

Roots and Shoots

August 2006 Volume 22, Issue 8

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, August 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.—Trip to White River Gardens in Indianapolis

Sunday, August 13, —Workday for MCMGA at the State MG booth at the Indiana State Fair

Friday, September 22, 2006—State MG Conference in Noblesville

Friday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.—MG General Meeting at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

Friday, October 6, 4 p.m.—Guided tour of IU Arboretum

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CALL

By Marilyn Brinley

We are in need of three individuals to seek nominations for Master Gardener Board members for 2007. After selection, the committee will contact the membership via e-mails, newsletters and telephone calls. The time spent will count as volunteer hours. Those interested in serving on the committee or in becoming a board member may contact me by e-mail at MLBrinley@aol.com or by phone at 824-1318.

Plant Sale

**Southern Indiana, Daylily, Hosta, Daffodil
and Iris Society**

11th Annual Plant sale

Highland Village United Pentecostal
Church Craft Fair

515 South Curry Pike

Saturday, August 26th

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MEMBER NEWS

By Nancy White and Ann McEndarfer,
Co-Vice Presidents and Program Chairs



Nancy White



Ann McEndarfer

Field Trips

Our two special trips so far have had good responses from our membership. Visiting gardening venues both locally and farther afield helps to encourage new ideas and introduce us to some new commercial sites. If you haven't been able to join us for these, you still have a chance this fall. The October trip to the IU Arboretum will be Friday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m. We will have a guided walk and be able to identify some of those trees we learned about at the February advanced training session. Contact Nancy White or Anne McEndarfer to get your name on the contact list.

Save the Date!

As you turn the calendar pages and begin to think of fall, be sure to save the date of Tuesday, November 28, 6:00 pm, for our annual Holiday Dinner and Program. Again this year we will meet at the large hall at the First United Church on east 3rd street. It will be a pitch-in dinner with meat, cheese, and drinks provided.

Did You Visit an Interesting Garden?

If the answer is yes, why not volunteer to write a short description of the garden you saw and some of the special plants, design, or hardscaping that made it special. We all like to hear of new places we can visit to energize and motivate our own gardening creativity. The MG newsletter, *Roots and Shoots*, is published monthly, and new contributors are always welcome.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY MARILYN BRINLEY



It is hard to believe that the month of August is here already. The fair is over, and our gardens are settled in for the warm weather. Now, the question is, do we as Master Gardeners also put down our hoes and rest? Or do we continue to seek new and interesting ways to serve our organization and others?

Now is the perfect time to take stock. Are we on track with our volunteer hours and education hours for the year? If not, then how might we fulfill those? Have we turned in our hours to the recording secretary, Mary Hawkins?

Also, this is a good time to begin to plan for next year. Would this be the time to think about serving on our board or on a committee? Is it time to become even more involved in our organization and our community? While it may be a good time for our gardens to rest in the withering heat, we can still be busy with our own personal growth. Happy growing!

MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If you have some ideas but do not wish to write the article yourself, contact Helen Hollingsworth who can find a "ghost writer" for you.

Developing Programs for Future Meetings

We have such a wealth of talent and experience among our Master Gardener members, but not too many of us have had the experience of presenting a program on a gardening topic which is interesting to us or about which we are passionate. Why? Many feel reluctant because they had not thought about how to begin planning or what to include in the talk or how to limit the topic or goals for the presentation.

We would like to propose that any member who would like to share his or her special interest with the group, but who would like some support in putting the presentation together, call either of us so we can create a session to help get you started with your presentation planning.

Our Vice President team is always looking for

educational presentations to include in our Master Gardener meetings, and Amy Thompson has said that she often gets calls asking for speakers. One of our goals as Master Gardeners is to educate others, and this is a way to develop this function of our group. This kind of activity also carries with it volunteer and education hours for you as you plan and present your talk. There is an audience for your special topic, and we would be happy to help you develop it. If this is of interest to you, please e-mail us, and we can get started on this project.

September General Meeting

At the September 26th MCMGA general meeting, Marilyn Brimley will present a program, *Orchids*, and Marcia Figuerido will discuss, *Accessible or Enabling Gardens*. This meeting will carry two hours of education credit for those who are present. The meeting will be at Hilltop Garden Center, September 26th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m. Please note the earlier time.

