Learn about irises at September general meeting

Come to our September general meeting on Tuesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the education room of the new home of the Extension Office, located in the Monroe County Solid Management Building, 3400 S. Walnut Street, with plenty of parking. Our guest speaker is Chuck Bunnell, iris hybridizer, who will present *Diversity in the Rainbow Flower*. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about iris and some special new varieties while earning an hour of education credit.

In addition to our speaker’s presentation, we will have a short business meeting and refreshments. Refreshments committee members for this meeting are Ann McEndarfer, Mary Hawkins, Mary Hoffmann, and Jackie Gilkey. See you there!

Time to think about fall garden chores

Recently Jackson and Perkins’s website, [jacksonandperkins@e.jacksonandperkins.com](mailto:jacksonandperkins@e.jacksonandperkins.com) published the following short list of fall chores. The first one is a favorite. (1) Let someone else deal with the falling leaves this year—you, the gardener, have more interesting and important tasks in the autumn garden. (2) Divide perennials and bulbs. Any plant more than three years old is a good candidate for dividing, and many can be best divided in September. Examples are daylilies, bearded iris, peonies, hardy geraniums, columbine, coreopsis, bleeding heart, crocus, daffodils, tulips, hyacinth, and allium. (3) Water trees and shrubs slowly and thoroughly right before the first frost. (4) Stop feeding roses and other shrubs and perennials. Fertilizer encourages soft new growth, which may become damaged over the winter.

Inside this issue:

- Member News 2
- Death, taxes, annual reporting 3
- Show me your badge 3
- Cheryl’s Garden a work in progress 4
- Renew your Master Gardener membership 4
- BIB Judge an amazing gardener 5
- Flowers in your ears 6
- Native Plant conference on November 6 7
- Is my lawn still alive 8
- Brown County field trip on September 18 8

Special points of interest:

- Learn about irises at our meeting on September 28
- Time to renew your Master Gardener membership
- Sign up for Brown County field trip on Saturday, September 11
- Talented gardeners create amazing floral arrangements
- Visit Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park
Member News

Many thanks to Vicky St Myers who has agreed to chair the nominating committee for our 2011 slate of officers. Board positions available are president, vice president for education, vice president for programs, member at large, secretary, and director of communications.

If you are interested in being nominated for a board position, contact the committee through Vicky.

Master Gardeners at the Farmers’ Market

We would like to restore our Master Gardener booth at the Farmers’ Market for the months of September and October. If you would like to help out with staffing the booth on any Saturday morning, please contact Nancy White. Volunteer hours are available for this activity.

Master Gardener intern class is now in session

Since our new intern class is up and running, we invite any member to attend a class as a visitor. Classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the new Extension Office education room. If you would like to attend a class, contact Amy Thompson. Later in the fall, some of our members will make a group visit to a class and answer questions that interns might have.

Interns invited to September general meeting

We extend a special invitation to our new interns to attend our September general meeting on Tuesday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m. in the Extension Building education room, the same room where interns attend classes. We hope you can join us.

Opportunities to earn education hours

We have been notified of some fall education activities in other counties. Members of the intern class can attend these activities and can count these as education hours.

Saturday, September 11, 2:00 p.m., Blackford County Master Gardeners present Got Bulbs? The event features a workshop on bulbs followed by a garden tour. Contact Blackford County Purdue Extension, Hartford City, phone 765-348-2313, if you wish to attend.

Saturday, September 25, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Hendricks County Master Gardeners present Adventures in Gardening at the 4-H Fairgrounds, Danville, IN. Presentations include Going Native in Suburbia, Ornamental Edibles, Water Ponds Made Easy, and The Winter Garden. Registration is $30 and includes breakfast and lunch. Contact Hendricks Co Extension Office, 317-745-9260.

Saturday, November 6, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Sunnyside Master Gardeners present Going Wild at Tunnel Hill Church, Georgetown, Indiana. Workshops include Backyard Wildlife Basics, Tips for a Successful Butterfly Garden, The Importance of Trees and Shrubs in the Wildlife Habitat, and Nuisance Wildlife. Registration is $35 and includes a T shirt and lunch. Contact Ann Neel at 812-948-5470 for more information.
Death, taxes and annual reporting

Just like death and taxes, something that is certain in my life is the annual reporting which I am required to do by Purdue each September. I really appreciate your assistance in this effort, so I’m making my annual call out/request for you to turn in your volunteer hours. Please help by sending in your hours; you can either send in or report online by September 15. Remember that the a hard copy of the form is available at the MCMGA website www.mcmga.net or by calling our office.

