoots

www.mcmga.net

What's Inside

Garden Fair News

Online Gardening
Webinars

Upcoming Events

Soil Temperature
and Vegetables

Spring Garden
Shows

Board Member
Spotlight

Reading Suggestions

Master Gardener
Accomplishment

Get ready for Spring

March has come in like a lion cub, playfully teasing us with spring like temperatures, and then turning around to nip at our fingertips with winter winds. It's the fickle season in Indiana. The same weekly weather forecast promises a dusting of snow one day followed by sunny days in the 70's soon after.

The need to get out into the garden is driven by the increasing number of gardening events to enjoy. They are all around us. Nearly every contiguous county is holding a gardening event, and some events are not much farther away. Please check out the list on our website of Upcoming Events placed there by Stephen Anderson. Or go to: <https://hort.purdue.edu/mg/events.html> for a list of area gardening events.

Here's one idea – what are you doing on Saturday, April 2? Volunteering at our own Garden Fair is the answer! The Garden Fair is so many things: a community resource; a chance to meet vendors who enhance your gardening experience; a social gathering with your fellow Master Gardeners; painless

fundraising for community gardens; and, a chance to brush up on your baking chops.

Fruit pies, cookies, and brownies are all needed for the Spring Thyme Café. The Café Crew is proud of the treats provided for the public to enjoy, but cannot make it happen without you. The Café raises almost a third of the funds that are awarded to community garden efforts, and that revenue primarily comes from your baked goods along with a big heap of hotdogs and Coney sauce.

The Café Crew will be at the Armory to receive your baked goods on Friday afternoon and early on Saturday morning. Consider stopping in at the Armory on Friday afternoon for a few minutes and watch the Fair come together. It's exciting and fun work . . . come be a part of it!



- Evelyn Harrell,
MCMGA President

Meeting Announcements

2016 started off quite well with about 45+ gardeners attending our January meeting. We had two great programs put together by Sandy Belth, our Education Director. The first speaker was Roger Hartwell, who presented a program on Heirloom Seeds, and the second was Kris Medic, who presented a program titled *Winter into Spring: A Great Start to the Gardening Season*. A big *Thank You* goes out to our refreshment committee for the wonderful goodies provided for that meeting. Those members include Mary Cusack, Karen King, Ann McEnderfer, Nancy Page, Tom Lovell and Mary Hoffmann.

This month's meeting will be on March 22 starting at 6:30 pm, and Anita Bracalente and Terri Vicenzi will be our guest speakers. The program presented will be Garden Landscaping. Ms. Bracalente is a garden designer, writer and lecturer with Jackson & Fourth Garden Design and Ms. Terri Vicenzi is a retired VP from Eli Lilly and a recent graduate of the program in 2015.

Article continued on page 6



Bakers Wanted!

Receive volunteer hours for baking and submitting UNCUT pies and brownies, or cookies! Donations accepted at the Spring Thyme Café on Friday, April 1st between noon and 3pm, or early in the morning on Saturday, April 2nd.



Submit your Garden Article

Roots & Shoots

Monroe County Extension Service
3400 S Walnut St
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 349-2575

Garden Fair News

*Last call for volunteers-we can use more folks for shifts in the Café and for some other tasks both on event day (April 2) and prior to the event. Contact Evelyn to secure a Café shift and Nancy White to volunteer for other committees. All work spent working on the Garden Fair qualifies for volunteer hours.

*Bring your donated catalogues and gardening books to the March meeting or on April 2 for the giveaway at the MG Information Booth. Contact Susan Eastman with questions.

*The publicity committee is working on some Facebook postings on the GF. Be sure to take a glance and pass on the items to your friends on social media. You are our best publicity agent.

*The H-T has agreed to help us with print publicity so be watching for that in March. And if you need more of those handy postcards to give or send to friends, they are available at the Extension Office.

*If you have a GF yard sign for display on your property, please place it on Sun., March 27 and remove on Sun., April 3. If you volunteered your location for a sign, it will be available at the March 22 general meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting, your sign will be at the Extension Office for pick up.

*Our sponsor list is increasing this year. So far we have Fowler Tree Service, Bloomington Hardware, Baker Creek Seeds, Bloomington Valley Nursery and AltraDesigns2000 on our sponsor list. Be sure to visit our sponsors and thank them for their contributions to the Fair.

