



# Roots and Shoots

Volume 29, Issue 2



## March 26 is next general meeting

By Susan Lovell



Thanks to all who braved the bitter cold to attend our January 22 general meeting. We enjoyed two programs that were both educational and entertaining. Special thanks to both Lee Trusler and Sandy Belth, our wonderful presenters.

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m. at the extension office. The topics will be *Boxwood Blight and Landscaping Alternatives* presented by Ken Cote, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and *Paupaw Patches and Persimmon Groves: How to Start Your Own*, presented by Tracy D. Branam, Indiana Geological Survey. Two hours of education credit will be available.

For our March meeting, we need two or three additional refreshment committee volunteers. Those who have agreed to bring snacks for our March meeting are Vina Kinman, Donna Terry, and Nancy White. If you can join them, please contact me at [smlovell@indiana.edu](mailto:smlovell@indiana.edu). We plan to have treats and drinks available by 6:00 p.m. so we will have some social time prior to the meeting. As always, we can use extra hands to help in setting up the room prior to the meeting and in cleaning up afterward. If everyone pitches in, the work is done quickly. Please let me know if you are available to help.

### Note from Amy Thompson

If you didn't receive your *folia and flora* membership guide at the January general meeting, please stop by the extension office (M-F, 8-4) to pick up your copy so that we can save on mailing costs.

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### Special points of interest:

- Do you have your copy of 2013 *folia and flora*?
- Dianne May is our newest columnist!
- Who are the seminar presenters at the Garden Fair? See p. 6
- Will you be a chairperson for the next Garden Walk?
- Report the amount of time you spend dealing with invasive plants—important information

## Member news



By Evelyn Harrell

The first general meeting of 2013 was a busy one with 52 members and guests attending. Everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by Linda Emerson, Robin Nordstrom, Pam Hall, Jeff Schafer, Susan Lovell and Evelyn Harrell, and many thanks go to the refreshment committee.

### **A word about sign-up sheets**

Signup sheets covered two tables at our January meeting. The sheets are a necessary tool as we prepare for the coming year. Serving on a committee provides opportunities to be involved which results in more meaningful personal experiences as well as opportunities to contribute to the community. If you haven't volunteered for a committee assignment, here are some to consider:

Refreshment Committee—contact Susan Lovell at [smlovell@indiana.edu](mailto:smlovell@indiana.edu)

Field Trip Committee, Field Trip Planning Committee, Demonstration Garden, Garden Fair Cafe—contact Evelyn Harrell at [ear4841@comcast.net](mailto:ear4841@comcast.net)

Garden Walk—Mary Hawkins at [marywalloon@aol.com](mailto:marywalloon@aol.com)

Garden Fair—Nancy White at [nwhite38@hotmail.com](mailto:nwhite38@hotmail.com)

Remember, it is volunteering that powers our organization, and each of these committees is in need of extra hands. See more information on the Garden Walk and Refreshment Committees in this issue.

### **Join the group attending IMA program on Valentine's Day**

It's not too late to plan to attend the *Shade Savvy* program at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on February 14. It's a full day that provides five education hours. See an article in this issue for information, and if interested, contact Jackie Gilkey or Nancy White about car-pooling.

### **Do you have your issue of *flora and folia*?**

Some members may not have received their copy of 2013 *flora and folia* by now. The booklet is one of our primary tools of communication. It includes Master Gardener class year, phone numbers, email addresses, including the best way to contact a member. If you find an error in any part of the information about yourself, please contact the office with your correction. An addendum will be published soon with updated or corrected member information.

### **Herman Young continues to serve on the Master Gardener board**

Herman Young was included in the January *Roots and Shoots* in the list of members wrapping up their service on the board. Instead, it was Preston Gwinn, in addition to Barbara Hays and Marilyn Brinley, who completed service, and thank you, Preston. Apologies go to Herman for the mistake.

# Invasive plant survey due by February 28

Submitted by Amy Thompson



The Nature Conservancy's Invasive Plant Advisory Committee would like your help in estimating the amount of time and money being spent on invasive plant management in Indiana. A similar survey sent out five years ago resulted in an estimate of \$4.5 million, with \$2 million of that focused on terrestrial invasive plants. This new survey is being sent out to update that information. The new survey is available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W35YQS2>.

