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Board Meeting Recap

Amy celebrated her birthday with us at the January general meeting with a surprise cake and song. If she will leave it on Facebook for a few more days, you can watch and hear your gardening friends belt out a hearty rendition of Happy Birthday!

“A little seed for me to sow,
A little earth to make it grow
A little hole, a little pat,
A little wish, and that is that,
A little sun, a little shower.

A little while - And then, a flower!”

Or maybe a vegetable! The author of this unattributed poem was not among the nearly 50 Master Gardeners who turned out for the January general meeting, and listened to Roger Hartwell describe his world of seed-saving. Would you ever be able to put an heirloom seed in the ground so casually? How many of your precious heirloom seeds would you risk in order to observe the outcome? Collecting heirloom seeds – is it art or is it science? If you want

to learn more about the interesting and often critically important world of seed-saving, look for information on this subject from Paula Perron in this issue.

Kris Medic provided many helpful hints about transitioning from winter to spring gardening, with good tips: When should you put down mulch? As soon as the mulch has thawed. Where should you buy it? Buy it locally. When should you hire an arborist? Early fall. Why bother to grow plants at all? Because they provide food for you and seeds for the song birds, and shelter for beneficial insects.

Charlotte Griffin was awarded the Gold Master Gardener status after providing 2000 hours of volunteer work to the community. Congratulations, Charlotte!



- Evelyn Harrell,
MCMGA President

Meeting Announcements

Susan Eastman announced the new Best Front Yard Contest and is looking for interested volunteers to be judges. Page 4 of the January issue of this newsletter has all the details of the contest.

Nancy White said that all aspects of our annual Garden Fair need your help. It is our major fundraiser for the community grants that benefit horticultural projects by local schools and agencies.

Mary Hallinan announced several upcoming sales of native plants held by Eco Logic. Check the website for dates. www.ecologicindiana.com.

Amy announced there will not be an intern class this spring due to lack of interest. That was followed by the treasurer's report from Dorothea Cole-Kiser. You have heard about the need to have funds in reserve in case this ever happened, because the cash flow generated by the intern registrations pay for ongoing expenses, including the initial expenses of the Garden Fair. Those expenses include among other things, the rental of the Armory, and printing costs, and replacement of yard signs that have to be purchased by the publicity committee. It is the old expression - it takes money to make money. It will be interesting to see what happens to the bank balances without an intern class.

Please make a special effort to support the Garden Fair with your presence on committees and with pies and cookies for the Café and with your wonderfully cheerful faces on April 2nd at the Armory.

Garden Fair News



Submit your Garden Article

Roots & Shoots

Monroe County Extension Service
3400 S Walnut St
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 349-2575

Many members signed up at our Jan. meeting to help with the Garden Fair, April 2. If you missed the meeting, here are ways you can help and get volunteer hours for your labor.

- Sign up to work on a committee now or on event day. (contact Nancy White to volunteer),
- Sign up to work at the “Garden Thyme Café” (contact Evelyn Harrell),
- Place a poster at your place of work or another site (available early March),
- Place a yard sign on your property (contact Nancy White),
- Send some “save the date” postcards to friends, neighbors, and family (available at the extension office)

Gather up a group of your neighbors on April 2 and bring them to the Garden Fair.

Did you know?

- MG Cookbooks, plant stakes, and marking pencils will be available for sale at the Garden Fair MG Information Booth.
- 4 free garden education classes will be held at the Garden Fair, 2 in the am and 2 after lunch. (If you attend any of these, they qualify for education hours.)
- As visitors enter, they will receive a free carry bag with goodies. Vendors will also have free items at their booths.
- Free white pine seedlings, garden

catalogues, and books will be available at the MG Info Booth.

