

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

ROOTS AND SHOOTS

November 2007 Volume 23, Issue 11



MCMGA HOLIDAY PARTY ON NOVEMBER 27 AT 6:00 P.M.

By **What:** MCMGA Holiday Party
Nancy **When:** 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 27
White **Where:** First United Church Great Hall, 2420 E. Third Street
Who: all MCMGA members, family, and friends

Provided: meats, cheeses, breads, drinks, table service

You bring: a dish to share (appetizer, vegetable, salad, dessert, or any other specialty)

Door Prizes: special door prizes will be awarded

Reservations: Contact Gloria Noone, Anne McEnderfer or Nancy White to make your reservation.

You don't want to miss the annual MCMGA Holiday Party to be held November 27, at 6:00 p.m., at the First United Church, 2420 E. Third Street (previously known as the First Baptist Church). Be sure to invite your friends and family to share this event. We will enjoy a carry-in dinner together and a presentation by Master Gardener Susan Eastman on Holiday Flower Arranging. Susan will demonstrate holiday flower arranging techniques and ways to make ordinary grocery store flowers into stunning holiday bouquets. One hour of education credit will be available for this presentation. We ask you to contact Gloria Noone, Anne McEnderfer or Nancy White to make a reservation for the dinner. That will help us plan accordingly. Plan to bring your favorite holiday dish to share.

ELECTION OF 2008 MG OFFICERS

By At the November 27 Holiday Party, we will have a brief business meeting to vote on two essential matters required by our bylaws. The first, a housekeeping matter, is to vote on a slight change to correct an oversight in our bylaws. The second is to elect officers (on staggered terms, as required in our new bylaws). The bylaw vote adds the staggered term for our secretary. The secretary's term was omitted when the more substantial bylaw revisions were approved in July. Below is the change, which will be voted upon at the November meeting.

Proposed MCMGA bylaws amendment – Fall 2007 (changes shown in bold and italics)

ARTICLE IV Officers—Section 1 Election of Officers—The officers and board members shall be elected for staggered two-year terms, with service to begin on January 1, at the final general meeting of the fiscal year, beginning with elections in 2008, as follows: January 2008, for two-year terms, with election in even-numbered years thereafter, Vice President for Programs, Director of Records, Treasurer, Journalist.

January 2008, for one-year term, with election for two-year terms beginning in 2009 and in odd numbered years thereafter: President, Vice President for Education, **Secretary**, Director of Communications, At-Large Director. The slate of officers for election shall be published in the edition *Roots and Shoots* newsletter immediately preceding the last general meeting of the fiscal year.

2008 Slate of Officers and Terms

Marilyn Brinley – president (2008)
Nancy White - vp for programs (2008-09)
Bob Baird - vp for education (2008)
Diana Young – treasurer (2008-09)

Barb Cappy – secretary (2008)
Barb Hays - director of communications (2008)
Susan Osborne - director of records (2008-09)
Helen Hollingsworth – journalist (2008-09)
Herman Young - director at large (2008)

MEMBER NEWS



By **MGs Visit Oliver Winery Gardens**

Nancy White Twenty-two Master Gardeners and their guests joined in the fun at the Oliver Winery Garden Tour on October 8. Marian Keith, Winery Horticulturist, gave the tour of the elaborate and ever-changing gardens surrounding the winery,

including the numerous container displays. Marian has been with the winery for several years and directs a crew that maintains the gardens and the grounds that include a pond, walkways, picnic areas and a developing native plants and prairie area. While concentrating on perennials and a variety of shrubs, the gardens also include tropical plants and bulbs. The garden is designed for year-round interest, so we were invited to come to see the spring and winter displays as well.

Marian graciously answered all our questions and even shared some seeds with us, along with many tidbits of knowledge on her failures and successes. Since the weather that day was again hot and dry, we discussed some of her experiences with drought-resistant plantings. After the tour, many in attendance walked through the grounds and lingered awhile to enjoy some gardening talk and refreshment. All agreed it was an enjoyable event.

Sharing Gardening Knowledge

Two of our Master Gardeners are spreading their knowledge of gardening to the Bloomington Newcomers Club by co-chairing the Newcomers Gardening sub-group. Anne McEnderfer and Gloria Noone plan monthly meetings of the group to introduce them to local gardening professionals, commercial suppliers, and resource persons. Recently, this group hosted a session on designing and planting spring bulb gardens given by Master Gardener Nancy White. We congratulate Gloria and Anne for finding a unique way to share their expertise and experiences.

