Roots and Shoots

Monroe County Master Gardener Association Newsletter

Volume 26, Issue 11



Holiday dinner & general meeting is November 30

Plan to join us for our holiday dinner and general meeting on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. Our dinner and meeting will be held in the fellowship hall at Sherwood



By Vicky St. Myers

Oaks Christian Church located at 2700 E. Rogers Road, Bloomington.

We will be having our annual pitch-in dinner so please plan to bring a salad, side dish or dessert. The MCMGA board will provide meat, cheese, bread and drinks, and the refreshment committee of Bethany Murray, Esther Minnick, Helen Hollingsworth, Diana Young, and Susan Eastman will be handling the preparation. In order to reduce waste and be more environmentally responsible, we are asking members to bring their own table service of a plate, silverware, and cup or drinking glass.

Dan Gluesenkamp, owner of Designscape in Nashville, will present a program, *Hollies for Southern Indiana*. This presentation counts one hour of education.

Door prizes will be awarded to some lucky attendees! Bring your family and friends and join us for the festivities.

Garden Fair needs you!

Our second *Garden Fair* is on Saturday, April 23, at the National Guard Armory on South Walnut Street. In 2011 we will need workers for food preparation, publicity, physical arrangements, door prizes, vendor contacts, education session planners, and technical support. Volunteer for this rewarding and fun event. We need your energy, enthusiasm, and creative ideas. And remember, all hours logged for *Garden Fair* count as volunteer hours.

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Special points of interest:

Volunteer for the 2011 Garden Fair at our November meeting

New shrubs CD highlights little known native Indiana shrubs you may never have known about

Indiana is being invaded by stink bugs Harvesting at the Demo garden brings surprises

Visit English gardens in July with Rosie and Mike

Learn techniques for your first yard

Member News

Don't forget to renew your Master Gardener membership for 2011. Copies of the renewal form are available at our website and was included in the September printed issue of *Roots and Shoots*. If you want your information to be included in our yearbook, your membership form must be received at the extension office by no later than January 1, 2011.



By Nancy White

Holiday Dinner and General Meeting is on Tuesday, November 30

All members and our current intern class are cordially invited to attend the annual MG Holiday Dinner and General Meeting on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church., 2700 East Rogers Road. Plan to bring a dish to share plus your table service. Meat, cheese, bread, and drinks will be provided. Family members are invited to join us.

Plan to wear your Master Gardener badge to the November meeting

Be sure to wear your MG badge to the November Holiday Dinner and General Meeting. New interns will want to meet their colleagues in gardening.

New board members will be elected this month

An election of officers will be held at our November general meeting. Be sure to study the slate found in this issue. The new board will begin in January.

Thank you, Vicky St. Myers

Thanks go to Vicky St. Myers who is completing her term as vice-president for programs. In the past two years under her direction, we have enjoyed informational and creative general meetings and fieldtrips. Her dedication to the Master Gardeners has set a high standard for all of us. We wish her well in her next adventure.

Visit T. C. Steele special exhibits

T.C. Steele State Historic Site has announced a special exhibit, *Arts and Crafts Moments: Simplicity in Design*, running November 2, 2010 through March 30, 2012. This exhibit features artifacts from the T.C. Steele collection, the Indiana State Museum collection, and a private collection. Additional special events will be held during the months of the exhibit. For more information, visit <u>testeeleshs@dnr,in.gov</u> or call 812- 988- 2785. Located south of Highway 46 East between Bloomington and Nashville, it is an easy drive.

A few more words on bulbs

Have you had problems with critters eating your bulbs? Try this. Make small cages using mesh with half inch holes. Poultry fencing will work for this and is available in small rolls at Menards and Lowes. Place the bulbs inside cages and bury the cages. Rodents can't chew through the mesh to get to the bulbs. For mass plantings, line the bottom and sides of the hole with mesh. Coarse gravel can also be used to line bulb holes. Gravel discourages burrowing rodents.

We know that deer will usually leave our daffodils alone but did you know that there are some other bulbs that contain lycorine, the bitter tasting poisonous substance that repels animals? In addition to daffodils, try planting fritillaries, allium, squill, and glory-of-the-snow to increase your deer repelling repertoire.

Source: Horticulture Magazine

Nominations committee announces 2011 slate of officers

Once again, it is time to elect officers for our MCMGA board of directors. Our bylaws state that this year, the offices of president, vice president for programs, vice president for education, director of communications, and director at large are to be elected. The election will take place at our Tuesday, November 30 holiday dinner and meeting, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. The following have been recommended by the nominating committee to fill these positions.

