

# ROOTS AND SHOOTS



June 2009, Volume 25, Issue 6

## Annual Master Gardener Garden Walk Is June 13



By  
Mary  
Hawkins

Your garden walk event invitations should be arriving soon with all the information about garden locations and events. The date is June 13, 2009, from 3:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., rain or shine. Come join the fun!

Five short years ago we began this special summer garden walk and picnic for our Master Gardeners' Association. Each year this event becomes more special and educational with greater participation and enthusiasm. Not only is this a fun way to get to know your fellow Master Gardeners as you meander the three members' gardens, but also a great way for all the new interns to become acquainted and integrated into our gardening group. We teach each other as we discuss plants, methods of growing, and techniques for different situations.

Another feature to our annual garden walk is that you are eligible for one hour of educational credit by touring all three gardens and participating in the mystery plant quiz that Bob Baird is preparing for us. He will have the answers that we will anxiously be awaiting at the end of the pitch-in picnic. There are also lots of volunteer hours accumulated as many behind-the-scenes members have been working to make this a successful event.

Please enjoy reading the descriptions of our three gardens on pages 3-4 of this issue of *Roots and Shoots*. They have been especially written by our host and hostesses, Esther Minnick, Joe Phillips, and Joan Prentice. Be sure to express your appreciation to them for their graciously opening their gardens and homes to us on June 13.

## June Master Gardener Field Trips Are Coming Up



By  
Vicky  
St. Myers

On Saturday, June 13 at 10:00 a.m., we are scheduled to tour the Pioneer Gardens of Spring Mill Park in Mitchell, IN. This will be a guided tour by Park Naturalist Jill Vance and will count toward education hours. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. at the northeast corner of Sam's Club parking lot. Sam's Club is located on W. Second Street at the stop light where Highway 37 is accessed. We will be carpooling. I will be contacting each of you who expressed interest in participating via email a few days prior. The date for this trip happens to be the same day as our MG Garden Walk, but we should be back in Bloomington at least two hours prior to the start of the Garden Walk.

On Saturday, June 20 at 1:00 p.m., we will tour the home orchard of Master Gardener Chuck Van Natta in Columbus, IN. He will be making a presentation prior to the tour, which will count toward education hours. We will see the variety of trees he has, as well as the cider press used for the apples and pears. We will meet at 12:00 p.m. [noon] at the Kmart East parking lot, in the northeast corner by Bloomingfoods East, which is located off E. Third Street. We will be carpooling from there to Columbus. Everyone registered will be contacted by email. Please contact Vicky St. Myers with questions.

## Member News



By  
Nancy  
White

Many interns and their guests were in attendance at the May 24 general meeting held at the Community Building of the MC Fairgrounds. Interns were given their course completion certificates by Extension Educator Amy Thompson and Nancy White and were invited to continue their training by gaining further education hours and volunteering at various sites in the community. Bethany Murray, coordinator for the MG Demonstration Garden, and Diana Young and Esther Minnick, coordinators for the Open Class Flower and Vegetable Shows at the County Fair, also invited all Master Gardeners to volunteer in these events and to enter flower and vegetable exhibits. Mary Hawkins gave us an update on the MG Garden Walk, which will be held on June 13 and encouraged our attendance at the walk and the picnic. Vice President for Programs, Vicky St. Myers, gave an overview of the remaining field trips for the summer and urged us to let her know if we want to attend any of these trips. Following refreshments, a fun plant exchange was held and many happy faces took home new treasures.

Our thanks to Cindy Benson and her refreshments committee for the May 24<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Providing refreshments were Linda Heath, Diana Dingman, Jackie Gilkey, Marge Gonzalez, Jeff Schafer, Helen Hollingsworth, Martha Sattinger, Robin Nordstrom, Mary Hawkins, and David Dunatchik. Those serving were Peggy Rees-Krebs and Jo Prentice and helping with room set-up were Vicky St. Myers, Amy Thompson, Diana and Herman Young, Jeff Schafer, David Dunatchik, Marge Gonzalez.

