

Roots and Shoots



Attend our annual holiday dinner and meeting on November 27

By Evelyn Harrell



Special points of interest:

- Be on the lookout for Spotted Wing Drosophila
- Check out the new 'Tree App'
- Enter the garden photo contest by sending your favorite photos to Amy Thompson
- Have you renewed your MCMGA membership for 2013?
- Read bios of the nominees for 2013 board of directors
- Send your favorite garden photos to Amy Thompson to enter the *folia and flora* cover contest

Join us for our holiday dinner and general meeting on Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. The church is located at 2700 East Rogers Road. Plan to bring a place setting (plate, silverware, glass, and napkin) for yourself and your guests, plus bring your favorite pitch-in dish to share and if needed, a serving implement. Our annual holiday dinner is always a feast with a wonderful array of side-dishes, salads and desserts. The MCMGA board will provide hot and cold drinks and trays of sandwich meats, cheeses and crudités.

Note: Two more people are needed to help with serving. If you can arrive early and help with set-up, please contact Evelyn Harrell at 339-0572 or email ear4841@comcast.net.

We will hold an election of officers, vote on bylaws changes, and vote for a favorite photo for the 2013 *folia and flora* cover. Speakers for the evening will be some of the Master Gardener grant winners. We are looking forward to learning how grant winners have put our Garden Fair profits to work to enhance garden projects in our community. Good food, good speakers, and door prizes at the end of the evening all promise a good time for everyone.

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Considering a new tree?

Our weather in recent years has been hard on trees, and you may be searching for replacements. Some tips for selecting trees include considering climate adaptability (think drought tolerance); growth rate and height; root system (does the tree have a network of surface roots that can lift or crack nearby pavement?); maintenance (does the tree drop foliage, flower, or fruit that you won't want to deal with?); pest and disease problems; and longevity (what is the normal lifespan?). Think years ahead and imagine how your choice will fit into the landscape. A tree is an investment and worth the time to research thoroughly.

Member news

By Nancy White



Now is the time to turn in your membership form if you have not already done so. We are at work on the 2013 yearbook, *folia and flora*, and we hope to have all members listed. Membership forms can be downloaded from our website and should be sent to the extension office along with your \$10 member fee as soon as possible.

Officer election at our November 27 meeting

At our November holiday pitch-in dinner and general meeting on Tuesday, November 27, we will hold an election of officers. The slate arranged by the nominating committee is featured in this issue. In addition we will vote on our revised bylaws. Be sure to be present for this festive occasion.

Will your favorite garden photo be on 2013 *folia and flora* cover?

Entries are due into the extension office by November 15 for our photo contest. The winning photo will be chosen by all those attending our November 27 holiday dinner and will be used on the cover of 2013 *folia and flora*. Other photos submitted may be used in some of our other publications. Photos submitted last year may be re-submitted.

Replacement for Jeff Holland sought

Dr. Wayne Moore, newly appointed Southwest District Director of Purdue Extension Services, was introduced to the Monroe County Extension Board recently. He comes to our region from Texas and has previous experiences in extension work in other states. He will assist the extension board in choosing a replacement for Jeff Holland in November.

Master Gardener 2013 program committee is at work

Many thanks to Evelyn Harrell, Jeff Schafer, and members of the excellent program planning committee who have already begun to plan creative and educational meetings for 2013. You won't want to miss any of these general meetings planned for January, March, May, July, September, and November.

America in Bloom news

At the September 2012 National America in Bloom Symposium and Awards Program in Fayetteville, Arkansas, the following Indiana towns were honored for their community gardening efforts:

Population Category Award—Greendale, population 4,500-8,000

Best Program for Young People—Rising Sun

Best Community Festival—Plymouth

MCMGA members joined in the many projects during 2010 that enabled Bloomington to win the Population Category Award for cities of 50,000-100,000. The Best Urban Forestry award also went to Bloomington in 2010, as judged by the America in Bloom panel that made an on-site visit in June of that year. Master Gardener Gretchen Scott served as general chair of the Bloomington in Bloom project.