*The booth set up day is Fri. morning, April 1, with noon-3:30 as vendor move-in time. The Café committee is requesting that

donated baked goods be brought in noon-3:00 on Friday or early am on Sat., April 2.

*Entry fee for the Fair is the same as always, \$2 per person with children under 12 free. Master Gardeners who are working on event day do not pay.

*In order to streamline the door prize activity we are trying a new system. As visitors pay the entry fee, they will receive a survey about their Fair experience. After their Fair visit, the completed survey should be deposited in the "Survey Box." At certain times during the Fair, drawings will be held for winners and winning names will be listed on a Prize board. At the end of the Fair, winners who have not yet claimed their prizes will be notified and given time to claim their prize. There will be no entry tickets to sign and deposit which should make it easier to enter the door.

*As you know, the proceeds from the MG Garden Fair are distributed through our grant program. The grant committee has received many applications and is deciding on the winners. Check out the announcement board at the Fair entry to see our 2016 winners.

*In January the *The Indiana Daily Student*, featured an article on our grant program and one of the 2015 winners, the Montessori School. A multi-level age group class from the school developed a class garden outside the classroom window and tended that garden all year, enjoying the produce they grew for class snacks and donations to others.



- Nancy White, MCMGA Past President

GardenFair 2016

Saturday, April 2

9am - 4pm

**Indiana National Guard Armory
3380 South Walnut Street**

Online gardening webinars

The International Master Gardener association has been offering online webinars thru YouTube which I have stumbled upon. It's a great way to access wonderful information, as well as education hours. One webinar I found very interesting was titled: "Pollinators and Growing Herbs" – put together by the Iowa Master Gardeners.

Here are some interesting factoids from this webinar to tweak your interest to access this great resource!

1. The following plants are only pollinated by Bumblebees: eggplant, sweet peppers, tomatoes and red clover.
 2. Bees like bright colors – whites, yellows and do not see red!
 3. Hence, the following plants attract honeybee pollinators: squashes and melons, allium family, dill, cole crops, garlic.....
 4. Flies are also beneficial pollinators who tend to go for "putrid" smelling plants; corpse flowers, perennial salvias among others.
 5. Stinging Nettles, although our bane in the garden, is a host plant for Red Admiral and Painted Lady butterflies.
 6. Mourning Cloak Butterflies do not eat nectar but prefer tree saps and decaying plant materials.
 7. To benefit pollinators, garden cleanup should commence in Spring, not Fall!
 8. Smooth-edged Lavenders are the hardiest.
 9. Tarragon hardly ever flowers or seeds.
 10. To effectively clean herbs for immediate or future use, water spray the herbs in early morning in the garden, let dry, THEN harvest. The dry herbs are much easier to work with – especially if you're dehydrating or freezing them.
- See their webinars (averaging 1.5 – 2 hours in length) at YouTube – search "Iowa Master Gardeners."

- Mary Cusack

Upcoming Events

Morgan County MGA GardenFest

Friday, March 18th Noon-7pm / Saturday, March 19
8am - 3pm

Hoosier Harvest Church - 4085 Leonard Road, 3 miles
east of Martinsville on ST 252

Admission is free; ample parking available

Featuring Annual Pansy Sale: 6" potted pansies
\$4 each or \$22 per flat / 3 plants per pot, 6 pots/flat

Putnam County MGA Gardening Fair

Saturday, March 19th 9am - 4pm

Putnam County Fairgrounds Community Building,
HWY 231, Greencastle, IN

Admission is free; something for everyone! Free trees
and goodie bags to the first 200 attendees.

Documentary Film, *Seeds of Time*

Monday, March 28th at 7pm – IU Cinema

Cary Fowler will facilitate Q&A following the film

The film follows Cary Fowler as he races against time to protect the future of our food by building the world's first global seed vault deep inside an arctic mountain in Norway – an unprecedented insurance policy for crop diversity of the world. The film follows global gestures of support, including Peruvian potato farmers who are seeking to ensure their crops and their culture. Free, but ticketed. For more information:

http://www.cinema.indiana.edu/?post_type=film&p=11442

volunteer hours available for documentary

PLANT AUCTION
(PUBLIC WELCOME)
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR & A FRIEND!

SPONSORED BY:
PUTNAM COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOC.

