I’m on zucchini overload! Fritters ~ breads ~ cakes ~ brownies ~ ravioli ~ pickles ~ quiche ~ pizza ~ cookies ~ casseroles for the freezer ~ fried, sautéed, baked and stuffed. There’s a reason why entire cookbooks are written with the humble zucchini as the star. This workhorse of the garden gives even brown-thumbed gardeners hope that they can do something right! But for now, I’m ready for the end of the summer squash season and ready to take on prepping the beds for next year’s crops and fall plantings of garlic and perennial bulbs. Until then, I still have some zuccs in my fridge waiting to be transformed into ....... ???

We have exciting 30th anniversary plans coming up for MCMGA. And new Board members will be confirmed in November and begin their terms in January. I love the diversity of this Master Gardener group and enjoy all the insights and strengths everyone brings to the table.

So on that note, plan to come to our next general meeting, September 25 – 6:30 PM for two presentations on “Earth Kind Roses,” and “Conifers & Japanese Maples.” Two educational hours will be awarded.

If you still need help registering on the Purdue site for your volunteer and educational hours for MG, come early and Hana Cleveland and Trish Gustaitis will help get you set up in the system.

What's Inside

- Save the Date! MCMGA 30th Anniversary Kickoff Dinner
- Annual MCMGA Photo Contest
- 2018 Monroe County Fair Report
- Help Celebrate the MCMGA 30th Anniversary
- Shine the Spotlight On...
- Getting in Touch with MCMGA
- 2018 Indiana State Fair Report
- 2019 Purdue Master Gardener State Tour
- Fruits of the Heartland Conference Report
- MCMGA Garden Fair 2019
- Bylaws Revisions
- slate of MCMGA Officers for November Election
- Q&A with MCMGA Members
- MCMGA Board Members
- Contribute to the Newsletter!

My TO-DO List

- Attend 9/25 general mtg
- Save date for 30th anniv. dinner!
- Complete 30-for-30 survey by 9/28!!
- Plan to join conversation group
- Review revised bylaws
- Submit entry to photo contest (due 10/15)
Save the Date!

MCMGA 30th Anniversary Kickoff Dinner

Tuesday
November 13, 2018
6:00-8:30 PM

Where:
Sherwood Oaks Christian Church
2700 E. Rogers Road
Bloomington, IN 47401

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association holds its Harvest Dinner in November. It is a pitch-in, with election of officers and voting for the photos that will appear on next year's covers of Folia & Flora and the Garden Fair program. It is a chance to enjoy good food and visit with friends. Often we have a speaker and/or entertainment.

This year, things will be different!

The Harvest Dinner will be the kickoff for MCMGA's 30th anniversary year. In addition to the pitch-in, MCMGA will provide ham and turkey as main dish entrees. We will have time for a reception before dinner with appetizers and punch. We will also have special guests--current and former Purdue Extension staff and as many of our founding members as we can locate. We will elect officers and choose our photo winners as usual. And we will celebrate the accomplishments of the past 30 years, and look ahead to our future. What won't be different is the chance to enjoy good food and visit with friends. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more ways you can help us celebrate, see page 3.

Annual MCMGA Photo Contest

Submit your gardening photos (max of 3 per person please) to be in the running for the cover of next year’s “folia and flora”.

- Deadline for submission: October 15, 2018
- Submit to: ckpercif at purdue edu
- Cindi will send a confirmation that she has received your submissions.
- Format: digital .jpg
- Call Cindi at the Extension Office with questions at 812-349-2575.
- All submissions must be original and taken by an active MCMGA member.
- All photos must contain living plant material.
- Voting: Photos will be printed and displayed for vote by members at our Anniversary dinner in November.
2018 Monroe County Fair Report
by Diana Young

Thank you to everyone who helped at the fair.

Entries were down a little this year which I think was due to the new dates.

Hopefully this year was just a learning experience and next year will be bigger than ever. The daylily show was new this year. We had over 70 entries, pretty good for our 1st show.

So thanks to all who helped us have a successful fair. A special thanks to Esther & Lloyd Minnick, and Nancy & Bob Deckard. It was hot, but fun!

Help Celebrate the MCMGA 30th Anniversary!!

COMPLETE THE "30-FOR-30" SURVEY that you received recently via email and return it by September 28. This is one way we can capture all the accomplishments of the last 30 years, as well as all the ways you volunteer to benefit our community. Here's the link to the survey:

http://go.iu.edu/27J1

JOIN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MCMGA

What inspired you to become a Master Gardener?