Responses to this simple 10-question survey are due by February 28.

The Invasive Plant Advisory Committee would like to get this survey out to as many people as possible. If you have been pulling garlic mustard or battling honeysuckle or poison ivy on your property or have been a volunteer with a group to remove invasive plants, the committee would like to hear from you.

For information, contact Ellen Jacquart at [ejacquart@tnc.org](mailto:ejacquart@tnc.org) or call 317-829-3814.

## You're a leader—you just don't know it!

Submitted by Amy Thompson

You are invited for an evening of inspiration in understanding leadership possibilities within yourself and the community. Paul Schmitz, CEO of Public Allies and author of *Everyone Leads: Building Leadership from the Community Up*, will be in Bloomington to share his unique approach to developing leaders, inspiring change, and strengthening community assets. Learn how leadership is a process and not a position—everyone can be an effective leader at all levels of community!

**What:** Paul Schmitz presentation, *You're a Leader—You Just Don't Know it!*

**When:** Thursday, February 21, 2013

**Schedule:** 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.—reception with Paul Schmitz followed by Paul Schmitz presentation at 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

(Editor's note: *You may receive both education hours [program attendance] and volunteer hours [R & S article] if you attend this program and write an article for Roots and Shoots.*)

**Save your old and unwanted garden catalogs, please**, and bring them to the next Master Gardener general meeting on Tuesday, March 26 (or even to the Master Gardener Fair on Saturday, April 6). The big piles on the Master Gardener Booth tables last year all disappeared by the Garden Fair's end, so other people are happy to make use of them. Please remember to save them, whether about bulbs, vegetables, equipment, specialty or general, and bring to Susan Eastman. Thank you.

# Garden Walk leadership needed

At Master Gardener board meetings when the topic of volunteering for various programs is discussed, Amy Thompson sometimes reminds board members, “Volunteering for a job should not be a life sentence. Because someone volunteers for a job year after year and is super at it, a person should not be stuck in a job forever. Fortunately, we are blessed with so much talent.”

It's time to call upon Master Gardener talents to find new leadership for our highly successful annual Master Gardener Garden Walk. For the past eight years, on the second Saturday of June, we have enjoyed touring three members' gardens followed by a pitch-in picnic at the final garden on the tour. Mary Hawkins and many very capable committee members have been the energy behind this very popular yearly event. Now Mary would like to retire and pass the Garden Walk baton to new leadership.

Below, Mary lists a calendar for planning the annual Master Gardener Garden Walk. The calendar lists two leadership positions: one mainly in charge of selecting gardens for the Garden Walk and coordinating publicity to members and the second mainly in charge of organizing the picnic details, sending invitations, and collecting RSVPs.

Browse these leadership calendars and if you'd enjoy either of these responsibilities, please contact Mary Hawkins, email [marywalloon@aol.com](mailto:marywalloon@aol.com) or telephone 824-2139, to let her know as soon as possible. As you can see below, a successful Garden Walk requires year-around planning, though Mary already has gardens signed up for this summer's walk as well as a list of members who may volunteer their gardens in 2014.

## Garden Walk planning calendar

By Mary Hawkins



### Garden Walk Chair #1 Responsibilities and Schedule

*This person is mainly in charge of selecting gardens for the Garden Walk and coordinating publicity for members about the walk.*

**January**—Call those who committed to being on the tour last spring to make sure they can still participate. If not, need to find replacement gardens. Begin soliciting members for gardens to be on Garden Walk the following year. (continued on page 5)

# Garden Walk planning calendar (from page 4)

**February/March**—Write a *Save the Date* article for April *Roots and Shoots* newsletter with "teaser" to entice members and stimulate interest in participating. Remind hosts to think of a name for their garden and to write a brief description of their garden, its history, and their special projects and goals. Name of garden needs to be decided for article in May newsletter. Articles by garden hosts about their gardens need to be ready for the June newsletter.

**April/May**—Make visits to gardens on this current year's walk and to gardens selected for next year's walk. Determine if any of the hosts need help preparing their gardens before the walk. Arrange for volunteers to help if needed, using Garden Walk Committee list. Write an introduction to articles the hosts write for the June newsletter. Arrange for someone to take pictures of the event. Attend May general meeting and make announcement about Garden Walk encouraging attendance and answering questions.

