



# ROOTS AND SHOOTS

February 2007 Volume 23, Issue 2

## FOLIA AND FLORA UPDATE

By Mary Jane Hall



Members who attended the January 23 general meeting received their 2007 *Folia and Flora* membership guides. If you did not attend, please visit the Extension Office to pick up yours. Membership guides will be mailed with the March issue of *Roots and Shoots* (or separately, if you receive *Roots and Shoots* electronically) if not picked up prior to that mailing. Please try to pick up yours in order to save the Association money on postage.

Already, there are some additions and corrections in the membership guide! They are as follows:

♦ **Barbara Baxter, Barbara Baynes and Carol Reynolds** are listed on a sticker following Herman Young's listing in the member section.

♦ Add: **Moya Andrews**  
C: /  
840 Sheridan Drive  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
332-5280  
[andrews@indiana.edu](mailto:andrews@indiana.edu)

♦ Correct: **Mary Young**  
5388 Westfall Ct.  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
[hankyong@bluemarble.net](mailto:hankyong@bluemarble.net)

♦ **Jerry Harsock** is misspelled in the guide.  
(This is correct)

♦ **Jeff Schafer's** email has changed to  
[jschafer@insightbb.com](mailto:jschafer@insightbb.com)

Each membership guide has a mailing label. In addition to a new format inside the booklet, there is new information on the mailing label. Each label has the record of the Cumulative Volunteer Hours (CVH), Cumulative Education Hours (CEH) and Volunteer hours for 2006 (V06) printed in red above the member name. This is the record of hours in the Extension Office computer at the time of printing. (continued on page 4)

## A REMINDER

By Amy Thompson



A Master Gardener Activity Report form is available on the MCMGA website at [www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net) or through the Extension Office.

Please call us if you do not have internet access, and we will be happy to send a form to you. Please return activity reports to the Extension Office so that we can compile information about group volunteer activities and training; the form will then be sent on to Mary Hawkins, membership secretary, who does a wonderful job of tracking individual volunteer efforts.

**Master Gardener Recertification** is achieved by fulfilling the following requirements:

1. Donating a minimum of twelve (12) hours of volunteer service **each year**, and
2. Completing a minimum of six (6) hours educational training **each year** – educational hours can be earned in such things as participation in State, Regional, National, or International Master Gardener Conferences, participation in county-sponsored advanced training sessions, participation in other program held by other gardening associations or groups, training provided through Bloomington Parks and Recreation's People's University (see listing in last month's issue of *Roots and Shoots*) and guided garden tours.

If you have questions about "what counts" for either volunteer or educational hours, please contact me at the Extension Office.



## MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



The January meeting was well attended at the Monroe County Public Library. The 2007 slate of MG officers was approved as presented, and a programming survey was completed in small groups. The evening's program was an informal sharing of favorite garden tools. Several suppliers were mentioned as locations where new and old favorite tools can be found, especially as the gardening season begins. Some local suppliers included Bloomington Hardware, Mays Greenhouse, Lowes, and Menards. Mail order and Internet sources mentioned were A. M. Leonard, Caron, Cutco, Garden Supply, Lee Valley, and Smith and Hawken.

### **Our Next MG General Meeting**

Be sure to mark your calendar for our next general meeting on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 205 E. Kirkwood. See the March edition of *Roots and Shoots* for details of the March 27 meeting as well as the 2007 schedule of meeting dates and programs.

### **Ways to Log Advanced Training Hours**

The new advanced training guidelines from Purdue require Master Gardeners to accumulate yearly educational hours as well as volunteer hours. Certified MG members may receive advanced educational hours by attending programs presented at our general meetings and by participating in field trips we offer. A list of 2007 programs and field trips will be published next month in *Roots and Shoots*. Watch for these opportunities and plan to be with us when your schedule allows. Also, we'd like to hear from you if you have programs and/or field trips to suggest. Call or email Ann McEndarfer or Nancy White and share your ideas. We want to hear from you.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Preston Gwinn announced that we need MG volunteers for two of our sponsored projects in Indianapolis. These are the Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show on Sunday, March 11 and the Indiana State Fair on Sunday, August 12. Contact Preston (876-2999) if you can volunteer.

