

November 2005

Volume 21, Issue 9

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. Newsletter

MASTER GARDENER HOLIDAY

"Happy Holidays, Happy Holidays
Happy Holidays to you
Let the merry bells keep ringing
Happy Holidays to you."

"Light the candles, light the candles,
Light the candles, for Hanukkah time."

"Oh we need a little Christmas, right this very minute,
Candles at the window, carols at the spinet...."

Whatever holiday is in your future, come and start the season right with your Master Gardener friends. Bring your family and enjoy a festive time with good food, a holiday program, and door prizes.

Your RSVP will help us plan ahead.

See you at the party!

Your Presence Is Requested

at the Master Gardeners' Holiday Party

Tuesday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.

First United Church, 2420 E. Third Street, Bloomington
(Formerly First Baptist Church)

Bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share.

Meats, cheese, breads, drinks, and table service will be provided.

Program: Holiday Gifts to Make

Presenter: Sue Berg, Extension Educator

RSVP by November 21 to Ann McEndarfer
(amcendarfer@truman.edu) or Nancy White
(nwhite38@hotmail.com) or telephone 824-4426
and leave a message.



Monroe County Master Gardeners Announce 2006 Intern Class

A new Master Gardener Intern Class begins on January 26, 2006 and continues for twelve consecutive Thursdays, concluding on Thursday, April 20, 2006. Classes are held at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, 2700 East Rogers Road, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Certified Master Gardeners are invited to attend any class, and to ensure available seats, are asked to call the Extension Office on the day of the class to register their attendance. Certified Master Gardeners receive one hour of advanced education credit for attending a complete class. Dan Baugh, Extension Educator, announced the following training syllabus at the November board meeting.

Date	Topic
January 26	Plant Science
February 2	Soils and Nutrition
February 9	House Plants, Container Gardening, Herbs
February 16	Plant Diseases and Diagnosis
February 23	Entomology and Animal Pests
March 2	Pruning, Composting
March 9	Vegetables, Small Fruits
March 16	Landscape Design and Woody Ornamentals, Hardscaping
March 23	Pesticides: Safety and Applications
March 30	Lawn Care, Invasive Plants
April 6	Herbaceous Ornamentals, Perennials and Annuals
April 13	Organic Gardening, Weed Control, and Ornamental Grasses
April 20	Final Exam

Master Gardeners Volunteer at WFIU

Seven Master Gardeners answered telephones and recorded pledges at WFIU during their annual November fund drive. Those volunteering included Preston Gwinn, coordinator, Dale Calabrese, Barbara Cappy, Barbara Hays, Helen Hollingsworth, along with two friends of Preston Gwinn from work. Master Gardeners have assisted WFIU funding drives for the past several years.

No Newsletter and No Board Meeting in December

At the November board meeting, the MCMGA board agreed to take a vacation in December. There will be no regular board meeting or newsletter in December, but the board will meet in early in January, and the newsletter will resume publication the first week in January, 2006.

Great Volunteer Opportunity

Middle Way House needs volunteers to work in their yard/garden. Grab a friend and go volunteer. Here is the contact information : Clara Wilson, House Manager, Middle Way House, Inc., 404 W. Kirkwood, Bloomington, IN 47404 (812-333-7404) or pungo710@insightbb.com

Saturday, February 4, 2006 at Garton Hall, St. Marks Church, East Bypass, Bloomington, IN

Advanced Master Gardener Training Available in Monroe County

Monroe County Master Gardeners present **Trees: All Seasons, All Reasons**. This Advanced Master Gardener Training is in response to requests for special training on tree identification, planting, diseases, and urban tree care. The session will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2006 at Garton Hall, St. Marks Church, East Bypass, Bloomington, Indiana. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Speakers begin at 8:30 a.m.

The \$25 fee includes continental breakfast, snacks during two breaks, and useful, practical information from tree horticulture experts. The seminar provides four Advanced Master Gardener educational hours. Registration must be received by January 27, 2006.

