

December 2008, Volume 24, Issue 12

## Master Gardeners Elect 2009 Board

Immediately preceding the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on December 1 at Terry's Banquets and Catering, members participated in the election of officers for 2009. Elected were President, Nancy White; Vice President for Programs, Vicky St. Myers; Vice President for Education; Carol Cobine; Secretary, David Dunatchik; Director of Communications, Barbara Hays; and Director-at-Large, Herman Young. Continuing their service on the board for 2009 are Treasurer, Diana Young; Journalist, Helen Hollingsworth; Director of Records, Susan Osborne; and Fair Board Representative, Preston Gwinn.



2009 Master Gardeners Board members, front, left to right, are M. Susan Osborne, Helen Hollingsworth, Nancy White, and Vicky St. Myers. In the back row are Preston Gwinn, Barbara Hays, Herman Young, Diane Young, and David Dunatchik. Absent: Carol Cobine.

## Master Gardeners Celebrate Their Beginnings

In 1988, a group of dedicated gardeners came together to form Monroe County Master Gardeners Association, an organization affiliated with Purdue Master Gardeners, started in 1978. Today MCMGA, with a membership of approximately 125, shares the love of gardening in the community through volunteer service, sponsors a demonstration garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds, provides educational events for its members, and assists the Monroe County Extension Office with the yearly Master Gardener Intern Training Classes. On December 1, MCMGA met at Terry's Banquets and Catering to celebrate its 20 year history and to honor those who founded the organization. Honored were Ellen Boruff, Barbara Hays, Joanna Howe, Esther Minnick, and Michael Simmons, who were among the group of 25 members who started the organization twenty years ago.



Master Gardeners Charter members who helped start the organization in 1988 are, left to right, Esther Minnick, Ellen Boruff, Barbara Hays, Joanna Howe, and Michael Simmons.

## Member News



Amy Thompson has announced the winners of the Monroe County Fair Master Gardeners awards. They are Joyce Peden, John Behringer, and Bethany Murray. Congratulations to all!

### Buy 2009 Master Gardener Calendars

By Nancy White  
The 2009 Master Gardener Calendars, \$10 each, are now available and would make excellent gifts. They include photographs from Indiana MG members that were chosen in competition. Note cards with winning MG photographs are also available for \$7 for a box of seven cards and envelopes. Our president Marilyn Brinley's photo was chosen for publication in the calendar. We congratulate her on this award. Order forms for the note cards and calendars are available at [www.IndyMGconf.org](http://www.IndyMGconf.org).

### Community Garden Project Applications

Over a year ago, the MG board agreed to award a grant each year to an individual or non-profit group who would like to develop a gardening project designed to enrich the community. Applications for this grant will be accepted through March, 2009. If you are interested in applying or know some group who might qualify, please contact Nancy White, 824-4426 to get more information.

### Next General Meeting Is January 2009

The first meeting of the New Year will be held on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. We will have one hour of education credit available and spend some time planning our program for 2009. All members are urged to attend. Look for more details in the January issue of *Roots and Shoots*.

<p><b>2009 Calendar</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, January 24,</b> <i>A Winter Day in the Garden</i>, in Robinson, IL.</p> <p><b>Tuesday, January 27,</b> 6:30 p.m., MG general meeting</p>
--

## 2009 MG Calendars Available and in Need of a Good Home

By Kathleen Hull  
Unfortunately, the economic downturn has hit our calendar fundraising project pretty hard. Please consider buying some 2009 MG Calendars to use as holiday gifts. People will enjoy them, and you will be helping the Master Gardener Program in Indiana. Remember, for each calendar purchased the state program and the 2009 state conference each get \$1.25. Your county Extension Program or Master Gardener Association also receives \$1.25.

For more info, look at [www.indymgconf.org](http://www.indymgconf.org) or contact Kathleen Hull, 317 996-4380, [hullk@ccrtc.com](mailto:hullk@ccrtc.com).

