

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter



ROOTS AND SHOOTS

February 2008 Volume 24, Issue 2

2008 MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS BEGINS

Current Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the upcoming sessions of the Master Gardener Intern training class. Please notify Amy Thompson (349- 2575 or afthompson@purdue.edu) if you plan to attend specific class sessions so that we will have the appropriate number of handouts. Attendance at any intern class does not count as advanced training for certified Master Gardeners; however, you may earn volunteer hours if you are willing to assist with the class. Please contact Amy if you are interested in volunteering.

2008 Monroe County Master Gardener Intern Training Schedule

February 7, 2008

Landscape Design &

Woody Ornamentals..... 1:00 - 3:00..... Anita Bracalente, Landscape Designer

Hardscaping..... 3:00 - 4:00..... Helen Hollingsworth, Bronze Master Gardener

February 14, 2008

Soils & Plant Nutrition..... 1:00 - 4:00..... Chris Parker, Extension Educator, Morgan County

February 21, 2008

Plant Science..... 1:00 - 4:00..... Mary Welch Keesey, Consumer Horticulture Specialist

February 28, 2008

Vegetables & Small Fruits 1:00 - 4:00..... Richard Beckort, Extension Educator, Jackson County

March 6, 2008

Home Wildlife Habitat..... 1:00 - 3:00..... Brian MacGowan Extension Wildlife specialist

Rain Gardens..... 3:00 - 4:00..... Todd Stevenson, Monroe Co Drainage Engineer

March 13, 2008..... NO Class – Spring Break

March 20, 2008

Entomology & Insect Control.. 1:00 - 4:00..... Larry Bledsoe, Purdue Research Entomologist

March 27, 2008

Pruning..... 1:00 - 3:00..... Mike Schrader, IU Grounds

Invasive Plants..... 3:00 - 4:00..... Cathy Meyer, Naturalist, Monroe County Parks & Rec

April 3, 2008

Herbs..... 1:00 - 3:00..... Joanna Howe, Gold Master Gardener

House Plants 3:00 - 4:00..... Sharon Wise, Wylie House, Outdoor Interpreter

April 10, 2008

Plant Problem & Diagnosis..... 1:00 - 4:00..... Amy Thompson, Monroe Extension Educator

April 17, 2008

Herbaceous Ornamentals,

Perennials & Annuals..... 1:00 - 4:00..... Trena Trusty, B.S. Purdue Horticulture

(continued on page 5)

MEMBER NEWS



A large group of local Master Gardeners attended the first general meeting of the year on January 22 at the Bloomington Adult Community Center. After a business meeting, small groups completed a programming survey which will be used to plan programs and meeting activities in 2008.

By
Nancy
White

Joanna Howe, long-time MCMGA member, presented a program on the use of seeds in our spring planting. Joanna provided numerous ideas on containers, planting strategies, ways to have successful transplants, various types of potting soil mixtures, and equipment suppliers for seed planting. Joanna graciously answered numerous questions regarding our successes and failures in the past. And she even related her own failures, which have been few, we are sure. We thank Joanna for encouraging us as we begin our spring preparations.

Delicious refreshments were served by Carol Reynolds, Karen O'Brien, Phyllis Jenshak, Jill Stowers, Carol Cobine, Preston Gwinn, and Nancy White.

Recipe for Potting Soil

At our recent general meeting Joanna Howe gave out a recipe for potting soil that had been successful for her. Here is the recipe for those who might not have received a copy.

3 Quarts of Peat Moss	2 Tablespoons of Dried Blood
2 Tablespoons of Green Sand	1 Quart Perlite
2 Tablespoons of Phosphate Rock	3 Quarts of Compost

This is Elliot Coleman's recipe to use with soil blocks and potting soil in general. It was given on his television show years ago.

New Gardening Gadgets

The February/March issue of Horticulture Magazine shows some interesting seed planting gadgets that might make our lives easier as we start seeds this year. One is Roberta's Thumb Waterer, a gadget that gently waters seedlings with water droplets released by the pressure of your thumb. It looks like a small gourd and sells for \$9.95. Another is Seed Sower, a device that can release a set number of seeds by adjusting a dial. This is available from Burpee's for \$3.95.