- All proceeds from the Garden Fair go to our grant program. (Each year we give over \$2,000 away in grants.)
- Not-for-profit agencies are well represented at the Fair. (In 2015 we had 10 not-for-profit booth spaces.)
- Something new this year will be the format for our door prizes. As visitors enter the door, they will receive a survey. When they fill in the survey and put it in the door prize box, they are in the running for a door prize. Signing entry tickets will not be necessary any more. We hope to gain important information in the surveys so we can improve the Fair each year. Be sure to fill out your survey.
- You can help us publicize the Garden Fair in an easy way if you are a user of social media. Simply put the details of the Fair on your Facebook page and send it to all who communicate with you. There are additional details on the Fair on our website and more will be added soon, especially about our free education classes.



- Nancy White,
MCMGA Past President

2016 Purdue Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award

Purdue Master Gardeners are invited to inspire fellow MG’s throughout Indiana by sharing the educational impact of a successful project! The Purdue Search for Excellence (SFE) Award recognizes Purdue Master Gardener volunteer work and is modeled after the national SFE held at the International MG Conference. We applaud all the volunteer work done by Purdue Master Gardeners. However, this award recognizes outstanding group projects, rather than individual projects. Applications must show evidence of significant learning by the participants.

Purdue SFE applications are due in the Purdue Master Gardener Program state office by March 28, 2016.

The Purdue SFE has four categories in which Purdue Master Gardener groups can showcase outstanding contributions to their communities.

- Youth Program
- Demonstration Garden
- Educational Service (Workshop or Presentation or Publication)
- Special Needs Audience (Senior, Disabled or Horticultural Therapy)

Purdue Master Gardener SFE Award Guidelines can be found by visiting:

www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/info/2016_Purdue_MG_SFE_Award_Guidelines.pdf

Volunteer Opportunities

Organization	Time	Jobs	Contact
Bloomington Community Orchards 2120 S. Highland Avenue (Winslow Woods Park) www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org	Seasonal	Maintenance All levels of expertise welcomed!	Stacey Decker getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park 2450 S. Endwright Road, Bloomington	During growing season	Design & Maintenance	Linda Emerson 812-345-2913 (cell)
Courthouse Native Garden Downtown Square	Seasonal	Maintenance	Todd Stevenson tstephenson@co.monroe.in.us
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens 9499 W. Flatwoods Rd., Gosport	Seasonal	Maintenance & Rejuvenation	Cathy Meyer 812-349-2805
Growing Opportunities Hydroponic Garden Stone Belt Facility—Tenth St., Bloomington	Year-round	Education & Maintenance	Nicole Wooten nicole@insccap.org
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center 2367 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.hilltop@indiana.edu/~landscap/hilltop	Year-round	Maintenance of Gardens for Shade, Herbs, Pollinators, & Containers	Charlotte Griffin 812-345-8128
Hinkle-Garton Farmstead 2920 E. Tenth St., Bloomington www.facebook.com/HinkleGartonFarmstead	Year-round	Herb, Orchard, Butterfly, & Woodland Gardens Invasives Removal, Soil Reclamation	Danielle Bachant-Bell 812-336-6141 or 812-360-6544 (text) hgfvolunteers@gmail.com
Hoosier Hills Food Bank Will Detmer Park, 4140 West Vernal Pike	Year-round	Plant, Harvest, and Compost (training provided)	Bobbi Boos Call Ryan Jochim 812-334-8374 hhfoodbank.org/volunteer.php
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard 1100 W. Allen St., Bloomington mhcfoodpantry.org/getinvolved/volunteer	Year-round	Seasonal Garden Tasks	Kendra Brewer, Coordinator garden@mhcfoodpantry.org
T. C. Steele 4220 T. C. Steele Rd., Nashville	Seasonal	Maintenance, Invasives Removal	Anthony Joslin 812-988-2785 - leave a message
Wonderlab Garden 308 W. Fourth St., Bloomington	Seasonal	Education, Maintenance, Volunteer Management	Nancy White 812-824-4426 www.wonderlab.org/exhibits/wondergarden
Wylie House 307 E. Second St., Bloomington	Year-round	maintenance of heirloom garden, seed saving	Sherry Wise 812-855-6224 www.indiana.edu/~libwylie/garden.html
MCMGA	Year-round	Various	Demo Garden – Herman Young 812-322-5700 Garden Walk – Mary Jane Hall 812-345-3985 Program – Sandy Belth 812-825-8358 Website – Stephen Anderson 812-860-1216