## Preserving Wood Tool Handles

Hoes, shovels and other common garden tools often have wooden handles that can deteriorate over time. Storing tools in a protected location can slow that process, but normal use will still expose the tools to the elements. The end of the season is a good time to clean up and protect the handles so they will last for many years. Weathering can raise the grain of wood, resulting in splinters. A light sanding can smooth the handle. Follow that with a light application of wood preservative, linseed oil or polyurethane to protect the wood. Wipe off any excess after a few minutes as oil-based products can attract dirt. . (WU)  
<http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=764>

## ***A Winter Day in the Garden***

By Rosie Lerner,  
Extension Con-  
sumer Horticulture  
Specialist and Mas-  
ter Gardener State  
Coordinator

On Saturday, January 24, 2009, those who share a love of gardening will gather to experience *A Winter Day in the Garden*. Sponsored by the Crawford County Master Gardeners and Lincoln Trail College, the conference will take place at Lincoln Trail's Zwermann Theatre in Robinson, Illinois, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 a.m.). Five experts in the field of gardening will provide entertainment and enlightenment at this seventh annual event.

**Garden for Change = Transform the World** presented by Eva Shaw, will teach each of us how to improve the planet, help our neighbors and empower others through soil, solutions and gardening savvy.

**Tooling around the Garden** with Roger Swain (PBS Victory Garden) will demonstrate and talk about the various tools all gardeners should have.

Lunch will be divided between two speakers: **Fun with Gourds** by Helen Thomas and **Growing and Care of Fruits** by Roger Swain

**Diversity Beyond Belief—The Wonderful World of Cucurbits** will be presented by Mac Condill, Great Pumpkin Patch

To access the flyer and register online after October 30<sup>th</sup>, please go to our website: <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford/>. Click on the Horticulture/Environment icon and you will see "A Winter Day in the Garden" under local programs. For general information, please call 618/546-1549.

## **Purdue Will Hold Poinsettia Open House on December 7**

By Rosie Lerner,  
Horticulture Spe-  
cialist and Master  
Gardener State Co-

Purdue will hold its 2008 Consumer Poinsettia Open House on Sunday, December 7, 2008 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Purdue University Horticulture Greenhouse Potting Room, next to the Horticulture Gardens on Marsteller and Harrison, south of the Horticulture building  
The event is free, open to the general public, and will be held in the greenhouse potting room.

This year's open house will feature 100 poinsettia cultivars as well as poinsettias produced using environmentally friendly production techniques. Help evaluate new and experimental cultivars to see what the future holds, learn how to care for your poinsettia and enter a drawing to win some of the newest cultivars. Poinsettias will not be for sale at this event.

For additional information, contact Roberto G. Lopez, Assistant Professor & Indiana Floriculture Extension Specialist, at [rglopez@purdue.edu](mailto:rglopez@purdue.edu) or log on to <http://flowers.hort.purdue.edu>

## **Membership Renewal Reminder**

Have you sent in your membership renewal form for 2009? If not, this is your final issue of *Roots and Shoots*. Also, the new issue of *Folia and Flora*, our membership guide, arrives in January, so those late to renew will miss this deadline. Membership renewal forms are available at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net) or at the Extension Office.

Renew your membership today!

## From the President's Desk



The year is ending and soon a new one will be upon us. Snow will soon blanket the earth, protecting the delicate bulbs and roots from winter's cold. Dedicated gardeners will be pouring over seed catalogs or reading up on the latest in gardening techniques. Some will even be surfing the internet, searching out the latest and best gardening web sites.

By

Marilyn Brinley This month we are celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an organization, as the first Master Gardener class in Monroe County was held in 1988 and the association was chartered in 1989. This recognition of the beginning comes at a time when our organization is strong and its members are committed to working toward the future. I am pleased that we are able to recognize the hard work of not just the founding members, but also of our current members.

This coming year will also be quite different for me, as I am stepping down from my position as president of our organization. I have served the past three years as president and am pleased with what we have been able to accomplish in that time. We have rewritten the bylaws, have worked to align ourselves with the current guidelines set by Purdue University, and have made some progress in bringing our records into the Twenty-first century.