Save the Date—January 22, 2008

Looking ahead in our calendar, January 22 will be the date of our first general meeting of the new year. Among other agenda items, we will share ideas on programming for 2008 and give guidance to our board and program committee regarding speakers, education sessions, and possible field trips. More details on this meeting will be in the December issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

2008 Master Gardener Calendars

The Marion County Master Gardeners Association has designed a unique 2008 calendar to help finance next year's Master Gardener State Convention which will be held in Indianapolis. Photos on the calendar were winners in a competition held in 2007. Also in the calendar are monthly gardening tips from JoEllen Meyers Sharp, Marion County Master Gardener and columnist for the *Indianapolis Star*. We will have some of these for sale at our November Holiday meeting for \$10 each. They would make super Christmas presents for friends on your list.

Tuck This into a File for Future Use

At our MCMGA tour recently of the Oliver Winery Gardens, horticulturist Marian Keith shared some information on plantings she has had some success with and would suggest we try in our own gardens. For your reference, here are some of her suggestions.

Shrubs: ornamental goldenrod; geum; winterberry dwarf 'Red Sprite', caryopteris

Perennials: penstemon 'Lilac Karina'; aster 'Lateriflorus', coneflower 'Big Sky Sunset'; lamium 'Shell Pink'; hyssop 'Hummingbird Mint'; dwarf New England aster 'Purple Dove'

Tropical Plants: canna 'Constitution'; canna 'Louis Cottin'; black elephant ear 'Black Magic'; euphorbia 'Tropical Smoke Bush'

Evergreens: juniper 'Skyrocket'

Planters and Hanging Baskets: fuchsia 'Claire de Lune'; plumbago auriculata 'Imperial Blue'; carex (grass) 'Evergold'; euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'; lantana 'Patriot Classic Passion'; jessamine 'Fiona's Sunrise'; salvia 'Stampede Citron'

A THOROUGH BOOK ON TOUGH PLANTS



By *Tough Plants for Northern Gardens: Low Care, No Care, Tried and True Winners – from the Midwest to the Northeast* by Felder Rushing, Cool Springs Press, 2003.

M. Susan Osborne

I had the pleasure of hearing Felder Rushing speak at the 2007 State Master Gardener Convention in Evansville this past September. He offered two delightful sessions that I enjoyed so much that it just seemed appropriate to purchase *Tough Plants for Northern Gardens*. I began reading the book soon after the conference and discovered he writes in the same style in which he speaks --informative, entertaining, delightful witticism, and extraordinary knowledge.

The first chapter, *Green Side Up*, displays a bright red box with white lettering that states in a nutshell what the book is all about: "This book is about unkillable plants in the cold-winter regions of our country. Its aim is to increase the number of people who garden – without a lot of "bells and whistles" sciences – by highlighting what decades of experience have shown to be the toughest survivors of the Midwest and Northeast." Following are chapters of highly informative and delightful prose about gardening, including topics as *Annuals That Endure*, *Unbeatable Bulbs*, *Grasses with Gumption*, *Perennials that Prevail*, *Steadfast Shrubs*, *Stouthearted Trees and Vine with Vigor*. Each of the chapters includes a list of his top picks, accompanied by delightful photography and a brief, down-to-earth, description of the plant, shrub, or tree. The chapters are **not** just full of textbook information, but he does include reference lists, his own personal irony, and *Best for Beginner* lists scattered throughout the book.

Some of my favorite information came from the one-page article he writes at the end of each chapter. These include such titles such as *Rumplestiltskin's Gardens*, *Wedding of the Flower*, *Help, I'm a Garden Nerd*, and *Green Thumb Is Official*, offering personal reflections from years of "knowing gardeners, knowing gardens, and knowing plants." The brief articles are written with his personal sense of moxie and humor that I appreciated even more after hearing him speak. His use of vernacular, homespun phrases of which he says, "The quirky descriptions are more meaningful than being precise," delivers relaxing, enjoyable reading time.

Tough Plants for Northern Gardens is written by a man whose knowledge of plants is extensive and reliable. The book is full of tough plant information, and written to be understood by everyone and at the same time be extremely entertaining. This is one of the best books gardening books I have read and reviewed and at the same time the most humorous. I hesitate offering too much text content because I don't want to spoil your reading pleasure. However, I will tell you that I smiled, I laughed, I guffawed outright at some of the stories he wrote. So, I would encourage everyone to read this book, and if you ever have the opportunity to hear him speak, by all means, go! Felder Rushing offers a whole new twist to learning and knowing about gardening, and I like his style!

