May General Meeting Is May 26 at 6:30 p.m.

By Nancy White

You won’t want to miss the May General Meeting at the Community Building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26. Our agenda includes recognizing our wonderful new intern class; sharing announcements on volunteer opportunities during this busy season; enjoying refreshments; and participating in a super plant exchange. Family and friends are invited. You are also invited to bring any annual or perennial plants, herbs, shrubs, bulbs, trees, veggie starts, or other plants to share in our plant swap. Tag your donated items with the plant name and sun/shade requirements. If you don’t have any plants to share, you can still take home some special treasures. And don’t forget, the best plants are always gifts from your friends.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 26, 6:30
WHO: You and your family and friends
WHERE: Community Building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.
DIRECTIONS: Take Highway 45 west to 2nd stoplight past Walmart. Turn right (west) and follow road to Gate 3 into the fairgrounds. Community Building is on right. Parking is available south and west of the building.

2009 Master Gardener Field Trips Planned

By Vicky St. Myers

Listed below are the proposed field trips for MC Master Gardeners for 2009. If you are interested in participating in any of these trips but did not attend the March 24 general meeting, please contact me. All field trips require that six or more sign up. Friends and neighbors are welcome. For locations near Bloomington, we will meet at the site. For more distant trips, we will carpool from a convenient location in Bloomington. Trips are free unless noted. You will be notified of the trip details prior to the date. For more information on the trips or to sign up, contact Vicky St.Myers at vstmyers@hotmail.com or 323-7072.

Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m., Spring Mill—“Pioneer Garden Tour”, led by Spring Mill Naturalist, Jill Vance, 1½ hour tour. Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell. Charge: $5 per carload to enter park

Saturday, June 20, 1:00 p.m., Van Natta Orchard & Beekeeping—“Tour of Home Orchard“, led by Master Gardener Chuck Van Natta of his private orchard, Columbus, IN. Numerous varieties of fruit trees

Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 p.m., Willow field—“Lavender Farm Tour”, tour of lavender farm will be led by Libbe O’Connor, owner, Mooresville, IN, charge is $1 per person

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 a.m., Stream Cliff—“Historic Herb Farm”, features gardens, tea-room, and winery, located in Commisky, IN, 1½ hour trip from Bloomington

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m., Secret Garden—“Hidden Hill”, features rare trees and plants, garden sculpture, and whimsy, located in Utica, IN, 2 hour trip from Bloomington
Member News

Several members of our local group traveled to Ohio on April 22 to attend the Cincinnati Flower Show, an annual event. Held this year at a new venue in Symmes Park, several large tents were filled with professionally designed gardens that included trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials, and hardscaping. On display were stone fences, water features, outdoor kitchens, and even “Old Mother Hubbard’s” house, garden, and kitchen. Other areas included a speakers’ tent with a varied schedule of topics, a display by artists who specialize in plants and flowers, professionally designed window boxes, and table decors featuring flowers to enhance the themes. Many vendors focusing on garden products were scattered throughout the park. Attending this year’s event included Dick and Pat Cates, Barb Cappy, Diann Lock, and Nancy White.

Plan to Attend B-Line Trail Official Opening on May 29

You may want to save some time on May 29 to attend the many events surrounding the official opening of the B-Line Trail. There will be celebrations all along the trail, especially at the Farmers’ Market area, the plaza by WonderLab, and the Realtors Plaza by the Convention Center. Watch for the announcement of the events in the local media. All along the trail there are many plantings and areas of interest to gardeners.

Bloomington in Bloom

Master Gardeners are serving on committees for the Bloomington in Bloom event in 2010, and plans are underway for several activities that will lead up to the official judging in June, 2010. Mary Jane Hall is chair of the Landscaping Committee which will announce some events for this summer. Volunteers are still needed on all committees for Bloomington in Bloom. Give Mary Jane a call if you can volunteer. For more information on this national event, visit the www.americainbloom.org website.

