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Member news

55 Master Gardeners and welcome guests earned 2 hours of education credit at the September general meeting when Seth Inman and Zac Simpkins shared valuable information about understory trees, and answered many questions on related subjects.

Seth, one of the owners of Bloomington Valley Nursery, described the Dwarf Japanese Hinoki Cypress as beloved deer food, but on the other hand, deer do not like the columnar Graham Blandy Boxwood, and they don't like the evergreen fitzers.

As you can imagine, there was a lot of interest in what deer will and will not eat. If you were worried about the appearance of the leaves on your Japanese Maples, blame the heat. They were scorched this year. And have you ever seen a sport in a tree? If you were at the meeting then you know what that is. But driving around looking for them is a sport of another kind, and possibly dangerous.

Zac described understory trees as about 40 feet or less with a degree of tolerance for dappled shade. Some of his favorites are the Burgundy Heart, Ruby Falls, and Don Egolf redbuds, and his most favorite redbud, Rising Sun. The Shadblow serviceberry shrub will attract Cedar Waxwings for you, and the fruit of the Pawpaw is unforgettable. Dogwoods are more temperamental than other understory trees and may not bloom if located in too much shade. Aha! So that's the problem, me thinks.

Nancy White kicked off next year's Garden Fair that is, as she described it, our 8th annual gift to the community. It is scheduled for April 1, 2016, and there will be many opportunities to sign up for committees of your choice.

Four proposed changes to the bylaws were presented and approved by the membership. The changes do not impact the function of the organization, but simply clean up some unnecessary language. If you have not, please download the membership form from our website, and submit it, along with a check for \$10 made out to MCMGA, to the office at 3400 S. Walnut Street, 47401.

The first three pages of the form may still be unfamiliar to members, but our advisor, Amy Thompson, explained that all pages of the form are necessary, as Purdue annually requires information on those first pages, plus the ID check which she has completed for all members.

The season is changing, pumpkins and mums abound. It's not too soon to begin thinking about your pitch-in dish for the Harvest Dinner on November 15. Maybe one of the great choices from our book, Master Gardener Best Garden Tips and Recipes!



- Evelyn Harrell,
MCMGA President

Garden Fair News

At the Sept. General Meeting, members were encouraged to sign up for Garden Fair Committees. Our 8th annual Fair is scheduled for Sat. April 1, 2017, but committees will be organized and some will begin work soon. It takes many members volunteering their time to plan, organize, and facilitate any major event and our Fair is no exception. If you didn't get to add your name to our committee list, please contact Nancy White, Garden Fair coordinator. If you would like to work on our Garden Thyme Café, contact Café Chair, Evelyn Harrell. We encourage our new interns to join a committee and get to know some other Master Gardeners.

All hours spent working to make Garden Fair happen can be listed as MG volunteer hours. Here are the committees and a short summary of each:

- Café: plan menu, prepare food prior to event, staff booth event day Education: arrange for seminar speakers, work site event day
- Event gift bags: solicit garden-related items, arrange bags for event day Financial: arrange for cash boxes and set up front entry, staff entry on event day
- Information Booth: help set up booth, staff booth event day
- Physical Arrangements: help with site set-up and take down, work event day
- Publicity: plan and distribute publicity items, place yard signs and posters, write publicity articles Sales: arrange for sales items and staff booth event day
- Vendors: solicit vendors and provide contact information



- Nancy White,
MCMGA Past President

MCMGA Meeting Minutes

A big Thank You goes out to our refreshment committee for the September meeting to include Nancy Miller, Sandy Belth, Charlotte Griffin, Tom Lovell, Angie Fender, Evelyn Harrell, Heather Daley, Jackie Gilkey and Amy Thompson.