2013 MCMGA slate of officers

Members of the MCMGA board of directors are elected on a staggered schedule. This year we will elect our president, vice president for programs, vice president for education, secretary, director of communications, and at-large director. The election will take place at our Tuesday, November 27 holiday dinner and general meeting, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. The nominations committee present the following candidates for your consideration.



Evelyn Harrell

President: Evelyn Harrell I received my Master Gardeners training in 2009 and am now at the advanced level. I served as vice president for programs on the MG board, chaired the Garden Fair café committee, and volunteered at the Master Gardener booths at the Indiana Garden and Patio Show and the Indiana State Fair. My landscaping deep in the woods is designed to encourage the butterflies and discourage the deer.



Susan Lovell

Vice President for Programs: Susan Lovell I received Master Gardener training in the 2011 intern class. I served on the program planning committee and the vendor committee for the Garden Fair, and I volunteer in the WonderLab Garden. I have been a judge for the Bloomington in Bloom front yard contest for the last two years. I have enjoyed getting to know and learning from other interns in my class and other Master Gardeners.



Sandy Belth

Vice President for Education: Sandy Belth I am a Master Gardener and am employed at Monroe County Parks and Recreation. I am an instructor for the National Wildlife Federation with an extensive background in biological and geological sciences. I have presented many butterfly programs for Sassafras Audubon Society and other groups and organizations. I am certified in Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Hoosier RiverWatch.



David Dunatchik

Secretary: David Dunatchik I received my Master Gardener training in 2007 and have now advanced to the bronze level. I served on the Garden Fair physical arrangements committee for the last three years and volunteered for Master Gardener duties at the Monroe County Fair and the Indiana State Fair. My main gardening interest is to transform my back yard into a place that is highly attractive to birds, both for nesting and for food and shelter.



Stephen Anderson

Director of Communications: Stephen Anderson I received my Master Gardener intern training in 2011. I enjoy growing vegetables and herbs, as well as gardening with perennials and bulbs. My volunteer activities include working at Wonder Garden, hosting for the Bloomington Garden Club Garden Walk, and judging for the spring front yard contests.

(continued on page 4)

Spotted Wing *Drosophila* spotted in Indiana

Submitted by Amy Thompson



The invasive pest, Spotted Wing *Drosophila* (SWD), was confirmed in Indiana for the first time on October 16, 2012 in a sample from raspberry from a home garden in Blackford County. This fruit fly of Asian origin has been found in Hawaii since the 1980s. After being found in California in 2008, it has been widely reported from the western states, Florida, other east coast states and the mid-west. It can be highly destructive in several fruit crops; especially berry crops, cherries, grapes and tree fruits. More information, including how to identify this pest can be found at the Michigan State extension website: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/SWD.htm>

Please Note: Suspect samples of SWD adults are free if your county has not yet had a confirmation. To track confirmations please see the map at: http://www.ppd.l.purdue.edu/PPDL/pubs/SWD_IN_finds.pdf. We can only accept ADULT insects in vials because the larvae cannot be confirmed as SWD by non-molecular methods. The easiest way to capture adults is with a cider vinegar trap: <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/SWD/SWD-monitor.htm> .

Controlling weeds

We may remove weeds physically (pulling, hoeing, digging, or mowing) or chemically (by following label directions on home-use approved herbicides) or by using a combination of both. We want weeds out because not only do gardens look unkempt, but also weeds compete with landscaping plants for water, nutrients, light, and space, not to mention hosting insects and/or pathogen populations. In fall we remove weeds to keep them from going to seed, but in spring and summer, we can also prevent weeds from germinating by using mulches, landscaping fabrics, or soil solarization (place heavy plastic with anchored edges over soil during hot weather for four to six weeks). Weed control strategies also include close planting to shade out weeds and use of ground covers and ground hugging plants beneath taller plants in mixed plantings to keep weeds from establishing.

2012 MCMGA slate of officers (continued from page 3)



Jeff Schafter

Director At Large: Jeff Schafter I completed my intern training in 2005 and am now at the bronze level. I am the current vice president for education, and I have served on the Garden Fair committee and volunteered at the State and Monroe County Fair, Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show and the WTIU fund raiser. I enjoy working outside with perennial flowers, grapes, and landscaping.