### **Advanced Training Season Is Here**

February and March are favorite months to offer advanced training. MG organizations and *Horticulture Magazine* offer several hours of training, and you are still eligible to attend even if you are not yet at the advanced level. Here is a schedule of advanced training sessions available within easy driving distance:

- ◆ Saturday, February 10, Princeton, IN, sponsored by Gibson County Master Gardeners, contact (812) 385-3491
- ◆ Thursday, February 15, Indianapolis, IN, sponsored by Horticulture Magazine, contact 1-877-436-7764
- ◆ Saturday, February 24, Greencastle, IN, sponsored by Putnam County Master Gardeners, contact Linda Blocker, (765) 522-3451
- ◆ Saturday, February 24, Alexandria, IN, sponsored by Madison County Extension Office, contact John Orick, (765)641-9514

### **Have You Turned In Your 2006 Advanced Training Hours?**

Did you attend a MG program or event for 2006 for which you did not turn in your hours? In case you've forgotten, below is a list of programs and events that qualify for advanced training hours:

- ◆ March 28, General Meeting, 2 hours credit
- ◆ May 23, General Meeting, 1 hour credit
- ◆ June 8, Field Trip to Burnham Woods, 1 hour credit
- ◆ August 5, Field Trip to White River State Park, 2 hours credit
- ◆ September 26, General Meeting, 2 hours credit
- ◆ October 6, Field Trip to IU Arboretum, 1 hour credit
- ◆ November 28, General Meeting, 1 hour credit

## BECOME A DAYLILY JUDGE SUBMITTED BY DIANA YOUNG

It's time to think about daylilies and catch up on some of the newest introductions and other helpful daylily information! Consider attending the Region 2 Winter Symposium which will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 23-25, 2007. This is your opportunity to take Garden Judges Workshop 1 to start on the road to becoming a certified garden judge and help our region be recognized for the wonderful hybridizers we have. There will be a special tribute to Steve Moldovan who created some beautiful flowers for northern climates.

The registration form is available on the Region 2 website at <http://ahsregion2.org>. The cost per person is \$90 before February 16, 2007.

If you have questions, contact Lee Underschultz, the registrar, at [fireflyhollow@1st.net](mailto:fireflyhollow@1st.net)  
Hope to see you in Cleveland!

## GARDENING REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR CHECKOUT BY AMY THOMPSON

The references listed below are some of those which the MCMGA purchased for the Extension Office reference library in 2006. These books, as well as others, are available for check out by Master Gardeners. If you would like to borrow any of these or others from the Extension Office library, please call Amy at 349-2575 or email [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) to make sure they are available at the time you want them. The loan period will be two weeks and pick up and drop off must occur during Extension Office hours, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. We can also make arrangements for pick-up and drop off at MCMGA events.

***Herbaceous Perennial Plants: A Treatise on Their Identification, Culture, and Garden Attributes*** by Allan M. Armitage

***Armitage's Native Plants for North American Gardens*** by Allan M. Armitage

***Making the Most of Shade: How to Plan, Plant, and Grow a Fabulous Garden that Lightens up the Shadows*** by Larry Hodgson

***The Identification of Flowering Plant Families*** by James Cullen

***Plant Names Explained: Botanical Terms and Their Meaning: Sex in Your Garden*** by Angela Overy

***American Horticultural Society Plant Propagation: The Fully Illustrated Plant by Plant Manual of Practical Techniques*** by Alan Toogood

***The Secrets of Wildflowers: A Delightful Feast of Little-Known Facts, Folklore and History*** by Jack Sanders

## BOONE COUNTY GARDENFEST ON MARCH 31

Boone County Master Gardeners annual Gardenfest will take place March 31, 2007, at the Boone County 4-H Building. Gardenfest runs from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and is free to the public. This event features speakers, booths of gardening information, equipment and plants. Folks who are interested and want more details may call the Boone County Extension Office at 765-482-0750 for more information.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY MARILYN BRINLEY



January is now gone and already I can hear my garden calling to me. Though I cannot get out and work in the garden just yet, I have been busy planning and looking at gardening magazines and websites.