JANUARY 2008 EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

On January 26, 2008, Crawford County MGs and LTC present "A Winter Day in the Garden" at Zwermann Theatre, Lincoln Trail College, Robinson, IL. , 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Keynote speaker: Jon Carloftis – Making the Most of Where Ever You Are. Also, Danny Whitehurst, Spring in Bloom, The Art of Bulbs and Branches; Nancy Clifton, Ball Containers; Dianne Noland, Using Perennials and Natives in the Landscape and an additional speaker tba

Registration fee: \$35 (includes coffee/snacks and lunch) Late registration fee is \$40 (after January 11). For info: [Hope Dennis – 618-546-1549](mailto:Hope.Dennis@uiuc.edu) [Download flyer and registration](http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/winterday/index.html) (under the horticulture & environment tab after Nov 30) <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/winterday/index.html>

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



By
Marilyn
Brinley

Fall has arrived, folks! That's right. The temperatures are finally within the norm for this time of year, signaling the end of a very long summer. This was the week I was able to turn off my air conditioning. Of course, that also meant that I had to immediately turn on my furnaces. Oh, the fickleness of Mother Nature.

While the plants outside are now preparing to sleep for the winter, the indoor plants now take center stage for the gardener. It's also the time to see to their particular needs. Do any need to be dusted or wiped down with a damp cloth? Would rearranging them make sense?

Or are you like me, and need to simply move some of them in order to make your allergist happy? I recently found out that I am allergic to dust mites, cats and mold – all of which reside in my house. The cat stays, and the dust mites are being corralled. Surprisingly, the potting medium for house plants harbors many molds and the allergist would love to see me get rid of my plants. But seeing as I am not willing to part with my 45 or so house plants, we have reached a compromise. The plants from my bedroom have been relocated to other rooms and a thick layer of small smooth pebbles needs to be placed over the potting medium of all plants in order to keep the mold levels down. I can do that. Plants are too important a part of my life to simply give up. If there is anything that we gardeners know about, it is about the rewards our hard work, compromise, and sometimes even sacrifice, produce.

As with gardening, being a Master Gardener requires some effort from time to time. At this time, I would ask all of our members to take the time to sit down and fill out the volunteer and education hours forms that can be found on our website. It is important that we become more diligent about keeping track of hours spent working and teaching and learning. It is just as important to turn a record of those hours in to the Extension Office so that you can remain on the list of active members. Think of it as taking a break from cleaning those house plants.

CORRECTIONS TO THE LISTING OF EDUCATION HOURS

By
Amy
Thompson

Below are some corrections to the listing of education hours offered by the MCMGA in 2007. The listing corrects some information that originally appeared the October 2007 *Roots & Shoots*.
Under **Special Events** the following is incorrect:
June 23, MG Garden Walk, 3 Hours.

The 2007 Master Gardener Garden Walk was held on June 16; one hour of educational credit is available for this program The Bloomington Garden Walk was held on June 23 and June 24 and is not eligible for educational credit. It is a great event and if you attended, you probably did pick-up a garden design idea or ideas for new plant combinations, but it does not provide a formal educational element which would count as continuing education. Those of you who volunteered to at the MCMGA information booth on the lawn at the History Center during the Garden walk should record those hours under volunteer efforts.

There should also be an **additional list under special events**.

Joanna Howe offered an herb workshop to both Master Gardeners and the public on July 31. This event was worth 45 minutes of educational credit.

Under Tours, the Munchkin garden tour was worth 2.5 hours of educational credit.

For Garden Chats, the herbs chat was worth half an hour, and the ornamental grasses chat was also worth half an hour. Both of these events were incorrectly listed as being eligible for an hour of credit.

MCMGA MEMBER JOHN COOPER

By Becky Nyberg It saddened me deeply to learn that John Cooper, a member of the 2007 Master Gardener intern class passed away unexpectedly this week. Information provided by a friend of John's indicates that he passed away in his sleep at home. John was found at home on October 25, 2007.

I was John's MG mentor and got to know him over the past few months. John started helping me in May with the Purdue survey of the Bloomington Community Farmers' Market. In fact, John enjoyed going to the Farmers' Market so much that he earned 36 volunteer hours two hours at a time doing it. John enjoyed talking to the vendors and being part of the weekly activity.

