President's Message

It's a new year and your MCMGA Board has some new faces! It's always exciting to have new energies joining our Board with fresh eyes and fresh ideas!

Welcome!! to our new Journalist ~ Beth Samuelson.
Welcome!! to our new Meeting Director ~ Barbara Coffman.
Welcome!! to our new Records Director ~ Hana Cleveland.

We also bid adieu to our long-time Board member and communications director, Stephen Anderson. Stephen has been an invaluable member of the board with communications and keeping our website updated along with timely reminders and messages being sent to our membership. We will miss his presence on the Board! The good news is that Jeff Schaefer has agreed to fill Stephen’s term and has jumped right in, with Stephen’s help, to keep our website and important notices up and running in a timely manner. Many many thanks to both these gentlemen!

The best thing I have found to help with keeping warm during this frigid time is perusing seed catalogues and making decisions on what to plant. It’s a great way to relax in front of the roaring fire of the wood stove (or fireplace) and dream of warmer days of gardening. I’m ready to start some seeds, anticipate a great Spring planting, and gear up for another year of having hands in the dirt! But until then .... hope to see you all at our General Meeting on Tuesday, January 23rd!

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“From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens:

the garden outdoors

~ the garden of pots and bowls in the house
~ and the garden of the mind’s eye.”

Katherine S. White
Editor of The New Yorker for 34 years and
author of Onward and Upward in the Garden
MCMGA General Meeting
January 23, 2018
Extension Building

The new *folia & flora* will be ready for you to take home!

Surprise "take home goodie" for all those in attendance!

Join us -- support us -- learn from us -- spread your knowledge!

We look forward to seeing you!

When: Tuesday – January 23
Time: 6:30 PM – come early for refreshments!
Where: Extension Building, 3400 S Walnut – Bloomington

Our first general meeting of 2018 will feature talks by:

Terry Clapacs on "IU’s Gardening History"
Marshall Goss on "IU’s Greenhouses"

Two (2) educational hours will be awarded for this evening.

*We still need a few more folks willing to share some tasty tidbits for the evening. Contact Barb Coffman if you are willing to help out! barbara.coffman@ymail.com. Many thanks!*

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**Submitting Hours**
by Maren Claus

Need help getting your volunteer & educational hours submitted with the new Purdue Master Gardener system?

Need help getting yourself registered into the system so you CAN submit your hours?

No need to fret!

Our new Records Director, Hana Cleveland, will be available prior to our meeting on Tuesday, Jan 23rd, to help you out!

Come by at 5:30 PM to the Extension Building, and Hana will help you get registered into the system and show you how to submit your hours. We will have a computer on site to be able to log into the system and get you up and running in no time at all!

Take advantage of this service we are offering so you are able to keep on top of submissions and get the credits you deserve!

Mark your calendar: January 23 at 5:30 PM!!

Forms and information for reporting hours:
http://www.mcmga.net/reporting_hours.htm
April 7, 2018, is the date for our 9th annual MCMGA Garden Fair at the Bloomington National Guard Armory. Planned as a fun, educational, and spirit-lifting day for gardeners and those who appreciate the many lovely gardens in Monroe County, it is a big undertaking for our local group. We need members who can help plan, organize, and implement the many tasks connected to the Fair. Besides earning volunteer hours for your participation before and during the Fair, it's a great way to meet other Master Gardeners as we work together. If you can't work prior to the April 7 date, we can use your energy and skills on event day to prepare the armory space, greet guests, and clean up at the end of the day. Take a look at the committees listed below and find your special spot. New MG interns are welcome to volunteer.

Garden Fair Committees

**Physical Arrangements**: Set up site at armory, work event day, or clean up after event.
**Café**: Plan menu, prepare food prior to event, staff booth event day.
**Exhibitors**: Solicit and contact exhibitors prior to event day.
**Educational Sessions**: Arranges for speakers for education seminars, staff education room on event day.
**Master Gardeners Information Booth**: Set up information booth, staff event booth.
**Publicity**: Plan and distribute publicity posters, yard signs, postcards; write articles, and contact media.
**Visitor Carry Bags**: Solicit garden-related items and arrange bags for event day.
**Financial**: Arrange for money collection, set up front entry, staff entry on event day.

Contact Nancy White (nwhite38@hotmail.com) to join a committee and gain some volunteer hours this winter.

Seeking Exhibitors

Mary Cusack is our Exhibitor Chair, and she is the direct contact with our commercial and non-profit booth holders. We are always looking for plant sellers, landscaping groups, and new environmental groups. If you know of any exhibitors who are new to Monroe County or who have not been with us in the past, contact Mary (mastergardenermaryc@gmail.com) and let her know. The exhibitor application is on our website.

