

Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 27, Issue 10



Master Gardeners always plan ahead!

On Saturday, April 21, we will host our Third Annual Garden Fair, and it is expected to be as successful as the first two. Committees are forming now to plan the events of our Garden Fair day and to improve upon all the fun we had last year.

By
Nancy
White

If you didn't get a chance to sign up for a committee at the September meeting, please do so now. We need lots of creative and hardworking Master Gardeners to make this happen. See the list of possibilities below and contact any of the fair coordinators, David Dunatchik, Diann Lock, Jeff Schafer, and Nancy White, to join a committee. The winter months are the committees' planning time and a great way to gain volunteer hours when we can't be active in our gardens. Pick your committee from the list below and sign up immediately by contacting one of the Garden Fair coordinators.

Physical Arrangements committee helps to design the floor plan and does set up and tear down. **Vendors committee** contacts vendors and helps to gain advertisements for our fair booklet. **Education committee** arranges speakers and topics for seminars and sets up education room. **Financial committee** collects entry fees and provides change and cash needed for fair day. **Café committee** plans the menu, arranges for food delivery, prepares food, and may work on fair day. **Door Prizes committee** helps to collect prizes, sets up booth, and may work fair day. **Master Gardener Booth committee** plans booth display, sets up booth, and may work fair day. **Publicity committee** helps to distribute posters, arranges for print and broadcast media announcements, and may write articles and announcements

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Special points of interest

Garden Fair committee sign-up now equals winter volunteer hours

Master Gardener Lea Woodard, interim Hilltop coordinator and a Master Gardener, reports Hilltop's progress

Rosie Lerner says to water now to minimize winter injury to drought-stricken plants

Evelyn Harrell needs refreshment committee volunteers for our Annual Holiday Dinner in November

Three new Master Gardener badges were awarded at September general meeting

Member News

If you weren't at our September meeting, you missed an evening of real fun and education. Our speaker, Gail Ruhl, Senior Plant Disease Diagnostician for the Purdue Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory, spoke to us about *Yellows, Mosaics and Mottles*. Gail is an engaging speaker, and after showing us all the terrible fungi, bacteria, virus, environmental and insect problems that can attack our plants and trees, she arranged for a hands-on testing activity that got us all up and teaming up to learn the process of testing for certain conditions. Gail urged us to take advantage of the Purdue Lab and other available resources available for identifying and treating the conditions we may encounter. She also gave a good commercial for the National Plant Diagnostic Network, a federally funded consortium that provides resources to states in regional groupings. Funding for this important project has been eliminated but may be reinstated for 2012 by Congress. Gail can be contacted at the Lab, www.ppd.l.purdue.edu.



By
Nancy
White

We had over 50 attendees on September 27, and we were all glad we came to learn from such a competent educator. Many thanks to the refreshment and set up committee for all of their hard work, which added so much to our meeting. Our next general meeting will be the holiday dinner on Tuesday, November 29, at the First United Church on East Third Street. Guests are welcome.

Our 2012 Garden Fair is April 21

The date has been set for the 2012 Master Gardener Garden Fair. Save the date of April 21 for our third fair. Be sure to spread the word among your friends and neighbors. We will be distributing "Save the Date" cards in the future. If you know vendors who might be interested in a booth, let them know that Master Gardener Peggy Reis-Krebs is the vendor contact. Her contact information is in our *Folia and Flora*.

Send in your Master Gardener education and volunteer hours anytime!

Even though Amy Thompson must report our volunteer and education hours gained to Purdue in September, hours are always accepted when you can enter them. Hours for 2010 will be accepted through the end of this year. Get out your calculators and start reporting.

Congratulations to Diana Dingman

Diana Dingman was recognized at our September meeting as the Master Gardener earning the most points for her entries at the Monroe County Fair in July. For her fine efforts, Diana won a cash award for entries in herbs, vegetables, flowers, floral design and potted plants. Next year you might be the winner.

Refreshment committee members are needed for November

Evelyn Harrell could use some help on the refreshment committee for the November meeting, our annual holiday pot luck dinner on Tuesday, November 29. And remember, all hours volunteered for our meetings can be reported as volunteer hours. Contact Evelyn if you can help.

BOGA fall plant swap at Bloomington Farmers' Market

The Bloomington Organic Gardeners Association (BOGA) will host a free plant swap on Saturday, October 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Farmers' Market. Native plants, tree saplings, and seeds are encouraged but all non-invasive plants are welcome.

