



Roots & Shoots

President's Message

2017 brings some new faces into the Monroe County Master Gardener Association. My first month, as new MCMGA President, is going to be exciting for me as well as a bit challenging. Stepping in the footprints of two incredible past Presidents, Nancy White and Evelyn Harrell, means I have some lofty and mighty big steps to take to fill their shoes.

The good news is that they are wonderful mentors who have this organization's and my best interests at heart. I look forward to this position with anticipation of what is possible along with recognition of the traditions which have made the MCMGA the truly dynamic organization it is today.

The Board members, with whom I work, are all dedicated people coming from many different backgrounds, which is what makes this group so interesting and vibrant. Each member has a strength which serves all of us well.

Our newest Board member, Maren Claus, will be taking the helm of Director at Large working to coordinate MCMGA volunteers with local and state gardening venues. Working together as a Board on our fellow Master Gardeners' behalves, I hope to generate new enthusiasm for our programs, increase volunteerism to "Help others Grow," and spread awareness of our Master Gardener program in Monroe County.

It's going to be a good year!

--Mary Cusack



BI-STATE GARDENING CONFERENCE

Purdue University Extension and University of Illinois Extension are collaborating to offer the annual Bi-State Gardening Conference, being held at The Beef House Restaurant at 16501 Indiana State Road 63, Covington, Indiana, on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. EST (4:30 p.m. CST), with dinner being served at 6 p.m. EST. The presentations will begin after dinner.

This year's conference will consist of two presentations:

- "Pollinator Pocket Gardening" by Sandy Mason, University of Illinois Extension State Master Gardener Coordinator
- "Cover Crops for the Home Garden" by Ashley Holmes, Purdue University Extension Educator, Ag & Natural Resources.

The cost for the program is \$20, which includes dinner, payable online or at the door.

Pre-register by calling 765.793.2297 or online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/>. Please register by January 20.



What's Inside

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Garden Fair News

Are you looking for some volunteer hours this winter? The Garden Fair has some specific tasks to accomplish and all time spent working on the Garden Fair qualifies for volunteer hours.

CAN YOU HELP?

1. Sponsorships for specific Garden Fair expenses are available to local businesses and individuals. If you know of any possible sponsorship persons or locations, please contact Nancy White. These sponsorships enable us to increase our available grants to non-profit agencies. In 2016 we gave 5 grants totaling \$2200.
2. Still need to sign up to help with the Fair? Contact Nancy White or Evelyn Harrell (for the Café.) There are many jobs still available.
3. Placing a GF sign in your yard or finding space for a GF poster at your work place or another site is another way to help. Be sure to sign up at the January meeting to help publicize our Fair. Your help with these tasks will be appreciated.

A reminder: Bring your extra garden catalogues, magazines, and books to Susan Eastman at our January General Meeting. These are popular freebies to our Garden Fair attendees. We offer these at the Master Gardener booth at the Fair each year, so donate these if you have some to spare.

- Nancy White

Upcoming Events:

Jan 24, 6:00 (Extension Office) - Meet and Greet this year's Interns!

Jan 24, 6:30 - MCMGA General Meeting - (Extension Office) - with speaker on "101 Gardening Ideas"

Jan 24, 6:00 (Covington) Bi-State Gardening Conference

Jan 28, 1:00 (Stone Head Nature Preserve) Winter Tree Identification Hike

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.

How to Grow and Use Sprouts to Maximize Your Health and Vitality

Saturday, January 21, 2017

11:00 am – Noon (1 Hour of Education Credit)

Endwright Center

Grow something green and healthy in January! Just when it is gray and cold outside, Master Gardener Penny Austin comes to the Endwright Center to share her experience and expertise on sprouts and sprouting. She will talk about the nutritional benefits of sprouts, what foods are most suited to sprouting, simple ways to grow and harvest them, and how to incorporate them into healthy and delicious foods. Participants will leave the class with handouts and supplies for growing their own sprouts.

The class will be followed by a pitch-in lunch, starting at noon.

Cost: \$3.00 for the class which includes handouts, growing container, and seeds

There is no cost for the pitch-in lunch. Just bring something to share.

To register: Call [812-876-3383](tel:812-876-3383), ext. 3. You may sign up for the class or for the pitch-in lunch, or both.

Meet Our New Interns!

Welcome them in person at our **Jan. 24th** general meeting!

(6:00pm – Extension office, followed by speaker on “101 Gardening Ideas”)

Beth Samuelson: Beth is interested in vegetable gardening and edible landscaping. She grew up around gardening as her parents owned a flower shop and greenhouse in Wisconsin. She enjoys learning as much as she can for her personal enjoyment and sharing it with her daughter, Hilda.

