

Roots and Shoots

Volume 31, Issue 5

May 2015

Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

General meeting on May 26

By Susan Lovell



Special points of interest:

- Select plants to bring to our plant swap on May 26
- A leather sheath is still available for your garden knife
- For Indiana native plants, check out INPAWS sale on Saturday, May 9
- Have you visited the courthouse native garden and seen the new information brochure?
- Volunteer to be a mentor for non-profit grant winners
- Remove tent caterpillars now; learn how

As we await the arrival of warm sunny days, we have the opportunity to make additional plans for our gardens. We also will make plans to attend our May 26 general meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Building at the Fairgrounds located at 5700 W. Airport Road. Both you and your guest (and your garden) will reap great benefits.

Following our adapted format, we will have a pitch-in dinner in honor of our graduating interns, their guests, and our members. The example of our 2014 dinner proved to be a wonderful opportunity to extend the recognition and celebration for our interns. We ask that you bring one dish to share (appetizer, main dish, salad, or dessert). The refreshment committee will provide plates, cups, plastic utensils, and a variety of drinks. Members of our pitch-in dinner committee are Cindy Benson (chair), Mary Cusack, Pam Hall, Susan Sachtjen, and Robin Nordstrom.

Inside this issue:

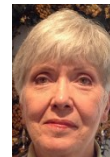
Member news	2
Garden Fair 2015	3
MCMGA audit	4
Treasurer comments	4
Conference registration almost filled	4
Plants available	4
In the Grow	6
Native habitat	7
New badges	7
Bloomington Community Orchard	8
Volunteer opportunities	9

We will need additional help to set up and cover the dinner tables, set up chairs and of course, to take it all down at the end of the evening. We will begin set up at 5:00 p.m. The more hands we have, the easier the work. If you can spare some time to help, please call Susan Lovell at 812 339 5914 or email smlovell@indiana.edu. or Cindy Benson at 812-320-9834 or email CinSBen@aol.com.

Finally, our May meeting is also the time for our annual plant swap. This is where you and your garden can benefit. The swap is fun for all. The plants will be arranged on the outdoor patio for browsing before the swap. Come with plants such as perennials, vegetables, herbs, bulbs, shrubs, and more that you would like to swap and take home a new plant for your garden family. Please remember to mark your items with name, sun or shade requirements, potential height and width, and nutritional and watering needs. An easy way to create plant markers is with magic markers and inch wide strips cut from recycled cardboard or plastic drink containers. Remember to bring something to carry your new treasure home. Hope to see you all there!

Member news

By Evelyn Harrell



For some of us, it must feel a little strange to have the biggest event of the year, our annual Garden Fair, behind us. All those meetings, all those discussions, all those emails. It leaves a bit of a void.

But don't despair. The May 26 general meeting is really worth the wait. April showers truly do bring May flowers, along with lettuce and onions and radishes and peas on the vine. After you have tilled, raked, weeded and planted, please brush off the dirt and join us at the Community Building at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. This is one of the most enjoyable evenings of the Master Gardener calendar. What do you like best about the May meeting? Meeting new Master Gardeners? Swapping for new plants to foster? Good food? Probably all of the above.

Bring your favorite pitch-in dish to share. Maybe it will be one from our new cookbook, *Master Gardener Best – Garden Tips and Recipes*. Copies will be available for sale for \$8. They make great gifts for gardeners and anyone who cooks. The “tips” alone are worth the price. Remember how you begged Penny Austin for her recipe for Black Bean Brownies? It's in there on page 51, among the best recipes from our Master Gardeners. Dare it be said that Christmas is just around the corner?

Meet and greet the graduating interns sitting at your table. Find out what drew them to the organization. Ask what they liked best about the class. Congratulate them for completing the class.

Bring a plant or two to share in the very popular plant swap. Be sure to mark it well with the name of the plant, the light requirement, and any special advice. It can be entertaining to listen to people as they try to figure out what a plant is, but not so much fun if you are the one trying to solve the mystery and wondering if it is suitable for your property.

The garden season is launched, plots are cleaned up, seeds and plants are in the ground. It's time to reward yourselves. Come celebrate the interns, celebrate good food, celebrate the season.

Plant Swap at May 26 General meeting

Pot the plants you are going to swap several days in advance, and label each with (1) the name of plant, (2) sun/shade needs, (3) moisture needs, and (4) approximate mature height and width. Labels may be made using the back of an envelope, a piece of cardboard, tongue depressor, or a strip of plastic drinking cup. Tuck the label into the soil or tie to the pot or plant. The person receiving your plant will be glad you did. It's nice, too, if you add your name so if there are questions, the new owner knows who to call.