Program planning committee meets

By Evelyn Harrell

In October Master Gardeners Stephen Anderson, Keith Barnhardt, Linda and John Emerson, Nancy White, Mary Jane Hall and Amy Thompson met with Jeff Schafer, vice president for education and Evelyn Harrell, vice president for programs, to plan educational opportunities for 2013. The diverse group of gardeners came up with some very interesting ideas for types of information to bring to the meetings next year. Presenters and programs for our general meetings will be published in the 2013 issue of *folia and flora*.

Review proposed bylaw changes

By Nancy White

The MG Board has placed the proposed bylaw changes on our website, mcmga.net. Copies are also available at the extension office. Please review these changes and contact a board member if you have questions. As stated in our current bylaws, we will vote on these changes at the November 27 general meeting.

Bulb planting update

By Nancy White

It seems every year I forget some bulbs I have secreted away in my garage only to find them in February. This year I have vowed to get them all in the ground during these pleasant fall days. If you still need to purchase bulbs, try some on-line suppliers or local garden centers. Some bulbs may even be on sale now.

One of my favorite suppliers, John Scheepers, recently published an article on crocus, one of the first of the bulbs to bloom. Even though deer will leave them alone, crocus bulbs are small and may be dug up by squirrels. Chicken wire may be laid over the planting areas until the ground freezes to deter the random re-planting that squirrels often try.

Species naturalizing crocus are the first to bloom and come in a wide variety of colors. For longer showings of crocus, plant the later blooming, deer resistant, large flowering ones as well as the species variety. The large flowering crocus bloom two weeks later than the species crocus and are good for drifts, waves, and colorful borders. As is true for other bulbs, plant them in spots where the foliage can remain for several weeks after blooming to die back naturally.

'Tree Doctor' app can help diagnose problems

Submitted by Amy Thompson

Purdue University scientists aren't quite making house calls, but a new iPhone app can put their knowledge about tree disorders in the palm of anyone's hand.

The Purdue Tree Doctor app can help homeowners, landscapers, master gardeners, nurseries, arborists and others quickly diagnose problems with their trees. The app is the first for sale through The Education Store, Purdue Extension's resource for educational materials.

"We're extension specialists, and our job is to give good information to people who need it," said Cliff Sadof, a professor of Entomology and one of the specialists who developed the app. "If we want people to use our information, we need to give it to them in media they use. Having an app that we can update regularly means people have the most up-to-date information at their fingertips."

The app allows users to search by type of tree, insect or disease depending on what they're seeing. It covers more than 175 plant disorders found on most flowering, shade and conifer trees planted in the Midwest and North Atlantic regions of the United States.

The app uses Beckerman and Sadof's library of 1,100 high-resolution photos to direct users to a correct diagnosis in just a few short steps

"It's a very thorough, robust resource," said Janna Beckerman, an associate professor of botany and plant pathology, and another specialist who developed the app. "Even if you go online, you won't likely find all this information in one place."

Once an issue is diagnosed, the app provides possible management options, beginning with cultural practices that prevent or at least minimize the problem, effective biological controls, and followed by a list of pesticides that can be useful when needed. The app also will provide updates on invasive pests as they become known to Purdue Extension specialists.

Sadof and Beckerman said that the information they provided was reviewed by peers to ensure it is accurate, and does not recommend name-brand chemicals or products to treat tree problems.

The app costs \$1.99 and is available at The Education Store – <http://www.the-education-store.com>. The app can be found directly at: https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=ID-452-APP.

2013 Garden Fair news

By Nancy White

The Garden Fair vendor committee is contacting potential vendors for the April 6 Garden Fair. If you know of a new vendor that you would like to add to our contact list, send that information to Peggy Rees-Krebs at mastergardenerpeggy@comcast.net. Vendors for our Garden Fair do not need to be local, but Garden Fair booths must have a gardening theme or provide a garden service.

A wonderful spin-off from our fair is the grant program started in 2011 to encourage community groups in gardening projects. For the past two years the Garden Fair proceeds have supported grant program benefitting groups such as Boys and Girls Club, Hilltop Gardens, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Area 10 Agency on Aging, Middle Way House, Bloomington Developmental Learning Center, and other deserving, creative projects in Monroe County. Many of these organizations are also volunteer sites for our members.