Hours can also be reported online via the web based system at http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/. All 2010 members (except for the current intern class) should have received both instructions and a password from MCMGA director of records Dan Nichols. After that information was initially sent out, we had a problem with logging onto the system, but after working with campus staff, that issue was resolved. If you were never successful in logging on previously, you should now be able to log on to the site with the password which was sent to you. If however, you logged on and subsequently changed your password in order for it to be reset (not necessary unless you’ve forgotten it), you need work through the website’s “forgot my password” link rather than contacting our office. The database in which we are working is a statewide database, and there are only a limited number of operations we can perform on the local level. Re-setting your password is done on the state level. If you have questions, please let us know. I hope reporting your hours isn’t as painful as preparing and paying your taxes!

Show me your badge!

As many of you know, our records system and how to keep it up to date and make sure that members are receiving their proper badges in a timely way has been a battle I have been waging since I became Extension Educator. Although we’ve made progress, we are not yet where I would like to be.

One area, among the many, where I still see the need for improvement is ordering the advanced level badges. If you believe that you never received one of the badges that you have qualified for, please send me an email indicating which badge(s) need to be ordered. We will double check the records we have, and if one should have been ordered, we will order it for you. If there is a problem with your hours or a discrepancy, I or one of our office staff will get back with you for clarification.

As you reach a new level, it would also be a good practice to send a message to our office or Dan Nichols, MCMGA director of records, alerting us that you believe you’ve now qualified for an advanced level.

Lost badges may be replaced, but the cost of replacement is paid by the individual, not the association. If you would like to have a lost badge replaced, please let me know.

Please also remember to wear your Master Gardener badge while participating in volunteer activities.

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

Volume 26, Issue 9
Cheryl’s Garden is a work in progress

Nancy Fee and Di Dingman have been developing Cheryl’s Garden at Karst Farm Park this summer. Di donated from her garden the requested plants per Nancy’s design plan. The new plants consisted of four purple cone-flowers, three black-eyed Susans, three shasta daisies, three red-hot pokers, two meadow sages, and one coreopsis. These new transplants joined the established perennials already in the bed–red Knock Out roses, Russian sage, butterfly bush, and sedum—as well as colorful petunias and marigolds. Nancy’s design also called for Stella Dora lily, which was already in abundance at the Karst Farm entrance. With permission, Nancy brought over one lily and divided it up for an additional splash of ongoing color. The Karst Farm Park manager also donated moonbeam coreopsis and a Siberian iris. Nancy and Di were delighted to discover an older plant returning on its own from the previous overgrown garden. Peaking from underneath one large rock was wild indigo, which will provide a beautiful blue spring blossom after a couple years of maturity. All the perennial plants are now labeled for the public to enjoy.

Since these transplants were placed in the ground during the start of the hot summer weather, Nancy planned ahead and devised a watering scheme with the Karst Farm Park manager and staff. With the use of a soaker hose and schedule, Nancy, Di, and a staff member at the park took turns setting up and turning on the soaker hose early in the morning on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Although the soaker hose is unsightly, its slow trickling of water every other day has been the saving grace for the new transplants. Only one plant has been lost to the hot and humid weather this summer. Other ongoing weekly maintenance involved weeding the pesky and forever returning morning glory and water grass weeds as well as dead-heading the spent blooms on the knock-out roses.

Nancy and Di are happy to report that the transplants have survived the worst of the summer, and the new plants have expanded the variety of perennials for the public to enjoy. Next year the garden should appear more lush and full as the new plants take off!

Time to renew your Master Gardener membership

A membership renewal form is available on our website, mcmga.net. The information you submit with your membership renewal is used in updating our membership guide, Folia and Flora. By submitting your membership information as soon as possible, you’ll be helping Dan Nichols, director of records, in his work of compiling and designing our 2011 Folia and Flora. Please send your membership renewal as soon as possible. Membership renewal forms are also available at the Extension Office.
Bloomington in Bloom judge is an amazing gardener