Jay Powell: If Jay can tear himself away from his enormous comic book collection, he wants to increase the use of native plants in his landscaping. He has a passion for trimming trees and is working on keeping his English Ivy knocked back so it will not fruit.

Rima Hanania: Rima loves the fact that in order to share information, one does not need to know everything. She is increasing her knowledge of organic gardening, which will allow tasty & clean foods to grace her table for herself and husband, John. The volunteer hours will help her meet new people and learn more about gardening.

Dylan Shields: Being a family guy, it is important for Dylan to engage his children and fiancé in helping him in his interests of the outdoors and helping to beautify their surroundings. He enjoys landscape maintenance and was intrigued with the class on pesticides and all things pertaining to them.

Gary Brassard: Gary loves to grow vegetables yet has many other interests including woodworking, hiking, backpacking, motorcycling and baseball. His 5 children and 10 grandchildren help keep him active as well. He particularly enjoyed the Botany class, which gave him a deeper understanding of how the natural world works. He looks forward to sharing his new gardening knowledge with others.

Brett Mominee: Brett has a passion for ecological-minded landscaping and wants to help others become more informed with their landscaping decisions. He has his ISA Arborist certification (International Society of Arboriculture) and is looking forward to completing his requirements for his Master Gardening certification. He and his wife, Taylor, enjoy meeting others who share their commitment to community and plants.

Bernadette (Bernie) Zoss: Vegetables and herbs are Bernie’s main interest. (Hopefully these classes will help her be successful in her frustration of not being able to grow peas!). She has a desire and interest in the idea of planting hospice gardens and fragrance gardens along with advocating use of native plants in home landscaping.



Standing L to R: Beth Lewis-Samuelson, Jay Powell, Rima Hanania, Dylan Shields, Gary Brassard, Kristin Carter, Brett Mominee, Bernie Zoss, Hana Cleveland

Kneeling L to R: Andrew Morris, Zach Young, Jean Graham, Terry Clark
Not pictured: Linda Jacobi

Hana Cleveland: In between her banjo playing, Hana spends her time growing organic foods. The science side of the botany class was especially helpful to her. Her future goal is to install a rain garden.

Andy Morris: Andy loves native plants and has involved himself at the native garden of the MC Courthouse. He’s hoping he will complete his volunteer hours very soon! His life direction took a turn when he came to Bloomington intending to study music (he has a Masters in piano performance) but became a landscaper instead. His “a-ha” moment in class was when he learned moles go after earthworms and not grubs!

Zach Young: Zach had the opportunity to visit the Galapagos Islands as a biology major which had a major impact on his life. He is committed to the battle against invasive species and thus is diligent in his choice of landscaping plants. The soils class gave him insights on his Rhododendron and Azalea problems! He looks forward to sharing his information with his son, Benton, and fiancée Victoria.

Jean Graham: Being from California, Jean had no idea of the force our little chipmunks play in destruction of foundations and landscaping! Oddly, her favorite thing to do in the garden is Fall cleanup! She is working at taming her yard and finding new volunteer opportunities.

Terry Clark: Indiana is the 11th state in which Terry and his wife, Jamie, and two daughters have lived. He enjoys growing herbs from seed and outwitting the deer with resistant plant varieties. He was astonished at the amount of Asian bush Honeysuckle growing at Cascade Park during his volunteer work there and thus desires to work in as many parks and preserves possible to help control invasive plants.

Linda Jacobi & Kristen Carter look forward to sharing their gardening thoughts with you at our Jan 24th general meeting.

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.mcmga.net

Winter Tree Identification Hike

Saturday, January 28th 1:00 - 2:30

Come join us for an afternoon learning how to identify trees at the Stone Head Nature Preserve in Brown County. Our Hike leader is Ralph Unversaw. – Ralph is a District Forester for the Indiana Division of Forestry serving private landowners in Monroe and Owen counties for the past 25 years. He started offering Tree ID classes in 1997 that emphasizes “Winter ID” to fulfill a need for Tree ID during the six months trees don’t have leaves.

The hike through Stone Head Nature Preserve will look at the native trees in the area. Each tree species has 2 to 3 features unique to that species. Those unique features will be identified on many of the species within the preserve. Dress for the weather. It is advisable to wear winter boots that can get wet and or muddy. Restroom available. Free parking at the house at Stone Head. Hot cocoa will be served after the walk.

Although the hike is free, we ask that you please register in advance by contacting Sandy Belth belthbirds@aol.com or call 812-360-8715.

Directions: From Nashville, drive three miles east on State Road 46 to Highway 135. Turn south (right) on Highway 135, and drive five miles. The House at Stone Head is at the "T," where 135 turns sharply to the right and Bellsville Pike intersects 135 on the left. The Stone Head Nature Preserve is adjacent to The House at Stone Head.

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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