

Roots and Shoots



Special points of interest:

- Renew your Master Gardener membership now
- Sign up for a committee to work on the 2013 Garden Fair
- Read the bylaws suggested changes online
- Drought is nearly over, but plants need regular water
- Send your favorite garden photos to Amy Thompson to enter the *folio and flora* cover contest

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Invasive aquatic plants made illegal

Submitted by Amy Thompson



Statement as issued Tuesday, September 4, 2012 by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission:

It will be illegal to sell 28 invasive aquatic plants in Indiana, effective August 31.

The new rule, which was recently approved by the Indiana Natural Resources Commission, also makes offering such plants for gift, barter, exchange or distribution illegal.

The purpose of this rule is to help prevent the introduction and distribution of aquatic invasive plants into Indiana waters and wetlands.

The spread of invasive aquatic plants reduces boating, fishing and other aquatic recreation opportunities. Such plants also negatively impact native aquatic plants and reduce property values around lakes and ponds.

A list of the prohibited plants and the exact language of the rule is at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20120411-IR-312120050PRA.xml.pdf>.

Many of these invasive plants have been used in aquariums or water gardens for years. Some are already widely established. The most popular of such plants currently sold include flowering rush, Brazilian elodea (*Anacharis*), yellow flag iris, parrot feather, and yellow floating heart.

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Member news

By Nancy White



A large crowd welcomed two great presenters at our September general meeting. After several announcements, Karen King introduced our first speaker, Moya Andrews, one of our own Master Gardeners, who shared many lovely pictures of her garden for fall. As she said, the rain has rejuvenated the garden, and it is primarily a late summer garden with many plants blooming again or better than they did during the high summer months. Even though the colors aren't fallish, the crepe myrtles, hydrangeas, beautyberry and chaste bushes, cleome, heleopsis, asters, and lantana are putting up a stunning show. Moya admitted changing her favorite flowers list to include many deer resistant specimens. We all can agree with that. Moya enhanced the presentation with the reading of selections of garden poetry, ending with an excerpt from James Whitcomb Riley's "...when the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder's in the shock."

Anita Bracalente spoke to us about hydrangeas; she explained the history, varieties, and cultivation for success with native and introduced Asian specimens. She listed cultivars good for Indiana gardens including 'Annabelle', 'Snow Queen', 'Snowflake', pink 'Annabelle', and 'Invincible Spirit'. Others on this list are 'Endless Summer', 'Blushing Bride', 'Big Daddy', 'All Summer Beauty', and 'Glowing Embers'. Anita reminded us that successful cultivation of hydrangeas depends on fertile soil, even moisture, appropriate fertilization, and exposure to sunlight. Photos of the various examples encouraged us to plant more of these lovely shrubs.

Committee offers superb refreshments

Many thanks to Jeff Schafer and his able refreshment committee, Penny Austin, Sandy Belth, Mary Hawkins, Mary Hoffman, Ann McEndarfer, and Dot Owen who provided a tempting buffet for members and their guests at our September general meeting.

Have you renewed your MCMGA membership?

At the general meeting, members were reminded to renew their membership for 2013. Forms are available online at www.mcmga.net and are due into the Extension Office with your \$10 membership fee by November 1, so that your entry will be included in *folia and flora*, our yearly handbook. The form also contains an opportunity for you to express your interest in many of our projects for 2013.

Refreshment committee members needed for November general meeting

Evelyn Harrell is asking that members sign up to provide snacks at our last 2012 general meeting and 2013 meetings. Each meeting has a different committee, and the time commitment is small if we all share the task. Contact Evelyn if you can help at the November 27 meeting or for a meeting in 2013.

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Annual holiday pitch-in dinner and general meeting is November 27



Our annual holiday dinner and general meeting is on Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m., at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. Add this date to your calendar. It takes several pairs of hands to make the event run smoothly, so there are a few opportunities for volunteer hours. Here are some ways for three or more people to help: Keep the serving tables presentable; refill drink containers; and help clean up afterwards. If you can pitch in, please email me at ear4841@comcast.net.

Each general meeting provides one or two educational hours when we enjoy the experience of our speaker/s. It is the program planning committee that enlists those speakers, and Jeff Schafer and I need your help. If you can join Amy and Nancy and Jeff and others for a brain-storming session later in October, again, please email me at ear4841@comcast.net.

BOGA Annual Fall Plant Swap at Farmers' Market

The Bloomington Organic Gardeners Association (BOGA) will host a free plant swap on Saturday, October 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Farmers' Market. Native plants, tree saplings, and seeds are encouraged but all non-invasive plants are welcome.

Member news (continued from page 2)

Join the field trip committee to plan trips for 2013

If you enjoy our annual field trips to sites outside of Monroe County, you may want to join the field trip planning committee this year. Contact a board member if you would like to volunteer.