BROWN PATCHES IN LAWNS COULD BE OLD SEEDSTALKS

The turf department at Purdue has received a number of calls, email, and electronic photos inquiring about current brown patches in the lawn. Dollar spot is active throughout the state and could be causing problems in lawns. Dollar spot causes very noticeable lesions and cotton candy mycelium in the early morning. However, many of the patches that I have been seeing are due to the seedstalks of perennial ryegrass. A stand seeded primarily with perennial ryegrass will look almost white right now, primarily from the off-color seedstalks. Most of the exceptionally poor looking areas have also experienced some drought stress in the last month, which slowed down leaf growth and made the seed stalks even more visible. There is nothing that can be done about these seedstalks other than maintaining a sharp blade and mowing regularly. They should only last for a few more weeks or so before they fully deteriorate.

IN THE GROW: QUESTION AND ANSWER

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Q. My husband pulled out a weed in the garden that made his hands burn for quite a while. It had sharply serrated leaves that were opposite. The stem looks almost square and ropey, with fine hairs along the whole length. Do you have any idea what it is?

A. Stinging nettle is most likely the culprit, with its stinging hairs along the stems and on the undersides of the leaves. These perennial plants grow 2-7 feet tall and have opposite leaves with saw-toothed edges. The plants have greenish, non-showy flowers. According to the Purdue Veterinary School's Web site on poisonous plants (<http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/plant31.htm>), the small, hollow hairs in stinging nettle contain several irritating substances, such as histamine, serotonin, acetylcholine and formic acid. These substances, coupled with the hairs' ability to scratch the skin and mucus membranes, result in almost immediate burning, itching and irritation. The irritation usually resolves on its own.

Q. I have these stickery weeds growing in part of my yard. They are spreading to more of my garden and part of my backyard by the garden. They have a long white root. I've tried pulling them out, but they seem to keep spreading. I'm afraid to spray them in my garden because of the food. Can you tell me what to do to get rid of them?

A. Herbicides that would kill broadleaved weeds would also be likely to damage the vegetables you are trying to grow. There are a few pre-emergence herbicides (such as those that contain trifluralin) that can be applied to garden soil around some (but not all) vegetable crops, but these are aimed at preventing new weeds from germinating from seed. To control existing weeds, hand-pulling and shallow hoeing or tilling around the veggies are your safest methods of weed control. Mulches will help discourage new weed growth. The Purdue Extension office in your county can help you identify the specific weed, if you bring them a sample, and perhaps be able to make more specific control recommendations.

Q. I am looking for information regarding a product to prevent the sweet gum trees from producing their gumballs. This spring, I was told that there is now a product, but so far, I have found nothing on the Internet. These gum balls are a big problem for me. I live on one-and-a-half acres and have at least 25 gum trees.

A. I'm afraid there really isn't a practical solution for completely preventing fruit on large, well-established trees, but there are some hormone-based products that can help reduce fruit set. One such product is ethephon, sold as Florel Brand Fruit Eliminator®. It must be applied at just the right dosage, at just the right stage of flowering (full bloom) and at just the right temperature range. There is risk of plant damage if dosage and/or temperature are too high. In fact, plant stress of any kind can increase the likelihood of plant damage. And, because the product must be sprayed on, the effectiveness will depend on being able to get complete coverage of the canopy, not an easy task on a large, mature tree.

There is another product called Snipper® that is designed to be injected into the tree while the flowers are still in bud stage. However, the application uses a micro-injection system that requires skilled precision. Like other hormone treatments, timing and dosage are critical. This product should only be applied by a professional.

You might want to contact a certified arborist for estimates on both of these methods. The price of fruit prevention might make sweet gum fruit cleanup a bit easier to accept!

Q. Something is eating my irises. Whatever it is, it's taking the stalks and the unopened buds. They seem to do it at night. Can you help? And what do we do about it?

A. Grasshoppers and cutworms both feed on many species of flowers, but cutworms are notorious for doing their work at night and usually hide in the soil, or under mulch and leaf litter,

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large, you might be able to solve the problem by handpicking the larvae from soil and mulch. Morning is the best time to look for them. Cleaning up leaf litter and pulling mulch away from the plants will also help remove their hiding places.