Program

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Presentation

10:00 Short Break

10:15 Presentation

11:20 Break

11:30 Presentation

12:30 Adjourn

Presenters

Ralph Unversaw, Indiana Forester,
Monroe and Owen Counties

Lee Huss, Bloomington Urban Forester

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone_(_____)_____

Email _____

Are you a Master Gardener? Yes _____ No _____

Do you request Advanced Education Hours? Yes _____ No _____

Amount Enclosed _____ (\$25 per reservation)

Make check payable to Monroe County Master Gardeners. Send completed form and check to **Monroe County Master Gardeners, 119 W. 7th Street, Bloomington, IN 47404**.

Additional information is available on our website (www.mcmga.net).

Member News by Nancy White

Committees are working to make our Saturday, February 4, 2006, Advanced Training opportunity an outstanding event. You will want to save 8:00 a.m.--12:30 p.m. for "**Trees:All Seasons, All Reasons**," with presenters Ralph Unversaw and Lee Huss as they lead us through adventures in identifying, selecting, planting, protecting, and successfully growing trees.

You will be provided with handouts and materials that can be added to your Master Gardener notebook as well as making contact with Master Gardeners from other counties. Invite your friends who are not Master Gardeners to share in the training.

Intern members who have not yet completed their hours for certification can still volunteer to help during the event and count these as volunteer hours. Weather permitting, we will share a winter tour of the IU Arboretum in the afternoon that day.

Location	St. Marks Methodist Church on the east 46 bypass.
Fee	Just \$25 which includes breakfast and snacks.
More information	Call Ann McEnderfer or Nancy White or log on to www.mcmga.net .

Master Gardeners will want to mark their calendars for our first general meeting of the New Year. On Tuesday, January 17, MCMGA will meet at the Monroe County Public Library to elect officers and to participate in a special sharing of favorite garden books and catalogues. Plan to come and bring a favorite gardening book or publication and tell us all about it. You will also have a chance to let us know what speakers and topics you would be interested in having on our schedule for 2006. Don't miss this chance.

From the President's Desk by Mary Jane Hall

I have just finished slipping the last of the bulbs into their underground homes. I hope that the critters don't find them! I am always pleased by my forethought at this time of the year. I can't wait to see the alliums, daffodils and scilla together. I really plan ahead for the spring blooming season. If only I planned ahead so well year round! We have been lucky this autumn, though. It was a beautiful one.

As the sun streams through the spaces where leaves used to be, I am melancholy that the Master Gardener year is drawing to a close just as Mother Nature is closing the growing season. This year's Board has already planned great things for the winter 'education season'. I like to think of winter as a time of learning. I'm not so distracted by the growing season and more easily carve out time for classes and reading. I hope that you will make time for them, too.

The nominating committee is working on the slate for announcement at our November 27 meeting/party. It is not too late to volunteer. Call or email me (345-3985) or (gardenz4ever@hotmail.com) and I will pass along the information. I would like to encourage everyone to participate as a volunteer, committee member, committee chairman, or board member. New members – we need you! Please volunteer now.

New Certification by Joanna Howe

Dale Calabrese ('05) has completed her volunteer commitment and is now a certified Purdue Master Gardener. Some of the activities she participated in were the MG garden tour, the fairgrounds demonstration garden, vegetable check in and flower judging assistance at the county fair, the MG information table at the fair, and the Indiana State Fair info booth. Congratulations!

WE NEED YOUR HOURS! Please turn in ALL volunteer hours you have accumulated this year by December 31st. If you have email, you may use email (joanna.howe@insightbb.com) to submit your hours. We like to have an accounting of the total number of hours our group has contributed to the community to access the impact we are making. Year end totals will be reported in the January newsletter.