Master Gardeners pitch in to help

Thanks go to Herman Young who has agreed to be our representative on the Monroe County Fair Board. Preston Gwinn has served in this position for several years, and we are grateful for his service to the group. Mary Jane Hall is still collecting plants for Camp Hunt, a MC shelter for substance abuse clients. She is helping the staff there arrange a garden that the clients can maintain. Be sure to call her if you have plants to share.

Amy Thompson visits Costa Rica

Amy Thompson, our faithful extension educator, is now in Costa Rica attending a special partnership program called *Farmer to Farmer*. We are certain her expertise will be helpful to the other participants. She will return to her office on October 10. She has limited on-line capability during this time.

Garden Fair news

By Nancy White

A tentative date for the 2013 Garden Fair is Saturday, April 6, and the site is the National Guard Armory. Note this date on your 2013 calendar. Committees are being formed now, and Master Gardeners are urged to get on a committee so you can get some winter volunteer hours by planning the fair activities. Contact Nancy White if you would like to volunteer. Committees available and their duties are as follows:

Physical Arrangements: plan the site, help with set-up, help with tear down after the fair

Vendors: contact vendors, arrange for ads in fair booklet, solicit door prizes from vendors

Café: plan menu, work on table arrangements, prepare on Friday, work on fair day

Education sessions: arrange for speakers, set up room, may work on fair day

Master Gardener Info Booth: set up display, may work on fair day

Publicity: arrange for posters, flyers, yard signs, write articles for media where needed

Door Prizes: arrange booth and may work on fair day

Financial: work at entry points on fair day

Master Gardener Sales Booth: arrange for sales items, set up booth, may work on fair day

Invasive aquatic plants made illegal (continued from page 1)

Management or eradication of species already in Indiana waters easily exceeds \$1 million annually when Department of Natural Resources and lake association costs are combined.

Aquarium and water garden hobbyists can help slow the spread of such species by purchasing non-invasive or native plants. Boaters can remove plants, mud and other debris from their watercraft when they remove them from the water.

The new rule will be administered by the DNR Division of Entomology & Plant Pathology in cooperation with the Division of Fish & Wildlife. For information call Eric Fischer, DNR aquatic invasive species coordinator, (317) 234-3883.

Calling all shutterbugs

By Nancy White

Again this year we have a contest for gardening related photos. Winning photos will be used in our various publications for 2013, including our yearbook and the Garden Fair event book. Entries are due to Amy Thompson by November 15. Note this date. Email your photograph submissions to afhompson@purdue.edu with *MG Photo Contest* in the subject line. Previously entered photographs may be entered in this year's contest.

Review proposed bylaw changes

By Nancy White

The MG Board has placed the proposed bylaw changes on our website, mcmga.net. Copies are also available at the extension office. Please review these changes and contact a board member if you have questions. By our current bylaws, we will vote on these changes at the November 27 general meeting.

Bulb planting season

By Nancy White

August 2011 issue of *Roots and Shoots* (available on our website) contains an article about planting fall bulbs for spring bloom. You might want to take a second look at that.

Recently an online article from the John Scheepers Company discussed the wisdom of planting some of the earliest bulbs that usually bloom for us in early March and April. This past spring, some early bulb bloomers were seen as early as late February. These early risers include *galanthus* (early snowdrops), *eranthis hyemalis* (winter aconite), species crocus, and rock garden iris. These are all good naturalizers and *galanthus* are deer-proof, which should make us like them even more. The article offers a good suggestion for planting the earliest blooming bulbs. To see the earliest spring show, plant some in places where you can spot them as they start to bloom, maybe outside the kitchen window or by the garage driveway.

For more articles on bulbs and planting see www.johnscheepers.com.

Green Thumb Challenge grant available for school gardens

Help your community's school or youth garden win a \$5000 to keep their garden growing! This annual grant is awarded to an existing school or youth garden that has impacted the lives of students and their communities. The application process is simple!

- Sign up for the Green Thumb Challenge (it's free)
- Complete a grant application
- Fill out a contest disclaimer
- Assemble at least one of the following:
 - >a video, up to 10 minutes long
 - >a digital portfolio of at least 10 photos with captions (please submit original photo files via email)
 - >garden related artwork or poems
- Submit all materials to GEF via email at service@greeneducationfoundation.org or mail to

Green Education Foundation

153 Washington Street, 4th Floor

Walpole, MA 02032

To read more about the grant rules and see projects from past grant winners, visit GEF's Green Thumb Challenge section of the website shown above.

For information contact Molly Hislop, GEF Programs & Marketing, 508-668-2278.

Annual Holiday Dinner and General Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m.,

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Vote on bylaw changes and photo for folia *and flora* cover

Program: *Creative Projects for our Community*:

presented by the 2011 Master Gardener Grant Winners

2013 International Master Gardener Search for Excellence guidelines

Deadline for SFE applications is November 1, 2012

Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. SFE has seven categories in which Master Gardeners can demonstrate their outstanding contributions to their communities. All SFE application must show that significant learning took place, whether by the Master Gardeners or the general public they were involved with.

