

# ROOTS AND SHOOTS



November 2008, Volume 24, Issue 11

## Vote for Slate of 2009 MG Officers at December 1 Celebration

By Marilyn Brinley  
The MG nominating committee has named these candidates for the open positions on the 2009 MCMGA board:

President: Nancy White  
Vice President for Programs: Vicky St. Myers  
Vice President for Education: Carol Cobine  
Secretary: David Dunatachik  
Director of Communications: Barb Hays  
Director-at-Large: Herman Young

As written in our bylaws, candidates for vice president for programs are elected for a two year term. The current VP for Programs, Nancy White, is stepping into the president's position. This move opens up her position, which has a year left in the current term.

The president's job is to preside at board and general meetings of the organization and oversee the organization. The president appoints committees as needed and also serves on the Monroe County Extension Board.

The vice-president for programs acts as president if the president is absent and chairs the program committee. This officer also plans meetings with the vice-president for education .

The vice-president for education chairs the education committee, arranges educational opportunities for members and the community, works with the Extension Educator, and assists with the intern training program.

The secretary takes minutes at the meetings, takes roll, maintains a current membership list, handles general correspondence, and maintains the records of the organization, working with the director of communication and the journalist as needed.

Also on the ballot are two current board members who have agreed to serve another term. They are Barb Hays, director of communications and Herman Young, director-at-large. The communications director chairs the communication committee and is responsible for the MCMGA website as well as updating both email and postal addresses; emailing the membership; and sending the electronic newsletters.

The director-at-large works as liaison with other Master Gardener Associations and attends State Advisory Committee meetings when called.



Nancy White



Vicky St. Myers



Carol Cobine



David Dunatachik

## Member News



As we come to the end of the calendar year, don't forget to forward your volunteer and education hours to the Extension Office.

### **Is Your Contact Information Current?**

Another reminder that will help keep your MG communication up-to-date: when addresses, phone numbers or e-mails change, be sure to contact a board member or the Extension Office and let us know of the change.

By

Nancy  
White

### **Annual Election of Officers on December 1**

The slate of officers will be voted upon at our December general meeting, which also serves as our Holiday and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Members will pick up a ballot at the door as they arrive and will indicate their vote by checking off the appropriate box before turning the ballot in to be counted.

The board thanks Carol Cobine and Linda Heath for their tireless efforts as they served on the nominating committee.

### **MGs Work with Other Community Volunteers**

We are grateful for community volunteers who often join us in our gardening projects even though they are not Master Gardeners. Many churches urge congregants to spend time at the Garton Homestead, WonderGarden, and other sites during the year. This month, Free Methodist Church and Sherwood Oaks Christian Church volunteers are working alongside Master Gardeners to better our community.

### **Do You Have Old (1992-1999) Copies of Roots & Shoots and Folia & Flora?**

The Board is attempting to locate some historical information for our files and for the December 1 MCMGA Anniversary Celebration. Please search your desk and your personal memory bank to help us if you can. We need lists of officers and newsletters or member handbooks (Folia and Flora) from 1992 to 1999. If you have these, please contact Helen Hollingsworth, Nancy White, or the Extension Office (349-2575). If you could loan these to us, we will return them.

### **Returning Daylilies**

For those among us who have been bitten by the daylily bug, here are some new varieties that you may want to research on-line or in catalogues. All are return bloomers.

**'Malachite Prism'** has four inch blooms that appear in mid-season and then return later in the summer. Colors are violet, red, and pink, with green tips on upper petals. Grows to three feet high.

**'Eleonore'** has six inch blooms of two shades of lavender that turn paler each evening. It blooms for 16 hours each day and blooms early in the lily season.

**'Apricot Sparkles'** has up to nine buds per stem and blooms June through October. Buds have a silver sparkle overlay.

**'Vintage Ruffles'** is scented and has lime green, peach, and ivory petals with faint veining and can reach two feet tall and two feet wide.

For more information on these new varieties, see the Wayside Gardens website, [www.waysidegardens.com](http://www.waysidegardens.com).