### **Plan to Volunteer at the Monroe County Fair**

Contact these coordinators for the Monroe County Fair if you would like to volunteer or for more information:

Open Class Flower and Vegetable Show: Diana Young and Esther Minnick

Open Class Adult and Children's Flower arrangement categories: Linda Burke

Master Gardener Information Booth: Carol Cobine

Garden Chats: Esther Minnick

NOTE: Fair Books will be available after June 1 at the Extension Office and on-line.

### **Help Needed to Prepare the Demonstration Garden**

Bethany Murray would like to invite volunteers to join her any Tuesday evening after 6:30 p.m. at the Demo Garden at the Monroe County Fairgrounds to tend plots, weed, mulch, and help with any other garden tasks. Bring along your own hand tools and gloves.

### **MGs Provide an Informational Booth at Farmers Market**

During the month of May, several Master Gardeners volunteered to tend the MG Farmers' Market information booth. The MG board, as part of our organization's goals to educate the public on garden issues, has facilitated a non-profit booth centered around an invasive theme. Those working at the booth have distributed literature and answered questions on invasive plants and other gardening topics and have encouraged interested visitors to sign up for the MG Training Class for 2010. Board members will evaluate the success of the this booth and decide if there is enough interest from the public and enough MG volunteers to continue the booth throughout the summer. We thank Amy Thompson for providing materials for the booth and to these members who have hosted the booth in sunshine and in rain: Joe Phillips, Judy Hawkins, Mary Hoffman, Evelyn Harrell, Ida Bouvier, Kristen Huerta, Anndra Morgan, Glee Tilson, Dave Dunatchik, Jeff Schafer, Vicky St. Myers, and Nancy Page.

# Three Special Gardens Featured on the Fifth Annual MG Garden Walk

## Welcome to One Oak Farm

By Esther Minnick

I have lived on this property for fifty of my fifty-one married years with my husband, Lloyd. I have always loved to plant and grow. The first gardens were large vegetable gardens. As my children grew up and left, the gardens became more flowers and fewer vegetables. Many of the plants have been collected from friends and family. They were planted in my back yard but kept in my heart.

White and red pine make up the wind break along the road. Spruce was added as the white pine has died. Perennial beds follow the fence around the back yard. Challenges are cows and horse on two sides. Nothing gets very tall! Also two small dogs call the back yard home.

I do not water the beds. If a plant lives, it is tough. I mulch in March and April and do a little weeding. After that a plant is on its own.

The straw garden is a new idea for this year. I have tomatoes, eggplant and peppers in the straw bales. As you know nothing is permanent because I have a shovel! Please enjoy your time with us.

## Union Valley Farms North-Facing Challenge

By Joe Phillips

I started my garden on June 1, 2004, with about 500 pachysandra plants and an electric drill to make the holes in the dry, hard soil! My idea was to get started with a ground cover to help hold the soil in place and have some common structure. I added some bulbs, perennials and annuals, concentrating on those that attract birds and butterflies. Some of my many species include spicebush, yellow coneflowers, milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, ironweed, columbine, sedum, ditch lilies, astilbes, and spiderwort. Some other specimens to view are Christmas fern, dogwood trees, hostas and various varieties of day lilies.

My garden takes a long time to heat up in the spring, so things get a slow start. This can also be helpful, however, in the dog days of summer. Receiving mostly morning sun, my garden stays fresher a little longer.

The sound of running water is always a pleasant one, so we enjoy a small pond with a waterfall that a friend and I worked together to install in 2006. An old stump from an old fence row was placed strategically to add some whimsy and character to the design.

Even though I have only worked with this garden for five seasons, it has come a long way. I'll gladly share a few tips with you about the challenges of a garden on a north-facing hillside. My garden is a big part of myself and my endeavors here in this place on earth I call home.

