

Illinois Master Gardener **IMAGINE**

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



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COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

Congratulations to all the 2013 Outstanding Master Gardeners and Sustained Excellence Award winners as well as to all those volunteers who participated in our ten Teamwork Award winning projects. Please read about our winners in the pages of this newsletter. Thanks to the Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Lee County Master Gardeners for what will be a very enjoyable conference. Over 300 attendees will enjoy superb tours and great educational sessions including keynotes by Vincent Simeone and Denise Wiles Adams.

Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

ORGANIC GARDENING DAY NOV. 9

Organic gardening experts from around the country will present five educational sessions to inspire pesticide-free gardening at this year's Organic Gardening Day, Saturday, Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Urbana. Chuck Voigt, University of Illinois vegetable and crops specialist and coordinator of the event, said he is particularly pleased with the line-up of speakers for this year's sessions.

John Bagnasco, from SuperNaturals Natural Vegetables in Vista, Calif., will provide up-to-date information about the practice of grafting heirloom vegetables onto more productive and disease-resistant rootstocks. "This practice is exploding in popularity around the world and getting a running start here in the United States," Voigt said. Bagnasco is a horticulture graduate of Michigan State University, has worked in the gardening industry for over 35 years, and is a co-host of the GardenLife radio program. His second talk will center on another one of his horticultural passions – rescuing and growing endangered roses.

Karen Geiser, of Karen's Garden Delights in Kidron, Ohio, is the sixth generation on a family farm settled by Swiss ancestors in 1822. Geiser grows vegetables, herbs, flowers, sugarcane, fruits, and berries on about two acres. To feed her family and grow produce for sale through as much of the year as possible, she has worked with high tunnels, low tunnels, cold frames, and other season extenders. "Because there's only so much you can do to grow food through a midwestern winter, she has also learned a great deal about eating with the seasons and will share some of that wisdom with us," Voigt said.

Jessica Goren, executive chef at Big Grove Tavern in downtown Champaign, Ill., will do an autumn fruits and vegetables cooking demonstration. Goren previously worked as a chef at the Thirsty Bear Restaurant in San Francisco, Calif., before moving to Champaign. "She advocates eating locally and tries to adhere to that as much as possible through the seasons at her restaurant here in Illinois, which presents a greater challenge than in California," Voigt said.

In addition to the speakers, there will be a retail area selling a broad range of gardening products.

Advance registration of \$60, which includes an organic lunch, must be received by Nov. 1. For more information, contact Linda Harvey by calling 217-244-1693 or send an email to lharvey@illinois.edu.

On-site registration on Nov. 9 begins at 8 a.m., will continue only as long as space allows, and will not guarantee lunch. The first educational session begins promptly at 9 a.m.

2013 ILLINOIS TEAMWORK AWARD WINNERS

CHILDREN'S GARDEN REDESIGNED (CHAMPAIGN COUNTY)

Beginning in September 2011, the Children's Garden Team of Master Gardeners spent time conceptualizing and building "A Place for Children to Learn and Connect with Nature". Each Master Gardener served as a team leader working toward the completion of a living tunnel, sunflower maze, salad bowl, pollinator section, prairie section, and rain garden. To celebrate the 2012 completion, the team hosted the inaugural Children's Garden Party and helped the children create stepping-stones for the maze and walkways. With help from the Parkland Community College Construction Program, the Master Gardeners developed and built a shaded, open-air playhouse for children visiting the garden to escape the heat, relax, and learn. Through the hard work of redesigning, saving, and reusing the original Children's Garden, the team created a new, true children's garden to host readings, low-income educational programming, and educational talks for the community.

JEN SCHOOLS GARDENS AT MARYVILLE ACADEMY (COOK NORTH SUBURBAN)

The Maryville Jen School is a live-in educational facility for teenage boys with special needs. The three Master Gardeners have been working to educate students through developing a gardening program that is now part of the core curriculum. Students work to mow, prepare soil, plant, weed, water, and harvest the 28 garden boxes, 14 fruit trees, and a tea garden. Along with the experience of marketing and selling the produce at the farmers market, many of the students receive pay for their work in the garden. The garden at the Jen School provides a stress-free place to work for approximately 60 students and a bounty of fresh food for the lunch program. With the help of the Master Gardeners, Maryville Jen School students have gained insight into the seed-to-vegetable growth, ecology, gardening, marketing, budgeting, work, food, and stress relief through gardening.

