



# Roots & Shoots

## President's Message

By Mary Cusack



It is OUR time to shine for all of Indiana's Master Gardeners!

MCMGA is hosting a first ever 1 day garden tour open to all Indiana Master Gardeners. In case you have not read about this in Roots and Shoots, or have not attended one of our General Meetings, or read any of our email announcements, or have not visited the MCMGA Facebook page – here's the skinny!

Friday, June 16 we will be gathering at the Fairgrounds to hear speakers; Michael Homoya on "This was Indiana: The Natural Landscape of the Hoosier State in 1816" and Natalie Marinova on "A How-to Guide for Landscaping with Native Plants". These talks are open for all Master Gardeners to attend at no cost (earn 2 hrs. of Education credit).

It would be wonderful to have a large contingency of Monroe County MG's support this event. We will have attendees from all over the state so we really encourage you to make some time to show YOUR support of MCMGA!

If you'd like a box lunch and wish to join us on one of 2 remaining bus tours (One tour is totally booked) you may register for \$85 via [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net) Full descriptions of the day are available along with the registration form on the website. Registration will be closed for good on May 14 so make your plans soon!

We have had an extraordinary committee put this together from scratch along with support at the state level from Purdue Extension. It will be a wonderful day showcasing what our great organization can do along with a wide array of gardening locations in Monroe County.

I encourage you all to support this event and help give MCMGA a big pat on the back for taking on this huge project. Many, many thanks go out to all our volunteers and committee members for their dedication to make this a fun and educational day for the benefit of so many!

### Garden Tip of the Month:

*Coat the chain or wire holding your hummingbird feeder with petroleum jelly to keep ants out of your feeder.*  
--from p. 13 of "Master Gardener Best" Cookbook



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## Garden Fair Wrap-Up

By: Nancy White

Now that the 2017 MG Garden Fair is history, we should take time to thank so many MGs who spent countless hours attending meetings, planning specific Fair activities, contacting exhibitors, distributing posters, yard signs, and save-the-date cards, making and selling food for the café, setting up chairs and tables for exhibitors, sweeping the Armory floor, staffing entry points, stuffing gift bags, soliciting visitor gifts, arranging for and announcing education speakers, wrapping and giving away trees, answering questions, writing and distributing publicity, counting money and entry tickets, and so many other important tasks. A hearty “thank you” to all to accomplished these tasks. The Fair would not have happened without your contributions.

**SUCCESS:** It’s nice to know that all our hard work was met with many successes. Here are a few to savor:

- \*Of the official attendance of 716, 60 of those were young folks under 12.
- \*We had 40 exhibitor booths which included 11 new exhibitor booths and 3 outside booths.
- \*Total attendance at the educations seminars was over 70, and our thanks go to our speakers Penny Austin, Moya Andrews, Amy Thompson, and staff from Gold Leaf Hydroponics.
- \*Ten donors provided items for gift bags and for live plant decorations.
- \*The 3 event sponsors provided funding for the program booklet and other budgeted items. These monies helped to defray Fair costs.
- \*David Dunatchik is our official Fair photographer and many photos we use from current and past Fair are his creations. Thanks David.



**LEADERSHIP:** Garden Fair committee chairs provided leadership that was outstanding. Stepping up to chair committees were Sandy Belth, Dorothy Cole-Kiser, Mary Cusack, David Dunatchik, Susan Eastman, Evelyn Harrell, Nancy White and Bernadette Zoss. These same MGs completed surveys recently and mentioned positive outcomes including the friendliness of the exhibitors and our visitors, the good variety of services and products available from exhibitors, the new vendors, and the good turn-out of visitors. Items to consider in our planning for another year include the lack of adequate parking, difficulty in hearing the PA system, possibly omitting the free catalogues, and finding a way to improve the weather!

**OUR EXHIBITORS:** The exhibitors also were surveyed and made positive comments on our organization and the friendliness of all the MG volunteers. They also felt that the Fair helped their business or service, and most were interested in returning next year.

**PLEASE HELP:** When looking for some help with a garden question or when planning purchases and services, be sure to consider our donors and sponsors. All these were very important to our success. Altra Design, Bloomington Speedway Mulch and More, Fowler Tree Services, Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds, Black Lumber, Johnnie’s Seeds, John Scheeper’s Kitchen Garden Seeds, Hall’s Greenhouse, the Indiana University Bicentennial Commission, IU Press, Lucky’s Market, Osmon Chiropractic, and RCV Roofing and Seamless Gutters. They were very important to our success.

And be sure to visit all our exhibitors here in Monroe County. If you didn’t get a GF booklet with contact info on all our exhibitors, there are a few remaining. Pick up one at the May 23 General Meeting.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### MCMGA Demo Garden:

Volunteers are needed to work at our Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Diana Young and others will be around most Tuesday evenings (weather permitting) beginning next Tuesday 4/25. Feel free to bring your gardening tools and stop in on any Tuesday (or any convenient day) to help out. There are several opportunities for volunteers who might like "adopt" sections of the garden, or who have specific projects or themes they would like to work on. Those interested in volunteering or seeking additional information should contact Diana Young, [young-Diana@att.net](mailto:young-Diana@att.net), or stop by the Demo Garden around 6pm on Tuesdays.