Gretchen Scott, chairperson of the Bloomington in Bloom steering committee, kindly arranged for me to have a phone interview with Evelyn Alemanni, one of the two judges who visited our city in June, as representatives of America in Bloom. Evelyn is an accomplished plants woman who lives in Elfin Forest, near San Diego, in California. She served for some years as mayor of her city. I have read about her garden which is known nationwide for its colorful Monet-like beds and inspired plant combinations. She told me that it is a challenge to garden in her state as some years there have been 165 days without rain and water is very expensive. She began with a small garden which grew to five and a half acres with a greenhouse. Her mother was passionate about flowers and continued to be a strong influence and helper in Evelyn’s garden until she died last year. Evelyn’s husband is the one who is in charge of the hardscape, and Evelyn believes that one should plant something in one’s garden everyday even if it is only repotting a plant. When I asked Evelyn to list the ingredients of a pleasing landscape, she said, “They are the gardener’s passion, water, and fantastic soil.” She described her own garden as “a garden of irrational exuberance.” Her favorite plants are “whatever makes me happy today.” She got involved with America in Bloom nine years ago and has been a judge for eight years. She described it as a wonderful job as the judges come into each town as strangers and two days later leave with so many new friends with whom they will continue to keep in touch. She said she was very impressed with the book that the BIB committee prepared for the judges and described it as one of the best books she has seen in any city she has visited. Of course, the announcement of whether Bloomington has been successful in the competition will not be made until the end of September when there is a national meeting in St. Louis.

Evelyn Alemanni’s California garden

Evelyn is a busy person as in addition to her horticultural activities, she also runs an online business which provides documentation for companies, and she is also a professional photographer. I asked her how she can bear to be away from her own garden so much when she is on business trips. She said that she always cuts everything back before she leaves so that she doesn’t come home to dead heading. She also composts manure and shavings from a nearby horse stable. Her tips for novice gardeners include investing in the soil (test it and amend it) and the generous use of a good looking mulch. She also advises using varied irrigation circuits so that the succulents, for example, do not get as much water as the roses when irrigation is necessary. She also does not water lawns.
Flowers in your ears

Gardeners stick flowers everywhere—in bare spaces in their gardens, on the walls of their houses, and on their bodies. After brooches and pins, I thought the most likely place to find flower jewelry would be in one’s ears.

To my great surprise, after a long hunt through antique stores and friends’ jewelry boxes, I found that most earrings are NOT floral. Oh, botanical ancestry peeks out, especially in vintage earrings, but a big shift took place in the mid-20th century to stylized and then geometric shapes, followed by chains of beads and hoops in the 1960s and 2000s. To find floral styles, look for genuine antiques, defined as at least a hundred years old.

Visually, earrings come in two basic designs: dangling or those fitted on the earlobe. Both types can be either for pierced or non-pierced ears. In the 19th century, those who wore earrings nearly always had their ears pierced. Then ear piercing went out of favor in the 1930s and 1940s when screwbacks and clip-ons became popular, but piercing returned again in the 1960s with a proliferation of do-it-yourself earrings of beaded drops.

A hunt through vintage earrings in antique stores reveals many with flower designs. The examples below give a sense of the range of flower-based earrings.

By Susan Eastman

Visuals

Vintage earrings from the 1930s and 1940s are often either clip-ons or screwbacks, either tiny or quite large. They can be charming or ugly. They can be minute—such as a diamond stud in a child’s ear; or a Christmas stud; they can cover the earlobe, such as many domed and pearl-like earrings (the kind grandmothers wore, if she wore any); or earrings can be so large as to nearly overpower the entire ear as in the dramatic jewelry of the 1940s and 1950s. Vintage large earrings were often made from Bakelite and other plastics, valued for their lighter weight compared to metals. Sore ears from wearing heavy earrings used to be a daily problem….for queens and for commoners.

Just as the late Victorian period was characterized by floral naturalism in paintings and home decorations, the period’s jewelry tended to reflect (continued on page 7)
widespread interest in flowers and plants. Because Victorian women usually pierced their ears, most 19th-century earrings have findings designed to fit through ears. Piercing lends itself to dangling drops and hoops, so many contemporary earrings for today’s pierced ears have no connection to flower designs. But Victorian dangles can be found that depict dainty flower-like forms or have flower patterns etched on them. Even today, examination of jewelry sold for very young girls shows that quite small studs and dangles often continue to have a flower motif. And poinsettias show up at Christmas.

As with broaches, many materials have been used over the years. Antique earrings may be works of art with gold or platinum as a base, featuring diamonds, pearls and other colorful jewels arranged to fill in the petals, leaves, or stamen of a flower. Silver was uncommon because it tarnishes and requires regular polishing, whereas platinum and gold do not. Elaborate jewel-studded earrings were worn in the evenings, with less fancy versions considered suitable for afternoon wear in earlier times. Today, of course, anything goes, if one has sufficient moxie.

If you are a gardener, your predilection for flowers sneaks out in strange ways. If you grow orchids, some of your jewelry has orchids—either purchased by you or those who want to please you. If you specialize in annuals, pansies and dahlias often show up. If you adore tulips, well…. Check your own jewelry boxes. See what others think you love.