If damage is severe enough to warrant insecticide use, you can try using a dust formulation of carbaryl around the base of the plant. Do not apply the dust to the flowers as carbaryl is highly toxic to bees.

Q. For the last several years, we have had problems with some sort of blight in our tomato crop. The bottom half is blackened and flat. The top half is good to eat. Not all of the tomatoes on

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AUGUST GARDEN CALENDAR

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Visit the horticultural exhibits at the Indiana State Fair, Aug. 9-20. Bring your gardening questions to the Purdue Master Gardener booth in the Marsh Agricultural/Horticulture Building.

HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

- ◆ Take cuttings from plants such as impatiens, coleus, geraniums and wax begonias to overwinter indoors. Root the cuttings in media such as moist vermiculite, perlite, peat moss or potting soil, rather than water.
- ◆ Order spring-flowering bulbs for fall planting.
- ◆ Cut flowers from the garden to bring a little color indoors or to dry for everlasting arrangements.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- ◆ Check trees and shrubs that have been planted in recent years for girdling damage by guy wires, bur-lap or ropes.
- ◆ Don't fertilize woody plants now. It stimulates late growth that will not have time to harden off properly before winter.
- ◆ Hand-prune and destroy bagworms, fall webworms and tent caterpillars.
- ◆ Pears are best ripened off the tree, so do not wait for the fruit to turn yellowish on the tree. Harvest pears when color of fruit changes--usually from a dark green to a lighter green--and when the fruit is easily twisted and removed from the spur.
- ◆ Prune out and destroy the raspberry and blackberry canes that bore fruits this year. They will not produce fruit again next year, but they may harbor insect and disease organisms.
- ◆ If weather turns dry, keep newly established plants well watered. New plants should receive 1 to 1.5 inches of water every week to 10 days.
- ◆ Begin seeding new lawns or bare spots in established lawns in mid-August through mid-September.

GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)

- ◆ Keep the garden well watered during dry weather and free of weeds, insects and disease.
- ◆ Complete fall garden planting by direct-seeding carrots, beets, kohlrabi, kale and snap beans early this month. Lettuce, spinach, radishes and green onions can be planted later in August and early September. Don't forget to thin seedlings to appropriate spacing as needed.
- ◆ Harvest onions after the tops yellow and fall, then cure them in a warm, dry, well-ventilated area. The necks should be free of moisture when fully cured in about a week's time.
- ◆ Harvest potatoes after the tops yellow and die. Potatoes also need to be cured before storage.
- ◆ Pick beans, tomatoes, peppers and squash often to encourage further production.
- ◆ Harvest watermelon when several factors indicate ripeness--the underside ground spot turns from whitish to creamy yellow; the tendril closest to the melon turns brown and shrivels; the rind loses its gloss and appears dull; and the melon produces a dull thud rather than a ringing sound when thumped.
- ◆ Harvest sweet corn when kernels are plump and ooze a milky juice when punctured with your fingernail. If the liquid is watery, you're too early; if the kernels are doughy, you're too late.
- ◆ Keep faded flowers pinched off bedding plants to promote further flowering and improve plant appearance.
- ◆ Spade or till soil for fall bulb planting, and add a moderate amount of fertilizer.

SQUASH VINE BORER

If you have squash or related plants that suddenly wilt and die, you may have squash vine borer. This insect will bore into the stems of squash, zucchini, pumpkins and gourds. Hubbard squash are a favorite, and butternuts are less likely to be attacked than other squash.

Cucumbers and melons are usually not a target, although each can be affected by a disease that also causes plants to wilt known as Bacterial Wilt.

The adult of this insect is a clear-winged moth that resembles a wasp. The forewings are a dark metallic green but the rear wings are clear. The abdomen is orange with black spots. The larva is cream-colored and rather wrinkled. Adults emerge in the spring and lay eggs on or near susceptible plants. Larva bore into the plant and will feed for about a month as they move toward the base. Mature larva will exit the plant, burrow into the soil and pupate where they remain until the next year. Each plant can have numerous borers.