Annual Holiday Pitch-in Dinner is on Tuesday, November 29

It's hard to believe, but the holidays are upon us, and the Christmas season will be here before we know it. Many of us will invite the holiday season into our homes with the purchase of beautiful house plants to brighten our spirits, or if you are on the receiving end of a gift of these traditional plants, all the better. Join us for the Holiday Pitch-in Dinner on November 29 and learn about caring for these holiday plants from Andrea Lutz, owner of Peppertree Florals. One education hour is available.



By
Evelyn
Harrell

The annual Holiday Pitch-in Dinner will be held on Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Church, 2420 E. Third Street. The church faces East Third Street and is in front of the IU Credit Union. A convenient entrance to the church parking lot is to take Woodscrest Drive between Third and Second Streets and use the driveway between the Credit Union and IU Health Rehab—formerly Rebound East. Straight ahead is the door to the church's meeting room, and there is plenty of parking.

Reservations are important so that there will be meat, cheese, bread, and drink for all. Please call the office—349-2575—or email/call Evelyn Harrell at 339-0572, and leave word that you are attending. Guests are welcome!

A reminder: Thanksgiving is the week before the our Holiday Dinner, committee members will be busy with travel or guests, and the office will be closed for the long holiday. Please call with your reservations no later than November 18.

Habitat Steward Training

Consider joining the Bloomington Habitat Stewards to learn how to prepare your yard for the myriad birds and butterflies who would love to find a place to rest, eat, drink, and raise their young on your property. The training fee of \$26 includes 24 hours worth of training and a manual of information and resources. You will “graduate” with knowledge, resources, and a network of fellow stewards, and you will help start a rain garden in the community.

Training will be held on four Saturdays this fall, November 5, 12, 19 and December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at Unity Church of Bloomington, 4001 South Rogers Street. Space is limited; the first 20 registrants are guaranteed a spot. The registration deadline is October 29.

To register, send your contact information and check made out to Center for Sustainable Living to CSL c/o Lucille Bertuccio, 815 South Rose Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Hilltop Happenings!

Hello Master Gardeners! Here is a brief update of some of the exciting events that occurred at IU Hilltop Garden & Nature Center this year and our plans for the fall. First of all, I would like to introduce myself as the temporary Hilltop Coordinator (Editor's note: also a Master Gardener). I started this position back in February and have learned quite a lot. I am amazed at how many people have come to volunteer at Hilltop including many Master Gardeners! Many of you came out in March to help assemble seed kits for local elementary schools. We made 515 seed kits for children to grow tomatoes, lettuce, sunflowers, peppers and green beans, and we look forward to increasing that number next year.



By
Lea
Woodard

With the help of our volunteer coordinator, Master Gardener Charlotte Griffin, we have worked with many volunteers to keep Hilltop growing. Many IU student groups along with individual students have donated many hours in the gardens. About 190 students throughout the summer from all over the country came to IU through the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute; they planted 120 tomato plants, our entire vegetable garden and some of our Native American Garden/Pumpkin Patch (as well as doing a lot of weeding!). Bloomington High School South has also supplied a few work study students throughout the school year. A crew from Monroe County Community Corrections comes once a week and a group of "Shady Ladies" from the Bloomington Garden Club help take care of our shade gardens.

As most of you know, Hilltop's primary mission is connecting children with nature through the youth garden program. This year we were fortunate to partner with the Bloomington City Parks & Recreation's Kids City Program. The American Camp Association accredited program provides trained camp counselors to work with young gardeners throughout the summer. The program was set up as a full day or half day option for parents; the children spent their mornings working in their individual gardens and participating in environmental curriculum while their afternoons were spent on field trips or other recreational activities. Sixty-one children participated in the 2011 garden program, and we are looking forward to continuing this partnership next summer. In addition to the Kid's City Program, we also had a group of children from the Harmony School Early Childhood Program (ECP) come out to Hilltop throughout the summer to maintain our Native American gardens. The ECP planted the squash, beans and corn seeds, watched them grow throughout the summer and then harvested the squash to take home where their parents prepared them for dinner!

Hilltop has been building programs with the IU food services. Nearly 150 pounds of tomatoes grown at Hilltop were donated to Wright Dining Hall during the month of August. We have also started a small scale food waste composting program with the Union Street Market from IU Union Street Apartments, and we are working with the IU Office of Sustainability to develop an IU Campus Garden.

(continued on page 5)

Harvesting sweet potatoes

Sweet potatoes should be harvested no later than the first fall freeze because cold temperatures can damage the sensitive roots. However, you may want to harvest earlier if you prefer a smaller sweet potato. Test dig a hill to see if they are the size you want.

Sweet potatoes should be cured after being dug. The digging process often damages the tender skin, and curing helps these small wounds heal.

