
Roots and Shoots

Volume 30, Issue 10

October 2014

Monroe County Master Gardeners Association

Annual harvest dinner coming soon

By Susan Lovell



Special points of interest:

◆Want a splash of color in January-March? Plant winter aconite bulbs now

◆Armyworms are infesting residential turf across southern Indiana

◆Submit your favorite garden photo to the *folia and flora* cover contest

◆Update your calendar; see listing on page 12

◆See the wonderful opportunity to visit Northern England and Wales with Rosie and Mike

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Our annual harvest dinner and general meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church. We will enter the room at Door 20. As it was last year, our dinner will be a pitch-in for all food items.

Our speaker will be Linda Chapman of Harvest Moon Flower Farm, and her topic is *Flower Arranging*. Members Penny Austin, Susan Sachtjen, Mary Cusack, Marilyn Brinley, Nancy Page, and Muff Johnson have volunteered to organize the serving tables for the evening, keep them presentable, refill drink containers and help with clean-up afterwards. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Thanks to all who came out to our September 23 general meeting to hear Heather Reynolds, Associate Professor of Biology at IU discuss *The Garden Unseen: Subterranean Plant Interactions*. Her presentation was rescheduled from last September a year ago and was both informative and entertaining.

Special thanks to our September refreshment committee, Helen Hollingsworth, Susan Eastman, Diane Gregory, Nancy Miller, Karen King, Mary Hawkins, Jessica Wilson, and Paula Perron. The fall decorations, provided by Mary Hawkins, added color and cheer to the meeting room. Our treats were plentiful, colorful and healthy—truly a treat!

Member news

By Evelyn Harrell



On Tuesday, September 23, 60+ Master Gardeners attended our general meeting to learn about a fascinating premise explained by Heather Reynolds, IU associate professor of biology, with her presentation titled *The Garden Unseen: Subterranean Plant Interactions*. She and her students are using Dunn Woods to study how the root systems of invasive species may alter the micronutrients in soil and if that alteration makes the soil less attractive to native plants. She said English bluebells are now a problem in Dunn Woods, because they moved in where euonymus had been removed. Also at the meeting, two MCMGA grant winners, Crystal Ritter, program director of Boys & Girls Club/Ellettsville, and Kendra Brewer, garden coordinator for Mother Hubbard Cupboard, spoke about their organization's use of this year's grant money from Garden Fair proceeds.

***folia and flora* cover photo contest ends on November 2**

A final reminder of the contest for next year's cover of *folia and flora*. Please email your entries to Cindi Percifield at ckpercif@purdue.edu by Sunday, November 2. Photos submitted for previous contests may be resubmitted for this year's contest, provided that the original files are resent to Cindi. Titles for your photos are appreciated, but not required.

Renew your Master Gardener membership by November 1

Master Gardener membership renewal forms are available in print editions of *Roots and Shoots* and online at www.mcmga.net. Dues are \$10 per member or \$15 per family. Membership renewal forms are required by November 1 to be included in *folia and flora* 2015 membership guide, which will be distributed at our January general meeting.

Save the date

November 11 is the date of our annual harvest dinner. Lots will be happening on that evening. In addition to enjoying a wonderful dinner together, we'll be celebrating veterans, voting on a slate of officers to serve us for the next two years, voting on the photo to grace the cover of *folia and flora*, our membership handbook, and enjoying a presentation, *Flower Arranging*, by Linda Chapman. Mark this date on your calendar so you do not miss out on what is sure to be a splendid evening.

2015 Master Gardener slate of officers

President—Evelyn Harrell

Evelyn Harrell received her Master Gardener training in 2009 and is now at the bronze level. She has served as president and as vice president for programs on the Master Gardener board, chaired the Garden Fair café committee, and volunteered at the Master Gardener booths at the Indianapolis Garden and Patio Show and the Indiana State Fair. Ever a work in progress, her landscaping deep in the woods is designed to attract birds, butterflies, and pollinators and to discourage a personal deer herd.