Wildflowers Put on Wonderful Spring Show

The Wildflower Foray was a great success again this year with good attendance and nice weather. Among the most popular hikes were those at T.C. Steele State Historic Site. This year so many hikers were anticipated that the leaders held six wildflowers sessions that offered experiences for hiking beginners up to a rugged hike. Hike leaders for the foray are always excellent, and many “once-in-a-lifetime” sightings were enjoyed. Be sure to ask Barb Cappy about her favorite, the Indiana Orchid.

Volunteer to Work at the MG Booth at the Saturday Farmers’ Market

The Master Gardener board has been discussing reviving the Master Gardeners’ booth at the Saturday morning Farmers’ Market in downtown Bloomington. In years past, this was a popular opportunity to educate the public about our group and to provide an opportunity for some volunteer hours. Since the B-Line Trail will open during May, the plan is to design a small information board and have a table staffed with two Master Gardeners on Saturdays May 9, 16, 23, and 30. In June, we will evaluate our efforts and decide if this is a good activity for our group. If you would like to volunteer to staff the booth any of these four June Saturdays, contact Nancy White, We need your help to make this a success.

Plant Sale on May 9

Madison County Master Gardeners Association is hosting its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the 4-H Building at the Fairgrounds in Alexandria. This is a great resource for inexpensive plants, seeds, and gardening materials, and proceeds support scholarships for local students in agriculture-related college programs.
Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

If you are looking for some volunteering ideas, check out the following needs.

Saturday and Sunday, June 20 and 21, Master Gardeners will have a display at the Monroe County Historical Society during the Bloomington Garden Club Garden Walk. We need volunteers to staff the booth between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m., rain or shine on both days. All levels of Master Gardeners are invited to volunteer, but interns are especially encouraged to sign up to help man this general interest booth. Call Nancy White if you are interested.

Tuesday, May 26, Cindy Benson can use more help with refreshments for the May General Meeting. All interns are invited to bring their families so we always have a good turnout for this event. Give Cindy a call if you can donate your favorite snack.

May through September, Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park can use any number of volunteers. Although this is a small garden, Larime Wilson, Cheryl’s Garden Chair, would be happy to have some help. Contact Larime for more information.

On Tuesdays, beginning May 5, Bethany Murray is asking us to come to the Demo Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds any Tuesday night from May 5 to fair time in July, 6:30 p.m. until dark. Unfortunately, our attempts to have a special night in the Demo Garden in April were ruined by the rain. Lots of work remains to be done to have the garden ready for the fair, so come and join the fun and get to know some of the new members. Interns are especially invited to take this opportunity to start to accumulate volunteer hours. Contact Bethany for more information and be sure to bring your gloves, hand tools, and rakes.

Annual Garden Walk Invitations Will Arrive in Late May

Have you ever struggled with planting a north facing hillside? Joe Phillips has, and you will learn some of his "trade secrets" to coping with this problem on our Fifth Annual Master Gardener Garden Walk and Picnic. His garden will be our first stop on our Garden Walk, driving out toward Ellettsville to see his "Union Valley Farms North Facing Challenge." Next on our afternoon of fun, social and informative viewing is Esther Minnick's "One Oak Farms." We will wander her country setting with old trees, shaded garden rooms, and a sunny vegetable plot and enjoy her relaxed philosophy of planting what she wants where she wants.

Next on our afternoon sojourn, Joan Prentice's Hyde Park suburban garden will delight us with undulating beds featuring unique specimens such as whipcord arborvitae, dawn redwood, and a full moon maple. To complete the five senses stimulation from the afternoon is our pitch-in picnic which features an array of tasty salads, casseroles, and desserts.

Don’t forget to bring your "thinking cap" as well. Bob Baird will challenge and inform us with his mystery quiz/scavenger hunt that will earn us our hour of educational credit for this event. More information about each garden will appear in our June issue of "Roots and Shoots." You will be receiving your detailed invitation in late May. Just be sure to mark your calendar for June 13, 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m..
Master Gardeners Volunteer at Tree Fest

If the energy released by the students from MCCSC elementary schools on Thursday April 23 could have been bottled and sold, someone could be a millionaire! Fortunately for the ninth annual Tree Fest event, this energy was unleashed on the Batchelor Middle School grounds for an EarthDay/Arbor Day event.

