Plan to Attend September 22 General Meeting

Our next general meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Room 218/219. The church is located at the corner of Fourth and Washington Streets across from the Downtown Post Office in Bloomington. Enter the church through the Welcome Center entrance on Fourth Street, and take the stairs or elevator to the second floor.

Our first speaker will be Sherry Wise from Wiley House, who will present Seed Saving and Heirloom Seeds. Then Amy Thompson and Nancy White will present You Are a Leader. This meeting is eligible for two hours of education credit. Refreshments will be served by the refreshment committee, Martha Tarbah, Gloria Noone, and Dot Owens, so please bring family and friends and join us for this fall meeting.

Master Gardeners at the Fair

Because of the hard work of several of our members who served as area coordinators for the recent Monroe County Fair, we had record numbers who volunteered and enjoyed sharing the good word of Master Gardening with the public. Our presence was certainly obvious in so many activities, and Master Gardeners to thank for that good work are Diana and Herman Young, Preston Gwinn, Kim Hill, Carol Cobine, Esther Minnick, Linda Burke, and Beth Murray who filled the jobs as coordinators and staffed the areas.

So many Master Gardeners were involved in fair activities that it is dangerous to try to list them all. But we will try to say an official thank you to these groups who helped to make the fair such a special event this year. Please let us know if your name was missed.

Garden Chats: Diana Young, Esther Minnick

Master Gardener Booth: Carol Cobine, Jeff Schafer, Diann Locke, Barb Cappy, Dale Calabrese Wilkens, Linda Figen, Kathy Baxter, Debbie Harding, Glee Tilson, Linda Heath, Kim Hill, Jeanne Cox, David Dunatchik, Evelyn Harrell

Vegetable, Herb Floral Design, and Flower Open Classes: Esther Minnick, Diane Young, Herman Young, Mary Jane Hall, Linda Burke, Nancy Fee, Joe Phillips, Marcia Ankrom, Dot Owens, David Dunatchik, Nancy White, Elaine Byers, Roger Byers, Lee Todd, Glee Tilson

Demonstration Garden: Beth Murray, Nancy Fee, Joe Phillips, Barb Hays, Joanna Howe, Diana Young, Herman Young, Nancy White, Peggy Rees-Krebs, Vicky St. Myers, Jeff Schafer, David Dunatchik, Barb Cappy, Charlotte Griffin, Dorothea Kiser, Jeannie Cox, Esther Minnick, Ida Bouvier, Marilyn Brinley, Evelyn Harrell, Mary Hawkins
Member News

Several community members have asked me recently about taking the MG intern class. I always refer them to the Extension Office for more information. A list is kept of those calls, and when actual class sign-up information is available, materials will be sent to those on this list. Be sure to refer any inquiries you get about the MG intern class to the office.

Speaking of the Extension Office, the part-time secretarial position is again vacant and will be filled soon. If you need assistance, Jackie Claffey is still on the job and cheerfully waiting to assist us.

Master Gardeners Volunteer at the Farmers’ Market

We have had wonderful volunteers for the MG Booth at the Farmers’ Market this year. Our thanks go to all of the coordinators and workers who were our face in the community. These Master Gardeners are Ann McEndarfer, Kim Scherer, Joe Phillips, Judy Hawkins, Mary Carol Paul, Nancy Page, Andra Morgan, Jeff Schafer, David Dunatchik, Ida Bouvier, Evelyn Harrell, Mary Hoffman, Kristen Huerta, and Vicky St. Myers.

Still Time to Register for the MG State Convention

There is still time to sign up to attend the Purdue Master Gardeners State Convention in Bristol, Indiana. The convention is September 10-12, and it is possible to attend for one day only. For information visit michianamastergardeners.org or visit the Purdue Master Gardeners website and click on State Conference.

Four Education Opportunities

- Parke and Vermillion County Master Gardeners invite you to their Fall into Gardening event on Saturday, September 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event will be held at the Parke County Fairgrounds in the 4-H Building. Hourly seminars on gardening topics will be offered along with vendors, food, door prizes, and children’s activities. Admission is free. For more information contact Marcella Larch: m_larch@yahoo.com or 765-569-2303.

- Hendricks County Master Gardeners Association is sponsoring, Adventures in Gardening, an all-day seminar on October 3 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hendricks County Fairgrounds in Danville, Indiana. Cost is $30 and includes breakfast and lunch. Presentations on garden design, native orchids, new plants and creative landscaping ideas will be included. For information: 317-745-9260 or www.hendricksgardeners.com.