GREEN THUMB SATURDAYS (COOK SOUTH SUBURBAN)

The Green Thumb Saturday series was setup by a team of Master Gardeners who set out to build horticulture educational programming that coincided with the farmers market at Homewood Village Hall. The weekly, 45-minute programs in 2012 covered Shade Greens, Native Perennials, Managing Weeds Organically, Lawn Care Basics, Tree Planting and Care, and Composting for an impressive total of 437 attendees in six segments! The team worked directly with the village to develop a logo, consult with other Master Gardeners as speakers, and reach out to local media. The group also dug up and donated plants from their own gardens to give away as door prizes. The Green Thumb Saturdays series educated participants on growing environmentally friendly gardens, increased farmers market traffic, and near-by towns are duplicating the concept for 2013.

IDEA GARDEN(FORD-IROQUOIS COUNTIES)

In development since 2004, the Idea Garden of Ford-Iroquois County offers Master Gardeners a site for hands-on education, practice, and educational programming that reaches out to the public and garden visitors. The Idea Garden began with five sections and has grown in size and style to provide better visibility and meet the changing environmental needs of the locale. The Master Gardeners expanded the educational programming through telenets at the Onarga Extension office followed by garden tours and discussions. The Idea Garden continues to reach out to the public in new, significant ways. A thematic garden was designed to reflect the public library's summer reading topics, the Master Gardeners host a community plant share, and Master Gardeners give public demonstrations in the Idea Garden on a variety of topics including new plants and container gardening.

CENTRAL PERMIT FACILITY RAIN GARDEN (LAKE COUNTY)

Twenty Master Gardeners teamed up with Master Naturalists to help the Lake County Permit Facility in the creation of a rain garden for the facility grounds. After researching native plants appropriate for the full-sun environment, the group began designing and organizing large-scale plantings, garden layout, maintenance, plant information sheets for the public, and a rain garden weed guide. Thanks to the Master Gardener's suggestion, the county implemented a controlled burn, soil amendments, and re-contouring before the planting of 54 native plant species began. Although the garden was designed and planted in 2012, the project continues as the Master Gardeners focus on hosting public tours incorporating the research gathered in the development of the rain garden's Plant Information Sheets. Not only to the garden's three distinct planting zones focus on a variety of native plants, but also the half acre space is an essential resource and inspiration for homeowners and site managers interested in installing a rain garden of their own.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT LINCOLN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL (LASALLE COUNTY)

After being contacted by a sixth grade science teacher at Lincoln Junior High who was looking for a project that incorporated plants for her class, this group of four Master Gardener's proposed the development of a butterfly garden. The Master Gardeners traveled to the school to check the landscape and find the best available area for planting. Students investigated the plant life that butterflies prefer while the Master Gardeners sought out donations of perennials. Students helped cutting sod, building a berm, digging holes, planting, watering, mulching, and creating plant identification tags for the garden space near the school's entrance. The butterfly garden was finished before school let out for the summer and the students at Lincoln Junior High are now able to watch the hard work in the garden grow and develop. The Master Gardeners will continue to follow up with the class regarding development of new projects.

PLUM CREEK ARBORETUM (LEE COUNTY)

The Plum Creek Arboretum is an immense undertaking by Master Gardeners since its inception in 2004. The 10 acre site is located just outside Dixon and continues to develop buildings and gardens. The volunteers helped develop meeting rooms, space for telenets, a horticulture library, spaces for workshops and classes, raised beds, a pergola, butterfly garden, children's garden, rose garden, greenhouse, a tree nursery, and much more were made possible with the help and dedication of Master Gardeners. The arboretum has also been used as an educational site by the Master Gardeners for holding over 15 workshops, 25 classes, and 20 tours to people of all ages and abilities. The Master Gardeners' work continues and they provide aid to the arboretum through grants, receive help from the Dixon Women's Club and the Dixon Area Garden Club, provide funds from Master Gardener Plant Sales, and seek out Extension donations.

TOMATO TASTE PANEL (MACON COUNTY)

The Tomato Taste Panel is a Master Gardener developed educational program working to not only teach the public about the process of growing different varieties of tomatoes, but also to give the community the opportunity to taste a variety of tomatoes that may be unfamiliar to local residents. Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns work together to research, grow, and care for tomato plants in preparation for the panel event. The event takes place annually with increasing attendance. At a very affordable price, anyone can attend a tasting of many varieties and/or a cooking class focusing on unique ways to incorporate tomatoes. The success of the panel has resulted in increased attention to tomatoes at the annual plant sale, growing interest in community tomato growing classes, and increased number of plants that are charitably donated to the Green Thumb Operation Garden and the Senior Center.

