

[www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net)

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## June news

Over 50 Master Gardeners and a sprinkling of guests enjoyed the recent plant swap and pitch-in dinner held annually at the Community Building, and the dry, MILD weather was another good reason to be out and about. Plants filled the tables on the patio and were carted away to start new lives in new gardens, and by all appearances, a swarm of locusts visited the tables of delicious dishes.

Announcements included a reminder of our upcoming Garden Walk at Hilltop Gardens on June 11. The walk will begin at 10:30 at Hilltop Garden and Nature Center where we will meet members of our first Junior Master Gardener class. Some of us will be envious of their opportunity. Linda Heath raised the idea of a Shakespeare Garden about three years ago. Now she and Bob Baird will provide the second part of the Walk with a tour of the realized vision. The Walk will end at the Shade Garden. Master Gardeners and members of the Bloomington Garden Club will extol the virtues of shade gardens for Walk participants. If you want to bring a sack lunch, the Hilltop Shade Garden will be the perfect location for enjoying lunch together. Drinks will be provided. If you missed the opportunity to RSVP, please call Trish

Gustaitis at 812-322-9658, or email at [pgustait@gmail.com](mailto:pgustait@gmail.com) to be sure there are drinks for everyone. In case you missed it, much more detail of this event is available in the May issue of Roots and Shoots.

Here is another way to think about our Demonstration Garden: It has been good for the organization to work together on Garden Fest committees and staffing booths. We have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know one another. That can also be said of the work at the Demo Garden. Gardening together, in a group, as happens in the weeks before the Fair, is fun. The Demo Garden will be on display in just 8 short weeks for the enjoyment of Fair goers. That's 8 Tuesdays to join Diana, Herman, and committee members, to get it into blue-ribbon condition. They may also be there on Thursdays. If you would like their company in the Demo Garden at another time, please contact Diana. Let's hope the rain holds off on Tuesdays for the next couple of months.



- Evelyn Harrell,  
MCMGA President

## Meeting Announcements

We had a wonderful meeting in May at the Monroe County Community building with Ms. Rene Malone as our guest speaker, our annual garden swap along with a pitch-in dinner. We had a very good educational program that focused on horticultural therapy, an exciting plant swap with quite a few different plants to choose from, and an excellent pitch-in dinner. A big Thank You goes out to our refreshment committee to include the chairperson Ms. Cindy Benson, Nancy Deckard, Tom Lovell, Dorothy Wilson, Marilyn Bourke, and Pamela Hall.

Don't miss the upcoming events to include our own MCMGA Garden Walk scheduled for Saturday, June 11 at the Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, the Sustaining Nature And Your Land (SNAYL) Day on June 11, Bug Fest is planned for Saturday, June 25 and the Bloomington Garden Club Annual Summer Garden Walk is June 25-26 too. Our next general meeting is Tuesday, July 19 at the Demonstration Garden in the Monroe County Fair Grounds to help prepare the area during the upcoming County Fair.

-Jeff Schafer, Meeting Director

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Carpenter needed to build wooden compost bins!

Hilltop's food waste composting program started in September of 2011 with the hope that at least some of the food waste from Indiana University dining halls could be diverted from a landfill and used to create nutrient rich compost for gardens on the IUB campus. As of the spring of 2015, about 600 gallons or about 2700 pounds of food waste was collected each week from just a few IU dining halls and brought to Hilltop to be composted. Additional bins are needed in order to compost even more food waste from other IU dining halls. Hilltop has the plans for aerated bins like you see above and will provide the material, but we need the expertise of a carpenter to build the bins. [www.indiana.edu/~hilltop](http://www.indiana.edu/~hilltop)

### Gardening for animals

*Garden for wildlife . . . On Purpose!*

WildCare needs gardeners who are willing to plant fruits and vegetables at home and bring to WildCare to help keep down food costs. A great at home project for the whole family! Also needed: gardeners who can help plant and maintain WildCare's flower garden with natural plants our animals can eat.