Nancy White, president

Nancy White enjoys the challenge of her woodland garden close to Lake Monroe. Since receiving certification in 2002, she has volunteered at local schools, sites downtown, WonderGarden, Bloomington in Bloom, and as a coordinator for our Garden Fair. She is a regular contributor to Roots and Shoots, and she has achieved the silver level.

Evelyn Harrell, vice president for programs

Evelyn Harrell completed the intern training in 2009 and is at the certified level. She is a long-time Monroe County resident and has volunteered at the Farmer's Market, the Monroe County Fair, and the Master Gardener booths at the Indianapolis Flower and Patio Show and the Indiana State Fair.

Jeff Schafer, vice president for education

Jeff Schafer completed his intern training in 2005 and is now at the advanced level. He is the incumbent VP for education, served on the 2010 Garden Fair committee, is a presenter on Wine Making, and volunteers at the Demo Garden and the Monroe County Fair.

Barbara Hays, director of communications

Barbara Hays is a long time Monroe County resident and a charter MCMGA member. She was certified in 1988 and is at gold level. She has served in several board positions and has volunteered for Master Gardener booths at fairs, Demo garden, and Roots and Shoots. She enjoys seed-starting and is especially fond of perennial flowers and unusual houseplants.

Herman Young, director at large

Herman Young is a long time resident of Unionville. He lives on property that has been in his family since 1830. He took the intern class in 1998. He is a silver level Master Gardener. He volunteers at the Demo Garden, Monroe County Fair, and Garden Fair. He enjoys gardening and grows heirloom vegetables.



Nancy White



Evelyn Harrell



Jeff Schafer



Barbara Hays



Herman Young

Web Castings

As I was encouraging feedback about last month's column, a couple of MG's said, "We only have dial-up and don't access the net much, what about books?" and of course that opens a whole new area for review. We'll just have to see how this evolves.



By Karen Sparks

Think Spring: Plant Daffs Now! MG Intern and daffodil enthusiast
Kay Cunningham suggested the American Daffodil Society site at
www.daffodilusa.org. What a great reference for identification, and more. It has gorgeous pictures, links to local groups, planting and forcing tips, and even a list of approved display gardens (many in the Midwest) for that Spring garden road trip. Thanks, Kay!

Musical Perennials: You too? If you play this game like I do, you are always looking for better perennial placement, and while fall may not be the best time to move some plants around, it is a great time to map out those beds and start to plan for the big spring shift. You can still see what's where right now, while if you wait until after the holidays to draw out your plans, you may have to rely too much on memory. So, a site provided by our leader, Amy Thompson, at http://web.extension.illinois.edu/gardendesign, takes us through all the steps to consider. Some of them seem really basic (put the tall plants in the back—okay) but the rest are just excellent. The site has interesting and humorous quotes throughout and offers lots of clear pathways for exploring topics. So this is good for now and will be golden in January. I am bookmarking it.

Bring it in! It's that time of year, when we must decide what to bring indoors and what to let go. Last winter I had really good luck with euphorbia '*Diamond Frost*', and this year I have read that *torenia* (wishbone flower) loves that low indoor light, so that is coming in too. But have you considered bringing in pepper or tomato plants? The folks at WHYY-FM have suggestions about that: www.whyy.org/91FM/ybyg/overwinteringplants.html This site led me to their home page and a listing of recent radio programs (*You Bet Your Garden*) on a range of topics. something to listen to in February.

Pile it on! You have read about layered or lasagna gardening, right? It's time to load up those newly started rough beds with good stuff such as kitchen scraps, leaf and lawn residue, all kinds of odds and ends. This site takes a relaxed, can't-fail, humorous approach, and I think I am seeing this when I should, for once www.no-dig-vegetablegarden.com/lasagna-gardening.html

This next site seems to be one of the earlier articles on the subject, though not the first, from Mother Earth News in 1999: www.motherearthnews.com/Organic-Gardening/1999-04-01/Lasagna-Gardening.aspx It chronicles the author's discoveries, her reactions, and the hit-and-miss evolution of the method.

Got Gourds? The Kemper Center for Home Gardening (thanks again, Amy T.) led me to a page of ideas for those of you with lots of gourds and crafty talent who want to make them into something for the holidays:

www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/plantfinder/gourdindex.shtml Very clever.

That's it for this month. Next time: Garden Diaries, 'The Perfessers' and more. Thanks, everyone. Now, back outside!

Hedge fun: CD lists all of Indiana's native shrubs

Indiana is home to 117 native shrub species. Every one—from the populous common blackberry to the very rare American barberry—appears in a new Purdue University Cooperative Extension CD, *Shrubs of Indiana: Their Identification and Uses*. This resource is especially designed for Master Gardeners, nursery operators and amateur green thumbs interested in learning about or planting native shrubs.