### **Calendar**

**Saturday, November 22**, 8:00 a.m., INPAWS Conference, Indianapolis

**Wednesday, November 12**, Extension Office Open House, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Health Services Building

**Monday, December 1**, 20th anniversary of MCMGA, Terry's Banquet & Catering, Canterbury, 6:00 p.m.

## Community Support for Master Gardeners

By Amy Thompson The vendors below were generous with their support of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association by offering to supply door prizes to the *Water Make Every Drop Count* Workshop. Although the workshop had to be cancelled, please thank these local businesses for their willingness to support MCMGA activities and consider supporting them with your gardening purchases.

Abell's Nursery & Landscape Supply Center	Bloomington Mulch
Good Earth Compost	Designscape
May's Greenhouses	Bloomington Valley Nursery

## Classes at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

### **Hypertufa 10:00 a.m., Saturday, November 15**

If you missed last year's sold-out Hypertufa classes at Hilltop, here's your chance to make a "stone" trough for your own garden. Hilltop Director Greg Speichert will help you produce a masterpiece, and he'll also introduce you to the plants that are best suited for trough culture. Wear old clothes. All materials will be provided. Cost is \$25.

### **Holiday Wreaths 10:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 29 and 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 6**

Lorrie Falkenthal will again offer her sell-out workshop on holiday wreaths. This workshop is scheduled for three separate sessions to suit your convenience. Claim bragging rights to a beautiful wreath of mixed evergreens that you made yourself. All materials will be provided. Cost is \$25.

## You Are Invited to the Extension Office Open House

As a Master Gardener, you are familiar with one aspect of the programming offered through the Monroe County Extension office but may not be familiar with the other programs and resources we offer, including 4-H Youth Development, Consumer and Family Science, and Agriculture and Natural Resources

To find out more, we invite you to attend our Extension Office OPEN HOUSE on Wednesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Health Services Building. You will see some of the highlights of Extension programming over the 2007-2008 year as well as have an opportunity to offer suggestions for future programming. Light refreshments will be served. No need for reservations.

## Upcoming Master Gardener Events

**Saturday, November 15**—last day for early bird registration for 2009 International MG Conference in Nevada on March 22-26, 2009. Visit [www.unr.edu/imgc](http://www.unr.edu/imgc) for complete details.

**Saturday, November 22**, 8:00 a.m., IN-PAWS Conference, Indianapolis, Growing

Natives Plants for Wildlife. Visit [www.inpaws.org](http://www.inpaws.org) for registration and information.

**Saturday, January 24, 2009**, A Winter Day in the Garden, in Robinson, IL. Visit [www.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford](http://www.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford) or call 618-546-1549 for details.

## From the President's Desk



This is the time of the year when we stop and give thanks for nature's gifts that we receive. We give thanks for the rain that germinates the seeds, the sunshine that feeds the plants, and the shade that cools the gardener.

By Marilyn Brinley We give thanks for the opportunity to work the soil, for the fruits of our labor and for the beauty that surrounds us. We are thankful for the beasts and the birds that visit the garden. Even the worms and the spiders and the beneficial insects deserve our praise for the part they play in our gardens.

In the same vein, I have much to be thankful for as a Master Gardener. I wish to thank the members who have served with me on the board these past few years. These fine people have done much to help me do my job well. My committee members and chairpersons have all been diligent in their duties and have earned my gratitude. Amy Thompson has been a wonderful person to work with and is responsible for much of our current success as an organization. Mary Jane Hall has been my advisor and has held my hand along the way. I must surely count her as a blessing in my life.

Lastly, I am thankful for the membership of this fine organization. You have all taught me to reach beyond myself and to strive to be a better gardener and person. Master Gardeners have taught me much about nature and life and for that I am grateful. What do you have to be thankful for this season?

## MCMGA 20<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Celebration

By Nancy White Have you ever wondered how the local MG group got its start? Do you know how many Extension Educators have assisted us since our beginning? Do you know the names of some of the charter members who organized and had a vision for our organization?

All these questions and more will be answered on December 1, at 6:00 p.m., when we gather at Terry's Banquets and Catering to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. You don't want to miss this special occasion, so be watching your mail delivery for your invitation. By the time you read this, it should have already arrived. But if you didn't receive it, give us a call or send an e-mail to Amy Thompson at the Extension Office, and we will see that you get one. The invitation includes a response card that must be returned by November 17 along with payment for all those guests in your party.