**June**—Make sure all garden hosts are ready and picnic details are finalized. Help set up picnic tables and chairs, depending on weather, night before event. Day of event, visit each site making sure all is going well, help with any needs at picnic site, and help clean up after event. Write thank you notes to all hosts, Amy Thompson, board members, and volunteers who helped. Write or arrange for someone to write summary article about the event for July newsletter, including pictures.

**July—December**—Finalize list of garden hosts for next year's walk. Attend any board meetings to report to board information about the walk.

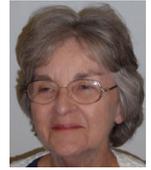
## Garden Walk Chair #2 Responsibilities and Schedule

*This person is mainly in charge of the picnic details, sending invitation, and collecting RSVPs.*

**March/April**—Schedule a Garden Walk committee members picnic planning meeting. Meeting is usually held at home of picnic garden host to determine set up possibilities, needs, and parking. Committee decides main dish and arranges for tables and chairs, ice, and drinks and all details related to picnic.

**May**—Prepare e-vite invitation and send out to members early to mid-May. Keep track of RSVPs. Adjust food and table/chair needs accordingly. Have follow-up meeting of picnic committee if needed or communicate to all about their individual responsibilities.

**June**—With other committee members, help set up tables/chairs the night before the walk. Attend the walk and help at the picnic with clean up.



A group of Master Gardeners will be attending the continuing education all-day symposium on Thursday, February 14, at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. You are encouraged to register and go with the car-pool group. The symposium is titled *Shade Savvy* and will have speakers on year-round blooms in the shade garden, woodland wildflowers, epimediums, and designing the shade garden. Registration is \$100 and includes breakfast and lunch. Call Nancy White or Jackie Gilkey if you would like more information on joining a carpool. Information on the speakers and schedule is available at [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org).

### **Garden Fair seminar speakers announced**

Our annual Garden Fair is fast approaching! Be sure to mark Saturday, April 6 at the National Guard Armory on your calendar, and alert your friends so they can plan to attend. Free garden seminars are one of the highlights of our annual fair. Jeff Schafer and his committee have announced the schedule, speakers, and topics. All sessions are free with the \$2 fair admission. Bring along your friends and neighbors and invite them to stay for lunch at the Garden Thyme Café.

### **Schedule:**

**10:00-11:30 a.m.**—*A Visual Tour of an Indiana Landscape*, presented by Bob Degitz, Hancock County Master Gardener

**12:30-1:30 p.m.**—*Care and Maintenance of Water Features*, presented by Sandy Belth, Monroe County Parks and Recreation

**2:00-3:00 p.m.**—*Landscaping for Wildlife*, presented by Cathy Meyer, Monroe County Parks and Recreation

The new Master Gardener intern class is invited to join us by serving on a committee for the fair. All hours spent in Garden Fair planning activities and work on set-up day and fair day count as volunteer hours. Several committees still need volunteers. Please sign up by contacting fair coordinators David Dunatchik, Jeff Schafer, or Nancy White.

At our January general meeting, members received a fact sheet with details on the Garden Fair. If you use social media, please pass this fair information along to your contact list. We would love to increase our attendance with some visitors who have not been there before. Another way to help is by sending some postcards to friends by snail mail or by hanging a fair poster where you work or shop. If you can help in these ways, contact Nancy White, and the posters/cards will be delivered to you for distribution.

### **February is Grant Month**

Each year Monroe County Master Gardeners accept grant applications from area non-profit organizations in support of youth gardening and adult garden projects.

The Master Gardeners grant application will be on our website soon. Applications also are available at the extension office and will be accepted until March 1. Grant winners will be announced by April 1.

If you know of a Monroe County non-profit agency that might want to apply for a grant to help fund a gardening project for 2013, please tell them about this grant. Funds for the grants come from Garden Fair profits. In 2012, Master Gardeners awarded grants for a total of \$2000.

# Keith Uridel's upcoming berry classes

Register at Bloomington Parks and Recreation at City Hall on Morton Street or online at <http://bloomington.in.gov/home-and-garden>.