Shrubs of Indiana: Their Identification and Uses (Extension publication CD-FNR-6) is \$20 plus tax and shipping, and available only through Purdue Extension's Education Store. To order or for more information, visit the CD's Web page at http://www.extension.purdue.edu/store/Shrubs/. Orders also can be made by calling the toll-free Purdue Extension hotline at 1-888-EXT-INFO (1-888-398-4636).

Purdue MG Award honors extension educators

Purdue Master Gardeners have the opportunity to nominate their County Extension Educator for the Master Gardener Coordinator of the Year Award.

An interactive .pdf form is on the Purdue MG Web Page at<http://www.hort.purdue.edu/mg/info/coordaward10.pdf>. Send form plus letters of support. The deadline for nominations is December 1.

By Rosie Lerner, Master Gardener State Coordinator

Submitted

Thompson

bv

Amy

Fiskars announces garden grants and makeovers

Fiskars, a leader in the lawn and garden industry, is happy to announce that its application process for 2011 Project Orange Thumb garden grants and makeovers in the U.S. and Canada is now open at www.fiskars.com/projectorangethumb. Applications must be received no later than December 31, 2010. Announcement of 2011 grant and garden makeover recipients is February 11, 2011. Garden makeovers will be scheduled for May–July, 2011.

A Winter Day in the Garden conference in January

On Saturday, January 29, 2011, those who share a love of gardening will gather to experience *A Winter Day in the Garden*, sponsored by U of Illinois Extension and the Crawford County Master Gardeners. The conference will take place at Lincoln Trail College's Zwermann Theatre in Robinson, Illinois from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (CST).

The program includes an early bird presentation—Square Foot Gardening plus these presentations: Getting a Natural Lawn & Landscape; Seed Saving – the how-to, why, and the duration; Pollinators of the Garden; and Slow Gardening. Cost is \$35. To access the flyer and register online, see website: web.extension.uiuc.edu/crawford . Click on A Winter Day in the Garden at the bottom of the screen under quick links. For general information, call 618/546-1549.

Brown marmorated stink bug: potentially serious pest in Indiana

An insect sample received by the Purdue Plant & Pest Diagnostic lab from a homeowner in Elkhart County on October 19, 2010 was confirmed to be the brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*. Since then, there has been an additional confirmed find in Tippecanoe County (Oct. 25). These are the first confirmed records of this insect in

Indiana. It has been found in Ohio this year for the first time as well and will continue expanding its range eastward. The brown marmorated stink bug (marmorated means "having a marbled or streaked appearance") is a native of Japan, Korea, and China and was first reported

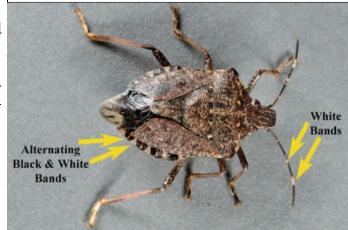
in the US in Pennsylvania in 1998.

This insect has the potential to be a pest in two ways. First, it invades houses in fall to overwinter in large aggregations, much like the dreaded multicolored Asian lady beetle. The stink bugs will not do any damage while in/on houses, although many people find them unpleasant to look at and they do emit a strong odor when disturbed. Stink bugs get their name because they release a pungent chemical as a defensive mechanism when threatened. The second important concern is that the brown marmorated stink bug can become a serious crop pest. They use their sucking mouthparts to feed on a wide variety of plants found here in Indiana, including most fruit crops, a number of vegetables, corn, soybeans, and various ornamental plants.

If experiences in states in the eastern U.S. are any indication, this pest is likely to become far more common here in Indiana over the next few years. Experiences in other parts of the country indicate that the brown marmorated stink bug will become a pest in homes before it By Rick Foster and Christian Krupke, Purdue University



Brown marmorated stink bug next to apple stem



Key identification characteristics, both abdominal and antennal, of the brown marmorated stink bug

builds up numbers to become a serious crop pest. Just as with the Asian lady beetle, homeowners should use tactics to prevent invasion of their homes by the stink bugs. This includes actions such as caulking/sealing around windows and repairing screens. Insecticides may be used on the exterior of the home to limit invasion of the house, but this should be only be done after the home has been sealed as well as is practically possible. Insecticides should not be used indoors to control this insect. Once the stink bugs are inside, they can be vacuumed up and disposed of. Homeowners should discard vacuum cleaner bag immediately after use because the dead and dying insects will stink while in the bags.