Garden Fair 2015

By Nancy White



To all of the Master Gardeners who worked for months in planning and implementing our 2015 Garden Fair, we offer a hearty “THANK YOU.” The changing and improving Garden Fair brings visitors who are back each year and those who come for the first time. The planning committee and board attempt to enlist new vendors and non-profits whose wares and expertise will interest our visitors. This year you will notice we had several new vendors and



many returning ones. That mix is important to our yearly success. In six short years we have established an expectation that we will provide the public with a well-organized, fun event filled with local vendors and some from other areas, good food, lots of free stuff (including the trees/shrubs), gardening education, free Master Gardener advice and support, and a convenient location. All of this does not happen by magic; we work hard every year to provide this Master Gardener gift to the community. You did good work at Garden Fair 2015; be proud!

In an effort to make our Garden Fair better each year, we survey our vendors and guests. If you have a suggestion that could help make the Garden Fair better, send us your ideas. These can be emailed to Nancy White or any member of the Master Gardener Board. We welcome your help in improving our Garden Fair.

If you have purchased a soil knife that Master Gardeners sold at past Garden Fairs, you will want to have a leather sheath for that knife. We have some sheaths that were not sold this year that will be available at the general meeting on May 26. The sheaths are \$10 and provide a great safety feature to prevent cuts. The sheaths also allow gardeners to attach the knife to a belt or garden apron.

The door prize committee had a few unclaimed door prizes at the end of the Garden Fair. Those prizes will be given away by drawing at the May 26 general meeting. Be sure to put your name in the door prize box.

One of our Garden Fair vendors, Frank Nyikos from Walnut Grove Nursery, has donated several perennials to our plant swap at our May meeting. These include lemon grass, hostas, and day lilies. We thank Frank for his generous donation.

MCMGA audit committee report

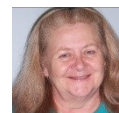
Submitted by Mary Cusack, Audit Committee Chair

The MCMGA audit committee consisting of Mary Cusack, Tom Lovell, and Evelyn Harrell (ex officio) reviewed in detail the financial records provided by our treasurer, Diana Young.

After detailed review, the committee determined the books are in order with no anomalies or questionable entries. At the end of the fiscal year, the organization is running in the black with a very slight surplus of funds. The board of directors will determine, at the next monthly meeting, where to place this surplus for the future financial stability of the MCMGA.

Treasurer comments

By Diana Young



Since MCMGA is a not-for-profit organization, our Garden Fair profit is awarded each year as grants to community not-for-profit organizations who apply for garden grants. Money our club receives and uses for its benefit mainly comes from our membership dues and intern class sponsorship.

Several years ago we had only \$10 in our club account. This happened because we lost our county extension agent, and we were not able to sponsor a class that year. All of our expenses had to be paid using the previous year's income. Since that time of financial difficulty, we try to have enough money in our savings to operate for two years. The 2014 class cost \$2793 to sponsor.

In March, we sponsored a very successful Garden Fair due to the hard work of many volunteers. In 2014 we awarded \$2200 in grants to local nonprofits to help with their garden projects. This year's event was very successful, so we will be able to continue the community grant program.

Master Gardeners have been renovating our Demonstration Garden at the fairgrounds. Ellington's Tree Service delivered wood chips to use in the paths. This saved us quite a lot in expenses. We are planning a native plant section in the Demo Garden this year. To help us with that, we received some free Gray & Silkie Dogwood (Indiana native) which will be planted there soon. We were able to save some of our budget funds through donations like these.

Our dues alone are not enough for our association to operate. We have been able to keep dues at a low rate which is good for our members. Net income for last year was \$1164. Our projected income for this year is \$342. We hope our income will be adequate, but if it isn't, we are prepared with our healthy savings account.

Purdue State MG Conference registration almost filled

By Tony Buccilli, 2015 State Conference, co-chair

With the upcoming 2015 Purdue Master Gardener State Conference less than 50 days away, I'd like to alert you that our registrations are quickly filling up and our conference maximum registration number is nearing.

Once we have reached our maximum quota, we will be closing registration.

Consider this a gentle reminder to send in your reservations today so you do not miss out on a great conference or any of the wonderful pre-conference tours!

Please visit our website for additional information: <http://www.swimga.org/2015-master-gardener-conference-june-4-6-2015/>.

