

Illinois Master Gardener IMAGINE

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



Volume 13 No. 4
July-August 2012

COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

I frequently receive requests from volunteers for online educational opportunities. Several excellent online modules or webinars have just been released or are coming up very soon. Be sure to check the University of Illinois Master Gardener website for links or information. These classes/modules will be posted on the educational events page of the website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/events/default.cfm>

I. I am proud to announce that the **IPM Modules for Master Gardeners** are now available for your use. These modules were created to inform you about newly emerging or prevalent diseases and insect problems. Five modules have been released and more will be added to this website throughout the coming year. We currently have modules available on Spruce Problems, Thousand Canker Walnut Disease, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Bacterial Leaf Scorch and Sudden Oak Death. These modules were created by a team consisting of Kelly Estes, IL State Survey Coordinator; Stephanie Porter, Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist; Phil Nixon, Extension Entomologist and Monica David, Master Gardener Coordinator along with many other support staff. Funds for this project come from a national USDA grant for Consumer IPM. The lessons contain information on everything from distribution of the pest to identification to management strategies along with numerous photos. Each module is worth 0.5 hours of continuing education. You should complete the module by reading the material and studying the photos, then complete the quiz until all questions are answered correctly and fill out a very brief evaluation. When finished you can print out a certificate of completion. You may view the modules as many times as you like and use them as a reference for study and answering client questions. However- you can only claim the education credits one time. These modules also count towards the advanced IPM training certification.

II. **The Power of Pollinators** is a set of three modules which contain slides, notes and resources. The modules are “Why Pollinators Matter”, “Bee Biology and Identification” and “Gardening for Pollinators”. These materials are free for your use in continuing education and to teach others. To access the Power of Pollinators materials and website: visit the eXtension website, <http://campus.extension.org>. Set up an account using the “Create an Account” link on the left side of the page. It is free and secure. Once you have that account created (you will receive an email confirmation and password), log into the eXtension site, scroll thru the available course categories and select Yard and Garden. Then select the “Power of Pollinators”. Use the keyword “Beesplease” to enter the site. These materials are provided by grant funding from the NC IPM working group and created by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the University of Wisconsin Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and the Ohio State Bee Lab and Pollinarium.

III. A **Tomato Webinar for Master Gardeners** is being offered on August 14th at 11:30 AM Central time. This 90 minute webinar will feature variety selection, best planting practices, and cultural information along with how to recognize leaf spots, early and late blight and bacterial spot. The webinar is being presented by: Michelle Grabowski, Extension Plant Pathologist, University of Minnesota; Dr. Rhoda Burrows, Extension Horticulturist, South Dakota State University; Stephanie Porter, Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist, University of Illinois; and Dr. Mary Meyer, Extension Horticulturist, University of Minnesota. This webinar can be viewed at your Extension office if they have registered to host it. Ask your MG Coordinator if the webinar will be offered in your local unit. Registrants are asked to take 30 minutes before the session to view four resources on tomato IPM. Participants will also be asked to complete a short 10 question survey on their knowledge of tomato IPM prior to the webinar as well as completing a similar 10 question post survey. This webinar is being provided thru grant funding from the NC IPM Working Group.

Monica David, University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener Coordinator

ILLINOIS MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2012



September 6-8

Holiday Inn Crystal lake Conference Center

Join your fellow volunteers for exciting tours, great educational sessions, 20 garden vendors and the opportunity to network with others. Our keynote speaker will be Eliot Coleman, nationally recognized leader in organic gardening. Eliot has more than 40 years experience in all aspects of organic farming and he will also conduct a class on the Four Season Harvest. He is the author of *The New Organic Grower*, *Four Season Harvest* and *the Winter Harvest Handbook*.

A highlight of the conference is our outstanding variety of tour choices. Four all day tours offer commercial composting and organic farming OR hostas, vegetables and a sesquicentennial farm OR historically significant Lake Michigan estates. Morning tours include Market Day founder and a wholesale nursery OR Volo Bog State Park and the MG Demo garden. Afternoon tours feature Rich's Foxwillow Pines, MG Rotary Garden and Loyola Ecology campus OR restoration projects and bird watching. There are still spots in all of the tours but many are filling quickly. We will also offer pre or post conference Nippersink Creek Kayaking Tours!