Here's an opportunity to visit English gardens in July

England and Its Gardens

International Study Abroad for Purdue Master Gardeners

July 6—19, 2011

Course Fee: (not including airfare) \$3240 per person double occupancy; \$3970 per person single occupancy

Mike Dana and Rosie Lerner have planned an advanced training/study abroad opportunity on the Gardens of England for July, 2011, and they are now open for enrollment. Participants will visit gardens of historical and modern significance in the regions of London, The West Country, and East Anglia and will have opportunities to hear lectures and receive study booklet, pre-test/post-test and course evaluation. Participants will be expected to share what they learn with others in their community upon their return.

The course is timed for mid July to hit the peak garden season, visiting such notable gardens as Hampton Court Palace, Stourhead, Hidcote Manor, Corsham Court, Hestercombe, Iford Manor, Westbury Court, Knole, Sissinghurst, Beth Chatto, Blooms of Bressingham, and the Royal Horticulture Society Gardens at Wisley.

Priority for enrollment is Purdue MGs, but members are welcome to bring a guest. If the class is not filled with Purdue MGs, enrollment will be open to MGs from other states.

The program flier can be downloaded from the webpage at

http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/eaig/main.html. To register for the course, contact Tammy Goodale tgoodale@purdue.edu> 765-494-1296 or call 1-888-398-4636 and asked to be transferred to Tammy at 41296. To discuss more details, call or e-mail Rosie at 765-494-1311 or rosie@purdue.edu or Mike at 765-494-5923 or dana@purdue.edu.

It's My First Yard—What Do I Do?

La Porte County Cooperative Extension Service is presenting *It's My First Yard – What Do I Do?* on Saturday, March 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. central time, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Michigan City.

This is a yard and gardening class for beginners. Topics that are usually covered include *Home Landscape Basics; Mixing Plants & Colors for Your Site; Mulching Do's and Don'ts, Lawn Maintenance;* and *Mowing.*

For information, contact La Porte County Cooperative Extension Service, 2358 N. U.S. 35, La Porte 219-324-9407.

Have you renewed your Master Gardener membership?

All Master Gardener membership renewals must be received at the extension office by no later than January 1, 2011, to be listed in *Folia and Flora*, our membership handbook. Members will receive the membership handbook at our January general meeting.

Call for volunteers: join new Master Gardener book review panel

During cold months in winter, do you satisfy your gardening passion by reading garden books? Would you like to write reviews of the garden books you read for publication in *Roots and Shoots* and gain volunteer hours?

Roots and Shoots is in need of reviews of garden books. Accordingly, R&S is establishing a book review panel, a group of twelve Master Gardeners willing to read and review well chosen garden books for R&S in return for volunteer hours.

Please submit your name if you're interested in participating on the panel and also send a snapshot [head/shoulders] to accompany publication of your review. To apply, send your name to Helen Hollingsworth, R&S editor, hlhollin@indiana.edu.

Your obligation is to read and review at least one book in the next twelve months. The panel membership limit is twelve. There will be no book review panel meetings; communication is by email. The first twelve members who submit their names will constitute the first panel, and the remaining names received will be held in reserve in case a panel member asks to withdraw. In fall of 2011, a new call for panel members will be issued, and members can serve more than one year, providing no more than twelve apply.

Guidelines for book reviews, which are to be no more than one page, single spaced, are as follows:

- 1. Your name and a title for the book review that is different from the book title
- 2. Complete title of book, author's name, name of illustrator [if applicable], publisher, and date of publication
- 3. Short overview of the book: what drew you to select this particular book to read and review?
- 4. Brief description of the contents/organization, including appendices and bibliographies
- 5. Highlights of the book: What new information and/or insights does this book supply?
- 6. Summary: Why do you recommend or not recommend this book on this subject? [Yes, you may read a book and decide it is not the best and that you cannot recommend it to members.]

Monthly submission deadline dates for R&S are published in our membership guide, *Folia and Flora*. See page 41 in the 2010 issue for December 2010 and January 2011 submission deadlines. The new *Folia and Flora*, which comes out in January 2011, will list 2011 deadlines.

R&S reserves the right to edit book reviews submitted.

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or
Nature Center			gspeiche@indiana.edu
MG Demonstration	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876,
Garden			bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349,2800
Butterfly Gardens			
MCMGA Horticulture	year around	inquiries and	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
Hotline		research	
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	writing articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program	year around	plan MG programs	Vicky St. Myers, 323-7072
Committee Member			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	year around	education,	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
Cupboard		resource	
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Jessica Williams, 334-8374
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm	summer 2010	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940

Please wear your name badge when volunteering.

Remember to report 2010 hours only at http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/.