I wish to thank everyone who has helped to make our association what it is. A grateful thank you goes to Amy Thompson, who came to our county at the same time I first became president. I think it is safe to say that we learned together. Amy's help and support has been invaluable to both me and our county. I thank all the board members and committee chairs and committee members who have volunteered their time. I also thank each and every one of you, as you are the reason we are a success. Though my term may end, I will continue to be active in the organization and I hope that you will, too.

### **New Plant Disease Factsheet Series from Ohio State**

Submitted by Amy Thompson, Extension Educator A new series of plant disease fact sheets co-authored by faculty in the Department of Plant Pathology in conjunction with OSU Extension Colleagues from around the State is available to Master Gardeners. These nine fact sheets are designed to provide an overview of key concepts in plant pathology (study of plant disease) including the reasons why plants get sick and how to control/manage disease. They are written with the non-plant pathologist in mind and will be an excellent addition to our Indiana Master Gardener Notebooks!

The nine fact sheets can be found at OSU Extension's "Ohioline" web site: <http://ohioline.osu.edu>. For those without access to a printer or a way to get the hard copy, our office can print copies. It would be best if you call ahead to let us know you will be coming in to pick them up.

This new series will be useful to those who teach—both in the classroom or field—and for those wanting to learn some plant pathology essentials. For more information please contact Michael Boehm ([boehm.1@osu.edu](mailto:boehm.1@osu.edu)) or Sarah Ellis ([ellis.293@osu.edu](mailto:ellis.293@osu.edu)).

## MG Anniversary Dinner a Success

By Nancy White  
Seventy-six Master Gardeners and their guests attended our festive 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner on December 1 at Terry's Banquets and Catering. The elegant tables decorated with runners and flower baskets greeted those attending as they entered the dining room. After a social time, Marilyn Brinley, MCMG President, welcomed the group and presented the Charter Members attending with a corsage or boutonniere. A buffet meal followed complete with a "floral arrangement" dessert recognizing the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Amy Thompson presented awards to the Master Gardener board fair winners.

Diana Young announced the results of the officer election, held earlier in the evening, and the present and past officers were recognized.

Bob Baird presented a unique "one-man show" incorporating MG history and photographs of past activities of the group. The presentation was facilitated by Jo Prentice, who researched background information, and Helen Hollingsworth, who researched and prepared the coordinating PowerPoint visuals.

The evening was a fitting way to honor those who founded our organization and to focus on our mission of service to the community.

The following Master Gardeners are to be commended for their fine planning and implementation that made our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner such a success:

Table Covers and Centerpiece Flowers: Susan Eastman and Karen Bish

Invitations: Jeanne Cox

Historical Research and PowerPoint Presentation: Bob Baird, Helen Hollingsworth, Jo Prentice

Corsages and Boutonnieres: Susan Osborne

Program Presentation: Bob Baird

Organization and Implementation: Cindy Benson, Amy Thompson, Nancy White, Diana Young

Printing and Program Design: Jackie Claffey and Chris Hedrick

## Earn Volunteer Hours in Winter

By Nancy White  
While many Master Gardeners earn their volunteer hours in the warmer months, MGs can earn volunteer hours just as easily in the winter by calling and volunteering at the following sites (see page 9 for contact info):

Hilltop Garden, MCMGA Speakers Bureau (Amy regularly gets requests for speakers), MG Newsletter, MG Program committee member for 2009 (we can surely use the help), Wylie House, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and WonderLab (we do most of our scheduling and work revisions in January-March).

In winter I get up at night  
And dress by yellow candle-light.  
In summer quite the other way  
I have to go to bed by day.

Robert Louis Stevenson

# What Counts: Education Hours and Volunteer Hours



## Education Hours

Activities where you learn something by attending lectures, workshops, or meetings that contain an educational component count as education hours, AKA continuing education. Education hours for these events should be the actual educational time, not the social time.

By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

Usually education hours include time spent on topics focused on horticulture; however, programs that develop leadership or teaching skills can also potentially count.

Education hours can come from a wide variety of sources; it is not just limited to local Master Gardener programs. Some examples of potential sources of training hours include statewide and regional Master Gardener programs, IU continuing studies, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Garden Club meetings, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, and Wylie House.

