It’s a new year with new Board members lending their enthusiasm and fresh eyes for the future of MCMGA.

Welcome to our new Secretary, Ed Kitchen! Ed has some big shoes to fill following the service of our long and faithful Secretary, David Dunatchik. But Ed has stepped up to the plate and has found a comfortable seat at our Board table. We are happy to have him join our ranks!

Taking the Education Director position, from our long-time Board member Sandy Belth, is Terri Vicenzi. We are all looking forward to her connections and enthusiasm for this position as speakers are chosen for our meetings and gatherings.

After a warm start to the winter season, (when I noticed shoots of daffodils trying to peak out of the ground -- oh no!!), old man winter has decided to make his presence known. Time to sit by the fire, decide on what seeds to order, and plan out the garden plots. It’s an enjoyable activity – even though my final plantings differ considerably from my winter plans on paper!

We hope to see you at our Jan 22 General Meeting. Come early for refreshments and stay for 2 great talks! And remember, it’s not too late to renew your membership! Tuesday – Jan 22 – 6:30 PM – Extension Office on South Walnut.

What's Inside?

- General Meeting on January 22
- MCMGA Grants
- Required Training for Volunteers Working with Minors
- Garden Fair News
- Hilltop Gardens Volunteer Opportunity
- MCMGA Statistics for 2018
- Contact MCMGA

“The color of springtime is in the flowers;

The color of winter is in the imagination.”

~Terri Guillemets, Quotation Anthologist
MCMGA General Meeting
January 22, 2019
Extension Building

When: Tuesday – January 22
Time: 6:30 PM – come early for refreshments!
Where: Extension Building, 3400 S. Walnut – Bloomington

"Hall’s Greenhouse" - Carol and Steve Hall will discuss the history of how they got started in the greenhouse business. We will learn about the Field Trials and changes in the greenhouse industry.

"Greens, Roots and Flowers at Mavoureen Farm" - Rachael Beyer from Bread and Roses Nursery will speak.

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

All proceeds from the annual Garden Fair fund our grant program. The grants support small gardening and horticulture projects sponsored by non-profit agencies in Monroe County. The application for these grants will be posted soon on our website. The deadline for applications is Feb. 11. Be sure to share this information to your neighbors, churches, schools, and other non-profit agencies. In the last few years the grant program has awarded over $16,000 to fund numerous Monroe County projects.

REQUIRED TRAINING for Master Gardeners Working with Minors
by Amy Thompson

Hello Master Gardener volunteers: If any of you work with or plan to work with youth for your volunteer efforts, you need to complete the training and certification program found at this link:

https://purdue.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOEB8CsBwl7SE8I

The training can be completed in a short time. Thanks for your attention to this important matter.
Planning is underway for our 2019 Garden Fair, Saturday, April 6, from 9 AM - 4 PM at the National Guard Armory. Applications for exhibitors are being accepted and committees are starting their work. If you would like to help on any committee or to suggest a new business or non-profit that might be interested in our Garden Fair, contact Nancy White at nwhite38@hotmail.com.

A reminder to members, all time spent working on the Garden Fair qualifies for volunteer hours. If you can’t help prior to event day, we can use your expertise and skills on April 6 to greet guests, work at the MG Info Booth, the craft booth or help with the take-down.

Here are some things you can do to make the fair a success:

- Spread the word among your friends and acquaintances. “Save the date” cards available.
- Volunteer for a committee. (See listing below.)
- Plan to bring some neighbors with you on Fair Day so they can enjoy our great event.
- Plan to provide some baked goods to fill the tables at the Café. (More information on that later.)
- Volunteer to hang some posters at your church, place of business, or school. (Sign up at the Jan. 22 meeting or contact Nancy White.)
- Volunteer to place a Garden Fair yard sign on your property. (Sign up at the Jan. meeting or contact Nancy White.)
- Contact any committee Chair for more information. (See list below.)

