



Roots & Shoots

President's Report

Even though the calendar says it's still winter, hints of Spring keep surfacing. Warmer weather gives us all the itch to start working outside in the garden beds. Or at the very least, peruse the seed catalogs with their luscious photographs of potential beauty! It is a time of year when cabin fever takes over big time.

As I look at my sprouting garlic, and the 6" high daffodils, it was encouraging to see posted on the MCMGA Facebook page an article from Purdue Extension stating this is all "normal" growth behavior! What a relief!

The other activities which have kept me sane from the winter doldrums are helping plan the **Spring Garden Fair (April 1st)** under the able leadership of Nancy White, and having the opportunity to help review our **grant applications** for gardening projects. What a lot of wonderful gardening plans and opportunities are happening in and around Bloomington! It makes for difficult decisions choosing the applications that will have the greatest educational benefit for our community.

Plans for the **State Garden Tour (June 16)** "*Celebrating Nature's Aesthetics*" are in full swing with three tours planned for the day. A benefit of MCMGA hosting this event is the option for our Monroe County members to register a full week prior to opening up registration for the rest of the state. Tours will be limited- so stay tuned for further details!

Our next **general meeting (March 28)** will give us an opportunity to learn about African Violets and Carnivorous Plants. Join us at 6:30 at the Extension Office Meeting room. Educational hours will be granted for attendance.

Think Spring! And as one of my favorite gardeners once said... *I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden. Ruth Stout*

--Mary Cusack, President



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Garden Fair News—Your Help is Needed!

By: Nancy White

- *Volunteers are still needed for shifts in the Café and for some other tasks both event day and prior to April 1. Contact Evelyn Harrell for a shift time in the Café and Nancy White for all other volunteer positions. All time spent working on the GF qualifies for MG volunteer hours.
- *Bring your donated catalogues, books and magazines to the March 28 General Meeting or on April 1 for the giveaway at the MG Info Booth.
- *Help us increase our GF attendance by sharing information on social media. Our website includes some facts you could use. We also have more of those handy postcards and small posters that are available at the Extension Office or from Nancy White. Please pass information on to your neighbors and friends. You are our best publicity agent.
- *Mary Cusack and her Vendor Committee have lined up several new exhibitors for 2017. Do you need information on hydroponics? Are you thinking of starting a fairy garden or trying some succulents? Is your garden in need of some hardscaping materials? Could you use one of those interesting hypertufa containers? All these and more will be on view at the Fair.
- *If you have a GF yard sign for display in your yard please remember to place it on Sun., March 26 and remove it after April 1. For those who offered to place a yard sign, these will be available to you for pick-up at the Extension Office by March 6. If you need a sign and do not have one, contact Nancy White. We purchased some new ones this year so we have extras.
- *We have some loyal sponsors so please visit their place of business or booth and thank them for their support. At this time we have Lucky's Market, Fowler Tree Service, Altra Design, Speedway Mulch and More, Baker Creek Seeds, John Scheepers Flowers and Seeds, and Johnnie's Seed Company on the list. By Fair time we hope to have more sponsors.
- *The booth set up day at the Armory is Fri. March 31, from 8-11 am, and exhibitors set-up is noon-3:30 the same day. The Café committee is requesting that baked goods be brought to the Armory from noon-3:00 on Fri. or early am on Sat. Please remember to avoid nuts of any kind. Cakes and pies should be left uncut.
- *Entry fee for the Fair is \$2 per person with children under 12 free. Master Gardeners who work event day do not need to pay.
- * This year we do not have door prizes. Instead, we will provide a carry bag for the first 500 attendees. Lucky's Market has donated the carry bags and Bernadette Zoss is locating various contents from local businesses and individuals. If you know of a business that might like to help us fill the bags, share this with Bernadette. Several seed and plant companies have donated catalogues and seed packets already.
- *As you know, the proceeds from the Garden Fair support the MG Grant Program. The grant committee is currently reviewing the 2017 applications and will announce the winners soon. Check out the announcement board at the Garden Fair to see our 2017 winners.
- . *The 4 education classes during the GF are free to all those attending. Many of our visitors attend at least one of the classes. Master Gardeners can count time spent attending a class(es) as education hours toward certification and yearly renewal.

Class Schedule

- 10:00-11:00 "A Garden on Your Countertop-EASY, INEXPENSIVE, FUN" Penny Austin
- 11:30-12:30 "Gardening with Hydroponics" Chase Lawyer
- 1:00-2:00 "Shrubs for all Seasons" Moya Andrews
- 2:30-3:30 "Common Landscape Disease-Diagnosis and Management" Amy Thompson

BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO THE MG GARDEN FAIR—YOU WILL HAVE A BLAST!

**GARDEN FAIR 2017
Saturday, April 1
9 am-4 pm
Indiana National Guard Armory
3380 S. Walnut St.
Bloomington, Indiana**

Volunteer Opportunities

BEST FRONT YARD

Judges needed!

If you **don't** live in 47403 and would like to spend an afternoon judging front gardens there, contact Susan Eastman at eastman@indiana.edu or [812-332-2996](tel:812-332-2996). Four judges are needed for 03. Also, if you **don't** live in 47404, two more judges are needed to go with Nancy Page and Ann McEndarfer in 04. Judging takes place between April 1 and 15 this year, and we've been promised a big splash in the HOMES section of the *Herald-Times*!