VP of Education—Sandy Belth

Sandy received her Master Gardener training in 2011 and Advance Master Gardener certification in 2013. She and her husband have landscaped their property for wildlife with butterfly and hummingbird gardens, water features and landscaping for birds. Their property is certified as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat. She has been employed as a naturalist since 1986. She has volunteered at the Garden Fair and State Fair and has presented programs.



Secretary—David Dunatchik

David Dunatchik received his Master Gardeners training in 2007 and is now at the advanced—bronze level. He has served on the Garden Fair physical arrangements committee for the last five years and volunteers for Master Gardener duties at the Monroe County Fair and the Indiana State Fair. David has served as board Secretary for the last six years. His main gardening interest is to transform his back yard into a place that is highly attractive to birds, both for nesting and for food and shelter.



Director of Communications—Stephen Anderson

Stephen Anderson received his Master Gardener training in 2011. He has served on the nominating and programming committees and has volunteered at WonderGarden, Garden Fair, and the Demonstration Garden. He enjoys growing vegetables and herbs as well as gardening with perennials and bulbs.



(continued on page 4)

Submit your recipes today

By Sydley Skolnik



November 11—that's the deadline for getting your recipes in for our up-and-coming *Monroe County Master Gardeners Recipe Book*. Send your recipes by e-mail to MGRecipeBook@yahoo.com.

The plan is to have our recipe book ready for use as a fund raiser for the Garden Fair, which is a week earlier this year, to be held on Saturday, March 28. We will begin working on the recipe book layout on November 12.

The price of the book for members will be under \$5 and slightly more for sale at our annual Garden Fair.

It is not mandatory for you to send a garden tip along with your recipe, but we'd love it if you would, and upon Amy's review, you may receive education credit. Keep that in mind. And your tip does not have to relate to your recipe. So don't put off selecting a recipe and emailing it any longer; send one or more recipes now.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sydley Skolnik, Paula Peron, or Pam Hall.

2015 Master Gardener slate of officers (continued from page 3)

Director at Large—Mary Cusack

Mary Cusack received her advanced master gardener certification this spring. She and her husband of 42 years are in the process of building up gardening areas at their woodland home to take advantage of the limited sunlit areas! Her family includes her husband, two grown children (her daughter a MG intern) and two dogs, with hobbies including creating pottery, beekeeping, and all forms of nature identification.



BOGA fall plant swap

Submitted by Jen Cook

The Bloomington Organic Gardeners Association (BOGA) will host a free plant swap on Saturday, October 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bloomington Farmers' Market. Bring plants and seeds to share and/or swap. Native plants, tree saplings, and seeds are encouraged, but all non-invasive plants are welcome. For more information contact Jenivee at jeniveels@aol.com.

Fender 4-Star Farm well worth a visit

By Evelyn Harrell



Lewis and Angie Fender
Photo by Nancy White

Master Gardener Angie Fender and her husband, Lewis, led seven MCMGA members on a grand tour of the 65+ acre Fender 4-Star Farm on Rocky Hill Road north of Spencer on a recent field trip. The tour began with Angie and Lewis at the shelter house that he built, overlooking a tree-lined pond with a zipline running over it. Walking up the drive to the gardens, visitors passed large black bears, made of chicken wire and countless black pinecones, next to an amazing outhouse. The “outhouse”, built by Lewis, has more amenities than many “in-houses”. Made from a tall section of grain silo and covered with rough-sawn lumber, the restroom features a decorative door, running water, and many niceties.

Along the drive are three commercial-sized garden beds and a garden shed, built by Lewis, for all the tools and machines required for large-scale garden-



Row 1, Amy Thompson, Susan Lovell, Susan and Don Sachtien, and Nancy White

Row 2, Evelyn Harrell, Mary Hoffman, and Angie Fender
Photo by Sue Artmeier

ing. The drive ends at the house which they built as newly-weds 40 years ago. Circling to the back of the house, past the kitchen/herb garden and the five compost piles, is the door to the basement level. Nearly every space in the basement is filled with canning supplies—shelves for more than 3000 canning jars and plastic tubs of lids, plus stacks of shallow trays for seed starting in the winter, and freezers for the gardens’ produce, and craft supplies for the wreaths and clay pot people that Angie makes in her spare time.