John also enjoyed spending time with his son, Kevin. In fact, the only times John didn't participate in the survey was when Kevin would come to town or when he planned to go out of town. He would call me, generally once a week, to catch me up on what was happening in his life. John always had a lot to report after Kevin had been here for a visit.

John had a dry sense of humor. He often sent me humorous e-mails. He was also very concerned about safety. Not only did he send me an e-mail on how to protect myself, but also he called to make sure I had read it and would take the advice seriously.

John was dedicated to the MCMGA. He attended classes faithfully and always had questions for the speakers or Amy. He was particularly interested in vegetables. He loved seeing all of the varieties at the Farmers' Market. I have been after him for weeks to turn in his volunteer hours. I told him several times how proud I was that he achieved his hours so quickly, given that it took me a year to get mine done.

I am so glad that I had the opportunity to get to know John and wish that everyone had been able to do so. He joined our association for personal enrichment. He touched my life, and I will remember him fondly.

UPCOMING GARDENING EVENTS AT HILLTOP

Call Hilltop @ 855-2799 for registration information. Educational components of these events can count toward annual Master Gardener educational hours. Contact Amy Thompson afthompson@purdue.edu or 349-2575 about questions concerning educational or volunteer hours.

Winter Containers

Saturday, November 10, 10:00 a.m. \$15

The season for container planting need not end with the coming of winter. Join Hilltop director Greg Speichert for all the inspiration you'll need to spruce up your containers from late fall right through to spring. This demonstration will feature slides and how-to tips.

Holiday Wreaths

Friday, Nov. 30, 1 p.m. \$20 **OR** Saturday, Dec. 1, 10 a.m. \$20

Martha Stewart, eat your heart out! Hilltop is proud to offer, back by popular demand, Lorrie Palkenthal's sell-out workshop on holiday wreaths. This workshop is scheduled for two separate times, for your convenience. Claim bragging rights to a beautiful wreath of mixed evergreens that you made yourself. All supplies will be provided.

Let us be grateful to people who make us happy: They are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.-- Marcel Proust

PREPARING THE GARDEN FOR WINTER

By Rosie Lerner,
Purdue Horticult-
ure Specialist

Many of us gardeners have mixed feelings about this time of year: sad to see another garden year draw to a close, but at the same time relieved to get a break from the chores of weeding, watering, pruning and more weeding. But before you hibernate, there are still a few more chores to take care of outdoors.

Winter mulch isn't necessary for all garden plants, but it can mean survival for some less hardy plants. Winter mulch has a different purpose than summer mulch. The main benefits of winter cover are to protect against wide temperature fluctuations in the soil and to prevent extreme cold temperatures from harming plants.

Soil tends to heave when subjected to wide temperature changes, pushing plant roots up out of the ground. Heaving is most harmful to relatively shallow-rooted plants, such as strawberries and newly planted specimens of any kind that have not yet had a chance to develop solid footing. Winter mulch also prevents extreme cold damage to above-ground plant parts.

In most cases, 2 to 4 inches of mulch, such as straw, pine needles, hay or bark chips, give adequate protection. For some plants, such as roses, more elaborate protection is needed.

Timing is critical when applying winter mulch. It's best to wait until after temperatures are consistently below freezing to apply the mulch. Applying too early can smother the plant and encourage disease development.

Winterizing your landscape plants is just as important as winterizing your car. Those bright, sunny days of winter may be a welcome sight to us humans, but they can spell trouble for some landscape plants. Direct sunshine on young thin-barked trees warms the bark considerably. But when the sun goes down, air temperatures drop rapidly, and that can result in the tree's bark splitting. Other types of winter injury are also common, including breakage from heavy snow and ice, severe drying and animal feeding damage. However, you can help protect your plants by properly preparing them for the winter season.

Shading young, thin-barked trees such as maples and fruit trees on the south and west sides will help prevent bark splits from temperature extremes. The bark tends to split vertically on the sunny side of the tree, because as the temperatures drop rapidly at sundown, the outer bark cools down and contracts faster than the inner bark. Thus, the outer bark must split to accommodate what's below. Wrapping the trunks with commercial tree wrap provides some protection.

You can't do very much about excessively low temperatures. But you should be sure that the plants chosen for the landscape are hardy to our average winter conditions and otherwise adapted to site conditions.