Place the roots in a warm, humid location for 5 to 10 days immediately after digging. A location with a temperature around 85 to 90 degrees is ideal. A space heater can be used to heat a small room or other area.

Raise the humidity by placing moist towels in the room. The curing process not only heals wounds but also helps convert starches to sugars.

This process improves the texture and flavor of the roots. Sweet potatoes should be stored above 55 degrees. Storage at temperatures below that injures the roots, shortens storage life and gives them an off flavor.



Submitted
by
Amy
Thompson

Hoosier Hillsides MGs set date for annual seminar

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Hoosier Hillsides Master Gardeners (HHMG) annual seminar, *Spring Tonic*, on March 3, 2012. HHMG members are working diligently to put together a field of five interesting speakers, several vendors, and the breakfast/lunch menus.

The program begins with registration from 8:00—8:30 a.m. at the Orange County Community Center, 1075 Sandy Hook Rd, Orange County 4-H Fairgrounds, Paoli, IN 47454. A continental breakfast is served upon arrival. Throughout the day five speakers will present 45 minute sessions on a chosen educational topic with time for questions during and after their presentation. There will be breaks between speakers with a one hour lunch break. For information, log onto <http://www.ag.purdue.edu/counties/orange/Pages/>

Hilltop Happenings! (continued from page 4)

The Bloomington City Parks and Recreation are offering gardening classes at Hilltop this fall, and we are also partnering with them to have the Great Bloomington Pumpkin Launch. The launch will take place on Saturday, November 5 at noon; we are currently looking for groups to launch pumpkins and volunteers to help with the event. For more information, please visit our website: www.iub.edu/~hilltop, call us at 855-8808, email hilltop@indiana.edu or just stop by!

Cut back perennials now or later?

Gardeners often ask, "When is the best time to cut back the dead tops of herbaceous perennials (stems die back to the ground each year)?" "Should we cut them in fall as the tops fade? Or wait until spring just before new growth begins?" The answers depend, in part, on the specific plant and whether disease or insect pests are a factor.

By Rosie Lerner,
Extension
Consumer
Horticulturist

For most healthy plants, leaving plant tops over winter is fine and, in many respects, preferable. Many species retain dried seed heads and foliage that may have aesthetic value. Ornamental grasses are at their best in fall and winter. And, if you don't cut back the tops, your native wildlife will thank you! Seed heads, fruits, stems and foliage provide food and shelter. Although late-season bloomers, such as brown-eyed Susans and coneflowers, may have turned brown, birds still feed on the seed. Many butterflies overwinter on plant debris.

Allowing plant tops to remain over winter can also help collect leaves and snow for insulation and moisture. For some marginally hardy perennials, like garden mums, waiting until early spring to cut back the dead tops can actually improve a plant's chances of survival.

And, of course, leaving the tops in place will remind you where the plants are, in case you're thinking of adding more plants or rearranging the elements of the garden before spring growth begins.

On the other hand, plants with disease or insect pest troubles should be pruned back in fall to reduce the chances of carryover to the following season. Sanitation is one of the best investments gardeners can make in reducing problems for next season. Peonies and rudbeckia with blackened foliage should definitely be cut back in fall. The same is true for bee balm and phlox, which are routinely plagued by powdery mildew. Removing iris and asparagus foliage in the fall reduces overwintering sites for the iris borer and asparagus beetles, respectively.

Badly damaged or infested foliage can and should be removed as soon as possible. Otherwise, wait until after several hard frosts have killed back the tops. Cut back the tops to about two inches above the soil. Hand pruners and hedge clippers work fine, if you have just a few plants to cut back. But for larger plantings and large clumps of ornamental grasses, a power hedge trimmer works well.

State Fair volunteers

I wish to thank all of the people that volunteered to work at the Master Gardener State Fair Booth. Evelyn Harrell, Diann Lock, Chris Johnson, and Kay Cunningham volunteered to work Sunday, August 14, 2011, but the Fair was closed due to the unfortunate stage disaster of the previous evening. Dianna and Herman Young, David Dunatchik, and Kay Cunningham worked the booth on Wednesday, August 17th. It was a very productive day at the fair, and we all enjoyed working together.



By
Preston
Gwinn

Web Castings

Some 'pre-digested' web offerings provided by local Master Gardeners and their friends.

This month will be brief, since we are doing some complicated traveling in September and the time has gotten away from me. Does this mean I will use the non-column time to pull weeds that have also gotten away from me? Well, ahem....



