



Roots & Shoots

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Planting with abandon

The weather has been a little peculiar this spring; warm temperatures encouraged so many plants to bloom early, and gardeners discovered a real need to get out there and get their hands in the dirt. Understanding the irresistible urge to plant flowers during those early April days, one nurseryman suggested that gardeners, instead, fill hanging baskets with their assorted flowers, and plan on carrying them to a milder location during cold snaps. A check of the forecast for the next ten days promises moderate temperatures for this part of the state . . . so it's time to plant with abandon!

In celebration of Indiana's Bicentennial, Horticulturist Rosie Lerner recommends that gardeners celebrate with flowers. She suggests planting flowers that correspond to the distinctive dark blue field, 18 gold stars, and the gold torch of the Indiana State Flag. Consider a bed, porch pots, flower boxes, or hanging baskets composed of just those two colors. Rosie published a list of annuals that are blue (though some may be purplish she says) and that are yellow/gold.

Suggested blue flowers include: Ageratum, Angelonia, Aster, Cornflower, Flox, Morning Glory, Nicotiana, Nigella,

Pansy, Petunia, Salvia, Sweet Pea, and Verbena.

Suggested Yellow/Gold flowers include: African Daisy, Calibrochoa, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Gerbera, Lantana, Marigold, Nasturtium, Petunia, Portulaca, Rudbeckia, Snapdragon, and Zinnia.

Would you like to make a bigger statement? Plant the state flower, the peony. It probably won't be found in blue, but yellow is available. And to plant a legacy to commemorate the occasion, there is the state tree, the Tulip Tree.

While you are making room for your new blue and yellow beds, look for those plants you plan to bring to the Plant Swap on May 24th. The Plant Swap always offers great fun and great food.

When you finish planting, consider a visit to Corydon, as it was the state capitol until 1825; or, check out Bicentennial activities in Indianapolis by visiting:

www.indianagardenclub.org . . . see you in a few weeks with your plants for swapping and your dishes for pitching!



- Evelyn Harrell
MCMGA President

Meeting Announcements

Please join us on Tuesday, May 24 at 6:30pm at the Community Building in the Monroe County Fairgrounds while Rene Malone presents, "Raised Beds." This meeting is our traditional plant swap and pitch-in dinner, for which Cindy Benson will be Chairing the Refreshment Committee; members include Nancy Deckard, Tom Lovell, Dorothy Wilson, Marilyn Bourke, and Pamela Hall. This committee will bring the drinks and some basic food group items, but attending members will be responsible to 'pitch-in' and bring the main dishes and desserts. The evening will operate very much like our Harvest Dinner this past November. If you're planning to attend, please remember to bring your own place settings (plates, glass/cup, silver/plastic wear and napkins). Finally, don't forget about the plant swap and bring your plants/starts in a travel container, identified by name.

- Jeff Schafer
MCMGA Meeting Director

Bug Fest 2016 – June 25th 10am-3pm



Join us on Saturday June 25th from 10am-3pm for our Bug Fest event, a celebration of insects and their relatives! Designed for children of all ages, from 1 to 101, the mission of Bug Fest is to educate the public about insect and spider biology.

Guest lecturers will share their knowledge of dragonflies, butterflies, spiders, and other topics, plus there will be information tables on a variety of subjects, including pollinators, garden insects, forest pests, public health, and live insect displays.

Activities will include insect crafts, mealworm races, cricket spitting, insect games, storytelling, and more! A display of student art with an insect theme is also planned.

This is a free event! However, a donation of canned fruits or vegetables to go to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard would be greatly appreciated. The flowers of many of our fruits and vegetables are pollinated by insects, so these foods would not exist without the aid of insects. Donation bins will be available at the entrance to Bug Fest.

Bug Fest Volunteer Opportunities

Thank you for volunteering for Bug Fest in past years! I'd like to invite you to volunteer again this year for our fourth annual event. Volunteers are a crucial part of the success of this program, and I hope you'll join us again! Please view the description and sign up at the URL below. If you have a friend or family member to invite, feel free to pass along this information so they can join the fun!

Visitors learn about amazing insects at Bloomington's fourth annual Bug Fest! Go on an insect safari, handle cool insects, make a craft, and participate in a mealworm race or cricket-spitting contest. The day offers speakers & information booths on a variety of buggy topics.