Likewise, it is time to look to the upcoming year in our organization. Our annual meeting was held this past week, and the new slate of officers has been elected. Most of the former board continue in the same positions held last year, with the addition of Susan Osborne, who replaces the outgoing Lydia Anderson. We thank Lydia for her work on the board last year, and we welcome Susan as she joins us this year.

Already, the board is focusing on ways to better serve our association and to grow individually as members. Some of the items we are looking at center on streamlining and updating our processes, as well as making sure we are following Purdue University's guidelines in our activities and procedures.

Amy Thompson is diligently working with the public to educate and inform, while she works to ensure that we reach our full potential as Master Gardeners. This year's training class is full, and we look forward to seeing these new interns in our organization.

All of these activities make the long wait until spring arrives seem at least a bit more bearable. But, I still can't help but plan for the moment I can start digging in my own garden once more. Until then, I wish for you sweet dreams of happy gardening.



## GARDEN GALA GET-AWAY AT SPRING MILL STATE PARK

Spring Mill State Park's annual Garden Gala Get-Away presented by the Spring Mill Inn and the Spring Mill Nature Center will be held on February 23-25. Program highlights include woodland, bird, and night hikes; opportunities to create sundials, miniature gardens, and garden markers; and chances to learn about such topics as the value of toads in gardens and problems with invasive plants. Participants may also bring specific garden questions for discussion and answers.

Registration deadline is February 14. Participants may register for full program and lodging or Saturday only program. For programming information, contact the Nature Center, 812-849-4129 or email [ivance@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:ivance@dnr.IN.gov). For reservation information, contact the Spring Mill Inn, 812-849-4081 or 877-977-7464 or email [tchastain@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:tchastain@dnr.IN.gov).

## FOLIA AND FLORA UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

One of the projects for the 2006 intern class is to develop a database of all persons in Monroe County who have taken the Master Gardener class and how far each individual has progressed in Master Gardening. The information on the label is part of the effort to 'marry' the information maintained in the Extension Office with the data kept by the Secretary team and individual Master Gardeners. Please check your label for accuracy. Mary Hawkins, membership secretary, is working hard to update her records, and the Extension Office is updating their records also. Eventually, both sets of records should be identical and accurate.

If you have additions or corrections to the membership guide and/or to your hours records, please email Amy Thompson: [athompson@purdue.edu](mailto:athompson@purdue.edu) and Mary Jane Hall: [gardenz4ever@hotmail.com](mailto:gardenz4ever@hotmail.com).

## BEE'S KNEES: THE CAT'S MEOW OF THE INSECT WORLD

By Tom Turpin, Extension Specialist, Purdue University

To most people, mention of bee's knees doesn't elicit thoughts of an anatomical structure in an insect leg. The descriptive phrase "bee's knees" suggests something outstanding, something of the highest quality.

As it turns out, bees don't even have knees. To be sure, an insect has a leg part that bends like a knee. And that part joins two leg segments called a femur and a tibia, just like in humans and other mammals. But it is not called a knee; it is termed a femoro-tibial joint.

Scientists don't use the word knee to describe any sort of insect joint--even if that joint appears similar to our knee. Maybe it is better that way. After all, to laud a high-quality item by saying something like "Wow, that's the bee's femoro-tibial joint!" doesn't really cut it.