INPAWS Plant Sale & Auction

Submitted by David Dunatchik



This popular INPAWS event takes place annually on the Saturday before Mother's Day. We're hoping to launch native plant sales all around Indiana through the INPAWS regional chapters.

2015 Native Plant Sale & Auction - Saturday, May 9, 2015

Park Tudor School Gymnasium, Indianapolis

9:30 a.m. Pre-Sale Presentation

10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Plant Sale

11:15 a.m. Auction Begins

NEW THIS YEAR! Native Tree Sale by Indiana Urban Forest Council

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parking Lot Outside School Gymnasium

ALSO ON SALE: Milkweed seeds and seedlings for our Monarch butterflies

BOGA plant swap

By Jen Cook

The Bloomington Organic Gardeners Association (BOGA) will host a free plant swap on Saturday, May 9, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Farmers' Market. Bring plants and seeds to share and/or swap. Native plants, tree saplings, and seeds are encouraged, but all non-invasive plants are welcome.

In the grow

By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue



Q. I need information on how to manage hops from the ground up and when and how to do what. Any information you can provide will be greatly appreciated, such as when to dig rhizomes, prune, storage, etc.

A. Hops for production require good management through pruning, training and fertilizing and through a fairly long growing season of 120 frost-free days. Note that there are some varieties of hops that are ornamental rather than for hop harvest. Hops will die back to the ground each year, so the vines should be cut off at the end of the growing season. They are aggressive and can reach up to 25 feet. They have separate male and female plants—only the female plants are grown for brewing. If you have to move them, now is a good time to dig the overwintering rhizomes.



Hops

Photo: Purdue University

Michigan State Extension has a great resource for small, backyard growers—a recorded seminar with a printed version available at <http://www.extension.org/pages/60945/starting-up-small-scale-organic-hops-production>.

Purdue has an excellent Integrated Pest Management Guide for Commercial Hop Growers for those with large acreage to manage. <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-462-W-2015.pdf>.

Q. I have moss growing in a shallow drainage area between my house and the neighbor's. He put up a fence in part of this ditch. After the installation of the fence, moss started growing in my yard. I have sprayed moss killer two times with no results. Now this spring, after the snow finally melted, I found moss growing everywhere in my yard. There are lots of patches in the front, sides and backyard. How do I get rid of this moss and get my grass back growing again. The yard looks a mess. My alternative is to let the moss spread and let it cover the yard – less mowing with a yard full of moss.

Steven R. Burton, Taylorsville, Ind.

A. Moss thrives under conditions that are unfavorable to turf grass - low light and wet soil. Copper sulfate or iron sulfate may help in small patches, but generally results are short-lived, and the moss will regrow unless the environment is changed. And these products can be caustic and/or staining. So your idea to just let the moss win may be the wise choice.

Alternatively, you can replant the area with other shade-loving plants. No turf grass is going to thrive unless you can prune surrounding trees to allow better light.

Native habitat at County Courthouse

By Mary Cusack



Bloomington’s beautiful, historic county courthouse, founded in 1818, has in recent years become the site of an outdoor naturalized space which showcases native plants and serves as a wildlife habitat. The site models good environmental behavior by cutting back on city water usage and using natural weed control.

In 2010 plans were implemented to restore the northeast corner of the county courthouse square with a natural plant eco-system. Plants were originally paid for with a \$400 grant from a community beautification project. Many Master Gardeners were involved to help plan and plant the site.



Front cover of tri-fold brochure, *Monroe County Courthouse Goes Native*



Celadine woodland poppies illustration in the new brochure

A beautiful brochure has now been finalized by Monroe County Master Gardeners, Shari Frank, who created the layout, and Eryn Cusack, who illustrated the brochure. This brochure identifies the natural plants and highlights the county’s commitment to this native habitat. Included are bloom times for varieties at the courthouse a

Todd Stevenson has been most instrumental in the upkeep of the garden and would welcome volunteer help. Contact Todd Stevenson at tstevenson@co.monroe.in.us.

Hats off!



New badges!

Stephen Anderson—Certified
Thomas Lovell—Advanced
Donna Terry—Bronze

Congratulations!

Roots and Shoots

Featured non-profit

Bloomington Community Orchard

Description: Bloomington Community Orchard is an organization devoted to growing fruit for the community and growing our orcharding skills through educational opportunities. The publicly owned orchard is maintained by volunteers, and the harvest is available to everyone in the community.

