

Illinois Master Gardener **IMAGINE**

INFORMATION ♦ NEWS ♦ EDUCATION



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COORDINATORS' COMMENTS

Thanks to the Lake and McHenry Master Gardeners for a very enjoyable conference. Close to 400 attendees enjoyed superb tours and great educational sessions including keynotes by Eliot Coleman and Rory Klick.

First of all- a couple of reminders! The silent auction at conference this year brought in close to \$6000 for our mini-grant program. Please consider writing a 2013 mini-grant for one of your local projects. View the article later in this newsletter. Full instructions and application are on the MG website. Secondly- we have changed the Advanced Training Master Naturalist certification to an Advanced Ecology certification. See the article on page 5.

My message to you today is about program evaluation. At the recent national meeting of Master Gardener Coordinators we all agreed that evaluation and impact reporting are VERY important but we also realize that some states lack the tools for measuring impact. Please remember that the reporting of volunteer hours and number of clients reached is very important (so please don't forget to enter your hours)! However, these numbers do not always tell the full story and we need more information to make our case. As a national group we are working to develop some tools which will actually measure HOW we impact our clients- things like... have we increased their gardening knowledge on plant selection or disease prevention and how are they actually implementing our suggestions in their own gardens and landscapes. These behavior and knowledge changes in our clients are what we really seek to measure.

So how can you help in your local programs? The first step is to develop and implement programs which will truly have impact. Planting containers in your downtown may be great publicity but it will not significantly change behavior or knowledge. Teaching homeowners how to correctly select plants and conserve water WILL result in behavior changes. Our goal is to for our clientele to have increased knowledge after consulting with Master Gardeners. We want them to feel empowered to act on the advice they received and to place social, environmental or economic value on the information they learned. Lastly we want them to share this information with friends and family.

The next step for all of us is to make the concerted effort to evaluate your programs by surveying your clients about behavior changes. This means we have to do more than count numbers of attendees or give them evaluations at the end of a program to rate the speaker. This may mean actually contacting some of our clientele weeks or months later and seeing if they have actually applied any of our suggestions in their own landscapes. Work with your Coordinator before starting a new project to determine what impacts it should have and how you can measure those with an evaluation of the project. I promise to keep you informed as we move forward on developing tools to better measure impact on the local, state and national levels. Your ideas are always welcome!

Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator

USE YOUR MOBILE PHONE TO REPORT VOLUNTEER HOURS

Are you always on the go and have a hard time remembering to enter your volunteer and continuing education hours into the tracking system on the computer? Well the Extension web team has developed an application for your mobile phone which makes reporting very simple. You can report your hours via your smart phone. Anyone accessing the volunteer reporting system with a smart phone will automatically see the mobile version. The existing URL- <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/volunteer> should be used for entering hours via your computer or your smart phone.

SURVEYING FOR ILLINOIS INVASIVE SPECIES WITH THE CAPS PROGRAM

While a central geographic location and a superior transportation system afford Illinois a competitive advantage over many other states in commodity movement, these same factors make Illinois extremely vulnerable to accidentally or purposely introduced exotic pests. The U.S. imports nearly \$400 billion in goods from the Pacific Rim; more than \$125 billion from China alone. The busiest corridor in the U.S. for transporting intermodal containers by rail runs from Long Beach, California, to Chicago, Illinois, and Chicago in particular is home to the largest rail gateway in the nation, connecting the eastern and western United States and Canada. An excellent highway system of 2,000 miles and 34,500 miles of other state highways make trucking of goods fast and efficient. More than 65 million travelers pass through Chicago's O'Hare International Airport annually. Illinois' 1,118 miles of navigable waterways including the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, make barge traffic an excellent option for shipment of grain to the Gulf of Mexico and shipment of imported steel and machinery upriver. However, any activity that allows the rapid movement of commodities also allows the development of fast-moving pest pathways. These fast moving pathways not only cut through Illinois' agricultural commodity regions, but its natural areas as well. Illinois woodlands, wetlands, and prairies may also be affected by the potential invasion of exotic pests. Many of the invasive threats have a large host range. Not only will a potential invasive pest affect the Illinois economy, but it may also affect the beauty of our landscape, the diversity of our environment, and lead to the destruction of natural habitats.