MGs Field Trip Schedule Will Be Announced Soon

Our short fieldtrips have been well attended the last two years, and we hope to continue these in 2008. Be watching in future *Roots and Shoots* when these trips are announced and plan to attend. For our new members, these brief, informal trips are planned for the spring and summer, and we often share the driving. For instance, in 2007 we visited Munchkin Nursery and Gardens, the Lilly House Garden at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Oliver Winery Garden here in Bloomington.

Helping Poinsettias to Thrive

For those of us with poinsettias still blooming from the Christmas season, here are a few reminders from our November 2006 speaker, Jim Ellsbury of Ellsbury Nursery in Hope, IN. He suggested that we place the blooming plants in bright light but not direct sun. Water regularly with distilled water but do not allow the water to pool in the saucer.



(continued on page 3)

MEMBER NEWS (continued from page 2)

All decorative covers (foil or paper) should be removed. When weather allows, plants can be placed outside in the ground or used as container plants. They will become large and pleasant foliage plants all summer. I have been lucky enough to have some poinsettias keep their color most of the summer. However, getting these popular plants to re-bloom for another holiday season is tricky, at best.

Lovestruck Is 2008 Floribunda of the Year

Jackson & Perkins, well-known rose supplier, has announced the 2008 Floribunda of the Year, Lovestruck. Publicity on this rose reports that it is the product of 12 years of breeding, and it blends the old-fashioned charms of an English-style rose with floribunda vigor. Long stemmed, dark pink flowers open into cupped, ruffled blooms on a compact plant. It can reach three and a half feet tall with glossy dark green foliage with stems with four to five blooms. Look for this rose in your favorite garden center this spring.



Opportunities to Earn Education Hours

The Purdue Master Gardener website lists the following education sessions to be held in the next few months. Check the website for more details, such as list of topics and speakers, costs, and registration procedures. All are open to the public. Phone numbers are listed if they were included in the website information.

Saturday, February 9, Once Upon a Garden, Gibson County, 2008 Seminar, Princeton High School, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 16, Early Bird Symposium, LaPorte County, contact (219)324-9407.

Saturday, February 23, The Sensual Garden, Putnam County, 2008 Seminar, Putnam Co. Fairgrounds, Greencastle, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., contact (765)522-3451.

Saturday, February 23, Madison County Master Gardener Training, Alexandria, Madison Co. Fairgrounds, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., contact (765)641-9514.

Saturday, March 1, Spring Tonic, Hoosier Hillside Master Gardener Seminar, Orange County Fairgrounds, Paoli, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., contact (812) 723-2782.

Saturday, March 15, Get ready, Get Set, Go Gardening, Wabash Valley Spring Seminar, Girl Scout Headquarters, Terre Haute, 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 15, Master Gardener Training, Grant County Master Gardeners, 4H Fairgrounds, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., contact, (765) 651-2413.

Sat. March 29, Smart Gardening: Working with Nature, Sunnyside Master Gardeners, Clark County REMC, Sellersburg, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., contact (812) 948-5470.

Sept 26-28, Enhancing Your Plant Palette, 2008 Master Gardener State Conference, Indianapolis.

Opportunities for Volunteer Hours

Contacts at the Garton Farmstead on East Tenth Street report that they are always interested in gaining new volunteers to help identify plantings, supervise removal of invasive species, and plan vegetable and flower plots for the future. Contact Michael Bell at 336-6141 if you are interested.

Wonder Garden, adjacent to Wonderlab on West Fourth Street downtown is beginning plans for the growing season and welcomes new volunteers. A variety of opportunities are available. Contact Jeanne Gunning at 337- 1337 or Nancy White at 824-4426.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Spring must surely be on its way; after all, gardening magazines and seed packets have begun appearing in the stores. Now, if only the calendar and the weather would just cooperate and bring spring-time around a bit sooner.

