

September 2008, Volume 24, Issue 9

General Meeting on September 23 Offers Two Hours Education Credit

By Nancy White
Bring a friend along to our Tuesday, September 23 meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Monroe County Public Library in Room 1A in the bottom level. Enter from Kirkwood and go down the stairs. The meeting rooms are on the left corridor. We will have a business meeting followed by two hours of education. Refreshments will be served.

Since many tasks can be done in the fall to ensure a beautiful spring in the garden, our speakers will focus on ways to plan and accomplish this in the months ahead. Amending the soil will be spotlighted by Mark Evans, extension educator from Owen and Clay counties. He will take us through some important items including how to accomplish a soil assessment and the importance of using cover crops and other amendments to improve soil. Nancy White, one of our local Monroe County Master Gardeners, will discuss a variety of bulbs and ways to choose, design, and plant for a pleasing spring view that can last from February through May.

Be sure to join us for this informative meeting. Ample parking is available in parking lots in the library area and on the street.

Monroe County Master Gardeners Present Water Workshop

Monroe County Master Gardeners are sponsoring an advanced educational workshop, *Water: Making Every Drop Count*, on Saturday, October 18, 2008, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First United Church, 2420 East Third Street.

Keynote speaker for the workshop is Bill Jones, limnologist and professor, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. His presentation, "Whiskey's for Drinkin'—Water's for Fightin' ", will give an overview of the nation's water problems.

Michael Simmons, program specialist for Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department, will present "Tapped Out: Planning for Sustainable Water Use in the Garden."

Cathy Meyer, naturalist, Monroe County Parks and Recreation, will present "Rain Gardens," a method for managing storm water while beautifying our landscape.

Linda Thompson, city of Bloomington senior environmental planner, will explore "Water Quality and Quantity for a Sustainable Future."

Moya Andrews, author of *Perennials Short and Tall: A Seasonal Progression of Flowers for Your Garden*, will autograph books.

Door prizes will be distributed. Ample parking is available. The workshop is open to the public and to all Master Gardeners. Master Gardeners earn five education hours credit.

(continued on page 3)

Member News



By
Nancy
White

Be sure to check the list of education hours provided by our association so far in 2008 in this issue of *Roots and Shoots*. This list may aid you as you compile your 2008 hours to send to Amy Thompson at the extension office. Additional hours are available for attendance at the September general meeting on Tuesday, September 23 and also for participation in Monroe County Master Gardener sponsored advanced education workshop, *Water: Make Every Drop Count*, on Saturday, October 18 water at First United Church.

KidsGardening.org Is a Gardener's Treasure Trove

The National Gardening Association has an interesting website that focuses on techniques and products that can be used to educate children about gardening. Many of these products and ideas are useful to gardeners of all ages. If you like to attract bees and butterflies or learn how to compost or build a blue-bird house, you may find this website helpful. Check out the website, KidsGardening.org.

America in Bloom Application

At a recent Board meeting, Mary Jane Hall gave a rousing description of the current planning for the Bloomington area's participation in the America in Bloom competition. America in Bloom is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting nationwide beautification programs. A steering committee is already planning the activities that will culminate in 2010. The process is sponsored by the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Board of Realtors. Many participants will be needed to make this successful. Gardeners, unite!

Are You a Founding Member of MCMGA?

The twentieth anniversary of the founding of Monroe County Master Gardeners is approaching. The 20th Anniversary Committee is soliciting information on the history of the MCMGA for presentation at our celebration dinner on December 1. If you can share any information on the early years, from 1988-1998, or just have comments or remembrances about the group that might be of interest to us all, contact the extension office, or Helen Hollingsworth, or Bob Baird. Ideas might include amusing stories about your intern class, a big gardening flop that you have had, a friend you have made during your years as a MG, or your favorite gardening trip. Help us make our anniversary celebration a special day.

Monroe County Fair Floral Design

By
Mary Jane
Hall

Many thanks go to the stalwart volunteers and designers who participated in the Floral Design Division at the Monroe County Fair. More Master Gardeners participated this year than in the last three years. Special thanks to Linda Burke, Diann Lock, and Susan Baker who helped with check-in on such a warm day. New categories will be written for next year's fair book. If you have ideas that you'd like to see become realities for next year's Monroe County Fair, call Mary Jane Hall (345-3985) to offer suggestions. Your ideas count, so call today.

Calendar

Tuesday, September 23, 6:30 p.m., fall General Meeting, Monroe County Public Library, Room 1A

Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m., advanced educational workshop, *Water: Make Every Drop Count*, at First United Church, East Third Street

Monday, December 1, 20th anniversary of MCMGA, Terry's Banquet & Catering, Canterbury, 6:00 p.m.