All plants, but especially evergreens, are susceptible to drying out over winter. The above-ground parts, such as twigs and evergreen leaves, are very much alive and are continuously losing water through a process called transpiration. Once the ground is frozen, the plant's roots are not able to take up water to replace that which is lost through the tops. The result is drying leaves, buds and twigs. Sunny, windy conditions cause water to be lost from the tops more rapidly, further aggravating the situation. Broad-leaved evergreens are particularly susceptible since they have a greater leaf surface to lose water from.

Making sure the plants have a sufficient supply of soil moisture before the ground freezes will help create healthier specimens to fight the winter battle. Water thoroughly every seven to 10 days if fall rains are not sufficient. Shading susceptible plants from winter sun and wind also can be helpful. Burlap can be fastened to stakes, or a section of snow fencing should be adequate. Plant highly susceptible plants, such as rhododendrons, on the north side of the house or a hedge to avoid strong winter sun.

Multistemmed shrubs seem to be particularly prone to damage from heavy snow and ice loads. The intense weight of snow and ice bends branches to the ground, breaking the bark and cutting off circulation of the food manufactured by the leaves to the roots. Starving roots eventually die, which leaves the tops without a supply of water, and eventually the whole plant will die. The process could take several years.

To prevent damage from heavy loads, support multistemmed plants by bundling the stems together using burlap, canvas or chicken wire. Simply binding stems together with cord will do in a pinch. Be sure to carefully remove heavy snow as soon as possible, but don't try to remove ice. More damage to the bark probably will occur than if the ice is allowed to melt on its own.

Now you've earned that trip to the Bahamas!

YOUR MCMGA BOARD AT WORK

Editor's Note: The MCMGA board is composed of the president, two vice presidents, two secretaries, two treasurers, two journalists, two state advisory committee representatives, one webmaster, one Fair Board representative, and the extension educator, a total of fourteen people. The board meets monthly and makes decisions on behalf of the membership on topics that come before the board. The bylaws printed in our membership guide provide a description of the duties of the MCMGA officers. This month and in future months, members of the board will describe the work they do on your behalf.

JOURNALIST

HELEN HOLLINGSWORTH

The journalist's job is to facilitate communication within MCMGA by publishing three versions (print, formatted electronic identical to print edition, and unformatted electronic for easy download) each month of **Roots and Shoots**, the MCMGA newsletter, and sending email communications to members as needed. Beginning in January, email communications will be handled by the director of communications.

In addition to monthly newsletter duties, the journalist attends all board meetings, notifies board members of deadlines for articles, solicits and collects newsletter articles from members and our Extension Agent, includes annual membership renewal form in the October issue of the newsletter, and maintains a current list of members' address changes.

The process for publishing the monthly newsletter is a one-person job, because the newsletter is composed on the computer, using Publisher and Word. The newsletter is completed for mailing and for posting on our website by the first Thursday of each month. The Extension Office staff prints mailing labels, duplicates the printed newsletter, adds the stamps, and mails the print edition. The webmaster posts the electronic newsletter editions on our website and notifies members. Putting together the newsletter is a one-person job, but writing the material and getting it out requires the work of many people.

The journalist's job is interesting, because it keeps me up to date on events. The hardest part is prioritizing articles and organizing them for the newsletter. Inevitably each month, small spaces must be filled—spaces too small for an article but too large to leave blank—so the challenge is to decide what to do about them. Sometimes I insert clip art from a program I own; sometimes I write about something I've experienced in my own garden; and sometimes I fill the small spaces with incidental information I've seen in a catalog or article. The journalist's job is part editor, part designer, and part juggler!

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND FOR HILLTOP VOLUNTEERS

Currently, Hilltop volunteers are learning how to save seed, from harvesting to cleaning, packaging and sowing. We've been making tea (and tasting it too) and harvesting herbs for drying as well. We need workshop volunteers to learn the projects that will be covered by Greg in our classes. Then, these same volunteers help Greg during his class. Come in soon, so you can learn how to make a hypertufa trough and then help others make one during the class. If you're into garden art, we're making twig trellises and other garden ornaments that will be used in the garden throughout the fall and into the winter. Like to work in the greenhouse, where it's warm inside even when it's cold outdoors? We have openings in our greenhouse where volunteers learn about growing and maintaining orchids and rare and unusual plants. And we've always got something growing in the greenhouse. We have indoor opportunities for people to meet visitors and prepare the next newsletter, events planning, and other activities at the garden. This summer, we'll need garden grandparents/mentors to help with the children's garden program, to help start a new generation of gardeners. We'll have openings in our perennial garden where you can learn about new perennials and how to divide, transplant and maintain a perennial garden. As you can see, there's something for everyone at Hilltop. Call 855-

2008 ALL AMERICAN ROSE SELECTIONS

from <http://www.rose.org/>

What Makes a Rose a Winner?