While the first line of defense remains preventing the entry of exotic plant pests, domestic detection and response activities are equally important in the event that dangerous foreign plant pests enter the U.S. A primary objective of the Cooperative Agriculture Pest Survey (CAPS) program is to safeguard our nation's food and environmental security from exotic pests that threaten our production and ecological systems. Surveys conducted through the CAPS program represent a second line of defense against harmful plant pests and weeds. Over the past years, the CAPS program has shifted its strategy from being solely "pest-specific," to a format for surveying for several pests based on commodities, taxons, environments and habitats, industries and businesses, and pest introduction pathways. Each state, with input from federal and state CAPS partners, industry partners, university representatives, and others meets to discuss potential survey targets each year. Information gathered during surveys is summarized and entered into National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) database. The NAPIS database stores and manages pest survey data that is collected by CAPS and other USDA-APHIS-PPQ programs. Maps are summarized and made available to the public through the NAPIS Pest Tracker Website. The Pest Tracker Website provides maps detailing surveys conducted around the U.S. for different invasive species as well as sharing links to pest news and information for the different states.

Currently, the Illinois CAPS program is finishing up its 2012 survey season. Our focus this last summer was on invasive pests of fruit trees in Illinois. Insect traps were deployed across the state for the False Codling Moth, Plum Fruit Moth, and Summer Fruit Tortrix Moth. All three of these moths have an extremely large host range that could impact several fruit commodities grown in Illinois. A second part of this survey looked for two state pests of concern – the brown marmorated stink bug and spotted wing drosophila. To date, we have confirmed spotted wing drosophila in several Illinois counties. We are also in our second year of surveying for thousand cankers disease (TCD) in Illinois. It was our first year in utilizing a newly released lindgren funnel trap and pheromone combination that attracts the vector of TCD, the walnut twig beetle.

In 2013, we will be starting a new survey targeting oak pests. Over 53% of the forest cover in Illinois consists of oak and hickory – and this doesn't include any oaks planted in urban areas. There are several invasive oak pests that if established in Illinois, would not only threaten the diversity of our natural areas, but dramatically impact our forest product industry and nursery trade. Pheromone traps will be placed targeting the oak ambrosia beetle, Egyptian cottonworm moth, rosy gypsy moth, and golden tortrix moth. We are also excited to be utilizing a new biosurveillance survey technique that monitors *Cerceris* wasp colonies. This buprestid-hunting wasp offers another approach to monitor for not only emerald ash borer, but also the oak splendour beetle, goldspotted oak borer, and European oak borer. The thousand cankers disease survey will continue with both walnut twig beetle trapping and monitoring the visual health of walnuts across the state.

Kelly Estes, Illinois Survey Coordinator for the CAPS Program

MINI- GRANTS FOR 2013

The annual Master Gardener auction held at the conference raised \$5872 this fall- the largest amount yet. This means that the state advisory committee will have close to \$6000 to award to county projects through the mini-grant program. In 2012 we were able to fund 10 Master Gardener projects from Champaign, Coles, DeKalb, Lake, Madison, McDonough, Peoria, Pike, Schuyler and Vermilion counties.

The mini-grants program was designed to supply start-up or continuation funds for your local endeavors. Existing projects or new projects will both be considered for grant funds. Maximum grant is \$1200 but most grants will be for smaller amounts of money. Grants will be awarded annually. A maximum of 1 grant per county per year. The state office will reimburse unit offices for expenses up to the amount of the mini-grant. The grant funds are to be used for horticulture programs which meet the goals of Extension and the Master Gardener program.

The state advisory committee will NOT fund these items: technology, permanent building structures, space rental, honorariums, utilities or mechanically driven equipment.