How well has MCMGA fulfilled its mission to provide education to its members?

How well has MCMGA fulfilled its mission to provide volunteer service to the community?

What special initiatives do you think MCMGA should undertake in the coming years?

You are invited to join a very informal ‘conversation group’ meeting lasting no more than ONE hour to share your opinions and ideas about these questions. Groups will be convened on three different days and at different in October. Dates, times, and locations will be announced soon.

Thank you for being part of the conversation!
SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON ....

by Nancy White

So many Master Gardeners have been volunteering at spots all over Monroe County this season. Recently, I had an opportunity to talk to a group of IU students who were volunteering at WonderGarden. They were surprised (and a little impressed) to learn that the group of hardy mentors with whom they spent the morning weeding, transplanting, pruning, and deadheading were Monroe County residents who donate their time all though the growing season to maintain WonderGarden. Among these mentors is Donna Terry, who not only helps these and other student volunteers learn important gardening skills, but also brings plant starts from her own garden to add to the downtown garden.

Donna shows her commitment to WonderGarden and to our MCMGA mission by attending work sessions regularly and by spreading the good news about our efforts to her friends and neighbors.

Enjoy the Spotlight, Donna! We couldn’t do it without you!

Donna Terry (2009/Bronze)

GET IN TOUCH WITH MCMGA

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

@monroecounty_margaradeners
http://www.mcmga.net
Monroe County Master Gardener Association

facebook.com/
Monroe County Master Gardeners staffed the Purdue “Plant Info To Go” Booth at the 2018 Indiana State Fair on Sunday, August 12, from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Purdue Master Gardeners fielded more than 2,300 horticultural questions from State Fair visitors.

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association is proud to be a part of this important educational outreach program.

Pictured from L. to R. are Herman Young (1998/Silver), Diana Young (1998/Gold), Laura Kress (2018/Intern), and Maren Claus (2014/Advanced).

2019 Purdue Master Gardener State Tour

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 Purdue Master Gardener State Tour
Building Botanical Bridges: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
June 21, 2019, New Albany, IN
Hosted by:
• Sunnyside Master Gardeners
• Purdue Extension-Floyd County
• Purdue Master Gardener State Office
For more information visit: https://tinyurl.com/purduemgtour
The North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX), the Midwest Fruit Explorers (MidFEX), and the Savanna Institute came together this year to host the “Fruits of the Heartland” Conference in Danville, IL.

I had the opportunity to attend the conference with other fellow fruit and nut grower enthusiasts from around North America. A majority of the attendees were hobbyists with a keen interest in growing, finding, evaluating and eating exceptional fruit and nuts – three days of fruit and nut bliss!

The conference included a wide range of fabulous topics:

- Cold Hardy Fruit and Nut Trees
- Tips for Growing Healthy and Productive Fruit and Nut Trees
- Less Common Fruit Bearing Plants
- An Exploration of Native Grapes
- Growing Haskaps (aka Honeyberries)
- Unusual and Small Heartland Fruits
- Currants – The Forgotten Superfruit
- Perennial Woody Polyculture
- Managing Organic Asian Pear and Pawpaw
- The Art of Espalier
- Advancing Agroforestry in the Heartland
- Diseases and Pests of Elderberry
- Reflections on the M-27 Rootstock (Dwarf Apple) 25 years later

Along with the formal conference topics, we enjoyed an informal evening of “Show and Tell.” Anything fruit and nut related that folks wanted to talk about, all while sampling unusual fruit/nut foods and drinks such as culinary hickory oil, pecan oil, autumn olive jam (an edible created as a by-product of eradicating an invasive), serviceberry bread, fruit leathers, unusual wines, and more.

On the last day we toured four research farms, starting out at Vulcan Farm in Sidney, IL. We were introduced to the successes and some failures on this 10-acre agroforestry research and demonstration farm, where they are growing over 250 species and over 500 varieties of edible crops.

continued on page 8
When you see them, please offer a “thank you” to these MCMGA members for their service this summer on the Garden Fair 2019 Site Committee.

Thanks to site committee members David Dunatchik, Dorothy Cole-Kiser, Pam Roberts, Georgia Vaught, and Nancy White.

The committee has spent many hours soliciting locations for possible sites, drafting a set of criteria needed for the site, and then visiting many locations that could meet our Garden Fair needs. This process continues but the chosen site will be final and announced at our Sept. 24 General Meeting.