Seed Saving 101

Last Spring I heard Roger Hartwell speak at Nancy Page's home. Many of you who attended our January MG Meeting were introduced to Roger, one of our speakers that evening. I was captivated by the subject matter and the vast knowledge Roger had on the subject of seed saving. Surprised that there was not a community seed saving organization in the Bloomington area, I introduced Roger to my friend Marie Fleming, who is also a seed saver. The three of us got our heads together to accomplish the goal of a community based seed exchange. Since our first meeting I have learned that Master Gardener Diana Young is also an experienced seed saver.

Since most people, like me, have little knowledge on the subject, our small group decided that we needed to start by offering Learning Labs to the community. Our first Lab is on February 27th, a Saturday morning from 9:00 AM to Noon. St. Thomas Community Garden has agreed to sponsor this endeavor. Thus, our meetings will be at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 E. Third St., Bloomington.

For those of you who want to increase your knowledge on the subject of heritage seeds, seed saving and much more please mark this date on your calendar: Saturday morning, February 27th, and JOIN US!

More information:

Learn the basics at "Seed-Saving 101", a conversation and workshop led by local expert, Roger Hartwell.

The event takes place Saturday, February 27th from 9am-Noon at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 E. Third St., Bloomington. In this interactive workshop, participants will discuss the many benefits of home-based seed saving, from economics to ethics to flavor. They will leave with basic techniques for saving popular garden seeds such as tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash.

There is no charge for this event. Registration is appreciated but not required. Adults and family groups welcome!

For information and to register, email communityseeds474@gmail.com.

Seed-Saving 101 is the first in a series of learning labs for 2016.

Future topics include Small-Space Gardening and Food Preservation.

Our ultimate goal: to offer a community based seed exchange. This series is sponsored by the St. Thomas Community Garden.

- Paula Perron

Upcoming Events

Apple pruning workshop focusing on younger trees:

March 4th 1pm - Chandler's Farm and Country Market, 2849 S CR 825E, Fillmore, IN 46128.

Free, open to the public, no registration required, Rain or Shine

Contact: Jenna Nees (765)653-8411 <http://www.chandlersfarmmarket.com>

Endwright Center Garden Series: Vegetable Gardening for the Beginner *(Approved for 1 hour of educational credit)*

Saturday, March 5th 1:30-2:30pm - Endwright Center, 631 West Edgewood Drive, Ellettsville

Everything the beginning vegetable gardener needs to know, presented by master gardener Dale Cantonwine: preparing the soil, choosing a site, deciding what to grow, propagating, tending, and harvesting your bounty. Cost: \$5.00 Register: 812-876-3383, x 3

Morgan County Master Gardeners Association GardenFest

Friday, March 18th Noon-7pm / Saturday, March 19 8am - 3pm

Hoosier Harvest Church - 4085 Leonard Road, 3 miles east of Martinsville on ST 252

Admission is free; ample parking available

Featuring Annual Pansy Sale: 6" potted pansies \$4 each or \$22 per flat / 3 plants per pot, 6 pots per flat

Putnam County Master Gardeners Association Gardening Fair

Saturday, March 19th 9am - 4pm

Putnam County Fairgrounds Community Building, HWY 231, Greencastle, IN

Admission is free; something for everyone! Free trees and goodie bags to the first 200 attendees.

Documentary Film, *Seeds of Time*

Monday, March 28th at 7pm - Indiana University Cinema

Cary Fowler will be present following the film for Q&A.

The film follows Cary Fowler as he races against time to protect the future of our food by building the world's first global seed vault deep inside an arctic mountain in Norway – an unprecedented insurance policy for crop diversity of the world. The film follows global gestures of support, including Peruvian potato farmers who are seeking to ensure their crops and their culture. Free, but ticketed.