WJBC Q&A RADIO SHOW (MCLEAN COUNTY)

Broadcasting live out of Bloomington, Illinois, the Q&A radio show is hosted by four dedicated Master Gardeners who offer their horticulture knowledge to the public. The radio program began 14 years ago providing information on an "as needed" basis about specific and seasonal topics from visiting Master Gardeners. The program is now produced by Master Gardeners and is broadcasted every other Wednesday and one Saturday each month. The Q&A Radio Program promotes Master Gardener programming, provides "just in time" horticultural information to McLean county, and offers diverse, group insight into live and local questions. The Master Gardener team has worked together for many years and continues to offer unique, educated points of view to the listeners. Each broadcast bring years of gardening experience, advanced education, areas of specialization, and research live on the radio year round in Macon County.

SEED LIBRARY (PERRY COUNTY)

Working to establish a seed library at DuQuoin Public Library, Master Gardeners began saving and cataloging seeds to encourage horticultural education and the development of gardens in Perry County. Beginning with perennial, herb, and vegetable seeds, the team of Master Gardeners created envelopes with name, care instructions, and planting guidelines for each seed packet. Librarians helped manage the seed selection and organize each packet for ease of checking in and out. Each patron that decides to check out a seed packet returns it at the end of a growing season filled with new seeds. The Master Gardeners also held gardening workshops to advertise and educate the public on the seed library. The important topics of biodiversity and genetically modified seeds were covered to offer insight into the value of the seed library. The public's interest resulted in a continuation of the seed library and the project has inspired other organizations to develop similar projects.

MORTON GIVING GARDEN (TAZEWELL COUNTY)

Working to establish a seed library at Du Quoin Public Library, Master Gardeners began saving and cataloging seeds to encourage horticultural education and the development of gardens in Perry County. Beginning with perennial, herb, and vegetable seeds, the team of Master Gardeners created envelopes with name, care instructions, and planting guidelines for each seed packet. Librarians helped manage the seed selection and organize each packet for ease of checking in and out. Each patron that decides to check out a seed packet returns it at the end of a growing season filled with new seeds. The Master Gardeners also held gardening workshops to advertise and educate the public on the seed library. The important topics of biodiversity and genetically modified seeds were covered to offer insight into the value of the seed library. The public's interest resulted in a continuation of the seed library and the project has inspired other organizations to develop similar projects.

GARDEN DAY WORKSHOP AND SPRING FESTIVAL (VERMILION COUNTY)

Thanks to the time and dedication offered by this group of Vermillion County Master Gardeners, the Garden Day Workshop and Spring Festival has grown into the Master Gardener's largest fundraising event. Beginning in 2006 with seven volunteers, the workshop and festival now has 32 volunteers working for more than 170 attendees. The team manages groups of volunteers to decorate tables, donate and design centerpieces, organize and prepare a luncheon for attendees, collect donations for the raffle and door prizes, fill tote bags, sell raffle tickets, contact unique vendors, and arrange the workshop and guest presentations. 2012 brought together a presentation on annuals by Danville Garden's Lisa Campbell, a presentation on shrubs from Sandy Mason, and an entertaining presentation by Trudi Temple. The Garden Day Workshop and Spring Festival is a staple in Vermillion County and people from neighboring towns also have made attendance at the annual event a way to kick-off the spring season.

2013 ILLINOIS MASTER GARDENER AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING AWARD WINNERS

Karen Abbott (Thornron, Cook South Suburban)	Barbara Long (Inverness, Cook North Suburban)
Cheryl Andersen (Chamapign, Champaign County)	Lee Maki (Washington, Tazewell County)
Dwayne Anderson (Arlington Heights, Cook North Suburban)	Jody McCamey (Cuba, Fulton County)
Teresa Bach (Redmon, Edgar County)	Patricia Melaik (Peoria, Peoria County)
Joyce Bettner (Paw Paw, Lee County)	Carol Miller (Danville, Vermilion County)
Rhonda Brady (Galesburg, Knox County)	Steve Mullen (Urbana, Champaign County)
Pat Brennan (Kirkland, DeKalb County)	Dales Nelmes (McHenry, McHenry County)
Martha Brown (Charleston, Coles County)	Ellen Nordhauser (Edwardsville, Madison County)
Milena Buck (Woodstock, McHenry County)	Sharon Petrilli (Springfield, Sangamon County)
Cathy Carpenter (Quincy, Adams County)	Vickie Reschke (Coal Valley, Rock Island County)
Marsha Clark (Bloomington, McLean County)	Ellen Rey (Waterloo, Monroe County)
Bob Cole (Davis, Stephenson County)	Wes Robinson (Freeport, Stephenson County)
Ellen Culver (Bloomington, McLean County)	Daun Roth (Lake Bluff, Lake County)
Janice Dirks (Catlin, Vermilion County)	Thomas Schau (Bartlett, Cook North Suburban)
Larry Ermey (Stillman Valley, Ogle County)	Joyce Sutton (Peoria, Peoria County)
Barb Flores (Durand, Winnebago County)	Bill Tobin (South Holland, Cook South Suburban)
Patti Florez (Bloomington, McLean County)	Kathy Veroni (Macomb, McDonough County)
Cathern Hart (Fithian, Vermilion County)	Jan Villhard (Collinsville, Madison County)
Susan Helm (Springfield, Sangamon County)	Val Waring (Milan, Rock Island County)
Marcia Heuer (Oregon, Ogle County)	Helen Wilson (Long Grove, Lake County)
Mike Kerckhove (Moline, Rock Island County)	Delores Woodburn (Pontiac, Livingston County)
Linda Kunesh (Carol Stream, DuPage County)	Dorothy Zukoski (Chicago, Cook County)

