September general meeting features two noted speakers
By Evelyn Harrell

September is here, and the fall Bloomington calendar is filling up. Be sure the next general meeting of the Monroe County Master Gardener Association is on your own calendar. The date is Tuesday, September 25 at 6:30 at the Extension Office. Our speakers are Moya Andrews, presenting *Focus on Flowers for Fall,* and Anita Barcalente speaking on *Hydrangeas: A Short History and Cultivation Practices in the Care of the Genus.* The evening’s program counts as two education hours.

Jeff Schafer is chairing the refreshment committee, and committee members include Penny Austin, Sandy Belth, Mary Hawkins, Mary Hoffman, Ann McEndarfer, and Dot Owen.

Purdue Master Gardener State Conference is fast approaching

The Purdue Master Gardener State Conference is October 4-6, 2012, hosted by Purdue Extension - Hamilton County & Hamilton County Master Gardener Association, Noblesville, Indiana. Purdue Extension Master Gardeners at all levels (Intern, Master Gardener and Advanced Master Gardeners) are invited to attend. Participants can earn up to 18 hours of Advanced Master Gardener Educational Hours for the basic conference. Registration is $150 which includes some meals, social events, break refreshments and a conference binder with workshop information and local attractions. More information and link to the registration materials may be found at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mgconf/>.
Member news

By Nancy White

Our September 25 general meeting will be a busy one, and one you won’t want to miss. Several volunteer opportunities will be explained, and you’ll have the opportunity to sign-up sheets for the Planning Committee, Education Committee, Field Trip Committee, and various committees for the Garden Fair which will be held in April, 2013. Refreshments will be available after 6:00 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Extension Office. Two hours of volunteer credit will be available from our guest speakers, Moya Andrews and Anita Bracalente whose topics are Focus on Flowers for Fall and Hydrangeas, respectively. Be sure to join us for this meeting.

Time to renew your membership

In this issue you will find information about the membership form for 2013. Please take a moment to complete the form and send it to the extension office with your dues. Producing our membership handbook is a lengthy process, and we start early to collect members’ contact information. The form is available and may be printed from our website.

Enter your garden photos in the folia and flora cover contest

Another part of our folia and flora handbook production is choosing a cover photo. Again the year, the board has decided to hold a contest for this year’s front cover photograph. Last year’s contest solicited over 20 entries. Look over your photo files and send your entries to Amy Thompson at the Extension Office. Photos submitted last year can be re-submitted this year.

Esther Minnick wins 2012 County Fair points award

Congratulations to Esther Minnick, winner of our Monroe County Fair points award. Based on points given for entries in Open Class Flowers and Vegetables, Esther gained the most points of all the participating Master Gardeners. She is the winner of the $50 award.

Check out our updated website, www.mcmga.net

Barbara Hays, director of communications, is updating our Master Gardener website, www.mcmga.net. Soon you will be able to access past issues of Roots and Shoots as well as the current issue, the draft of our revised bylaws, and the 2013 membership form. Thanks to Barbara for her efforts to bring the website up to date.

Will Detmer Park is Monroe County’s newest park

A new Monroe County Park is open on Vernal Pike and promises to be a destination for county residents. Located off Vernal Pike, the park is named in honor of Will Detmer whose family donated the acreage to Monroe County Parks and Recreation. MCMGA member Nancy Fee is soliciting some donations of specific plants to be installed at the park. See her article in this issue.
Drought recovery information for homeowners and agriculture
Submitted by Amy Thompson

Looking for information on helping your landscape plants and lawn recover from this summer’s drought conditions? These Purdue sources may fill the bill.

_Lawns and the Summer 2012 Drought/Heat Crisis: Now What?_ written by Cale Bigelow, Yiwei Jiang, Aaron Patton, Rich Latin, and Tim Gibb, Purdue University, contains answers to frequently asked lawn recovery questions and provides directions for rejuvenating a drought-stricken lawn.


