

ROOTS AND SHOOTS



March 2007 Volume 23, Issue 3



FOLIA AND FLORA UPDATE

By Mary Jane Hall

Do you have your 2007 edition of *Folia and Flora*, our membership guide that includes member information, volunteer service hour policy, bylaws, and resources? If not, call the Extension Office

Below are several corrections to *Folia and Flora*. Please write these corrections into your book for future reference. Thank you for your patience!

Marla Bailey should read marlabailey@sbcglobal.net

Ruthann Bailey should read ruthannbailey@sbcglobal.net

Dan Baugh's email is not working

Barbara Baynes should be baynesfarm@aol.com

John Behringer should be jabehringer@hotmail.com

Richard Cates should read rcates11@sbcglobal.net

Elin Grimes should read elin_grimes@hotmail.com

Jerry Harsock should read carole.evans@insightbb.com (no spaces)

Ruth Rauch should read rauchra@yahoo.com

INDIANAPOLIS TO HOST 2007 AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY NATIONAL CONVENTION

Submitted by Richard Cates

The 2007 American Hosta Society National Convention will be held in Indianapolis on June 20-23, hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society. Highlights of the convention include outstanding presentations and visits to private gardens.

Registrations for the convention must be postmarked by April 30, 2007. Send registrations to Ann Ammons, 7014 Lantern Road, Indianapolis, IN 46256. Visit the AHS web site at www.hosta.org for more information about the organization and the 2007 convention in Indianapolis.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

By Nancy White

Our March general meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 205 E. Kirkwood. Enter the church through the office area doors on Kirkwood, and walk down the first corridor to the right to the meeting space. Ample parking is available on the street and in the city lot across from the Monroe County Public Library. Public parking is available free at the library after 6:00 p.m.

Ken Cote from DNR will present a program titled **Solving Plant Problems**, including both diseases and pests, and Shawn Urton from Mother Nature Landscaping will present **Water Gardens and Ponds**. Both presentations are topics requested by Master Gardeners in our most recent programming survey.

Two hours of advanced training credit are available for those at advanced level certification. All are welcome, and refreshments will be served. Don't miss this interesting meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 10-18, Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fair Grounds

Saturday, March 24, Alien Threats to Southern Indiana Forestlands, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Spring Mill State Park

Tuesday, March 27, MG General Meeting, 6:30 p.m., First Christian Church

Wednesday, April 25, Tree Fest, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Marlin Elementary School

April 21-29 Cincinnati Flower Show, Lake Como on Coney Island, Cincinnati

Saturday, May 12, INPAWS Plant Sale and Auction, 10:00 a.m., Indiana School for the Blind, Indianapolis



MEMBER NEWS

By Nancy White

The Master Gardener board recently endorsed scheduling monthly some field trips or short excursions to gardens and locations of interest during gardening months. These are special events for you to participate in as well as our general membership meetings. Master Gardeners are invited to participate in field trips and to bring friends and family. The full schedule of field trips will be available in the April issue of *Roots and Shoots*, but tentative plans include trips to the Wildflower Foray, the Indianapolis Museum of Arts gardens and greenhouse, and a local winery (with gardens, of course!). Keep watching and plan to join us for these fun garden breaks.

Report on an Advanced Training Session

Several of our members attended advanced training sessions recently. If you have and would like to share some new knowledge with your fellow MGs, consider writing a brief review of the session for our monthly newsletter. We are always looking for contributors for *Roots and Shoots*. Contact Helen Hollingsworth if you have something to share in one of our upcoming issues.

Mark Your Calendar for 2007 MG Programs

Save this schedule of general meeting dates for 2007. Advanced training credit will be available at the March, September, and November meetings.