Native Plant conference set for November 6

The Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society (INPAWS) will hold its 17th annual conference on Saturday, November 6 on the University of Indianapolis campus. Keynote speakers are conservation biologist Carole Brown, who is compiling 20 years of experience with designing, installing, and maintaining wildlife gardens in a book to be titled Conservation Gardening and Sustainable Landscaping and landscape architect Carolyn Summers, author of Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East, a book highly praised by native plant guru Dr. Doug Tallamy. For information, email jheaston@dnr.in.gov (best way to contact) or phone 260-824-0926.
Is my lawn still alive?

Many lawns have gone dormant recently, due to hot conditions and a lack of moisture. Homeowners often wonder if dormant grass is still alive.

Healthy lawns can go dormant for five to eight weeks without harm, and so most lawns should be fine.

However, to be sure, pull up an individual plant and separate the leaves from the crown. The crown resembles a grain of rice and is the area between the leaves and the roots. If it is still hard and not papery and dry, the plant is still alive.

If you wish to pull the lawn out of dormancy, water to a depth of six to eight inches each week. The lawn will begin to grow and eventually green up.

However, it is better to let a lawn remain dormant than to water enough to pull it out of dormancy and then allow it to go dormant again. Stored energy reserves are used each time a plant has to come out of dormancy and eventually the plant will deplete these reserves and die. (WU)

September 18 field trip is to Brown County

The last field trip of the year will be to the Flower and Herb Barn Nursery in Brown County on Saturday, September 18 at 10:30 a.m. Since there will not be an organized tour of the nursery, there will not be education hours for this trip, but Suzie, the nursery manager, will be available to answer questions. The nursery carries trees, shrubs, and perennials and Suzie has promised there will be a good sale on plant material. A large barn full of garden accessories is also part of the nursery and will be open during our visit. The Farmhouse Cafe and Tea Room is a charming addition and will be serving lunch. It will not be possible to make reservations for the cafe and tearoom, but those wishing to have lunch could put their names on the waiting list while they stroll through the nursery and barn. For more information, please visit www.farmhousecafeandtearoom.com.

We will depart from Bloomington at 9:30 a.m. from the far east side of the parking lot of Kmart East, which is located at 3216 E. Third Street behind Bloomingfoods East. An email reminder will be sent a few days prior to the date of the trip. Please contact Vicky St. Myers at vstmyers@hotmail.com by Wednesday, September 15 if you plan to attend.

T. C. Steele to hold outdoor art contest on Saturday, September 11

Attention artists of all skill levels, age and media. Celebrate T.C. Steele’s birthday in a way that would make him proud — creating original art at our 22nd annual Great Outdoor Art Contest on Saturday, September 11. All artists must pre-register and the cost is $10 for adults and $5 for youth. Artists have from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to create original pieces of art. Winners will have their work on display alongside the works of T.C. Steele. To register, download the application at www.tcsteele.org or www.indianamuseum.org/tc_steele. For more information, contact tcsteelesh@dnr.in.gov or 812.988.2785.
Volunteer opportunities compiled by Nancy White

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</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>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
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<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
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<td>various</td>
<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>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>writing articles</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>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<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>Mother Hubbard's Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374</td>
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<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
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<td>Hoosier Hills Foodbank</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Jessica Williams, 334-8374</td>
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<td>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park</td>
<td>summer 2010</td>
<td>design and maintain</td>
<td>Nancy Fee, 332-1940</td>
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Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Remember to report 2010 hours only at http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/.
Plant bulbs in fall for spring bloom

Bulbs for spring blooming have been favorites with gardeners for hundreds of years. Originally found in Asia, explorers transplanted tulips to the gardens of the European nobility (and to others who could afford their steep prices). Now, we can order quality bulbs of a variety of sizes, colors, and species from various suppliers and purchase them at local stores for reasonable prices. Here are some things to consider when planning and developing your bulb garden:

**Space** Consider the space available and make a plan before purchasing. Allow space for the foliage to remain for several weeks after the bloom has died.

**Number** Purchase only as many bulbs as you can use. Avoid bulbs that are soft, diseased, moldy, or have roots clearly present. Store bulbs in a cool, dry place until ready to plant.

**Planting** In our area, bulbs can be planted as long as the soil is not frozen. Follow directions from suppliers on planting depths and distance apart.

**Efficiency** Consider planting spring bulbs among perennials that will grow and hide the bulb foliage until it is removed.

**Bloom Time** Vary the bulbs between early blooming, mid-blooming, and late-blooming varieties to prolong the show.

**Effect** You may want to plant many of the same color in large waves or swaths for a stunning effect or mix and match colors that shock the eye. Try red, purple, and orange tulips together for a surprise.