So how did such a phrase come into common usage? No doubt the rhyme contributed to its popularization. When spoken, "bee's knees" sounds cool! The first printed record of "bee's knees" as a descriptive term was in the 18th century. It was used then to provide a size baseline for tiny things. The phrase could be considered an old-time precursor, in idea if not in scale, to the modern-buzz prefix nano. Today, we hear about nanotechnology, nanometrics and nanoscience. Most of us really don't know what size is at issue anymore than with bee's knees except that it is small.

The early usage didn't catch on. Today, though, we still occasionally use another insect analogy to describe diminutive proportions. Close as a gnat's eyelash describes something razor-thin. The reality is eyelashes on gnats are as scarce as knees on bees, but that is a story for another time.

Some etymologists, word people not bug people, have suggested the bee's knees phrase might be related to the fact that honey bees carry pollen on their legs. Furthermore, the pollen could be considered concentrated goodness. I doubt if any of this was associated with the usage. Another suggestion is that the phrase is a corruption of the word business. Sort of like when children proclaim, "None of your bee's wax!" I don't buy that either.

We do know that widespread use of the bee's knees phrase came about during the Roaring '20s. That was a time when so-called flapper talk was rampant. Trendy phrases of the times included "apple knocker" for a rustic person, "kluck" for a dumb person and "pollywoppos" for meaningless stuff.

Nonsense phrases for excellence were also common. These included "the snake's hips," "the kipper's knickers," "the sardines whiskers" and "the cat's pajamas." Today, only "the bee's knees" and "the cat's pajamas" are still in use.

In fact "the bee's knees" is a widely used phrase for all kinds of modern activities. "Bee's Knees" is a country rock band from Worcester, Mass. Augusta, Ga. has a tapas restaurant and lounge called "The Bee's Knees." A restaurant of the same name can also be found in Moorsville, Vt. England has a pub of that name in Cirencester. Canada has a "Bee's Knees" bed and breakfast in Ontario. There is even a "Bee's Knees" bakery in the United States that produces wedding and other special-occasion cakes.

Among the myriad products and services provided by companies under the name of bee's knees are women's pants and bracelets. You can also find companies that supply vintage clothing, crawling pants for kids, knitting designs for the home knitter and kneepads for the gardener.

There are a couple of Web-design companies listed under the bee's knees moniker. Want a dance studio in Toronto? Try bee's knees. How about a pet-watching or house-sitting service? Yep. There is a bee's knees company to fill the bill. Also under the bee's knees name: a business development strategies company, a limousine rental agency, a cleaning service and a pest control company. There is even a listing on Myspace.com for bee's knees!

## GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN ENGLISH TRAVEL

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A 13-day study and travel experience in England is open to people who want to learn more about ornamental horticulture, landscaping and garden design.

Offered by Purdue University, the non-credit course "England and its Gardens," will be conducted May 13-25 and will be led by Purdue Extension specialists Michael Dana and B. Rosie Lerner of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

Tour stops include the Stourhead Landscape Garden, Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Hidcote Manor Garden, the Royal Horticulture Society Gardens at Wisley and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Free time in London and Bath also are scheduled.

"Whether cottage gardens or castles, the British have for centuries been leaders in horticulture," Lerner said. "Our grand finale takes us to the world's most famous horticultural event, London's Chelsea Flower Show presented by the Royal Horticultural Society."

Registration is open to those interested in gardens and garden history, and there will be some required reading for the course. Master Gardener participants can earn credit for training and volunteer service.

The course is a public educational program sponsored by Purdue Extension and International Programs in Agriculture. The cost for the land package, based on double occupancy, is \$2,765 and includes hotels, entry fees, ground transportation in England, lectures, study guide and many meals. Airfare to England is not included but may be arranged through the instructors.

More information about this program is available online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/EaiG/Main.html>. For additional questions or to register, call (888) EXT-INFO or (765) 494-1296 and ask for Connie Holderfield in the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture. Enrollment ends March 1 and will be limited to 25 participants.