Tuesday, March 27, 6:30 p.m., First Christian Church, Solving Plant Problems and Water Gardens and Ponds

Tuesday, May 22, 6:30 p.m. Karst Farm Park Commons, Intern Class graduation/Plant Exchange

Tuesday, July 17, 6:00 p.m., Demonstration Garden, Monroe County Fairgrounds, work session

Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 p.m., location and program to be announced

Tuesday, November 27, 6:00 p.m., First United Church, Holiday Dinner and Program

Helping Others Grow

Each month, we publish volunteer opportunities for all MGs in *Roots and Shoots*. Now is the time to begin thinking about possible places to fulfill our MG mission of helping others grow. If you have limited time or need further information on a particular volunteer site, the contact person listed on page nine in this edition can help with that. Experienced members can verify that sometimes long-term friendships and collaborations grow out of these opportunities.

WonderGarden in downtown Bloomington is one of our volunteer sites. Exciting things are planned for 2007 at that site. The city will be completing the first phase of its downtown walking trail, located right next to WonderGarden. We are looking for Master Gardeners to help educate volunteer staff in this garden as it thrives and grows as a vital part of the downtown. Call Nancy White, 824-4426 for more information.

ALLEN COUNTY OFFERS ADVANCED MG TRAINING

The Allen County Master Gardeners and Purdue Extension Horticulture Department are offering an Advanced Master Gardener Conference on Saturday, April 14, 2007, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the WALB Student Union Ballroom on the campus of IPFW, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Herbs, pruning, and understanding botanical names of plants are topics for three presentations. Cost is \$5 per person.

Send check to Allen County Extension, Attention: MG Conference, 4001 Crescent Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815. For information, contact MG Jane Ford at (260) 456-7077 or email jaf701@verison.net



MASTER GARDENER MENTORS NEEDED

By Amy Thompson, Extension Educator

Mentors are needed for the participants in the Master Gardener program for 2007. Mentors are asked to perform such tasks as

- ◆ Encourage interns to complete 35 volunteer hours and become a Certified Master Gardener
- ◆ Provide ideas for volunteer placement, such as volunteering at the Monroe County Fair, Indiana State Fair, Demonstration Garden at the Monroe County fairgrounds, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, and Templeton Elementary School garden; writing articles for the monthly newsletter; and serving as an officer in MCMGA.
- ◆ Call and invite interns to Master Gardener meetings
- ◆ Attend intern graduation at the May 22nd meeting.
- ◆ Be a resource for interns and a friendly face at any activities.
- ◆ Invite interns to visit your garden later in the spring

The mentoring session for this year's class will be held on April 9th from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. During this time you will have the opportunity to meet the intern(s) assigned to you and share your experiences as a Master Gardener. You are invited to attend the entire program that evening which features two topics new to the intern training program. Judy Loven a wildlife biologist from USDA/APHIS will speak on dealing with nuisance wildlife and Todd Stevenson, Monroe County Drainage engineer will speak on Rain Gardens. Judy will be coming from West Lafayette and to make her evening a little shorter we have moved the mentoring session from the beginning of class as it was in year's past to the end of class. If you are interested in serving as a mentor please contact Amy at the Extension office 349-2575 or afthompson@purdue.edu or you can speak to me at the MCMGA general meeting on March 27th. I plan to assign mentors/interns that evening. Of course, your time serving as a mentor will count as volunteer hours.

TREE FEST NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

By Amy Thompson

Volunteers are needed to assist school children with planting trees on Wednesday, April 25th at Marlin Elementary school. This effort will count toward Master Gardener volunteer hours, and lunch will be provided as long as we know you plan to attend.

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. and should conclude by 2:30 p.m. Marlin Elementary is located at 1655 E. Bethel Lane which is northeast of Bloomington.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Amy at afthompson@purdue.edu or call 349-2575. If you're unsure about your ability to properly plant a tree to ensure its survival, we will send you information and provide onsite assistance. This event is sponsored by the Monroe County Tree Committee.

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PLANTS?

"Invasive plant" is another name for a plant which grows quickly and aggressively, displacing other plants as it spreads. Usually, invasive plants are not native to North America. Of the roughly 2,300 plants species growing outside of cultivation in Indiana, 25% are non-native. Source: Invasive Plants in Indiana, Nature Conservancy



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Marilyn Brinley

Can you hear it? Can you smell it? Can you see it? Spring is almost here! No time of the year spurs my imagination quite as much as spring does. In fact, if I had to name my favorite time of year, it would be those few weeks when the redbuds and the white dogwoods are blooming in the woods.