Purdue Extension offers the following website with two categories of information: _Latest Homeowner News_ and _Latest Agricultural Production News_, with numerous articles in each category.

https://ag.purdue.edu/extension/eden/Pages/drought.aspx

Volunteers needed for Master Gardener committees
By Evelyn Harrell

Gardens are winding down, but planning sessions for volunteer and education opportunities are gearing up for a successful 2013. Please plan to join the Program Committee, which brought us excellent educational experiences this year, or the Field Trip Committee which looks for interesting destinations with an educational component. We’ll find a time for these committees to meet in October. Volunteers also are needed for the Refreshment Committees for our general meetings. Our annual pitch-in on November 27 requires a number of helping hands, so that is another opportunity for volunteer hours for members.

Share your extra plants this fall
By Nancy Fee

Do you have some native, drought-tolerant plants to spare? Master Gardeners have been asked to help supply native plants to be planted at Will Detmer Park, a new Monroe County park. These plants will be added around their parking lot and playground.

When you are dividing your plants, we would love to have the following plants:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cone flowers</th>
<th>Rudbeckia (yellow)</th>
<th>Liriope</th>
<th>Coreopsis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lily of the Valley</td>
<td>Ditch lilies</td>
<td>Christmas ferns</td>
<td>Ostrich ferns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bringing your plants to our September 25 general meeting would be most helpful. Otherwise, just contact Nancy Fee (332-1940), and I will pick them up.
Gardens of simplicity

By M. Susan Osborne

“Where plants rule, gardeners toil, and toil, and toil” – Valerie Easton


Master gardeners take pride in their gardens, maintenance of their lawns, creativeness of container plantings, and everything in between. We are enthusiastic when the seed catalogs begin to arrive mid winter, look forward to the lush green growth of spring and getting our hands dirty, as well as the kaleidoscope of color that we enjoy when fall arrives and the leaves turn to autumn tones. However, as I age I see that my gardens require more maintenance than I want, that I question plant replacement costs from damage by insects, diseases, and drought, and that my serious consideration of downsizing both house and gardens is not just a passing thought. I needed motivation and direction. Valerie Easton’s book, The New Low Maintenance Garden, offers some very sound advice so now I do not have to seriously consider giving up a hobby I enjoy.

From The New Low Maintenance Garden, I learned a lot about how I can redo, refine, and rework some or all of my gardens. Sadly, in the last three years my gardens have taken a toll from drought. I have lost large trees, evergreens, shrubs, and perennials. I am completely starting over in some areas, and The New Low Maintenance Garden has given me inspiration and some wonderful dreams. I am ready to begin anew.

Let it be noted that the book focuses on gardens in the Pacific Northwest, but many plants mentioned can be used in the Midwest. Also, note Easton’s definition of low-maintenance gardens: “...easy to live with and live in. They are simplified and thoughtfully planned out spaces that are tailored to the needs of the people who create and use them.” Low maintenance landscapes require work, creativity, and some cost as do all gardens. Easton offers extremely creative landscaping design with the use of dynamic hardscaping and plant repetition. She urges gardeners to look at foliage with its color and texture to create a hued palette for gardens that continues into winter.

Easton’s book contains seven chapters. Within each chapter are blocks called special advices regarding specific topics, such as succulents, steps to killing your lawn, herbs, and ground covers you can walk on. Easton bullets topics for step easy directions, and all photos have more than a basic caption. Easton includes her Simplified Seven—a list of seven plants that Easton believes can give you creative indestructible landscapes wherever you live: heavenly bamboo, sedges, sedums, lilies, smoke bush, autumn fern, and fragrant sweet box. She suggests adding some native plants.

A dynamic factor of the book is the photography by Jacqueline M. Koch. She captures the beauty of northwest gardens, focusing on nuances so details are vivid and appreciated. Special kudos to Ms. Koch and her excellent garden photography. (continued on page 5)
Enter favorite garden photos in contest
By Helen Hollingsworth

Stored in your camera, on a thumb drive, or on your computer, you may have the perfect garden photograph to grace the front cover of the 2013 issue of *folia and flora*!