## Nanny's Garden

By Jo Prentice

My garden is dedicated to my grandchildren. They think I am a super, indeed, *the world's greatest*, gardener—so what else can I do! Their delight in an early strawberry patch introduced them to the wonders of gardens. This was followed by a special activity that captured their enthusiasm: each child was provided with one of the large planters at either end of the front sidewalk. Each completed a pot, starting with breaking old clay pots for shards and ending with planting flowers selected from a fairly sizable array.

Continued on page 4

## Growing Vegetables with Fewer Pesticides



By  
Amy  
Thompson

If you have access to a highspeed internet connection and would like to learn more about growing vegetables with fewer pesticides, you have a new avenue of gaining information and you can earn an education hour without leaving the comfort of your own sofa. Purdue Entomology Specialist Rick Foster developed a presentation for Purdue staff on providing assistance to newer gardeners who are trying to grow vegetables. You can access this archived program at this link <<https://gomeet.itap.purdue.edu/p14899374/>>.

Please keep in mind that this program was developed for Purdue staff by Dr. Foster, not directly for Master Gardeners. If you do view the program in its entirety, then you would earn one hour of education credit. We will work on the honor system for reporting these educational hours. Please report honestly. If you do view the program and enjoy this format, please let me know so that I can share that information with campus staff for future program development.

If you do not have a highspeed internet connection and would like to make arrangements to come in the office to view the program, please contact me at 349-2575 or [afthompson@purdue.edu](mailto:afthompson@purdue.edu) to set up a time. Sorry we don't have a sofa, so it won't be quite as comfy as home!

## New Vegetable Growing Blog from Purdue

Submitted Welcome to *The Vegetable Gardener* at

by <http://thevegetablegardener.wordpress.com/> !

Amy This blog developed by Purdue Extension Educators will help you grow vegetables in your home garden. Whether you're after just a few tasty tomatoes  
Thompson or you want to supplement your food budget, check *The Vegetable Gardener* regularly for information that can help you succeed!

Also, check Purdue Extension [vegetable publications](http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/hort.htm#9) <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/hort.htm#9> , available free on-line!

## Fifth Annual MG Garden Walk Gardens (continued from page 3)

I am fortunate in having both sun and shade and neighbors who provide outstanding backgrounds for my plantings. My garden areas include trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals. The gardens have grown like Topsy—generally a couple of small areas that needed to be connected and then enlarge and so on. The garden on the hillside was developed in memory of my brother. The latest garden addition is on the west border south to the corner, and I have promised myself to add no more!

Inspiration comes from other gardens, photos, books, and nurseries and from winter-window-gazing into images of structural interest and glorious bloom. Implementation is not so easy! Recently I have focused on deer resistant plants. I try to hide a few “must-have” susceptible plants with deer resistant plants. I also spray and use Milorganite to defend against rabbits. Other methods I've tried are not MG approved! This spring I've been blessed with the help of MG Intern Pat Verhagen, a true Master Gardener. New year will be time to resort to hired help.

### 2009 *Folia and Flora* Membership Guide Update

Please change your *Folia and Flora* member listing for Robin Rothe. Her new e-mail address is [robin\\_rothe@DRGnetwork.com](mailto:robin_rothe@DRGnetwork.com).

## Flowers to Wear



(Part 2 of 3)

By  
Susan

Eastman

As an online source for flower jewelry, eBay comes to mind, but Amazon.com proved an excellent source with a subsection for “flower pins.” Once one gets past all the butterflies, such recognizable flower designs as pansies, lilacs, sunflowers, peonies, and morning glories appear.

Of course, roses are among the most common flower in brooches, hands down, as in these three brooches, right.

Other depictions of flowers seem life-like in design except for their realization in one color of metal as in the calla lilies, orchid, and sunflower (with bee), right. Enameling makes more accurate hues possible, as in the image of a pansy. Orchids were the flower of the moment in the 1890s and widely used in brooches (as well as real corsages).