Formal garden tours where you are led by a tour guide count as education hours; informal tours where there is not a formal exchange of information do not (i.e. a tour of White River Gardens with a guide discussing varieties and their specific requirements does count, while visiting the gardens on the Bloomington Garden Walk does not).

Education hours are cumulative; you can begin earning education hours from the time you enroll in the Master Gardener Training program.

Travel time to training events does not count.

If you have any questions about whether a particular activity counts, please contact me!

## Volunteer Hours

Volunteer activities should be in line with the purpose of the Master Gardener program and should have an educational outcome.

Community beautification projects benefit us all but will not count as volunteer hours unless there is an educational component included.

Volunteer work must be UNPAID. However, you can accept reimbursement for expenses or for travel expenses, and you may also accept a donation to the Monroe County Master Gardener Association.

If you work in the horticulture industry, please do not turn in any hours at your place of employment without prior approval.

Master Gardeners are only to advise regarding home horticulture, NOT commercial clientele. All commercial growers should be referred to the appropriate Purdue Extension staff.

Work in public gardens such as Hilltop, Wylie House, WonderLab, and the MG demonstration garden where the aim of the garden is to increase public awareness and understanding of horticulture count as volunteer hours

Advice to neighbors and family members during “over the back yard fence” time does count as does time researching answers to questions.

Travel time to volunteer activities can count, but this should be a minor part of your volunteer activities. Remember, you can earn credit all year around.

If you have any questions about if a particular activity counts, please contact me!

## Gardens of France in 2009

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue MG State Coordinator

A 12-day (June 30-July 11, 2009) study and travel abroad experience is available for Purdue Master Gardeners. The trip will be led by Purdue Horticulturist and Landscape Architect Dr. Michael Dana; Purdue Master Gardener State Coordinator/Extension Consumer Horticulture Specialist B. Rosie Lerner; and Purdue International Extension Programming Specialist and Bilingual Guide Kira Everhart-Valentin.

The objective of the study and travel is to expand Master Gardeners' knowledge in fruit, vegetable, ornamental horticulture, landscape and garden design history.

This exciting course will include site visits to such notable gardens as Vaux Le Vicomte, Versailles Palace, Potager du Roi, Chartres, International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire, Chenonceau, Villandry, Plou et Fils Winery, Le Vasterival, Bois des Moutiers, Shamrock Hydrangea Collections, Monet's Gardens at Giverny, and the gardens of Bagatelle. Participants will be given an orientation to French history and the evolution of landscape and gardens as well as study readings for each site.

Registration is open to those with a serious interest in gardens and garden history, with a focus on participants in the Purdue Master Gardener Program. Enrollment is limited to 25 total participants, available on a first come basis with a \$500 deposit required to hold your spot in the class. Advanced training hours will be credited to those Purdue Master Gardeners who complete the required reading and quizzes. Master Gardener participants will also earn volunteer service hours upon their return by sharing what they've learned with others.

Additional information is available online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/France>.

## 2008 MG Fair Award Recipients Announced

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

Joyce Peden was the winner of the 2008 Monroe County Master Gardener Fair award. Joyce achieved the highest point total by exhibiting potted plants, flowers, floral arrangements, vegetables and herbs at the Monroe County fair.

Joyce generously chose to share her portion of her monetary award with two other Master Gardeners, Bethany Murray and John Behringer. Joyce decided to "spread the wealth" to reward newer Master Gardeners for their participation in the Monroe County Fair with the hope of encouraging other MGs to compete. John and Bethany, although new exhibitors, did very well. John's gladiolus exhibit was selected as Grand Champion for that division. Bethany had multiple gardening exhibits in this year's fair including sunflower seeds, for which she was awarded Reserve Grand Champion in the Seed Saving Division.

If you have questions about how you can participate in the 2009 Fair please contact Amy Thompson at the Extension Office. The 2009 Monroe County Fair will be held July 26th through August 1st.



Left to right are Bethany Murray, John Behringer, and Joyce Peden.