Already, I am planning and plotting and allocating my budget toward my garden purchases. It is always a challenge to see just how far I can stretch my funds to get the most for my money. Seeds are always an economical option, but I rarely have luck with that, so then on to inexpensive annuals. They look great for a season, but then back to the drawing board next year. Perennials cost more initially, but they can last through at least a few growing seasons and often spread. Ah, but sometimes they spread just a bit too much. So each option has its unique benefits and disadvantages. The point is that the intelligent gardener will do what works best in his or her particular situation.

Likewise, we as Master Gardeners must decide how best we can fulfill our roles as mentors and teachers in the community. Do we like to work with children? Do we prefer the company of older adults? Would we be comfortable talking to a group about our gardening passion? Or is a one-on-one situation more our style? And of course, sitting at a keyboard and dispensing gardening wisdom is always an option.

No matter what venue you choose, go into it knowing that you will gain as much as those you reach. And remember to send those hours into the Extension Office so that we may share in your accomplishments. And as always, happy gardening to all of you!

TIMING OF PREEMERGENCE HERBICIDES

From Purdue's Turf Tips

If a preemergence herbicide is justified on a turf area, the timing of application is important. In theory, applying too early will expose the herbicide to soil microbes and processes in the soil that may break it down, allowing crabgrass to germinate during the latter part of the summer. Conversely, applying too late may miss the early part of the germination window of crabgrass. Our research as well as research from other universities show preemergence herbicides break down very slowly in our cool spring soils. Applications made at the proper rate in late fall and early spring will provide adequate control throughout the summer. Therefore, when applying preemergence herbicides, it's better to error on the side of being early than too late. We recommend applications no later than 15 March to 1 April in southern Indiana, 1 April to 15 April in central Indiana, and 10 April to 25 April in northern Indiana.

WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT INVASIVE PLANTS IN INDIANA?

1. Avoid using non-native invasive plants in your garden.
2. Scout your property for invasive species and remove invasives before they become a problem.
3. Alert people in your neighborhood and place of work about the problem and what species to watch for.
4. Volunteer to help at local parks and natural areas to remove invasives.

Source: Invasive Plants in Indiana, Nature Conservancy

ALIEN THREATS TO SOUTHERN INDIANA FORESTLANDS

A program on invasive plants will be presented at the Spring Mill Inn at Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell, Indiana on Saturday, March 24, 2007, 8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m. Due to space constraints, the workshop will be limited to 150 participants. To reserve your space, call the White River RC&D office today at 812-279-8117, extension 5. The registration fee is only \$10 per person or \$20 for an entire family – and includes programs, tour, resource packet and lunch. Registration deadline is March 21st. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness of the threat of alien invasives, to help identify major plant threats to land, and to provide ideas and options for control of existing aliens and for learning the prevention strategies for new infestations.

SNOW IS GOOD FOR GARDENS

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Consumer Horticulturist

Though your aching back may not agree, recent heavy snows actually will be good for your garden and landscape. Snow provides moisture as well as protection from cold and wind.

Snow is an excellent insulator against low temperatures and excessive winds. The extent of protection depends on the depth of snow. Generally, the temperature below the snow increases by about 2 degrees F for each inch of accumulation. In addition, the soil gives off some heat so that the temperature at the soil surface can be much warmer than the air temperature. One study found that the soil surface temperature was 28 F with a 9-inch snow depth and an air temperature of -14 F!

Snow brings welcome moisture to many landscape plants, which will in turn help prevent desiccation injury. Even dormant plants continue to lose moisture from twigs (as water vapor) in the process known as transpiration. Evergreen plants, which keep their leaves through the winter, are at even greater risk of injury.