For now at least, I must content myself with dreaming of warmer weather and with planning this year's garden. In fact, much of this season seems to be spent in planning and dreaming. Despite what others might think, mid to late winter is not a quiet time for gardeners. No, we are busily plotting new conquests, growing new plants, and creating new environs.

I have to admit that I also spend this time in thinking over my Master Gardener experience. Just what do I want to accomplish this year? As president, I have goals for our group as well as for myself. I want to see our organization continue to grow and our members to continue to add to their volunteer and education hours. I want for us to be able to offer more and more opportunities for education – for our members, as well as the general public. I would also like to see our group become a statewide leader in the organization. And I think we can do all this.

Well, that is a lot to plan for. So many goals, so little time. I guess I better get busy then.

2008 MASTER GARDENER MEETING DATES ANNOUNCED

Mark your calendars with these dates for our 2008 General Meetings. Details on specific speakers, topics, and special events will be printed in the *March Roots and Shoots*. Meetings occur every other month on the fourth Tuesday.

By	January 22	July 15
Nancy	March 25	September 23
White	May 27	December 2

LOCAL HORTICULTURE GRANTS AVAILABLE

Do you have an idea about how to share your gardening knowledge with the community but need funds for resources? Do you belong to an organization that could sponsor a local project that would help others learn about plants and gardening? During 2007, the MCMGA Board set up a process that offers horticulture grants (maximum \$500) to organizations in Monroe County. Organizations submitting applications for these grants must be non-profit and may not have political affiliations. They should have at least one county certified Master Gardener among their members. It is also strongly encouraged that the person requesting the grant be a current member of the MCMGA. The purpose of the proposed project should be educational and should promote and involve the community in gardening. Grant guidelines and applications will be available soon on the Monroe County Master Gardener website www.mcmga.net Application deadline is March 1.

BUILDING PLANS

If you have ever wanted building plans for structures, such as greenhouses, cold frames, hotbeds, or vegetable cellars, you may want to look at plans developed by the USDA. North Dakota State University has a site where you can order, or in many cases, download the plan you want. Notice that these plans were developed from the 1930s through the 1980s and may not meet modern codes and regulations. Pay special attention to the disclaimer. The Web site is <http://www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/abeng/plans>

SQUARE FOOT GARDENING

By Jill Stowers I recently finished reading a new book (or at least new to the library) called *All New Square Foot Gardening: Grow More in Less Space* by Mel Bartholomew. Since we are putting in a new garden this year, I wanted to get some ideas outside of my traditional sphere. Intensive gardening is appealing since it allows for a high yield without using as much space, which is particularly nice for those without a large yard. Also drawing me to read the book was the back cover, which stated one of the advantages of Square Foot Gardening (SFG) is less weeding. That had me hooked!

The premise of Bartholomew's book is to update his original book, published in 1981, with some new techniques. The book is very easy and quick to read. Even better, the concept is easy to understand and is great for new and experienced gardeners alike.

Build Up, Not Down: Now this goes against my love of the rain garden, but makes sense in terms of neatness and fertile soil. To start a SFG, build a 4' x 4' box of 1 x 6 wood. Till a 4 x 4 area six inches deep, place the box around it, and fill with improved soil, compost, and peat moss.

Shorten the Rows: My typical garden has long rows, as do many. By keeping each garden 4 x 4, gardeners can reach into it to harvest. This eliminates the need to hoe between rows, waste time and space tilling, and waste effort fertilizing and watering a big garden when half of it is rows anyway.

Don't Waste Seed: This may be my favorite part of the concept. Instead of sowing lots of seed and then thinning the plants, use the back of the package to do the math. If you thin to 6", plant two or three seeds 6" apart to begin with. You are only thinning one or two starts.

Why Square Foot if It Is 4'x4': Each 4 x 4 box is split into one square foot sections. Each section can be planted with a different type of plant. So when you harvest an early season plant, you only need to replant the one section. Also, you can mix up what you plant, and space your plantings to have a variety of vegetables coming ripe throughout the season.