Class sessions will be presented by area, regional and national experts. Break out session topics include Weeds, Composting, Creating a PowerPoint, Fairy Gardens, Invasives, Lawns, Bee Keeping, Grapes, Hostas, Wine Making, Mushroom Culture, Community Gardens, Heirlooms, Herbs, Insect ID, Native Trees, Seed Saving, Fruit Trees and much more. Two hands on classes will feature creation of a bonsai or vermicomposting bin. New for conference 2012 are early morning Yoga classes - limber up and learn the art of yoga as taught by our experts from the Pulsation Yoga Studio.

Don't wait to register as the tours and hands-on classes have limited availability. **Registration closes August 20. No late or onsite registrations.**

View information and register at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/conference2012/default.cfm>

Full registration- \$145 per person (MG, staff, adult guest)

Single Day registrations (Friday or Saturday)- \$75

Awards banquet - \$30

All day tours (including lunch) -\$58

Half day tours- \$20

Full registration includes all classes, handouts for your sessions, breaks, 2 lunches and the opening Thursday night reception.

Lodging: A block of rooms is being held at the rate of \$80/night. Call the Holiday Inn at 815-477-7000 or reserve a room online by visiting the MG conference website. The room block will be held until Monday August 6th.
www.hicrystallake.com

SILENT AUCTION

We need your help to make the 9th annual Master Gardener Silent Auction a success. We are looking for donations of artwork, sculpture, paintings, books, garden tools, garden gifts, etc. The profits from the auction will be used to fund the annual Master Gardener mini-grant program. You may send your donation to the McHenry County Extension Office or bring it to the conference registration desk at the Holiday Inn but please contact Monica David at modavid@illinois.edu BEFORE THE CONFERENCE to let her know what you will be donating.

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2013



The 2013 International Master Gardener Conference is garnering a lot of attention. The conference will occur on a cruise ship to Alaska with sessions held on board and tours during port stops. To date we have 414 folks registered. Actual educational/seminar and tour information will be available September 1, 2012. We have our keynote speakers set, and most of our seminar topics and speakers confirmed. We are working on finalizing tour options. There will be a \$200 additional fee for conference registration-but stay tuned for your choices. \$350 per person or \$700 per room will hold the cabin of your choice. The main conference website for information is <http://uaex.edu/imgc2013/default.htm>

Holland America Cruise line – Ship - Westerdam Port Schedule

Sailing from – Seattle, September 7, 2013

Return to – Seattle, September 14, 2013

Day 1: Seattle, Washington, US - Depart 4:00 p.m.

Day 2: At sea

Day 3: Juneau, Alaska, US - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Day 4: Glacier Bay

Day 5: Sitka, Alaska, US - 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Day 6: Ketchikan, Alaska, US - 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Day 7: Victoria, British Columbia, CA - 6:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m.

Day 8: Seattle, Washington, US - Arrive 7:00 a.m.

Please register online at <http://cm.wsu.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=37403&> No credit card information is put online, but once you register, you will get a call back, usually within 2 weeks, from the conference staff at Washington State to get the credit card information, and answer any questions you have. You will need a credit card to pay with-checks are not accepted. If you don't have a credit card, you can purchase a Visa or MasterCard that you preload with the amount of money you want to spend. Additional amounts can be paid monthly or you can pay it all off at once - it is your decision, as long as your bill is paid in full prior to June 24, 2013. Call or email Michelle Breining (how much you want charged to your account, and when you want it charged. If you choose to put your credit card on auto pay you will automatically be charged your full balance on June 24, 2013.

Washington State Conferences can also give you airfare quotes, or you can do it on your own. Airfare is usually available 1 year prior to your flight - so again, September, 2012, it should be available. If you indicate on your registration you are interested in airfare they will contact you and help you with your airfare.

Janet B. Carson
Extension Horticulture Specialist
University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture Extension
501-671-2174
jcarson@uaex.edu

SPRINGTIME IN SCOTLAND-CASTLES, GARDENS AND HIGHLANDS

MAY 19-JUNE 1, 2013

Join Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator Monica David to explore the hidden treasures of Scotland. We will visit public and private gardens and enjoy the scenery and history of the majestic highlands, mysterious lochs and historic castles. The non-garden activities on this trip include: leisure time in Inverary, Perth and Edinburgh; a day trip to explore the highlands and lochs; a boat trip on Loch Ness to look for "Nessie"; a tour of Edinburgh Castle; a visit to a local distillery to learn about the making of the famous Scottish whiskey and a stop in St. Andrews- a medieval coastal town and the international home of golf.

