

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

ROOTS AND SHOOTS



May 2007 Volume 23, Issue 5

THIRD ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER GARDEN WALK AND PICNIC

By Mary Hawkins

MAY GENERAL MEETING IS TUESDAY, MAY 22 AT 6:30 P.M.

By Nancy White

Soon, in your mailbox, you will be receiving a very special invitation to a members-only garden walk. Each summer Monroe County Master Gardeners sponsor a private, invitation-only garden walk featuring three of our members' gardens. Each garden is distinctive and personal. This year the MCMGA Garden Walk will be on Saturday, June 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

One featured garden is Barb Cappy's 'What Knot Garden'. A knot garden is a very formal garden where the shrubs are trimmed into loops and curves so the overall look is woven, such as the one at White River Gardens. A long time ago royalty, who must have had full time gardeners to trim on a daily basis, had these gardens. Barb's garden, on the other hand, is very informal. She reports, "What I mean by 'What Knot' is 'What Not', as in 'what not to plant.' My 'What Knot Garden' is loaded with such invasive plants as periwinkle, burning bush, wild rose, and autumn olive. It certainly is a garden of what nots!"

Barb Cappy has lived in her property near Lake Monroe for 35 years. She has carefully tended the native wildflowers on the eight acre property, many of which bloom in April and May. The variety of her wildflowers is amazing. She reports nodding trillium, firepinks, green dragon, jack in the pulpit, bloodroot, golden seal, Solomon's seal, merry bells (bell wort), rue anemone, Dutchman's britches, and so many others. Barb will share tips on growing wildflowers. Her garden also includes hostas, astillbe, wood poppies, and clematis. Be sure to ask Barb about her "secret deer weapon."

Another featured garden is Gloria Noone's 'Just a Backyard Garden in Progress.' Gloria Noone is originally from California, so getting to know our mid-western plants and flower varieties has been a challenge. She has lived with her current garden for only four years and is eclectic in her plant and design

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The May general meeting and annual intern recognition and plant exchange will be held on Tuesday, May 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Karst Farm Park in the commons area. Karst Farm Park is located near the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Directions: Take Highway 45 west from the west bypass. Go about 1.3 miles. Turn north at the stoplight onto Airport Road (watch for signs to the Monroe County Fairgrounds). Turn east at the first road, which is Endwright Road. Look for a sign to Karst Farm Park and Grandview School. Turn left into the park on the second drive, which leads to the soccer fields. The meeting will be in the building on your left, the commons area.

The May general meeting is always a favorite with Master Gardeners. Members of the 2007 intern class will be introduced by Extension Educator Amy Thompson, after which we have a short business meeting and refreshments. The grand finale of the May general meeting is the always entertaining plant exchange. All who bring any plant material to share can choose from among bulbs, ground covers, perennials, vegetable starts, shrubs, wildflowers, and mystery plants to adopt.

Prepare now to participate in the annual plant exchange by potting your extra plants in a pot, basket, box, or plastic bag. Be sure to label your plants. It's always helpful if you give any sun/shade requirements or other instructions to ensure the plant's success in its new home. Many like to use large wooden craft sticks for labeling. Another way to label is to cut any plastic cottage cheese, yogurt, or margarine container into 1-1/2 inch wide strips from the top to the bottom, and then remove the circular bottom. This method produces 10-12 plastic strips for plant labels.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 22 Master Gardener general meeting at 6:30 p.m. and plan to join the fun.



MEMBER NEWS

By Nancy White

Seven Master Gardener members traveled together to Yellowwood State Forest to attend a Wildflower Foray event on Sunday, April 29. This was the first MG field trip of the year. They hiked into the forest to view the native firepinks and to search for blooming green dragons as well as many other wildflowers in bloom in this season. From left to right are Ed McEndarfer, Ann McEndarfer, Mary Jane Hall, Dale Calabrese, Larime Wilson, Barb Cappy, and Helen Hollingsworth.



Future Field Trips

All field trips are open to Master Gardeners and their guests and are scheduled for June, August, and October. If you would like to join the group for any or all of the remaining trips, signing up is easy to do. Just contact Nancy White or Ann McEndarfer by phone or email to put your name on the list. If you have already signed up for a specific trip, you remain on the list. Details for each trip will be sent to you in advance of the date.