Volunteer Opportunities: The Bloomington Community Orchard is divided into teams and committees. The Education Team provides educational programming to people of all ages through presentations, workshops, and educational tours, consultation, and representation at community events. Our youth programming is managed by the Junior Stewards Team. The Operations Team organizes workdays and connects volunteers with Orchard activities. They determine what projects will happen at workdays, who is going to be involved, and what needs to happen to prepare the Orchard for these activities. If you just want to help in the Orchard with general fruit tree maintenance or assisting with composting efforts, stop by our Work & Learn Sessions.

Volunteer Times and Work & Learn Sessions

April—May, Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

June—August, Wednesdays, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

September—November, Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: 2120 S. Highland Ave. in Winslow Woods Park adjacent to the Willie Streeter Community Garden and the YMCA.

Contact: getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org

Mentors needed for grant winners

By Nancy White

If you are interested in a unique way to gain volunteer hours, we could use some Master Gardeners to mentor our 2015 grant winner organizations. Mentors visit the project site during the spring and summer and provide advice or suggestions to the project organizers. Mentors may also help the grant winners prepare their end-of-year report.

Mentoring a grant winner is a rewarding way to share information on gardening and to help publicize Master Gardening. Time requirement is flexible and will depend on the needs of the project directors. If you can help as a Master Gardener mentor, contact Nancy White.

Volunteer opportunities

compiled by Mary Cusack

	Time	Jobs	Contact
Bloomington Community Orchards, 2120 S. Highland Avenue (Winslow Woods Park) www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org	seasonal	maintenance, all levels of expertise welcome	Stacey Decker getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org Growing fruit for the community through educational opportunities
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park, 2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington	during growing season	help w/ design and maintenance	Linda Emerson 812-345-2913 (cell)
Courthouse Native Garden Downtown Square	seasonal	maintenance	Todd Stevenson tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport, IN Near Ellettsville	seasonal	maintenance/ rejuvenation	Cathy Meyer 812-349-2805
Growing Opportunities Hydroponic Garden Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington	year around	education & maintenance	Nicole Wooten nicole@insccap.org
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center 2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.hilltop@indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop	year around	maintenance of gardens for shade, herbs, pollinators, containers	Charlotte Griffin 812-345-8128
Hinkle-Garton Farmstead 2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead	year around	herb, orchard, butterfly, & woodland gardens, invasives removal, soil reclamation	Danielle Bachant-Bell 812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text) hgfvolunteers@gmail.com
Hoosier Hills Food Bank The Food Bank garden is located at Stranger's Hill Organic Farm, 7480 N. Howard Road near Ellettsville	year around	plant, harvest, and compost; training provided	Ryan Jochim 812-334-8374 hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php
Middle Way House Roof Top Garden garden@middlewayhouse.org	seasonal	scheduled workdays	Toby Strout, Director 812-333-7404
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard 1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington mhcfoodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer	year around	seasonal garden tasks	Kendra Brewer, Coordinator garden@mhcfoodpantry.org
T. C. Steele 4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville www.tcsteele.org	seasonal	maintenance, invasives removal	Anthony Joslin 812-988-2785 - leave a message
Wonderlab Garden 308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington	seasonal	education, supervision of volunteers, maintenance	Nancy White 812-824-4426 www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden
Wylie House 307 E. Second St., Bloomington	year around	maintenance of heirloom garden, seed saving	Sherry Wise 812-855-6224 www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html
MCMGA Volunteer Opportunities	year around	various	Demo Garden: Herman Young (812) 322-5700 Garden Walk: Mary Jane Hall (812) 345-3985 Newsletter: Helen Hollingsworth (812) 332-7313 Program: Sandy Belth (812) 825-8353 Website: Stephen Anderson (812) 360-1216 MCMGA help: Amy Thompson (812) 349-2572

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

Tent caterpillar invades Indiana's flowering trees



Eastern tent caterpillars build their webs in the crotches of trees where branches meet one another or the trunk. (Purdue University photo/Cliff Sadof)

The leaf-eating Eastern tent caterpillar has once again settled upon Indiana's flowering trees, but Purdue University entomologist Cliff Sadof said the pests won't kill trees and are easy to control.

Eastern tent caterpillars are dark in color with a white stripe down the back, and they can grow up to two inches long. They emerge early in the spring and feed on the leaves of flowering trees just as the leaves begin to break bud. Their nests are white webs, typically formed in tree crotches, the spot where limbs meet one another or the trunk.