Selection of the winners will be weighted heavily to those projects which demonstrate impact and follow-up evaluation. Preference will be given to programs which make multiple contacts with their audiences– rather than single day events. Please be accurate and complete when writing a budget as we want to fund as many projects as possible. In 2012- many counties overestimated their budgets, leaving extra money which could have been distributed to other applicants.

Winners will be expected to write a brief summary of the project to be used in the Imagine newsletter and for impact reporting.

Applications are due to the state office by January 31 of each year. The state MG advisory committee will judge the applications and winners will be announced on March 1. Applications **MUST** be written in collaboration with Extension staff and Master Gardeners. The instructions and application can be found on the MG website under “For IL Master Gardeners”.

SPACE GARDENING? OSU CREATES FOOD-PRODUCTION SYSTEM FOR FUTURE NASA MISSIONS

Say you are on Mars and fancy a salad. Unless the Curiosity rover can make an unexpected find of fresh romaine somewhere on the dusty Red Planet, you are looking at a nine-month trip to the nearest produce aisle on Earth. A better option? Grow the salad yourself.

That’s exactly the approach NASA is taking as it plans for future manned expeditions to places like the moon or Mars, where food availability will be a significant challenge. Joining this mission is a team of Ohio State University researchers and students who are helping NASA figure out the best way to grow food aboard space exploration units. The team, from the Ohio State University’s Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering (FABE), designed and built a food-production system for NASA’s Deep Space Habitat (DSH) -- a space module with living quarters, workspaces and laboratories that is expected to enable human exploration in faraway environments.



“Our system is automated so that the crew doesn’t have to spend too much time taking care of the plants,” said Peter Ling, an associate professor in FABE and faculty advisor in the project. “The system controls irrigation and monitors plant temperature and health. At the bottom of the unit there is a weight plate that detects water leakage and water loss by plants, and also estimates growth.”

The food-production system is small because of space constraints in the DSH. It consists of an 11- by 18-inch metal plate topped by a plastic plant growth tray -- outfitted with a watering tube, computer-controlled valves and a variety of sensors to monitor growing conditions. A total of eight of these plates can fit in the DSH’s circular plant atrium area, which is located between the module’s first and second levels. Because soil is too heavy to carry into space, plants -- small vegetables such as lettuce, herbs and radishes -- grow in a nutrient solution, like in a hydroponic system.

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ALHAMBRA AND GENERALIFE- GRANADA SPAIN

The recent Master Gardener trip to Spain was highlighted by outstanding Moorish and Christian architecture and Mediterranean style gardens. A true high point was the Alhambra and the Generalife which rise above the city of Granada on the Sierra Nevada mountains and are one of the most important architectural structures of the Middle Ages and the finest example of Islamic art left in the world. Before reaching Spain, the Moors had seen and occupied Roman villas. Muhammad I (1230-72) made the Alhambra his palace and much of the work was done in the reigns of Yusuf I (1333-54) and Muhammad V (1354-91). The overall plan resembles that of Hadrian's villa and in Arabic Alhambra means "red castle". In 1453 Constantinople fell to the Turks and the conquest of the Alhambra by the Christians was seen as a coveted prize by the Catholic monarchs. Charles V wanted to make the Alhambra the centre of his empire and later King Phillip II continued his fathers work. The importance of the Alhambra in garden history is monumental. It is the shining example of the East Mediterranean tradition of creating gardens with beautiful enclosed patios and palace windows which frame views of the surrounding landscapes.



Each of the patios plays a deep and important part in the life and meaning of the Alhambra buildings. As you tour the Alhambra you step from the darkness of the ornate shady buildings into the light and openness of the patios. The courtyards are controlled and geometric with water, sky and reflections as the main elements. The day we visited temperatures were near 100 degrees and the Alhambra was very crowded but I was awed by the mixture of light and dark and the cooling effect of the water features in every patio.