A winning rose embodies all of the characteristics consumers desire in a garden plant. Every AARS winning rose completes an extensive two-year trial program where it's judged on everything from disease resistance to flower production to color to fragrance. This sophisticated evaluation process guarantees that only the best of the crop make it into your garden.



With flamboyant blooms in a novel blend of pink, orange, and yellow, and a delightful peppery scent, Mardi Gras creates a festive atmosphere in any setting. Each high-centered hybrid tea style bloom begins as an apricot-orange bud that slowly spirals open to reveal a 4-inch bright pink and orange bloom with a yellow base. As an All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winner, this festive floribunda has proven to perform exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. The colorful blooms are perfectly framed with dark green, semi-glossy foliage, and its upright columnar habit makes Mardi Gras an ideal rose to use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials. Mardi Gras was hybridized by *Keith Zary*.

With flamboyant blooms in a novel blend of pink, orange, and yellow, and a delightful peppery scent, Mardi Gras creates a festive atmosphere in any setting.

Each high-centered hybrid tea style bloom begins as an apricot-orange bud that slowly spirals open to reveal a 4-inch bright pink and orange bloom with a yellow base. As an All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winner, this festive floribunda has proven to perform exceptionally well across the country with little-to-no care. The colorful blooms are perfectly framed with dark green, semi-glossy foliage, and its upright columnar habit makes Mardi Gras an ideal rose to use as a hedge or in a border with mixed perennials. Mardi Gras was hybridized by *Keith Zary*.

Dream Come True

Dream Come True is a stunning sight of catchy colors, which lures the likes of even non-rose lovers to its side. This rose produces flawlessly formed yellow blossoms, blushed with ruby-red at the tips, all set amongst abundant matte green foliage. The big, bushy vigorous plant yields long-stemmed, long-lived blooms with mild tea fragrance, making it lovely in the landscape and a great choice for bouquets. Dream Come True was hybridized by Dr. John Pottschmidt of Cincinnati, Ohio – only the 3rd amateur hybridizer to win the AARS Award in 67 years

WHAT IS LOAM?

By B. Rosie Lerner, Extension Horticulture Specialist

Gardeners are often advised that a loamy garden soil is best for just about all plants. But just what is a loamy soil?

Soil is composed of many particles of varying sizes. Soil scientists have classified soil particles into three major groups: sand, silt and clay. Sand particles are the largest and tend to hold little water but allow good aeration. Clay particles are very small in size and

tend to pack down so that water does not drain well and little or no air can penetrate. Silt particles are medium sized and have properties in between those of sand and clay.

A loamy soil, then, is one that combines all three of these types of particles in relatively equal amounts.

Loamy soil is ideal for most garden plants because it holds plenty of moisture but also drains well so that sufficient air can reach the roots.

Heavy, compacted soil can be rescued by the enduring gardener. Add a good amount of organic matter, such as compost, animal manure, cover crops or organic mulch materials, each year as the soil is worked. It may take several years, but eventually the soil compaction will be improved. Although adding some sand along with the organic matter is acceptable, adding sand alone is not advised. The organic matter offers several advantages that sand does not, including increased water- and nutrient-holding capabilities, in addition to improved aeration.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Marsha Trowbridge - 876-1493
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 333-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries and research	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 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 McEnderfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

NEW VARIETIES FOR 2007

From Marion Co. Extension Service
Gardeners love new varieties. They add excitement to your garden while "growing" your gardening experience. It's fun to have something new.

Look for the following new flowers and vegetables online at e-commerce seed sales websites, in mail order seed catalogs, as seed packets in retail stores, or as bedding plants at garden centers.

