

Roots and Shoots

October 2006 Volume 22, Issue 10



NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

by Ann McEndarfer

Mark Your Calendar

October 14—8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Hendricks County MG Advanced Training, 4-H Auditorium, Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds, Danville

October 21—9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Gardening Naturally Seminar, Gene Glick Center, 54 & Keystone, Indianapolis

November 4—8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society, Bradford Woods, Martinsville

November 28—5:30 p.m., General Meeting Holiday Party and program at First United Church, 2420 E. Third

January 23—6:30 p.m. General Meeting, location to be announced



Plan now to attend the November 28 General Meeting at 5:30 p.m. when we will have our holiday party/pitch-in at the First United Church, located at 2420 East Third Street, same as last year.

The after dinner speaker will be Gordon Elsbury, owner of Elsbury's Greenhouse in Hope, Indiana. Mr. Elsbury has been in the nursery business for about thirty years and is one of the five biggest sellers of plants in the state. If you purchased mums at Mays Greenhouse, you own plants which came from Elsbury's.

Our November program will focus on the care, growing, and re-blooming of poinsettias. For those of us who have tried, and failed, to make our holiday plants bloom the following year, this should be interesting information. Mr. Elsbury will bring 20 to 30 Poinsettia plants of different varieties, including several new varieties, for us to see. These plants will be for sale at the end of the program. If you want to get a head start on your holiday decorating, Elsbury's Greenhouse will have its Holiday Open House the weekend of November 24th - 26th.

GARDENING NATURALLY

INDIANA ORGANIC GARDENERS ASSOCIATION
4TH ANNUAL ORGANIC GARDENING SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, October 21

Location: Gene B. Glick Junior Achievement Education Center, 7435 N. Keystone Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240

Cost: \$45 for postmark prior to October 12; after October 12, cost is \$60.

Registration includes continental breakfast and luncheon

8:00—Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00—Featured Speaker—Marc Lane

10:30—Concurrent Speakers—Joellen Myers Sharp, Nina Eva, Damian Sherling

11:30—Visit vendors, book sale, and silent auction

1:00—Concurrent Speakers—Hilary Cox, Constance Ferry, Jay Branbarger

2:15—Keynote Speaker—Steve Bonney

3:30—Silent Auction Winners Announced

Send registration information and check to I.O.G.A., 7549 S. Retriever Lane, Zionsville, IN 46077.

MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



Share Your MG Pictures and Newspaper Clippings

Dale Calabrese has graciously offered to bring our MG scrapbooks up to date. She needs articles and pictures from the last few years. If you have something to donate, call or email her to make arrangements. Pictures from such events as the MG State Fair Booth, Monroe County Fair activities, volunteer activities, the Sycamore Valley

Landscape Show, and general meetings will be welcomed.

Program Chairs Want Your Program Ideas

At the January 2006 General Meeting, as we do each year, we will solicit ideas for field trips and programs you would like for the coming year. Be thinking of places you might like to visit and speakers or topics that interest you. Perhaps you want to share your own expertise with the group by presenting a program. Maybe you have a special supplier of garden tools or plants that you can share with us. January is the time to bring your good ideas as we plan our programs for 2007. See you at the January meeting.

It's Time to Plant

Bulb planting time is here, and we all enjoy choosing and planting the many new and old favorite bulbs available at local suppliers and in the many catalogues arriving in our mail. We should anticipate that friends and family members sometimes need some education about proper soil preparation and planting techniques. The Purdue website (www.hort.purdue.edu) is a good place to suggest for locating planting education. Several useful publications are available there and our training manual, the thick green book, can be a good source also. The Extension Office also has some books and pamphlets that we have collected for MG research. The great helpers at the office can show those to you. Spring flowers will be arriving in five months!

Enabling Gardens

Master Gardeners in attendance at our September General Meeting heard an informative Enabling Gardens session and learned how Hilltop Garden and Nature Center has begun its own garden for special populations. Presenter, Marcia Figuerido, currently a Hilltop consultant, introduced the group to reasons for creating enabling gardens and explained how many botanical gardens and public gardens are adapting locations for these visitors. In planning such a garden, these considerations must be made: (1) what populations will be using the garden; (2) what adaptations must be made for the garden to meet the needs of its users; (3) what tools and other materials will be needed; (4) what structures will be needed and how to provide these structures, and lastly, (5) what are the goals of the garden.