The wonder of harvesting at the Demo Garden

We had a wonderful experience this past summer with the heirloom vegetables at Demo Garden. Last spring it rained so much we were beginning to wonder when we could get seeds planted. But the rain slowed down, and those little seeds were just exploding with happiness. Everything was growing great, and we were anticipating a



By Diana Young

bumper crop of seeds to save. We planted Hungarian heart and peach tomatoes, long cayenne peppers, eggplant, gold watermelon, cheese pumpkins, calico lima beans, gold bacu pole beans, white Virginia gourd seed corn, miniature white cucumbers, two varieties of sweet potatoes, and golden beets.

We made new arbors and trellis to both support and protect the plants. When the extension office moved, we took the extra cardboard boxes to use as mulch between rows. With a little straw and grass, the cardboard stayed in place and did a wonderful job of weed elimination. When the rain stopped we watered every week.

Then the beets did not germinate. No big deal, we thought; maybe the seeds were no longer viable. Everything else was growing fine. The sweet potatoes were expanding out into the walkways and growing like crazy. This was really good, because the groundhogs ate the ones at home.

The fair came along so we checked the height of the corn for the tallest corn stalk contest. Hmm, well, it was only five feet tall. Next we checked the beans. The limas were not ready, and the gold were only an inch long. Tomatoes were not ripe, and cucumbers were too small. The eggplant seemed to have disappeared. We didn't want to exhibit this year anyway!

Finally plants were starting to grow. The beans would be ready soon, and we were picking cucumbers. Tomatoes were still green, but the corn was starting to tassel. There was going to be a crop!

Then, one week when it was time for the usual weekly visit, we found the beans had disappeared from the first two feet of vine. They were fine farther up the vine but barren below that point. The cucumbers produced a bumper crop. Something had discovered the sweet potato vines, but whatever it was did not attack the basil. So I deadheaded some and sprinkled it around the vines. It seemed to help. The next week the potato vines were again growing. We also had pumpkins and melons growing.

In September something was nibbling on the biggest pumpkin. We placed another fence panel around it to try to keep it safe. That seemed to help. The sweet potatoes were doing great! We harvested beans for seed. Also, we picked the peppers. Maybe there will be some hot pepper jelly.

In the last week of September, it was time to dig the wonderful sweet potatoes. Immediately we could see that something was very wrong. The first hill had only outer shells. Some little critter has eaten the center out of the potatoes. The same thing happened with the next six plants. The beautiful potatoes from the week before had disappeared. I have been told that voles are the most likely culprit, as they are hunting moisture in the dry weather. Hindsight says we should have dug them the previous week.

Bloomington is well represented at America in Bloom in St. Louis



brate at the award dinner during which criteria awards were presented. Bloomington received the national Urban Forestry Award, awarded for outstanding programs in urban forestry. Left to right are Nancy White, Yo Davis, Mary Jane Hall, Amy Thompson, Dot Owen, Lee Huss, and Gretchen Scott.

Above is the historic Old Court House in St. Louis with the famous arch in the background. To the left is an example of the outstanding city beautification undertaken in downtown St. Louis.



Above, Lee Huss accepted the America in Bloom Urban Forestry Award in St. Louis. Left to right are Lee Huss, an America in Bloom judge, and Gretchen Scott. **Left**, a workshop presenter discusses gardens with Amy Thompson and Gretchen Scott. The conference included wonderful workshops on beautification, environmental issues, and sustainability.

November 2010

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Mark your calendar for our holiday dinner and general meeting on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Plan to bring your favorite holiday dish to share and your table service. For details, see page 1.

2010 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White

812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com **Vice President—Programs:** Vicky St. Myers 812-323-7072 vstmyers@hotmail.com

Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer 812-325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Treasurer: Diana Young

812-339-0040 young-Diana@att.net

Secretary: David Dunatchik

812-332-2331 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@att.net

Director—Records: Dan Nichols

812-331-7412 nicholsdg@yahoo.com

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

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson

812-349-2575 afthompson@purdue.edu

2010 Hours: http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/mg/

Fall Master Gardener calendar

- •Saturday, November 6, 9:00—3:00 p.m., at Miami Co. Fairgrounds, Peru, Indiana, sponsored by the Miami County Master Gardeners. Cost of \$25 includes lunch. Workshops will be presented on herbs, soil-less plant growth, heirloom plants, and edible plant.
- •Saturday, November 20, 10:30—noon, Anderson Public Library, Anderson, Indiana, Backyard Wildlife Habitat, sponsored by the Madison County Master Gardeners, free admission.
- •Tuesday, November 30, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA holiday dinner and general meeting at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Dinner, new intern graduation, election of officers, speaker, and door prizes.