So these are the basics. I really enjoyed reading the book, which goes on to discuss vertical gardening using the SFG plan, ways to extend the growing season, and design plans for various harvest options. It is a fun way to try something new and could easily be incorporated into an existing garden plot by sectioning off a few 4 x 4 areas at the edge. Since the sectioning box isn't permanent, you can always take the sides off and return to traditional garden planning. Overall, I highly recommend the book for anyone thinking about their veggies, even if it is below zero outside!

**The next Master Gardener General Meeting
is on Tuesday, March 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Watch for details next month.**

2008 MASTER GARDENER INTERN CLASS BEGINS (continued from page 1)

April 24, 2008

Pesticides: Safety

& Application..... 1:00 - 4:00..... Dr. Fred Whitford, Director Purdue Pesticide Program

May 1, 2008

Lawn Care..... 1:00 - 3:00..... Mike Ferree, Extension Educator, Bartholomew County

Composting.....3:00 - 4:00..... Amy Thompson, Extension Educator, Monroe County

May 8, 2008.....1:00 - 4:00..... Class wrap/evaluation/final exam

This schedule is subject to change

CREATE A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN



The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer: The Essential Guide to Creating Simply Sensational Gardens by Stephanie Cohen and Nancy J. Ondra, Story Publishing, 2005.

The Perennial Gardener's Design Primer is about perennial garden design! Simple statement, simple fact. Most of us think about garden design, attempt and many times succeed in creating an attractive garden, but so much of the time we fail to pull it all together. However, *The Perennial Gardener Design Primer* is all about how to easily create a beautiful garden. This book is enjoyable to read, yet informative and educational, because the authors simplify the material, allowing anyone to apply the basic tenets.

By
M. Susan
Osborne

Perennial Gardener is divided into three sections. Part One – Perennial Design Demystified focuses on starting, selecting, exploring, dreaming, and detailing.

Part Two – Putting Perennials to Work puts into place suggestions for solving problems, creating color effects, a year-round perennial garden, and special effects

Part Three – From Theory to Practice brings the book to closure with their information on border building, expanding an existing garden, and reworking an old garden.

Each chapter offers a Designer's Checklist which I found to be quite useful – the opportunity to review your garden plans. They outline a list of plants that they have applied to the specific garden design and add a Sampling of Favorite plants that they recommend for that particular garden design. Frequently there will be a "Stephanie Says" or a "Nan's Notebook" information box, which present thoughts, tips, and suggestions. The appendix offers a great planning chart as well as a list of Stephanie and Nan's favorite books. They also include a list of toxic plants.

The strength; however, of this primer is in its 20 garden plans, which are not designs for whole gardens, but for a variety of garden beds.

Even though it took me a while to really get into the book's contents, I discovered once I started reading, it was difficult to stop. The carefully thought-out garden plans with colorful, season-long beds, demonstrate that the authors are experienced gardeners, designers, and teachers. The simplicity of the designs and the explanations behind their ideas, plans, and plants encourages the reader to look at garden design as a non-complex process. The photography reveals how well they practice their theory and suggests ways of looking at familiar plantings.

In the book's introduction the authors admit that they are "both obsessed by gardens and gardening." They indicate that gardens are their work and play and they love to share their passion. Their book reflects their deep passion and is a true expression of their commitment to plant design. I strongly suggest, whether you are a novice or an expert in the designing of gardens, that you take the time to read this book about perennial design. And as Allan Armitage says in the foreward, "This book should make you smarter and happier..." and I agree. Enjoy!

2008 MASTER GARDENER COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Marilyn Brinley, MCMGA president, has announced the 2008 Master Gardener committee chairs. If you would like to earn volunteer hours, call the chair of the committee to volunteer. All committees need volunteers. Call soon! Spots will be filled soon.