An enameled yellow rosebud, an opened rose in gold with a rhinestone, and an almost realistic silver rose



Five double petals in leather (dogwood?) and a stylized floral in painted wood

The Victorian fad for flowers led to the use of many strange brooch materials. Examples (left) are a leather flower pin and a wooden flower pin. Another fad was for enameled baskets and flowerpots with floral arrangements in them, below left.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century when photography became easily available,

women often wore formal-looking brooches, which could also be hung from a chain, that held a precious tiny photograph on the reverse, much like a locket. These brooches could be mourning jewelry or for remembrances of a family member or a friend.



A pair of sterling silver calla lilies, a silver orchid with rhinestones (meant to be worn upside down), an enameled pansy, and a miniature metal sunflower with tiny bee



A flowerpot brooch



Enameled brooch with floral inlay

Reverse side with tiny photo

## The Great Master Gardener Vegetable Project

By Mary Welch-Keesey, Purdue University  
Do you grow vegetables? We need your help! We are creating new publications on growing vegetables. We want to combine information and photos to create a “picture diary” to help others learn how to grow vegetables, too.

Master Gardeners from around the state may “adopt” one vegetable to follow through the summer. As the summer progresses, each Master Gardener submits reports and photos documenting the vegetable’s growth, production, and problems. These reports and photos may be used in two ways: to create short publications on each vegetable, with easy-to-understand text and lots of photos and/or to provide information that will be posted on our blog [www.thevegetablegardener.wordpress.com](http://www.thevegetablegardener.wordpress.com). We’ll include your reports and photos as well as articles by Purdue experts on special topics. What does it take to get involved? All you need is pencil, paper, and a small spot for a vegetable garden. Well, that’s almost all you need. You also need a commitment to stay involved. We’d like you to report what’s going on with your vegetable several times during the growing season. We also need photos (though we don’t need photos with every report). If you don’t have a digital camera, maybe another Master Gardener will partner with you. If you have a video camera, making videos of planting, harvesting and other activities would be great, too. Do you grow vegetables? Are you willing to help? If so, contact Amy Thompson at the Extension Office.

### Project WILD Presents Free Monarch Butterfly Workshops

Free, hands-on monarch butterfly workshops are available to anyone wishing to learn about the life cycle of an individual monarch traveling from Indiana to the mountains of Mexico and back to the United States, highlighting the threats to this migration. Workshops are conducted by Ann Richardson and Robert Richardson, regional trainers for the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a citizen science project developed at the University of Minnesota.

In these workshops, participants will use live monarch eggs, larvae, and adults to identify all stages of a monarch’s life cycle; learn how to tag adult butterflies; develop strategies for creating monarch waystations; and experiment with K-8 monarch curriculum.

Project WILD’s Monarch Butterfly Workshop schedule is as follows (all workshops are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.): Tuesday, July 14, Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis; Saturday, July 18, Limberlost State Historic Site, Geneva; Wednesday, July 22, Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, Winamac; Saturday, July 25, Howell Wetlands, Evansville; Thursday, July 30, Clifty Fall State Park, Madison. To register, call Natural Resources Education Center at (317) 562-1338 or [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) .

To register, call Natural Resources Education Center at (317) 562-1338 or [nrec@dnr.in.gov](mailto:nrec@dnr.in.gov) . Contact Mary Hayes at [projectwild@dnr.in.gov](mailto:projectwild@dnr.in.gov) or 317-549-0348 with any questions.

**Carpenter Bee Information Links** Tim Gibb just updated our publications on *Carpenter Bees*. Here are two links for you: Hot News Article—Bumble Bee Look-A-Likes Around Buildings <<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/HN44.pdf>> and Extension Publication—Solitary Bees and Wasps: Carpenter Bee, Cicada Killer, and Mud Daubers <<http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-63.pdf>>

## Interns and MGs Advance to New Levels

By Nancy White We congratulate the following interns who completed their course and test successfully: Bill Anderson, Gary Anderson, Kathy Baxter, Paul Bertermann, Chris Bobbitt, Susan Bollman, Ida Bouvier, Karen Brosius, Elaine Byers, Roger Byers, Linda Figen, Sharlene Fish, Jamie Furr, Trish Gustaitis, Debbie Harding, Heidi Harmon, Evelyn Harrell, Kim Hill, Mary Hoffman, Kristin Huerta, Davida Kean, Anndra Morgan, Matt Nickels, Nancy Page, Mary-Carol Paul, Victoria Rogers, Robin Rothe, Kim Rumple, David Sanders, Donna Terry, Glee Tilson, Shawn Wiegand.