America In Bloom/Bloomington in Bloom



By
Mary Jane
Hall

America in Bloom is a national competition emphasizing the following categories: floral displays, environmental awareness, landscaped areas, tidiness, urban forestry, heritage preservation, turf and groundcovers, and community involvement. This competition is an exciting new opportunity to educate the community about and lead beautification efforts building up to the 2010 application for the America in Bloom competition. The 2010 application process will be a community-wide effort involving as many groups and individuals as possible. Participating America in Bloom communities have experienced positive changes in their communities. Kinds of improvements and their intensity may vary, but often include:

- increased levels of civic pride and community involvement,
- cooperation among residents, organizations, businesses and the municipality,
- everyone working toward a common goal: a better place to live, work, play, and visit,
- visible results,
- valuable information and feedback from judges,
- increased property values,
- increased economic development and a positive impact on the retail industry,
- increased tourism and a positive impact on hospitality industry,
- decreased vandalism,
- information and cultural exchanges with neighboring, national, and international communities.

Participation in the Bloomington effort has been approved by Purdue as a Master Gardener volunteer hours opportunity so long as we focus our efforts on education and leadership. For additional information, call Mary Jane Hall at 345-3985.

Plans Shaping Up for MCMGA 20th Anniversary Celebration

By
Nancy
White

December 1 is the date to save for the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the MCMG Association and Holiday Party. The first intern class was held in the fall of 1988, and the association was founded in the winter of 1989.

Terry's Banquet & Catering on Canterbury on the west side of the highway 37 west bypass will be the site of the festive dinner and program spotlighting the history and founders of our group. Committee members Diana Young, Karen Bish, Susan Eastman, Helen Hollingsworth, Jo Prentice, Bob Baird, and Nancy White are already working on planning; and members and guests will receive invitations in October. You won't want to miss this special event that will begin 2009 as our celebration year. If you have special memories to share, be sure to contact a committee member.

Monroe County Master Gardeners Present Water Workshop (continued from page 1)

Cost of the workshop is \$40, which includes a continental breakfast and a box lunch. Registration deadline is October 8, 2008. Send contact information and check payable to MCMGA to Cheryl Engber, 4672 E. Compton Boulevard, Bloomington, IN 47401.

Workshop registration flyers are available in the mailed September issue of *Roots and Shoots* and at www.mcmga.net.

If you have disability or special needs requirements or questions, contact Cheryl Engber at cmengber@att.net or the extension office at 349-2575. Purdue Cooperative Extension Services Monroe County is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

From the President's Desk



September 1st is an important date for me. The first day of September marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn in my book. Thus, my thinking necessarily switches gears. My thoughts turn from this year's garden to next year's. For the most part, it is too late to do much about the current garden. At this point, it is hard to even weed until we get some rain. So all I can do is harvest the crops and enjoy what has grown this season.

By Marilyn Brinley *Next year*, I think. Next year I will be able to stay ahead of the weeds. Next year my perennials will flourish. Next year the weather will be better. Next year will be perfect. So we tell ourselves, but the reality is that the next growing season will be just as fraught with challenges and difficulties. Though each year's circumstances are different, what can be guaranteed is the fact that there will be obstacles to overcome.

In the same manner, my thoughts shift focus as a proud member of the Monroe County Master Gardeners. Remembering that our dear extension officer must turn in our organization's volunteer and education hours in mid-September, I work on updating my hours on the handy-dandy form that is available via our web site so that I can give Amy yet more proof that ours is a productive organization. I also encourage each of you to get busy so that Amy will have even more hours to report to Purdue.

In addition, it is the time of year when we must begin to look at the make-up of next year's board. Since the adoption of the new bylaws, only a few of the board positions are up for re-election at this time. This year we must look for a new president, vice-president for education and secretary. The current director of communications and at-large director have nicely agreed to stay on in their current positions.

I am pleased to tell you that we have two wonderful ladies on the nominating committee who are working hard to find candidates to fill those positions. I would encourage any of you who might be interested in serving in one of the open spots on the board to contact either Carol Cobine or Linda Heath.

I don't know about you, but I have high hopes for both next year's garden and next year's board. Please join me in looking toward next year.

Harvest a Row for the Hungry

To address local issues of community food security, City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation joins with Worm's Way, Hilltop Garden and Nature Center, Bloomingsfoods Market and Deli, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard and Hoosier Hills Food Bank in encouraging gardeners to grow an extra row for a hungry family. In 2007, the campaign raised over 21,000 pounds of fresh produce, which was distributed through the Food Bank.