- Bloomington Parks and Recreation is offering several fall and winter classes of gardening interest. Contact their office for a brochure, phone-349-3700, or e-mail: parks@bloomington.in.gov.

- Hilltop Gardens regularly holds educational workshops. For information: call 855-2799 or e-mail hilltop@indiana.edu or visit their website: hilltopgardens.wordpress.com.

(continued on page 5)
P&R Fall-Winter Garden Classes Schedule Now Available

The City of Bloomington Parks & Recreation Department has announced its fall-winter 2009 schedule of gardening classes which are open to those ages 18 and up. Classes begin this month, and registration is under way.

Class topics include organic gardening, preparing gardens for winter, wildflowers, edible landscaping, saving seeds, permaculture, harvesting rainwater, forest gardens, reducing carbon footprints, growing fertilizers, composting, classifying soils, water conservation, planning gardens, native plants, and invasive plants.

The program guide with the course listings, location for classes, costs, and dates and time for each class, is available on the city's web page at http://bloomington.in.gov/media/media/application/pdf/5490.pdf. For more information, call 349-3737 or email PUB@bloomington.in.gov.

Fall Webworm Tents

The light gray silk tents of fall webworm caterpillars, recently hatched from masses of 400 or so eggs, are visible at the ends of tree branches. These caterpillars are covered with long white to yellow-tan hairs. They feed on over 100 species of deciduous trees, including black cherry, walnut, hickory and mulberry.

Fall webworm larvae incorporate the leaves they are eating into their tent. The tent is expanded to include more leaves as needed. They can be numerous enough to completely defoliate trees, but this is not common. Usually, little real damage is done to trees, but the ugly webs detract from their aesthetic value. Accessible nests can be pruned out and discarded. But insecticides are effective on small larvae if chemical control is necessary, and the sprayer can reach foliage around the nest.

From http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm

By Lee Townsend

Tomato Blight

**Question:** I read the online article about tomato blight in Indiana. I believe my tomatoes have it. Before we heard about this, for a few of the tomatoes we have cut off the rotted half and have eaten the good half. Is this dangerous?

**Answer:** Although late blight is a serious problem on tomato plantings this year, the description of the damaged fruit that you provided sounds more like one of the common non-infectious problems we diagnose every year, know as blossom end rot. Check out the picture on the website below to see if this is what you saw on your tomato fruit. Blossom end rot is not an infectious disease and thus will not spread. It is most common on the first fruit produced and usually becomes less of a problem as the season progresses.

http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3117.html
Does Your Bigleaf Hydrangea Bloom?

Five species of hydrangeas grow in Indiana, four shrubby species and one vine. Only one, *Hydrangea macrophylla*, bigleaf dydrangea, performs unreliably.

As a group, hydrangeas prefer part shade but will tolerate more sun if soil moisture is sufficient. Frequent wilting means the sun/moisture equation is out of balance. They do surprisingly well in fairly heavy shade.

Only bigleaf hydrangea has pink or blue flowers. All others have white flowers, though they may fade to pink or tan as they age. Often, these aged flowers are considered an ornamental feature.

Bigleaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood and should be pruned after flowering if pruning is needed. If you prune in late summer or in late winter/early spring, you will cut off the flower buds and have no flowers.

Bigleaf hydrangeas do not bloom reliably. The flower buds are much more sensitive to weather than the leaf buds. The most frequent comment that I hear is, “I have this big, beautiful, green hydrangea, but it never blooms.”

Homeowners are drawn to bigleaf hydrangea because they produce pink or blue flowers (in alkaline or acid soil, respectively). Often the flowers on the plant when it is purchased are the last flowers they will ever see. If an exceptionally cold winter does not kill the flower buds, the constant up and down of our spring temperatures will kill the bud just as it starts to grow. If you look closely at the stems of plants that don’t bloom, you’ll often see that the stem tip with the flower bud is dead and the leaves are emerging from below this dead area. Incorrect pruning could also be removing the flower buds.

However, there is lots of genetic variability in bigleaf hydrangea. Some individual specimens bloom reliably every year even though the plant down the street never blooms. Microclimates also play an important role. Some new cultivars are unusual in that they bloom on both old and new wood. If the winter kills the flower buds, new ones form in the summer to bloom that year. ‘Endless Summer’ and related cultivars such as ‘Blushing Bride’ have received lots of press as the first bigleaf hydrangeas to bloom reliably every year. ‘Endless Summer’ is sensitive to drought stress. If not well-cared for, this stress can reduce flowering significantly for several years. Many homeowners have found ‘Endless Summer’ to be frustrating. It takes lots of watering and just doesn’t live up to the hype. ‘Blushing bride’ may be a bit less temperamental, but the flower is white with a pink blush—similar to the white flowers easily available by growing the other, more reliable, species of hydrangeas.