We congratulate the following Master Gardeners who have qualified for certified and advanced badges. The badges are ordered and will be delivered soon from Purdue. Those achieving new levels are as follows:

Master Gardener Level: Dorothea Kiser, Martha Sattinger, Martha Tarbah

Advanced Level: Michelle Coxeter, David Dunatchik, Diann Lock

Advanced, Bronze Level: Susan Osborne, Mary Hawkins

Advanced, Silver Level: Moya Andrews, Helen Hollingsworth

Members are encouraged to contact Susan Osborne or Amy Thompson at any time if they have questions on their current status or have hours to report.

## Tree Identification Class Offered at IMA

What is that tree in the back yard? How do I distinguish an oak from a maple? A pine from a spruce? This tree identification class on Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. at Indianapolis Museum of Art, will help you identify common trees found in the woods and landscape of central Indiana by bud, leaf, needle, bark, shape, and more. After slides and discussion in the classroom, Geoff Von Burg, Horticulturist, will lead participants out into the IMA gardens for more instruction. About half of the class time will be indoors and half outdoors. Please dress for the weather. Class size is limited to 20. Call 317-923-1331 for more information or Geoff Von Burg at 920-2662 ext 503. If registration exceeds 20, there will be a wait list for a second session at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

## Information from the National Gardening Association Website

Findings from the National Gardening Association's (NGA) new survey, *The Impact of Home and Community Gardening in America*, indicate that food gardening in the U.S. is on the rise. Seven million more households plan to grow their own fruits, vegetables, herbs, or berries in 2009 than in 2008—a 19 percent increase in participation. This anticipated increase is nearly double the 10 percent growth in vegetable gardening from 2007 to 2008 and reflects the number of new food gardeners emerging this year. More Americans are recognizing the benefits of growing their own produce, including improved quality, taste, and cost savings.

### **MGs to Provide Informational Booth during Annual Summer Garden Walk**

Monroe County MG Association will sponsor an information booth on the grounds of the Monroe County History Center during The Bloomington Garden Club's 2009 Annual Summer Garden Walk on Saturday, June 20 and Sunday, June 21, 1:00-5:00 p.m. each day. This is a great opportunity to gain some volunteer hours while enjoying a shady hour or two talking to other local residents who love to garden. If you can spare some time either of those days, contact Joanna Howe, who is the coordinator for this activity.

## Bloomington IN Bloom 2009 Front Yard Contest



Do you have a friend or neighbor whose front yard you admire? Maybe there is a front yard whose owner is unknown to you, but you admire the property every time you pass by. Now is a great time to acknowledge the gardener's hard work. The contest seeks to highlight the extraordinary beauty of Bloomington single family residential gardens and to recognize individuals and their efforts to enhance the quality of life in our community. To nominate a front yard garden you admire, you only need the address. Nominees must be located within the *Bloomington city limits*; employ a creative and integrated display of floral, garden and landscaping materials; enhance the surrounding area; and provide an attractive focus from the curbside for the residence located on the property. Nominations continue through June 15.

One winning entry will be chosen from each of the following zip codes: 47401, 47403, 47404, 47408. Be the first to nominate a winning single family residential front yard, and you could be a winner, too! Both the winning properties and the nominators of the winning properties will win cash prizes. There is no fee to nominate a property.

Anyone, including owners, renters, landscapers, family, friends and passersby, can nominate front-yards. Instructions for submission are on the nomination forms. The nomination forms are available at the Bloomington IN Bloom website [bloomingtoninbloom.org](http://bloomingtoninbloom.org); by calling the Bloomington Board of REALTORS at 812-339-1301; or by emailing [frontyard@homefinder.org](mailto:frontyard@homefinder.org).