If you suspect squash vine borer, split the stem of a collapsed plant near where it enters the ground. Infested plants will be hollowed out and mushy and may contain borers. Unfortunately, there isn't much you can do at this late stage. Control measures should center on prevention. Suggested preventative controls would include crushing the dull red eggs before they hatch, excavating larvae from stems before they cause much damage or using insecticide applications. Applications should begin when the vines begin to run and reapplied every 7 to 10 days for 3 to 5 weeks. Direct the spray at the crown of the plant and the base of runners. Effective insecticides would include carbaryl (Sevin), endosulfan (Thiodan), permethrin (numerous trade names) and esfenvalerate (Monterey Bug Buster and Ortho MAX Garden & Landscape Insect Killer)

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/hnewslet/ksht0629.htm

POWDERY MILDEW ON PHLOX

Karen Rane, Plant Disease Diagnostician

Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University

Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) is often severely affected by powdery mildew. The white, powdery patches typical of the disease can be seen now on susceptible phlox cultivars. The disease occurs first on the lower leaves, and appears to "move up" the plant as spores from the initial infections cause disease on younger leaves. In severe cases, virtually all of the foliage can be infected. Plant breeders have developed several garden phlox cultivars that have some resistance to powdery mildew. A partial list of resistant cultivars includes Starfire, David, Orange Perfection, Prime Minister, Bright Eyes, and Rosalinde. Remember that resistance does not mean the plants will not become infected at all, but symptoms will be less severe or the disease will spread more slowly in resistant plants when compared to susceptible ones. When environmental conditions (warm temperatures, high humidity, poor air circulation between plants) are favorable for disease development, powdery mildew can spread very quickly. Protectant fungicides may be necessary to keep the disease in check on susceptible plants. Refer to Purdue University Cooperative Extension publication BP-5-W, Powdery Mildew of Ornamentals, for more information on managing powdery mildew.



MOSQUITOES FOLLOW HEAVY RAINS

Doug Akers, Boone Co Extension Educator, Purdue University

Over eight inches of rain have fallen in less than a month in some areas of Indiana. Those excessive rains have resulted in severe mosquito outbreaks for some Hoosiers this month. Of primary concern are nuisance biting mosquitoes, according to Ralph Williams, Entomologist, Purdue University. These are the types of mosquitoes that occur as the result of accumulated water from heavy rains. The Indiana State Board of Health will monitor mosquito-borne disease activity throughout the summer and will alert the public of any disease concern, Williams said.

West Nile virus has been found in Indiana in recent years. However, in areas where mosquitoes do carry the virus, very few mosquitoes (much less than 1%) are infected, according to Michael Potter, Entomologist, University of Kentucky. Even if an infected mosquito bites you, you have less than 1% chance of severe illness. The chances of being severely ill from any one mosquito bite are extremely small, Potter added.

The two major groups of mosquitoes in Indiana, *Culex* sp. and *Aedes (Ochlerotatus)* sp., have somewhat different egg-laying habits. *Culex* mosquitoes lay groups of eggs on the surface of water in bird baths, tin cans, old tires, car bodies, cisterns, roof gutters and any other containers which hold water. *Aedes* mosquitoes place their eggs at the base of vegetation in low lying areas that flood periodically. However, they also can deposit their eggs above the water line in artificial containers (such as tin cans, old tires, etc.) or in tree holes that hold water, Potter added. These eggs will hatch when inundated with rain water.

The larval stage begins at egg hatch. Mosquito larvae called are "wigglers" because they have a distinctive swimming style. They can be seen when they come to the surface of the water to breathe through a distinctive tube that extends from the end of their body. The larvae feed on microorganisms in the water and grow rapidly in warm weather. Full grown larvae become pupae, often called "tumblers" because they tumble end-over-end through the water. Pupae transform into adults after a few days.

Female mosquitoes are blood feeders and may live for more than a month. They generally require a blood meal before laying eggs. Mosquitoes rely on various cues to find potential hosts on which to feed. Heat, movement, exhaled carbon dioxide, and body scent allow hungry mosquitoes to home in on their prey from long and short distances. Some mosquito species feed on humans; many feed on wild and domes-

tic birds and mammals. A few even feed on reptiles and amphibians. Adult male mosquitoes do not bite. They live one to two weeks and feed on nectar and plant juices.