**Class** Growing Brambles for the Home Garden  
**Date** February 18-20, 6:30—8:30 p.m.  
**Location** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Cost** \$25/in-city, \$31/non-city  
**Registration** by 2/13; code 46504-A

This class covers brambles (including both summer-and fall-bearing raspberries and blackberries), their preferred soil types, planting styles and amendment, and light requirements. Fertility management, pest control, foliar feeding, and pruning for high production will be discussed. The instructor will also relate his experience with container growing of certain raspberry cultivars. This class is for all ages and is co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center.

**Class** The Steadfast Blueberry  
**Date** February 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Location** Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, 2367 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
**Cost** \$14/in-city, \$17/non-city  
**Registration** by 2/21; code 46512-A

This class touches all aspects of blueberry care. It covers planting methods and choices of soil amendments for the best and longest growth and production. Soil and plant nutrition, pruning, pest control, and irrigation systems suitable for blueberries will be discussed. This class is for all ages and is co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Hilltop Garden and Nature Center.

## Master Gardeners nominated for *Be More Awards*

By Nancy White

Monroe County Master Gardener Association has been nominated for the City of Bloomington *Be More Awards*. All members are invited to the awards ceremony on Tuesday, April 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the Buskirk-Chumley Theater. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us as we celebrate our nomination. According to the City of Bloomington Volunteer Network, "The goal of the *Be More Awards* is to honor and applaud the outstanding but often unrecognized efforts of our community volunteers."

New columnist!

## Everybody's home

By Dianne May



*“Dumb as dirt.”* That’s what my mother said when she wanted to describe someone beyond stupid. Dirt really is dumb. Dirt is what remains when top soil has been scraped off or eroded. There’s not much left for plants to live on, and a gardener has to provide food and fight off weeds on a regular basis. When we moved into our new house in Bloomington, what we got was dirt. The developer threw down some grass seed and fertilizer, and we ended up with struggling islands of grass in a sea of clay.

**“If you turned the bacteria into dollars, you could pay off the national debt with a cardboard box full of soil.”**

Dianne May

But I wanted a real garden. So I began to read about soil, and I found out that soil is not dirt. Soil is a biological community that has an intelligence of its own. It contains a world we can barely imagine. It’s hard to know what’s going on in it since it’s not usually visible to the human eye. There are numbers—up to 50 earthworms in a square foot of good soil. In a teaspoon of this soil there are a billion bacteria, yards of fungus, several thousand protozoa, and a goodly number of nematodes. And that doesn’t even include the community members we’re more familiar with, the plants and animals we can see.

I decided to get to know the community I wanted to encourage in my garden. What were all these creatures doing in the soil? The more I began to find out about them, the more amazed I was. Take the bacteria. There are a billion of them in a teaspoon of good garden soil. How to wrap your mind around this? If you turned the bacteria into dollars, you could pay off the national debt with a cardboard box full of soil. Who are these bacteria? Why are they necessary? Who are the good guys? The bad guys? What about moss? mushrooms? bugs? moles?

What I do in my yard has a huge effect on the community of creatures that lives there. That’s a good reason to explore who they are and what they do. But I’ve found another reason: the members of my garden community are simply amazing. I hope to amaze you all in the next months as I write about soil. It’s a short word, but it contains more wonders than you can imagine.

A SPRING NOTE: It’s time to start thinking about lawns. Lawns took a beating last summer. But did you know that at one time a lawn was considered most elegant when it was mixed with clover? White clover does great things for lawns. It fixes nitrogen so you don’t fertilize. It beats out everything else except the grass so you don’t spray for weeds. Its roots stretch deeper than grass roots do, so it reaches farther down into the soil for water and stays green. It doesn’t have to be mowed as often. It tolerates bad soil, and pet urine doesn’t leave spots. Pollinators love it. And it’s beautiful. You can get clover seed at the White River Co-op or Bloomingfoods East. Let’s bring back the clover lawn.

# Volunteer opportunities

Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876 bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349-2575
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries & research	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Evelyn Harrell, 3390572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
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	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson , 334-8374

## Two speakers provide contrasting views of wild life

By Evelyn Harrell

Featured speakers at the January General Meeting were Lee Trusler, owner of Wildlife Removal Company, and Sandy Belth, assistant naturalist with Monroe County Parks and Recreation and Master Gardener, with her program, *Living in Harmony with Wildlife*. Sandy says she invited Mr. Trusler to share the evening with her because she thought their two programs would provide interesting and possibly opposing viewpoints.