You will have an opportunity to volunteer on a committee for our Garden Fair 2019, to be held Saturday, April 6, 2019. The committees will be formed this fall and several will begin their work soon by contacting exhibitors, planning publicity, and soliciting sponsors. In all, it takes nine committees made up of our members to complete all the arrangements for the Garden Fair.

If you would like to make phone calls, staff our MG Information Booth, help with set-up and take-down, crew the kitchen, locate items for our visitor bags, greet our visitors at the entry door, or perform any other jobs that are needed, consider joining a committee now. The committee list will be posted at the Septembe 24 General Meeting.

And a bonus—all hours spent working prior to the event or on event day qualify for volunteer hours.

Your help is needed to help us locate new exhibitors who might be interested in hearing about the MC Master Gardeners Garden Fair. If you know about any new commercial or non-profit agencies in the region that may not have exhibited with us in the past or are new to the area, contact Mary Cusack with this information.
Fruits of the Heartland, continued

After Vulcan Farm, we headed to the Saturn Farm in Ogdon, IL -- a young commercial agroforestry/alley-cropping farm focusing on chestnut, hazelnut, serviceberry and currents. We ended the day at two University of Illinois research stations. The U of I Fruit Farm is home to the university’s fruit research program, where they are currently testing the shade tolerance of currants along with trialing 25 red, white and black current varieties. The second U of I farm, the Energy Farm, focuses on the use of crops for energy production and includes a diverse cropping system that features paw-paws, elderberry, aronia, currants, persimmon, serviceberry, and apple.

For anyone wishing to know more on a particular topic listed above, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me. I’ll be happy to share my notes. If you are a fruit/nut growing enthusiast or want to be, there are opportunities throughout the year to learn more and share experiences through the Indiana Nut and Fruit Growers Association (INFGA). INFGA meets four times a year at various locations throughout the state. Meetings often include hands-on grafting workshops, tasting and/or farm tours. You can reach me at krisheeter (at) yahoo (dot) com.

For more information on INFGA or other three non-profit organizations:

Indiana Nut & Fruit Growers Association (INFGA)
http://www.nutgrowers.org/

North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX)
https://nafex.org/

Midwest Fruit Explorers (MidFEX)
http://www.midfex.org/

Savanna Institute
http://www.savannainstitute.org/
**BYLAWS REVISIONS**  
Second Notice

MCMGA members will be voting to accept the Bylaws Committee’s proposed revisions to the bylaws at the September 25th general meeting.

Please review the "2018 Revised Bylaws" on the MCMGA website prior to the meeting.

http://www.mcmga.net

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**SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION**

MCMGA members will vote during the November 13th general meeting to elect the following slate of nominees to serve on the MCMGA board for a two-year term beginning Jan 1, 2019.

- **President:** Mary Cusack
- **Secretary:** Ed Kitchen
- **Education Director:** Terri Vicenzi
- **Communications Director:** Jeff Schafer
- **Director At Large:** Maren Claus

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**Q & A with MCMGA Members**

**What is your favorite native tree?**

- **Dogwood tree**  
  ~Angie Fender  
  (Clay County/Advanced)

- **Redbud tree**  
  ~Robin Nordstrom  
  (1995/Bronze)

**What is your favorite native plant?**

- **Butterfly weed**  
  ~Mary-Carol Paul  
  (2009/Bronze)

- **Milkweed**  
  ~Amy Thompson  
  (Extension Educator)
2018 MCMGA Board Members

President:
Mary Cusack
812-824-6366
mastergardenermaryc@gmail.com

Vice President:
Trish Gustaitis
812-322-9658
pgustait@gmail.com

Education Director:
Sandy Belth
812-825-8353
belthbirds@aol.com

Meeting Director:
Barbara Coffman
812-876-8334
barbara.coffman@ymail.com

Secretary:
David Dunatchik
812-332-2331
ddunatchik@att.net

Treasurer:
Dorothea Cole-Kiser
812-606-2834
dkiserfineline@gmail.com

Journalist:
Beth Lewis Samuelson
Please refer to folia & flora for contact information

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Jeff Schafer
812-325-3130
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Records Director:
Hana Cleveland
812-320-7803
hanacleveland@gmail.com

Director at Large:
Maren Claus
Please refer to folia & flora for contact information

Fair Board Representative:
Diana Young
812-339-0040
young-diana@att.net

Past President:
Evelyn Harrell
812-339-0572
ear4841@comcast.net

Extension Educator:
Amy Thompson
812-349-2575
afthompson@purdue.edu

Contribute to the MCMGA Newsletter!!

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