On the other hand, it is possible to have too much of a good thing. Some evergreens will suffer from too much snow load. The weight of snow and ice can bend or even break branches, particularly on multi-stemmed shrubs, such as arborvitae. Snow should be gently removed by brushing away with a broom. Do not try to remove ice, since it is more than likely that you will break the stems. Multi-stemmed shrubs that are known to be susceptible to breakage can be bound with twine to hold branches together to prevent them from splitting apart.

Of course, there's still more winter to come before we'll know how well our plants fare from the blizzard of 2007. In the meantime, rest assured that there really is a silver lining to this storm cloud, at least in the areas that received the snow.

A GREAT WAY TO PICK UP NATIVE PLANTS

The INPAWS Plant Sale and Auction will be here soon! This popular INPAWS fundraiser is a great opportunity to get to know many of your fellow INPAWS members while learning more about our native plants. It is also a wonderful way to share your own native plants and knowledge with others.

Here are the basic details:

Date: Saturday May 12, 2007

Time: Plant Sale from 10:00 to noon

Auction starts at 11:00

Book Sale from 9:30 to noon

Place: Indiana School for the Blind

7725 North College Avenue

Churchman Hall

Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Mike Stelts will be the auctioneer

Purchases can be made with cash or check.

COPING WITH STORM-DAMAGED TREES

By B. Rosie Lerner, Purdue Extension Horticulturalist

Homeowners assessing tree damage caused by recent storms will want to make a few important decisions soon. Small trees with minor damage can probably be taken care of by the homeowner, but large, mature trees likely will need the help of a professional tree service.

It can be hard to decide whether trees with severe damage should be completely removed. Homeowners often are reluctant to cut down a tree, either because of sentimental attachment or because the tree provides shade or screening that won't quickly be replaced.

But the first priority should be safety. Assess whether the tree itself or some of its branches are in danger of falling now or in the near future. If the tree is not an immediate danger, you may be able to plant a new tree nearby and wait for it to grow a bit before removing the old tree.

Just because a trunk is split does not necessarily mean the tree will die soon. Large, split branches or trunks that have not broken off the tree can be braced and possibly saved by an arborist. If limbs have fallen completely off the tree, there is nothing that can be done to save the branch. In either case, the wounded area in the tree will always be a weak spot that is susceptible to disease, rotting and insects.

For trees that just have a few damaged limbs, it is relatively easy to remove small, lower branches with loppers or a pruning saw. Use sharp pruning tools appropriate to the size of the job to ensure a clean, smooth cut. Use hand shears on branches up to one-quarter inch in diameter, loppers on branches up to 1.5 inches in diameter and a pruning saw on branches more than 1-inch thick.

While you're at it, look for branches that already have broken free and may have left a jagged stump on the trunk. Make a cleaner cut on those branches to help the tree wound seal more easily.

For larger limbs, or those too far up to reach, hire an arborist or other professional service. They'll have the appropriate tools and equipment to safely bring down large or high limbs so that the tree, house or other nearby objects will not be damaged.

In general, pruning sealants or paint are no longer recommended for treating pruning wounds. There is some controversy regarding these products, but generally they have not been shown to be helpful. Some scientists believe the sealant actually may interfere with the tree's ability to form a protective callous over the wound.

Find more detailed information on pruning in Extension publication "HO-4, Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs," (online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-4.pdf>) or contact the Purdue Extension office in your county and ask for a printed copy. For more information on hiring a professional tree service, see Extension Publication FNR-FAQ-13-W, "Why Hire An Arborist," (online at <http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/PubsOnLine/Faq13W.PDF>).

TEN OF THE MOST DAMAGING INVASIVE PLANTS IN INDIANA

Bush Honeysuckles	Common Reed or Phragmites
Purple Loosestrife	Oriental Bittersweet
Japanese Honeysuckle	Garlic Mustard
Reed Canary Grass	Buckthorns
Autumn Olive	Crown Vetch

Source: Invasive Plants in Indiana, Nature Conservancy



TWO INFORMATIVE BOOKS ON HYDRANGEAS

By M. Susan Osborne

Hydrangeas by Glyn Church, published by Firefly Books Ltd., 2001, photographs by Pat Greenfield

Hydrangeas: A Gardener's Guide by Toni Lawson-Hall and Brian Rothera, published by Timber Press, Revised edition 2004.