Angie is committed to living the homestead way. That means that between their gardens and their meat processing plant, they provide nearly everything they eat on their own land. No hour is more enjoyable for Angie than when she is canning.

Volunteer for a Garden Fair committee

By Nancy White



At our September general meeting, members were invited to sign up for a committee slot for the annual Garden Fair. Nine separate committees plan, organize, and staff certain activities needed to make the Garden Fair happen each spring. If you didn't get to choose a committee yet, scan through the information below, make your choice and e-mail or call Nancy White soon. And be sure to mark your calendar, because Garden Fair is earlier than usual, on Saturday, March 28, 2015.

- ◆ Master Gardener Sales: organizes sales items and staff the booth on event day
- ◆ Master Gardener Information Booth: handles the free tree/shrub distribution and answers gardening questions
- ◆ Door Prizes: collects door prizes from vendors and distributes them to winners on event day
- ◆ Physical Arrangements: plans site layout and assigns vendor booths, sets up the site
- ◆ Café: Plans menu, prepares food, and staffs café on event day
- ◆ Education: arranges speakers for free education seminars during event,
- ◆ Financial: Arranges for visitor entrance and collects fees
- ◆ Publicity: plans various pre-event publicity materials and distributes media packets
- ◆ Vendor: communicates with vendors and registers them prior to the event

2015 Master Gardener Study Abroad program

By Rosie Lerner and Mike Dana

We are excited to announce the dates for the 2015 Purdue Master Gardener Study Abroad—Northern England and Wales on July 6—18, 2015.

We are still finalizing the details and are really excited about this all new itinerary focused on Yorkshire, Lake District, West Midlands, and Wales. As we have been doing in recent years, we will meet up as a group at a hotel near the airport (London Heathrow). However, we will not be including London in this program.

We will visit such notable sites as Chatsworth, Levens Hall, Scampston Walled Gardens, Studley Royal & Fountains Abbey, Castle Howard, York Gate Gardens, Biddulph Grange, David Austin Roses, Bodnant Garden, Powis Castle, Kenilworth Castle with its reconstructed Elizabethan Garden, and the Ryton Organic Gardens. Save the dates and plan to join us!

Putting WonderGarden to bed

By Nancy White

As the growing season winds down to the winter, some thanks are in order to all who have worked this year to maintain and improve the WonderGarden at WonderLab in downtown Bloomington. For the past eight years, Master Gardeners have donated their time and talents twice each month starting in March and continuing until November. The Master Gardener crew works with local volunteers, and all share educational conversations as they accomplish needed tasks.

2014 Master Gardeners at WonderGarden include Stephen Anderson, Marilyn Bourke, Barb Cappy, Lynn Courson, John Emerson, Linda Emerson, Jackie Gilkey, Marjie Gonzalez, Mary Jane Hall, Amanda Harding, Judy Hawkins, Mary Hoffman, Muff Johnson, Karen King, Vina Kinman, Susan Lovell, Shady McDonald, Nancy Miller, Abe Morris, Nancy Page, Mary Carol Paul, Paula Perron, Carol Reynolds, Sydley Skolnik, Karen Spaw, Donna Terry, Nancy White, and Jessica Wilson.

The opportunity to volunteer at WonderGarden is open to all Master Gardeners and their friends who would like to join the fun. Maybe you will join us in 2015?

INPAWS annual conference in Bloomington

Every November, INPAWS members gather for a full day's immersion in native plants. The public is invited too.

This year's conference will be held on Saturday, November 1, at the Monroe County/Bloomington Convention Center in Bloomington, Indiana.

On the theme of *Embracing Indiana's Conservation Challenges*, the program showcases the expertise and experience of six researchers who are addressing conservation issues through the lens of their respective fields and noting some progress! Their vision and passion for their work are sure to inspire us to address conservation concerns in our own communities.

Conference registration is open now and continues through October 25. Early registration discounts apply when you register before October 15.

To register at the lower INPAWS member fee, join INPAWS now; your membership will be good through 2015. See <http://www.inpaws.org/gatherings/annual-conference/>.