The trip will feature both public and private gardens- about 16 gardens in all. We will view stunning private gardens such as **Glenarn Gardens**- known for its collection of rhododendrons; **Dochfour House**- ancestral home of the Baille family on Loch Ness; **Glenbervie House**-with its fine Victorian conservatory; **Cambo House Gardens**- best known for its secret garden and naturalistic plantings; **Branklyn Gardens**- the finest two acres of private garden in the country and **Glendoick Gardens** which was recently included in the list of Europe's top 50 gardens.

Castle gardens included on this tour are **Inverary Castle and Gardens**-a Palladian and Gothic-style castle with 16 acres of formal gardens and woodland; **Cawdor Castle Gardens**- with a famous walled garden, year round flower garden and wild garden; **Carthes Castle Gardens**- best known for its colorful borders; **Drummond Gardens**, an exceptional formal parterre garden and **Mount Stewart**- an outstanding example of grand domestic architecture and lovely gardens which include a rock garden, a Pinetum, a kitchen garden and a contemporary garden. The tour also includes a night visit to the **Cruickshank Botanic Garden** led by the head gardener, and finishes with a stop at the **Edinburgh Royal Botanic Gardens**. Check the full itinerary for all the details and garden descriptions: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/events/default.cfm>

Tour cost is \$3549 per person twin share. Single supplement is \$850. Airfare not included.

Contact Robyn Gulstrom for more information or to hold your spot: rgulstrom@comcast.net or 269-629-9249.

INVASIVE PLANT ATLAS

Non-native invasive species are organisms that have been introduced by humans either purposely or by accident and that have become serious environmental pests. One reason for their success as pests is that they are typically introduced without the array of associated natural controls (herbivores, parasites, pathogens, predators) that occur in their native range. In addition to the great loss of biodiversity, habitat degradation and other ecological consequences, invasive species cause huge economic damages valued in billions of dollars annually and some pose a human health threat.

Invasive alien plants threaten native species and habitats by competing for critical and often limited resources like sunlight, water, nutrients, soil and space. They succeed through vigorous growth, prolific reproductive capabilities and by causing changes that favor their growth and spread. Invasive plant species displace and alter native plant communities, impede forest regeneration and natural succession, change soil chemistry, alter hydrologic conditions, alter fire regimes, cause genetic changes in native plant relatives through hybridization and some serve as agents for the transmission of harmful plant pathogens.

The Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States is a collaborative project between the National Park Service, the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The purpose of the Atlas is to assist users with identification, early detection, prevention, and management of invasive plants. The focus is on non-native invasive plant species impacting natural areas, excluding agricultural and other heavily developed and managed lands. Four main components are species information, images, distribution maps, and early detection reporting procedures. The Invasive Plant Atlas is one step in the effort to combat invasive species, preserve our natural landscapes and the native plants, animals, and other creatures that inhabit them. View the atlas at <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/index.html>

Invasive Plant Atlas
of the United States 



COSTA RICA 2013

Gardens, Rain Forest, Beaches and Wildlife

January 12-22

Join fellow gardeners and nature enthusiasts to explore the rich diversity of Costa Rica. We will visit private reserves and private and public gardens, while surrounded by rainforest, mountains or the picturesque Pacific Coast. Costa Rica is the land of gardens where you will see some of your most cherished garden plants growing in the wild. The national flower of Costa Rica is the orchid. Costa Rica has the richest orchid flora in Central America with more than 1,400 identified species.

This itinerary is inclusive of almost all daily activities as well as meals. This trip also includes some visits that are exclusively available to a very limited few.

The trip begins in San Jose with lodging at the beautiful Hotel Bougainvillea which features its own magnificent garden. The group will visit the La Paz Waterfall Gardens and the Cano Negro National Wildlife Refuge which is the habitat for over 350 species of birds. Next the group will visit the Arenal Volcano, Ecotermals Hot Springs, the Arenal Hanging Bridges and the Don Juan Organic Farm. The next area to be featured is the Monteverde region which is one of the most outstanding ecosystems on the planet and where you can enjoy the amazing cloud forest. This group has the privilege of spending a day with Willow Zuchowski exploring her projects. Willow is the author of "Tropical Plants of Costa Rica" and "Common Flowering Plants of the Monteverde Cloud Forest". Lastly the group will visit the sunny beach region of Guanacaste. The last day is free to swim, snorkel, kayak or sail at leisure.