Last year, one of our fair chairpersons commented that we should be very proud to have had such success in the first three years of the life of the fair. Each year more members volunteer, and attendance has grown as the community makes the annual fair part of their spring routine. It takes participation from all our members to staff our booths, accomplish the set up and take down activities, and plan for and welcome our growing attendance. All hours spent in planning activities or on event day qualify for volunteer hours. Sign up now for a Garden Fair committee—you will meet new friends, gain volunteer hours, and help us have a truly successful event. Contact David Dunatchik, Jeff Schafer, or Nancy White to volunteer. A full listing of the fair committees appeared in the October issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

Two events well worth your time

INPAWS—*It's all about the plants*

Spend a delightful Saturday learning about the many facets of native plants at the INPAWS Annual Conference on November 3 at Schwitzer Student Center, University of Indianapolis. This year's program features a terrific line-up of speakers, including Rob Naczi, one of the leading botanists/taxonomists in the world, and James Locklear of Nebraska's Lauritzen Gardens as well as a book sale, displays by sponsoring organizations, snacks, lunch, and sociability. Log onto www.inpaws.org to register.

IMA Horticulture Symposium, *Shade Savvy*

Each year IMA sponsors a day-long horticulture symposium. This year's event features noted speakers to discuss the challenges and joys of growing plants in the shade. Topics will include plant selection, design aspects, and comparison of native species and non-native cultivars. Anticipated speakers include Brian Jorg, Dan Benarcik, Gene Bush, Karen Perkins, and Paul Cappiello. Log onto www.imamuseum.org to register.

In the grow

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist



Q. My mimosa tree has split down the middle of the trunk. Is there any way to save it? Or should I just take it down?

A. Split trunks are a common problem with multi-trunked species such as mimosa. Split trunk is a significant factor for a "risk tree," if it is sited where damage to humans, pets or property could occur when, or if, the tree falls. Cabling and bracing can be completed by a certified arborist to help provide structural support, but the split will still be a weak point in the tree, susceptible to disease, insect pests, decay and further splitting. On the other hand, we have all seen trees with major trunk injuries live for many years. You'll need to assess the level of risk this tree poses in your yard and consult with a certified arborist, if needed. Find more information on selecting an arborist at <http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-FAQ-13-W.pdf>.

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Q. This plant sprang up in our landscape material during the drought during this, the driest summer in years. The leaflets are unique, and it has small yellow blossoms near the top. Any information you can provide would be appreciated.

A. The foliage looks to be *Senna obtusifolia*, also known as sicklepod for its unique, curved seed pod, though it is difficult to be sure without seeing the flowers and/or seed pod. This annual plant is native to only Dearborn County, Indiana (and a few scattered counties in Kentucky and Illinois). Although it is not common here, it is known to be weedy in more southern states. So it might be best to remove it from your landscape bed before seed dispersal. The following links should help you confirm whether or not this is your plant: plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=seob4 and <http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/sicklepodx.htm>.

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Q. This mystery plant came up as a volunteer this year in my landscape. Can you tell me what it is?

A. The mystery plant looks like it might be a seedling (volunteer) of an aggressive but pretty plant known as porcelain vine, so named for its lovely pearly blue/purple/white berries. Known botanically as *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* (love that name) in the grape family, this plant is a vigorous vine clinging by tendrils, which can reach 15-25 feet, or more. Although the plant could be managed with annual pruning, it can easily get out of control, and it is considered an invasive species in other states, including Michigan. It is also a favorite food for Japanese beetles, so can look quite bedraggled. Additional information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/ambr1.htm>.

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Volunteer opportunities

Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876 bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349-2575
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	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Evelyn Harrell, 339-0572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
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	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson, 334-8374