Duties: Volunteers engage children in bug exploration. Discuss various types of bugs, lead a bug activity, or work with our speaker series. Share your interest in outdoor education with children. It inspires!

Program Time: Saturday, June 25th Shift #1, 9 a.m.–1 p.m./Shift #2, 12:45–4:00 p.m.

Training: Volunteers will be trained at the beginning of their shift.

Location: Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10th St.

Required Age: 18 yrs. and up

of Volunteers: 15 per shift

Register Online Here: <http://bit.ly/21ytNyi>

- Nikki Wooten
Bloomington Parks Department

Class Review: Orchids - what are they and where do they come from?

On April 26th I was one of almost 20 to attend Dick Wells' class on orchids. Mr. Wells is the owner and operator of Hilltop Orchids, Inc., located in Cloverdale, IN. He started his orchid growing career in 1954 after purchasing his first orchid for \$40. By 1956, he had 200-250 orchid plants. Dick and his wife, Sandy, have been married for 53 years—in 1963 Dick did their wedding entirely in white orchids, and describes the event as "spectacular." The company now is home to 50-70,000 orchids in a greenhouse on a quarter of an acre of land at their property in Cloverdale. Here is some of what we learned . . .

- There are 35-50,000 species of orchid.
- Orchids do best in east- or west-facing window.
- For pest control, use a 70-90% alcohol spray (NO oil).
- Orchids need to be re-potted every 1.5-2.5 years.
- A single seed pod can contain up to 3 million "face powder fine" seeds.
- Do not "over-pot" your orchid - they like confined spaces.
- Succulents make fantastic companions to orchids.
- Do *not* use softened water (it contains salt) to water your orchid.
- Water and food are added to orchids when the roots are white.
- If the roots are green, feeding & watering is detrimental.
- Do not use a decorative pot without drainage holes to house your orchid.
- Pollination is executed in a sterile environment or lab.
- The process from pollination to plant can take from 2.5 to 6 years.
- On very dry days, or times when the humidity in your home is very low (winter months), mist only the leaves.



For more information, go to <http://www.hilltoporchids.com/>

- Heather Daley
MCMGA Journalist

MCMGA Garden Walk – Saturday, June 11th

***** Master Gardeners will earn one hour of education credit by attending *****

Mark your calendars for the MCMGA Garden Walk on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 10:30 am until 1:00 pm at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center at 2367 E. 10th St., Bloomington. This year's Garden Walk will focus on three of the gardens within Hilltop. Fellow Master Gardeners and Junior Master Gardeners (JMG) will lead tours of their gardens and be available to answer questions.

Bring a sack lunch to enjoy in the Shade Garden at the conclusion of the tour around noon. Lemonade will be provided. Be on the lookout for an Eventbrite invite coming to your email in early May. Please RSVP to this event so we can plan accordingly. Bring your family, friends, and neighbors!

The walk will begin at 10:30 am with a presentation of useful Gardening Apps by the JMG students, followed by tours of the JMG garden plots. The new JMG program offered at Hilltop is providing gardening education to 10-13 year olds. The garden program meets once per week for 90 minutes. The program started the week of March 22nd and will continue throughout the summer until August 27th.

Students completing all of the required activities will become certified Junior Master Gardeners. The nationally recognized certification requirements are set by the Texas A&M, AgriLife Extension Service.

Students will complete an average of six group and individual activities as well as eight different community service projects. In addition to the JMG gardening curriculum, each student will plan and maintain their own 4'x8' garden plot.

Linda Heath and Bob Baird will lead the tour of the delightful Shakespeare Garden. The idea for this themed garden blossomed in May 2013. Through the efforts of many volunteers, the garden is taking shape. Plants were selected based on the works of William Shakespeare and when possible, historic cultivars were sought. Signage throughout the garden provides cross-references between plant and Shakespeare.

The last stop on the tour will be the Hilltop Shade Garden, presented by a group of 'Shady Ladies' from the Bloomington Garden Club. Many of these "Shady Ladies" are also Monroe County Master Gardeners, bringing decades of experience (and some plants from their own gardens) to the shade gardens. The large beech tree, located in the center of the garden, provides most of the shade for the gardens, but other trees such as cypress, pine, dogwood, Japanese maples, & horse chestnut provide additional shade.