Charter members and other special friends are invited join us for this gala event. We invite you to bring your family and friends. The Board felt this was a significant event in our history, so they have agreed to subsidize the meal cost so that many can attend. Terry's has arranged a two-entree buffet, and a special dessert will be served. A vegetarian entree is available upon request as stated on the response card.

The Anniversary Celebration Committee has arranged an excellent meal, stunning table decorations, and a program that includes election of 2009 officers and a special anniversary presentation to entertain us all. Be part of this special occasion in the life of our association.

## **Garden Bios of New 2009 MCMGA Officers**

### **Nancy White, President**

My training as a Master Gardener took place in the class of 2001 at Bloomington North High School. But my first gardening instructors were my four grandparents who lived nearby when I was growing up. They had diverse garden skills—one grandfather taught me about vegetables, one grandmother was a rose and perennial expert and all encouraged me to get my hands dirty. While with my husband on military service in Virginia, I used to grow flowers in the apartment complex parking lot. As our children came along and grew up in Bloomington, they also joined us in growing flowers and vegetables. They weren't always willing participants, but now they enjoy their own gardens.

I have many plants that have moved with me to new places and always thrive where they are planted. The best plants come from other gardeners, and I have taken advantage of so many outstanding gifts and swaps such as hostas, daylilies, peonies, lilac bushes, iris, coreopsis, and lambs ear.

Involvement in Master Gardening has helped me clarify my goals and better enjoy my time in my garden. I look forward to serving this group of community-minded, enthusiastic gardeners in a new way.

### **Vicky St. Myers, Vice President for Programs**

I received my Master Gardener certification in 2006, and my only regret is that I waited so long to do it. If it is possible to inherit the gardening gene, I would say that gene was passed from my grandfather to my mother and then to me. As a child, I remember running through rows of dahlias, irises, and peonies in my grandfather's gardens, and being dazzled by the color and fragrance. As I was growing up, many Sunday dinners were interrupted by strangers, stopping at our house and asking for personal tours of my mother's flower gardens.

While I don't have the time to devote to tending my flower and herb gardens that I would like, every year I manage to replace more grass in my yard with natives, perennials, herbs, and ornamental grasses. Participating in Master Gardener activities, especially attending the state conferences, is a way for me to continue life-long learning, meet new people, and be among the flowers I so enjoy. I look forward to serving on the 2009 MCMGA Board as vice president of programs and to start a new adventure in Master Gardening.

### **Carol Cobine, Vice President for Education**

I became an intern in 2003 and became a Master Gardener later the same year. I have served on the board as the journalist and over the past few years, taken the responsibility of staffing the fair booth.

My gardening takes advantage of organic techniques, including sustainable and permaculture practices. I love the look of cottage gardens, but my gardens are not exactly recognizable as such. I substitute natives, herbs, and vegetables in place of the more traditional cottage garden staples. I plant for my children's enjoyment as well, incorporating lots of fragrant herbs, mints, stevia, sunflower paths, and butterfly plants. I encourage them to touch, pluck, sniff, experiment, and share to their hearts content. In fact, my toddler's favorite outdoor hideout is smack in the middle of a bed of tall chives. I don't know if it makes him feel like he is in the midst of a vast savannah, but his enjoyment of that patch definitely makes up for the chive perfume he ends up wearing for the rest of the day.

The Master Gardening program has enriched my life in a number of ways. I look forward to (continued on page 6)

## Garden Bios of 2009 MCMGA Officers (continued from page 5)

serving as the vice president of education and sharing tools and resources to keep us learning and growing together.

### David Dunatachik, Secretary

I am a graduate of the 2007 Master Gardener Training Course and received my MG certification the summer of 2008. I've only been a MG for about a year now, although my interest in gardening goes back a long way. Only since retirement and moving to Bloomington in 2005 have I had a chance to do real gardening and landscaping.

My real love is in landscaping to transform my back yard into a place that is highly attractive to birds, both for nesting and for food and shelter. Since moving to Bloomington, I have planted many berry-producing shrubs and installed many bird houses in addition to maintaining a feeding station. My other interest includes working a small vegetable garden only large enough to support my wife and myself. Lastly, I still have hopes to gradually add perennial and annual flower beds around the front of our house, a work just getting started.