Larval Control

Use of a mosquito larvicide may be beneficial when it is impractical to eliminate a breeding site, according to Potter. Larvicides are insecticides which are used to control immature mosquitoes before they have a chance to develop into biting adults. Trade names of some larvicides are Mosquito Dunks, Mosquito Quick Kill Granules, and Agnique MMF.

Most larvicides sold to homeowners contain either the active ingredient methoprene or a toxin produced by the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti). Methoprene prevents adult emergence by disrupting the development of mosquito larvae. Bti toxin attacks the digestive tract. It is lethal only to mosquito wigglers and the larvae of some aquatic gnats and black flies. Neither methoprene nor Bti toxin is harmful to fish, waterfowl, pets, or humans when used according to label directions.

Many products and formulations containing methoprene (Altosid) and Bti (Bactimos, Vectobac) are used by mosquito abatement agencies and other professionals. Homeowners can purchase methoprene as PreStrike. It is sold as granules in shaker bottles. Less than a dozen granules are needed to prevent mosquitoes from developing in a flower pot bottom or bird bath. Less than a teaspoon of PreStrike granules is needed to treat 100 feet of rain guttering. Mosquito development will be inhibited for up to a month in ornamental ponds and similar bodies of water; longer protection is provided in sites that periodically dry out.

Various products containing Bti are available to homeowners (e.g. Mosquito Dunks or Quick Kill Mosquito Granules). Typically, one donut-shaped Mosquito Dunk is recommended per 100 square feet of water surface. The dunk breaks down slowly when wet and releases the insecticide over about a 30 day period. The Mosquito Quick Kill product is a granular formulations that begin to release the Bti toxin more quickly than the dunks, resulting in faster action. While results come more quickly, the residual life of the treatment is generally not as long as the dunk formulation. Granular formulations may be more desirable when treating smaller areas, such as flower pots or tree holes.

LARGE BUGS OF SUMMER

Several of this region's largest or most unusual insects will be active during July and early August. A few that are most likely to appear and arouse curiosity are:

1. The eastern Hercules beetle (*Dynastes tityus*) has a large (2" to 2-1/2" long) greenish-gray to black body. Males have a large distinctive horn on the head and sometimes are called rhinoceros beetles. The adults are attracted to lights during mid- to late summer. The larvae are large white grubs that feed in the center of decaying logs and stumps. It is the largest beetle in Kentucky and is harmless. These beetles occur throughout the southeast.



Eastern Hercules beetle

2. The European hornet, about 1.5 inches long, is an impressive and fearsome-looking insect. It is brown with yellow markings, particularly at the end of the abdomen. European hornets generally nest in cavities in trees or other protected sites. They will fly at night and are attracted to lights. More information is available in Entfact 600 - The European Hornet in Kentucky. <http://www.uky.edu/Agriculture/Entomology/entfacts/struct/ef600.htm>



3. The cicada killer wasp (about 2 inches long) can be seen cruising over grassy areas during July and August. They are black with yellow markings and rusty-colored wings. These wasps burrow into sandy or well-drained soil with sparse grass color. They live in individual burrows but where conditions are right, large groups can build up over time. They are curious but not aggressive. The females can sting and will if handled but do not respond in attacking masses like yellowjackets or other common social wasps.

IN THE GROW: QUESTION AND ANSWER continued from page 3

the plant will be affected. Sometimes, as the summer goes along, it gets better. But, overall, as the years go by, the problem seems to be getting worse. We have changed and rotated the place where we plant, and have changed fertilizers and types of plants. Any suggestions? We have a large garden each year and can everything, so I need a good tomato crop.

A. You have just perfectly described a very common disorder of tomatoes called blossom-end rot. The black scar tissue is caused by a deficiency of calcium in the developing fruit, usually brought on by extreme fluctuations in soil moisture. The spot develops on the blossom end of the fruit, thus the name blossom-end rot. The scar is usually firm and leathery, although secondary rotting organisms may enter through the damaged tissue and cause a soft rot to develop.

Tomatoes aren't the only fruits affected by blossom-end rot; summer squash and other cucurbit-type plants are less-often affected.

Once the fruit has already developed the scar, it can't be cured. However, you can try to prevent blossom-end rot before it gets started. Watering during dry spells and mulching to conserve soil moisture will help reduce fluctuations in the moisture supply, preventing calcium deficiency in the fruits.