SUSTAINED EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Kent Ackerman (East Moline, Rock Island County)	Kate Morecraft (Paris, Edgar County)
Bob Bishop (Bloomington, McLean County)	Mary Morris (Champaign, Champaign County)
Bill Budd (Springfield, Sangamon County)	Robert Resch (LaGrange, Cook South Suburban)
Margaret Burns-Westmeyer (Chicago Heights, Cook South Suburban)	Mary Sapienza (Palatine, Cook North Suburban)
Bev Cotter (Champaign, Champaign County)	Elizabeth Scholebo (Sadorus, Champaign County)
Sue Farrell-Stroyen (Bloomington, McLean County)	Phyllis Schultz (Mattoon, Coles County)
Juanita Gammon (Champaign, Champaign County)	Pat Sollars (Danville, Vermilion County)
Jan Hanson (Bartlett, DuPage County)	Ken Stroock (Dixon, Lee County)
Donna Hirsch (Worth, Cook South Suburban)	Nancy Stroock (Dixon, Lee County)
Shey Lowman (Leaf River, Stephenson County)	Marianne Venute (Danville, Vermilion County)
Rod McQueen (Sycamore, DeKalb County)	Jana Waite (Champaign, Champaign County)
Norm Meyn (Peoria Heights, Peoria County)	Rita Wiessing (Humboldt, Coles County)

SFE INTERNATIONAL MG AWARD GIVEN TO DUPAGE MGS

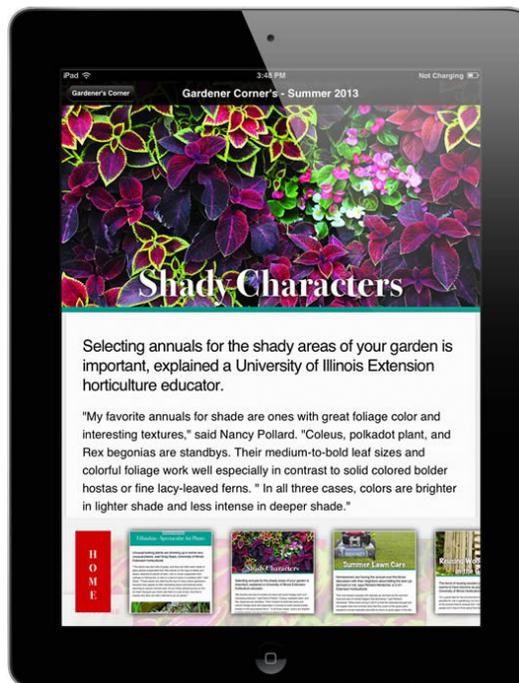
The Search for Excellence Master Gardener awards were presented at the International conference on September 7. Search for Excellence (SFE) is the recognition program of Master Gardener volunteer work throughout the United States and Canada. The DuPage County Master Gardeners were pleased to accept second place in the Special Needs category for their project- *Gardening Year Round at the DuPage Convalescent Center.*

