

# Roots and Shoots

July 2006 Volume 22, Issue 7

## MEMBER NEWS BY NANCY WHITE



### Visit White River Gardens in Indianapolis on August 5

Another of our "fieldtrips" is scheduled for Saturday, August 5, at White River Gardens in Indianapolis.

We will leave Bloomington by car pool at 8:30 a.m. to make our guided tour at 10:00 a.m. with Mary Welch-Keesey, Purdue Consumer Horticulture Specialist, who is on staff at the White River Gardens. We will return to Bloomington by 2:00 p.m. Mary Jane Hall is our coordinator for this tour. There is still room to enroll, but we have a limited number of places available so contact Nancy White if you would like to be included. Those attending will receive final details in mid-July. If you could drive on this trip, contact Nancy since we would like to share gas costs and have good conversations on MG items while we travel. Spouses and guests are welcome as long as we have room. Those already registered include Gloria Noone, Dale Calabrese, Jeanie Cox, Marilyn Brinley, Preston Gwinn, Barb Cappy, Elizabeth Fuller, Mary Jane Hall, Susan Osborne, Cindy Benson, and Jerry Harstock.

### Would You Like to Volunteer Your Garden?

What a wonderful day we had on Saturday, June 17, as we toured three lovely gardens of Sandra Olvey, Marilyn Brinley, and Nancy Miller. Topped off by a wonderful pitch-in picnic in the Miller's garden, the day was perfect for MGs as we shared ideas and challenges we all experience. Thanks to Mary Hawkins and her committee for a well-planned and rewarding day. This event is only two years old, but it is so successful that we hope to make it annual. Would you like to volunteer your garden for next year? Contact a Board Member if your answer is yes.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 18**, 6 p.m.—Workday in Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds

**Saturday, August 5**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.—Trip to White River Gardens in Indianapolis

**Sunday, August 13**, —Workday for MCMGA at the State MG booth at the Indiana State Fair

**Friday, September 22**, 2006—State MG Conference in Noblesville

**Friday, September 26**, 6:30 p.m.—MG General Meeting at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

**Friday, October 6**, 4 p.m.—Guided tour of IU Arboretum

## Garton Farm Volunteer Opportunity Submitted by Ann McEndarfer

As you may be aware, Bloomington Restorations, Inc. last year took possession of the Hinkle-Garton farmstead on East Tenth Street. BRI, as the foundation for historic preservation for Monroe County, will maintain the farm, the two houses and four outbuildings, and open a museum in the main house.

Currently, the farmstead committee is working to develop programming to benefit the community. Grounds subcommittee chair Mike Bell (1995 Master Gardener class) is looking for persons or groups to help assess the historic landscape features and develop long range plans for programming and use of the remaining eleven acres. BRI needs volunteers to lend their vision to this project.

BRI can help anyone interested in these historic grounds to accumulate volunteer hours toward certification. Call Michael Bell at 336-6141 to volunteer.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY MARILYN BRINLEY



Our Second Annual Garden Walk and Picnic was a rather delightful experience. Much hard work went into preparing for the event: from the host gardeners' back-breaking preparation of their gardens to our committee chair's attention to detail. Please join me in thanking Mary Hawkins for organizing this wonderful event. Many thanks also go to Saunie and Dan Olvey and her husband and to Bob and Nancy Miller for allowing us to tour their beautiful gardens. In addition, Bob Miller simply amazed us with his culinary expertise.

Most of you know that I bravely (or foolishly) offered my own garden for public perusal. I will now admit that I had several reasons for doing so: after my garden suffered as I struggled with upper respiratory infections last year, I felt the need to have an impetus to spur me to work in my garden. Also, I hoped to show that one's garden need not be perfect (or anything near to that state) in order to be put on display. Anyone expecting a weed-free garden would have been sorely disappointed in my garden. Weeds have always been tolerated and sometimes even encouraged in my garden as nature is often a better gardener than I. My husband Gary and daughter Kelley deserve much credit for helping to get my garden ready in time.