Thursday, June 7, visit the Indianapolis Museum of Art Lilly House and Gardens;
leave Bloomington at 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 4, visit Munchkin Shade Garden and Nursery, DePauw, IN;
leave Bloomington at 8:00 a.m.

Monday, October 8, 3:00 p.m., tour Oliver Winery Garden (and optional tasting).

Master Gardener Mentors

Master Gardeners who mentored the 2007 interns at a Monday night meeting in early April will want to make contact with their interns to encourage them to attend the general meeting on May 22, when we welcome them into our group. They may need an explanation of our plant exchange, which is held on the same evening.

Purdue MG Guidelines

Certified Master Gardeners and interns are reminded that the Purdue guidelines require that we keep our membership current by volunteering each year. If you have questions about getting your hours during this busy gardening season, check the Volunteer Opportunities list on page 9 in this newsletter or contact Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, or any MG board member.

Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair

It's not too early to think about the wonderful volunteering opportunities at our own Monroe County Fair. Dates for this year's fair are July 22-29. Master Gardeners have their own information booth on the patio of the Community Building. Assisting with open class flower, vegetable, and flower arranging competitions is also a way to gain some volunteer hours. See the information on contact persons for these activities on the Volunteer Opportunities page on page 9 in this newsletter.





SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

Plan to Plant – Plan to Enter

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association will be providing a High Point Award to the Monroe County Master Gardener who accumulates the most points (calculated based on the number of entries and ribbon placing) in certain open class divisions at this year's Monroe County Fair. The 2007 Monroe County Fair will be held July 21st through the 28th, so plan to have vegetables, herbs, flowers, floral arrangements, seeds, potted plants and all those other items that are displayed on the patio of the community building ready to exhibit. One change this year is that any MCMGA member is eligible to exhibit; Master Gardeners who enter are not required to be a Monroe County resident. Open class books, which describe specific exhibit requirements, will be available soon, and we will provide more details in the June issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

Educational Opportunities

Tuesday, May 22—Grow More Food! – 6:00-8:00 p.m., Crestmont Community Gardens

MHC workshop on biointensive growing techniques and succession plantings. Learn how to grow more food in your garden. Register through Peoples University for this class. Email for more information: brooke@mhcfoodpantry.org.

Saturday, June 16—Container Gardening, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, 1010 S Walnut Street.

Learn how to grow your own food in a container garden. Prepare a container and select a plant to take home with you. Register for this class through People's University. Contact Brooke at brook@mhcfoodpantry.org if you have questions.

Thursday, July 12 (at Showers Commons) and on **Thursday, July 19** (at Crestmont Community Gardens) 6:00-8:00 p.m.—Fall Gardening

Join MHC to learn about how to keep your garden growing food through the fall. We'll discuss hardy varieties to grow in the cooler months, when to start seeds for fall, and how to plan for succession after your summer crops. This class will also cover easy to make season extension structures and methods. This class will be taught by Michael Simmons and Brooke Gentile. Please register through People's University.

Thursday, October 18—MHC and Wylie House Seed Saving Workshop, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Join Sherry to learn about heritage seeds, the importance of seed saving, ways to grow to save seeds and ways to process seeds. We'll tour the garden and assist with processing some seeds for the Wylie House seed bank. Contact Brooke at 355-6843 or at brooke@mhcfoodpantry.org to register for this class.

A GARDEN TIP FROM HELEN

When using peat moss to amend soil, try mixing the peat moss with water before adding it to the soil. Place peat moss in a bucket, add water, and stir thoroughly to be sure all of the material is moist. Peat moss can absorb an amazing amount of water! If you plan to use the whole bale of peat, first move the bale to the location where it will be used, make a small opening in the bag, and then insert a watering hose set to trickle. Peat does not expand as it absorbs water, but the added water will make the bale quite heavy. Peat moss helps hold moisture and can acidify soil.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Marilyn Brinley

It is difficult to believe that May is already here! Plants are growing again after that cold spell we had in April, and I am looking forward to seeing just how resilient plants can be after having been frozen at such a delicate stage. I am also busy planting up my pots so that I can enjoy my flowers up close on my deck.