Enter your favorite garden photographs in the *folia and flora* Front Cover Picture Contest sponsored by the MCMGA board. The deadline for submissions is November 15. Email your photograph submissions to afthompson@purdue.edu with *MG Photo Contest* in the subject line. Previously entered photographs may be entered in this year’s contest.

The winning photograph for the *folia and flora* front cover will be chosen by vote of Master Gardeners on Tuesday, November 27 at our annual holiday dinner.

2013 Garden Fair planning begins
By Nancy White

It seems like a long time until April 2013, but planning and arrangements for our annual Garden Fair take time and need to be started now. Many of you have served on committees in the past, and now is the time to volunteer for your choice of volunteer slots. During the non-gardening months of late fall and winter, Garden Fair committees plan and provide opportunities for members to gain volunteer hours. Committees include physical arrangements, Master Gardener sales, café, Master Gardener information, vendors, publicity, door prizes, and education seminars. Sign-up sheets for Garden Fair committees will be available at the September 25 general meeting.

Gardens of simplicity (continued from page 4)

*The New Low Maintenance Garden* is an easy read that teaches gardeners to create gardens for more enjoyment with less work. The simplified instructions, economic solutions, and photography bring each page to life. I learned that low maintenance gardens are colorful, inventive, easy to maintain gardens. Easton writes, “Effective low maintenance is all about design, hardscape, and architectural elements that determine how easy a garden is to care for. Organic sustainable gardens are the new avant-garde in creating your own, whole new ethos of simplified, low maintenance.”

I encourage reading and studying this book if you, like me, need to give less time and resources to your gardens.
Saving those herbs

By Nancy White

It seems that herbs may be the only plants in my garden that have loved our record-breaking hot, dry summer. I am blessed with an abundance of dill, basil, thyme, parsley, and oregano, and it seems a shame not to preserve some before winter. Some plants end up inside by a sunny window for the winter, but most will be dried or frozen for later use.

To freeze herbs, wash leaves well and place in water in an ice cube tray. Freeze, place cubes in a plastic bag, and label for later use. To dry, washed herbs can be tied upside down by the stem and placed in a cool, dry place for several weeks until they can be stripped from the stems and stored in airtight containers.

Another, quicker method of drying uses the microwave. Leaves should be stripped from the stems, washed, drained, placed on a microwave-safe plate, and covered with a paper towel. Time for drying by microwave depends on size of leaves but is usually one to three minutes. Dried leaves will keep well in closed containers and make nice holiday gifts.

For more information on preserving and using herbs check out a new publication, *Little House in the Suburbs* by Deanna Caswell or check the most recent issue of *Horticulture* magazine.

Renew your Master Gardener membership

By Nancy White

A form for renewing your membership for 2013 is now available online at our website and in mailed editions of September *Roots and Shoots*. Please take time to renew today. Dues are only $10 per person and $15 for a household. On the form is a listing of many of our yearly activities. You have an opportunity to experience a new volunteer possibility or return to your favorite sites. Be sure to help the committee chairs by marking your choices.

To meet the timelines for our yearbook, *Folia and Flora*, we ask that membership renewals be returned by November 1, 2012. Contact information for renewals received after December 31 will not be listed in our membership book. Renew today!

Hats off! Esther Minnick wins Points Award

Esther Minnick is the winner of the 2012 Monroe County Fair Points Award presented by the MCMGA board. Esther entered Cut Flowers, Herbs, Vegetables, and Potted Plants at the fair. She also helps to coordinate the garden chats and serves as superintendent with Diana Young for the Cut Flowers, Potted Plants, Seeds, Vegetables, and Floral Design divisions.
2012 Monroe County Fair a success despite heat and drought

Diann Lock, Kay Cunningham and Sydley Skolnik volunteer at the Fair flower check-in

Dot Owen helps Barbara Baynes' (past MCMGA member) granddaughters check in their flowers.