## A NOTE TO MGS FROM B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Here is a quick update on the England and its Gardens Study Abroad class that Mike Dana and I are offering in May. We still have openings and will continue accepting enrollment through February. Since we did not fill with Master Gardeners, the class is now open to the general public. I know many of you have new intern classes running right now, so we would appreciate your sharing this information with your participants, as well as with your regular crew of Master Gardeners and other interested clientele.

The Purdue "England and its Gardens" study and travel abroad experience is slated for May 13-25, 2007. The curriculum aims to expand participants' knowledge in ornamental horticulture, landscape, and garden design in a historical context.

We'll visit and study these notable gardens: Hampton Court, Stourhead, Hidcote Manor, Hestercombe, East Lambrook Manor, Tintinhull, Westbury Court, Iford Manor, Sissinghurst Castle, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and the Royal Horticulture Society gardens at Wisley. The fabulous Chelsea Flower Show highlights the program. Free time in London and Bath, and a visit to Stonehenge will round out our experiences.

## NEW PLANT INTRODUCTIONS FOR 2007

Zinnia 'Zowie! Yellow Flame'

Echinecea Summer Sky

Caryopteris x clandonensis Pink Chablis

Hydrangea macrophylla Light-O-Day

Geranium 'Pink Penny'

Hellebore Regal Ruffles Mix

## SOOTY BLOTCH BY KAREN RANE, PURDUE UNIVERSITY



The dark blemishes on the skin of the apples in this photo are characteristic of the disease called sooty blotch. Sooty blotch is caused by several fungi that can infect apples in early stages of fruit development, colonizing the outermost layer of the fruit. Infected fruit do not decay or rot, but the superficial discoloration results in a loss of fruit quality. The disease is favored by high humidity and frequent rainfall during the growing season. In commercial orchards, management includes pruning trees to increase air circulation and the application of fungicides. For more information on

sooty blotch, see the following links:

Sooty Blotch and Flyspeck of Apple. Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet HYG 3022-92  
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/3000/3022.html>

Sooty Blotch, *Peltaster fructicola*, *Geastrumia polystigmatus*, *Leptodontium elatus*, and Flyspeck, *Zygo-phiala jamaicensis*. West Virginia University Kearneysville Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center bulletin.  
<http://www.caf.wvu.edu/Kearneysville/pdfFiles/sootyfly.PDF>

## VEGETABLES

### Starting Onion Plants Indoors

It can be difficult to find specific onion varieties in sets or transplants and so growing from seed is a popular option. Onions are one of the first plants to be seeded for transplanting because they take a significant amount of time to reach transplant size (6 to 8 weeks) and because they can be set out relatively early (late March in much of eastern and central Kansas). Therefore, we want to start onions in late January. Onion seed should be placed  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch apart in a pot or flat filled with a seed starting mix. Place the container in a warm (75 to 80 F) location until the young seedlings emerge. Move to a cooler location (60 to 65 F) when the seedlings are 1 to 2 inches tall. Make sure they have plenty of light, using florescent lights if needed.

Start fertilizing when the seedlings reach 2 to 3 inches tall using a soluble fertilizer with each or every other watering. Onion seedlings tend to be spindly with the remains of the seed sticking to the end of a leaf for several weeks. Encourage stockiness by trimming the ends of the leaves when the plants reach 4 to 5 inches tall. Start hardening off the onions in early March by moving the plants to a protected outdoor location. You may have to move them inside temporarily to protect them from any extreme cold snaps. (WU)