Marcia noted that the Chicago Botanical Garden is probably the best example of a superior garden that she has seen. She urged us to visit it to see firsthand how they have designed and implemented the needed elements. We then toured the Hilltop site where the beginning of an enabling garden is under construction. Structures in place include vertical planting boxes on stilts, a hanging work table, hanging trellises, and a wheelchair-accessible set of planting boxes. Stone Belt clients and other special populations have already used this new garden. MG Ed McEnderfer constructed some of the garden structures as a Hilltop volunteer. We congratulate Ed for his fine work on this project. Marcia challenged us to learn more about planning and implementing enabling gardens. She has provided the following contacts: Chicago Botanical Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, IL, 60022 (www.chicago-botanic.org/HortTherapy.html)

Watch for a review of Marilyn Brinley's presentation, *Demystifying Orchids*, in the November issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

LETTER FROM AMY THOMPSON, EXTENSION EDUCATOR



Dear Master Gardeners,

The Purdue Master Gardener Statewide program policies were changed in the spring of 2004 and revised in the fall of 2004. The policies were changed so that the program was more consistent across the state and so that our requirements were more in line with the requirements of other Master Gardener programs offered across the county. At the time of these policy changes, the Monroe County

Extension Office was without an Agriculture & Natural Resource Extension Educator and for that reason I believe these policy updates were not implemented on the County Level. The MCMGA board and I, as well as the State Master Gardener program coordinator, have agreed to the need to bring the membership of our association in line with the rest of the state of Indiana. This will allow our members to participate actively in state programs as they continue to be developed and will also make for a more vital and active association. An explanation of the new policy on what is required to remain active, acquire advanced certification and report hours can be found below.

Active Status: Once an individual has completed the necessary requirements and is certified as a Master Gardener, this does not mean he/she is a Master Gardener for life. Master Gardeners must recertify each year to remain on the "active" list and maintain the Master Gardener designation.

Master Gardener Recertification is achieved by fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Donating a minimum of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service each year and
2. Completing a minimum of six (6) hours Educational Training each year through any of the following options:
 - ♦ Participation in state, regional, national, or international Master Gardener conferences.
 - ♦ Participation in county-sponsored advanced training sessions.
 - ♦ Participation in any other programs approved by the local program coordinator(s).

For Monroe County Master Gardeners the requirement to obtain 12 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of educational training each year will begin in 2007.

This requirement will run the calendar year; i.e. 12 hours of volunteer service and 6 hours of educational training will need to be obtained between January 1, 2007 and December 31st 2007.

If a person is inactive for 3 years or less, there is no penalty. The person can start volunteering and completing training hours again to become active. However, if a person is inactive for more than 3 years, the following is required: 1) Purchase a new manual or CD. 2) Take the Master Gardener class sessions on all pests, plant problems and pesticides (or watch a video on these topics available from the extension office. 3) Pass a statewide exam on required topics once implemented. If a person fails, he or she must retake the entire course.

Advanced Master Gardener Certification: Once a Master Gardener has fulfilled the commitment of volunteer hours, the Master Gardener is eligible to work toward Advanced Master Gardener Certification. State Guidelines for advanced certification require at least ten hours of approved additional instruction as well as a minimum of an additional 25 hours of volunteer service. Other levels of Advanced Master Gardener status include Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Gold level Advanced Master Gardeners will be recognized at the Annual Master Gardener Conference.

Guidelines for Transfers from Outside of Indiana

What happens if a Master Gardener from another state moves to Indiana? Here are the minimum expectations to be a Purdue Master Gardener: 1) Provide a letter from the previous County Coordinator (include name, email address, and county) documenting that the Master Gardener was in good standing. (continued on page 4)

2) Purchase a new Purdue Master Gardener manual or CD. 3) Take the Master Gardener class sessions on all pests, plant problems and pesticides (or watch a video on these topics available from the extension office. 4) Pass the final exam given to course interns, if a person fails, he or she must take the entire course

Minimum Certification Requirements

Award	Cumulative Volunteer Hours	Cumulative Educational Training Hours
Master Gardener	35	35
Advanced Master Gardener	60	45
Bronze	200	60
Silver	500	75
Gold	1000	100

Reporting Hours

In order to facilitate reporting and tracking of educational hours, a new reporting form has been developed. You will find a copy of that form in this issue of the *Roots and Shoots* on pages 5-6. It will also soon be available on the MCMGA web page and, of course, copies will always be available from the Extension Office.