With some impressive preparation for the day’s festivities, 700 colorful flags were evenly spaced across the landscape, awaiting the efforts of the children’s shovels to plant saplings and spread mulch. Each colored flag represented a different tree variety. Trees planted that day were white, red and burr oak, persimmon, and hazelnut. Amy Thompson, extension educator; Lee Huss, urban forester; and Cathy Meyer, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, were there, along with other adult volunteers, including Master Gardeners Michelle Coxeter and Kristin Rust, to oversee this tree planting effort.

Not only was this occasion a good way to help students to understand about how trees are planted and how they grow, but also the tree planting benefits the school corporation. Planting trees eventually turns the grassy areas into forest. This saves the school system money yearly in mowing costs while positively impacting the environment.

The busloads of students came in two shifts, and in the gorgeous sunshine, the children were enthusiastic and did a great job. They were so excited to be outside and plant that additional flags were set out, and Lee Huss said that actually 750 trees were planted that day. If you have a chance, take a look at the future forest of Batchelor Middle School. And take a look at the trees that have been planted during the past eight years. Congratulations students on a job well done!

Back in Thyme Garden Tour

The Back in Thyme Garden Tour benefits the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Learning Communities, which reaches over 80,000 students in Indiana schools. The tour is on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. For tickets, call 784-5671. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 on the day of the tour.

Please join Karen Cochran and Vic Hasler as they open their ornate three acre gardens for a leisurely garden tour. All proceeds benefit the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra’s Learning Communities.

Directions: To reach historic 1868 Heck-Hasler Home and Gardens, take Hwy 65 S. to Whiteland Rd. Turn E. to 575 E. Turn N. to Cochran-Hasler home at 6612 N. 575 E. Northeast Johnson County.
Flowers to Wear

On special occasions, proms, weddings, and some other celebrations, women often wear corsages of live flowers and men may tuck boutonnieres in buttonholes. But women can wear flower jewelry any time. Brooches, clips or pins designed as flowers are especially suited to women who garden, and they make great gifts. Earrings and necklaces may also be flower-like, but let’s concentrate on flowers to pin on clothing, purses, scarves, and maybe hats.

By Susan Eastman

While striking and colorful, these contemporary pins are fantasies or at least idealizations of flowers. The dogwood and daisy in picture, for example, are too perfect; they have stems and some leaves but lack the irregularity and variation that actual flowers have. The other three gold and silver brooches relate to flowers but are highly abstracted.

Many—even most—brooches are merely fantasy flower-like, but no gardener could name the flower. The 1960s, the era of flower power, sprouted acres of oversize, loudly colored, and highly dramatic flower pins. Most were made of Lucite or enameled metal alloys, sometimes with glass or ceramic beads. Many pins from the ‘60s are wonderful fantasies of flower-like heads—reminiscent of life-size daisies, asters or mums, usually without stems or leaves—and wearing them on a casual sweater or purse today makes a bold and cheerful statement.

Especially interesting to gardeners are brooches that replicate actual flowers. In the 19th century and on through the early 1920s, floral motifs were central to most middle and upper-class women’s activities. They painted watercolors of flowers (botanicals and bouquets), they wore floral clothing, they decorated their homes with real and dried flowers, and they liked floral themes in jewelry. Most detailed vintage floral brooches come from this time.

A hunt through the brooches and stick pins in antique stores will occasionally turn up some that are precise realizations of specific flowers in gold, silver, or glittery stones. Although Victorian jewelry in 8k gold with gemstones is quite expensive these days, and not everyone wears pearls or rhinestones with ordinary clothing, there are other treasures for gardeners to find.

One thinks first of eBay as an online source for flower jewelry, but Amazon.com proved an excellent source with a subsection for “flower pins.” Once one gets past all the butterflies, such recognizable flower designs as pansies, lilacs, sunflowers, peonies, and morning glories appear. Of course, roses are among the most common flower in brooches.