Sour mulch can burn tender plants

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue

Although the benefits of mulching garden plants are many, wood mulch that has been improperly stockpiled can lead to plant injury or even death. Young herbaceous plants are the most susceptible to such injury, which becomes obvious shortly after applying a hardwood bark mulch. Plants may look like they have been burned with fertilizer or pesticides, or possibly, are under severe water stress. All of the above could potentially be a problem, but, apparently, we must now add "sour mulch" to the list of suspects.



Cleome plants recovering from sour mulch injury
Photo by Rosie Lerner

When hardwood bark mulch is stacked in tall piles and allowed to stand for long periods, the material in the center of the pile begins to compost anaerobically (without air) and may sour. The term "sour" refers to the extreme acidity that occurs under such conditions (reported to be pH 1.8 - 3.6, while that of "normal" mulch is generally close to 7.0). Some reports indicate that pine bark does not sour.

The mulch tends to heat as it breaks down, and steam may be seen escaping from the pile when it is finally disturbed. This heat can directly injure plants, if the mulch is not allowed to cool first.

However, the more serious problem is that anaerobic composting of hardwood leads to the production of several plant-damaging components; methane, alcohol, ammonia and hydrogen sulfide are possibilities.



Hardwood bark mulch can turn sour
Photo by Rosie Lerner

Injury to young, tender plants is swift, usually within one day of applying mulch. Symptoms include yellowing or blackening of foliage and leaf drop. Depending on the extent of the injury, plants often are able to recover. Thorough watering, especially during hot, dry weather, will help prevent further stress. Do not apply fertilizer to plants injured by sour mulch; such materials can cause further injury. However, if plants recover yet seem to be lacking in vigor, a side dressing of nitrogen may be helpful in mid-summer if weather conditions warrant. Avoid fertilizing during hot, dry weather.

The best course of action is to prevent sour mulch injury in the first place. Stockpiles should be no higher than four feet, if possible; if it's necessary to stack taller, turn them periodically to allow some aeration. Alternatively, sour mulch can be made fit for use by spreading in shallow layers and allowing it to air out for a few days, preferably a week, before using around young, tender plants. If no rainfall has occurred, watering the mulch also may help wash away toxic accumulations.

Volunteer opportunities

compiled by Mary Cusack

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Gardens	year around	various	Charlotte Griffin, 812-345-8128
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Herman Young, 812-322-5700 Jeanie Cox, 812-360-3587
MCMGA Garden Walk Committee	year around	select gardens	Mary Jane Hall, 812-345-3985
Bloomington Community Orchard	seasonal	various	Stacey Decker, getinvolved@bloomingtoncommunityorchard.org
Cheryl's Garden at Karst Farm Park	summer	design and maintain	Linda Emerson, 812-345-2913 (cell)
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Anthony Joslin, 812-988-2785
Flatwoods Park Butterfly Gardens	seasonal	various	Cathy Myer, 812-349-2805
MCMGA Horticulture Hotline	year around	inquiries & research	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Speakers Bureau	year around	various	Amy Thompson, 812-349-2575
MCMGA Newsletter	year around	write articles	Helen Hollingsworth, 812-332-7313
MCMGA Web Site	year around	various	Stephen Anderson, 812-360-1216
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Sandy Belth, 812-825-8353 Susan Lovell, 812-339-5914
Middle Way House Roof Top Garden	seasonal	various	garden@middlewayhouse.org or call Toby Strout, director, 812-333-7404
Wylie House	year around	various	Sherry Wise, 812-855-6224
Mother Hubbard's Cupboard	year around	education, resource	Kendra Brewer, garden@mhcfoodpantry.org
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 812-824-4426
Hoosier Hills Foodbank	year around	various	Nicole Richardson, 812-334-8374

Remember to wear your badge when volunteering and keep a record of your hours.

Keep a copy of any volunteer records forms you submit to the extension office.

Roots and Shoots

Minor bulbs extend spring color show

By Rosie Lerner, Extension Consumer Horticulturist, Purdue

Tulips, daffodils and crocus are stars of spring in Midwestern flower gardens. But there's an array of supporting players, often referred to as "minor" bulbs that can add variety to your spring bulb display.