The Courtyard of the Myrtles (Patio de los Arraynes) was the focal point of diplomatic and political activity in the Alhambra and dates from the 14th century. The absence of elaborate ornaments and the starkness of the pool give this courtyard its effect. Well-clipped myrtle hedges from the 19th century accent the starkness. The play of light on the ornate facades of the building are magical as is the reflection of the arches within the pool itself.

The Patio of the Lions was built by Muhammad V in the 14th century and was the focal point of the sultan's private dwellings. It is the embodiment of the Persian pleasure garden. The enclosed space is divided into four channels representing the holy rivers of Persia. The central feature is a stone basin supported by twelve carved lions. Water flows along the channels and jets spew water from the lion's mouths. The fountain had just recently undergone extensive restoration so we were lucky to view this renovated garden space.



Outside this patio are the remnants of another palace, the Partal. The gardens were rich in roses, cypress hedges, bougainvillea, crepe myrtle, oleander and annuals such as cockscomb, candytuft, salvia, rosemary, asters, marigold, blanketflower and much more. We were lucky to stroll these gardens near the palaces and enjoy the fragrances and beauty unimpeded by crowds.

The **Generalife gardens** are the oldest in Granada and date from the early 14th century. The palace and its gardens were a summer retreat for the Sultans. The hillside was terraced and water channels were laid and here vegetables and herbs were grown. The gardens nearer the palace are the work of Francisco Prieto Moreno and date from the 1950s. The most famous water garden here is in the palace. Known as the Court of the Long Pond (Patio de la Acequia)



its main feature is a long narrow channel of water with thin jets of water that hop from side to side. Brightly colored flowers tumble from pots. The main garden contains pencil-shaped clipped cypress with rambling roses, vines and oleander draping from walls or climbing pillars. There is a profusion of bushes and flowers, almost 160 different species are seen here. The central pools in the garden are in the shape of a cross, which are typical of many Muslim gardens.

Granada and southern Spain have other lovely gardens to visit but the Alhambra and Generalife were truly the visit of a lifetime for our group from Illinois.

ADVANCED TRAINING UPDATES

New for 2013! The Advanced Master Naturalist certification has been changed to an Advanced Ecology certification. This new certification will recognize those who complete Master Naturalist training OR those who complete 20 hours of class work in ecology related courses.

Active Master Gardeners are encouraged to seek out and attend classes which fit into the following four categories.

1. Advanced Ecology-Volunteers who participate in the training for Master Naturalist will receive advanced training credit. Master Gardeners who have completed the training in the last 6 years will be “grandfathered” in for credit. Volunteers who do not complete MN training but who complete 20 hours of ecology related classes are also eligible for this certification.

2. Sustainable Landscaping- A minimum of 20 hours of training is required. Classes such as Master Composter training, rain barrel or rain garden classes or other sustainable landscaping classes. Those who have completed the Master Composter class in the last 6 years will be “grandfathered” in for credit for that course.

3. Advanced IPM- A minimum of 20 hours of training is required. Training could include commercial PSEP training sessions (such as insects, weeds or diseases); the NCIPM module on Diagnostics; the IPM online modules from the state office; classes on invasive species, First Detector Training; conference workshops on invasive species, weeds, insects or diseases.

4. Advanced Local Foods- A minimum of 20 hours of training is required. Training could include local foods training; local food or specialty crop conference sessions; GAP training or organic gardening classes.

Advanced Master Gardener Training classes may be taken over a period of up to two years from the initial class period. The local Master Gardener Coordinator will determine if a class counts towards advanced training credit. Advanced Master Gardener Training is open only to active, certified University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners. Master Gardener Interns must first complete their internship before beginning an Advanced Master Gardener course. Upon successful completion of the Advanced Master Gardener course, participants will be awarded a pin and certificate.

IPM MODULES ARE A GREAT RESOURCE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Do you need more continuing education hours for the year? Would you like to try some online education which is free of charge and can be done at your leisure?

If so, then the University of Illinois Extension IPM Modules for Master Gardeners are for you! 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*. **A new module to be released in early 2013 will cover Impatiens and Basil Downy Mildew.**

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.