Upcoming events include Grow Up! The Proper Trellising of Different Fruit-Bearing Plants at the Hilltop Garden & Nature Center on October 8; Adventures in Gardening 2016 sponsored by the Hendricks County Master Gardeners on October 15; and Fall Planting of Pome Fruit Trees at the Bloomington Community Orchard on November 5. More information on these programs can be found under "Upcoming Events" at our website (www.mcmga.net). Finally don't miss our next meeting on November 15th which will be our annual "Harvest Dinner." This event typically is a pitch in holiday meal with plenty to eat, voting on the new photo for the 2017 *Folia & Flora* cover, additionally we'll vote in our new officers for 2017 along with a very good educational program (101 Landscaping Ideas).

- Jeff Schafer
Meeting Director

Indiana Native Plant Conference highlights preservation

Who: Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society

What: 23rd INPAWS Annual Conference, “Preservation: Keeping What We’ve Got, Restoring What We’ve Lost.” Open to the public—anyone with an interest in native plants, conservation, botany, landscaping, and wildlife habitat

When: Saturday, November 5, 2016; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Where: 502 East Event Centre, 502 E. Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN 46032

Cost: INPAWS members \$75; non-members \$90; students \$40. Discounts apply if registering by October 22.

Registration: Detailed information about speakers and topics is posted at www.inpaws.org, along with links to online registration.

Contact: Wendy Ford at webmaster@inpaws.org or 317-413-5918.

The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) announces our 23rd Annual Conference, providing the know-how to help Hoosiers appreciate, grow, and conserve Indiana’s native plants, with the aim of sustaining healthy ecosystems that support life. This day-long event is set for November 5 at 502 East Event Centre in Carmel.

Our conference theme for AC2016 is PRESERVATION: Keeping What We’ve Got, Restoring What We’ve Lost, with keynote speakers Dr. Reed Noss and Dr. Robbin Moran.

Dr. Reed Noss is the Provost’s Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Central Florida and President of the Florida Institute for Conservation Science. He has authored over 300 publications, including seven books. His most recent research includes studies of climate adaptation strategies, disturbance ecology (e.g., from fire), and ecosystem conservation and restoration. Prof. Noss will look at the changing values, concepts, and themes of conservation, and current decisions that need to be made between competing values.

Dr. Robbin Moran is the Nathaniel Lord Britton Curator of Botany at The New York Botanical Garden. He has published over 120 scientific papers and four books on ferns, including *A Natural History of Ferns*, winner of the Garden Writers Association Award for best writing. Dr. Moran will talk about the “extraordinary biology of some Indiana ferns.” He will focus on some of the more interesting and unusual ferns that are found in Indiana.

Also on the program: Cliff Chapman and John Bacone will team up to provide a timely update on preservation of natural areas in Indiana. Alyssa Nyberg, Nursery Manager at Kankakee Sands since 1999, will take a look back at “the marvels and mistakes of a prairie 19 years in the making.” Bill McKnight will provide gardening insights gleaned from his many years of experience and expose some of the common “myths” of gardening. Rounding out the conference, Butler’s Friesner Herbarium will launch its new Indiana Plant Atlas with a photo display. The Atlas is an online resource that documents Indiana’s wild plants by means of county-level distribution maps for all Indiana plants growing outside of cultivation.

With an abundance of exhibits from sponsors and non-profit organizations, and the customary book sale and silent auction, we expect this to be the best INPAWS conference yet.

Conference registration continues through Oct. 29. Discounts apply when registering by Oct. 22. To register at the lower INPAWS Member fee, registrants may join INPAWS now; their membership will be good through 2017.

Garden Help for Seniors

Many people who are older (which will include all of us, eventually) or who have physical limitations just can't garden like they used to, and they miss it. With occasional help, they could enjoy their gardens again.

A group of Master Gardeners – Karen King, Jan Greenwood, Judy Hawkins, Heather Daley, Cynthia Rex, and Barbara Coffman – along with Master-Gardener-in-Training Rima Hanania and Hilltop Director Lea Woodard volunteered to discuss the needs that are out there and ways our group and other volunteers might organize to provide assistance. What we determined so far is that people often need help with the heavier/bending/lifting/carrying type of tasks and that some are looking for a community/social experience as well. We have several suggested avenues to pursue. If you would like to join the discussion or have questions, please contact Barbara Coffman at barbara.coffman@ymail.com

In the meantime, Lea Woodard identified an immediate resource: an IU student organization she has worked with previously at Hilltop and which is planning a volunteer day on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. They said that they would be willing to go to people's homes to help with garden work (although we do not yet know how far they can travel from campus). If you are interested in this kind of help, please contact Barbara ASAP.