TWIG GIRDLERS

By Lee Townsend

Twig girdlers are gray-brown wood boring beetles with a pair of antennae that are about as long as their $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long bodies. They are active from mid-August into early October when the female lays her eggs. Twig girdlers can be responsible for hanging or fallen twigs on or around a variety of trees including hackberry poplar, linden, red-bud, dogwood, and various fruit and nut trees. Heavy infestations can disfigure landscape trees.



The female twig girdler begins the process by chewing a deep V-shaped groove around a small twig and laying an egg in the twig beyond the cut. The girdled portion of the twig that contains the egg will soon fall to the ground. It can be recognized by a smooth cut on the outside of the twig near the bark and a ragged center where the twig breaks. The larva will tunnel into the dead twig and feed until winter. Development will resume in the spring. Ultimately, the larva will pupate in the twig and emerge as an adult late in the summer.

Fallen twigs contain the larvae of this insect so they should be collected and destroyed as soon as practical but before early May of the following year. Hanging twigs should be pruned out and destroyed if practical. An application of Sevin at the first sign of girdling, and repeated twice at two-week intervals, may reduce damage to infested trees. The insecticide kills the adult females before they can lay eggs but will not penetrate the twigs to kill deposited eggs or live larvae.

Information taken from the http://www.uky.edu/Ag/kpn/kpn_06/pn060724.htm#shade

BITTER CUCUMBERS A TEMPORARY PROBLEM

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

If you've noticed that your cucumbers are a little (or a lot) bitter lately, don't give up hope. A little water, mulch and patience will provide relief.

Most cucumber plants contain a bitter compound called cucurbitacin, which can be present in the fruit as well as the foliage. Bitterness in cucumbers tends to be more prominent when plants are under stress from low moisture, high temperatures or poor nutrition.

For some cucumber eaters, the bitter taste can be accompanied by a digestive discomfort known as a burp. Some of the newer cultivars of cucumbers do not have the bitter compound and, thus, no burp. So, some seed companies called their bitter-free cukes "burpless."

The amount of bitterness in the cucumber depends on the severity of the heat and drought. In most cases, cutting off the stem-end and removing the skin of bitter cucumbers will remove much of the bitterness. Some fruits will be bitter all the way through and should be discarded. Bitter cucumbers will not taste any better when pickled!

Watering during droughty periods to provide 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water in a single application will help keep bitterness out of subsequent fruits. Apply a mulch, such as straw, shredded bark or newspaper, to help cool the soil, conserve moisture and keep weeds under control.

Next year, your best bet is to plant bitter-free cultivars and provide optimum growing conditions, when possible. Many cultivars are listed as being bitter-free, including Carmen, County Fair, Diva, Green Knight, Sweet Slice, Sweet Success and Tasty Green. New cultivars arrive each year, so be sure to read through next season's garden catalogs and Web sites to find the bitter-free types.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	Stori Snyder, 855-2799 or email stlsnyde@indiana.edu
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Steve Doty, 988-2785
Cheryl's Garden	seasonal	various	Larime Wilson, 333-9705
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries and research	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	writing, stapling, labeling	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Brunoehler, 855-6224
Bloomington Hospitality House	year around	educate seniors	Rene Thompson, 353-3000
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
Clear Creek School	spring/on-going	identification, education	Charlie Hawk, 824-7969
Indiana State Fair	Sunday, August 13 9 a.m.-9 p.m.	answer questions	Preston Gwinn, 876-2999
Wonder Lab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Garton Farm	year around	Assess grounds, develop plans	Michael Bell, 336-6141

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

A CLOSER LOOK AT DADDY-LONG-LEGS

Harvestmen, or daddy-long-legs as they are also known, are members of the class Arachnida, which also includes spiders, scorpions, and mites. Like all arachnids, harvestmen have four pairs of legs, fang-like mouthparts called "chelicerae," and two antennae-like appendages near the mouth called "pedipalps." They have no antennae. Most harvestmen have very long legs, and these species are usually called "daddy-long-legs." Some harvestmen have short legs and look very similar to mites, but these species are rarely seen.

Harvestmen are often confused with spiders, but they are not true spiders. Spiders have two body segments (cephalothorax and abdomen) that are distinct and separated. On harvestmen the two body segments appear fused into a single large body segment (as with mites and ticks). Also, spiders have venomous fangs, whereas the fangs of harvestmen have no venom glands.

