President's Message

Yay!! It is finally warm outside! Everything seems to be cheering on the Spring by showing their blossoms and new leaves on the trees, new growth in our perennial gardens, and green, green, green everywhere you look!

I have had the opportunity to get to know some of our new interns over the course of their classes. It’s a wonderfully enthusiastic group, with many of them already involving themselves with Master Gardening projects.

Please plan on joining us as we welcome them into our MCMGA family with our annual pitch-in and plant swap. **Tuesday – May 22 at the MC Fairgrounds – Community Bldg. doors open 6pm. 1 educational credit hour: “Yoga for Gardeners” by Allena Radecki.** Please label your plant(s) with its name and care instructions. Our interns will get 1st choice of a plant to take home.

Looking forward to June 7-9, I am excited to be registered to attend the MG State Conference in Danville. I wholeheartedly encourage you to attend this fun weekend with great workshops, wonderful camaraderie, lots of vendors, and awesome gardens to visit. It’s a nice get-a-way and change of scenery! Details at [http://www.purduemgconference.com](http://www.purduemgconference.com) or simply google: Master Gardener State Conference.

See you all on May 22! And until then ....... “Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun” ~Kahlil Gibran

**What's Inside**

- General Meeting & Celebration on May 22
- Reporting Your Hours
- 2018 Garden Fair
- Have You Visited the Wondergarden?
- Instagram it @MonroeCounty_MasterGardeners
- Getting in Touch with MCMGA
- 2018 Indiana Flower & Patio Show Report
- Indiana State Fair Volunteer Opportunity
- 2018 MCMGA Interns Practice Their Plant Propagation Skills [Photos]
- Guest Column by Don Eggert
- MCMGA Board Members
- Contribute to the Newsletter
MCMGA General Meeting & Celebration!

May 22, 2018
Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building

Welcome and celebrate the new graduates of our 2018 internship class!!

One (1) educational hour will be awarded for this evening.

Bring a plant to share. Plants should be in a container or plastic bag. Please label them with name; characteristics such as height, light requirements, bloom color and season; and special notes such as “drought tolerant,” “deer resistant,” or “aggressive spreader.” Interns get first choice!

When: Tuesday – May 22
Time: 6:30 PM. Doors open at 6:00 PM.
Where: Monroe County Fairgrounds Community Building, 5700 W Airport Road Bloomington 47403

Enjoy “Yoga for Gardeners – From One Gardener to Another” with Allana Radecki. Learn how yoga can help us as gardeners stay balanced and promote strength and flexibility to support the work and reduce injury. Consideration will be given to the body mechanics of gardening to introduce some simple asanas/poses. Breath, balance, and awareness of how to find grounding from the earth to support our gardening tasks will be emphasized.

Pitch-in: Please bring a dish to share, along with a serving utensil if needed. The committee will provide drinks as well as plates, cups, utensils, and napkins, or you may bring your own if you prefer.

Please keep in mind that there is construction on 37, Second Street, Third Street, and Country Club Drive/Tapp Road (to name just a few bottlenecks), so you may want to look for alternate routes to the Fairgrounds or allow extra time.

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Reporting Your Hours

by Hana Cleveland

Master Gardeners and Interns, this is a reminder to report your volunteer and education hours! Reporting hours not only helps you maintain certification, it also helps us advance the program by tracking how many community members we serve.

Login online today at www.mcmga.net and click on ‘Reporting Volunteer and Educational Hours’. If you are not already registered in the system you will need to do so by following the instructions online. Registration code is monr8264.

If you need assistance with registration or reporting your hours, contact Records Director, Hana Cleveland, at hanacleveland@gmail.com.
2018 Garden Fair Report
by Nancy White

A Hearty Thank You To all who planned, served on a committee, took a leadership role, hung a poster, or simply told a friend about our 2018 Garden Fair, I want to say thank you. Even though we had to cancel this year’s Fair, your commitment and hard work has strengthened our organization. So many who have called or sent a note or stopped me at the grocery store have mentioned how they missed the Fair and that it had become part of their Spring schedule. We can be proud that in 8 short years, the MG Garden Fair is valued and fills a need in our community. Soon, we will start thinking about Garden Fair, 2019. Until then, Happy Gardening!