**Velvet Ants** By Lee Townsend    Velvet ants belong to a family of furry wasps that resemble ants. The most striking among the several species is a large, bright red insect with black legs and a black band across the abdomen. Several species are orange-brown and black. These distinctive warning patterns are backed up by long stingers with potent venoms. These solitary wasps are not aggressive but will defend themselves if handled or stepped on accidentally. The best course is to be aware of them to train children playing in areas where the wasps are present to leave them alone. From [http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpnhome.htm)
Two September Events Scheduled at T. C. Steele

T.C. Steele Presents Get Out Your Gardening Gloves!

Gardeners of all ages are invited to bring their gardening gloves and get over to the T.C. Steele State Historic Site for a free gardening get-together. Join the T.C. Steele State Historic Site staff for a fun day of weeding, mulching and garden restoration research on Sunday, September 20.

Help the staff keep ahead of the weeds while learning historic gardening trends from area gardeners and get all the 'dirt' on Selma Steele's gardens. The day will also feature several discussions about perennials and pass-along plants.

End your Sunday by exploring the 211-acre site, which includes five hiking trails and the 92-acre Selma N. Steele State Nature Preserve. Light refreshments will be provided. If you forget your gloves we'll provide them!

More information is available by visiting indiana museum.org or www.tcsteele.org, or by contacting Christine Atkinson at 812.988.2785 or tcsteelesh@dnr.in.gov.

T.C. Steele State Historic Site is part of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, a division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Admission is free for Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites members. The site is located one and one-half miles south of Belmont off State Road 46, between Nashville and Bloomington. For information, contact Christine Atkinson at 812.988.2785.

Observe Painter at Work at T. C. Steele

The T.C. Steele State Historic Site proudly presents September Artist in Residence Joel Knapp, who is coming to work at the site on September 8-18. Visitors can observe the plein-air painter in action. Come and capture the moment! Knapp will be conducting a two-day workshop on landscape painting on September 10 and 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again on September 15 and 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is $50 per day, and artists must bring their own supplies. Knapp will do a demonstration during the Great Outdoor Art Contest on September 12 at 2:15 p.m. about capturing a scene quickly (no registration necessary).

To register for these events, get a supply list, or for more information on the Artist-in-Residence program and other Friends of T.C. Steele programs, contact catkinson@dnr.in.gov or 812.677.2003 or visit online at www.indianastatemuseum.org and at www.tcsteele.org.

Member News (continued from page 2)

Welcome to New Extension Educator Marilyn Behrman

Jeff Holland from the Extension Office has announced that Marilyn Behrman will replace Sue Berg as the Monroe County Consumer and Family Science Educator on September 28. Marilyn is a Bloomington resident and most recently was employed by the Indiana University Foundation. We look forward to working with her.

Condolences to Mary Hawkins and Family

Our condolences go to Mary Hawkins on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Nell Hutchison, on August 11. Mrs. Hutchison was a Bloomington resident and previously lived in Florida.
Flowers on Your Walls

By
Susan Eastman

If you are a gardener, the flowers on your walls may well be botanical prints—precise drawings of individual plants—or you may have prints of elaborate floral arrangements. If the pictures are vintage and without signature, they may well have been drawn or painted by women. Before the mid-20th century, publishers and printers avoided “women’s inferior work,” hiding their names to leave the presumption that men created the work.

The earliest depictions of plants were in herbals, those homemade booklets about how to use specific plants to treat illness or injury, make dyes, and use plants in cooking and cleaning. In the Middle Ages, it seemed nearly every village wise woman had a herbal she made herself or that had been handed down for generations in her family. These herbals often had drawings of plants, and over the centuries, these drawings became more and more detailed to better identify the specific plant. The most famous early herbals were generally created by those interested in the science of plants with the aim of serving apothecaries and physicians. It wasn’t until the mid-1700 that Carl Linnaeus classified the names of plants, creating the taxonomy that gave botany its formal start as a field of study.

In Victorian times most middle- and upper-class women were homebound with few outlets for creativity and achievement. Drawing was acceptable, and plants were acceptable subject matter. But only men signed their art. Just in modern times have we awakened to the exquisite work that Victorian and earlier women produced—in such arenas as embroidery, needlepoint, and weaving, as well as botanical drawing. After 1800, flowers soon moved from drawings into jewelry, clothing, and home decorations realized in paper, shells, and glass as well as real flowering plants. The first of many books appeared in 1819 that romantically codified the “language of flowers” as sentimental symbols for communication.