(Continued next month)
Let’s Go to Louisville Bus Trip on July 17-18

The Morgan County Master Gardeners Association is hosting a two-day bus trip to Louisville, Kentucky with several great destinations. The trip departs and returns at Mooresville, Indiana, making it convenient from several areas to catch the bus. Safe overnight parking is available from the departure site. The bus departs on Friday, July 17 at 7:00 a.m. from Mooresville Marsh Supermarket and returns at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, July 18. The group will visit the following sites:

- Yew Dell—See [www.yewdellgardens.org](http://www.yewdellgardens.org)
- Lunch at Lilly’s—See [www.lillyslapeche.com](http://www.lillyslapeche.com)
- Louisville Waterfront Park—See [www.louisvillewaterfront.com](http://www.louisvillewaterfront.com)
- 4th Street Live—See [www.4thstlive.com](http://www.4thstlive.com)
- Hidden Hill Nursery and Sculpture Garden—See [www.hiddenhillnursery.com](http://www.hiddenhillnursery.com)
- Joe Huber’s Family Farm and Restaurant—See [www.joehubers.com](http://www.joehubers.com)
- Munchkin Gardens features—See [www.munchkinnursery.com](http://www.munchkinnursery.com)

Overnight accommodations are at the Hampton Inn Downtown Louisville. Walk at the Louisville Waterfront Park north of our hotel, or visit Fourth Street Live to the west.

Included in the cost of your reservation:
- Bus transportation from Mooresville
- All entrance fees
- Bottled water and Trena’s trail mix on the bus
- Lunch both days & dinner on Saturday

For information and reservations, contact Trena Trusty, 317-996-2746
For information, see [www.mcmastergardeners.org](http://www.mcmastergardeners.org).

Wabash Valley MGA Trip to Missouri Botanical Gardens

The Wabash Valley Master Gardener’s Association is sponsoring a trip to the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday June 20, 2009. We will depart from Turner Coaches located at 2135 East Margaret Drive in Terre Haute, Indiana. The cost of the trip is $47.50 per person. The cost of the trip includes transportation, admission into the gardens, and a private guided walking tour of the grounds. The cost of the trip is contingent upon the selling out of one 54 passenger bus. We will depart from Turner Coaches at 6:00 a.m. and return to Terre Haute approximately 9:00 p.m. Lunch is available at the gardens. While at the gardens you will want to be sure and attend the Mid America Regional Lily Society Show. New cultivars and old favorites are shown by the area’s top growers.

To sign up to go, send contact information and check ($47.50) payable to the WVMGA by June 5, 2009 to Robert G. Love, 7745 E. Mulberry Drive, Terre Haute, Indiana 47802.
Controlling Grassy Weeds in Broadleaf Plants

Most gardeners are familiar with herbicides that can be used to eliminate broadleaves (i.e. dandelions) from grasses (i.e. lawn). They may not be as familiar with herbicides that can take grasses out of broadleaf plants like shrubs. There are two major weed killer types that are used to kill grassy weeds in broadleaf plants. On the commercial side, the trade names for these products are Fusilade and Poast.

Homeowner labeling is more diverse. I have seen Fusilade sold under the names of "Grass-B-Gon," and "Grass-No-More Over the Top Spray" and "Over the Top Grass Killer." Poast is sometimes sold to homeowners under the Poast label, but I’ve seen it more commonly sold as "Hi-Yield Grass Killer" and "Monterey Grass Getter." There may be other trade names, too. Fortunately, you can identify the product by the common chemical name listed on the label. Fusilade’s common chemical name is fluazifop, and Poast’s is sethoxydim.

If you decide to use one of these products, read the label carefully.

Often, a crop oil must be added to the spray solution for the herbicide to work well.

Though both these products can be used over the top of numerous broadleaf plants (including iris), there are some differences in labeling. For example, if you need to control grasses in strawberries, choose Poast because it has a seven-day waiting period before harvest.

Fusilade cannot be used within one year of harvest. (WU)


Volunteers Needed for Intern Reception/Plant Exchange on May 26

Cindy Benson is coordinating some of the efforts for the Monroe County Master Gardener Association meeting on May 26. Cindy is in need of additional assistance with set-up and clean-up at the event. This upcoming meeting will be held at the Community Building on the Monroe County fairgrounds. Volunteers need to arrive around at 4:45 p.m. to help set up several heavy tables and the chairs for the evening. Cindy is also looking for additional volunteers to help provide refreshments. If you might be willing to assist Cindy, please call 320-9834 day time, 332-5216 evenings or email at cinsben@aol.com.