FLOWERS

Agastache 'Sunset Hyssop' - *Agastache rupestris*
Alyssum F1 'Wonderland™ Mulberry Mix' - *Lobularia maritima*
Amaranthus 'Dreadlocks' - *Amaranthus caudatus*
Astilbe 'Astary™ Mix' - *Astilbe arendsii*
Basil 'Pepper' - *Ocimum selloi*
Basil 'Queen of Sheba' - *Ocimum basilicum*
Begonia F1 'Go Go™ Light Yellow' - *Begonia tuberosa*
Begonia F1 'Nonstop® Mocca Mix' - *Begonia tuberhybrida*
Celosia 'Fresh Look Gold' - *Celosia plumosa*
Dianthus F1 'Elation™ Crimson' - *Dianthus interspecific*
Dianthus F1 'Noverna® Clown' - *Dianthus barbatus*
Echinacea 'Prairie Splendor™' - *Echinacea purpurea*
Geranium F1 'Infiniti Scarlet' - *Pelargonium x hortorum*
Geranium F1 'Maverick™ Scarlet Eye' - *Pelargonium x hortorum*
Geranium 'Nano Mix' - *Pelargonium x hortorum*
Impatiens F1 'Divine Pink' - *Impatiens hawkerii*
Impatiens F1 'Envoy™ Cherry' - *Impatiens wallerana*
Impatiens F1 'Xtreme™ Utopia Mixture' - *Impatiens wallerana*
Isolepis 'Live Wire' - *Isolepis cernua*
Ornamental Pepper F1 'Garda Hocus Pocus' - *Capsicum annum*
Pansy F1 'Nature Plum Purple' - *Viola x wittrockiana*
Pentas F1 'Graffiti® Red Lace' - *Pentas lanceolata*
Petunia F1 'Avalanche™ Beachcomber Mix' - *Petunia x hybrida*
Petunia F1 'Easy Wave® Beachcomber Mix' - *Petunia x hybrida*
Petunia F1 'Opera Supreme Pink Morn' - *Petunia x hybrida*
Petunia F1 'Plush™ Deep Pink' - *Petunia pendula*
Rehmannia 'Chinese Foxglove' - *Rehmannia angulata*

Rufus
Rudbeckia 'Prairie Glow' - *Rudbeckia triloba*
Salvia 'Mojave' - *Salvia splendens*
Salvia 'Red Hot Sally II' - *Salvia splendens*
Stocks 'Sugar & Spice Formula Mix' - *Matthiola incana*
Sunflower 'Junior' - *Helianthus annuus*
Sunflower 'Sunny Smile' - *Helianthus annuus*
Sweet Pea 'Moroccan Spice' - *Lathyrus odoratus*
Vinca F1 'Cobra Mix' - *Catharanthus roseus*
Vinca 'Pacifica Burgundy Halo' - *Catharanthus roseus*
Zinnia F1 'Zesty Pink' - *Zinnia angustifolia*

VEGETABLES

Carrot F1 'Ya Ya' - *Daucus carota*
Cauliflower F1 'Veronica' - *Brassica oleracea Romanesco*
Chinese Cabbage F1 'Tenderheart' - *Brassica rapa* spp. *Chinensis*
Eggplant 'Sweet African Orange' - *Solanum aethiopicum*
Eggplant F1 'Twinkle' - *Solanum melongena*
Eggplant F1 'White Star' - *Solanum melongena* var. *esculentum*
Lettuce 'Garden Babies' - *Lactuca sativa*
Lettuce 'Lolita' - *Lactuca sativa*
Lettuce 'Teide' - *Lactuca sativa*
Pea, Snap 'Sweet Ann®' - *Pisum sativum*
Pepper F1 'Holy Mole' - *Capsicum annum*
Pepper F1 'Whitney' - *Capsicum annum*
Pumpkin F1 'Hooligan' - *Cucurbita pepo*
Pumpkin F1 'Little Guy™' - *Cucurbita pepo*
Swiss Chard F1 'Discovery™' - *Beta vulgaris*
Tomato F1 'Champion II' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Tomato F1 'Golden Rave' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Tomato F1 'Indy' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Tomato F1 'Jelly Bean Red and Yellow' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Tomato F1 'Margherita' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Tomato F1 'Sweet Hearts™' - *Solanum lycopersicum*
Watermelon 'Katanya' - *Citrullus lanatus*
Watermelon F1 'Yellow Buttercup™' - *Citrullus lanatus*

For more information and photos of these new flower and vegetable varieties, click <http://www.ngb.org/>

NOVEMBER LAST CALL FOR WINTERIZING GARDEN PONDS

taken from an interview of Dr. Carole Lembi

Original interview can be found here: <http://www.purdue.edu/UNS/html3month/021125.Lembi.ponds.html>

Most people don't associate November with gardening, but for water gardens this is the last month to prepare those sites for winter. There are several steps to getting a water garden ready for winter, especially if fish or plants are involved. While large natural ponds don't require any special preparations, smaller ornamental pools, like those found in many gardens, have to be readied for winter. Often people do not realize how much maintenance and management water gardens need.