Plant Cool Weather Vegetables

Stretch your harvest with a fall planting of savory vegetables. Hilltop Director Greg Speichert will tell you all about which varieties will welcome cooler growing temperatures and provide tips on protection from the cold. The workshop is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 6; cost is \$20. For information: 855-2799 or hilltop@indiana.edu.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Gardening Programs

Grow Organic Educator Series

Wednesdays, September 3–December 3* • 6–9 p.m. • For ages 18 yrs. and up

Learn organic gardening from the experts and share your knowledge with the community in this organic outreach horticultural certification program, which covers soil science, seed saving and everything in between. Complete the course and volunteer hours (in a number of community projects) to be certified as a Grow Organic Educator. Get gardening with GOES! Textbook and comprehensive reference notebook included in fee. There will be a number of optional Saturday workshops and field trips scheduled.

Code: 87612-A, **Register by** 8/27

Cost: \$120/in-city, \$150/non-city (13 classes, 39 hours)

Location: City of Bloomington Adult Community Center, 349 S. Walnut St., Library

Instructors: A team of organic gardening experts

Note: Class does not meet 11/26.

Co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Living and Bloomingfoods.

Plant Identification for Beginners

Saturday, September 13, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Identifying plants in the field is fun! The class will introduce students to basic plant terminology, the secrets of scientific names, and the use of keys to identify wild flowering plants.

Code: 97611-A, **Register by** 9/9

Cost: \$9/in-city, \$11/non-city, **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: City of Bloomington Adult Community Center, 349 S. Walnut St., Library

Instructor: Bruce Behan

Season Extension in the Garden

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Learn how to extend the growing season at both ends. If you want to increase your yields by gardening earlier in the spring and later in the fall, this class will give you the skills to succeed. There will be both classroom and hands-on components to help students understand the construction of frost-protection devices and implementation of a variety of season extension strategies.

Code: 97614-A, **Register by** 9/15

Cost: \$6/in-city, \$7/non-city, **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: Hinkle-Garton Farmstead Historic Site, 2920 E. 10th St.

Instructor: Stephanie Solomon, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Garden Coordinator

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Note: Rain date is 9/27

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City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Gardening Programs (from page 5)

Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Houseplant and Perennial Care and Propagation

Thursday, September 18, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Hands-on instruction will help you take care of your houseplants and propagate your favorites. You'll take home a sample. Learn how to prepare your perennials for the winter and how to divide them. You'll also learn about the health benefits of plants in this information-packed class.

Code: 97613-A, **Register by** 9/11

Cost: \$6/in-city, \$7/non-city , **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: Linnea's Greenhouse, 7092 Shilo Rd., Unionville

Instructors: Linnea Good, Advanced Master Gardener and René Thompson, Registered Horticultural Therapist

Note: Maps to Linnea's Greenhouse available at registration. A materials fee of \$10 is payable to instructor at class.

Introduction to Permaculture

Monday, September 22, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Permaculture is a system of ecological design that analyzes and replicates natural patterns in order to create sustainable human habitats. It has many applications in gardening and landscape design. Participants will learn about the promise of permaculture for designing sustainable futures and how to implement permaculture design features at home.

Code: 97615-A, **Register by** 9/17

Cost: \$17/in-city, \$21/non-city , **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: Hinkle-Garton Farmstead Historic Site, 2920 E. 10th St.

Instructor: Rhonda Baird

Note: Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods. Rain date is 9/29.

Creating and Using Dried Flowers

Wednesday, September 24, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

The class will cover choosing flowers and foliage for pressing and tips on drying and preserving them for use in crafts. Students also will learn how to dry whole blooms and how to select pods, cones, and grasses for use in dried arrangements. The instructor will supply many varieties of pressed flowers for use in creating wall hangings, bookmarks, cards, frames, containers, and other craft items. Students will take home their creations.

Code: 97673-A, **Register by** 9/18

Cost: \$5/in-city, \$6/non-city, **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: Bloomington Adult Community Center, 349 S. Walnut St., Conference Room

Instructor: René Thompson, Registered Horticultural Therapist

Note: Additional \$10 materials fee payable to instructor at class.

City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department Gardening Programs (from page 6)

Habitat Stewards Training

Saturday, October 11 and Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

In this class designed by the National Wildlife Federation, students will learn the skills required to help community members certify their properties as National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitats. While becoming Habitat Stewards, students will learn to identify plants and animals and ways to landscape to provide food, water, and shelter for wildlife. A \$16 textbook must be purchased at first class meeting. Class session on 10/25 is a field trip. Please bring a sack lunch.

Code: 97619, **Register by** 10/1

Cost: \$18/in-city, \$22/non-city (4 classes, 28 hours), **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: Karst Farm Park Commons, 2450 S. Endwright Rd.