HAVE YOU VISITED THE WONDERGARDEN?
About 12 years ago, the MG Board agreed to list the WonderLab Museum’s Garden as an approved volunteer site for Monroe County Master Gardeners. Originally designed and maintained by local landscape designer, Lara Shively, the MCMGA was asked to take over as the WonderGarden crew when Lara could no longer work at the Garden. From the beginning, those of us who have worked at the Garden have been educators and instructors, working side by side with volunteers from IU, local schools, community groups, and businesses. Work sessions are held twice monthly from March to Nov. and Master Gardeners attend as their schedules will allow. Just last week, Master Gardeners plus 21 volunteers from Global Youth Service and the O’Bannon Community Service Day combined to spread 9 cubic yards of mulch. We plant, weed, transplant, tend the small veggie and herb part of the garden, and conspire to outsmart the resident family of bunnies, all this while enjoying the company of Master Gardeners and able volunteers. We, the MG WonderGarden crew, invite you to join us at this special downtown garden to have fun while you gain some MG volunteer hours. We learn from each other and from our volunteers and we would love to share with you. Contact team leader, Nancy White, 812-824-4426 or rwhite38@hotmail.com to receive notices of our upcoming work sessions.
Have a unique flower or plant you would like gardeners to know about? Taken any photos of interesting insects in your garden? What diseases and pests are plaguing your plants? Send gardening photos with captions to hanacleveland@gmail.com to share with our members.

White Beautyberry, Callicarpa americana, is beautiful year round even in the heart of winter. Birds also love these berries! #woodyshrubs#landscapedesign#winterberries#beautyberry#nativeplants

Plant garlic in the fall for an early spring show - great for small spaces! #signsofsummer#rainyday#garlic#frontyardfarm
The 2018 Indiana Flower and Patio Show was held March 10-18, 2018 at the State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, IN. Monroe County Master Gardeners were responsible for staffing the Purdue “Plant Info To Go” booth on Sunday, March 18th. Master Gardeners Cindy Benson, Maren Claus, David Dunatchik and Lea Woodard were joined by interns Donald Eggert, Rachel Kearney, Ed Kitchen, and Erika Wheeler. Intern Donald Eggert remarked after his Sunday afternoon shift, “I felt useful.” This remark goes to the heart of what we do as Master Gardeners. A warm thank you to the Monroe County Master Gardeners and interns who provided educational outreach at the 2018 Indiana Flower and Patio Show!

A regular at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show, Master Gardener David Dunatchik (2007/Silver) also serves on the MCMGA Executive Board.

Saddle Up! Master Gardeners Cindy Benson and Maren Claus pose with a topiary created using succulents, ferns and moss. The 2018 Indiana Flower and Patio Show featured more than an acre of greenery and Showcase Gardens.

Interns Ed Kitchen and Erika Wheeler join Master Gardeners Cindy Benson and Lea Woodard in the Purdue "Plant Info To Go" Booth.
Indiana State Fair Volunteer Opportunity

The next opportunity to staff the Purdue "Plant Info to Go" booth will be this summer at the Indiana State Fair (August 3-19). Volunteers receive a complimentary admission ticket and volunteer credit for their shift, as well as travel time to and from Indianapolis. Contact Maren Claus, Director At Large, at 812-340-0350 or mkclaus@bloomington.in.us for more information.

2018 MCMGA Interns practice their plant propagation skills.
I like to track international media for reports on science related issues related to climate, energy, environment, oceans, and waste. I recently stumbled onto two UK newspapers with interesting gardening links. The first is The Guardian. The second is The Telegraph. Both of these publications have had reports that our gardeners may find interesting and relevant. For instance, their UK readers, like us, have problems with urban deer.

I have enjoyed and shared some of their articles with my family and friends. My wife, her mother, and sisters went to visit family in Palm Springs, CA, and one report on global gardens to visit highlighted a garden nearby. They were unfortunately unable to visit it, but Alice's cousin noted that it is really outstanding and that hopefully she will be able to see it next time.

The Guardian and The Telegraph have become part of my every day routine and remind me of The New York Times and The Washington Post for the depth and diversity of their reporting on gardening and gardens.

Links
https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/gardens
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/
https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home-garden
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Contribute to the MCMGA Newsletter!!

Please send your announcements, photographs and short articles to MCMGA Journalist, Beth Samuelson (samuelson.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!