Upcoming Events:

March 11-19 Flower and Patio Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds

March 28 - 6:30 (Extension Office) - MCMGA General Meeting- with speaker on African Violets and Carnivorous Plants.

March 30 – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm “Understanding Native Pollinators & Their Needs” Monroe County Convention Center

April 8 – 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm “Spring Into Gardening” Hilltop Garden and Nature Center

June 16 - Master Gardener State Garden Tour - "*Celebrating Nature's Aesthetics*" - hosted by MCMGA.

CHANGES IN REPORTING VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION HOURS

The MG ED system we have used for reporting will be redirected to a new system. The MG ED system will no longer be available.

The Purdue Master Gardener Program is launching Purdue MG Manager, a new online volunteer management system for Purdue Master Gardener volunteers. This system provides a way for Purdue Master Gardener volunteers to report volunteer activity and educational training hours online, communicate details about volunteer projects, keep and maintain a personal profile, designate calendar events as volunteer opportunities with an online volunteer recruitment for these activities, make use of a local MG volunteer directory, sign annual agreement forms electronically, and more!

All Purdue MG s must register in the system and as part of the registration, process provide basic contact information, including an email address (required) and county registration code (required). Monroe County s registration code is **monr8264**. Please register and report some current volunteer activity and educational training hours. Your prior total hours will be entered later by your County MG Coordinator to bring your historic hours records up to date. Please keep copies of all past and current hours as a personal backup for your records.

Register for Purdue MG Manager here: <https://www.purdue.edu/mg-volunteer>

Video on how to register: <http://tinyurl.com/ze9jaz3>

Video on how to report volunteer activity and educational training hours: <http://tinyurl.com/jdqmp5d>

Thank you for reporting your hours!

March Garden Calendar

Be sure to visit the Purdue Extension "Purdue Plant Info to Go" display at the Indiana Flower and Patio Show, March 11-19 at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

HOME (Indoor plants and activities)

- Begin fertilizing houseplants as new growth appears. Keep spent leaves and flowers removed to improve appearance and encourage more blooms.
- Start garden seeds indoors for transplanting outdoors later in spring.
- Check stored bulbs and produce for decay; discard damaged items.
- Prune, repot and clean houseplants as needed.

YARD (Lawns, woody ornamentals and fruits)

- Prune trees and shrubs, except those that bloom early in spring, while plants are still dormant. If winter injury is a concern, delay pruning until after dieback; desiccation injury can be assessed as plants come out of dormancy.
- Plant new trees and shrubs as soon as the soil dries enough to be worked. Plant bare-root plants before they leaf out. Soils may be exceptionally wet this spring as winter snows thaw.
- Fertilize woody plants before new growth begins, but after soil temperatures have reached 40 degrees F.
- Remove winter coverings from roses as soon as new growth begins. Prune out dead canes and fertilize as needed. Delay pruning into live canes until after winter injury can be assessed.
- Apply superior oil spray to control scale insects and mites when tips of leaves start to protrude from buds.

GARDEN (Flowers, vegetables and small fruits)

- Plant cool-season vegetables and flowers as soon as the ground has dried enough to work. Do NOT work the soil while it is wet; wait until it crumbles in your hand. If the soil forms a solid ball when squeezed, it's still too wet.
- Gradually harden off transplants by setting them outdoors during the daytime for about a week before planting.
- Follow last fall's soil test recommendations for fertilizer and pH adjustment. It's not too late to test soil if you missed last year.
- Start seeds of warm-season vegetables and flowers indoors; in northern and central Indiana, wait until the end of March or early April. Transplant to the garden after danger of frost has passed.
- Watch for blooms of early spring bulbs, such as daffodils, squill, crocus, dwarf iris and snowdrops.
- Remove old asparagus and rhubarb tops, and sidedress the plants with nitrogen or manure. Plant or transplant asparagus, rhubarb and small fruit plants.
- Remove winter mulch from strawberry beds as soon as new growth begins, but keep the mulch nearby to protect against frost and freezes.
- Remove weak, diseased or damaged canes from raspberry plants before new growth begins. Remove old fruiting canes if not removed last year, and shorten remaining canes if necessary.
- Prune grapevines after winter injury can be assessed.

By [B. Rosie Lerner](#), Extension Consumer Horticulturist

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.mcmga.net



Volunteer to Protect Your Community's Trees!

Attend an Invasive Forest Pests Early Detector Training Workshops

Learn to Recognize and Report Invasive Forest Pests



These evening sessions will prepare you to be the first line of defense for your community's urban forest.

2017 Workshops-WHERE and WHEN

Bloomington, IN—July 11 th 6:00 PM– 8:00pm 3400 S Walnut St Bloomington, IN	Aurora, IN—July 12 th 6:00 PM-8:00 PM 229 Main Street Aurora, IN	Nashville, IN—July 13 th 6:00 PM-8:00 PM Old State Rd 46 Nashville, IN 47448
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Register Now: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPSOP2017>
Registration is required, There is no cost to attend.

Questions? Cliff Sadof, 765-494-5983 or Sara Stack, 765-494-0822 stack4@purdue.edu

Partners:



CCH's and ISA CEU's will be made available

About MCMGA ...

The Monroe County Master Gardener Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in the state of Indiana, affiliated with Purdue University, Cooperative Extension Service, an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.
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