Finally, a few props in my garden for the garden walk were meant to illustrate that gardening is an endeavor that is not to be taken too seriously. If one does not enjoy time in the garden and cannot find the joy in the simple pleasures of cultivating the earth, then why do it? All too often, despite our best efforts, plants will die, weeds will grow, the weather will not cooperate, and our mates will decide to supplant part of our gardens for other more mundane uses. So the next time frustrations threaten to overwhelm you, sit back like my friend Farmer Brown and take a nice sip of cold water before deciding that there is always next year to make your dream garden a reality.

We would love to share in your joy and your vision. Please consider opening your garden to your fellow dreamers so that we may continue this wonderful experience

## MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

### **Bloomington Garden Club's Garden Walk**

Did you make it to the Bloomington Garden Club's annual Garden Walk on June 24 and 25? If you did, you saw a very diverse set of gardening locations from compact city gardens to larger areas with native perennials and variety of shrubs and trees. Hilltop was included on the tour, as was a display at the Monroe County History Museum downtown. For a small mid-western location with limited population we do have so many opportunities to learn about and see gardening techniques, styles, and personal preferences. Aren't we glad we live in Monroe County?

### **Dates to Note**

**Tuesday, July 18, 6:00 p.m.** —Workday in the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds—We will join together to prepare the garden for fair visitors. Water will be provided, but do bring your own gloves, hand tools, and rakes for mulching. Many Monroe County residents and out-of-town visitors visit the Monroe County Fair, and we want them

to see our well-tended, interesting garden. Call Lydia Anderson, garden coordinator, for more information.

**Sunday, August 13, all day**—State Master Gardeners' Booth at the Indiana State Fair—Volunteer hours will be available for those who can work a shaft of one hour or many hours. Contact Preston Gwinn to reserve a shift. It is an easy job and great fun to meet Master Gardeners from other counties and our fellow Hoosiers who have gardening questions. Reference books and a computer are available to seek immediate answers.

**Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m.**—MG general meeting at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center—Topics will be growing orchids and gardening with special needs gardeners. Two hours of advanced training will be available for certified MGs.

**Friday, October 6, 4:00 p.m.**—final fieldtrip of 2006, a walk in IU Arboretum—a guided tour of the trees in the IU Arboretum on Tenth Street, located west of the main IU library

## NEW MASTER GARDENERS BY MARY HAWKINS

We welcome five interns from the class of 2005 to the rank of Master Gardener! They are Peggy Rees-Krebs, Saundra Olvey, Debbie Lorton, Lauryl Lefebvre, and Dan Nichols. They have made many and varied contributions throughout the community. Most of Peggy's hours were at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center. She also worked on the Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. Saundra worked on the Demonstration Garden and the Bloomington Garden Club Garden Walk, helped with the Master Gardener class of 2006, and shared her garden on our MG garden walk/picnic. Debbie's hours were accumulated from working at the Master Gardener Booth and Demonstration Garden, assisting with the Master Gardener classes, and preparing and presenting a lecture

on composting. Most of Lauryl's hours are from assisting with the 2006 Master Gardener class, but she has also contributed at the Sycamore Gardening and Landscape Show, Bryan House Summer Garden Walk and the Hilltop Flower/Herb Sale. Dan's talents were employed during fair time with judging, working at the information booth and working in the Demonstration Garden. He also assisted with renovations at the Beth Shalom garden, prepared a bibliography for the "Trees, All Seasons, All Reasons" Advanced Training Seminar and worked at the Garden Walk at Bryan House. As can be seen, there are lots of different ways to volunteer, so contribute to your community and become certified. Congratulations to these folks and thanks for the hours!

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT, CLASS OF 2005 BY MARY HAWKINS

Members of the Master Gardener Class of 2005 have only until the end of this month, July 31, 2006, to complete their required 35 volunteer hours to be eligible to receive the \$50 rebate on their class fees.