I have served as secretary in other activities, and it is a job that I enjoy doing. I would be honored to be selected for this position.

## MG Education and Volunteer Hours



2009 will be the third year in which the Monroe County Extension Service and the Monroe County Master Gardener Association have followed the Purdue Master Gardener guidelines which were updated under Peggy Sellers's tenure as State Master Gardener Coordinator. Following this update, once certified as Master Gardeners, volunteers are required to obtain 12 hours of volunteer service hours and 6 hours of continuing education annually.

By  
Amy  
Thompson

If those minimum hours are not completed or reported in three consecutive years, then the Master Gardener is considered inactive and must complete the Master Gardener training program and pass the final exam again in order to return to active status.

I want everyone who is interested in remaining active to have the opportunity to do so. Often people lose track of when they have reported hours and the total numbers of hours they have reported. Later this month each of you should receive a letter from me indicating the hours you have reported in 2007 and 2008 as well as the total number hours which you have reported as a Master Gardener.

Reported MG activity in 2007 and 2008 will allow you to know if you are in jeopardy of losing your active status if you do not report hours in 2009. This is assuming that you were a certified Master Gardener prior to 2006.

I hope this has not confused you. I promise further explanation will follow in the individual letters. Also, I am aware, and you should be as well, that there are likely to be errors in individual records. This would be true with any record keeping endeavor but is even more likely to be true in this case, because in the 20 years since the first Master Gardener class, the records have been kept by a variety of individuals and because there have also been changes in extension staff. It is always a good idea to keep a copy of records that you send in. When you receive your letter from me, if you believe the records contain an error, please contact me, and we will work together to resolve the situation.

## Three Great Books about Conifers and Evergreens



*Gardening with Conifers* by Adrian Bloom, photography by Adrian and Richard Bloom, published by Firefly Books, 2002

*A-Z of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs* published by Reader's Digest Association, 1995

*The Evergreen Expert* by Dr. D.G. Hessayon, published by Expert Books, 1998

By M. Susan Osborne

This review examines three books that I found to be full of distinctive information, each offering some very enticing new candidates in the conifer and evergreen families for gardens. Conifers and evergreens, as we know them, are often underrated, but they are an all season, high interest plants. Conifer and evergreen use is encouraged in the gardens to offer year-round color, texture, and interest—essential ingredients to a garden and not easily replicated by other plants. The range of conifers and evergreens is vast—big and tall, short and small, wide spreading and columnar. They come with names such as thujas and junipers, cypress and spruce, rhododendron and helleborus. And they are magical!

The first book I reviewed is *Gardening with Conifers* by Adrian Bloom, photography by Adrian and Richard Bloom and published by Firefly Books in 2002.

The author, Adrian Bloom, is a well-known plantsman, horticulturalist and gardener who owns a six-acre garden in Bressingham, Norfolk, England, known for its year-round color, based on Bloom's wide selection of conifers. *Gardening with Conifers* portrays his deep appreciation of the *genus*. The book has four chapters plus a directory of more than 600 recommended conifers for the garden. The first chapter, *The Magic of Conifers* describes their use as garden plants, their origins, how they grow, and how they are named. *A Close Look at Conifers* discusses conifer's flowers and cones, foliage, buds and shoots, bark, form, and the unusual and growth rates. *Using Conifers in the Garden* offers great suggestions for using conifers in containers, as ground covers, among other plants as well as autonomously. He also provides suggestions are plants for hedges, topiaries, small gardens, sun, shade, color and more. These chapter highlights offer excellent information just prior to the directory listing of Bloom's many choice selected conifers. The outstanding, stunning color photography, provided throughout the book, reveals conifers in all their beauty. Distant photographs of artistically shaped conifers, close-up shots of cones and candles, as well as delicate foliage structure, unveil the many possibilities of using conifers. To complete the book, the final chapter, *Caring for Conifers*, provides instruction in the planting of conifers, relocating, pruning, propagation, general maintenance, pests and diseases. Bloom's colorful and provocative analysis of the unique features of conifers is a definitive book on conifers for gardener's everywhere.

The second book, *A-Z of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs* is offered by the Reader's Digest Association and was published in 1995.

