



Roots & Shoots



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President's Report

The enthusiasm at our first General Meeting held on Tuesday, Jan 24 was prevalent and catching and is carrying over into the week!

~Garden Fair! ~ State Garden Tour! ~Best Front Yard! ~ New Interns! ~Junior Master Gardener program! ~Demo Garden!

No one can complain of a lack of volunteer opportunities. The dedicated Master Gardeners working on all these projects, and so many more, is a testament to our commitment and love of all things related to gardening.

Involving yourself, at whatever level, in Master Gardening activities is a wonderful way for a change of direction from our normal busy lives. It is a way to look at other points of view. It is a way to learn new skills. It is a way to interact with a diverse group of people – yet having that commonality of “Master Gardener”. It can be therapeutic, calming, and revitalizing.

One only has to revisit the words of wise people to realize our involvement is of great benefit to ourselves and to others;

“To garden well is to be happy amid the babble of the objective world.” Michael Pollan

“Regardless of geographical region or culture, gardening is perhaps the most common and shared experience of Nature.” S. Kelley Harrell, Nature's Gifts Anthology

“To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.” Voltaire

“A garden is a grand teacher. It teaches patience and careful watchfulness; it teaches industry and thrift; above all it teaches entire trust.” Liberty Hyde Bailey

“I like gardening — it's a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.” Alfred Austin

I look forward to working with our MCMGA community and getting to know our members better. Our Board of Directors are here for YOU – our members – to support and encourage. We work hard to provide great opportunities for learning and participating. Take us up on all we have to offer!! Come to our meeting! Visit our gardens! Write for our publications! Get to know US better as well!

I close with this great quote from Claude Monet: *“Garden as though you will live forever!”*

--Mary Cusack, President



Garden Fair News

By: Nancy White

At the Jan. General Meeting, members were able to volunteer to help publicize our Garden Fair, April 1. If you missed that meeting, here are some ways you can gain volunteer hours right now:

*** Place a Garden Fair Yard Sign on your property.** If you are able to place one of these signs on your property or place of business, please contact Nancy White. Signs should be placed on Sun. March 26 and removed after the Fair on April 1. Signs can be picked up at the Extension Office prior to March 26 or at the March 28 General Meeting. If you have a sign leftover from last year, please contact Nancy at nwhite38@hotmail.com to let her know.

*** Hang a poster** at a business, church, school, or wherever they can be seen by the public. If you can place one or more signs, contact Nancy White. These also will be at the Extension Office for pick up in early March.

*A third way to help us publicize the Fair are the **postcards** that are just the right size to send or give to friends. These colorful, sturdy cards can also be placed on bulletin boards and in windows.

*** Sign up to help with a committee.** Contact Evelyn Harrell if you can help with the Café. Contact Nancy White about other committee possibilities.

*Do you participate in **social media**? You can place the Garden Fair details on your Facebook page and invite our friends to attend. See our webpage for details. Information on the 4 gardening education classes during the Fair will be posted soon. MGs can gain education hours by attending these classes.

When you visit the Fair on April 1, you will notice some familiar faces with new names.

Seth Inman, previously with Bloomington Valley Nursery, has his own company, [Trees PLE](#), and invites you to look for his booth. Zac Simkins will still be found at the [Harmony Gardens](#) booth but he is no longer connected to Twin H Tree Farm. You will also see many new exhibitors this year. Come and see some surprises!

Gather up some of your neighbors and friends and bring them to the Fair this year.

Some highlights:

*MGs will sell plant stakes, marking pencils, and our MG cookbooks

*All visitors will receive a carry bag with goodies. Vendors also will pass out free items.

*Free chokeberry seedlings will be available at the MG Info Booth along with free gardening books, magazines, and catalogues.

*Fair proceeds go to our MG grant program. Each year we award around \$2000 in grants.

Volunteer Opportunities

BEST FRONT YARD

Judges needed!

If you **don't** live in 47403 and would like to spend an afternoon judging front gardens there, contact Susan Eastman at eastman@indiana.edu or [812-332-2996](tel:812-332-2996). Four judges are needed for 03. Also, if you **don't** live in 47404, two more judges are needed to go with Nancy Page and Ann McEndarfer in 04. Judging takes place between April 1 and 15 this year, and we've been promised a big splash in the HOMES section of the *Herald-Times*!



Upcoming Events:

Feb 13, 5:00 (Mother Hubbard's Cupboard) Seed Swap

March 28 - 6:30 (Extension Office) - MCMGA General Meeting- with speaker on African Violets and Carnivorous Plants.