### Bug Fest:

Volunteers are needed for several shifts between 10 a.m and 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, 2017. If interested, please contact Amy Thompson at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu).

### SNAYL Day:

Master Gardener volunteers are needed on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> for Sustaining Nature and Your Land Day which will be held in City Hall, adjacent to the Bloomington Community Farmers Market. Volunteers are needed for

- Set-up - from 8:30 to 9:30 am
- Clean-up - from 1:00 to 2:00pm
- MC-IRIS table - from 9 to 1 pm, greeting people and handing out \$5 vouchers and information, directing people to where the talks and the Weed Lab are.
- Invasive tasting table - from 9 am until samples are gone - handing out samples of reed canarygrass crackers with garlic mustard pesto.

If you're willing to volunteer for one of these opportunities, please email Amy at [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu)

### Hoosier Hills Food Bank Garden:

Will Detmer Park, 4140 W. Vernal Pike, needs volunteers!

Garden Days are 9-11 am on Mondays and Thursdays AND 5:30-7:30 pm on Wednesdays. You can volunteer on any of these days April through October.

To sign-up or get more information, contact Ryan Jochim at [812-332-8374](tel:812-332-8374) or go to [volunteer@hhfoodbank.org](mailto:volunteer@hhfoodbank.org)



The 2017 Master Gardener Fair.

## Upcoming Events

### Bloomington, Indiana, Garden Club's 28th Annual Garden Walk

Saturday, June 17, 2017, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
 Sunday, June 18, 2017, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Visit four very special private gardens, Indiana University's Hilltop Garden, and this year's Flower Show at the Monroe County History Center. The Flower Show theme is "Faces and Vases," illustrating imaginative ways of celebrating family, friends, and others with flowers.

Reference the website for more information about Hilltop:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop>

Tickets for the Garden Walk \$10.

Proceeds of the Garden Walk benefit children's gardening programs and civic planting and beautification projects.

For more information visit

<http://www.bloomingtongardenclub.com>

The Southern Indiana Daylily, Hosta, Daffodil, and Iris Society has a limited number of seats remaining for the June 5th Tour. They are available as of today to the general public for \$60. on a first come basis through SIDHDIS treasurer, Diana Young's email: [young-diana@att.net](mailto:young-diana@att.net)

Although we won't be having our annual pitch-in dinner due to our need to prepare the Demo Garden for the State Tour in June, we will have wonderful refreshments to enjoy after working in the garden.

### SIDHDIS Tour June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Time is growing short to reserve seats for a **SIDHDIS** trip to Cincinnati. The cost for non-members is \$60, payable to **SIDHDIS**, and mailed to Diana Young, 7447 E. State Road 45, Unionville, IN 47468. Here is a short description of the trip: Southern Indiana Daylily, Hosta, Daffodil & Iris Society is hosting a motor coach tour to Cincinnati on Monday June 5th.

We will be making 4 stops. The first is **Krohn Conservatory** for "Majestic Monarch's", this year's butterfly show. Krohn is Cincinnati Parks' nationally recognized showcase venue with more than 3,500 plant species from around the world.

Next is the **Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens**, the second oldest zoo in the United States, founded in 1873 on 65 acres and filled with an outstanding plant collection and a

### May General Meeting, Tuesday, May 23, 6:30 p.m. Monroe County Demonstration Garden

We will meet at 6:30pm in the Demonstration Garden for an early season work session while Amy Thompson presents May's program, "Amy Talks Dirt." This is a great opportunity to earn both volunteer and educational hours!

Our annual **PLANT SWAP** will take place at the conclusion of the work session. Please bring your plants/starts in a travel container, identified by name.

### BOGA Plant Swap

The Bloomington Organic Gardeners Association (BOGA) will host a free plant swap on Saturday, May 13, from 8:00am to 1:00pm at the Bloomington Community 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. For more information, contact Jenivee at [jeniveels@gmail.com](mailto:jeniveels@gmail.com).

### Rain Garden Workshop

Saturday, May 20 or  
 Saturday, June 3  
 From 1 to 2 p.m.

Learn how to install a rain garden on your property! Learn where to locate it, what to plant, and how to maintain it.

Learn about how to apply for reimbursement of rain garden installation costs through the SWCD Mini-grants program.

Location: Eco Logic  
 8685 W. Vernal Pike  
 Bloomington, IN 47404  
 Email [natalie@ecologicindiana.com](mailto:natalie@ecologicindiana.com) to sign up.