Submitted by: Amy Thompson

Many People Are Growing Their Own Food

Findings from the National Gardening Association’s (NGA) new survey, The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America, indicate that food gardening in the U.S. is on the rise. Seven million more households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, or berries in 2009 than in 2008 — a 19% increase in participation. This anticipated increase is nearly double the 10% growth in vegetable gardening from 2007 to 2008 and reflects the number of new food gardeners emerging this year. The complete report (17 pages), The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America (2009), is found here: http://www.gardenresearch.com/files/2009-Impact-of-Gardening-in-America-White-Paper.pdf.
How to Prune Pines

Most pines are usually not pruned except in cases where height and/or width needs to be controlled or denser growth is desired. Pines can be recognized by the arrangement of their needles, which are arranged in bundles. The most common pines have bundles of two (Austrian, Mugo and Scotch), and five (White) needles.

Pines grow by putting out a thick shoot from the terminal end of each branch in the spring. This new growth is called a candle. As the candle matures, new needles pull away from the candle and start to elongate.

Pines normally are pruned in late spring when the candles have fully elongated and the new needles are starting to pull away. By cutting these candles back one-half to two-thirds, we can help control the height and width of the trees and encourage denser growth. The central leader at the top of the tree often is cut back to 12 inches and side laterals cut to maintain a pyramidal shape. Hand clippers rather than hedge shears are recommended because they are less likely to damage new, expanding needles.

Pines do not react well to severe pruning because they normally do not produce new buds on old wood. Therefore, cutting back pines past the candles can leave a deformed tree that will not fill in. Overgrown plants need to be tolerated or removed. (WU)


Advanced Training Opportunity

By Rosie Lerner, Purdue University

I am pleased to share a new opportunity for additional education for Master Gardeners, from The Ohio State University. It’s a terrific advanced training opportunity for existing Master Gardeners and quite a bargain at just $35!

New Non-Credit Course: Sick Plants in a Hungry World

This non-credit course is completely online and has 10 modules with topics ranging from basic concepts in plant disease to prehistoric man and plant diseases, and from the Irish Potato Famine to bioterrorism. The course is completely self-paced, so you can take it anytime anywhere. The course is specifically designed for Master Gardener volunteers; however, anyone interested in plants, history, and contemporary global issues will find it exciting and intriguing.

The course will be online for 10 weeks once you begin the program. Assignments consist of supplied module readings and self-tests. You will receive a certificate from the Ohio State University Office of Continuing Educational upon completion.

To learn more about the class, go to: http://plantpath.osu.edu/extension/outreach/online/index_html

To register for the class, visit: http://osucedreg.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x15405241

Committee Chairs Notice

When your committee has an activity, please notify Amy Thompson of the date, time, and place. She’ll arrive with camera in hand to photograph your activities for Roots and Shoots.
## Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Garden and Nature Center</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or <a href="mailto:gspeiche@indiana.edu">gspeiche@indiana.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gretchen Scott, 330-7548</td>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876, <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl’s Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Larime Wilson, 333-9705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
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<td>various</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>writing, stapling, labeling</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<tr>
<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<tr>
<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeff Schafer,325-3130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle Way House</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wylie House</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Libby Yarnell, 355-6843</td>
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<tr>
<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.
Building a Rain Barrel

Tools Required:

Drill
Drill set including ¾”, 1 ½ “ and 2” bits
Marker
Tape measure

Parts List and Pricing:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nylon body with washer union PL-1841</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spigot Acetyl Boiler Drain ¾” # 47606</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seachoise Baitwell Plugs (set of 2 for 4.29) # 8090599</td>
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<tr>
<td>PVC male adapter 2” # 42655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Locknut 2” #3182540</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gaskets #4099917</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiber Glass Screen 2’ x 3’</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Barrel</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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</table>

Total Cost $45.89

All parts were purchased from Andy at Kleindorfer’s Hardware in Bloomington (1401 W. Kirkwood Ave.; 332-0487). He has the part numbers recorded in a notebook that he keeps on his desk. Barrels can be purchased at B&B Box and Drum, 1527 W. Miller St., Indianapolis; 317-639-5185). The B&B warehouse is directly across the street from the Lilly plant on Harding St., straight up on 37 North into Indy. Note that their availability of any one type of barrel varies. B&B is open from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M-F.