Its summertime and the spring jonquils and tulips have faded. Many of us long for a melodious summer – long hot days, blue skies and fragrant colorful gardens. The picture gardening books feature gardens ablaze with color, no weeds, lush perennials, and flowering shrubs. We all know it's possible to have these picturesque gardens if we plan carefully and work frequently, but for many of us that may not be an option, so we strive to plant low maintenance, colorful, healthy gardens.

One of the answers to our wishful thoughts is hydrangeas, which have proven to be a long-flowering summer shrub. They require a light annual pruning and an occasional feeding, but otherwise, they can be left alone and permitted to bloom and grow and offer unending color and fragrance. The simplicity of growing hydrangeas has made them one of the most popular flowering shrubs in the world. Dozens of hardy hybrids offer an overwhelming range to select from with many species native to America. Hydrangeas are robust, thrive in temperate climates, and can withstand a fair degree of neglect.

Hydrangeas by Glyn Church is a comprehensive guide that covers the early history of hydrangeas, the most popular varieties, including climbing hydrangeas (*Hydrangea petiolaris*), as well as mopheads and lace cap hydrangeas. Included is advice on planting, propagation, climate requirements and cultivation, pruning and garden design, and container growing, as well as how to affect bloom color – from blues to pinks – and information on rare species for the daring hydrangea enthusiast. Also included are an appendix on special sites and purposes, a plant source listing, index and bibliography. Two compelling features are the wonderful full-color photographs (thanks to Pat Greenfield) of over 100 gorgeous plants and a list of over 125 recommended specific hybrid hydrangeas to be considered for multiple uses.

Toni Lawson-Hall and Brian Rothera's revised edition book ***Hydrangeas: A Gardener's Guide*** discusses the Genus *Hydrangea*, its history, natural distribution, species in cultivation, some problems and peculiarities, and other valuable information. Besides an index and glossary of terms, this book offers some useful addresses, plant sources and lists of information including further reading lists, public gardens both in the U.S. and abroad, flowering times of the species and cultivars, and flower head types of subspecies and cultivars. The commonly grown hydrangea species are described and illustrated. Reclassifying and renaming of the most popular *macrophylla* species is addressed.

The information is highly readable, yet comprehensive enough to use as a guide to identification. It's evident why the book is a classic, a book a hydrangea enthusiast would not want to be without.

Of the two books, I find the less than 100 page book by Glyn Church to be the kindest to read. The chapters are concise, yet abundant with facts, guidance, and well researched information. However, I cannot criticize the book by Toni Lawson-Hall and Brian Rothera because they have offered a more intense reading and representation of hydrangeas. This type of information is valuable, too. The full color photographs and outstanding pencil drawings as well as the many other aspects of hydrangeas were interesting to learn.

Most important, I learned from these two books that hydrangeas are a gardener's favorite, because they are easily grown, very decorative, and long-lasting. Gardeners would be hard to fail if they choose to grow hydrangeas.

IMA 2007 HORTICULTURE SYMPOSIA WORTH THE TRIP

By M. Susan Osborne

On a cold, but beautiful day, the Indianapolis Museum of Art hosted the Horticulture 2007 Symposia Series – **Harmonious Planting Design: for People Who Love to Live in Their Gardens**. This annual event was held at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis on February 15 and was co-sponsored by *Horticulture* Magazine. Nine Monroe County Master Gardeners made the journey to Indianapolis (despite the weather) to hear the speakers discuss wonderfully innovative topics. The keynote speaker, Nan Sinton, Director of Programs for *Horticulture* magazine, began the program discussing Harmonious Planting Design, which was an excellent prelude for the other speakers.

First on the agenda was Kathy Tracey, who trained originally in textile design and painting, owns Avante Gardens in Dartmouth, MA, and is known for growing and experimenting with unique plants. Her lecture, *New Harmonies*, showcased the use of tender perennials and extraordinary annuals beyond their traditional role in display pots. Her slides showed us how to weave a tapestry of foliage and flowers that contributes color, fragrance, and scent throughout the warmer months.