**Predators** Remember that bulbs can fall victim to deer, squirrels, moles, and other nuisance wildlife that will dig them up and/or munch on them. You may need to plant some new ones each year to continue your plan.

**Variety** When searching on-line or in catalogues, expand your choices to include some of the more unusual, such as allium, fritillaria, anemone, galanthus, aconite, or chionodoxa.

**Care** After planting, bulbs require very little attention until the growing season begins. Some companies suggest adding a thin layer of mulch over the bulbs before winter to counteract the soil heaving that occurs with freezing and thawing.

And lastly, purchase or order bulbs early to enjoy a good selection.

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**Procedures for electronically reporting education and volunteer hours**

Before logging onto your account, you need your email address and password as well as a record of hours you wish to submit. Log onto [http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/) and follow on-screen directions. If you do not know your password, click on “forgot my password” link and follow instructions. Remember to report only 2010 hours electronically.
Local gardeners participate in *Art in Bloom* at IU Art Museum

Imagine creating a floral arrangement to respond in color, shape, theme, or arrangement to an exquisite IU Art Museum painting. Twelve members of the Bloomington Garden Club, some of whom are also Master Gardeners, created well received floral arrangements in response to museum paintings for the *Art in Bloom* display on August 21-22 at the IU Art Museum. Those who created floral arrangements were Terry Baer, Susan Eastman, Betty Faris, Marji Gonzalez, Linda Heath, Nita Horrar, Harriet Kulis, Ann McNair, Linda Plaford, Julie Riggs, and Joyce Rose.

The two-day flower and art show culminated with a gallery talk and reception on Sunday afternoon. Nan Brewer, curator of works on paper at the museum, discussed the processes of printmaker Gustave Baumann in creating the wood print, *Grandma Battin’s Garden*, a colorful print of a Brown County cottage garden also known as *Hoosier Garden*. Master Gardener Ann McEndarfer discussed cottage gardens, pointing out the types of flowers, history, and rules for such gardens. Cottage garden characteristics include an enclosed space located close to a home, dense plantings, plants of different heights, a place to sit, and a water feature. The hallmark of a cottage garden, sometimes referred to as an English garden, is a wide variety in plant materials planted close together.

Q&A: Black spots on rose leaves

**Question:** Why did rose leaves develop black spots, turn yellow, and drop all summer long?

**Answer:** Black spot, caused by the fungus Diplocarpon rosae is the most common problem of roses grown in Indiana gardens. This disease is favored by wet summer weather. Infected leaves develop black spots and the leaves respond by turning yellow and falling from the plant leaving the rose with less energy to produce flowers. Some popular roses are so susceptible that in order to produce acceptable flowers they require spraying every week. There are many home garden fungicide products available for rose disease management. However, black spot resistant roses are also available. Keep rose foliage dry by avoiding sprinkler irrigation. See Botany and Plant Pathology Extension Publication BP-26-W for more information on growing roses and on rose black spot disease management.—Dr. John Hartman, University of Kentucky

Controlling violets in lawns

**Question:** How do I get rid of wild a violets in my lawn?

**Answer:** Wild violets are a tough tough weed to control. Mid September to mid October is the best time to apply a herbicide but an additional application in May could help. Don’t expect 100% control, but rather you will be successful if you are able to keep this weed only at bay and not spreading. Good luck.—Zac Reicher, Extension Specialist
Mark Tuesday, September 28 on your calendar and plan to attend our September General Meeting. Our guest speaker is Chuck Bunnell, iris hybridizer, who will discuss *Diversity in the Rainbow Flower.*

Earn an hour of education credit.

**2010 MCMGA Board**

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**Fair Board Representative:** Preston Gwinn  
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**Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
812-349-2575  athompson@purdue.edu  

**2010 Hours:** [http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/)

**Master Gardener fall calendar**

- **Saturday, September 11,** 8:30-3:00 p.m. *Nature Daze*, Columbus, Indiana  
- **Saturday, September 18,** 9:30 a.m., field trip to Flower & Herb Barn Nursery, Nashville  
- **Saturday, September 25,** 8:30-3:30 p.m. *Adventures in Gardening*, Danville, Indiana  
- **Tuesday, September 28,** 6:30 p.m., Master Gardener general meeting, Solid Waste Building meeting room, 3400 S. Walnut S., Bloomington  
- **Saturday, November 6,** 8:00-3:30 p.m., *Going Wild*, Georgetown, Indiana  
- **Saturday, November 6,** INPAWS conference, University of Indianapolis