## New Publication Available on Tomato Diseases

Submitted by Amy Thompson A new tomato disease publication is available from Kansas State, titled *Tomato Leaf and Fruit Diseases and Disorders*. This publication not only covers the common fungal and bacterial diseases but also physiological disorders such as blossom end rot, leaf roll and growth cracks. Color images help with identification. Find this publication at <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/plant2/L721.pdf> (WU)

## Site Offers Help in Selecting Annuals

Submitted by Amy Thompson If you are asked for recommendations of annual varieties, you might direct your clients to this site: <http://msutrials.ath.cx/>. The searchable databases give comments on all varieties of a species that they grow. Also, most Purdue publications are available electronically at the following address: <http://www.agcom.purdue.edu/AgCom/Pubs>.

### Are You Signed Up for These Field Trips? Contact Vicky St. Myers to Register.

**Wednesday, July 8, 5:30 p.m.**, Willow field—"Lavender Farm Tour", tour of lavender farm will be led by Libbe O'Connor, owner, Mooresville, IN, charge is \$1 per person

**Sunday, August 2, 10:30 a.m.**, Stream Cliff—"Historic Herb Farm", features gardens, tearoom, and winery, located in Commisky, IN, 1½ hour trip from Bloomington

**Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m.**, Secret Garden—"Hidden Hill", features rare trees and plants, garden sculpture, and whimsy, located in Utica, IN, 2 hour trip from Bloomington

## Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Bloomington in Bloom Planning Committee	year around	various	Mary Jane Hall, 824-2762 Gretchen Scott, 330-7548
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 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	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072 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	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.**

## Spiders in the House



By  
Helen  
Hollingsworth

Common, ordinary house spiders are smart: they live in our homes near ceilings in winter (where hot air rises) and near floors (the cooler area) in the summer. I've also noticed that no matter how often I remove their webs, common spiders return in spring near the floor to the identical spot. There's one particular location near our front door that spiders love.

I'm not adverse to spiders! I do not wish to kill them. I understand how valuable they are to our ecology. I just want them to go away and not live in my house.

I think I've found a strategy! I read that spiders are highly sensitive to anything chemical. Early this spring, I tried an experiment. I removed a web and thoroughly cleaned with water an area that spiders had occupied. I ended this experiment with a squirt of something at hand that was mildly chemical but not toxic (or at least, I hope not toxic to spiders): a quick, light spray from a bottle of Windex. I was looking for something that wouldn't harm the painted wall or varnished oak floor but would dry in place and give off faint odor that spiders might detect. A light spray of room freshener or a spritz from a cup of water with a drop of bleach would probably work, too.

Here's my report: spiders have shunned the treated area near the front door! That's not to say that spiders haven't found new areas to infest. It may mean that I just haven't found their new locations yet.

A final note about spiders: I've read that if we're cleaning our attics or garages in spring or summer, in advance, we should turn on a light for at least half hour to an hour. The reason: some spiders, especially brown recluse and to a lesser extent, black widow, dislike light and will leave an area and go elsewhere if light is introduced.

## T. C. Steele June Events

**Saturday, June 13**—T.C. Steele State Historic Site presents *Knee Deep in June*: a culinary celebration of Indiana's creative roots from 5:30-8:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. Chefs Nejla Routsong and Matt O'Neil will host a cooking lesson and dinner. This event celebrates the natural beauty of the Brown County setting chosen by Indiana painter T.C. Steele and the poem, *Knee Deep In June*, written by Steele's good friend, James Whitcomb Riley.