Gardening Year Round at the DuPage Convalescent Center is a collaborative project located in Wheaton, IL. It brings together University of Illinois Extension DuPage Master Gardeners (EMGs), garden volunteers, the Bloomingdale Garden Club, Prosek's Greenhouse, Platt Hill Nursery, Midwest Groundcovers, Cantigny Park, College of DuPage Horticulture Department, Flowers by Design (a floral wholesaler) and many individuals to improve the quality of life of residents at a county-operated nursing home. The DuPage Convalescent Center (DPCC) serves more than 330 Residents (ages 23 – 106) who have long-term medical needs and/or significant disabilities. An integral part of DPCC's recreation therapy is therapeutic horticulture that encourages residents to remain vigorous and engages them intellectually, physically, and creatively. For 30 years, DPCC has had a Resident Garden Club where 50 residents each year participate in gardening activities. It is a "natural fit" for EMG involvement, as well as that of a local garden club and other gardening-related entities in the community. EMGs work alongside residents to plant and tend their 6' x 30" plots. Garden lesson and quizzes are given each week. During the off season, EMGs teach garden projects to residents. With the assistance of the Bloomingdale Garden Club, the Master Gardeners received a Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation which resulted in the design and installation of a new wheelchair accessible cutting garden of everlastings in spring of 2012.



GARDENER'S CORNER NEWSTAND

The University of Illinois Extension's quarterly newsletter about home gardening including disease, variety selection, care and maintenance of vegetable and flower gardens. A free subscription was released August 2013. You may download this at the Apple App Store or go to the Extension homepage and click on mobile apps.
<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/apps.cfm>



NEW MG MANUAL TO BE RELEASED IN 2014- CURRENT MANUAL ON SALE

The Master Gardener manual is undergoing a minor revision and update. The new manual will be very similar to the current volume but will also include an organic gardening chapter. This new edition will be released in January 2014- just in time for the Master Gardener training. There will be no pre-sales of the new manual.

We currently have about 100 copies of the current manual in stock. Most of the information in the current book is still relevant with some minor exceptions such as zone maps, urls, new important insects and diseases etc.. We are offering the 2009 manuals for sale at the reduced rate of \$40 for a print copy, \$25 for a CDROM and \$60 for the combination. The sale will run until all copies are sold or the new book is released. First come first served. If you would like to buy a single copy- or a county would like to buy several copies- purchase these on the MG website at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/mg/manual/default.cfm>

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPENING

The State Master Gardener advisory committee is looking for a Master Gardener volunteer from the EC part of the state (Units 12, 13, 17, 19, 20 or 21 only). 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 this opening (you must live in units 12, 13, 17, 19, 20 or 21), 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, Master Gardener Coordinator or Educator must accompany your application. Note- your mileage to meetings will be reimbursed.

Applications are due to the State Office by October 1.

2013 ANNUAL TRIAL GARDEN WEBSITE

The garden at the Midwest Golf House is a place to showcase some of the newest introductions to the world of annuals as well as highlight some of the tried and true standards of the industry. The Midwest Golf House Trial Garden is a University of Illinois Extension collaborative project with the Chicago District Golf Association, numerous seed companies, U of I Master Gardeners and All-America Selections. The garden will be used to evaluate the performance of annual flowers for full sun locations. The evaluation process will help to highlight those cultivars that could be used in commercial landscape situations as well as home gardens.

Every two weeks, every cultivar will be evaluated for horticultural performance. The criteria for evaluation will be based on flower display, overall quality, uniformity of habit and the ability to withstand, insect, disease and environmental pressure. A scale of 1-5 will be used to help generate a graph of performance so that each cultivar can be "tracked" through the season and high and low points in appearance can be seen. Most all cultivar ratings will be accompanied by a photograph. The 2013 garden includes 90 cultivars and 5 All-America Flower winners and 2 All America Vegetable winners. New this year is an All-America display garden. This containerized display highlights past All-America winners and showcases them in containers, an idea that can easily translate to any size home or balcony garden.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trialgarden/>



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GROWING SQUASH, CUCUMBERS AND PUMPKINS WITH IPM

This webinar was presented live on August 2, 2013 and was sponsored by the North Central IPM Consumer Horticulture Working group. The webinar was recorded and the links to view it are listed below. The entire webinar was worth 1.5 hours of continuing education. Check with your local MG Coordinator on reporting these sessions for continuing education.

Introduction- Mary Meyer
U. of Minnesota, (2 minutes)
<https://umconnect.umn.edu/p68534514/>

Plant Selection, Growing and Management- Rhoda Burrows
S. Dakota State U. (24 minutes)
<https://umconnect.umn.edu/p15818242/>

Disease of Squash, Cucumbers and Pumpkins- Michelle Grabowski
U. of Minnesota (28 minutes)
<https://umconnect.umn.edu/p34281089/>

Insect Pests of Squash, Cucumbers and Pumpkins- Celeste Welte
Ohio State U. (25 minutes)
<https://umconnect.umn.edu/p80155675/>

Each section includes a presentation followed by questions and answers.