June 16 - Master Gardener State Garden Tour - "*Celebrating Nature's Aesthetics*" - hosted by MCMGA.

CHANGES IN REPORTING VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION HOURS

The MG ED system we have used for reporting will be redirected to a new system. The MG ED system will no longer be available.

The Purdue Master Gardener Program is launching Purdue MG Manager, a new online volunteer management system for Purdue Master Gardener volunteers. This system provides a way for Purdue Master Gardener volunteers to report volunteer activity and educational training hours online, communicate details about volunteer projects, keep and maintain a personal profile, designate calendar events as volunteer opportunities with an online volunteer recruitment for these activities, make use of a local MG volunteer directory, sign annual agreement forms electronically, and more!

All Purdue MG s must register in the system and as part of the registration, process provide basic contact information, including an email address (required) and county registration code (required). Monroe County s registration code is **monr8264**. Please register and report some current volunteer activity and educational training hours. Your prior total hours will be entered later by your County MG Coordinator to bring your historic hours records up to date. Please keep copies of all past and current hours as a personal backup for your records.

Register for Purdue MG Manager here: <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer>

Video on how to register: <http://tinyurl.com/ze9jaz3>

Video on how to report volunteer activity and educational training hours: <http://tinyurl.com/jdqmp5d>

Thank you for reporting your hours!

Understanding Native Pollinators & Their Needs



Save the Date!

THURSDAY,
MARCH 30th 9AM-5PM

You are invited to attend this conference in support of local pollinators,
co-hosted by:



BLOOMINGTON MONROE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
302 S. COLLEGE AVENUE • BLOOMINGTON, IN 47403

www.ecologicindiana.com/understanding-native-pollinators-and-their-needs

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and many will be searching for a special gift for that special someone. Why not say it with flowers?

Nothing conveys your warm valentine feelings like cut flowers, particularly roses. But their elegant beauty fades fast. So if you're looking for something that will last a little longer, there are several potted plants that will fit the bill.

Cyclamen is made for the occasion with its heart-shaped leaves adorned by delicate flowers of white, or shades of pink, red or lavender. The flowers have a striking form, likened to butterflies, birds in flight and even falling stars, depending on who is doing the looking. And if the plants weren't already attractive enough, the leaves are finely detailed with silvery or light green markings.

Cyclamen are most often stocked in large, showy sizes but miniature cyclamen are also available. Look under the leaves and choose plants with the largest numbers of flower buds. To enjoy their beauty well into spring, provide cyclamen with bright light and cool temperatures – about 65 degrees F during the day and even cooler at night, if possible. Water thoroughly when the top layer of soil begins to feel dry to the touch.

An azalea in bloom is sure to drive away the winter blahs. Plants are available in a wide range of colors, including white, pink, salmon, crimson, magenta, orange and even bi-colored forms. Potted florist's azaleas usually bear large blossoms, up to 3 inches across. Although florist's azaleas are not hardy outdoors in Indiana, they can be placed outdoors in summer. Water thoroughly when the top of the soil is just beginning to dry. Placement in a sunny east or west window is ideal for indoors, and like cyclamen, cool temperatures are a must.

Calceolaria, also known as pocketbook plant, bears unusual, pouch-like flowers that inspire its common name. Flower color ranges from red to maroon and from bronze to yellow, and the texture appears soft and rich, like velvet.

Cineraria produces a striking mass of small, daisy-like flowers, in rich shades of pink, red, blue and violet, all with bold white centers. Calceolaria and Cineraria are cared for much the same. Again, keep them cool to prolong flowering and place in bright, indirect light. Water as the top soil begins to dry, and avoid splashing water on leaves, especially flowers of calceolaria as they will spot easily.

Plants don't have to be flowering to be a good valentine messenger. String of hearts, or Ceropegia, is a trailing vine plant that, as you might guess from its name, has heart-shaped leaves borne on long, thread-like stems. The thick succulent leaves are dark green with whitish veins for contrast. Although the plants do bear interesting pink or purplish tube-shaped flowers, they are quite small and don't provide much of a show. A sunny window is best for Ceropegia, but it will tolerate lower light intensity. Allow the top soil to dry slightly between waterings.

Whatever your choice of gift, be sure to have the sales clerk wrap your plant for protection from cold winter weather. Plants can be injured by even a brief period of freezing, so keep the car warm, and make the florist your last stop before going home.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mcmga.net



Some of our new Interns with their brand new Master Gardener Intern certificates at the January General Meeting. L-R: Amy Thompson, Extension Educator; Rima Hanania, Zach Young, Hana Cleveland, Jean Graham, Brett Mominee.

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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