After 1850, color lithography appeared, increasing the wide availability of colored prints and making botanical drawings and watercolors into inexpensive and appealing art for homes. Decorating with botanical drawings on walls became popular again in the 1970s, (continued on page 7)
Flowers on Your Walls (continued from page 6)

and many vintage and reissued botanical prints now turn up at yard sales and flea markets for just a few dollars. Some botanicals are plates taken from old books and Victorian periodicals (often showing the original plate numbers). It’s better if the publisher identifies the flower because often one couldn’t guess!

Whereas pictures of elaborate bouquets probably require an appropriately formal setting, drawings of individual plants can fit in any décor today, whether contemporary or traditional. Old prints generally require rematting and reframing, costing far more than the print itself. Newly published botanicals (from old plates) are available for sale online at prices ranging from ten dollars to thousands, depending on size, age, and rarity. But a wide range of newly issued “old” botanicals are offered in the $30-$50 price range, of course requiring mattes and frames. The publishers provide the botanical names, which is useful!

Even today, botanicals of roses are often reprints from the work of the French artist Pierre-Joseph Redoute, who drew and painted prolifically in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He drew and painted hundreds, perhaps thousands, of exquisite botanicals of roses and other flowers, subsequently influencing generations of floral artists. Redoute roses were as famous to Victorians as Audubon’s birds are today, and reissued prints are available online (Google his name).

In the late 1800s, florists and botanists imported hundreds of new kinds of orchids into Europe and America, capturing the attention of millions of women with their exotic qualities. In Victorian times, one way ladies learned to paint with watercolors was by filling in commercially prepared outlines of orchids and other flowers, much like present-day coloring books. In consequence, not all botanicals are of equivalent quality, and in choosing among second-hand pictures, the precision and quality of the coloring as well as the detail in the drawing should be weighed, although naïveté can have its own charms.

For much more on this topic and superb illustrations see Jack Kramer’s Women of Flowers: A Tribute to Victorian Illustrators (1996). Anne Moyer Halpin’s The Naming of Flowers (1990) focuses on nomenclature and folklore, with illustrations. For those with how-to interest, our library has Rosie Martin’s The Botanical Illustration Course (2006) and Sirol Sherlock’s Botanical Illustration: Painting with Watercolors (2004). In addition, there are armfuls of books on the many botanical gardens in the United States and abroad.

**Important!**

MG volunteer and education hours must be reported to Purdue by September 13. Please send your current unreported hours to Amy Thompson by that date.
Potato Fruits Are Toxic, Despite Looking Like Green Cherry Tomatoes

Many Indiana gardeners are experiencing a new phenomenon in their potato patch. At least, it’s new to them. Potato plants may be producing little green fruit, about the size of a large cherry tomato. These round, green berries are actually the fruits of the potato plant. It’s not surprising that they look like tomatoes, since both plants are in the nightshade family.

Most gardeners rarely see this fruit form on potatoes in Indiana. Cool temperatures during long days tend to promote fruiting in potatoes, which explains the increase in potato fruit this year. Also, some cultivars seem more prone to fruit formation than others. So some potatoes may be fruiting while others growing nearby may not.

Potato fruits are high in solanine, a substance that is toxic to humans, particularly children. Potato fruits should not be eaten raw or cooked, no matter how much they look like tomatoes!

Nominate an Outstanding Commercial Property That You Admire

Bloomington IN Bloom needs your nominations for most attractive landscaping for the Commercial, Municipal & Multi-Family property contest. Bloomington is blessed with beautiful plantings around commercial properties. Think of a great looking doctor’s office, restaurant or gas station and nominate that property. If you have a favorite location on the IU campus or along any Bloomington street, nominate that spot. How about nominating a great looking entrance area for a condo or apartment community?

Contest nominations are due by Saturday, September 15, 2009. A nomination form is downloadable from the Bloomington IN Bloom website, bloomingtoninbloom.org. Don’t worry if you are unsure which category your favorite property will be judged in, because the committee will place it in the correct category. Nominations are easy and quick to do!

Nomination forms may be faxed to the Bloomington Board of Realtors (BBOR) at 333-7497 or dropped off at the BBOR office, 116 S. Madison (just north of 4th St.). Nomination forms may also be dropped off at the FCTucker office at 487 S. Clarizz. Please write ‘Mary Jane Hall’ on the outside on those dropped off at Tucker, where there is a 24 hour drop off window. For additional information, call Mary Jane Hall at 345-3985.