Electronic Newsletters by Barbara Hays

As many of you are aware, a dual delivery service was used for last month's *roots and shoots*. The printed copy should have reached your mailbox as usual, but those who had an email address listed in the 2005 membership guide also received an email announcement with a link to the newsletter page (<http://mcmga.net/newsletter.htm>) on our website. Our goal in the coming months is to print only enough copies to mail to those who have no email capability. A quick calculation revealed that the association would save close to \$400 per year in postage costs alone with our current membership. Besides the postage cost, think about the manpower and trees saved by not printing over 100 copies per issue!

Adobe Acrobat is required to see the publications. If needed, a link is provided on the newsletter page to take you directly to the Adobe website for a free and safe download of the current version. I received about 17 responses to the newsletter/email experiment, all willing to forego the mailed version, but I'm left wondering what the other 75 or so opinions are. Modem and/or computer speed made the newsletter slow to download for one person, and another had difficulty installing Acrobat. The other comments were overwhelmingly positive. Planned future improvements are to index articles, and to offer a choice between the .pdf (Acrobat) version and a text only version for those who don't care about formatting. If you haven't yet commented or wish to add to your previous response, please do so. You can reach me at barbsblooms@insightbb.com or contact any officer.

Thanks to Ann McEndarfer for the electronic newsletter suggestion, and to everyone else who made it happen.

One-Word-from-Each Poetry

At the September 27 MCMGA general meeting, under the guidance of Cathy Meyers, City Parks Department, during her session on garden journaling, each member was asked to write a single word. The words were then assembled by Cathy into the following poem.

Bark	Projected	Coneflower
Grow	Cozy	Abundance
Seedlings	Seasons	Bold
Plants	Happy	Blossom
Are	Coneflower	Crying
Amazing	Glowing	Harvest
Mist	Fuzzy	Orange
Rainbow	Fondness	Translucent
Flower	Roses	

Keep Mowing to Mulch Those Tree Leaves! **By Zac Reicher, Professor/ Turfgrass Extension Specialist**

The trees are dropping their leaves and it is important to prevent a heavy layer of leaves from building-up on your turf before winter. Heavy layers of tree leaves that shade the grass can smother and kill grass yet this fall. Plus tree leaf cover favors a damaging winter turf disease called snow mold. The easiest way to dispose of leaves is to simply mow them into the turf. Regular mowing during the fall will chop the leaves into small pieces and allow them to filter into the turf. Our research at Purdue and other universities shows that tree leaves can be mulched without any detrimental effects on the soil or turf. Actually, just the opposite may be true where tree leaf mulching may help improve the soil. Mulching leaves with a mower is much easier than raking, blowing, and/or vacuuming the leaves like we have done in the past. Plus it disposes of the leaves without filling up our landfills and saves our cities thousands of dollars in disposal costs.

Why Does a November Application of Fertilizer Work? **By Zac Reicher, Professor/Turfgrass Extension Specialist**

Nitrogen stimulates increased photosynthesis and the extra energy derived from this goes directly into growth, respiration to maintain the plant (similar to humans), or into storage. In early November, the temperature is still adequate for photosynthesis, but cool enough to minimize respiration demands and too cold for significant growth. Therefore, most of the extra energy derived from a November application of nitrogen is stored by the plant. Next spring, these storage products are used in green-up of the plant and more importantly, for root growth. According to some of our earlier research, it is important for the plant to take up the nitrogen quickly in the fall and store the energy for maximum root growth next spring with a minimum of shoot growth. Though one might think that nitrogen applied early next spring would do the equivalent as November-applied nitrogen, just the opposite occurs and shoot growth is stimulated dramatically with early spring-applied nitrogen. A spring application of nitrogen will never compensate for a missed application in November.

Fall Herbicides for Home and Field **By Mark G. Evans, Agriculture & Natural Resources Educator (Clay & Owen Counties)**

Fall is an ideal time for perennial weed control. Many soybean fields harvested prior to the remnants of Hurricane Rita are really greening up. Many of these green plants are soybean sprouts from shattered bean pods when harvesting. I don't recollect a recent year with so many beans being lost in the field. However there are also winter annuals and perennials firing up.