Fair week is a prime time to accumulate hours as the MCMGA is involved in several activities before and during the fair. Read your newsletter carefully for other opportunities as well.

Members of the Class of 2005 should aware that

volunteer hours completed after July 31st will be gladly accepted and will count toward their certification; however, eligibility for the rebate will have expired.

Please turn in any hours you have as soon as possible. You can send them by e-mail to Mary Hawkins at [marywalloon@aol.com](mailto:marywalloon@aol.com), by letter to the Extension Office c/o Mary Hawkins or mail directly to Mary Hawkins at 4084 Gran Haven Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401. Thanks and happy volunteering.

## SLIME MOLDS NOW ACTIVE ON MULCH

By Gail Ruhl,

Sr. Plant Disease Diagnostician, Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University

Thanks to our warm, wet conditions, moisture-loving slime molds are appearing abundantly in mulch. Initially some may appear as a bubbling yellow mass, however, as the days progress, and the fungus matures, the slime mold will usually become more powdery in appearance, drying to a white, yellow, tan or dark brown 'blob'. Slime molds get their nutrients from bacteria and small bits of organic matter which is why it is common to see them growing on mulch. Al-

though slime molds may grow up onto nearby plants, they do not harm plants. Preventive chemical treatments tried over the years have been found ineffective. Slime molds are more of a curiosity or nuisance than a threat to gardens or lawns. After several days slime molds will usually become less noticeable. Allowing mulch to dry out, or using a garden or leaf rake in the affected area helps break up the colony and will usually provide some control.

## JULY GARDEN CALENDAR

BY B. ROSIE LERNER, PURDUE EXTENSION CONSUMER HORTICULTURIST

### **HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)**

- ◆ Watch closely houseplants that have been set outdoors. They need more water than they did indoors. They can dry out rapidly in hot, summer breezes.
- ◆ Propagate houseplants by taking cuttings from vigorously growing plants. Place cut end in rooting media, such as perlite, vermiculite or peat moss soil mix. Enclose in plastic, and keep out of direct sunlight.

### **YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)**

- ◆ Keep newly established plants watered during dry weather. Allow water to penetrate deeply into soil rather than sprinkling frequently and lightly.
- ◆ Apply a mulch around young plants to help conserve soil moisture and control weeds.
- ◆ Do not plant bare-root or ball-and-burlap stock at this time of year. Container-grown plants still may be planted, but only if you can keep them well watered.
- ◆ Continue a fruit tree spray program to keep diseases and insects under control.
- ◆ Remove water sprouts (sprouts from the trunk) and suckers (sprouts from the roots) from fruit trees.
- ◆ Prop up fruit tree branches that are heavily loaded with fruit.
- ◆ Pinch off faded rose blossoms. Continue rose spray program to control insects and diseases.
- ◆ Many Indiana trees are plagued by "lawn-mower blight." Be careful to avoid nicking tree trunks while mowing.
- ◆ When watering lawns, apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water in a single application per week. Frequent, light sprinklings will encourage roots to stay shallow, making them more susceptible to drought.
- ◆ Bluegrass is a cool-season plant and is under great stress during hot, dry summers. If water is not applied, the bluegrass will become dormant and will turn brown until more favorable conditions arrive in autumn.
- ◆ Mow grass one-half inch higher than usual during the dry, summer months to help conserve soil moisture.
- ◆ Don't remove clippings from the lawn unless grass is excessively tall or weedy. Clippings return some nutrients to the soil and do not add to thatch buildup.