SATURDAY, MAY 14TH
RAIN OR SHINE
8:30 AM SET UP
10:00 AM AUCTION BEGINS

Putnam County Fairgrounds
Producers Building
US 231
Greencastle, IN 46135

MONEY RAISED WILL HELP FUND SCHOLARSHIPS

Items to be Auctioned:
Annuals, Perennials,
Herbs, Houseplants, Shrubs & More!

For More Information Call: 317/341-1324

Soil Temperature and Vegetables

One of the most neglected tools for vegetable gardeners is a soil thermometer. Soil temperature* is a much better measure of when to plant than air temperature or the calendar. Planting when soil is too cool can cause seeds to rot and transplants to refuse to grow.

A number of vegetables can germinate and grow at cool temperatures. For example, peas will germinate and grow well at a soil temperature of 40 F. Though lettuce, parsnips, and spinach can sprout at a soil temperature of 35 F, they prefer at least 45 F for best germination and growth. Radishes also do well at a soil temperature of 45 F.

Warm-season crops such as tomatoes, sweet corn and beans prefer at least 55 F for germination (or transplanting), but others such as peppers, cucumbers, melons and sweet potatoes need it even warmer, about 60 F.

Taking soil temperature accurately is a bit of a science. First, use a metal soil thermometer, which is sold in many garden and hardware stores. Take temperature 2.5 inches deep at about 10 to 11 a.m.

Temperature variations throughout the day and night affect soil temperature, with lowest readings after dawn and warmest around mid-afternoon. The late-morning reading gives a good average temperature. If taking the soil temperature at this time is not practical, take a reading before you leave for work and a second when you return home and use the average. Also be sure to get a consistent reading for four to five days in a row before planting, and make sure a cold snap is not predicted.

An excellent guide sheet on this subject is published by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and is titled "Soil Temperature Conditions for Vegetable Seed Germination." It can be found at: <http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1061/ANR-1061.pdf>

- Ward Upham,
Kansas State University Extension Associate

*This is from a Kansas state newsletter but the info applies here...<http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=764>

Spring garden shows cure winter blues

Whether you're new to gardening or a seasoned green thumb, you'll find lots of inspiring ideas at area gardening shows this spring. No matter what your location, you'll find at least one show within reach for a one-day excursion. Indianapolis, Chicago, Cincinnati and Fort Wayne are just a sampling of the great garden shows we can eagerly anticipate.

- March 12-20: Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, Indiana
www.indianaflowerandpatioshow.com
- March 12-20: Chicago Flower and Garden Show, Navy Pier, Chicago
www.chicagoflower.com
- March 18-20: Louisville Home and Garden Show, Expo Center, Louisville, Kentucky
www.louisvillehomeshow.com
- April 13-17: Cincinnati Flower Show, Yeatman's Cove, Cincinnati, Ohio
www.cincyflowershow.com
- April 15-16: Indiana Daffodil Show, Holliday Park Nature Center, Indianapolis, Indiana
www.indianadaffodilsociety.org
- April 16-17: Indiana Orchid Show, Garfield Park Conservatory, Indianapolis, Indiana
www.centralios.org
- May 6-7: Indiana Gourd Show, Boone County Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Indiana www.indianagourdsociety.org/stateshow.htm

Purdue master gardeners sponsor many educational events open to the public. Check the listings at <https://hort.purdue.edu/mg/events.html> for a gardening event near you!

- B. Rosie Lerner
Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Board Member Spotlight:



Jeff Schafer, Meeting Director

R&S: Who are you? Tell us a little about yourself.

Jeff: Hello everyone, my name is Jeff Schafer and I'm currently the Meeting Director for the association and I'm presently employed for the Department of the Navy in Southern Indiana after my retirement from the US Navy back in November 2001.

R&S: Where are you from originally?

Jeff: I'm originally from the middle of Michigan (rural farming community) and we presently own a second home at Houghton Lake in northern Michigan. I entered the US Navy in the spring of 1980 and during a regular tour at Crane Navy Base back in the late 1990s, we thought it would be a good place to retire along with being the closest Navy activity to Michigan where I could be employed as an engineer. My wife, Sheryl, of 36 years, along with our two dogs and 3 cats reside in Eastern Greene County. Additionally, we have two children and 3 grandchildren. During some of my spare time I enjoy training dogs for the "Leader Dogs for the Blind" organization from Michigan for the blind and visually impaired.

R&S: What drew you to the program?