Here are the activities of the committees for the Fair, with Chairs noted:

**Exhibitors:** Solicits and verifies commercial and non-profit booth holders.
(Mary Cusack, Chair)

**Education:** Arranges for speakers for sessions and manages sessions on event day.
(Terri Vicenzi, Chair)

**Café:** Plans menu, prepares food prior to event day, staffs café event day.
(Evelyn Harrell, Chair)

**Financial:** Arranges set-up of front entry door and staffs entry on event day.
(Dorothy Kiser, Chair)

**Make and Take Craft Booth:** Arranges for booth projects with easy craft items on event day.

**MG Information Booth:** Helps set up info booth, staffs booth event day.
(Susan Eastman, Chair)

**Physical Arrangements:** Does set-up on Fri. and take down on event day.
(Dave Dunatchik, Chair)

**Publicity:** Plans and distributes publicity items and writes media articles.
(Nancy White, Chair)

**Visitor Bags:** Solicits and arranges materials for bags. (Bernie Zoss, Chair)
Greetings from Hilltop Gardens! Thank you, MGMGA, for your continual support of the programs and projects at Hilltop Garden & Nature Center at Indiana University. Numerous Master Gardeners volunteer hundreds of hours each year to help grow and maintain our various gardens, and make our Junior Master Gardener program successful. MCMGA contributes over $300 each year to support our Junior Master Gardener programs.

I am reaching out to the MGMGA once again, to help with another project, our annual seed kit program. The seed kit program started in 2010 as a way to provide a gardening experience in the classroom for local children. The kit provides mini-greenhouse-like structures containing soil and seeds for local schools. These kits allow children to start vegetable, herb and flower seeds in their classroom before taking them home or planting near their school. Teachers and children look forward to receiving their kits each spring. The program has grown to over 2000 kits distributed annually to a four-county area, including over 160 classrooms and reaching close to 3000 students. The seed kit program is funded in part by the Bloomington Garden Club, with donations of plastic trays from Cook Incorporated. The kits are completely free to local educational institutions.

A seed kit is packed and ready to go. A planted seed kit.
Volunteers are needed to assemble the different components of the kits, including taping trays together to form the clamshell, bagging soil into gallon size amounts, and packaging seeds from bulk into coin envelopes, and labeling the envelopes. Volunteers are also greatly needed this year to help deliver the kits to local schools. With around 40 schools to deliver to, we need numerous volunteers to help make sure these kits get to the schools. All of the volunteer time including travel time to and from the schools has been approved by Amy to be counted towards Master Gardener volunteer hours. There are various delivery amounts and distances, so depending on your vehicle size, and availability, we can tailor the amount of kits and travel time to your interests. Hilltop can also provide assistance loading kits into vehicles and school staff can help unload kits from your vehicle if you are unable to do so. Unfortunately, volunteers are not able to be reimbursed for mileage.

Seed kit assembly drop-in hours are Fridays from 1-4 PM starting on January 11th (or by appointment) and continue through early April. Seed kit deliveries will start the end of February and continue through early May. MCMGA Vice President, Trish Gustaitis, is volunteering to coordinate deliveries.

If you are interested in helping assemble seed kits, please contact: hilltop@indiana.edu or 812-855-8808.

If you are interested in helping deliver kits, please contact Trish Gustaitis: pgustait@gmail.com or 812-322-9658.

Thank you!!

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MCMGA Statistics for 2018
By Amy Thompson

Volunteer reporting the most hours in 2018:

Trish Gustaitis
(265.75 hours)

Number of MCMGA volunteers reporting in the web-based system:

60

Number of volunteer hours reported:

2,191.70
(ranked 18th in the state)

Average volunteer hours per member:

37

Number of education hours reported:

1,284.50
(ranked 8th in the state)

Average Education hours per member:

21

Total volunteer hours for the state:

159,977.96

Total education hours for the state:

34,547.61

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. Inclusion of products or companies in this newsletter does not imply an endorsement.