All volunteer projects done by Master Gardeners are significant to their communities, but not all are SFE projects. The SFE is designed to recognize outstanding group projects, not an individual who does outstanding work.

Project submission must meet the following guidelines to qualify for SFE awards:

1. Choose the category that best fits the project. Only one project may be submitted by a group per category: Youth Programs, Demonstration Garden, Workshop or Presentation, Community Service, Innovative Projects, Special Need Audiences (senior, disabled audiences or horticultural therapy), research (applied scientific methodology).
2. Projects will be judged on their merit from done between the years 2012-2012. Projects entered must have completed a full year to be entered. Program projects that have previously won International Master Garden Committee (IMGC) SFE awards are not eligible in any category.
3. *Simple to replicate.* A goal of SFE is to share the excellent ideas and programs so that they can be replicated by other MG groups. A 20-acre botanic garden would be difficult to replicate, but the gardening ideas inside it would be easy to create somewhere else. A step-by-step "how to do this" would be a great way to share your project.
4. *Practicality.* A SFE program is one that is easy to use and fits well for the situation it is intended for. You have found the best way possible to meet a need of your community. For example: You could develop a wonderful program with a \$20 admission cost, but if people can't afford that, they won't come.
5. Original and creative. We are looking for that added touch that makes this program your own...or that reflects the personalities of the Master Gardeners who are working with it. We don't want you to recreate the wheel, just maybe parts of it so that it fits your situation.

Look at the National Master Gardener website as http://www.extension.org/pages/IMG_Search_for_Excellence for information about the previous winning SFE projects.

Saving seeds from the garden

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist



Collecting seeds from garden plants to plant next year may seem like a good way to save money, but you may be in for a surprise. Some seeds can be saved from year to year with good results, particularly the old-fashioned cultivars. But modern hybrid cultivars rarely breed true from collected seed.

To get that disease-resistant tomato or frilly double petunia, two or more plants with desirable characteristics were crossbred. The seed from these hybrid plants will produce variable results due to recombination of different genes. Thus, the resulting plants may not be as productive, attractive, disease-resistant or flavorful as their parents. Seedlings could be quite different from the parent plants and from each other.

As long as you're prepared to accept this variability it can be fun to experiment. You never know, you might actually stumble across an improvement!

Some gardeners are tempted to propagate fruit trees from seed - either from fruits grown in the backyard or from purchased fruit. If you're interested in serious fruit production, resist the temptation. Most fruit trees are grafted by splicing a piece of the desired fruiting cultivar onto a seedling rootstock. It is usually the rootstock that contributes disease resistance, hardiness, vigor, and early production and dwarf habits. Plants grown from seeds of grafted plants may not only produce inferior fruit, but also huge, unmanageable trees for the home landscape. Also, they can take 10 years or more to become mature enough to fruit.

In recent years there has been renewed interest in old-fashioned varieties, including those that are open-pollinated by insects, birds, wind and other natural methods. Because these plants have a non-controlled, more diverse genetic makeup, they tend to breed true to type. Although open-pollinated, heirloom plants may not have many of the advantages of hybridization, such as disease resistance, heat or cold tolerance, and uniformity, some gardeners find the vegetables to be better flavored and the flowers more fragrant. The sustainability of being able to save seeds from year to year is a plus.

Many seed companies specialize in open-pollinated garden vegetables and flowers, and most of the larger seed companies carry both hybrid and open-pollinated seed. For those who want to learn more about open-pollinated seeds and preserving old-fashioned varieties, the Seed Savers Exchange offers seed-trading programs and an excellent selection of publications. If you are interested in saving seed from your garden, check out the publication "Seed to Seed: Seed Saving and Growing Techniques for Vegetable Gardeners," available from Seed Savers Exchange at <http://www.seedsavers.org>.

Volunteer opportunities

Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876 bethany.murray@gmail.com
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Nancy Fee, 332-1940
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Meyer, 349-2575
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	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Evelyn Harrell, 339-0572 Jeff Schafer, 325-3130
Middle Way House	seasonal	various	Clara Wilson, 333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Stephanie Solomon, 334-8374
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson, 334-8374

Still time to plant spring flowering bulbs

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue

There's still time to get those spring-flowering bulbs in the ground yet this fall. Though generally it is recommended to get the bulbs planted by early October to give them enough time to root before winter, it is better to plant now rather than try to store the bulbs over winter. As long as the soil temperatures are above 40 degrees F., the bulbs should continue their root development.