In 2010, City of Bloomington will be participating in the America in Bloom, a national contest in which Bloomington will be competing against cities of similar size and judged in seven categories, including landscaping and floral display. The front yard contest held in early summer and the commercial contest this fall help the Bloomington IN Bloom committee identify those properties most admired to showcase when BIB judges visit.
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<td>Hilltop Garden and Nature Center</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or <a href="mailto:gspeiche@indiana.edu">gspeiche@indiana.edu</a></td>
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<td>Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee</td>
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<td>Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762, Gretchen Scott, 330-7548</td>
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<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
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<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876, <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
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<td>Cathy Meyer, 349,2800</td>
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<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
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<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
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<td>year around</td>
<td>writing, stapling, labeling</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
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<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
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<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
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<td>Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072, Jeff Schafer,325-3130</td>
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<td>Middle Way House</td>
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<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
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<td>Wylie House</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
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<td>year around</td>
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<td>Libby Yarnell, 355-6843</td>
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<tr>
<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
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<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.
An Extremely Useful Pocket Guide Book on Hostas

By M. Susan Osborne


If you are looking for an informative but concise book on hostas, Timber Press Pocket Guide to Hostas is the book for you. This book features almost 300 species of hostas and is a quick reference about hostas in general.

The Introduction of Hostas defines them as “typically clump-forming perennial plants with broadly or narrowly heart-shaped leaves and clusters of lily-like flowers carried on upright stems just above the foliage. They are easy, adaptable plants that can be grown in most gardens.” Hostas have been considered the number one perennial plant in the United States for several years and generally the first plant considered when planning and planting a shade garden. The sumptuousness of leaves; diversity of size, shape, and color; ease of cultivation; and quick response to a gardener’s care are all excellent reasons for the plant to be voted number one.

Hostas content is 95% reference. The introduction covers hostas in the landscape, hosta botany, hosta leaves, hosta flowers, cultivation, how to buy, when to plant, ground preparation, watering, feeding and mulching, container growing, pests, disease, and other threats to hostas, all within ten pages. Five pages present very informative lists where the author has separated hostas by character—with green leaves; with chartreuse, yellow and gold leaves; with all different shades of blue leaves; sun-tolerant; variegated; miniatures; slug resistant and more; very beneficial lists when selecting hostas for your garden.

Hostas A-Z, the reference section, features nearly 300 of the best new and old hostas, all selected by the author for their superb performance in the landscape. Each selected hosta, accompanied by a color photograph, includes scientific name, size, color, type of mound, description, comments, and other similar hostas. The photographer, Michael Shadrock, must also be mentioned for his fabulous photographs. He manages to capture each hosta’s uniqueness which demonstrates what makes hostas America’s most wanted plant.

The book also offers nursery sources, American and British hardiness zones, glossary, and a further reading list. The author references more than 800 hostas and over 300 photographs within the pocket guide. Names like Blue Mouse Ears, Big Daddy, Emerald Necklace, Chartreuse Wiggles, Heart Breaker, Leading Lady, Quilted Hearts, and Twist of Lime are some of the creative names given to the hundreds of varieties that can be successfully grown in our gardens.

So, if you need a pocket guide on hostas I believe you will find Hostas most useful. I encourage you to add it to your gardening library.

Hanna Trucking Donates Top Soil

Master Gardeners are grateful to Hanna Trucking for their recent donation and delivery of a load of top soil to Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park. We appreciate their help.
Master Gardeners Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair

Evelyn Harrell (left), with Elaine and Roger Byers at entry table, assists with flower placement.

Nancy Fee assists in taking flower entries.

Glee Tilson and Linda Burke pose with a floral arrangement at the 2009 Monroe County Fair.

Dot Owen signs in her flowers at the fair.

Linda Burke accepts an entry in the Children’s Floral Arrangement category (right).

Esther Minnick and Amy Thompson pose among the floral exhibits (left).

Photos by Nancy White
Two education hours are available by attending our next general meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church in Room 218/219.

~0~0~0~

Report your education and volunteer hours to Amy Thompson at the Extension Office by September 13.

2009 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Vice President—Programs: Vicky St. Myers
323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com

Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer
325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diana Young
812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Secretary: David Dunatchik
332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net

Journalists: Helen Hollingsworth
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812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Director—Communications: Barbara Hays
812-332-4032 barbsblooms@comcast.net

Director—Records: Susan Osborne
812-825-9154 m.susan.osborne@saic.com

Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn
812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net

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

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