You may notice that this new form requests your cumulative hours. In January, with your *Roots and Shoots* newsletter, you will receive a mailing label with the hours that our records show you have currently obtained. In order to ensure that that our records are correct please be sure and turn in your hours completed this year by December 1st. If you do not agree with the records of volunteers hours or educational hours, adjustments to our records will be made with proper documentation.

A Master Gardener volunteer will continue to record and track individual hours for all members; however, all record sheets will need to be sent to the Extension Office. This needs to be done so that the overall volunteer hours reported by members of the association can be reported to the state coordinator. This change is also being implemented because as county coordinator of the Purdue Master Gardener program, I would like to have better knowledge of where the MCMGA members are volunteering their time. I hope to use this information to facilitate additional volunteer and educational opportunities for the MCMGA membership.

If you have any questions about your current status or how this change in policy will be implemented, please feel free to contact me at the Extension Office – email is usually best afthompson@purdue.edu

Weather Monitoring Opportunity Do you enjoy observing the weather? Would you like to be a part of a nationwide network that will help monitor and track our water resources? Then consider being a volunteer observer with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow network (CoCoRaHS). CoCoRaHS is a relatively new program in Indiana and is looking for volunteers in Monroe and surrounding counties. A volunteer training program will be held on November 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Ellettsville Library meet-

ing room. To learn more about CoCoRaHS, visit their website at <http://www.cocorahs.org/>. To register for the program email logan.johnson@noaa.gov Please note that although volunteers provide data that will be used as an educational resource, hours spent volunteering for CoCoRaHS will not count as MG program volunteer hours. I am still in the process of determining if the training program will count as educational hours for MG volunteers. I should know soon, so if you're interested, please email me. Amy

A GREAT BOOK FOR THE MIDWEST GARDENER

BY M. SUSAN OSBORNE



One of the best books for the Midwest gardener is ***Trees, Shrubs, and Roses for Midwest Gardens*** by Ezra Haggard. IU Press, 2001; 207 pps. plus index and resource guide.

All of us may be guilty of selecting shrubs, trees, and plants on the basis of their looks. We see luscious plants in the nursery and greenhouses, which are pruned and preened for a buyer's market, snatch them up because they look so beautiful, and haul them home to plant. And we wonder where to plant it/them because we did not purchase with placement in mind. We erroneously plant them, and they overgrow their spot or die from the lack of required elements for that particular species or genus. However, choosing the correct plant for the location means less work and less expense! This book assists midwest gardeners to improve our ways.

For example, we all enjoy the Bradford Pear trees because they grow upward with great form, have beautiful white blooms in spring, and seem perfect for our use. However, I learned from this book that the Bradford Pear is a structurally defective tree with a tendency to split in half when at its peak of performance. This book explains that Aristocrat Pear or Chanticleer Pear are better because "they have more wind resistance and are tall and dense enough to create good shade. Both thrive in urban situations, giving excellent color in spring and fall." This book offers this type of information and more.

Trees, Shrubs, and Roses assist midwest gardeners in purchase, placement, and maintenance. The trees listed in the book were chosen for their year round aesthetic value. The shrubs represented offer a structural element and compliment the trees. The roses are a BONUS! However, no tea roses are shown, but only vigorous, disease resistant varieties are illustrated. All trees, shrubs and roses in this book are some of the many ideal plants for Zones 5 & 6, are considered hardy, and have appeal for more than one season.

This book is illustrated by the author with full-color photos showing each item in all its glory (which is typical) on one page and information about the tree, shrub or rose on the facing page with other complementary plants in the featured item. For example: *Acer compestre* or Hedge Maple is shown with companion plants of butterfly bush and hydrangea – very nice! Generally three to five paragraphs describing the featured tree or plant includes a discussion of its bark or leaves, best soil type, location, what to do, what not to do, suggestions for planting and with what other plants, as well as diseases, flaws– an abundance of information. The resource section includes lists of retail nurseries (mail and otherwise) and is an excellent source for purchasing those hard to find plants and trees that cannot be located in Monroe County.