The legs of harvestmen fall off easily and continue to twitch for some time after removal. It is believed that this helps the daddy-long-legs escape predators (as when a lizard's tail breaks off).

Harvestmen are often found with mites attached to their bodies. Are these mites "parasitic" or "phoretic?" A "parasitic" organism is one that attaches itself to and feeds on a host, like a tick on a human. An organism that attaches itself to a larger organism for the purpose of moving from place-to-place, but that does not feed from its

host, is called a "phoretic" organism, and the condition is called "phoresy." Phoresy is very common in the arthropod world, especially among mites, who sometimes "ride" on larger organisms, often so that they can move quickly to a food source.

Myths, Legends and Folklore about Daddy-Long-Legs

You may have heard that "daddy-long-legs are the most poisonous spiders in the world, but their fangs are too small to bite humans." This is a widespread myth. It has even been presented as a fact on televised nature programs. Daddy-long-legs are not actually spiders, and they do not have venom glands. For details about this myth, take a look at this <http://spiders.ucr.edu/daddy-long-legs.html> from the University of California Entomology Department.

In the old days, it was believed that you could use daddy-long-legs to find your lost cattle. When you wanted to know which direction the herd had wandered to, you could pick up a daddy-long-legs by all of the legs but one, and the free leg would point in the direction of the cattle (or so it was believed).

Another myth from the old days: if you kill a daddy-long-legs, it will rain the next day.

The information above comes from <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/casefile.htm>, a wonderful source of interesting information on insects and spiders

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Monroe County Master Gardeners are needed to staff the Master Gardener Booth at the Indiana State Fair from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 13th.

Call right away to get your pick of time slots!

To learn more information or to volunteer, please contact Preston Gwinn 320-2150 or 876-2999.

DIVIDING IRIS

Dividing iris every three to five years will help rejuvenate them and increase flowering.

Iris may be divided from late July through August, but late July through early August is ideal. For more about dividing iris, see

http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/dp_hfrr/hnewslet/ksht0629.htm#Dividing%20Iris



HUMMINGBIRD — NO WAIT — IT’S A MOTH!

Timothy Gibb, Insect Diagnostician, Department of Entomology, Purdue University

We receive many calls and e-mails each year that are very similar to the following: *“I was outside this weekend and noticed what I thought was a hummingbird. It was early evening and I was surprised the “hummingbird” let me get so close. Upon further inspection, I saw that it was actually a large moth that looked like a hummingbird in its size, shape and movement. It also had a long proboscis that was fully extended and it was sipping nectar from flowers on our patio. I snapped a few pictures which are attached.”*



If it looks like a hummingbird and acts like a hummingbird – but is a moth – it is correctly called a hummingbird moth.

These belong to a family of night flying moths called Sphingidae. They are of no real concern when moths but the species pictured here (tomato hornworms) can be devastating as caterpillars when they attack tomatoes and other garden plants. Information from <http://www.ppd.l.purdue.edu/PPDL/weeklypics/7-24-06.html>



BI-COLOR FLOWERING DOGWOOD

Mike Dana, Extension Landscape Horticulture Specialist,
Department of Horticulture & Landscape Architecture, Purdue University

The next time your neighbor asks where you got the bi-color flowering tree (in this case a flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*) such as a dogwood or a crabapple, tell them you “planned it that way,” when really, it exhibits the fact that you are a forgetful pruner. This dogwood is white and pink because it is a grafted tree and a root sucker from the rootstock (the white flowers) was not pruned out in a timely manner and has been allowed to grow up with the part of the tree from the scion (the pink flowers) which was the tree that was, presumably, originally purchased.



DO YOU FEED HUMMINGBIRDS AT YOUR HOUSE?

If you feed hummingbirds, what is your experience this summer? How much nectar are your visitors consuming? When are peak times, and how many birds do you typically see? What’s the best type of feeder and place to hang it?

If you are willing to write your experiences feeding hummingbirds, email them to Helen Hollingsworth (hlhollin@indiana.edu) for inclusion in Roots and Shoots.

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Cooperative Extension Service
Health Building
119 West Seventh Street
Bloomington, IN 47404

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