Bacterial Leaf Scorch

LAST CALL FOR 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. Monica David, Illinois Master Gardener Coordinator will lead the group to private reserves and private and public gardens. View these beautiful sites 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.

Highlights of this tour include the LaPaz Waterfall Gardens; Cano Negra National Wildlife Refuge; Arenal Hanging Bridges; Don Juan Organic Farm; a day with Willow Zuchowski, author of the *Tropical Plants of Costa Rica* and lastly the beautiful beaches of Guanacaste.

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

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

DIRRS TREE AND SHRUB FINDER

Timber Press has released an app. for iPads or iPhones which is based on Michael Dirrs classic work- *The Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*. The tree and shrub finder covers 1670 species and 7800 cultivars with 7600 high-quality images. The database is searchable by 72 criteria such as hardiness zones, water requirements, flowers, fruit, fall color and more. The database sorts by common and scientific names and has an A to Z browse feature. This app is for home gardeners as well as landscape professionals.

Open iTunes to buy and download the app:
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/dirrs-tree-and-shrub-finder/id410437012?mt=8>

INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE 2013

The 2013 International Master Gardener Conference has garnered lots of interest and over 800 are registered to date. There are still cabins available but don't wait too long as spaces are filling quickly. Registration for the conference seminars is now open and the classes and speakers are posted on the website. There will be a \$195 additional fee for conference registration.

Tours

The land tours will be available from Holland America on November 9. An email will go out to all who have registered on that day to give you the land options. We have chosen several garden related packages for Master Gardeners and friends and family only, but there are also many more options for all cruisers through Holland America. One tour is being offered by the Juneau Master Gardener program in Juneau, and can be added to your current registration. All other tours will be payable through Holland America, and will need to be pre-paid to Holland America upon choosing a tour.

Airfare is now available for purchase, along with pre-conference lodging in Seattle hotels. You may contact Michelle or Ashley to discuss your options.

The main conference website for information is <http://uaex.edu/imgc2013/default.htm>



SCOTT'S MIRACLE-GRO WILL PAY \$12.5 MILLION IN CRIMINAL FINES

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, a producer of pesticides for commercial and consumer lawn and garden uses, was sentenced in federal district court in Columbus, Ohio, to pay a \$4 million fine and perform community service for eleven criminal violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), which governs the manufacture, distribution, and sale of pesticides. Scotts pleaded guilty in February 2012 to illegally applying insecticides to its wild bird food products that are toxic to birds, falsifying pesticide registration documents, distributing pesticides with misleading and unapproved labels, and distributing unregistered pesticides. This is the largest criminal penalty under FIFRA to date.

In a separate civil agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Scotts agreed to pay more than \$6 million in penalties and spend \$2 million on environmental projects to resolve additional civil pesticide violations. The violations include distributing or selling unregistered, canceled, or misbranded pesticides, including products with inadequate warnings or cautions. This is the largest civil settlement under FIFRA to date.

“The misuse or mislabeling of pesticide products can cause serious illness in humans and be toxic to wildlife,” said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Today’s sentence and unprecedented civil settlement hold Scotts accountable for widespread company noncompliance with pesticide laws, which put products into the hands of consumers without the proper authorization or warning labels.” “As the world’s largest marketer of residential use pesticides, Scotts has a special obligation to make certain that it observes the laws governing the sale and use of its products. For having failed to do so, Scotts has been sentenced to pay the largest fine in the history of FIFRA enforcement,” said Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice. “The Department of Justice will continue to work with EPA to assure that pesticides applied in homes and on lawns and food are sold and used in compliance with the laws intended to assure their safety.”