For more information: http://www.cinema.indiana.edu/?post_type=film&p=11442

Helleborus Niger (Hellebores)

When MCMGA Education Director Sandy Belth noticed her hellebores blooming earlier than usual this year, she made sure to take a photo to share at January's board meeting. We wanted to know more about this flowering evergreen and knew it would make a great article to share with MCMGA members and interns.

R & S: What led you to become interested in, and then plant hellebores?

Sandy: I planted my first Hellebores about 10 years ago. It continues to grow and has more blooms every year. Unfortunately, I planted it in a garden that is shaded in the late afternoon. I thought it was a good place for the plant and it is, however, I cannot see it from the house. I have been meaning to divide the plant and put a few where I can see them from the windows.

R & S: When did you plant this particular one? Have you had it for several years, or was this a recent addition to your landscape/garden?

Sandy: This was a mother's day present last

spring. This time I placed it near the shade garden, but, I still can't see it from the house. I have not had any problems with deer, but do like the fact that deer do not like to eat Hellebores

R & S: When did it bud and bloom?

Sandy: I missed seeing the buds, but it bloomed in the second week of January.

R & S: Do you plan to add more Hellebores to your landscape/garden?

Sandy: Yes I do, I like them and I have a lot of shade. I would like to pair them with my Hostas.

R & S: If you have any additional information to add, please do. This is such a great winter plant for us here in zone 6/6b and I think people would love to see more of them and hear more about them.

Sandy: I like that Hellebores come in different colors that can add some interest to the winter garden.



Hellebores in bloom



Hellebores

Board Member Spotlight:

Stephen Anderson, Communications Director



Q: Who are you? Tell us a little about yourself.

A: Stephen Anderson. Communications Director. I work in mechanical design and engineering for a company that makes products used in geothermal heating and cooling systems. I also teach computer aided design classes part time at Ivy Tech. I have a family, including two sons, 12 and 16. I like gardening with vegetables, small fruits, herbs and perennials of all sorts.

Q: What drew you to join the Master Gardener program?

A: My fiancée and I had realized that we had a common interest in horticulture. She heard about the class (I'm not sure where) and we thought it would be something that we could enjoy together. My parents were avid gardeners, so I have been drawn to gardening from a young age.

Q: When did you join the MCMGA?

A: Intern class of 2011.

Q: Where are you from originally? How did you end up in Bloomington if you're not from here?

A: I'm originally from southern Mississippi (Hattiesburg), and went to college in Baton Rouge. I came to Bloomington for the IU graduate program in physics.

Q: How did you accumulate your volunteer hours, and how did you decide where to volunteer?

A: I have accumulated a few hours, here and there, from lots of activities: Best Front Yard Contest, Wonder Garden, and Garden Fair. I have put in a bunch of hours in the demonstration garden at the fairgrounds. Most of my recent hours have come from my duties as a board member: meetings, posting and updating information of the website, and sending out announcements. (I'm probably not a great example here as to how to find your favorite volunteer activity. My advice is to try many different activities - you are sure to find a few that you enjoy and that work with your schedule.)

Q: Why have you chosen to "stick with the program?" Why do you continue your membership?

A: I enjoy being part of an organization that promotes gardening and helps to educate the public about it. I especially appreciate that it is a volunteer (and philanthropic) organization, as well as a social group centered on a common interest. I also enjoy the speakers and other educational opportunities available to me as a Master Gardener.

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.mcmga.net

2016 Garden Interns Sought

Mother Hubbard’s Cupboard seeks Garden Interns for the 2016 growing season. Interns learn while gardening using a dynamic mixture of sustainable growing techniques. This opportunity includes instruction with openness to the interests of the intern. This position is 10 hours/week unpaid.

To apply for a 2015 Garden internship fill out our Garden Internship Application 2016 available at <http://mhcfoodpantry.org/get-involved/internships-jobs/>

For more information or with questions contact: Stephanie Solomon at stephanie@mhcfoodpantry.org or call 812-355-6843 ext.200.

Our Newest Master Gardeners

MCMGA congratulates Sandrine and Hal Evans on their recent Master Gardener certification!



About MCMGA ...

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
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