Your MCMGA board has also been busy, working on an important revision to the bylaws, which will bring us into the 21st century. You may anticipate hearing more about this at our general meeting on May 22, as well as in the newsletter and the mail. Our vice-presidents have been planning events and trips for us, and that information can also be found in the newsletters.

A chairperson for the demo garden at the fairgrounds has been found, and we appreciate Marsha Trowbridge for her enthusiasm in this important endeavor. Please consider contacting her and adding some time at the demo garden to your volunteer hours.

Personally, this past month has served to remind me that there are no guarantees in gardening. Just when it seemed that spring had arrived in all its glory, Mother Nature threw a curveball at us and brought back winter weather. I enjoy the birds at the feeders on my deck, but now a family of raccoons, having discovered the treats, visits nightly, wreaking havoc on my newly potted plants in the process. My peppermint plant succumbed quickly; apparently the raccoons thought breath mints were in order after their delectable dinner.

After all the work to get plants put in the garden, a late frost could still stunt or kill the plants. Then there are the insects that seem to have developed a refined palate for garden plants. Add to that the threat of severe weather or drought, and the garden is still in danger of damage.

Let's not forget that even our gardens are susceptible to Murphy's Laws. I once postulated that the more expensive a plant, the more likely it is to die. And of course, if you want a plant to live it will die, but if you want it to die, it will live. So why do we garden? Why spend so much time, money and effort on such a perilous task? I believe that answer is slightly different for each of us, but I can tell you that for me, gardening is essential for my well-being. As long as some plants thrive and the garden is alight with birds and butterflies, then all is right in my world, at least for the moment. And isn't that part of the joy of the garden?

Likewise, my efforts for Master Gardeners bring me personal satisfaction, despite all the hard work. But in the end, I believe I will grow, just as my garden grows. So join with me and let's grow together!

CONFESSIONS OF A CONFUSED GARDENER BY MARILYN BRINLEY

Why can I garden in my garden, but I cannot house in my house?
Why do I get dirty when I clean my garden?
Why do we fertilize our lawns and then grumble that the grass needs mowing?
How do the birds figure out that the fruit is ripe before I do?
Does the local raccoon guild have the directions to my garden listed on their website? How else

did they find it?
I am pretty sure that an enterprising deer leads tours for five bucks a head to my garden.
And lastly, I can never remember if I am:
planting plants,
potting pots,
planting pots, or
potting plants.

POINTS TO REMEMBER ABOUT VOLUNTEER HOURS

By Amy Thompson

In order to remain an active Master Gardener, you need to obtain 12 hours of volunteers service and 6 hours of continuing education each calendar year.

Volunteer report forms are available from the Extension office or online at www.mcmga.net You can either email your completed volunteer report to afthompson@purdue.edu or send it to the Extension Office at 119 W 7th St., Bloomington, 47404

Please report your hours at least twice each year in June and December; more frequent reporting is just fine, too. Keep a copies of your volunteer report forms for your records. A chart of the different requirement for each certification level can be found below.

Minimum Certification Requirements

Award	Cumulative Volunteer Hours	Cumulative Educational Training Hours
Master Gardener	35	35
Advanced Master Gardener	60	45
Bronze	200	60
Silver	500	75
Gold	1000	100

More details on the volunteer/educational requirements can be found in the October 2006 Issue of *Roots and Shoots*. Previous Issues of *Roots and Shoots* can be found on line at www.mcmga.net

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN

by Marsha Trowbridge

The Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds is a great place to work with fellow gardeners and earn volunteer hours. Our big job is to have the plot ready for visits from the public in time for the Monroe County Fair in July.

Remember that any money you spend for necessities, you need to keep your receipts and give them to Diana Young (Treasurer) for reimbursement, or you may give them to me, and I will submit them. There is a limit per plot, but I do not have the amount yet. Also, you may add any special touches to your area or the garden that you would like to contribute.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions, or ideas that you may have. I would like to hear from ALL Master Gardeners about any ideas that will keep interest in the garden throughout the year! You may reach me at my email address, home phone (876 1493), or my cell phone @ 360 5049.