[www.wildcareinc.org](http://www.wildcareinc.org)

### Get involved with Bloomington Community Orchard

*Choose Your Involvement Level!*

We welcome you to get involved with the Bloomington Community Orchard in a way that will work for you!

Bloomington Community Orchard is an organization devoted to growing fruit for the community and growing our orcharding skills through educational opportunities. The publicly owned orchard is maintained by volunteers, and the harvest is available to everyone in the community.

**We offer volunteer opportunities which can complement your level of desire, energy, & availability!**

One-time: workdays, business donors, consultants, proposing new projects.

Multi-time: Discrete Project, tree tracker, project team, leading workday.

Ongoing: team member, team lead.

[www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org/site/levels-of-involvement/](http://www.bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org/site/levels-of-involvement/)

### MCMGA ANNUAL GARDEN WALK HILLTOP NATURE & GARDEN CENTER

Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 AM – 1pm  
2367 E. 10th

The MCMGA Annual Garden Walk will take place entirely at Hilltop Nature and Garden Center on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 10:30 am – noon.

Junior Master Gardeners and fellow Monroe County Master Gardeners will lead the presentations while touring the Junior Master Gardener garden plots, the Shakespeare Garden, and the Shade Garden.

Bring a lunch to enjoy in the Shade Garden at the conclusion of the tour. Lemonade will be provided by Hilltop.

*One hour of education credit will be earned by attending this event.*

Summer at Wylie House

June 11th, 2016 10:00am - 2:00pm  
@ Wylie House Museum  
307 E 2nd Street

**FREE**

- House & Garden Tours
- Seed-Saving Activities
- Old-Fashioned Games
- Live music by Horseshoe Bend String Band

Come and learn more about our new Seed Library Program!  
Bring a non-perishable food item for the Crimson Cupboard and receive a FREE packet of Wylie seeds!

Need direction?



**Submit your  
Garden Article**

**Roots & Shoots**

Monroe County Extension Service

3400 S Walnut St

Bloomington, IN 47401

(812) 349-2575

Daleyheather7@gmail.com

## University Elementary School – School Age Care Garden Project

In honor of Earth Week 2016, the University Elementary School-School Age Care after school program planted a community garden. The purpose of the project was to get the students involved with a learning project that would benefit the school community. What better way to do that than getting a little dirty!

### Stage One...Clean up.

The students started out by cleaning up the garden bed by raking out dead leaves and pulling weeds. The students learned that dead leaves can help provide nutrients for the soil so, we were careful not to remove the ones that had already started to decompose. The soil, with the dead leaves, was turned over and we were ready for stage two.



### Stage Two...Design.

The students and teachers worked together to find shade friendly plants that would not become food for the family of deer that lives in the woods behind our school. After some internet research, the students agreed on the following selection: impatiens, palace purple coral bells, caramel coral bells, and hostas. After purchasing the plants, the next step was for us to decide where each plant would go.



The students worked in teams to come up with the best design to incorporate all of the new plants and shrubs that were already present. Once the design was in place we moved on to stage three.

### Stage Three...Planting.

It was finally time to get down and dirty! The students decided to put the hostas at the back against the school building to keep them from becoming deer food. The coral bells filled in the middle and the impatiens made a border along the fence line. During the process of planting the students learned about digging appropriate holes in order to get the root ball below the soil line; this way the new plants would take root and hopefully thrive in their new home.



The students worked meticulously to ensure that each plant was planted in the right spot and that each plant was planted correctly. The students came up with ways to remember the names of the plants in their garden. Once all of the planting was complete we were ready for stage four.

### Stage Four...Design.

Now that we had cleaned, planted, and mulched...it was time to make our garden pretty. While students wanted to give their garden a personal touch they also wanted to add touches that would incorporate future learning opportunities. The personal touches included hand painted popsicle stick flowers and individual stepping stones.