The morning continued with Keith Wiley, a British born garden consultant, nurseryman, writer, and garden maker, who developed naturalistic planting at the Garden House in southwest England. Inspired by his travels through the world's woodlands, deserts, mountains, and coastlines, he developed ways to translate the concept of wildness found in large landscapes into a naturalistic style suited for shade gardens and smaller sites. His lecture, *Live Long and Prosper: Star-Quality Planting in the Shaded Garden*, explained ways certain species in shade gardens have star-power and the ability to be the heart of a planting that will continue year after year and bring excitement to seasonal designs. He explained how he ventures into new territories with vanguard designs and offered planting suggestions for shady sites.

After the lunch break the program continued with C. Colston Burrell, a garden designer, photographer, naturalist and award-winning author, who gardens in the Blue Ridge Mountains growing natives and the best plants of the global garden. His presentation, *More than a Pretty Face: Native Alternatives to Invasive Exotic Plants*, gave us a garden that satisfied both the heart and mind. He offered a palette of native trees, shrubs, and perennials that can serve as alternatives to invasive species while providing food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

The final speaker, Craig Bergmann, a landscape architect, garden designer, plantsman, lecturer, and editor, is best known for incorporating modern day twists on the romantic designs of the past. His work includes estate master planning, woodland and prairie restorations, sculpture gardens, and historic garden restoration where he manages to include herbaceous borders, potagers, and formality within his garden designs. His ingenious design techniques combined with a rich palette of plants manages to reveal the hidden potential of any site and take it from ordinary to extraordinary.

In a nutshell, the program was about creating gardens that link indoor and outdoor spaces, places that invite you outside. The techniques of harmonious planting designs can bring style and substance to gardens and are especially devised for people who love to live in their gardens, allowing the definition of harmony to be as individual as each gardener. Once again, an excellent program was orchestrated with outstanding speakers, a simple, but delightful luncheon amongst other avid gardeners, and an opportunity to purchase books either written or edited by the speakers.

Even though the day was cold and the ground snow covered, the sun shone brightly on the ice-covered trees as we made our way home full of ideas for spring and summer projects that we can mull over in our minds as we await the spring thaw and the return to our harmonious gardens.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COMPILED BY NANCY WHITE

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden & Nature Center	year around	various	855-2799
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 Wise, 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
WonderLab 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.

HERBES DE PROVENCE FROM YOUR GARDEN

By Marilyn Brinley

Certainly one of the greatest joys for the gardener lies in putting the bounty of the harvest from the garden onto the dinner table. Growing one's own herbs also adds to the enjoyment of gardening as well as eating.

People in the Provence region of southern France have been growing and blending their own herb mixtures for centuries. Bay leaves are staples, along with oregano, thyme, basil, rosemary, sage, marjoram, fennel seeds, and summer savory. Some recipes even call for the addition of lavender buds. My personal blend combines dried basil, oregano, rosemary, sage, thyme and lavender buds.

Herbes de Provence can be used to season meat, poultry, eggs and vegetables. Italians have a similar blend, using many of the same herbs. The herb blend is most often used for roasting and long stewing or braising, but also can be sprinkled on anything that would benefit from a boost of Mediterranean flavor. However, the herbs are generally only used in the cooking process, as the flavors are a bit strong.

When drying and storing herbs, make sure the leaves are dry as to prevent spoilage, and clip a few sprigs of each plant desired. If using the herbs as a dry mix, rubber band a handful of herbs together and hang upside down in a cool, well ventilated, dry location for a few weeks. Once the herbs have dried sufficiently, remove the leaves from the stems and lay out on a paper towel to continue the drying process. It is important that the herbs not be stored in direct sunlight, as the light will cause the herbs to quickly lose their flavor.

Once the herbs have been thoroughly dried, finely chop the leaves and mix together. Store in an airtight container for up to six months.