Linda Chapman, Harvest Moon Flower Farm, presents a Garden Chat, Cut Flowers A to Z.

Linda Chapman shares her vast experience with cut flowers with attendees.
Bylaws changes will be voted upon in November
By Helen Hollingsworth

The MCMGA bylaws committee and board have prepared an updated edition of our organization’s bylaws. Proposed changes to the bylaws are underlined and available at this website: mcmga.net. Members who do not use computers will receive a copy of the bylaws with changes via U. S. mail, and those using computers may read the bylaws on our website. As stipulated by the bylaws, members receive two notices of the changes prior to voting, once each in the September and October issues of Roots and Shoots.

Bylaws for an organization may become out of date for any number of reasons, such as advances in technology, job description changes, new practices, or new needs. Our last bylaws review was in 2007.

Members are encouraged to study the proposed bylaws changes and forward comments or suggestions to Helen Hollingsworth.

Save the date: study abroad opportunity

Mike Dana, Purdue Horticulturist, and Rosie Lerner, Master Gardener State Coordinator/Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist, are planning to once again offer a Purdue Master Gardener advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Renaissance Gardens of Italy, June 4 - 16, 2013. This course will focus primarily on gardens of historical significance from the Renaissance and Baroque periods in the regions of Lazio (Rome) and Tuscany (Florence), and will include lectures, study booklet, pre-test/post-test and course evaluation. Participants will be expected to share what they learn with others in their community upon their return.

The objective of the training and overseas study is to expand Master Gardeners’ knowledge in fruit, vegetable, ornamental horticulture, landscape and garden design history. This course will include site visits to such notable gardens as Villa Petraia, Villa Medici at Castello, Villa Medici at Fiesole, Villa Gamberaia at Settignano, Boboli Garden at the Pitti Palace, Villa Garzoni, Sacro Bosco of the Villa Orsini, Villa Lante, Villa D’Este, Ninfa Garden, Vatican Garden, and Fattoria Lavacchio (organic farm and restaurant).

Hotel and restaurant details and thus costs are still being worked out, but information and registration materials will be available by sometime in September. We will post additional details as they become available. If you would like to be added to an email list for notifications about this course, contact Tammy Goodale <tgoodale@purdue.edu>.
# Volunteer opportunities

## Compiled by Nancy White

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hilltop Gardens</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Demonstration Garden</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Bethany Murray, 339-8876 <a href="mailto:bethany.murray@gmail.com">bethany.murray@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington Community Orchard</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
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<td>Stacey Decker, <a href="mailto:getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org">getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park</td>
<td>summer</td>
<td>design and maintain</td>
<td>Nancy Fee, 332-1940</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. C. Steele SHS</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Davie Kean, 988-2785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Cathy Meyer, 349-2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Horticulture Hotline</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>inquiries and research</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Speakers Bureau</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Amy Thompson, 349-2575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Newsletter</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>write articles</td>
<td>Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCMGA Web Site</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Barbara Hays, 332-4032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Program Committee Member</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>plan MG programs</td>
<td>Evelyn Harrell, 3390572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Way House</td>
<td>seasonal</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Clara Wilson, 333-7404</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wylie House</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Sherry Wise, 855-6224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>education, resource</td>
<td>Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WonderLab Garden</td>
<td>2 times monthly</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nancy White, 824-4426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoosier Hills Foodbank</td>
<td>year around</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>Nicole Richardson, 334-8374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
No matter whether the weather is cool or hot, wet or dry, gardeners must do battle with weeds. By definition, a weed is any plant that grows where it is not wanted. Despite having a number of weapons to conduct this battle, the weeds seem to win as least as often as we do!