Audit committee—Mary Jane Hall

Cheryl's Garden—Laramie Wilson
Continuing Education—Susan Osborne
Demo Garden—Bethany Murray
Fair Board—Preston Gwinn
Fair Booth—Carol Cobine
Grant Committee—Nancy White
Wonder Garden—Nancy White

YOUR MCMGA BOARD AT WORK

Editor's Note: The MCMGA board is composed of the president, vice president for programs, vice president for education, the secretary, treasurer, journalist, director at large, director of communications, director of records, Fair Board representative, and extension educator, a total of ten people as well as ex officio members who participate as needed. The board meets monthly and makes decisions on behalf of the membership on topics that come before the board. The bylaws printed in our membership guide provide a description of the duties of the MCMGA officers. This month and in future months, members and ex officio members will describe the work they do on your behalf.

Barbara Hays—Director of Communications

The newly created position of director of communication has many responsibilities, an almost overwhelming list when I first saw the job description. One of those tasks is to oversee our website, www.mcmga.net. I view my most important pursuit as the monthly upload of *Roots and Shoots*. As a money- and time- and labor-saving device, the directors have asked those with internet access to view the newsletter online, rather than through a mailed copy. An email is sent to the membership containing a link to each month's newsletter as it becomes available. The website stores newsletters back to April 2005, but the site contains much more information. For instance, forms are accessible for recording your volunteer and advanced training hours. You can find contact information for all the officers and the bylaws to let you know which person is most likely to have a ready answer for your concern. The site also links to gardens to visit, gardening associations to join, and other topics of interest – Purdue and beyond. Our site could use an overhaul, and with its mega storage capability, the sky's the limit (well, almost!). Check out the website and let me know what you would like to see changed or added, and how you can help. You need not be technically savvy - writers and photographers and brainstormers are welcome.

Another of my duties is the responsibility of bulk email to the membership. Topics include meeting reminders and volunteer opportunities that didn't make the newsletter deadline. Those who prefer to receive their newsletter in the mail can still receive these last minute news items if I am provided with a valid email address. The director of communications is also responsible for the annual update of our membership directory. The bylaws don't say I have to do it all, just see that it gets done. Thanks to Mary Jane Hall for again being willing to take on that task.

Your responsibilities? Number one: participate. Give back what you've learned, then learn some more. Read and retain what you are given, and remember the most important lesson from your training: if you don't know the answer, know where to find it. Maybe it's on the website! Number two: keep your director of communications current with your contact information. An informed membership is a successful membership.

Membership Book Changes

Please make the following **additions** to your **2008 Folia and Flora** membership guide.

- ◆ Daniel Nichols, 3842 Devonshire Lane, Bloomington, IN 47408, Hm 331-5816, micholsdg@yahoo.com, Best way to contact: email or at home in the evening
- ◆ Joan Prentice, 3710 South Ct., Bloomington, IN 47401, Hm 339-7409
- ◆ Peggy Rees-Krebs, 3416 S. Tulip Ave, Bloomington, IN 47403, Hm: 334-0850, mreeskrebs@insightbb.com, Best way to contact: phone

Corrections to membership book:

- ◆ Norman Holly's email should be changed to nholly@lycos.com
- ◆ For Deborah Zora, her last name is correctly spelled **Zera**, and her email should be changed to deborahzera@hotmail.com
- ◆ Katherine Wallskog's email should be kwallskog@sbcglobal.net
- ◆ Diann Lock – BWC should daytime, not just am

TRAINING HOURS, EDUCATION HOURS, AND RECORDKEEPING



Thoughts on Training Hours

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

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

Training hours are cumulative; you can begin earning training hour 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!

Thoughts on 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 Gardeners.

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 should be a minor part of your volunteer activities.

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

Thoughts on Recordkeeping

A Master Gardener Activity Report is available at www.mcmga.net. PLEASE use this form to report your hours!

Please 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.

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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	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	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
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.

HANDLING TIPS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY ROSES

If you are fortunate enough to receive roses from a loved one this Valentine's Day, follow these guidelines from the Society of American Florists to help extend the life of your flowers.