Don't forget to record your time, and be sure to turn in your hours to the Extension Office.

MASTER GARDENER STATE CONFERENCE

By Julie Mallory, Chair of the 2007 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference

The Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association looks forward to hosting the 2007 Purdue Master Gardener State conference September 27-29 in Evansville. A downloadable .pdf of the registration flier is available at <<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/ces/Vanderburgh/mastergardener/StateMGConference2007.pdf>>.

The conference begins on Thursday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. with tours of Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden, an arboretum, and Howell Wetlands followed by dinner and Meet the Speakers.

Friday features Felder Rushing, Eva Shaw, and Rosie Lerner, in addition to numerous speakers and programs. The day begins at 8:45 a.m. and runs through dinner and speaker in the evening.

Saturday morning begins with breakfast and speaker Gene Bush along with breakouts until the conference adjourns at 12:00. The cost of the three day event is \$120 or Friday and Saturday at \$95.

Conference registration deadline is August 15 (registration form is page 4 in the brochure).

Aztar Hotel and Executive Conference Center will be our conference headquarters with a block of rooms reserved until July 26. Special rates are \$79 for Thursday night and \$99 for Friday per room, with two persons maximum per room. Numerous national hotel/motel chains are also available in Evansville. See you in Evansville in September!

A GARDEN TIP FROM HELEN

Got a plastic hanging pot in the garage, one that had plants last summer but now is just taking up space? Here's a way to put it to use! Grow a tomato plant out of the bottom and put flowers in the top. Cut a hole in the bottom of the pot, thread a tomato plant (cherry tomatoes are good for this) through the hole with the roots remaining in the bowl and the top of the tomato plant coming out the bottom of the pot. Add soil in the bowl of the pot, and plant flowers that like sun in the top. Water well, and hang the pot in full sun. The tomato plant, which hangs upside down from the bottom of the pot, will seek the sun and grow upward. Rabbits will not be a problem but birds might!

Third Annual Master Gardener Garden Walk and Picnic (continued from page 1)

choices. When she inherited the garden when she bought her home, her garden was all green—green grass, green shrubs, and green trees. Adding color and a variety of plantings has been her goal. Visitors will see a mostly shade backyard with mixed sun and shade side gardens. Gloria is anxious to get ideas from her visitors on additions on a tight budget to this emerging garden.

The third featured garden and site for our pitch-in picnic is Becky Nyberg's garden, which Becky describes as "a reflection of her family's time spent in Texas, where everything is big." The focal point of the garden is a large berm running over 200 feet along the road. It was a creative project of her husband who constructed it from some house addition soil overflow. Becky has systematically planted the berm with many perennials and shrubs and follows her personal preferences as she plants. Her neighbors enjoy the view as they pass by.

Becky's other hobby is quilting, and she thinks of designing her garden somewhat like she does in designing a patchwork quilt. She gathers all her materials (or plants, in the case of gardening), lays everything out, and then goes to work.

Plan to join us for this pleasant and inspiring event. If you have time restraints because of other commitments that day, join us for the time that you can. As explained in the invitation, you need only to RSVP if you are attending the picnic so your hostess can plan accordingly.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
State Fair Purdue Education Booth	August	Educating fairgoers	Preston Gwinn, 876-2999
Monroe County Fair	July	various	Esther Minnick, 876-4523; Diana Young, 339-0040; Carol Cobine, 333-8314; Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Marsha Trowbridge - 876-1493
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 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	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

May 2007 Volume 23, Issue 5

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
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**MASTER GARDENER GENERAL MEETING ON
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 6:30 P.M. AT KARST FARM PARK**

2007 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

President: Marilyn Brinley
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Vice Presidents: Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White
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Treasurers: Dale Calabrese, Diana Young
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Helen: 812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu
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Herman: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Webmaster: Barb Hays 812-332-4032 barbsblooms@insightbb.com

Fair Board Representative: Irvin Shelton 812-825-6947

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

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