**MASTER GARDENER GRANTS AVAILABLE**

The proceeds from our annual Garden Fair support the Master Gardener grant program. In past years we have awarded over $14,000 in local grants to non-profit agencies for small gardening and horticulture projects. The 2018 grant applications will be available soon on our website and from the Extension Office. Completed applications are due by Feb. 15. Please share this information with your circle of gardening friends, schools, places of worship, etc. And yes, MCMGA members can give support in the grant writing process. Download the application form here: http://mcmga.net/mcmga_grant_forms.htm
“One of the most delightful things about a garden is the anticipation it provides.” ~ W. E. Jones

2018 Indiana Flower and Patio Show
March 10-18, 2018
Indianapolis, IN

Winter finds us looking through seed catalogues and dreaming of spring. Mark your calendars now for the 2018 Indiana Flower and Patio Show and join us in heralding the arrival of spring.

For more information about speakers, workshops, exhibitors, and featured gardens (including the Belgrade Challenge) visit www.IndianaFlowerandPatioShow.com.

Help Staff the "Plant Info to Go" Booth

Monroe County Master Gardeners are responsible for helping staff Purdue’s "Plant Info To Go" booth. This is typically a fun opportunity to serve the public, socialize, and prepare for spring with inspiring ideas and information from the show. Volunteers receive a complimentary admission ticket ($14.00 value) and volunteer credit for their shift, as well as travel time to and from Indianapolis.

Please contact Maren Claus, Director At Large, at (812) 340-0350 or mklaus@bloomington.in.us to sign up for a shift.

GET IN TOUCH WITH MCMGA

(812) 349-2575  Cooperative Extension Service 3400 South Walnut Bloomington, IN 47401

MCMGA INSTAGRAM COMING SOON!

facebook.com/MonroeCountyMasterGardenerAssociation

http://www.mcmga.net

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HORTICULTURE JUDGES TRAINING

Individuals are needed to judge horticulture projects for 4-H & Open Class at county fairs. We want you to share your passion for gardening, flowers and vegetables with others!

Tuesday, March 20
9:30 am - 12:00 noon
Parke County Fairgrounds
Rockville, IN
~OR~

Tuesday, March 20
2:30 pm - 5:00 pm
Monroe County Fairgrounds
Bloomington, IN

Topics Include:
- Ages & Stages (Age Appropriate Expectations of & Interactions with Youth)
- Judging Criteria
- Practice Judging Scenarios

Registration: (Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required). You can register using the following link:
https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9sOzb2y1qllx1Xv
or complete the form below and send to Purdue Extension-Monroe County, 3400 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN 47401.

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
E-mail: ___________________________ County: ___________________________
Are you a Purdue Master Gardener? _______ (Earn 3 hours of advanced training educational hours)

For more information on MCMGA volunteer opportunities, visit http://www.mcmga.net/volunteering.htm
Monroe County Master Gardener
Volunteer Training Class

This program is for people who would like to learn more about gardening AND are interested in putting that knowledge to use volunteering in their community.

When: Thursdays, January 25 through May 17
Time: 6:00 pm- 9:00 pm
Where: Monroe County Extension Office
3400 South Walnut Street, Bloomington, IN 47401
Cost: $170.00 [printed manual]
$155.00 [electronic manual on flash drive]
Registration Deadline: Tuesday, January 18, 2018

Topics include but are not limited to:
- Plant Science
- Lawn Care & Landscape Design
- Composting
- Entomology & Insect Control
- Pruning & Tree Care
- Soils & Plant Nutrition
- Pesticide Safety & Application
- Vegetables, Perennials & Annuals
- Invasive Plants
- Nuisance Wildlife

Applications are available on the web at
https://extension.purdue.edu/Monroe/Pages/article.aspx?intItemID=25558
or at the Purdue Extension-Monroe County Office.

If you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this program, please contact Amy Thompson at (812) 349-2575 or athompson@purdue.edu
2018 Monroe County Master Gardener Intern Training Schedule

NOTE: All classes will meet at Monroe County Extension Office, 3400 South Walnut Street, unless otherwise noted.

**Session 1 - Thursday, January 25**
Welcome/Program Orientation ...
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe Co.
Care of House Plants ...
7:30pm - 9:00pm
Terri Vicenzi, Master Gardener

**Session 2 - Thursday, February 1**
Plant Science ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Richard Beckort, Extension Educator, Jackson Co.

**Session 3 - Thursday, February 8**
Entomology and Insect Control ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Bob Bruner, Extension Educator, Owen Co.

**Session 4 - Thursday, February 15**
Herbaceous Ornamentals ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe Co.
Perennials & Annuals

**Session 5 - Thursday, February 22**
Landscape Design ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Anita Bracalente, Landscape Designer
Woody Ornamentals

**Session 6 - Thursday, March 1**
Lawn Care ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Jeff Hermesch, Extension Educator, Decatur Co.

**Session 7 - Thursday, March 8**
Plant Propagation Techniques ...
6:00pm - 8:00pm
Gina Anderson, Floyd Co Master Gardener Invasive Plants ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe Co.

**No Class – Spring Break - March 15**

**Session 8 - Thursday, March 22**
Nuisance Wildlife ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Brian MacGowan, Extension Wildlife Specialist

**Session 9 - Thursday, March 29**
Vegetables ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe Co.

**Session 10 - Thursday, April 5**
Pesticide Safety and Application ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Fred Whitford, Director, Purdue Pesticide Programs

**Session 11 – Thursday, April 12**
Soils and Plant Nutrition ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Scott Gabbard, Extension Educator, Shelby Co.