For Floral Arrangements

1. Keep the vase filled or floral foam soaked with warm water. Add fresh, warm water daily. If the water turns cloudy, replace it immediately. If possible, recut stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife. Do this under water. This allows the stems to draw in water instead of air.
2. Keep flowers in a cool spot (65 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit), away from direct sunlight, heating or cooling vents, directly under ceiling fans, or on top of televisions or radiators. (Appliances such as televisions give off heat, causing flowers to dehydrate.)
3. If a rose starts to wilt, remove it from the arrangement, and recut the stem under water. Submerge the entire rose in warm water. The rose should revive in one to two hours.



For Loose Stems

If you can't get your flowers in a flower food solution right away, keep them in a cool place. Fill a clean, deep vase with water, and add the flower food obtained from your florist. Be sure to follow the directions on the package. Remove leaves that will be below the waterline. Leaves in water will promote bacterial growth. Recut stems under water with a sharp knife and place the flowers in the vase solution you've prepared.

from <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopModules/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentID=1971>

GARDENING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FROM CONTINUING STUDIES

Indiana University Division of Continuing Studies offers classes available to all. The following class may be the one you've been looking for!

First Plan, Then Plant: Mixed Garden Borders

Develop the skills to design a mixed garden boarder for year-round interest utilizing trees, shrubs, perennials, ornamental grasses, bulbs and annuals. Learn to work with landscape templates and to develop a scaled drawing and comprehensive planting plan. Landscape templates, plant lists and pictures will be provided. You will learn basic principles for developing a garden plan and selecting the right plants.

Instructor: Anita Bracalente is the registrar for the IU Art Museum, a professional garden designer, writer and a practicing visual artist, who for the past 20 years, has used the garden as her primary visual medium.

Dates and Time: 3 Mondays, March 31 – April 14 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Location: Work One, Classroom #1, 450 S. Landmark

Fee: Early Bird Discount by March 24 -\$70.00, after March 24-\$75 (includes templates, plant lists, and color photos)

For more information at to Register: Call IU continuing Studies 855-5108 or online at continue.indiana.edu

USING OLD GARDEN SEED

Submitted by Amy Thompson 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 three 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 one to two 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 paper towel moistened with 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. After the first week, check for germination. Remove sprouted seed and check again after another week. Add these numbers together to determine the percent germination.

from <http://www.hfrr.ksu.edu/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=720>

GERMAN COCKROACH PHOTOS ARE RARE

By Timothy J. Gibb, Insect Diagnostician, Purdue University A cockroach is not very photogenic, at least I rarely have photos sent to me here in the pest diagnostic laboratory. I can think of several reasons why a roach may not be photographed very often. 'Flat out ugly' is probably the biggest single reason, but the unpleasant life cycle and living conditions where they thrive is also reason for lack of photos.

They require only food, water and a warm place to harbor in between feeding events. They are able to eat whatever food becomes available to them, commonly foraging not only on stored foods, pet foods and table scraps that may be lying around but also in uncleaned dishes or garbage receptacles. They usually only come out at night when no one else is around, but their presence can easily confirmed by the mess that they leave after feeding and harboring in an area. Signs are unmistakable, and they emit a unique smell if they have been around a while. So again, with such a disgusting life style who would possibly want a photo, especially of one feeding in your own kitchen? The fact is that most people typically go to excessive lengths to eradicate them from their homes.

The German cockroach one of several species that can be found inside homes, but it is the species that gives all other cockroaches a bad name. It occurs throughout the world primarily in association with humans and often plagues multifamily dwellings in the United States. Because it does not directly harm people, it is considered an aesthetic pest, and the action threshold for this insect depends upon the tolerance of the people living in the infested dwelling. That is why infestations in multifamily dwellings are so common. The building is subject to the lowest common tolerance level. If one apartment remains home to a large infestation, the entire building remains infested regardless of control efforts in other areas.



TRAINING HOURS, EDUCATION HOURS, AND RECORDS (continued from page 8)

If you have questions about certification, 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>

February 2008 Volume 24, Issue 2

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Do you have questions about what counts for education and volunteer hours? See page 8 for answers.

2008 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

President: Marilyn Brinley
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Vice President—Programs: Nancy White
Nancy: 812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

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Secretary: Barbara Cappy
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