The trees provide a noticeably cooler temperature and a serene ambience. A path meanders around the plots, which are tightly planted in English garden style. The shade garden demonstrates a mixture of colorful foliage, flowering plants, natives, perennials, and annuals. Judy Dillon, Helen Hollingsworth, Emilie Schwen, Ann McEndarfer, and Susan Eastman will discuss respective shade garden plots.



- Trish Gustaitis
MCMGA VP of Programs



This year we've introduced our first ever Junior Master Gardener Program! By the end of the summer, it is our goal to have all participating students certified as Junior Master Gardeners, a nationally recognized certification by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service requirements. Taught by Sara Swan, with assistance from Monroe County Master Gardeners, Maren Claus, and Trish Gustaitis, 11 students will participate in classroom curriculum covering topics ranging from Plant Growth and Development, Ecology, Landscape Horticulture, and Insects and Diseases. They will also be responsible for planning and maintaining their own personal garden plots.

Is your Tetanus up to date?

Did you know that the bacteria that causes tetanus lives in the dirt and that 30% percent of all tetanus injuries occur while in the garden? Did you know that you need a tetanus booster every ten years?

Tetanus is caused by bacteria living in the soil, and in animal feces/manure. It enters the body through a break in the skin; like a cut that you get while gardening from your tools, a scratch from a thorny plant, or even from an existing scratch.

Tetanus, or lockjaw, is a serious illness that affects the nervous system. Some of the symptoms are spasms of the jaw muscles, stiff neck, difficulty swallowing, and stiffness of the abdominal muscles. Once you have the disease there is no cure and treatment consists of managing the symptoms and complications. The spasms can become so severe that bones in the spinal column can fracture. There is a 10% fatality rate; this is one disease you do not want to mess around with! If you receive an injury while gardening, check with your health care provider about whether or not you need a tetanus booster. Depending on the wound, they may give you another booster even if you have had one in the last 10 years.

One last thing, you cannot get tetanus from the vaccine! Wishing you happy and safe gardening!



- Mary Hoffman
MCMGA Contributing Writer

Indiana State Master Gardener Conference

- How did the first Master Gardener program get started?
- What led to the formation of such a wide spread nationwide success?
- Want to know about the myriad of gardening apps now available?
- How can I possibly garden when I don't have much time?
- What is plaguing our plants, which 2 weeks ago seemed perfectly healthy!
- And where do I start to plant a perennial garden?

The answers to all these questions and so much more can be found right in our backyard at the Indiana State Master Gardener conference "Cultivating our Legacy" this coming June in West Lafayette, IN – a short 2 hour drive for a weekend full of fun and information. Tours, keynotes, workshops, lots of fun gardening vendors, good food and a wonderful mix of like-minded gardeners all coming together in one location!

What more could all of us "green-thumbs" wish for?

I attended last year and decided it needed to be an annual event. It was THAT good and beneficial! Check it out and make your plans as well to attend!

www.tippecanoemastergardener.org



- Mary Cusack
MCMGA Director AT-Large

Notice of Proposed By-law Amendments

Article V of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association (MCMGA) proposed by-law amendments:

Section 3 President

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association and the Executive Board, shall be charged with the general supervision of the affairs of the organization, and have the authority to ~~co-sign~~ sign checks. The President shall appoint or delegate the appointment of all committee chairmen and committee members not specified elsewhere in this document. The President shall represent the MCMGA on the Monroe County Extension Board.

Section 4 Vice President

The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and shall have the authority to ~~co-sign~~ sign checks. The Vice President shall chair a standing Bylaws Committee to annually read the bylaws and make recommendations to the Board and chair the Nominating Committee, which will present a slate of candidates to the Board. The Vice President shall assume other duties as delegated by the President.

Section 6 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be bonded and shall receive and keep safe account of all monies for the fiscal year which shall be January 1 through December 31. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual budget and present it for approval at the December Board meeting and present a budget update at monthly board meetings. The Treasurer shall pay all bills incurred. All non-budgeted items shall require approval by the Board prior to payment. The Treasurer shall have the authority to ~~co-sign~~ sign checks and shall complete all required state and federal forms as needed to maintain not-for-profit status. The Treasurer shall work with the Extension office and other members of the board to ensure that all active and associate members pay dues. The Treasurer shall prepare the financial records for audit annually at the end of the fiscal year.