I have used this book frequently and follow its recommendations when at the nursery. I would encourage others to read it for the same reason and more. I found the descriptions and information to be informative and well researched. It's obvious that Ezra Haggard has a great respect and care for trees and plants and shares a wealth of knowledge and experience through this book. The explanation of why certain plants were used in particular situations can assist us as we design our own gardens. In the introduction, Haggard states, "Trees and shrubs define the garden and the landscape more than any other element that we use. Their importance goes far beyond the focus of ornamental value and into the realms of healing and spirituality. Our lives are better for their presence, and I hope with this book to encourage gardeners to plant more of them," – and I agree!

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

MARILYN BRINLEY



It was so nice to see so many of our members at our September general meeting. We were fortunate to have a lovely evening to stroll about the accessible garden at Hilltop. We also had several members who earned their certifications, and that is very exciting news.

Other articles in this month's newsletter point out that we are somewhat remiss in adopting Purdue's new standards for master gardeners. So now, years after other counties have already gotten on board, we are finding ourselves in the position of having to conform to the standards.

As for what this means to us, I will allow others more knowledgeable than I to expound on the details. What I can add is that this is an opportunity for us to step up to the plate and put our own stamp on our organization. This is the chance you may have been waiting for. This may be just the opportunity for you to shine. What unique talents have you been hiding from the world? Do you enjoy talking to people? Then perhaps you might like to share your special gardening interests with others. And if you happen to have access to a computer and perhaps a teenager, then you might be able to put together a PowerPoint presentation, which you could then share with the membership or others.

Or, perhaps you enjoy writing, but are unsure about how to proceed. It is quite simple, really. Helen Hollingsworth is always looking for member articles to add to the newsletter, and she or I would gladly offer guidance if needed.

For those who might be a bit more shy, there are many opportunities to serve behind the scenes. Amy Thompson or a member of the board might be able to steer you in the right direction here.

In addition, our wonderful vice-presidents, Ann McEndarfer and Nancy White, strive to bring us educational opportunities throughout the year. For instance, this past month's general meeting afforded two hours of educational credit. Given that we are fortunate enough to live in a college town, there are also many opportunities to attend lectures throughout the year. If you are ever in doubt about whether an activity would qualify, our extension officer, Amy Thompson, would be happy to clarify.

Also, there are many, many chances to learn new skills and techniques given throughout the year. Neighboring counties often sponsor advanced learning seminars and these are usually listed on Purdue's Master Gardener website.

My point in all this is simply this; opportunities to gain volunteer and educational hours exist, and we want you to become more involved. All it takes is a little bit of time and effort to make a difference.

PLANT DONATIONS REQUESTED

If you are dividing any perennials this fall and have some to spare, University Elementary is looking for plants for the gardens on the kindergarten playground. Contact Amy at the Extension Office, and she will arrange for pick-up and delivery.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 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 McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Brunoehler, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	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.

HENDRICKS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION ADVANCED MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

Hendricks County Master Gardener Association is presenting an advanced master training on Saturday, October 14, 2006 at the 4H Auditorium at the NEW Hendricks County Fairgrounds on the NW corner of Main Street and CR 200 E, Danville, Indiana

Registration: 8:00 a.m.

Program: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Speakers:

A Year in Wildflowers—Kevin Tungesvick

The Art of Gardens and Gardening—Mark Zelonis

Thyme in the Garden—Cheryl Toney

For the Love of Trees—Malcolm Cairns

Good Bugs, Bad Bugs—Tom Turpin

Cost of \$35 includes breakfast and lunch for those who register by 10:00 a.m. on October 6

Register on line at www.HendricksGardeners.com

TENDER PERENNIALS NEED INDOOR PROTECTION By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Most gardeners think about planting bulbs this time of year rather than digging them up. But some flowering perennials are not hardy enough for our climate and must be lifted from the soil and their bulbs, roots or other underground structures stored indoors over winter. The most common garden plants in this category include gladiolus, caladium, tuberous begonias, canna and dahlia. Although these plants are all considered tender, each is best handled a bit differently for winter storage.