Winter Aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) brings a splash of yellow, buttercup-type blooms on dwarf, 3-6 inch plants. Winter aconite is appropriately named for its early arrival, often pushing its blossoms through a cover of snow in February, though sometimes as early as January and as late as March. Plants do well in partial shade to full sun, though they do need a good supply of moisture if in full sun.



Winter Aconite

Snowdrops (*Galanthus* sp.) are perfectly named for their snow-white blossoms that gracefully nod toward the ground, which is often still covered with the winter white stuff. Snowdrops are best planted in partial shade.



Snowdrops

Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa* sp.) brings clusters of star-shaped blooms in purple, rose or white in late winter or early spring. Glory of the Snow performs best in full sun.

Squill (*Scilla* sp.) includes a number of species of early spring bloomers and though the blue squill is the most common, there are also white and pink selections. Several species are native to woodland habitats and do best in partial shade.



Striped Squill

Striped Squill (*Puschkinia scilloides*) blooms about the same time as snowdrops and has pale periwinkle blue-striped petals. Striped squill tolerates full sun to part shade and prefers moderately moist, but well-drained soil.

Summer snowflake (*Leucojum* sp.) blooms a bit later in mid to late spring, with white, nodding flowers accented at each petal tip with a greenish-yellow splotch. Summer snowflake does well in partial shade to full sun.

Although many gardeners are familiar with the large, lollipop types of Alliums (ornamental onion), the lesser-known Lily Leek (*Allium moly*) bears bright yellow, star-shaped blooms in mid to late spring. Allium does best in full sun.

More information about flowering bulbs can be found in *Flowering Bulbs*, Purdue Extension bulletin HO-86, available online at <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-86.pdf>.

Armyworms invade Indiana

By Doug Richmond, Turf Entomologist, Purdue



Army worm taken from turf grass in southern Indiana
Photo courtesy of B. Voges



A home lawn in southern Indiana showing typical
armyworm damage
Photo courtesy of B. Voges

There appears to be a wide-spread outbreak of armyworms [*Pseudaletia* (= *Mythimna*) *unipuncta* (Haworth)] infesting residential turf across southern Indiana. These insects typically have two generations per year in this part of the country, and we are in the midst of the second generation of larvae. Adult armyworm moths lay their eggs in large masses and when the eggs hatch, the resulting caterpillars begin to feed and move across the infested area. When the larvae are small, this feeding causes little damage and may go unnoticed. However, as development proceeds, the larvae increase in size, consuming larger amounts of turf.

Where heavy infestations occur, a typical home lawn may seem to disappear almost overnight! Feeding damage often appears to radiate out from a central point where the main infestation likely started. Although the damage can be alarming, armyworms are easily controlled with insecticides and the damage they cause, although unsightly, will not permanently damage the turf unless it is already stressed from drought.

Fortunately, most of Indiana has been experiencing adequate rainfall

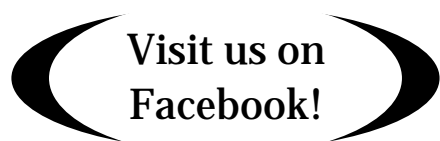
for the last few weeks, so turf should be resilient to this damage. Still, expect damage to get worse before it gets better. Good cultural practices including adequate fertility, and irrigation will help the turf recover more quickly. The caterpillars we are seeing now will pupate by the end of September and attempt to remain in the soil over winter. Unless we experience an exceptionally mild winter, most pupae will not overwinter successfully.

**Monroe County
Master Gardeners
Association**

Cooperative Extension Service
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Helping others grow!



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Master Gardener Calendar

October 9 and October 16, 6:30-9:00 p.m., *Fall 2014 Garden Lecture Series: Giving Your Garden Wings*, at Clark County REMC, 7810 State Road 60, Sellersburg. Call 812-948-5470 for registration and information.

Saturday, November 1, renew your MCMGA membership by this date to be included in *folia and flora*.

Sunday, November 2, final date to submit photos for *folia and flora* cover page

Tuesday, November 11, 6:30 p.m., MCMGA harvest dinner and general meeting, Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, program by Linda Chapman, *Flower Arranging*, one hour of education available.