By
Karen
Sparks

There is an article in Sunday's *Herald-Times* (9/18/2011) in the Outdoors Hoosier Times section, titled 'Landscaping for the Birds' that I want to call your attention to, with excellent pictures and the couple's redesign experience. The easiest way to access it is to go to this site: <http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page, and there is a link to the article. If it is no longer there, since you are after all reading this in October, try this extended link: <http://www.heraldtimesonline.com/stories/2011/09/18/outdoors.qp-5743947.sto>

Hope you enjoy the article, as well as the (finally!) cooler weather. Since we have gotten only one-third to one-half the usual rain for August and September (so far, anyway) here's hoping for some soggy days. Enjoy!

Gail Ruhl's presentation lively and enlightening

At the September 27 general meeting, several dozen members and guests enjoyed the program by Gail Ruhl, Senior Plant Disease Diagnostician, with the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Purdue University. If anyone was mystified by the title of her lecture, *Yellows, Mosaics, and Mottles*, all was soon made clear by Gail's lively and well-designed lecture, and the hands-on opportunity to learn a little bit about testing for viruses.

By
Evelyn
Harrell

Thanks for the great refreshments to Cindy Benson, chair, Ann McEndarfer, Nancy Miller, Mary Hawkins, Nancy Page, Vickie St. Myers, Diana and Herman Young, Marjorie Gonzalez, and Amy Thompson. And as always, thanks to the strong backs and willing hands who helped set up and break down the room.

Hats Off!



Congratulations to the following who were awarded new badges at our September meeting.

Advanced: Mary-Carol Paul, Donna Terry, Dorothy Cole-Kiser

Certified: Linda Emerson

Water now to minimize winter injury

Dry summers are not that unusual in the midwest. But this year gardeners really had to battle to maintain healthy plants when extremely high temperatures were accompanied by a lack of rain. And of particular concern this year is that the drought is lasting well into autumn, putting plants in poor condition to get through the winter when water will be unavailable due to frozen soil.

By Rosie Lerner,
Extension
Consumer
Horticulturist

Newly planted trees, shrubs and perennial flowers will be at most risk of winter injury from desiccation. Established plants may tolerate drought better, but they will be more susceptible to winter injury if they go into winter in stressed condition.

Woody plants, especially evergreens, are susceptible to drying out over winter, broad-leaved evergreens even more so. The aboveground parts such as twigs and evergreen leaves are very much alive through the winter 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 vulnerable, since they have a greater leaf surface from which to lose water. 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.



Drought-stricken hydrangea



Drought-stricken rhododendron

Keep in mind that next year's growth was determined by buds that formed in late summer and early fall when much of the state has been under extended drought. Flower buds for many spring flowering and fruiting plants also developed during that time. So even if your plants aren't showing any symptoms now, the damage may become apparent next season.

In dry fall seasons it is important to water thoroughly every 7-10 days. Watering of landscape and fruit plants should be aimed at where the roots naturally occur. While these woody plants do have some roots that grow very deep, most of the feeder roots responsible for the bulk of water uptake occur in the top 12-18 inches of soil. Most of these feeder roots are concentrated below the dripline of the plant and beyond, not up close to the trunk. Allow water to thoroughly soak the target area by applying water at a slow enough rate to allow penetration, rather than wasting water by runoff.

During prolonged drought conditions, water restrictions may require gardeners to limit watering and prioritize which plants will be rescued. Use a mulch wherever possible to conserve what moisture there is.

Imprelis® herbicide banned from sale, use in Indiana

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – The Office of Indiana State Chemist has banned the sale, distribution and use of Imprelis® in the state after investigating hundreds of complaints and finding that the herbicide was responsible for damage to trees and ornamental plants.

The office this week is notifying lawn care companies and other professional users of the herbicide made by DuPont that the product's registration in Indiana has been canceled, said Dave Scott, pesticide administrator with the state chemist's office, based at Purdue University.

"The only thing they are permitted to do with it is return it to DuPont for disposal," Scott said. "We have been advised by DuPont that they will be reimbursed for it whether it is in a closed container or an open container. There is no reason to hold onto it."

Indiana's action follows a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency order in August requiring DuPont to stop selling and distributing it. The step Indiana took was necessary to prohibit others from selling and using it in the state, Scott said.

The office had notified DuPont in August that it intended to cancel the registration, and the company was given until Sept. 15 to appeal. Instead, the company voluntarily asked the state chemist to cancel it, Scott said.

DuPont and the EPA are working out procedures for recall of the chemical, Scott said.

Imprelis®, with the active ingredient aminocyclopyrachlor, was approved by the EPA and registered in Indiana late last year for use by lawn care companies and other professionals. It was not available through retail sale.