The learning components of the garden included a rain gauge, (students got a kick out of keeping track of all the rain we had in April and early May) two bird feeders, and an outside thermometer to keep track of the daily outside temperature.

### Stage Five...Maintenance.

After all of the fun and work was completed the students worked together to come up with a weekly schedule to maintain the garden. There are several different chores that the students will complete, such as re-filling the bird feeders, pulling weeds, and watering. The students were proud of their hard work and they spent a lot of their outside free time peddling around their gardens.



Parents and teachers from UES have all been really impressed with the work that the students have accomplished and how much it has improved the outside school environment. Teachers from the school have also stopped along the walkway with their classes to discuss the different components of the garden like the bird feeders – trying to identify the different birds that stop by to eat there- and the rain gauge. The SAC-UES garden was a huge success this year, by and large because of the grant that we received from the MCMGA.

- Yvette McLaren-Roberts,  
Coordinator for University Elementary School  
School-age Care Program

## June Garden Calendar

### HOME (Houseplants and indoor activities)

Indoor plants will require more frequent watering and fertilization as they increase their summer growth.

Houseplants can be moved outdoors to a shady location, but pay close attention to their watering needs.

Cut garden flowers for indoor beauty. Re-cut the stems again just before placing in water. Add a floral preservative, and change the solution frequently.

Root cuttings of houseplants and garden plants to increase your collection or share with a friend.

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

Prune spring-flowering shrubs after blooms fade.

Apply fungicide to prevent and control black spot on roses. Water newly planted trees and shrubs. Water deeply every seven to 10 days when rain is lacking.

Propagate deciduous shrubs, such as forsythia, lilac, pyracantha and weigela, by stem tip cuttings.

Remove faded flowers & seed pods on spring-flowering shrubs.

Many fruit trees had few to no flowers this year thanks to the brutal winter, but some apples and pears may still have fruit set. If they have much of a crop, don't be alarmed at June drop of some fruit. It is a natural thinning process for most trees to prevent excessive loads, though might not be as much to thin this year. Thin remaining fruit, if necessary, or prop up heavy branches to avoid breakage. Most fruit should be spaced 6 to 8 inches apart on a branch.

Keep grass mowed regularly, but mow high to help protect the crown of the plant from heat stress.

Lawn clippings, unless excessive, should be left on the lawn.

To keep lawns green and growing, water as needed, supplying 1 to 1.5 inches of water/week. If left unwatered, lawns will turn brown and become dormant during extended hot, dry spells, but will green up again when conditions are more favorable.

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

Discontinue harvest of asparagus and rhubarb around mid-June to allow foliage to develop and store food reserves for next year's harvest. Fertilize and water when dry to promote healthy growth.

Mulch to control weeds and conserve soil moisture after soil has warmed. Many materials such as straw, chopped corncobs, bark chips, shredded paper and grass clippings can be used.

Blanch (exclude light from) cauliflower when heads are just 2 inches in diameter. Tie leaves up and over the developing head.

Keep weeds controlled. They're easier to pull when still young.

Start seeds of cabbage, Brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower for fall garden transplants.

Plan now for your Halloween pumpkin. Determine the days to harvest for the particular cultivar you want to plant (usually on the seed packet), and count backward to determine the proper planting date.

Harvest spring plantings of broccoli, cabbage and peas.

Remove cool-season plants, such as radish, spinach and lettuce, as they bolt, or form seed stalks, during hot summer weather.

Plant carrots, beans, & sweet corn for successive harvests.

For staked tomatoes, remove suckers (branches that form where the leaf joins the stem) while they are 1 to 1.5 inches long to allow easier training.

Remove spent blooms of peony, iris, delphiniums and other flowers. Pinch shoots tips of chrysanthemums, impatiens, petunias and coleus to promote bushier growth.

Remove tops of bulbs only after they have yellowed and withered.

Continue planting gladiolus for a succession of bloom.