Caladiums, often called elephant ears, are quite sensitive to cold temperatures, so their tubers, (like small potatoes) should be dug just before frost. Place the tubers in a warm location for 7-10 days to remove surface moisture. To prevent excessive drying in storage, pack the tubers between layers of dry vermiculite, peat moss, sawdust or similar material in a strong box. The optimum storage temperature for caladiums is 60 F.

Tuberous begonias should also be dug just before frost. Cut the tops back to 2 inches and air dry the roots for two to three weeks in a warm location. Then, store in boxes, as you would caladiums, but decrease the temperature to about 45-50 F.

Dahlias should be cut back to about 3-4 inches after the first light frost. Then, carefully lift the plants, leaving as much soil attached as possible to prevent breaking the fleshy roots. Because they are so susceptible to drying, dahlia roots should be air-dried for only a few hours or so. Then, pack in boxes, as you would caladiums, and store at 35-40 F.

Gladiolus produces underground, compressed-stem structures called corms, which should be dug when the foliage just begins to fade, usually after a frost. Use a spading fork to carefully lift the plants and save any of the little miniature corms (called cormels). These cormels will grow larger, if planted next year, and eventually reach a size that will support flowers as well as foliage.

The corms should be cured before storing to help prevent disease from developing. Cure the corms for two to four weeks in a warm (about 75-80 F) room where air can circulate around the corms. Once cured, the corms should be stored dry in a cold, but non-freezing, location, about 35-40 F. Old nylon stockings or onion bags hung from the wall allow good air circulation throughout storage.

OCTOBER GARDEN CALENDAR

BY B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE EXTENSION CONSUMER HORTICULTUR-

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

Keep poinsettia in complete darkness for 15 hours each day, for example, between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m., for eight to 10 weeks until red bracts begin to show.

Pot spring-flowering bulbs to force into bloom indoors. Moisten soil and refrigerate 10 to 13 weeks. Transfer to a cool, sunny location, and allow an additional three to four weeks for blooming.

Houseplants, especially those grown outdoors during the summer, commonly drop some or many of their leaves in response to the lower natural light intensity in autumn and reduced light intensity indoors.

Water indoor plants less frequently, and discontinue fertilizer as plants slow down or stop growing for the winter season.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

Keep plants, especially newly planted stock, well watered until ground freezes.

Have soil ready to mound roses for winter protection. Do not mound or cover roses until after leaves drop and soil is near freezing, usually late November or early December.

Strawberry plants need protection from winter's extremes, but applying winter mulch too early may cause crowns to rot. Apply winter protection when plants are dormant but before temperatures drop below 20 F, usually late November or early December.

Rake or shred large, fallen tree leaves, such as maple, to prevent them from matting down and smothering grass. Raking smaller leaves, such as honey locust, is optional.

Continue mowing lawn as needed.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

Harvest root crops and store in a cold (32 F), humid location. Storing produce in perforated plastic bags is a convenient, easy way to increase humidity.

Harvest Brussels sprouts as they develop in the axils of the leaves from the bottom of the stem. Brussels sprouts will continue to develop up the stem.

Harvest pumpkins and winter squash before frost, but when rind is hard and fully colored. Store in a cool location until ready to use.

Harvest gourds when stems begin to brown and dry. Cure at 70-80 F for two to four weeks.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost, and ripen indoors in the dark. Warmer temperatures lead to faster ripening.

Asparagus top growth should not be removed until foliage yellows. Let foliage stand over winter to collect snows for insulation and moisture.

Remove plant debris from the garden to protect next year's planting from insect and disease buildup. Compost plant refuse by alternating layers of soil, plant material, and manure or commercial fertilizer.

Have garden soil tested for fertilizer needs every three to five years.

Plowing and incorporating organic matter in the fall avoids the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Fall-prepared soils also tend to warm faster and allow earlier planting in spring.

Carve a Halloween jack-o'-lantern.

Dig tender, garden flower bulbs for winter storage. Gladiolus corms should be dug when leaves begin turning yellow. Caladiums, geraniums and tuberous begonias should be lifted before killing frost. Dig canna and dahlia roots after a heavy frost. Allow to air dry, then pack in dry peat moss or vermiculite, and store in a cool location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

October 2006 Volume 22, Issue 10

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Time to renew your MCMGA membership!
Membership blank and NEW MG guidelines are enclosed.**

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