Mr. Trusler shared many of his experiences with a great deal of humor, which was surprising considering the nasty encounters he has had with some of the critters that will make their homes in people's homes, always without invitation and very often without knowledge. Mr. Trusler described his methods to remove moles from yards, snakes and squirrels from attics, bats from the belfries, skunks from under decks, all without consequences. He suggested eliminating all openings to crawl spaces and gaps in foundations, and eliminating landscaping that attracts snakes, raccoons, chipmunks, or skunks and making both major and minor repairs as needed.

*Living in Harmony with Wildlife* was a sensory delight. Sandy Belth observed that she has a slightly different take on wildlife because she actively invites wildlife into her space and has done so ever since she was five years old.

With Native American music streaming in the background, she described the inherent conflicts between man and animal over space. Sandy indicated that \$27 billion dollars a year go to the care of lawns in the US. People say they like the appearance, and it's live and green and natural, but lawns are far from botanically natural. She expressed concern about the herbicides and pesticides getting into the waterways and eco systems. A tablespoon of clover seed divided over the lawn will help sustain small creatures. Nest boxes, feeders and water features also serve the needs of wildlife. Bats, lizards, and snakes are natural insecticides. She advised that Bloomington is the second Indiana certified wild city. She outlined foods and feeders for wildlife; nesting and shelter options; and plants and trees as sources of food and water.

## Snow is good for gardens

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue



Snow is an excellent insulator against low temperatures and excessive winds. The extent of protection depends on the depth of snow. Generally, the temperature below the snow increases by about 2° F for each inch of accumulation. In addition, the soil gives off some heat so that the temperature at the soil surface can be much warmer than the air temperature.

Snow brings welcome moisture to many landscape plants, which will in turn help prevent desiccation injury. Even dormant plants continue to lose moisture from twigs (as water vapor) in the process known as transpiration. Evergreen plants, which keep their leaves through the winter, are at even greater risk of injury. Remove snow gently from evergreens.

# Master Gardeners adopt 2013 budget

By Diana Young, Treasurer



Below is the projected budget for the 2013 Master Gardener program adopted by the board on February 4, 2013. This budget is a plan for allotting our monies and their use in the coming year. The last two years has seen a large increase in the expense of the annual intern class. We have been working hard to keep our budget in the black.

Bloomington Board of Realtors gave us \$180 a couple of years ago that we had not used, so the board added this amount to our community grant program monies. Our annual Garden Fair proceeds fund our community gardening award grants to local not-for-profit organizations. (See article on page 6.) Since the beginning of the program, we have awarded approximately \$2000 per year. This year the grant budget is \$2180.

	<b>January - December 2013</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Bloomington Realtors carry-over	180.00
Investments	7.50
Program Income	5,150.00
Sales	40.00
Garden Fair	5,450.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,827.50</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Cheryl's Garden	100.00
Demo Garden	700.00
Garden Walk	360.00
Grants to non-profits	2,180.00
Intern Class	2,730.00
Master Gardener Fair Points	50.00
Operations	1,237.00
Garden Fair Expense	3,275.00
Trips	100.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>10,732.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>95.50</b>

## Monroe County Master Gardener Association

Cooperative Extension Service  
3400 South Walnut Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401

Helping others grow!



**Monroe County Master Gardeners nominated for  
*Be More Awards*  
See article on page 7.**

### 2013 MCMGA Board

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**Vice President—Education:** Sandy Belth

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**Past President:** Nancy White

824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

**Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson

349-2575 athompson@purdue.edu

### Master Gardener Calendar

**February 14**, 7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m., symposium, *Shade Savvy*, at Indianapolis Museum of Art; for information visit [www.imamuseum.org](http://www.imamuseum.org) or call 877-462-8494.

**March 22-23**, 4:00—8:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Morgan County Master Gardener *GardenFest and Pansy Sale*, at National Guard Armory, 1900 Hospital Drive, Martinsville; log onto [www.mcmastergardeners.org](http://www.mcmastergardeners.org) for information.

**March 26**, 6:30—8:30 p.m., MCMGA general meeting in the extension office meeting room, with presenters Ken Cote and Tracy D. Branam, two hours education credit.