Board Member Spotlight:**Heather Daley**

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

Heather: My name is Heather Daley, and I garden in raised beds in my backyard with my husband and 3 year old daughter, Alexandra. I also enjoy trying to grow things year-round indoors and out, with garlic being my most successful, low-maintenance outdoor crop!

R&S: When did you join the MCMGA?

Heather: I am an alumna of the Class of 2014, and became certified in 2015.

R&S: What drew you to join the Master Gardener program?

Heather: I wanted to start gardening when we moved into our home in 2011. My husband built our first raised bed that summer, and I quickly realized I had a lot to learn and wanted to take advantage of the classes as well as volunteer in the community. The program suited both of those desires.

R&S: Where are you from originally?

Heather: I am originally from Bedford, Indiana. I grew up on a small farm there and spent time as a child helping my family with our vegetable garden, learning native plants and wildflowers, and learning to identify trees and every Hoosier's favorite--more mushrooms. I attended Indiana State University and received my B.S. in Textiles, Apparel, and Merchandising, and from there went on to Indianapolis and then Chicago through my employment in retail management with two

department stores. I returned to Indiana in 2008 and moved to Bloomington in 2010. After working for J.L. Waters & Company for several years as their Apparel and Footwear buyer, I became a stay-at-home mother for a bit and now I am a freelance writer, social media manager, and blogger for several local businesses. I also write a gardening blog detailing my adventures in gardening, so you can find me on the web at www.heremeraldthumb.com. My eventual goal is to start my own farm growing specialty crops such as lavender, garlic, and mushrooms.

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

Heather: I dabbled here and there to begin with, but quickly found my volunteer groove at Hinkle-Garton Farmstead. A friend mentioned that they always need help, and after spending a couple glorious hours there one day, I knew it was the right fit for me. I have helped with weeding, planting, seed-starting, social media, and maple-syrup making. The place has an endless supply of volunteer needs year-round, so it was easy to accumulate hours there.

R&S: Why do you continue your membership?

Heather: The volunteer aspect of the program is very important to me. My mother taught me to focus on community service from a very young age. Working with plants is a great way to combine serving the environment as well as human and animal members of our community.

R&S: Anything else you wish to share?

Heather: I am really afraid of bees. It's a phobia that I hope to overcome someday by lots of time spent "in the field." On the other hand, I love skunks and would have one for a pet if my husband would agree to it. (He won't. Ever!)

2016 Bloomington Garden Club – 27th Annual . . .

Summer Garden Walk

Saturday, June 25th 10am - 2pm

&

Sunday, June 26th noon – 4pm

Rain or Shine!



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

Volunteer Opportunities: Hinkle-Garton & Hilltop Garden

It is time to get the garden area in shape for planting: weeding, tilling, applying compost (and prepping more compost), etc., etc. There is interest in garden work days in the afternoon on either or both of Saturday, May 7th and Sunday, May 15th. Please reply if you are able to help on either of those days and we will then coordinate on the time. We will need involvement with planting too, but the prep has to come first.

We also have our first North American Interfraternity Conference group of students coming to the site on Monday, May 16th from 10am - Noon. Jessica Skiles and I will be leading a few in organizing the basement in order to set up the seed library. The others will be working on compost, mulch spreading, garden work, and invasive removal . . . whatever projects we have a site volunteer to help lead them in. The more site volunteers we have the more we can break the group of students off into smaller groups to accomplish various projects. Please let me know if you can assist that morning so we can begin planning. For those who might be able to assist later, students will also be coming on June 20th, June 27th, July 11th, and July 18th. The time is always 10am - Noon as it is based on their conference schedule.

Contact: Hgfvolunteers@gmail.com - Danielle Bachant-Bell
Museum Committee Chair and Volunteer Coordinator

**Hilltop Garden
&
Nature Center**

Hilltop Volunteer
Hours:

Fridays: 1-4pm

Lea Woodard,
Coordinator

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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.

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