Most garden centers still have a supply of crocus, daffodils, tulips, and other spring-flowering bulbs. While the best quality bulbs may already be gone, you can often find good bargains on what's left at the end of the season. Select large, firm bulbs and avoid those that are sprouting or molding.

While many bulbs can adapt to a wide range of soil types, none can tolerate poorly drained soil. Prepare the planting bed by adding organic matter such as peat moss, well-rotted manure, or compost. Adequate fertility can be achieved by adding a low analysis, balanced fertilizer such as 5-10-5 or 6-10-4 at the rate of 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet of bed. Mix all amendments thoroughly with the soil before you plant the bulbs.

The size of the bulb and the species will dictate how deep to plant. In general, the depth to the bottom of the bulb should be about 2-3 times the size of the bulb, but check the planting instructions specific to each particular flower.

For more information on the many types of bulbs that can be grown in Indiana, contact your local county office of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service and ask for a copy of HO-86, *Flowering Bulbs*, also available online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-86.pdf>.

Hats off!



New badge!

**Dorothy Wilson,
certified**

Congratulations!

Keep plants watered for drought recovery

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue

Much of Indiana found rainfall scarce throughout the summer, and even into the fall, so gardeners need to make sure their landscape plants have an adequate supply of moisture before winter arrives.

Most plants could benefit by a deep watering every couple of weeks or so, right up until the ground freezes. But some plants will need even closer attention. Newly planted trees and shrubs may have limited root systems and may need a weekly watering. Evergreen plants are particularly subject to winter drying since their leaves continue to lose moisture all winter long. Once the ground is frozen, little water is taken up by the roots to replace that which is lost through the leaves. Broad-leaved evergreens, such as rhododendrons and hollies, have more leaf surface exposed and are most subject to injury.

It's best to water deeply occasionally, rather than frequent shallow sprinkling. Apply 1 to 1.5 inches of water around the root zone of the plant. Be aware that the roots may spread farther than you think. The size of the root system varies, depending on the plant species, its age and the soil conditions. In general, the roots extend quite a distance beyond the drip line of the tree or shrub.

For newly established plantings and shallow-rooted plants, a winter mulch can be helpful not only in conserving soil moisture, but also in keeping plants in the ground. These plants can be heaved out of the ground if the soil tends to alternate frequently between freezing and thawing. Apply winter mulch after the plants have become fully dormant, generally by late November or perhaps December. Use a 3- to 4-inch layer of coarse material such as straw, chopped leaves or shredded bark.

Many woody plants may continue to show effects of the drought next spring and beyond. Some branches may die back during the winter and fail to leaf out next year. In the case of twig injury, rather than death, the stems may leaf out, but die back later in spring or summer as that branch becomes stressed. Prune out any dead or damaged branches by cutting back to their point of origin.

If plants appear to be dead, cut away the outer bark and look for green tissue underneath, an indication that there is still hope for regrowth. Also, check for the presence of buds, which, likewise, should be green in color when cut open. Dead plant twigs generally will break clean when bent; live twigs should still be somewhat flexible.

Links in *Roots & Shoots*

See a web address in *Roots & Shoots* you'd like to check out? Copy the web address (CONTROL C) and paste the address (CONTROL V) into your favorite browser.

October 2012

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MONROE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Cooperative Extension Service
3400 South Walnut Street
Bloomington, IN 47401



Helping others grow!

Time to sign up for our Annual Garden Fair committees!

Garden Fair is Saturday, April 6, 2013

Earn volunteer hours for your committee assignment this winter

2012 MCMGA Board

President: Nancy White

812-824-4426 nwhite38@hotmail.com

Vice President—Programs: Evelyn Harrell

812-339-0572 ear4841@comcast.net

Vice President—Education: Jeff Schafer

812-325-3130 jeff.schafer1@comcast.net

Secretary: David Dunatchik

812-332-2331 dddunatchik@att.net

Treasurer: Diana Young

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

Journalists: Helen Hollingsworth

812-332-7313 hlhollin@indiana.edu

Director—Communications: Barbara Hays

812-332-4032 barbsblooms@att.net

Director—Records: Dan Pyle

812-340-4462 danpyle@sbcglobal.net

Director at Large: Herman Young

812-339-0040 hoyoung@indiana.edu

Fair Board Representative: Preston Gwinn

812-876-2999 pgwinn@bluemarble.net

Extension Educator: Amy Thompson

812-349-2575 athompson@purdue.edu

Master Gardener calendar

- **Saturday, October 13**, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., *Adventures in Gardening*,, Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main (Old US 36), across from the post office, Danville, Indiana, sponsored by Hendricks County Master Gardeners; for information call 317-745-9260
- **Saturday, October 20**, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m., *Ohio Valley Garden Conference*, Casino Aztar Conference Center, Evansville, Indiana; registration \$42/person; deadline October 10; sponsored by Southwestern Indiana MG Association and Evansville Courier & Press; for information call 812-963-5577