### Using Old Garden Seed

Seed catalogs seem to come earlier every year, and many gardeners already have a collection of them. Garden seed can be expensive, and you may want to consider using seed from previous years. Seed stores best if kept in a cold, dark, dry location. We normally consider seed will stay viable for about 3 years under these conditions though there are exceptions. For example, members of the carrot family (carrots, parsnips and parsley) are short-lived and are usually good for only 1 to 2 years. If you are unsure of viability and have plenty of seed, there is an easy method of determining how good your seed is. Place 10 seeds on a moistened paper towel (use warm water) and cover with a second moistened towel. Roll up the towels and place inside a plastic bag with enough holes for air exchange but not so many that the towels dry quickly. Place the bag in a warm place such as the top of refrigerator. Remoisten towels with warm water as needed. Check after the first week for germination. Remove the sprouted seed and check again after another week. Add these numbers together to determine the percent germination. (WU)

Source for both: <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1540>

## WANT TO LEARN ORGANIC METHODS?

By Amy Thompson

The Monroe County Extension Office will be hosting an IP video Series on Organic production. These programs are intended for agricultural producers, but they may also be of interest to Master Gardeners. The topic and dates are listed below.

Feb. 13 — Cover Crops/Fertility Management

March 15 — Organic Weed Control

April 19 — Insect and Disease Control in Organic Vegetables

Sept. 20 — Organic Poultry Production

Nov. 15 — Beginning Organic Farming: Certification

Each broadcast runs from 6-8:30 p.m. EST.

Speakers include specialists from Purdue, Ohio State University, the University of Illinois, and organic producers.

Registration is \$10 per person per program and includes workshop materials and refreshments. Online registration is available through the Purdue Conference Division by logging onto <https://www.conf.purdue.edu/>. If you have questions about the program, you can call Amy at the Extension Office.

## WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW AT WHITE RIVER GARDENS

By Mary Welch-Keesey, White River Gardens

Every February, the vernal witchhazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*) can be found in full bloom in the outdoor DeHaan Tiergarten, while the Tropical Adventure show brings visitors inside to see the orchids and other tropical plants in the Hilbert Conservatory.

Vernal witchhazel has bloomed in January the past few years, even with snow on the ground. This is a wonderful understory shrub, native to the Ozark Plateau, providing early flowers and apricot yellow fall color. Grow it in moist soil in part sun to shade. A mature plant will reach to 12 feet and tend to sucker. Keep it in bounds by removing a few of the oldest stems after flowering. Who cares about tomatoes? With witchhazel you'll be the first on your block with flowers in each new year.



## CYCLAMEN (CYCLAMEN PERSICUM) Mary Welch-Keesey and Martha Bailey

This species of cyclamen is a popular plant with florists, and often is called the "Florist's cyclamen." The plant is a tuberous perennial with heart-shaped leaves, 1 to 5-1/2 inches long, deep green in color. The leaves often have a silver-marbled tint on top of the leaf and pale or purplish green on the bottom of the leaf. It produces sweet-scented pink, red, or white flowers, 1/2 to 3/4 inches or more long on tall, slender stems, from early winter to early spring.

Select plants with rich, succulent foliage and buds at all stages of development. Provide as much light as possible and keep in a room where the temperature is less than 68°F during the day and cooler at night. Water thoroughly from below.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
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 Wise, 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
WonderLab 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.**

## February 2007 Volume 23, Issue 2

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Time to update your MG volunteer and education hours! See Amy's reminder on page one.**

### 2007 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

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### IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Folia and Flora</i> Update	1
A Reminder from Amy Thompson	1
Member News	2
Become a Daylily Judge	3
Gardening References Available	3
Boone County Gardenfest on March 31	3
From the President's Desk	4
Garden Gala Get-Away	4
Bee's Knees: The Cat's Meow of Insect World	5
Garden Enthusiasts and English Travel	6
A Note from Rosie Lerner	6
New Plant Introductions for 2007	6
Sooty Blotch	7
Vegetables: Onions and Old Seeds	7
Want to Learn Organic Methods?	8
What's Blooming Now at White River Gardens?	8
Cyclamen ( <i>Cyclamin Persicum</i> )	8
Volunteer Opportunities	9