Instructors: Lucille Bertuccio, Director of the Center for Sustainable Living and a team of naturalists

Note: Co-sponsored by the Center for Sustainable Living and Monroe County Parks and Recreation

Growing Wildflowers from Seed

Saturday, November 1, 10:00 a.m.–noon

The class will introduce students to the rewards and challenges of growing native wildflowers from seed. Students will learn about the seeds of our native flora and how to germinate them.

Code: 97621-A, **Register by** 10/27

Cost: \$8/in-city, \$10/non-city, **Ages:** 18 yrs. and up

Location: City of Bloomington Adult Community Center, 349 S. Walnut St., Craft Room

Instructor: Bruce Behan

Note: Co-sponsored by Bloomingfoods.

Community Gardening Opportunities

The Willie Streeter Community Gardens and Crestmont Community Gardens offer a variety of gardening opportunities for individuals, families, groups and organizations. Services provided include the initial tilling of the garden area, sources of water, maintained paths, composting, soil testing, fencing and the advice of the garden supervisor (if requested). Participants receive three Community Garden Program newsletters throughout the season as well. Both gardens have plenty of conveniently located parking and are also accessible on Bloomington Transit bus routes. Plots are available for rent April 1–October 31. A limited number of plots and all the raised beds allow for the overwintering of crops, with permission from the garden supervisor.

Registration: Gardeners from 2008 have until February 27, 2009 to renew the rental of the plots gardened in 2008. New gardeners or gardeners who gardened last season but wish to reserve a different plot may register beginning March 2, 2009 on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration begins January 2 for gardeners wishing to renew the rental of plots gardened in 2008. Register Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation office in City Hall, 401 N. Morton St., Ste. 250. For more information call 349-3700.

2008 MCMGA Sponsored Education Opportunities

By Nancy White
 You can claim education hours credit if you participated in any of the various MCMGA 2008 activities listed below.

Month	Activity	Education Credit
January	General Meeting	1 hour
March	General Meeting	2 hours
April Field Trip	Wildflower Foray	1.5 hours
May Field Trip	IU Greenhouses Tour	2 hours
June	MCMGA Garden Walk	1 hour*
July Field Trip	Daylily Gardens	.50 hour
July 23 County Fair Talk	Moss and Ferns	1 hour
July 24 County Fair Talk	Heirloom Plants and Seeds	1 hour
July 25 County Fair Talk	Iris Care and Culture	1 hour

*if you visited all three gardens and attended picnic

If you have questions about what does or does not count, contact Amy Thompson at the extension office.

Nature Daze in Brown County on September 13

Plan to attend Nature Daze 2008 on Saturday, September 13, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., hosted by Bill and Becky Freeman and Brown County Native Woodlands Project. Nature Daze sponsors include Brown County Soil & Water Conservation District, Brown County Native Woodlands Project, The Nature Conservancy, Brown County Purdue Extension, Aquatic Control. U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Hoosier Riverwatch. And Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

In 2000, Bill and Becky Freeman started to live out a lifelong dream of owning a large tract of land with the purchase of Camp Christina in the southeastern part of Brown County. They wanted to be Good Stewards for the forest, meadows, ponds and wildlife, but then reality hit with full force.

What is a Good Steward? How does one go about being a Good Steward? Who do you call to learn about all of these varied environments? Well, they found out it wasn't "Ghost Busters".

Much to their surprise, they found various experts in plants, animals, trees and ponds. They also took classes offered by various organizations on forest management, pond management, prairie grass establishment, prairie grass maintenance, tree identification and even a safety course in chain saw operation. Often, when armed with the right information and given the confidence and guidance by all the coaches, the implementation was the easiest part.

In an effort to help provide others with the valuable information, Bill and Becky Freeman have, once again, offered their property to host the Nature Daze 2008. Come join us for an exciting and informational day on September 13, 2008.

Volunteer Opportunities Compiled by Nancy White

Location	Time	Jobs	Contact
Hilltop Garden and Nature Center	year around	various	Greg Speicher, 855-2799 or gspeiche@indiana.edu
Templeton Garden Project	spring/fall	teaching children	Nancy White, 824-4426
MG Demonstration Garden	seasonal	various	Bethany Murray, 339-8876, bethany.murray@gmail.com
T. C. Steele SHS	seasonal	various	Davie Kean, 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	Barbara Hays, 332-4032
MG Program Committee Member	year around	plan MG programs	Nancy White, 824-4426 Bob Baird, 331-1308
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	Libby Yarnell, 355-6843
WonderLab Garden	2 times monthly	various	Nancy White, 824-4426

PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE WHEN VOLUNTEERING.

September 2008, Volume 24, Issue 9

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Plan to attend the September 23 General Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Room 1A at the Monroe County Public Library and earn two hours education credit.
Topic: Preparing This Fall for Next Spring**

2008 MASTER GARDENER BOARD

In This Issue

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