"If there are only a few nests and they are low enough to reach, I would recommend removing them by hand," Sadof said. "However, if manually removing them isn't practical because of the number of nests or their location in the tree, there are a couple of pesticides that will do the trick."

When caterpillars are removed by hand, submerging them in a bucket of soapy water will kill them.



Eastern tent caterpillars are dark in color with a white stripe down their backs. They can grow up to two inches in length. (Purdue University photo/Cliff Sadof)

"To prevent the offensive odor associated with the decay of large numbers of caterpillars, homeowners should be sure to sweep up the dead insects and toss them into the compost or a trash bin," Sadof said.

For situations where removing Eastern tent caterpillars by hand isn't practical, effective pesticides are those that include Spinosad, Bacillus thuringiensis. While acephate, carbaryl and pyrethroid insecticides can kill Eastern tent caterpillars, Sadof said these insecticides also kill beneficial insects that prevent problems with mites and scales.

Eastern tent caterpillars very rarely affect tree health, but heavily infested trees can be completely defoliated. They also can create a nuisance after they finish feeding.

"After the caterpillars have finished feeding in May, the presence of thousands of 2-inch caterpillars has given more than one homeowner a terrific fright," Sadof said. "This can have the unfortunate result of turning a patio into a quivering mass of hairy caterpillars."

More information about Eastern tent caterpillars is available at <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/HN-68.pdf>.

Control weeds in the garden and landscape

By Rosie Lerner, Consumer Horticulture Specialist, Purdue

No matter what kind of garden you tend, weeds are likely one of your more frustrating challenges. However, there are a number of practices you can incorporate in your bag of tricks to keep weeds under control.

Cultural control includes any gardening practice that prevents the introduction of weeds to the garden or makes the environment less favorable for weed development and more favorable for desirable plants. Controlling weeds before they mature their seed will help prevent future weeds. For example, a single dandelion plant can produce 15,000 seeds in one year, and each seed is capable of surviving up to six years in the soil.

Thorough preparation of a planting site is crucial to getting your garden off to a good start, especially where perennial weeds have gained a foothold. Till existing weeds under or use a nonselective herbicide to kill them. As an alternative to chemicals, many gardeners have had success using a clear plastic cover to heat soil to the point of killing existing weeds. Depending on weather and stage of plant growth, both chemical and solar methods can take several days to weeks to kill the undesirable vegetation.

Use mulch wherever possible to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Organic mulches include pine needles, bark chips, grass clippings and straw. Organic mulches have the additional benefit of improving soil structure and adding some nutrients when they are worked into the soil at the end of the season. They also tend to cool the soil while they conserve moisture. Be sure your mulch is free of weed seeds, especially when using straw and hay, or you may end up with more weeds than you started with.

Hoeing can be very effective for controlling annual weeds. However, perennials often re-sprout from the roots after the tops are removed. Hoeing should consist of short shallow strokes that simply cut off the weeds at soil level. Hoeing deeper will only bring more weed seeds to the germination zone and may injure the roots of desirable plants growing nearby. Weeds growing in close proximity to desirable plants should be hand-pulled. Weeds will be much easier to pull or hoe while they are still small and soil is slightly moist.

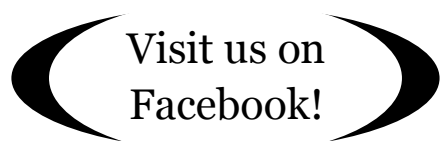
Chemical weed control is not well suited to the home garden. Few herbicides are available in a convenient size for home-users and are quite expensive to purchase in commercial grower-sized packages. However, there are a few chemicals available from garden suppliers that can be used with caution. Whether organic or conventional chemicals, herbicides must be chosen carefully based on both the weed problems and the desirable plants involved. Remember, no one herbicide will control all weeds in all desirable plantings. Look at the product label for information on weeds controlled, crops with which the chemical can be safely used, rates of application and precautions. Always read the label on any pesticide before you apply!

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners
Association**

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401



Helping others grow!



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Master Gardener Calendar

May 26, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA general meeting, Community Building, Fairgrounds, recognition of intern class, pitch-in dinner, and annual plant swap

June 4-6, 2015 Purdue State Master Gardener Conference in Evansville. See www.swimga.org/2015-master-gardener-conference-june-4-6-2015/ for information

June 13, 2:00 p.m., Master Gardener Garden Walk featuring four members' gardens, carpooling recommended. More information in *June Roots and Shoots*