Hypertufa Planting Pots

Instructor : Charlotte Griffin

Saturday, October 22, 9:30 am– 12:00 pm

Location: Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

2367 E. 10th Street, Bloomington, IN

Cost: \$15.00; \$5.00 for those 50 and over

Program is funded in part by a grant from the MCMGA to the Endwright Center

Hypertufa is a lightweight, permeable mixture of Portland cement, peat moss, and vermiculite that you can mold into container shapes. The containers are great for any plant but particularly for succulent plants that don't like to sit in water. This class will allow you to make two containers, show you how to make the Hypertufa mixture, and make recommendations on molds you might use to make some of your own containers at home.

Cement can be caustic to the skin so bring gloves if you are sensitive. This is a messy operation. But if you liked making mud pies as a child, you will have fun!

To register, call the Endwright Center at 812-876-3383, ext.3

2 hours of education credit for Master Gardeners



October Grow Calendar

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 the 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.

September and October are good months to apply broadleaf weed killers. Be sure to follow all label directions, and choose a calm day to prevent spray drift.

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

Let Asparagus foliage stand over winter to collect snow for insulation and moisture.

Harvest mature, green tomatoes before frost and ripen indoors in the dark for faster ripening.

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

Plowing and incorporating organic matter in fall avoids the rush of garden activities and waterlogged soil in spring. Soils prepared in the fall 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 dry, then pack in dry peat moss in cool location.

Complete planting of spring-flowering bulbs.

- B. Rosie Lerner
Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Volunteer Opportunities

Organization	Time	Jobs	Contact
Bloomington Community Orchards 2120 S. Highland Avenue (Winslow Woods Park) www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org	Seasonal	Maintenance All levels of expertise welcomed!	Stacey Decker getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park 2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington	During growing season	Design & Maintenance	Linda Emerson 812-345-2913 (cell)
Courthouse Native Garden Downtown Square	Seasonal	Maintenance	Todd Stevenson tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport	Seasonal	Maintenance & Rejuvenation	Cathy Meyer 812-349-2805
Growing Opportunities Hydroponic Garden Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington	Year-round	Education & Maintenance	Nicole Wooten nicole@insccap.org
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center 2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.hilltop@indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop	Year-round	Maintenance of Gardens for Shade, Herbs, Pollinators, & Containers	Charlotte Griffin 812-345-8128
Hinkle-Garton Farmstead 2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead	Year-round	Herb, Orchard, Butterfly, & Woodland Gardens Invasives Removal, Soil Reclamation	Danielle Bachant-Bell 812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text) hgfvolunteers@gmail.com
Hoosier Hills Food Bank Will Detmer Park, 4140 West Vernal Pike	Year-round	Plant, Harvest, and Compost (training provided)	Bobbi Boos Call Ryan Jochim 812-334-8374 hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard 1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington mhcfodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer	Year-round	Seasonal Garden Tasks	Kendra Brewer, Coordinator garden@mhcfodpantry.org
T. C. Steele 4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville	Seasonal	Maintenance, Invasives Removal	Anthony Joslin 812-988-2785 - leave a message
Wonderlab Garden 308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington	Seasonal	Education, Maintenance, Volunteer Management	Nancy White 812-824-4426 www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden
Wylie House 307 E. Second St., Bloomington	Year-round	maintenance of heirloom garden, seed saving	Sherry Wise 812-855-6224 www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html
MCMGA	Year-round	Various	Demo Garden – Herman Young 812-322-5700 Garden Walk – Mary Jane Hall 812-345-3985 Program – Sandy Belth 812-825-8358 Website – Stephen Anderson 812-860-1216