Herbes de Provence

Mix equal parts crushed leaves of dried sage, dried oregano, *dried thyme*, dried basil, and dried rosemary. Add one half-part dried lavender buds.

One of our favorite uses for this blend is for homemade croutons. This is the recipe my daughter and I developed:

Homemade Croutons

Bread, cut into $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cubes

Olive oil

Herb seasonings

Garlic powder, optional

Toss all ingredients together on a baking sheet or a toaster oven pan. Spread out evenly and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown. Watch carefully as this browns/burns quickly. A good tip is to toss the croutons once some begin browning and then turn off the oven before returning the croutons to the oven to finish drying/baking. Serve fresh croutons on your favorite salad and securely seal and freeze the remainder for another time.

Resources

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbes_de_Provence

frenchfood.about.com/od/frenchcuisinebasics/r/herbprovence.htm

www.seedsofknowledge.com/provence.html

www.uni-graz.at/~katzner/engl

TIS THE SEASON OF AREA GARDEN EVENTS

Submitted by Amy Thompson

Upcoming Garden Shows may be of interest to Master Gardeners. Remember just attending a garden show does not count as educational hours; however, if you attend any scheduled educational talks as part of a garden show, you can count that time.

49th Annual Indiana Flower & Patio Show

March 10-18

Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis

(800) 215-1700

<http://www.hsishows.com>

Orchard In Bloom Garden Show

April 27-29

Holliday Park, Indianapolis

(317) 713-5765

<http://www.orchardinbloom.org>

Cincinnati Flower Show

April 21-29

Lake Como on Coney Island, Cincinnati

(800) 670-6808

<http://www.cincyflowershow.com>

Cleveland Botanical Garden Flower Show

May 24-28

Cleveland Botanical Garden, Cleveland

(216) 721-1600

<http://www.cbgarden.org>

UPCOMING MARCH EVENTS AT GARFIELD GARDENS CONSERVATORY

Escape to the Tropics - Friday, March 9. 6-8pm. All ages. FREE. Bring the family to enjoy a tropical festival at the conservatory. Grab your favorite floral shirt and come enjoy crafts, refreshments, games and more! Learn about what life is like for people just like you who live in the tropical rainforest. Please pre-register for this new and exciting event by calling 327-7580.

African Violet Show - Saturday, March 17. 10am-5pm. All ages. FREE. The Indianapolis African Violet Society presents their annual show featuring a wide variety of African violets, includ-

ing some for sale to the public.

Lily Companion Series: Peonies - Saturday, March 24. 3-4pm. Ages 18+. FREE. This will be the first workshop in this new series. The Lily Society of Indiana will welcome Don Smith, President of the Indiana Peony Society will present an in-depth workshop on how peonies will work with lilies in both design and function. Peonies will be available for sale.

APRIL EVENTS

Earth Day Extravaganza - Saturday, April 21. 11am-4pm. All ages. FREE. Join us as we celebrate Earth Day at the Conservatory and Gardens! We will have many exciting activities for your family to enjoy together! More details to come!

Taking Care of Your Orchids and Repotting Workshop - Saturday, April 28. 10am-12pm. Ages 18+. Cost: \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members (payment taken day of event). This more in-depth workshop will cover care of the types of orchids you would buy from a supplier. Members of the Central Indiana Orchid Society will be on hand to demonstrate repotting and various potting mixes.

SPRING BULB SHOW & SALE

Annual Spring Bulb Show: March 30 - April 6. 10am - 5pm daily. View your classic favorites or brand new hybrids of tulips, hyacinth, daffodils, muscari, and more! An early dose of spring right in our very own Garfield Park Conservatory Gazebo Room. Special Admission Rates Apply.

Bulb Sale: April 7 & 8th, Free Admission 10am-5pm - The entire bulb show collection goes on sale to the public. Buy your bulbs at Garfield Park Conservatory! The best selection in town!

<http://www.garfieldgardensconservatory.org/events.html>

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

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**Plan to attend the General Meeting
on March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Details inside.**

2007 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

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