In the plea agreement, Scotts admitted that it applied the pesticides Actellic SE and Storcide II to its bird food products even though EPA had prohibited this use. Scotts had done so to protect its bird foods from insect infestation during storage. Scotts admitted that it used these pesticides contrary to EPA directives and in spite of the warning label appearing on all Storcide II containers stating, “Storcide II is extremely toxic to fish and toxic to birds and other wildlife.” Scotts sold this illegally treated bird food for two years after it began marketing its bird food line and for six months after employees specifically warned Scotts management of the dangers of these pesticides. By the time it voluntarily recalled these products in March 2008, Scotts had sold more than 70 million units of bird food illegally treated with pesticide that is toxic to birds.

Scotts also pleaded guilty to submitting false documents to EPA and to state regulatory agencies in an effort to deceive them into believing that numerous pesticides were registered with EPA when in fact they were not. The company also pleaded guilty to having illegally sold the unregistered pesticides and to marketing pesticides bearing labels containing false and misleading claims not approved by EPA. The falsified documents submitted to EPA and states were attributed to a federal product manager at Scotts.

In addition to the \$4 million criminal fine, Scotts will contribute \$500,000 to organizations that protect bird habitat, including \$100,000 each to the Ohio Audubon’s Important Bird Area Program, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources’ Urban Forestry Program, the Columbus Metro-Parks Bird Habitat Enhancement Program, the Cornell University Ornithology Laboratory, and The Nature Conservancy of Ohio to support the protection of bird populations and habitats through conservation, research, and education. At the time the criminal violations were discovered, EPA also began a civil investigation that uncovered numerous civil violations spanning five years. In addition to the \$6 million civil penalty, Scotts will complete environmental projects, valued at \$2 million, to acquire, restore and protect 300 acres of land to prevent runoff of agricultural chemicals into nearby waterways.

2013 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING SITES

Bloomington	Edwardsville cluster- Collinsville and Waterloo
Canton, Hillsboro, Jacksonville	Galesburg
Champaign	Joliet
Charleston	Marion
Chicago	Naperville
Chicago Botanic Garden	Ottawa
Danville	Quincy
Decatur, Springfield	Stockton
DeKalb	Woodstock

Online Training will also be offered in 2013.

Contact your local MG coordinator to attend any of these sessions as continuing education.

MEET SAM WORTMAN- NEW HORT PROFESSOR



Dr. Sam Wortman joined the department of Crop Sciences this summer and will specialize in Urban Horticulture. Dr. Wortman received both an M.S. and Ph.D. degree from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Previous research experience includes projects on ecological weed management, cover crop management and organic cropping systems. Areas of focus for the University of Illinois and Extension will be intensive urban and peri-urban food production and pest management, crop ecophysiology and soil assessment and remediation for urban agriculture. Sam will also be teaching Introduction to Horticulture (HORT 100) in the spring semester. Dr. Wortman has been meeting with Extension staff to learn about existing programs and to develop new partnerships around the state. We look forward to his expertise and future assistance in urban gardening endeavors.



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

SOUTH KOREA STARTS A MG PROGRAM

At the Master Gardener Coordinators meeting in September in Spokane, WA State MG coordinators met Dr. Wonsuk Lee and several other faculty from the GyeongGi-do Agricultural Research and Extension Services (GARES) in South Korea. Dr. Lee informed the group that GARES is moving forward with training of Master Gardeners and hopes to have volunteers ready to work in their communities in 2013. South Korea as a nation has worked hard to create new technology to improve and develop new varieties of crops and ornamentals such as rice, mushrooms and succulents and to develop new production technology which will maintain product quality, preserve the environment and reduce production costs. The country has built a sound foundation to be world leaders in green technology and urban agriculture. Dr. Lee also explained that the “culture of volunteerism” that is so prevalent in the US is new to South Koreans. Therefore, the South Korean delegation is looking to the US Coordinators to assist them with setting up the volunteer aspects of their new Master Gardener program. Our Master Gardener Program National Committee has signed an MOA to assist GARES with an International Master Gardener Symposium to be held in Korea in 2014. The National Committee will provide speakers and publicity for the event. The US State Coordinators are very excited to assist GARES in the development of their national Master Gardener program.