Cleaning leaves and other debris from the site is one of the first things a water garden owner should do. It's a chore that can last months – especially in Indiana and other parts of the Midwest – but it's a vital step to keep pond water healthy. Decaying leaves give off gases that dissolve in water and can harm the fish. After cleaning, it's a good idea to cover the pond with a net or screen to keep additional leaves out.

Emergent plants, such as reeds, rushes and cattails, should be cut back. As they decompose, they can add litter and organic matter to the edge of the pond. Water lilies should be pruned to just about the crown and placed in the deepest portion of the pond. Other tender plants also should be positioned in the deepest water. The goal is for the tender plants to remain ice-free. Tropical plants should be moved indoors. Those plants will overwinter in the house with a large container of water and strong light. Floating plants, such as water hyacinth and water lettuce, should be removed and discarded.

Most ponds do not require a water change. Change the water if it's extremely discolored or dirty. Even then, only exchange about two-thirds of the water and make sure to complete the change before water temperature drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit so fish are not disturbed.

Water temperature is the most reliable gauge for fish care; accordingly, you should decrease feedings when the water temperature stays below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. At that point fish metabolism slows, and they don't require as much food. In Indiana fish can overwinter in ponds that are more than 2.5 feet deep – shallower ponds can freeze solid, sometimes killing the fish. In some areas the ponds must be deeper. If the deepest portion of the pond is below the local freezing line, the water should be safe for fish. Ice formation is not necessarily a bad thing; however, ice formation with snow on top can cause problems. It's important to keep the pond's surface clear so that photosynthesis – the process by which green plants use sunlight to convert carbon dioxide dissolved in water to sugars and oxygen – can occur over the winter. Snow cover keeps light from entering the water. If plants are unable to perform photosynthesis, they won't add oxygen back into the water and fish can suffocate. A pond heater that's approved for plastic ponds is one option for small ornamental pools. Stock tank or birdbath heaters are other, sometimes less expensive, options.

Following pond care guidelines will help keep fish and plants alive over the winter, but it doesn't mean every plant or fish will make it to next spring. If fish die one year, then allow others to overwinter inside the following year. The same can be said for especially important or expensive plants.

SAVE THE DATE!



The 2008 State Master Gardener Conference will be held September 26 – 28 in Indianapolis. Check this webpage for updates in the future <http://www.indymqconf.org/>

November 2007 Volume 23, Issue 11

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Plan to attend the MCMGA Holiday Party
on November 27, at 6:00 p.m.,
at the First United Church, 2420 E. Third Street.

Details on Page 1.

2007 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

President: Marilyn Brinley
Marilyn: 812-824-1318 mlbrinley@aol.com

Vice Presidents: Ann McEndarfer, Nancy White
Ann: 812-334-1801 amcendar@truman.edu
Nancy: 812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Treasurers: Dale Calabrese, Diana Young
Dale: 812-332-3833 kcalabre@indiana.edu
Diana: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Secretaries: Barbara Cappy, Mary Hawkins
Barbara: 812-837-9246 bacappy@msn.com
Mary: 812-824-2139 marywalloon@aol.com

Journalists: , Helen Hollingsworth, Susan Osborne
Helen: 812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu
Susan: 812-825-9154 m.susan.osborne@saic.com

State Advisory Committee Representatives:
Herman Young
Herman: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Webmaster: Barb Hays 812-332-4032 barbsblooms@insightbb.com

Fair Board Representative: Irvin Shelton 812-825-6947

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
Amy: 812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

In This Issue

MCMGA Holiday Party	1
Election of 2008 MG Officers	1
Member News	2
A Thorough Book on Tough Plants	3
January 2008 Education Opportunity	3
From the President's Desk	4
Correction to 2007 Hours Listing	4
MCMGA Member John Cooper	5
Upcoming Gardening Events at Hilltop	5
Preparing the Garden for Winter	6
Your Board at Work—Journalist	7
Learning Opportunities at Hilltop	7
2008 All-American Rose Selections	8
What Is Loam?	8
Volunteer Opportunities	9
New Plant Varieties for 2007	10
November Last Call for Winterizing Ponds	11