**Sunday, June 14**—Gardeners of all ages are invited to join T.C. Steele State Historic Site staff for a Sunday afternoon get-together in Selma's Garden on June 14 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. The session will focus on hands-on weed identification and participants will get an inside look at Selma Steele's scrapbooks. Help **us** keep ahead of the weeds, as **you** visit with area gardeners, learn about historic gardening trends and get all the 'dirt' on Selma's Garden. Combine education and eradication. For more information contact Davie at [dkean@dnr.in.gov](mailto:dkean@dnr.in.gov) or (812) 988-2785. Check out our website at [www.tcsteele.org](http://www.tcsteele.org) for more details on this series of four sessions.

**Sunday, June 28**—The T.C. Steele State Historic Site is proud to offer an abstract painting workshop from 2:00-4:00 p.m. taught by artist Anabel Hopkins. The cost is \$25, and spaces are limited so sign up now. This program is made possible thanks to the Bloomington Area Arts Council. For more information or to register contact Christine at [catkinson@dnr.in.gov](mailto:catkinson@dnr.in.gov) or (812) 677-2003.

## Bagworm Update 2009

By Cliff Sadof and Marc Rhainds, Purdue University

As the summer approaches, homeowners who had their trees defoliated by bagworms last year are getting prepared for this year's round of plant destruction. Bagworms are caterpillars that strip the leaves from a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Most commonly they devastate dense plantings of evergreen spruces, pines and arborvitae used as visual screens or windbreaks.



Fig. 1. Overwintering bagworm on arborvitae.

Bagworms get their name from their unique habit of hiding from birds by gluing bits of leaf on to the silken bags in which they live. At this time of year, they are in the egg stage concealed in last year's brown bags that are hanging from trees (Figure 1). In mid May in Evansville, early June in Indianapolis and mid June in Fort Wayne, the eggs will hatch into small caterpillars that will make new silken bags to be covered by freshly cut leaves (Figure 2).



Fig. 2. Young bagworm covering itself with leaves.

For the past 10 years, the relatively mild winters have caused bagworm problems to increase in severity and move northward. People in these communities have been learning the importance of inspecting their plants in the month of June for these small bags, and spraying them with a foliar insecticide to kill the caterpillars before too much defoliation occurs.

Common insecticides to use include carbaryl (sevin), or spinosad (Fertilome Borer and Bagworm Killer). For a complete listing of pesticides to use see Purdue's bulletin <http://extension.entm.purdue.edu/publications/E-27.pdf>. Currently, there are no effective soil-applied pesticides registered for controlling this pest. Although research conducted in 2008 indicate there are some new pesticides can work when applied to the soil, they are not likely to be registered soon enough to help homeowners in the summer of 2009.

This year, some communities north of Lafayette may be lucky enough to have had their bagworms freeze to death when they experienced one of the coldest winters in 10 years. These people won't have to hand pick or spray their young bagworms this June to protect their plants.

There are two ways to determine whether or not a bagworm infestation has survived. The easiest way is to wait until the eggs have hatched and inspect host plants for small bagworms feeding on leaves. The second way is to cut open the bags to reveal the body of the female. Then, break apart the female and examine the eggs. If the eggs are creamy white, the eggs are viable and will hatch into caterpillars that will feed on the overwintering host plants. In this case treatment is needed. If eggs are brown, the eggs are dead and no bagworms will be expected to hatch and no treatment will be needed.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



You are cordially invited to the  
**Fifth Annual Master Gardener Garden Walk**  
on June 13, 3:30—8:00 p.m.

**Watch for your invitation and directions in the mail!**

## 2009 MCMGA Board

**President:** Nancy White  
812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

**Vice President—Programs:** Vicky St. Myers  
323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com

**Vice President—Education:** Jeff Schafer  
325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

**Treasurer:** Diana Young  
812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

**Secretary:** David Dunatchik  
332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net

**Journalists:** Helen Hollingsworth  
812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu

**Director at Large:** Herman Young  
812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

**Director—Communications:** Barbara Hays  
812-332-4032 barbsblooms@comcast.net

**Director—Records:** Susan Osborne  
812-825-9154  
m.susan.osborne@saic.com

**Fair Board Representative:** Preston Gwinn  
812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net

**Extension Educator:** Amy Thompson  
812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

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