Board Member Elections

Once again, it is time to elect officers for our MCMGA board of directors. Our by-laws state that this year, the offices of president, secretary, education director, communications director, and director at large will be available. The election takes place at our Tuesday, November 15th Harvest Dinner and general meeting, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. The Nominating committee Trish Gustaitis, chair; Maren Claus; and, Lea Woodard, present this slate of candidates for your consideration:

- President Mary Cusack
- Communications Director Stephen Anderson
- Secretary David Dunatchik
- Director at Large- Maren Claus
- Education Director Sandy Belth

Meet the Candidates

Mary Cusack

I began the Master Gardener course in Jan 2013 earning my Advanced Master Gardener certification May 2014. I wanted to become more involved in MCMGA so, over the years have volunteered at Wylie House, WonderLab garden, Demo garden, Best Yard judging and the Courthouse Native Garden. I completed the Purdue Master Gardener "Growing Through Leadership" program in 2013 and have served on the MCMGA Board as Director at Large, while at the same time heading up various ad hoc committees of the Board. Next Spring I look forward to serving as Vendor Coordinator for the upcoming MCMGA Garden Fair in 2017. My personal gardening interests have always been, for over 30 years, growing fresh, organic foods. Presently I am also enjoying cultivating native perennials which grow nicely in more shaded areas of our wooded property. Being involved with MCMGA has given me opportunities for personal growth and opened up opportunities to meet a wide array of incredibly interesting people! Serving as President will give me the opportunity to help guide the leadership of this wonderful group of Master Gardeners as we all work together to increase the awareness of the Master Gardener program in Monroe County while also outreaching to other areas of Indiana. I am honored and humbled by this opportunity.

Maren Claus

Received her Master Gardener training in 2014 and is a Purdue Master Gardener as well as a certified Grow Organic Educator. Maren has experience both with home gardening and community gardening. Maren has been a volunteer educator for Indiana University's Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, leading activities for the Family Gardening Program (2015) and planning and assisting with Hilltop's new Junior Master Gardener Program (2016). She introduced her own children to gardening in the St. Thomas Community Garden. Maren's primary area of interest is vegetable gardening.

Dave Dunatchik

I received my Master Gardeners training in 2007 and am now at the silver level. I served on the Garden Fair Physical Arrangements committee for five years, and volunteered for Master Gardener duties at the Monroe County Fair and the Indiana State Fair for several years. I have served as board Secretary for the last eight + years, and would like to continue serving as Secretary because it exposes me to the multitude of issues that the board must discuss and resolve.

Stephen Anderson

I was a member of the intern class of 2011 and have enjoyed serving as Communications Director since 2013, and being part of the effort to keep the membership informed about activities and educational opportunities, and upcoming events. I have volunteered for the Best Front Yard Contest, Wonder Garden and the Garden Fair, in addition to serving on the board. Most of my volunteer effort is contributed to the demonstration garden.

Sandy Belth

I finished my intern training in 2011 and have reached Advanced Certification. I served as Education Director beginning in 2013 and would like to serve again. I have enjoyed helping to bring informative educational opportunities to the membership, and to coordinate the education seminars at the Garden Fair. Much of my volunteer time has been working with the organization team that brings Bug Fest to Monroe County every year.

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President: Evelyn Harrell
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Past President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
Extension Educator: Amy Thompson
812-349-2575 afromp@purdue.edu

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mcmga.net

MCMGA GRANTS

Each year grants are given to local non-profit agencies to support projects in gardening and improving our environment. MG grants are supported by the proceeds from the Garden Fair. In 2015 and again in 2016, Bloomington Montessori School received one of our grants. Recently we receive this letter from the students in the Maple Classroom, ages 6-9, Jessica Davis, Lead Teacher.

“Dear MCMGA Members, thank you for giving us money to make the cold frames for our garden. They look good in the garden and smell good because they are made of cedar. They will help us grow food when winter will come. We chose to make them out of cedar because cedar is natural. It’s also used to getting wet. We used sliding windows so it’s not hot in there and the plants can get fresh air. We really appreciate them.”

- The Maple Class



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About MCMGA ...

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