### **GARDEN (Vegetables, small fruits and flowers)**

- ◆ Supplement natural rainfall, if any, to supply 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week in a single application.
- ◆ Start seeds of broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts to transplant later for a fall harvest. Harvest crops such as tomatoes, squash, okra, peppers, beans and cucumbers frequently to encourage further production.
- ◆ Complete succession planting of bush beans and sweet corn.
- ◆ Harvest summer squash while small and tender for best quality.
- ◆ Standard sweet corn is at its peak for only a day or so. The supersweet corn maintains its peak quality for a longer period. Harvest when silks begin to dry and kernels exude a milky, rather than watery or doughy, juice when punctured.
- ◆ Broccoli will form edible side shoots after the main head is removed.
- ◆ Mulch garden to control weeds and conserve soil moisture.
- ◆ Make sure potato tubers, carrot shoulders and onion bulbs are covered with soil to prevent development of green color and off flavors. Applying a layer of mulch will help keep them covered.
- ◆ Allow blossoms on newly planted everbearing strawberry plants to develop for a fall crop.
- ◆ July is a good time to fertilize strawberries with .5 pound of actual nitrogen per 100 feet of row.

## MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER HOURS: WHAT COUNTS?

### Counts towards Volunteer Hours:

1. Giving presentation to local service club about preparing garden for planting.

*Volunteer credit will be given for educational activities related to home horticulture such as gardening, landscaping, and lawn care.*

2. Answering questions from general public at a Master Gardener booth at the County Fair.

3. Teaching a session for the next Master Gardener Intern Class.

4. Acting as a tour guide at local nature center or other public garden.

*As long as it is clear from the start that the volunteer is identified as a Master Gardener while on duty and is not paid for the work.*

5. Preparation and travel time for presentation to local garden club.

6. Providing gardening information "over the back fence" to neighbors, friends, and relatives.

*Volunteer credit will be given for educational efforts, but not for physical labor such as soil prep, planting, or maintenance*

7. Assisting MG Coordinator with gardening class or event.

*Volunteer credit will be given, including administrative and clerical assistance such as making copies, assembling handouts, and helping with setup/teardown. The end result is an educational activity.*

8. Time spent serving as MG association officer or committee chair.

*Volunteer credit will be granted as these activities support the educational efforts.*

### Volunteer Hours if Revised:

1. Provide labor for local community beautification project.

*While community beautification is admirable, the goal of the MG program is education and every effort should be made to make this project an educational opportunity. Make it a demo garden with signage/labeling, or train and supervise a group of other volunteers such as scouts or community service "road crew"*

2. Installing landscapes for local not-for-profit or other community groups.

*This activity should be made into an educational opportunity, not merely free labor!*

3. Pulling weeds in one's own garden to prepare for a garden tour or other educational event

*Credit may be granted for time spent above and beyond routine maintenance if event is an approved MG project.*

4. MG class participant turns in 30 volunteer hours during the training series.

*Volunteer hours will only be credited after the participant has completed training and passed the exam, except for limited pre-approved supervised activities.*

### No Credit Volunteer Hours:

1. Answering customer question while on the job at Joe's Garden Center as a paid employee.

*Volunteer work must be unpaid (possible credit if unpaid AND pre-approved.)*

2. Making pest control recommendations for commercial green grower

*Master gardeners are only to advise regarding home gardening, NOT commercial clientele. All commercial growers should be referred to the appropriate Purdue Extension Staff*

3. Accepting fee for judging 4-H garden projects at County Fair.

*Volunteer may not accept judging fee as personal income, however may accept travel expenses.*

### Educational Hours for Credit:

1. Attending gardening symposium at Missouri Botanic Garden, and other appropriate trainings.

*Educational activity will be credited as educational hours for time spent in the activity, not to include travel.*

## **BY ANY OTHER NAME, IT'S A CATERPILLAR JUST THE SAME**

**TOM TURPIN, EXTENSION SPECIALIST, PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

Caterpillars, according to the Oxford Dictionary, are small creatures, like worms, with legs that develop into butterflies or moths. The Latin roots *catari* and *pilos*, which are the basis for the name caterpillar, mean cat and hairy. One must assume that ancient people saw such a striking similarity between a creeping feline and some of this group of immature insects that they referred to them as *cata pilos*. Hence, the modern name caterpillar.