Home/Garden Fall Weed Control Now would be a great time to control dandelions in the lawn and garden. Dandelion is a perennial that is mechanically difficult to control. When dandelion tap roots are cut, one ends up with two rather than one dandelion. Since most vegetable gardens are now froze out or finished for the year, products containing 2,4-D (there are many but Weed-B-Gone is one) can be applied in the fall to control these and other broadleaf perennials. For larger yards, a gallon jug of 2,4-D at a farm supply store may be the most economical source. Dandelions are controlled in the lawn or garden in fall better than any other time of year. Read and follow label instructions for quantity. Also make sure leaves are raked prior to application so herbicide makes contact with weed leaves. This will also knock out some of the winter annuals like henbit or chickweed. These winter annuals are often bad about growing next to the house and in spring perennial beds. Though at your own risk since it is not on the label, dormant spring perennials like daffodils, tulips or peonies, I have found able to tolerate a light rate (~2 tbs/gal.) of 2,4-D and glyphosate (2-3 ou./gal.) to control winter annuals often growing in these spots.

Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	Marcia Figueiredo, 855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 339-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries and research	Dan Baugh, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Dan Baugh, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	writing, stapling, labeling	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Brunoehler, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors work with Horticultural therapist	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
Clear Creek School	spring/on-going	identification, education	Charlie Hawk, 824-7969
Advanced Master Gardener Training	October 2005 through February 4, 2006	various	Nancy White, 824-4426 Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801

**November Calendar by B. Rosie Lerner,
Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue University**

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- ◆ As houseplant growth slows, apply less fertilizer and water.
- ◆ If plants are dropping many leaves, move them closer to sunny exposures, such as west- and south-facing windows. Artificial lights may be needed to supplement particularly dark rooms.
- ◆ Pot spring-flowering bulbs with tips exposed to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.
- ◆ Continue dark treatment for poinsettias by keeping them in complete darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily until early December or until red bracts begin to show.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- ◆ Prevent rabbit and rodent feeding damage by erecting physical barriers, such as metal mesh (one-quarter-inch) hardware cloth. Pull mulch a few inches away from the trunk, as the mulch provides a warm winter home for rodents. Chemical repellents also are available, but their effectiveness is temporary and not foolproof.
- ◆ Prevent frost cracking (or sunscald) by wrapping trunks with commercial tree wrap or painting the south- and southwest-facing sides of the trunk with white latex outdoor paint. Young, thin-barked trees, such as maples and many fruit trees, are especially susceptible. Be sure to remove the tree wrap by early spring to prevent overheating of the bark.
- ◆ Remove dead, diseased or damaged branches.
- ◆ Protect the graft union on rose bushes by mounding soil around the plants and adding mulch on top. Wait until several killing frosts have occurred so plants will be dormant when covered. Plants covered too early may be smothered.
- ◆ If you are planning to order a "live" Christmas tree, prepare its planting hole before the soil freezes. Mulch the area heavily to prevent freezing, or dig the hole and put fill in a protected, nonfreezing area, such as a garage or basement.
- ◆ Clean up and discard fallen leaves and fruits around fruit plants to reduce disease carryover.
- ◆ Continue mowing lawn as needed. As tree leaves fall, run them through your mower (remove bagger), allowing the shredded leaves to remain on the lawn. Be sure to mow only when grass and leaves are dry.
- ◆ For lawns that have received enough rainfall or irrigation to green up this fall, an early November application of fertilizer can help keep lawns green into winter and boost early spring recovery. Apply one-half to 1 pound actual nitrogen, in either water-soluble or slow-release form, per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- ◆ If frost hasn't taken your garden yet, continue harvesting.
- ◆ Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark. Store at 55-70 F; the warmer the temperatures, the faster they ripen.
- ◆ Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Use perforated plastic bags as an easy way to increase humidity.
- ◆ Remove plant debris, both crop and weed, from the garden and discard or compost. This will help reduce the carryover of diseases, insects and weeds to next year's garden.