**Session 12 - Thursday, April 19 - Location TBD**
Pruning and Tree Care ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Brett Mominee, Certified Arborist

**Session 13 - Thursday, April 26**
Backyard Fruit Tree Basics ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Jim Luzar, Extension Educator, Parke Co.
Small Fruit Management

**Session 14 - Thursday, May 3 at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center**
Composting ...
6:00pm - 7:30pm
Lea Woodard, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center
Rain Gardens: The Anti-Lawn Care ...
8:00pm - 9:00pm
Dana Wilkinson, Monroe County Stormwater

**Session 15 - Thursday, May 10**
Plant Problem Diagnosis ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe Co.

**Session 15 - Thursday, May 17**
Final ...
6:00pm - 9:00pm
Class wrap-up/Evaluation/Final Exam

**Schedule Subject to Change**

Current Master Gardeners are welcome to attend sessions that interest them and can earn one education credit maximum. Please RSVP a week in advance to Amy Thompson (afthompson@purdue.edu) for the session you plan to attend.
Monroe County Public Library Programs for Gardeners

All programs begin at 3 PM and will last approximately 1.5 hours. All events at Main Branch unless otherwise noted.

Feb. 11  Care of House Plants (Ellettsville Branch)
Mar. 25  Planning and Prepping for a Vegetable Garden
Apr. 15  Soils and Composting for Vegetable Gardening Success
May 6   Growing Great Tomatoes
June 10  Diagnosis & Control of Plant Diseases in the Vegetable Garden
July 15  Planning Your Fall Vegetable Garden
Aug. 12  Invaders in Your Backyard Landscape: Identification & Control
Sept. 9  Tree Selection & Planting

Indiana Invasive Species Council 3rd Biannual Conference

Join us for grassroots networking and resources for managing invasive species in Indiana.

February 15, 2018
9 AM - 3 PM

Hendrick's County 4-H Fairground & Conference Center

Danville, IN

Register at http://indianainvasivespecies.org/

Contribute to the MCMGA Newsletter!!

Please send your announcements, photographs and short articles to MCMGA Journalist, Beth Samuelsen (samuelsen.beth@gmail.com). Some possible topics: memories of MCMGA for the upcoming anniversary, reviews of good books, pictures of your favorite flowers or houseplants, or musings on the changing seasons.

If you have some ideas for future issues or are interested in volunteering on the production of the newsletter, please get in touch as well!
Upcoming Master Gardener Webinars

Revising By-Laws for Nonprofit Organizations

January 18, 2018, 10:00 - 11:00 AM (EST) (Jan. 19 Snow Date)

Miriam Robeson, Attorney at Law from Flora, IN, will present the basics of revising by-laws for nonprofit organizations. Where do you begin? What do by-laws need to include? How should your organization coordinate this effort?

Financial Practices for Nonprofit Organizations

February 9, 2018, 10:00 - 11:00 AM (EST) (Feb. 12 Snow Date)

Miriam Robeson, Attorney at Law, Flora, IN, will present on best financial practices for nonprofit organizations such as money handling, sales tax, managing financial risks, and more.

Using Social Media (Best Practices)

March 1, 2018, 10:00 - 11:00 AM (EST)

Morgan Grosso, Content/Social Media Specialist, Purdue Ag Communication, will give best practices and Purdue guidelines for using social media as a Purdue MG volunteer or staff person.

To register for these webinars, visit https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9KX8R9bO3FNah3T
Everyone is talking about the weather, so let’s change the subject and talk about educational hours for Master Gardeners. But, you say, don’t you mean volunteer hours? You do know that one of our best opportunities to accumulate volunteer hours is right around the corner. In just three short months we will open the doors for the 9th annual Garden Fair. Of course a lot of committee work, with volunteer hours, occurs before April 7. Right now it’s easy to think about volunteer hours.

So, back to the subject of educational hours. Who is talking about them? The subject tends to fly under the Master Gardener radar. Every time you turn around someone is reminding you that your help, that is, your willingness to volunteer some hours of your time, is greatly needed for one effort or another. When was the last time you were urged to do something that adds to your educational hours?

Education is at the core of the Master Gardener mission in two ways: (1) helping in some way to provide information to others; and, (2) acquiring education, which broadens your knowledge of horticulture and freshens the knowledge already squirreled away in your brain.

Here is one opportunity coming up quickly: Hoosier Hills Master Gardeners are offering their 11th Annual Spring Tonic in Paoli with five educational hours, continental breakfast and lunch. Check them out at wigmga.org or on Facebook. Registration is $35 until 1/16/18, and $40 after that.

You don’t have time to commit to a full day of educational opportunities, no matter how enjoyable? Mary Cusack reminds us that other organizations also provide horticultural education, and there are library resources to be read or viewed on our own schedule. They might include documentaries like the ones she has viewed on composting and urban farming, and more.

Now that we’re on the subject of educational hours, two educational hours are on the agenda for the January 23rd general meeting at our Extension Office, along with seeing gardening friends and enjoying refreshments starting at 6 PM. Absolutely painless.