How to assemble your rain barrel:

Spigot: Drill 1 ½” hole in the side of the barrel 8” from the bottom. Insert item # 1 with washer on the outside of the barrel. Tighten washer by turning counter-clockwise. Attach spigot (item #2).

Drain: Make a ¾” hole near the bottom of the barrel directly under the spigot hole. Insert Baitwell plug (item #3). If plug needs to be tighter, turn handle on plug clockwise to make the plug body wider.

Overflow: Drill a 2” hole near the top of the barrel, 90 degrees from the spigot line and about 5 ½” down from the top of the barrel. Place 2” male adapter in hole. Place black gasket on the inside and tighten with the 2” locknut.

Screened top: Remove the plastic opaque top from the barrel. Place piece of fiberglass screen over the top of the barrel. Secure with the grey latching steel lid.

What you need to know to do this correctly:

1. You will need to site your barrel properly in order to capture the rain from your downspout. Depending on the design of your downspout, this will mean either removing your existing downspout at the nearest seam OR sawing the existing spout and attaching a shorter one, preferably with a curve in the bottom to direct water away from the house. The “new” downspout does not need to reach all the way to the barrel. We recommend removing your existing spout so that you can easily reattach it when you bring your barrel in for the winter.
Building a Rain Barrel *(continued from page 10)*

3. If latched steel lid should break, a couple of bungee cords could be linked and used to secure the fiberglass screen.

4. If you want to connect two barrels together, use 2” PVC pipe and place between the overflow fittings. Keep in mind that you’ll need one barrel with an overflow hole on the right side and one barrel with an overflow hole on the left side to connect these sensibly.

5. **Weight issue:** These are 55-gallon barrels. **Empty, they are easy to handle; full, they are heavy!!** How heavy? They will weigh about 450 pounds when full. Make sure that you place your rain barrel on a surface that can handle 450 pounds of weight. If you want to raise your barrel higher (to get a large pail underneath perhaps) or increase stability on an uneven surface, consider placing the barrel on a set of concrete blocks.

6. The water in your rain barrel has flowed through your gutter and downspout to get there. So the water could be contaminated (birds sit on your gutters, too, you know!) and should be used only to water the plants in your gardens, not to wash the actual fruit or vegetables. Always wash your hands and your produce with potable water before consuming your food.

*We are not liable for drowning, cuts, misuse of any kind, damage from improperly sited overflow, etc, etc.*

**Source:** Bloomington Habitat Stewards, 2009

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**Termites or Ants?**

Both termites and ants are able to swarm and may have wings during part of their lives. Since these insects are close to the same size, people often misidentify flying ants as termites. Because flying ants do not attack dry wooden structures like termites, it is helpful to be able to tell the difference.

Fortunately, there are several differences that can easily distinguish between the two. For example, ants have a thin waist, while the waist of a termite is thick. Also, ants' antennae are elbowed, while termites' are straight. Thirdly, termites have two pairs of wings that are of equal length. Ants also have two pairs of wings, but theirs are of unequal length. Homeowners who find signs of termite activity should shop for a reputable pest control firm.

(WU)


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**Gardener Nominations May Win Awards**

This year, *Gardener’s Supply* will award more than $15,000 in cash and gardening gear to individuals across the country who are using gardening to make a difference in their communities. For information, see Garden Crusader <http://ads.garden.org/adclick.php?bannerid=421>


To nominate a gardener, visit [http://www.gardeners.com](http://www.gardeners.com) and click on the Community tab, or go to: [http://press.gardeners.com/crusaderform.aspx](http://press.gardeners.com/crusaderform.aspx) or e-mail us at crusader@gardeners.com. The application deadline is June 15, 2009.

Submitted by Sue Chaver

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Annual Intern Recognition and Plant Exchange
at the May General Meeting
on Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m.
Community Building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds

2009 MCMGA Board

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