(continued on page 9)

Fall Calendar (continued from page 8)

- ◆ Fall tilling, except in erosion-prone areas, helps improve soil structure and usually leads to soils warming and drying faster in the spring, thus allowing crops to be planted earlier.
- ◆ Apply mulch to strawberries to prevent winter injury or death to their crowns. Wait until temperatures have hit 20 F to be sure plants are dormant. If mulch is applied too soon, the plant's crown can rot.
- ◆ Dig and store tender flowering bulbs and keep in a protected location.
- ◆ Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

November Fertilization Is Money in the Bank By Zac Reicher, Professor/Turfgrass Extension Specialist

A November application of fertilizer is extremely important to keep your lawn healthy and looking good this fall and next year. Late fall N promotes good root development, enhances storage of energy reserves, and extends color retention this fall. Most of the benefits from late fall N will be seen next spring and summer with earlier green-up, improved density, and improved tolerance to diseases and other stresses. Apply near or after your last mowing of the year, but while grass is still green. Timing of this application is not overly critical because there may be a month or more between your last mowing and the time the grass turns brown or goes under snow cover. Generally the first few weeks of November are when to apply. Earlier Purdue research suggests that the N must be taken-up by the plant before winter to be most effective in areas where the turf goes dormant during the winter. Therefore, a soluble N source such as urea, ammonium nitrate, or ammonium sulfate is most effective and apply 1.0 to 1.25 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. Conversely, in southern IN and areas where the cool-season turf goes dormant for only for a couple of months or maybe not at all, a slower release fertilizer would be more beneficial to feed the plant throughout the winter months. Use a water soluble slow release fertilizer like sulfur-coated urea or IBDU in this case and apply 1.0 to 1.25 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft.

In the Grow: Question and Answer

By Beverly Shaw, Advanced Master Gardener, Purdue University

Q. I have several peonies that are 80-plus years old located in an old farmstead. I would like to transplant them to a more suitable area. What would be the best way to transplant them? What do I need to do as far as fertilizer and water needs after the plants are moved. -- Rich Unger, Terre Haute, Ind.

A. Peonies are incredibly tough plants! Select a location for the transplants where they'll have good air circulation, full sunlight and some protection from strong winds. Peonies are seldom winter killed, but the flower buds are susceptible to late frosts and wind damage. Don't crowd peonies together or close to other trees or shrubs that compete for soil moisture and nutrients. Try to avoid locations where peonies have been grown before. Peonies thrive on a wide range of soils, but a clay loam is best. It must be well-drained and yet should hold moisture. Peonies need ample room for development, so plant them 3 to 4 feet apart.

October planting or dividing and resetting is preferred because plants are dormant and, therefore, less sensitive to injury. Spring planting is less desirable but can be successful if done early.

Prepare the soil at least a foot deep. Mix in generous amounts of organic matter, such as composted manure or sphagnum peat moss. Allow the soil to settle, or, if working the soil immediately prior to planting, pack the soil firmly to prevent settling once the roots are planted.

Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Inside: Holiday Party on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m.

2005 MCMGA Executive Board

President Office Team: Mary Jane Hall

Mary Jane: 824-2762 gardenz4ever@hotmail.com

Vice President Office Team: Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White

Ann: 334-1801 amcendar@truman.edu

Nancy: 824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Treasurer Office Team: Diana Young, Mary Hawkins

Diana: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Mary: 824-2139 marywalloon@aol.com

Secretary Office Team: Marilyn Brinley, Joanna Howe

Joanna: 812-277-8369 Joannahowe@insightbb.com

Marilyn: 824-1318 mlbrinley@aol.com

Journalist Office Team: Helen Hollingsworth

Helen: 332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu

State Advisory Committee Representative: Herman Young, Gino Brancolini

Herman: 339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Gino: 336-1680 brancol@indiana.edu

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