Protect ripening strawberries from birds by covering with netting.

Supplement natural rainfall as needed to supply a total of 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week to the garden.

- B. Rosie Lerner



Digitalis



Great Balls: Purple Allium



Heuchera

**Board Member Spotlight:****Trish Gustaitis**

**R&S:** Who are you? Tell us a little about yourself.

**Trish:** My name is Tricia Gustaitis. I received my Master Gardener training in 2009 and am currently the VP of the association. I have been a Monroe County resident for over 40 years. My husband and I have two children, Max and Cristina, who reside in Boulder, CO and Brooklyn, NY. I recently retired from the MCCSC where I was a special education teacher for 35 years.

**R&S:** What drew you to join the Master Gardener program?

**Trish:** I had limited gardening knowledge and wanted to learn more. The program sounded interesting to me.

**R&S:** Where are you from originally?

**Trish:** I was born in Oreland, PA, a suburb of Philadelphia and

lived there until my senior year of high school when my father's job was transferred to Connersville, Indiana. My family moved to Richmond, IN at that time.

**R&S:** How did you accumulate your volunteer hours? How did you decide where to volunteer?

**Trish:** At first, I volunteered at several gardens to get a sense of how I could be helpful at each. As the work-study coordinator at Bloomington South, I had students volunteering at Hilltop Nature and Garden Center to gain work experience and developed a working relationship with the Hilltop coordinator. This led to my volunteering at the Spring Into Gardening event, the Family Garden Program, and the Junior Master Gardener Program, which take place at Hilltop. I have also volunteered on the Café Committee for the last few years and have enjoyed working

**R&S:** Why do you continue your membership?

**Trish:** I think the main reason is I've enjoyed getting to know the people in the program. It's a great group of people, many of whom I'd probably have never met otherwise. I have also found the educational programs presented at our general meetings and at the Garden Fair to contain interesting and useful information.

**Rosefest 2016 - Timeless beauty for today's gardeners**

The Indianapolis Rose Society invites you to a day filled with roses!

**Schedule for the day...**

- Tea in the HCMG Rose Garden: 9:30 – 11:30 am (Free)
- Tea sponsored by Hamilton County Master Gardener Association
- Rose Display in Exhibition Center opens at 10:30 am (Free)
- Public voting on rose display entries
- Lectures 12:30 – 4 pm (\$10)
- \$10 ticket (required) – entrance to all 3 lectures
- Rose Display Winners Announced at 4pm

**Speakers:**

Peggy Martin of New Orleans, LA – 12:30 – 1:30 pm – Program: Old Garden Roses

Carol Tumbas of Bloomington, IN – 1:45 – 2:45 pm – Program: Hardy, Sustainable Shrub Roses

- Carol is the former President of the Indianapolis Rose Society, a well respected rosarian and grower over 500 roses.

Gaye Hammond of Houston, TX – 3 – 4 pm – Program: Earth-Kind Roses

- Gaye is a noted expert of Texas A&M's Earth-Kind Program, and lectures nationally on growing roses in no-spray conditions.

Roses & Rose Products will be available for purchase [IndianapolisRoseSociety.com](http://IndianapolisRoseSociety.com)

Contact: [IndplsRoseSoc@gmail.com](mailto:IndplsRoseSoc@gmail.com)



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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.mcmga.net](http://www.mcmga.net)



Purdue Extension Monroe County will be offering a Master Gardener Training program this fall. **Please help spread the word.** The class will meet Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. When program registration materials become available, interested parties may contact the extension office by calling 812.349.2575 or by emailing [aftompson@purdue.edu](mailto:aftompson@purdue.edu).

***MCMGA Treasury Report***

**MCMGA Current Financials**

**As of May 31, 2016:**      **Checking balance \$7,932.48**  
                                          **Savings balance \$11,957.03**  
                                          **Total assets \$19,889.51**

***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.

**Monroe County  
 Master Gardeners Association**

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