Earth-friendly gifts and wrappings

By Mary Welch-Keesey and Martha Bailey, White River Gardens

- When selecting gifts and wrappings, consider those that can be recycled.
- When giving (homemade) cookies, cake, candy, etc., place the cookies in a cookie jar that the recipient can keep. Or, use a plastic refrigerator box or a basket that the recipient can use later.
- To decorate a bottle, jar, or canister, make a miniature wreath of vines or use greenery to encircle the container.
- Give a healthy potted plant with instructions for its care.
- Give a toolbox with a small assortment of tools.
- Give gift certificates for food, flowers, sports, or entertainment.
- Wrap a gift in handkerchiefs or bandannas that will become part of the gift.
- Put a gift in a Christmas stocking or tote bag that becomes part of the gift.
- Wrap a gift in the sports page of the newspaper for the sportsperson, the cartoon pages for a child, or the stock quotations for a business person.
- Wrap a gift in plain brown paper and decorate it with greenery, your own personal artwork or pages from the children's coloring book.
- Purchase wrapping paper made from recycled paper.
- Paste old Christmas cards on old shopping bags and use them to hold awkwardly shaped gifts.
- Use old maps or posters, leftover wallpaper, pages from old calendars, or old sheet music to wrap packages.
- Reuse wrappings, tissues, and ribbons from gifts that were received previously.

GIFTS TO AVOID because they are endangered:

Furs

Ivory

Exotic plants

Exotic birds, mammals or reptiles

In the grow (continued from page 8)



Q. I observed leaf discoloration on one of four young ash trees in my backyard. What might be the cause?

A. The leaf discoloration on the ash looks very much like the leaf scorch (browning of the edges) seen on most tree and shrub species this year due to the prolonged heat and drought. Leaf scorch was quite severe this year. In many cases, it led to premature leaf drop and possible plant death in specimens already suffering from other stress and/or newly planted stock. You can check your tree for evidence of green tissue inside a few sample buds, as well as check for

green tissue just below the bark on a few twigs. Green is good, brown not so much. We all hope for a gentle winter with good snow cover to help drought recovery next year.

Rain gardens go with the flow

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue

Rain gardens are areas of the landscape designed to catch rainwater long enough to allow it to percolate slowly back into the groundwater rather than run off the soil. Rain gardens help recharge groundwater, improve the water quality of streams and rivers, reduce flooding, and provide cover for wildlife and butterflies.

Rain gardens can be just shallow depressions of a few inches or elaborately constructed sites, depending on available space and needs of the site. The garden's topography should be designed to encourage water flow into the garden. The site must drain well enough to allow slow and steady percolation into the groundwater. Soil drainage can be greatly enhanced by additions of finished compost in preparing the area.

Ideally, the rain garden should be located away from (10-foot minimum) and a bit below the grade of structures, such as the house, tool shed and garage. Rain barrels can be used to collect runoff water from house drainpipes and redirect to the rain garden. Reasonably level land will be much easier to work with.

Avoid placing the rain garden over a septic drain field or tank; a buffer of at least 50 feet is recommended. Be aware of shallow utilities in the area, and always call to locate and mark these utilities before you dig. Also avoid the edges of steep slopes where erosion is a risk.

As you consider the overall landscape design and appearance, like other gardens, you'll need to consider the mature size, growth habit, flowering, fruiting and other characteristics of your plant selections. Most rain gardens feature moisture-tolerant perennial flowers, native wetland or wet prairie wildflowers, and grasses, but shrubs and trees can be used in larger gardens. Keep in mind that plants will also need to be tolerant of periodic dry spells as well as heavy rains.

The following are a few species to consider for your rain garden planting, but it's by no means an exhaustive list.

Grasses: Big Bluestem, Indiangrass, Little Bluestem, Various Sedges; **Flowers:** Aster, Black-Eyed Susan, False Indigo, Flag Iris, Goldenrod, Great Blue Lobelia, Ironweed, Joe Pye Weed, Liatris, Penstemon, Swamp Milkweed;

Shrubs: American Beautyberry, Arrowwood Viburnum, Bottlebrush Buckeye, Buttonbush, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Summersweet Clethra, Sweetspire; **Trees:** Bald Cypress, Fringetree, Ginkgo, Red Maple, River Birch, Sycamore

Additional information on rain gardens can be found online at:
www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-256.pdf .

November 2012

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401



Helping others grow!

2012 MCMGA Board

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**Join us for our annual holiday dinner
and general meeting**

**Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m.,
Sherwood Oaks Christian Church**

**Bring a dish to share and
table settings for yourself
and your guests**

**Vote on board nominees, bylaws
changes, and
photo for contest
and hear about
2011 grant projects**