Even though the book is over ten years old, I discovered the contents to be quite revealing with its description of more than 100 plant *genera* of evergreen trees and shrubs. The special feature section on choosing conifers is short but enlightening. The section in the art of topiary is picturesque with whimsical shapes and designs, yet at the same time educational as it instructs in the art of topiary. However, the crux of the book focuses on two alphabetically organized sections on evergreen trees and shrubs. (continued on page 8)

## Early Christmas Shopping—Order the 2009 MG Calendar

By Rosie Lerner, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist

The 2009 Master Gardener Calendar is great! It features photos and Haiku by MGs from all around the state and monthly gardening tips by Rosie Lerner. The calendar also includes a record of the 30 year history of MG programming in Indiana.

The price is \$10 per calendar, and for each one sold, \$1.25 goes to the Purdue Extension or Master Gardener Association designated by the purchaser; \$1.25 goes to the state MG office; and \$1.25 goes to help pay for the 2009 MG State Conference. Calendar sales are a good fundraiser to help support MG programming in your county and all over the state.

Photos of the calendar and order forms are available on [www.IndyMGConf.org](http://www.IndyMGConf.org).

This year MG note cards also are available. The winning photo in each of the seven categories in this year's Master Gardener Photo Contest is featured on the cards. Included in the packet are seven cards and envelopes for \$7. Note card order forms are on the website noted above.

For more information, contact MG Kathleen Hull at 317 996 4380 or [hullk@ccrtc.com](mailto:hullk@ccrtc.com)

### **Three Great Books about Conifers and Evergreens** (from page 8)

Every entry offers full-color photograph and a summary of height, spread, soil and light preferences, and hardiness zones. Description of blooms, berries, fruits, and other features make it easy to select the tree or shrub that is just right for your garden. *A-Z of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs* may inspire you to design your garden so you view it as a place of enjoyment and interest throughout the year.

The third book to consider reading is *The Evergreen Expert* by Dr. D.G. Hessayon, published by Expert Books in 1998.

*The Evergreen Expert* is a dictionary of evergreens. It examines and describes over 200 genera. The introduction, which I found quite different, discusses three difficulties of evergreens: (1) there are deciduous conifers and evergreen oaks; (2) listed as an evergreen does not guarantee leafy winter displays; and (3) overwintering foliage many not be particularly decorative. His words of caution (rather than praise) suggest checking that the variety is indeed an evergreen, which encourages wise selection of evergreen trees and shrubs.

*The Evergreen Expert* consists of six chapters: Introduction; Evergreens A-Z; Growing Evergreens; Using Evergreens; Evergreen Grower's Dictionary; and Plant Index. The crux of the book is contained in chapters two, three and four. Chapter two contains listings which have a catalog appearance, providing a variety of plants where the different *genre* are outlined, with descriptive, concisely written information. Chapter three, with its drawings and examples for buying, planting, routine care, specific care, propagation, and problems, provides useful detailed information. Chapter four continues the theme and brief articles on ground cover, rockery, specimen, container, screen, hedge, bed and border, mixed border, wall and trellis, and topiary plantings. Each article offers helpful information, drawings and pictures to assist with evergreen plantings.

As I read and studied these three books, *Gardening with Conifers*, *A-Z of Evergreen Trees and Shrubs*, and *The Evergreen Expert*, I cannot state that one book was better than the other since they each offer distinctive information for conifer and evergreen plant lovers. However, I will affirm that each book was an inspiring invitation to me to work toward making my gardens more interesting throughout the year. Happy fall gardening!

## 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	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 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	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Nancy White, 824-4426 Bob Baird, 331-1308
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**

## November 2008, Volume 24, Issue 11

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**MCMGA 20th Anniversary Holiday Party**  
**December 1, 6:00 p.m. at Terry's**  
**Send in your reservations for yourself, family, and friends**  
**before November 17!**

### 2008 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

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

**Vice President—Programs:** Nancy White  
Nancy: 812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

**Vice President—Education:** Bob Baird  
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**Treasurer:** Diana Young  
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**Director at Large:** Herman Young  
Herman: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

**Director—Communications:** Barbara Hays  
Barbara: 812-332-4032 barbsblooms@insightbb.com

**Director—Records:** Susan Osborne  
Susan: 812-825-9154 m.susan.osborne@saic.com

**Fair Board Representative:** Preston Gwinn  
Preston: 812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net

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

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