Jeff: I dabbled a little bit in gardening, but really never had any sort of training. Even though I'm from Eastern Greene County, the Monroe County advertisement for the intern program was the first one I came across. I've enjoyed staying in touch and helping out in various areas because I think it's important to give back to the community in general. The MCMGA and the

Purdue Extension has been an excellent organization for learning many things associated with gardening, landscaping, trees, lawns, and everything else that falls within these topics. There is always someone that knows something about what you may want to accomplish at your own home. The groups of folks are great and really care about the environment within Monroe and surrounding counties.

R&S: How did you accumulate your volunteer hours? How did you decide where to volunteer?

Jeff: Initially I thought it would be tough to accumulate hours in both training and volunteering, but once I get involved it was quite easy and fun. Most of my volunteer hours were from being on the Board of Directors in various positions, but I've spent time at the State & County Fairgrounds, Flower & Patio Show, and the Garden Fair. There are no shortages of educational hours within our association or within the State.

R&S: Why have you chosen to "stick with the program?" Why do you continue your membership?

Jeff: I continue my service to the Monroe County Master Gardeners because I believe we make a difference in the community and there is a need. I also believe that has a group we can accomplish so much more which has been a testimonial to the current and past Presidents on everything that we accomplished to date. It takes two types of people to have a successful organization within a community: those that will take the extra time to lead and those that donate their time to work/assist. I believe that everyone has the ability to lead; the question is when it will be your time to lead. We all have life events going on and at some time in our life we have some free time (1-2 years) that we can set aside to help lead the various community service associations.

Meeting Notes *(continued from page 1)*

I had the opportunity to take a class on landscaping given by Ms. Bracalente a few years ago and I thoroughly loved it! So if you're into your own "do-it-yourself" landscaping don't miss this one! We'll have the refreshments ready by 6 pm, so feel free to come early, eat, and socialize with other gardeners around Monroe County. Our refreshments will be provided by Mary Cusack, Larime Wilson, Marilyn Bourke, Dale Wilkens, and Mary Hoffmann.

Remember, in addition to the education hours earned while attending the general meetings, volunteers hours for food and drink preparation time are also earned. Many volunteers have already signed up to bring refreshments to our general meetings. However, there are still a few volunteers needed in May (our plant swap & Intern Graduation Recognition), and in July (treats for our Demonstration Garden workers). A sign-up sheet will be available at the March meeting in case you have the time during these months and are interested.

- Jeff Schafer,
Meeting Director

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

(812) 349-2575

2016 MCMGA Board

- President:** Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net
- Vice President—Programs:** Trish Gustaitis
812-322-9658 pgustait@gmail.com
- Education Director:** Sandy Belth
812-825-8353 belthbirds@aol.com
- Meeting Director:** Jeff Schafer
812-325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
- Secretary:** David Dunatchik
812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
- Treasurer:** Dorothea Cole-Kiser
812-606-2834 dkiserfineline@att.net
- Journalist:** Heather Daley 812-325-6322
daleyheather7@gmail.com
- Communications Director:** Stephen Anderson
812-360-1216 stephen_aee@yahoo.com
- Records Director:** Abe Morris
812-606-5577 abemorris7@gmail.com
- Director at Large:** Mary Cusack
812-824-6366 marycus@gmail.com
- Fair Board Representative:** Diana Young
812-339-0040 young-diana@att.net
- Past President:** Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
- Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 athompson@purdue.edu

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.mcmga.net

Winter Reading Suggestions

The Gardener of Versailles, by Alain Baraton

This is a contemporary biography; a tribute to the Versailles Palace and grounds from its longtime chief gardener which traces the connection between gardener (since 1982) and the land while reflecting on the history of the legendary garden.

(There are two copies at MCPL)

Mistress of Spices, by Chitra Divakaruni

A young woman--an Indian clairvoyant--is trained in the ancient art of spices. The movie version features an immigrant from India and a shopkeeper in America.

(In the fiction section -- MCPL has one book and one DVD)

The Garden of the Evening Mists, by Tan Twan

This story features Malaysian plantations, a Japanese garden, an exiled gardener, and takes place post WWII.

(MCPL has it on digital only)

- Sydley Skolnik

Master Gardener Accomplishment

MCMGA congratulates Terri Vicenzi on reaching Advanced Level badge!

About MCMGA ...

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
Inclusion of products or companies in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement.

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners Association**
Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