Tour cost per person is \$2990. Airfare not included. The full itinerary and registration form can be found at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/events/default.cfm> For more information contact Mary Kroening at mkroening@greatsoutherntravel.com

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN RAISED BED CLOCHE

"Cloche" is French for bell jar or dish that is set over delicate plants to protect them from frost and cold weather. This definition has been expanded over the years to include many types of portable and permanent structures that shelter plants from wind or cold - thus creating mini greenhouses. Cloches have become popular in the coastal Mediterranean climate of the Pacific Northwest, where long cool springs typically lead to cooler summers with lower temperatures for growing vegetables and other crops. This concept is now used throughout the United States as well.

A cloche can increase crop diversity and early planting and extend the growing season and harvest time. In our growing region the season can be extended and two plantings of vegetables can be accomplished within one growing season for crops which are damaged by early or late frosts.

The Oregon State Extension System has plans and instructions on their website for an easy to construct cloche which is 8 to 12 feet long by 4 feet wide and costs about \$150-\$250 to construct. View the plans at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/ec/ec1627_e.pdf

PEST MANAGEMENT FOR THE HOME LANDSCAPE

University of Illinois Extension Specialists have just released the new *Pest Management Guide for the Home Landscape*- this is the new edition of the former home, Yard and Garden Pest Guide. The book is a wealth of information on management techniques for diseases, insects and weeds, suggested resistant varieties, IPM, pesticide safety and much more. Master Gardeners please remember that all pesticide recommendations given to clients **MUST** come from this manual.

The newly revised manual has 174 pages plus index and the cost is \$24.95 . It is available online at pubsplus.illinois.edu or call 1-800-345-6087. Many Extension offices also have copies for sale.

RESULTS OF IMPACT SURVEY

Thanks to the 230+ Master Gardeners who completed our recent impact study. The study was targeted for those who completed training in 2009 or 2010. The reason for the study was to evaluate gardening practices before and after training to learn about whether our training promotes good gardening/horticulture practices. We also wanted to see how many of these practices Master Gardeners taught to the public. Finally we looked to see if involvement in the Master Gardener program helped with life skills such as communication, leadership, setting goals and working within a group.

A few highlights from the survey results are:

- 77% of respondents said the Master Gardener program helped them solve gardening problems better or a great deal
- 67% said the Master Gardener program helped them much or a great deal to acquire information better
- 37.9% almost never used water saving strategies in the garden before taking training while 66% often used these strategies as a result of the training
- 40% almost never chose resistant plant varieties before training while 80% chose varieties resistant to insects and diseases after training
- 41% mulched landscape plants properly before being a Master Gardener while 87% mulched plants properly after taking training
- Only 49% would ID a pest before treating (before taking the training) while 74% would ID the problem before treating after they had become a Master Gardener
- 86% almost never kept records of pest occurrence or treatment before training while 71% reported sometimes or often keeping records after joining the Master Gardener program
- 73% almost never followed recommendations on soil test results before training while 64% sometimes or often followed recommendations after training

The survey also looked at how Master Gardeners were using their training to teach others about good gardening practices.

- 67% often or very often taught how to choose landscape plants based on site conditions
- 68% often or very often taught how to install landscape plants correctly
- 70% often or very often taught how to properly mulch plants
- 63% often or very often taught how to prune plants correctly
- 68% often or very often taught recycling of organic materials thru mulching and composting
- 58% often or very often taught how to use pesticides according to label directions

Thanks to all the survey participants!



University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

United States Department of Agriculture Local Extension Councils Cooperating

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPENING

The State Master Gardener advisory committee is looking for a Master Gardener volunteer from the Southern (S) part of the state. The term on the committee is for three years and the committee meets 4 times per year. These meetings are usually held in February, May, September (at the state conference) and November. Committee members may attend the meetings in person or by telenet. The state committee is made up of staff and Master Gardeners from across the state.

The committee serves as advisory counsel to the Master Gardener State Coordinator. They encourage equitable distribution of state Master Gardener resources; recommend standards for core course training; increase awareness of University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener programs; support the annual conference and recommend policies and procedures for the program.

If you would be interested in applying for these openings (you must live in the Southern part of the state), talk to your local coordinator. There is an application form on the website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg> (on the MG Resources page). Please fill out your application and take it to your local coordinator for their approval. A supporting letter from your County Director, MG Coordinator or Educator must accompany your application. Applications are due to the State Office by October 1.