### Childhood Gardening Memories by Dorothea Cole-Kiser

My brother Dennis, and sister, Debbie and I were put to task weeding the garden. As was the case in just about any afternoon in the garden, boredom set in. Pretty soon a clod of dirt would be lobbed over the waist high corn, aimed at the unsuspecting weeder who would be bent over, tugging weeds from around the tomato plants. As was to be expected, a returned clod would be tossed. On this particular afternoon the clod fight had heated up and Debbie and I teamed up in offense to our older brother. Clods were flying thru the air, and ducking between throws, we would scurry through the rows trying to keep him guessing where the next one would come from. He still had the advantage and we were forced to retreat, clods in hand, down the driveway in order to keep from getting hit with his accurate baseball player's aim. Debbie and I stopped to make a stand, thinking we were far enough away to avoid being hit. She in front, being older and a better aim than me, was ready to make a counter attack. As I fed her the ammo I had in my arms she lobbed our dirt clods at him. Just as she depleted the supply she ducked down...leaving me exposed to the incoming clod. The one that hit me square in the mouth. The taste of dirt, the sting of impact, the bloodied lip and the sweat and tears running down my face all combined to create stunned disbelief from all parties involved. Needless to say, he felt terrible. But for me, being the youngest, there is always an upside to these types of experiences. I was treated to my favorite food for dinner, involving mashed potatoes and ice cream for dessert. And the next several days at school I was exempt from reading out loud because of my glorious split lip.

My parents were huge gardeners. They had about an acre of vegetables every year to be preserved for the winter, multiple patches of raspberries, several fruit trees, and about an acre of strawberries which were often sold by the quart from the front porch of our house. Many mornings were spent bent hunched down between the strawberry rows, hands buried in the leaves finding the plump, ripe strawberries ready to pick. Picking berries is a quiet, solitary task, not the kind where fooling around and chasing each other about was tolerated as those ripe strawberries are very sensitive to being squashed easily by bored, rambunctious individuals. Looking back at those long hours of quiet picking, they were probably cherished by my mother who was a rather quiet and reserved individual tasked with caring for the large brood of easily bored rambunctious individuals. On this particular morning the dew was still drying from the leaves of the strawberry plants; the birds were the noisiest thing in the strawberry patch as my mother, me, and three of my siblings were making our way through the rows, sliding the trays holding the quart boxes to be filled with berries. We were all submerged in our quiet thoughts...when my mother let out a shriek and jumped up from her row, nearly stumbling backwards onto some of those sensitive ripe berries, shaking her hands like she was trying to get something off of her. She bent back down and pushed the leaves aside and started to chuckle quietly, shaking her head at her own reaction. Of course we all had to know what startled our mother, the one so quiet. She showed us the big old toad that she had felt; it seemed very much not bothered by the disturbance he caused as he was just warming up for the day.

## Quinoa Kale Salad

Now that some of your early cole crops are ready for harvest, try this recipe featured in *Master Gardener Best* cookbook. This recipe was submitted for our cookbook by MG Paula Perron.



### Quinoa Kale Salad

Rinse **1 C. Quinoa** under running water then simmer, covered, in **2 C boiling water** until water is absorbed - about 12 min. Remove from heat, and let rest, covered for 5 min. Remove cover and let cool completely. Put **10 Kale leaves**, cut small, in large mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together well: **3 Tbsp. olive oil, 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard, 1 clove garlic-minced, 1 tsp pepper, 1/2 tsp sea salt**. Drizzle over the kale. Add quinoa.

Add **1 C. cherry tomatoes, cut in quarters, & feta cheese / pecans / other vegetables as desired**.

Cooperative Extension Service  
3400 South Walnut Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

(812) 349-2575

**2017 MCMGA Board**

- President:** Mary Cusack  
812-824-6366 marycus@gmail.com
- Vice President:** Trish Gustaitis 812-322-9658 pgustait@gmail.com
- Education Director:** Sandy Belth  
812-825-8353 belthbirds@aol.com
- Meeting Director:** Jeff Schafer  
812-325-3130  
jeff.schafer1@comcast.net
- Secretary:** David Dunatchik  
812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net
- Treasurer:** Dorothea Cole-Kiser  
812-606-2834 dkiseerfineline@att.net
- Journalist:** Heather Daley 812-272-4435  
daleyheather7@gmail.com
- Communications Director:** Stephen Anderson 812-360-1216  
stephen\_aee@yahoo.com
- Records Director:** Abe Morris  
812-606-5577 abemorris7@gmail.com
- Director at Large:** Maren Claus  
Please refer to folia and fauna
- Fair Board Representative:** Diana Young  
812-339-0040 young-diana@att.net
- Past President:** Evelyn Harrell  
812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net
- Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net)

**Spaces are Limited! Registration ends in May!**

The Purdue Master Gardener Program presents:

**Celebrating Nature's Aesthetics: a choice of three tours highlighting some of Monroe County's diverse gardens.**



Monroe County Fairgrounds Gate 3  
5800 W Airport Rd, Bloomington, IN 47403  
Friday, June 16, 2017

**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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