Mulching around plants will go a long way toward reducing the ability of weeds to take over. Organic mulches tend to cool the soil, as well as conserve soil moisture and reduce weed germination. Materials such as chipped or shredded bark, straw, hay, grass clippings or pine needles should be applied 2-4 inches deep and replenished as needed. Plastic mulch tends to warm the soil and is best used on warm-season vegetables, such as tomatoes, melons, squash and peppers. If soil gets too hot in mid-summer, you might want to put a shallow layer of organic mulch on top of the plastic.

Don’t underestimate the power of your bare hands (well, make that gloved-hands)! Young weeds can be very easy to pull, especially during or just after a rain. You want to prevent the weeds from going to seed, as that will bring many more future battles. For example, a single dandelion plant can produce 15,000 seeds in one year, and each seed is capable of surviving for up to 6 years in the soil. Each purslane plant can produce more than 52,000 seeds, and these seeds can survive up to 30 years in the soil. So, it is in your best interest to stay ahead of the weeds!

Although there is a dizzying number of herbicides (pesticides designed to kill plants) approved by the EPA, there is a relatively limited number of them available in small, homeowner-sized packages. Generally speaking, herbicides are low in risk to people and animals when they are used according to the label. But there is a risk of doing damage to the very plants you are trying to protect.

There are different types of herbicides, based on how they perform. Some must be applied before the weeds emerge; others can be applied after they have already started growing. Some have a greater tendency to volatilize and drift from their intended target.

Some herbicide products come ready to use in a convenient, trigger-spray bottle, while others have to be mixed with water. There are also some specialized application products that can help minimize risk to desirable plants, such as wick and wand applicators that allow you to place the herbicide directly on the intended victim.

It is easy to see where the home gardener can end up causing unintended damage to other plants. If you choose to use a herbicide, be sure to read and follow all of the label instructions before you apply. And, if you use sprayers and other equipment for herbicide application, make sure you label them for that use and have a different set that is used for other types of pesticides.
Many of our landscape plants are under stress this summer from one or more factors, including excessive heat and humidity, insect feeding, disease infection, and depending on location and timing, drought and/or excessive rains, wind and hail. Some trees are already losing leaves, and leaves may be turning color before they drop.

Early defoliation is common when plants are under stress, and this season has been quite challenging for many trees, both old and young. The recent intense heat and humidity make it difficult for plants to keep up with water and cooling requirements, even when soil moisture might be plentiful. One of the ways that plants cool themselves is through the process of transpiration, the evaporative loss of water from the foliage.

When relative humidity is high, transpiration is reduced, so plant tissues may overheat. When the transpiration rate is low, there is also reduced movement of water from the surrounding soil into the roots. So plants can still be in moisture stress despite having sufficient soil moisture. The rate of photosynthesis (carbohydrate production) is also reduced when heat and humidity are excessive.

Stressed plants are often more susceptible to disease and insects. Conditions have been perfect for many fungal and bacterial disease pathogens. Such diseases may start out as spots that then get larger and may lead to leaf drop. Insects such as borers are more likely to infest weakened trees.

Plants that are under such stress may initiate what appears to be fall color change and eventual leaf drop. Generally speaking, most plants can cope with early foliage loss, but other stresses may also take their toll. Plants that were already in trouble before the excessive heat and humidity may not fare as well or perhaps even succumb. But most plants that are otherwise healthy will recover as more favorable growing conditions return.

There is still plenty of summer yet to get through so we gardeners will just have to wait and see what Mother Nature has in store for us!
Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Helping others grow!

General Meeting, September 25, 6:30 p.m., Extension Office
Program: Focus on Flowers for Fall, presented by Moya Andrews and
Hydrangeas: A Short History and Cultivation Practices in the Care of the Genus,
presented by Anita Bracalente

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

Master Gardener calendar

- **Tuesday, September 25**, 6:30 p.m., extension meeting room, MCMGA general meeting, program presented by Moya Andrews and Anita Bracalente
- **October 4-6**, State Master Gardener Conference, Hamilton County Fairgrounds, Noblesville, register by September 20
- **Saturday, October 20**, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Ohio Valley Garden Conference, Evansville, Indiana; for information call 812-963-5577