## Dodder—A Parasitic Seed Plant

By Gail Ruhl,  
Plant Disease  
Diagnostician,  
Purdue  
University

Dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) is a twining plant that obtains its moisture and nourishment by parasitizing various kinds of wild and cultivated plants.

The seedlings must attach to a suitable host within a few days of germinating or they die. Once the dodder seedling finds a plant, it quickly twines itself around the plant's stem and the basal part of the parasite soon shrivels away so that no soil connection exists. Its water, minerals and carbohydrates are absorbed from the host plant through haustoria, specialized absorbent organs that press up against the stem of the host plant, penetrate the tissue and act as straws. Dodder rarely kills its host plant, although it may stunt its growth.



Dodder flowers are numerous and are borne in tight balls or in a loose cluster (depending on species). The fruit is about an eighth of an inch in diameter, with thin papery walls and contain one to four seeds. These seeds drop to the ground and germinate the next growing season if a suitable host is present. If no suitable host is present, the seed may remain dormant for five years.

Its wide host range and the long life of its dormant seeds make dodder hard to control and nearly impossible to eradicate. There is no herbicide that can be applied to garden and/or landscape plants once the dodder is up and growing on plants. Hand-pulling and pruning is the only method of control once the dodder is established. Pulling and destroying dodder infected plants before it produces seeds is recommended. Prior to germination, dodder can be prevented reasonably well with the application of a pre-emergence herbicide. Be sure to read and follow all label directions before using any pesticide.

Reference:

“[Dodder](#)”, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension

## Reporting Your Hours

By  
Amy  
Thompson,  
Extension  
Educator

A Master Gardener Activity Report is available at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net). PLEASE use this form to report your hours! Forms are also available at the extension office.

Also, remember to keep a copy of your activity reports for your records.

Although the annual commitment of 12 volunteer hours and 6 educational hours runs on the calendar year, I would appreciate having hours reported more frequently. My reporting year for Purdue follows the federal fiscal year from October 1 through September 30.

If you have questions about certifying, remaining an active Master Gardener, and advancing to higher levels of certification, please refer to the October 2006 *Roots and Shoots* newsletter which can be found at <http://www.mcmga.net/newsletters/Oct06.pdf>

Remember, you can earn education and volunteer hour credits all year around.

## Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 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	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Nancy White, 824-4426 Bob Baird, 331-1308
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**

December 2008, Volume 24, Issue 12

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Happy Holidays!**

**Mark your 2009 calendar for January 27 at 6:30 p.m. for the next Master Gardener General Meeting.**

**2008 MASTER GARDENER BOARD**

- President:** Marilyn Brinley  
Marilyn: 812-824-1318 mlbrinley@aol.com
- Vice President—Programs:** Nancy White  
Nancy: 812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com
- Vice President—Education:** Bob Baird  
Bob: 331-1308 bbaird@indiana.edu
- Treasurer:** Diana Young  
Diana: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu
- Secretary:** Barbara Cappy  
Barbara: 812-837-9246 bacappy@msn.com
- Journalists:** Helen Hollingsworth  
Helen: 812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu
- Director at Large:** Herman Young  
Herman: 812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu
- Director—Communications:** Barbara Hays  
Barbara: 812-332-4032 barbsblooms@insightbb.com
- Director—Records:** Susan Osborne  
Susan: 812-825-9154 m.susan.osborne@saic.com
- Fair Board Representative:** Preston Gwinn  
Preston: 812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net
- Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
Amy: 812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

**In This Issue**

MGs Elect 2009 Officers	1
MGs Celebrate Their Beginnings	1
Member News	2
2009 MG Calendars	2
Preserving Wood Handles	2
A Winter Day in the Garden	3
Poinsettia Open House Dec. 7	3
Membership Renewal Reminder	3
From the President's Desk	4
New Plant Disease Factsheets	4
MG Anniversary Dinner a Success	5
Earn Volunteer Hours in Winter	5
What Counts?	6
Gardens of France in 2009	7
2008 MG Fair Award Recipients	7
Dodder: A Parasitic Seed Plant	8
Reporting Your Hours	8
Volunteer Opportunities	9