The herbicide was intended to control a variety of broadleaf weeds such as ground ivy (creeping Charlie) and wild violet on lawns, golf courses, parks, cemeteries, athletic fields and sod farms.

Extension services in more than 20 states from Kansas to Pennsylvania reported cases of damage to trees and ornamentals possibly associated with Imprelis®.

Imprelis® became the target of complaints in Indiana in the spring from lawn care providers and their customers who suspected it was damaging trees—mainly evergreens—and ornamental plants near where it was applied. The state chemist in July urged lawn care providers not to use it until experts determined whether it was causing the damage. Since then, investigations have determined that Imprelis® was the cause, Scott said.

The state chemist's office has investigated nearly 400 complaints about Imprelis® since June, the most complaints about any herbicide Scott has seen in his 30 years at the state chemist's office. He said the office is finalizing the investigations and that property owners and applicators will receive a copy of the investigation report for their property.

DuPont earlier this month sent notices to users of Imprelis® specifying how it would handle damage claims, Scott said. Those wanting to submit a claim must do so by Nov. 30.

"For anybody who calls in now with a complaint about Imprelis®, we're encouraging them to contact DuPont to make sure they get their claims processed by the cutoff date," Scott said. More information about Imprelis®, including how to submit a claim to DuPont, is available on the state chemist's website at <http://www.isco.purdue.edu>.

Publication gets to root of tree planting problems, practices

Spring is planting season but not necessarily the only season when it comes to trees. Many species survive better when planted in the fall, a Purdue Extension urban forestry specialist says.

Submitted
by
Amy
Thompson

"Some of our favorite landscape trees such as lindens, sycamores, honeylocusts and crabapples do quite well when planted in the fall, with proper care," Lindsey Purcell said.

A new Purdue Extension publication written by Purcell provides everything homeowners and arborists need to know about tree planting, regardless the season. *Tree Installation: Process and Practices* is available free online through Purdue Extension's The Education Store at https://mdc.itap.purdue.edu/item.asp?item_number=FNR-433-W.

For a newly planted tree to survive its first winter, it needs to establish a root system capable of supporting its canopy, Purcell said. Tree species that are slower to establish roots, such as magnolia, dogwood, black gum, bald cypress and several types of oak, can experience winter damage.

Water is a must for a young tree as it prepares for the winter. Each week a tree requires about five gallons of water plus another five gallons for each inch of its trunk diameter. Thus, a tree with a trunk three inches in diameter needs 20 gallons of water a week, or what is equal to about an inch of rain.

Tree owners should keep good records of watering and the weather, and regularly check soil moisture underneath mulched areas to make sure trees are properly hydrated.

Trees not only take in water but also release moisture into the atmosphere through transpiration. For evergreen species, winter transpiration can cause trees to dry out. Purcell recommends evergreen tree owners apply an antitranspirant before cold weather sets in.

"What it does, it puts a protective coating or barrier on the leaves so that the wind doesn't dry out the needles and cause the tree to desiccate," Purcell said. "For evergreen species, antitranspirants can help with the establishment phase of tree growth."

Tree Installation: Process and Practices covers planting from start to finish, including sections on selecting the right tree, planting location, irrigation and maintenance. The eight-page guide also contains the "Proper Tree Planting—The 12-Step Process" check list, utility-friendly and Indiana native tree lists, tree planting detail and midwest hardiness zones graphics, and numerous photographs.

"This publication is not just about how to plant a tree but also the thought process that goes into choosing and placement of that tree," Purcell said. "Digging a hole and putting the tree in it is just one small part of the process. We want to reap the benefits of that tree for 50, 100, 300 years down the road, so it is critical to plan for that planting."

Before writing the publication, Purcell consulted with homeowners, foresters and municipal planners.

Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	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, get-involved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
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 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	Jessica Williams, 334-8374
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer 2010	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Remember to report 2010/2011 hours only at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>.

October 2011

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

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Reminder!

A form for renewing your membership for 2012 is now available online at our website. Please renew by November 1. Dues are only \$10 per person and \$15 for a household.

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812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu
- Hours Report:** <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/>

Education opportunity

On Saturday, October 15, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m., Hendricks County Master Gardeners present *Adventures in Gardening* at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St, Danville, Indiana. Fee of \$35 includes breakfast and lunch. Workshops include *Bulbs as Companion Plants* with Brent Heath from Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Virginia as speaker. John Thieme will present *Living with Insects*, and Brent Heath will continue with *Magical, Mystical Meadows with Bulbs*. For more information on this seminar, contact www.hendricksgardeners.com .

By
Nancy
White