The insect order Lepidoptera, which includes butterflies and moths, contains a lot of species. Some 11,000 can be found in North America. This means that there are many different types of caterpillars. But all caterpillars have some things in common. They have a well-developed head with chewing mouthparts. The head does not have eyes but usually has 6 eyespots called ocelli and a pair of short antennae.

Caterpillars have six legs associated with the thoracic segments of the body. However, caterpillars also possess additional leg-like appendages called prolegs. Most times there are five sets of prolegs, although some caterpillars have less. The prolegs are fleshier than the true legs and have tiny hooks at the end.

Prolegs function to attach caterpillars to surfaces, primarily to plants. Most caterpillars feed on plants, and prolegs allow them to keep a firm grip on their food. All living things need food, but caterpillars seem to exist for the purpose of eating. Caterpillars are feeding machines that grow while accumulating and storing enough nutrients to support the change into the adult stage. Eric Carle captured the essence of a caterpillar nicely in his children's book, "The Hungry Caterpillar."

Caterpillars also have the ability to produce silk. The silk comes from modified salivary glands located in the caterpillar head. The silk is used to make a cocoon for pupation or to produce a shelter for the caterpillars as they feed.

Full-grown caterpillars can range in size from a few millimeters to over six inches long. Some have a ferocious look, a few produce an offensive odor and some have stinging hairs. But, for the most part, caterpillars are harmless to handle, even though they will hang on with those prolegs and, on occasion, will pinch you with their mouthparts. Just testing, no doubt, to find out if you are a food source!

In addition to the general term caterpillar, other names are sometimes used for some groups of these immature insect larvae. For instance, caterpillars of one group of moths are called measuring worms. These caterpillars lack prolegs in the middle portion of their body and move by forming a loop with their body. Hence, they are also called loopers. In recognition of this type of movement, the scientific family name is Geometridae.

Caterpillars of sphinx or hawk moths are known as hornworms. It is the presence of an obvious horn on the rear end of these caterpillars that is the basis for the name. Even though some people think the caterpillar can sting with the horn, it cannot. The horn is a decoration to make the insect look dangerous. The tomato hornworm can sometimes be found chowing down on our tomato plants.

Silkworms are the caterpillars of the moth named *Bombyx mori*. This is the insect that is used to commercially produce silk. After feeding on mulberry leaves, the caterpillar spins the silken cocoon as a pupation chamber, which humans have learned to unwind to produce silken thread.

Another group of caterpillars are called woolly bears. These caterpillars get their name because they are very fuzzy. One woolly bear that is black with a brown strip in the middle is purported to predict the severity of the winter.

Other caterpillars are called armyworms because they march in great masses from feeding site to feeding site. Some are called cutworms because they cut plants during feeding. Others, like the European corn borer, are called borers because they feed by boring inside of plants.

Hornworms, silkworms, measuring worms, cutworms and woolly bears are all caterpillars. You can be sure that, because these are names for caterpillars, one of the things they have in common is that they are eating machines.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	Stori Snyder, 855-2799 or email stlsnyde@indiana.edu
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Lydia Anderson, 825-2961, landers@wormsway.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	Barb Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Ann McEndarfer, 334-1801 Nancy White, 824-4426
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Brunoehler, 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
Clear Creek School	spring/on-going	identification, education	Charlie Hawk, 824-7969
Indiana State Fair	Sunday, August 13 9 a.m.-9 p.m.	answer questions	Preston Gwinn, 876-2999
Wonder Lab 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.**

## July 2006 Volume 22, Issue 7

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

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Helping Others Grow

**Monroe County Fair starts July 22!! Workday in the Demonstration Garden at the Fairgrounds is Tuesday, July 18 at 6:00 p.m.**

### 2006 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

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